



Volume 1, Issue 3
March 1, 2006

Parent Leader

Tracy Hickman

704.843.7578 phone

704.408.1867 cell

704.243.0738 fax

Tracy.Hickman@parentcorps.org

Parent/Child

Adventure Day
Saturday, March
25th 10am-12pm

It isn't too late! Be sure to sign up if your child is in the 3rd, 4th or 5th grade to experience communication games and crafts with you. Sign up forms can be found at the front of the school or call me and I'll send you a form. There are 10 spots left. Remember a parent or guardian MUST attend with the student and siblings are welcome!

Do you like receiving these monthly newsletters?

Starting in April, I will be only distributing this newsletter to those members of Parent and/or Kid Corps. I would love for everyone to receive a copy, but as an incentive to sign up, I will provide you with a monthly newsletter sent home with your child. If you need a membership form, please contact me and I'll send you one, or you may print of the school website, or they are at the front of the school. Send to my home or to school with your child to his/her teacher.

Waxhaw Elementary School Parent Corps

"Parents Supporting Parents"

The Promise is ALIVE!

During Red Ribbon Week in October of 2005, many of your children helped volunteers to plant tulips and daffodils in the front entrance of the school for the National Plant a Promise campaign. Well, those bulbs are now blooming and they are absolutely gorgeous! Not only do they make a school look great, but they also remind the children of the promise they made to be alcohol, tobacco and drug free. If you were unaware of the promise your children made, ask them! This is a great way to get the dialogue open between the two of you about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. We hope to continue this tradition.

Violent Video Games

If you have a child, chances are if they are not already playing video games, they soon will be. Whether they play X-Box, Sega, or Game Boy, as parents we are left with the job of deciding which games they are allowed to buy or play. For those of you parents who are not familiar with the aforementioned games, they are the more elaborate and more advanced versions of our own Atari and dare I say, Intellivision. Recently I was sent an article on a new video game which has many police officers up in arms. The game is titled, "25 to Life." You can view the game and its attributes at <http://nleomf.com/25tolife/>. I went to this site to see what the

fuss was about and I have to tell you I was shocked. Not only do I believe this game has no redeeming qualities. The game lets players choose from 40 different weapons and allows them to use those weapons to kill police officers and to use innocent bystanders as human shields. I personally can think of a million other things I would rather for my child to be doing than playing this game. Do not get me wrong, I do not disapprove of computer or games in general. However, as parents, we have a responsibility to our children to make sure what they are viewing does not harm them by subjecting them to unnecessary violence.

Have you heard of the "Choking Game?"

The choking game is currently being popularized in the media by several instances of deaths. Recently one of my colleagues in Connecticut's Parent Corps informed me that a 12 year old boy had died from an accidental choking. This probed an investigation in to the actual cause of death. Apparently the 7th grader was trying to deprive himself of oxygen and cutting the blood supply off to his brain in an effort to get high. Often children and teens will use belts, bags, pillows, ties or even their own hands to achieve this rush. There are numerous injuries associated with this game including fainting, headaches, bruising, concussions, brain damage and

even death. Most kids know about the game, but we are finding that parents are unaware of this behavior. Even more of a reason for the Parent Corps to help inform you of the latest and not so greatest new behaviors out there. Often these deaths are ruled suicide even though that is the furthest thing from their minds. Dr. Lawrence Shapiro, a child psychologist, states that is common for children ages 9 to 15 to engage in these types of games. The choking game can go by other names such as the fainting game, the passing out game, tingling game and space monkey. For more information on this topic, please visit www.stop-the-choking-game.com and www.deadlygameschildrenplay.com. Never be afraid to ask your children what they are thinking or feeling.

CHECK IT OUT!



Check my new BLOG! What is a blog, you ask? Don't worry, I didn't know what one was either, when I first created mine. It is like an online diary. It is a way for me to post daily, weekly or monthly events in Parent Corps and to update my members. It won't take the place of all communication, as a lot of people do not have access to the internet. However, it is a way if you do have access to click onto www.parentcorps.org and click on Waxhaw Elementary School's blog and see what we are up to! It is that simple. Check it out and leave me feedback!