

April 17, 2019

Dear Principal:

On June 3-6, The Sidney-Shelby County YMCA will be teaching hundreds of children to be safer around water through a special campaign entitled "Water Safety Week"! The event is designed to help children overcome their fear around water and dramatically boost their self-confidence and self-esteem by teaching them to swim. The safety factor cannot be overlooked either, in light of the fact that every year numerous people drown in the United States. More than one in four drowning victims is under age 14 and drowning is the leading cause of death for children under the age of four. For every child who dies from a drowning, another four receive emergency care for submersion injuries.

The YMCA presents its "Water Safety Week" as a water safety program out of concern for the safety and protection of children and their families. "Water Safety Week" can also encourage parents how to teach their children water safety and rescue skills and encourage children to be responsible when near water. The Sidney Daily News is proud to once again sponsor the YMCA "Water Safety Week" Program, which it has done for the past 32 years. This year we do so in partnership with Minster State Bank, The Ruese Insurance Agency and Frickers. The program is offered to children at no cost.

"Water Safety Week" is open to all students who have completed kindergarten through grade 6. We believe that education and safety are vital to the development of our young people. We also feel an obligation to see that as many children as possible benefit from this positive community action campaign. You will soon receive additional material on "Water Safety Week". Sonia Jaziri, Aquatics Coordinator, is prepared to answer any questions for water safety training and how the "Water Safety Week" Program can assist them in water safety skills. If needed, she may be contacted at the YMCA (937)492-9134 Ext 211. This year marks the 33rd anniversary of the program, which is now instructing its second generation of children.

We look forward to another successful YMCA "Water Safety Week" Program and appreciate your help in getting the word out to youngsters in the community.

Sincerely,

Natalie Buzzard

General Manager, The Sidney Daily News