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Reynolds Lane Elementary after-school program walks for healthy youth with the help of the Jacksonville Children's Commission and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

Articles / dBNews Jacksonville

Date: Monday, October 09, 2006 03:39:18

JACKSONVILLE – The TEAM-UP after-school program at Reynolds Lane Elementary in Riverside is launching its pilot "Walking-Club" program on Oct. 9, 2006 to combat the rapidly growing childhood obesity epidemic with the assistance of the Jacksonville Children's Commission and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists(AACE). In an elementary school where 433 children attend, of which 1 percent are not on the free or reduced lunch program; "Walking Club" participants will take their initial steps toward developing healthy habits, which they will take with them throughout their life.

"The Commission is thrilled to be a partner in this effort to combat the rising problem of obesity and to provide kids with education and an exercise regimen that will help them to achieve life-long health," said Linda Lanier, Executive Director, of the Jacksonville Children's Commission.

The launch will begin at 3:30 p.m. with J. Atilio Canas, MD, FACE, of AACE introducing students to the importance of physical activity and healthy eating. After Dr. Canas' presentation, participating students will walk the designated campus route, which "Walking Club" participants will undergo on a weekly basis. Dr. Canas, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at SUNY Stony Brook and pediatric endocrinologist at Nemours Children's Hospital, is volunteering his time as an AACE Power or Prevention (POP) representative. The POP curriculum, enforcing the importance of physical activity and healthy eating, and the POP pedometers are supplied to the students by POP through an unrestricted education grant from Novo Nordisk.

About Jacksonville Children's Commission

Founded in 1994, the Jacksonville Children's Commission strives to create positive opportunities for all children by: 1) helping them to be well prepared for life through quality early learning, early literacy, health, nutrition, summer and after school programs; 2) by promoting supportive and nurturing parenting through family strengthening and parent education programs; and 3) by providing help when kids need it through special needs, behavioral and mental health, mentoring and drop-out prevention programs. To find out more about the Commission, please visit www.jaxkids.org.

About Power of Prevention (POP)

Launched in 2004, AACE's POP program was created to combat the rapid increase in diagnosis of children with type 2 diabetes caused by obesity. The program is geared to educate students in schools on the importance of physical activity and healthy eating. Community involvement is essential to the POP program, as it is implemented by means of AACE members reaching-out to their local schools and presenting the POP program or teachers executing the POP five day curriculum into their classroom lessons. To learn more about the POP initiative visit www.powerofprevention.com.

About the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE)

AACE is a professional medical organization with more than 5,500 members in the United States and 85 other countries. Founded in 1991, AACE is dedicated to the optimal care of patients with endocrine problems. AACE initiatives inform the public about endocrine disorders. AACE also conducts continuing education programs for clinical endocrinologists, physicians whose advanced, specialized training enables them to be experts in the care of endocrine disease, such as diabetes, thyroid disorders, growth hormone deficiency, osteoporosis, cholesterol disorders, hypertension and obesity.

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