MAY 2017

“AWARE news

“Vulnerability sounds like TRUTH and feels like COURAGE. Truth and courage aren’t always comfortable, but they’re never weakness.”
- Brene Brown

Project AWARE is excited to introduce you to Loren Lew, our newest advocate who is filling Matt Hughes’ position. Loren has worked for Thompson School District since 2016. Prior to that, he worked in law enforcement for 20 years in California and Colorado. He has an MA in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and has taught at a community college. Loren enjoys one on one support and mentoring of students. He believes every student has something to offer and has the potential to succeed. He likes gardening, watching movies, and hanging out with the family.

WE Were you AWARE...?

Between 70 and 90% of people with mental illnesses experience a significant reduction of symptoms and an improved quality of life, with proper care and treatment. NAMI. “About Mental Illness.” National Alliance on Mental Illness

The AWARE team collaborates closely with the School Health Professionals Grant (SHPG). The Colorado Department of Education is overseeing the grant which is funded from marijuana tax revenue. This grant currently funds two school social workers (Jessica Shiveley, Natalie Denkers) and one school nurse (Quincey Holmquist) who serve middle schools in Thompson School District. The purpose of this grant is to implement substance abuse and mental health prevention and education as well as provide evidence-based resources to schools, staff, students and families. In the 2016-17 school year SHPG began implementing the Signs of Suicide (SOS) curriculum, reaching over 580 students. SHPG partnered with Heart Centered Counseling, Banner Health Spirit of the Women and Jennifer Tracy to provide educational opportunities for the TSD community. The SHPG also partnered with the EARSS Middle School camp to work with leadership students at Bill Reed Middle School. They helped the students work on developing and demonstrating leadership skills while working among each other to develop a sense of belonging. The overall mission statement is: To use our strengths as a Bill Reed Community to make people feel safe and confident being themselves. The leadership students designed a t-shirt to spread a positive message and sold them with all proceeds being donated to a non-profit of the group’s choice and toward a project at BRMS.

#WeAreThompson

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Aaron, a 7th grade BRMS student, wearing the shirt the EARSS leadership team designed

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CONNECTION CORNER

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Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA)
*In partnership with CDE’s Youth Mental Health First Aid grant, no cost*
Ages 18+
TSD Admin Building - 800 S Taft Ave, Loveland
Registration Links: bit.ly/ymhfaTSD  (TIC credit available)
• June 6th & 7th  8 am - Noon (must attend both sessions)
• June 12th  8 am - 4:30 pm
• June 24th  8 am - 4:30 pm
• July 19th  8 am - 4:30 pm
• August 1st & 2nd  8 am - Noon (must attend both sessions)

Kinship Family Support Group "HUGS"
Daytime social group for grandparents and other kin raising kin
Monthly, on the second Tuesday of the month  12:00 - 2:30 pm
Mountain View Presbyterian Church - Room 101 (2500 Garfield Ave, Loveland)
Each month we discuss a topic of interest to the group. We may review books or other publications as agreed upon by members of the group. Please feel free to attend one or both of our locations. Please bring your sack lunch or snack. Come late, come as you can, stay as long as you can.

CBMS End of the Year BBQ for ILC & ALC Families
May 24th, 12-2pm
Conrad Ball Middle School - 2600 N. Monroe Ave
It’s the end of the year and time to have fun and BBQ!! We invite all ILC and ALC classes, families, and staff to come hungry and enjoy an awesome school year!!

Kids, Horses & Healing
June 11th, 9 am - 4 pm
This program is a therapeutic riding retreat for bereaved children and teens and is a collaboration between Pathways Hospice and the Hearts and Horses Therapeutic Riding Center in Loveland. Please call for more information. Scholarships are available. Registration is required. $65 per child.

3 Hopeful Hearts Camp BraveHeart
Ages 5-18, No Cost
July 22nd-23rd  9am - 4 pm
Colorado Youth Outdoors (4827 E. County Road 36, Fort Collins)
Camp BraveHeart is a day camp for children who are grieving the loss of a sibling, parent or other close family member. They will have the opportunity to share feelings and memories with other children who have experienced a similar loss. They will leave the day with a renewed sense of self and coping skills that will help them manage grief in everyday life.
These three options below are available to best meet your camper's needs:
1. Ages 5-12  Saturday, July 22nd  9:00am - 4:00pm
2. Ages 12-18 Sat 1:45-8:30pm and Sun 8-noon
3. Ages 12-18  Overnight option: Sat 1:45pm - Sun at noon

Please note that Thompson School District only endorses events that are presented by or sponsored by the district.