***Rotary Club of Kingwood Club***

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June 21, 2012

Dear Kingwood Business Owner,

 Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to explain the EarlyAct FirstKnight (EAFK) Character Education Program which is based upon the Four-Way Test, and the splendor and chivalry of knights. The Kingwood Rotary Club is very proud to be sponsoring this outstanding program at Bear Branch Elementary School in Kingwood.

 Imagine our community 5, 10, or 15 years in the future when students know, and live by, the world's best known and most used business motto, Rotary's Four-Way Test. 100% of the kindergarten through 5th grade students recite it daily...from memory. The Bear Branch Elementary principal, counselors, and teachers love this program, and continuously say that it is making a strong, positive influence on their students.

 Rotary's Four-Way Test: "Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?"

 Bear Branch Elementary is the only campus with this program in Humble ISD. Since the EAFK Program is new to the Houston area, Bear Branch Elementary is one of only eleven campuses in Harris and the eight surrounding counties, but next school year over 17 schools will have the program. Over 60,000 Texas students have the EAFK Program at their school, and 100% of these schools report an increase in academic performance, and a decrease in behavior problems.

 EAFK is a remarkable, award-winning, character education program which is based upon the Four-Way Test, and it is the first of its kind in Rotary's 106 year history. More than a campus club participated in by a few, EAFK is a daily, mandatory course of study for the entire school, starting from the first day of Kindergarten and continuing through the last day of 8th grade.

 Each school day, every student recites the Four-Way Test. The daily 10 minute curriculum teaches students a total of 10 virtues on a monthly basis throughout the school year, including honesty, respect, compassion, tolerance and service to others, and several more. The lessons they learn in their EAFK curriculum is also used in their other classes throughout the day including science, history, math, etc.

 In EAFK, the Four-Way Test is known as "The Code". Research shows that a child's character matrix is set by age 12, so starting this program at age 5 will result in good, morally educated children in our community.

 EAFK starts the school year off with EAFK knights in armor coming to the school for a kickoff event. Throughout the school year, we also hold Knighting Ceremonies where teachers and students vote to select one student from their class that best represents the virtue taught that month, and the student is awarded an EAFK medal by the knight during an elaborate ceremony. Their parents are secretly invited, and as each teacher reads their student's accolades, the parents step from behind the curtain to join their child on staged during the medal presentation. It is a wonderful emotional experience for everyone.

 At the end of the school year, we will have and EAFK "Tournament of Champions" Living History event which includes knights in authentic 18-gauge stainless steel armor riding warhorses, jousting, medieval games. It truly is an amazing event for the students, parents, teachers, and our Community Partners.

Attachments include:

 • "What is EarlyAct FirstKnight, and Why EarlyAct FirstKnight" which explains all the components

 • A form with a chart that was in Clemson University's "Rutland Institute for Ethics"

 • A Sponsorship Form with sponsor levels

 • A brochure from our May 29th EAFK event showing sponsor logos

 • Copy of our Kingwood Rotary Club weekly newsletter with sponsor logos

 • An accolade written by a teacher which was read during one of our monthly Knighting Ceremonies

 • Recent articles in The Observer, and The Tribune

 Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about EAFK. More information can also be found at www.eafk.org which has a link to a video produced by Duncanville ISD about their EAFK Program. Also, if you go to the Humble ISD website, the select "TV Show", you can watch and interview with me, Dr. Sconzo, Lynn Fields, and two students from Bear Branch Elementary.

Dedicated to service,

Charlie Buscemi

Rotary Club of Kingwood

EAFK Character Education Program Chair