# EDUCATOR NUTRITION <br> NEWSLETTER 

## HEALTHY MINDS = HEALTHY BODIES = HEALTHY STUDENTS

At St.Vincent we believe in treating the mind, body and spirit. Therefore, you will find that these newsletters do the same thing...you'll be offered information addressing all three of these aspects. This newsletter strives to make a connection between the classroom, cafeteria, home and community to motivate and support students in making healthy decisions.

Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St.Vincent is here to help you, your school and your students reach whatever health and wellness goals you have. Please don't hesitate to let us know how we can help. For information or resources, contact School Wellness Coordinator Karen Terrell at klterreldstvincent.org or (317) 338-2336.

We hope you enjoy the newsletters and that you find them useful for your students and their families (and you, too!). Thank you for reading!

## HEALTHY BODY FOCUS: NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK



The week of March 16-22 is National Poison Prevention Week sponsored by the American Association of Poison Control Centers. The following is information from their website and offers helpful tips for talking with your students about poisons.

## How can you get poisoned?

You can get poisoned by eating, drinking, touching, or smelling something that can make you sick or hurt you. Some things, like medicine, can make you sick if you take the wrong kind, or if you take too much. Always ask a trusted grown-up before you take any medicine. Never put anything in your mouth if you are not sure if it is safe to eat. Ask a grown-up first!

## Where are poisons found?

Poison can be found in any room in your home. They can even be found in Grandma's purse! Poisons can be found outside, like some plants, berries and mushrooms.

## What can you do if someone gets poisoned?

If you think you got into a poison, tell a grown-up right away! They will call the poison center. The poison center will tell them how to help you. If you think your mom or dad, or your brother or sister, or even your friend got into a poison, you can call the poison center too. Learn the poison center's phone number, 1-800-222-1222, and make sure you have the number of the poison center on or near the telephones in your house.

## How can you be prepared?

Ask your mom or dad to teach you what things are dangerous and what are not. Sometimes poisons can be colorful or have interesting designs on the packaging. It's very important that you stay away from anything you aren't familiar with unless an adult says it's okay.
Encourage your family to have a plan in case someone accidently gets into a poison. Just like fire and tornado drills, a well-practiced plan of action can keep you and your family safe.

The American Association of Poison Control Centers supports the nation's 56 poison centers in their efforts to prevent and treat poison exposures. Poison centers offer free, confidential medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the Poison Help Line at 1-800-222-1222. This service provides a primary resource for poisoning information and helps reduce costly emergency department visits through in-home treatment.

## PRODUCE SELECTION

## ARTICHOKES:

- Select artichokes that are deep green with a tight leaf formation.
- They should feel heavy for their size; however, size has little to do with quality or flavor. Small artichokes are just a smaller bud.
- To test for freshness, press the leaves against each other. They should produce a squeaking sound.
- Store fresh artichokes unwashed in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for up to a week. It's best to use fresh artichokes on the day of purchase.
- Artichokes can dry out quickly, so as soon as you can after purchase, put them in plastic bags with a little sprinkle of water (not too much water or the artichokes will get moldy) and store them in the vegetable bin of the refrigerator.

GRAPEFRUIT:

- Select grapefruit with bright, smooth, thin, unblemished skin.
- The grapefruit should be very heavy for its size, as it will be the juiciest.
- The fruit should be springy to the touch, not soft or wilted. Defects on the surface of the fruit such as scars, scratches and discoloration don't affect the taste.
- Because grapefruit is ripe when picked it will not ripen further once off the tree. Grapefruit will last for several days if stored at room temperature. Otherwise, refrigerate grapefruit in a plastic bag or in the crisper section of the refrigerator, where they will keep for several weeks.


## GETTING PHYSICAL: A Classroom Competition

What better time than to have a competition in your classroom than as the weather turns warmer and we all long to be outside a bit more every day?!

- Start by creating a list of activities your students can participate in during the month. You'll likely need to include both indoor and outdoor activities due to the weather.
- Create an "Activity Chart" with each student's name and all the activities listed.
- Students earn points by the number of minutes they are active in each activity. For example, 30 minutes of walking the dog equals 30 points for that student.
- Sample activities might include jump roping, walking, running, doing chores around the house, organized sports events or anything else they come up with.
- Each day students log in their points by their name on the activity chart.
- For an extra bit of competition, you may decide that sedentary activities like playing video games or going an entire day without being active can count as negative points.
- At the end of the month award the students with the top three points as the winners! You can do this among your own classroom alone or make it a competition with another classroom.



## COOKING IN CLASS

For this month's classroom recipe, simply peel and serve grapefruit sections to your students. You might offer both salt and sugar to sprinkle on the sections to see which they prefer.

Or bring in some Ruby Red grapefruit juice and mix it with sparkling water for a refreshing Grapefruit Fizz drink.



When eating fruits and vegetables, it's important to remember to encourage children to eat a rainbow of colors.

| RED | Help maintain a healthy heart, <br> memory function and urinary <br> tract health | Strawberries, red pears, <br> red grapes, beets and <br> tomatoes |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| ORANGE | Help maintain heart health, <br> healthy vision and healthy <br> immune system | Oranges, tangerines, <br> grapefruit or apricots |
| WEAHEF | Help maintain heart health <br> and cholesterol levels that are <br> already healthy | Squash, garlic, jicama, <br> alfalfa sprouts |
| GREEN | Help maintain healthy vision <br> and strong bones and teeth | Cabbage, Chinese and <br> savoy cabbages, kale and <br> broccoli |
| BLAE | Help maintain healthy aging, <br> memory function and urinary <br> tract health. | Blueberries, purple and <br> red cabbages, eggplant, <br> dried plums, figs |
| PURPLE |  |  |

For more information, visit www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

## HOW MUCH DO I NEED?

## Recommended Daily Amounts

 Of Fruits \& Vegetables*| Kids, Ages $5-12$ | $211 / 2-5$ cups per day |
| :--- | :--- |
| Kids, Ages $13-18$ | $3112-61 / 2$ cups per day |
| Adults, $19+$ | $311 / 2-61 / 2$ cups per day |

*If you are active, eat the higher number of cups per day.
Visit www.mypyramid.gov to learn more.



## LITERATURE LINKS

## ELEMENTARY:

Artichoke Boy by Scott Mickelson
Some kids love peas and potatoes. Some kids love beans and tomatoes. Then there is Artichoke Boy who loves artichokes most of all. He's not the only one. His mother, father, and sister are crazy for artichokes, too! It's one big artichokeloving family.

## MIDDLE

## Artichoke Tales by Megan Kelso

Artichoke Tales is a coming-of-age story about a young girl named Brigitte whose family is caught between the two warring sides of a civil war, a graphic novel that takes place in a world that echoes our own, but whose people have artichoke leaves instead of hair. Influenced in equal parts by Little House on the Prairie, The Thorn Birds, Dharma Bums, and Cold Mountain, Kelso weaves a moving story about family amidst war.

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[^0]:    This newsletter is brought to you by the Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St.Vincent. Some material in this newsletter is adapted from the California Department of Public Health's Network for a Healthy California - Harvest of the Month program and from the following web sites: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov and www.plants.usda.gov.
    For additional information or resources, please contact Karen Terrell, School Wellness Coordinator, Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St.Vincent at klterrel®stvincent.org or 338-2336.

