

COMMUNITY CORNER

Celebrate fathers during Dads Make a Difference Month, commander says

By Col. Kevin Brown
GARRISON COMMANDER

Military dads face unique challenges. They may miss out on birthdays, birthdays, holidays and other milestones because of deployments and training requirements.

On the other hand, dads may be the ones holding down the home front, while their spouse is deployed. Regardless, Fort Riley and our Directorate of Family and Morale, WdFare and Recreation will celebrate our dads for all they do in June with "Dads Make a Difference Month."

The third annual event will

offer numerous opportunities for dads to learn new parenting skills and strengthen their Family bonds.

The kickoff event for this celebration is a picnic and field day. Dads are invited to bring their Families out to a Dad's Make a Difference picnic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 4 at Rally Point sports field.

Field Day games, arts and crafts, inflatables and a disc jockey are among the attractions at the picnic. In between



Col. Brown

fun and games with their Families, dad also can tour the organizational booths, which will range from USO Fort Riley to the Girl and Boy Scouts of America, to learn more about opportunities in the local area.

A new event I am excited to announce is the Dad's Adventure at Living Water Ranch in Olsburg, Kan. We added this event to the list of this year's Dads Make a Difference Month activities to allow dads and their children to enjoy the great outdoors. Swimming, four-wheeling and archery will be at the center of this event, which will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 18.

Besides these events, others will be conducted throughout the month to help our military fathers be the best they can be when it comes to fatherhood.

June classes include:

- Dad's Boot Camp – 5 to 7 p.m. June 1, ACS (recommended for first-time dads)
- Active Military Families Life and Resiliency Skills Course – 1 to 4 p.m. June 6 and 10, ACS
- 24/5 Dad Complete Fathering Class – 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. June 13 and 14, ACS
- Exceptional Family Member Program Pool Party – 1 to 4 p.m. June 16, Custer

Hill Pool

- Letters from Dad: The Importance of Words – 5 to 7 p.m. June 20, ACS
- Dad and Me Tea Party – 10 a.m. to noon June 25, ACS

To find out more about any of these events and classes or to reserve your spot, call ACS at 785-239-9435. If you're not too late, prizes will be given to the first 10 people to register for each class.

To close out the month-long celebration, a Family Fun Night will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. June 30 at McCormick Park. This night is a perfect opportunity for dads and their Families to relax and enjoy

each other's companies.

So while our military dads may have tough jobs – at work and at home – Fort Riley fully supports its Families to help them be the best they can be. Call or stop by ACS at any time to find out about the numerous ways we offer support for all kinds of Families. ACS is located in Building 7264 on Custer Hill. Find out more about its services at www.riley.army.mil or call 785-239-9435.

If you would like to comment on this article, or suggest a topic to be covered in the Community Corner, e-mail rile.post.newspaper@conus.army.mil.



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Fifth-graders, from right, Alyssa Pizzo, Dylan Spencer, David Miller and Destiny Ragsdale pose for a photo to a parent talker following the students' promotion ceremony May 20 at Fort Riley Elementary School.

Students, teachers begin new chapter in life after elementary

By Shandi Dix
1ST INF. DIV. POST

"Fifth-graders, this is your last day in elementary school, and it's pretty exciting," said Chris Roles, fifth-grade teacher, Fort Riley Elementary School. "Next year, you're going to be in the middle school. You're going to roam; you're going to be like teachers and parents, you will be in my prayers next year."

Fifth-grade students throughout Fort Riley were promoted to sixth grade during ceremonies the last week of school. Forty-three fifth-graders at Fort Riley Elementary School received recognition and promotion on their last day of school May 20.

As they prepared for the next chapter of their lives, three fifth-graders reflected on the past year and their time in elementary school.

Seth Sherwood and Jordan Dombrowski shared the same sentiment of elementary school about learning new things.

Each of them has different memories of fifth grade they said they will carry on to middle school with them.

Sherwood and Garrett Mathews said they will remember the school events and activities like the Sock Hop and

Triple E Days.

Dombrowski's memory goes back to the past summer and beginning of the school year.

"It's with me and my best friend (Danielle Cross)," she said. "We had known each other (since) the summer, and then we met each other again, and it turns out we were in the same class, so I was pretty excited about that."

The two also will be going to the same middle school for the 2011 to 2012 school year.

Excited about the adventure ahead of them, Sherwood said he looks forward to having lockers.

"I'm looking forward to getting different teachers and looking for classes that I don't normally have," Dombrowski said.

"I'm actually pretty ner-

vous about middle school ... having time between periods," Mathews said.

Students are not the only ones closing out a chapter of their life and beginning another.

"Today is a pretty memorable moment for me," Roles said. "It's bittersweet. I'm excited because I'm moving on to another chapter of my life, I'm moving to Kansas City, but also, I'm extremely sad to be leaving my kiddos."

Roles is excited to see his fifth-grade class go on to middle school and grow.

"But I'm also sad. It's always hard," he said. "I remember last year, I was talking, and I said being a fourth-grade teacher before was awesome because

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Custer Hill fifth-graders graduate from 10-week D.A.R.E. program

By Shandi Dix
1ST INF. DIV. POST

Forty-seven fifth-graders at Custer Hill Elementary School ended their time in elementary school by graduating from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program May 20.

This graduation was combined with the students' promotion ceremony.

Fifth-grade students across the nation take part in the 10-week program learning about the effects drugs and alcohol can have on them, as well as peer pressure.

The D.A.R.E. program began 25 years ago and has been taught by law enforcement officers to educate fifth-graders about the side effects of drug and alcohol use.

"D.A.R.E.'s mission is to provide children with the information and skills they need to live drug-and-violence-free lives," said Maj. Larry Bergeron, operations officer,

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FRP Officer John-Charles "JC" Silva, left, hands a microphone to Custer Hill Elementary School fifth-grader J'Maiya Malone, right, during the D.A.R.E. graduation May 20.