



Youth Connections

The Youth Connection

WINTER 2014

AT A GLANCE

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*Merry Christmas
From
Youth Connections*



STEM PROGRAMMING

The Jumpstart after-school students will begin to integrate STEM programming in their weekly meetings. Out-of-school STEM (aka: Science Technology Engineering Math) programs strive to provide students with a non-traditional environment to explore the world around them. Beginning in 2015, students will have the opportunity to build underwater robotic devices. Devices are remotely controlled and are made from inexpensive materials such as PVC piping and pool noodles.

Youth Connections program staff will be trained by the STEM coordinator from Crane Naval Base. Crane has a very experienced program and we look forward to learning from their senior experts! For more information on the YC SeaPerch program contact our office.



DANCING W/ THE STARS

In late September, eight non-profit organizations grouped up to compete in the first ever "Dancing with the Johnson County Stars"! The event was a great experience for us and we look forward to competing again in 2015.

The Honorable Judge Mark Loyd did an excellent job of representing Youth Connections on the big stage. Judge Loyd put in nearly eight months of practice to prepare for the big event. As a collaborative group, the non-profit agencies raised nearly \$187,000! After expenses were paid, organizations involved took home a healthy fundraising check.

Youth Connections is in the process of recruiting our dancer for the 2015 "Dancing with the Johnson County Stars" event. If you would like to represent YC in next year's event please contact our office at (317) 738-3273.

Dancers are required to:

- **Attend weekly dance lessons for 6-8 months**
- **Help raise money for Youth Connections!**
- **Have fun!!**



New Safe Place Sites in 2014



Grace United Methodist Church



Center Grove Schools



Mooresville Schools



MSD of Martinsville Schools

TOM THE TOOLMAN'S TOOL BOX

TOOL # 10 - COMMUNICATION TIPS

Be available for your children

- Notice times when your kids are most likely to talk — Example: bedtime, in the car — and be available.
- Start the conversation; it lets your kids know you care about what's happening in their lives.
- Find time each week for a one-on-one activity with each child, and avoid scheduling other activities during that time.
- Learn about your children's interests — Example: favorite music and activities — and show interest in them.
- Initiate conversations by sharing what you have been thinking about rather than beginning a conversation with a question.



Let your kids know you're listening

- When your children are talking about concerns, stop whatever you are doing and listen.
- Express interest in what they are saying without being intrusive.
- Listen to their point of view, even if it's difficult to hear.
- Let them complete their point before you respond.
- Repeat what you heard them say to ensure that you understand them correctly.

Respond in a way your children will hear

- Soften strong reactions; kids will tune you out if you appear angry or defensive.
- Express your opinion without putting down theirs; acknowledge that it's okay to disagree.
- Resist arguing about who is right. Instead say, "I know you disagree with me, but this is what I think."
- Focus on your child's feelings rather than your own during your conversation.

Remember:

- Ask your children what they may want or need from you in a conversation, such as advice, simply listening, help in dealing with feelings or help solving a problem.
- Kids learn by imitating. Most often, they will follow your lead in how they deal with anger, solve problems and work through difficult feelings.
- Talk to your children — don't lecture, criticize, threaten or say hurtful things.
- Kids learn from their own choices. As long as the consequences are not dangerous, don't feel you have to step in.
- Realize your children may test you by telling you a small part of what is bothering them. Listen carefully to what they say, encourage them to talk and they may share the rest of the story.

(American Psychological Association, 2014)

FALL OPEN HOUSE

Youth Connections staff and Board of Trustees played host to area business leaders and community partners at the Inaugural Fall Open House. Attendees enjoyed delicious finger foods and savory dips while mingling with other YC supporters.

The YC team would like to thank everyone that came out to support the Youth Connections mission.

