

THREE DATES

JULY 23, 2013 . . . SEPTEMBER 28, 2013 . . . OCTOBER 5, 2013

The first came at the height of summer—word that a 2013 graduate was dead. He had been shot in a drug deal gone wrong. The drug being peddled was believed to be heroin. Less than two months later, the bad news just grew. Another 2013 graduate was in the hospital in a coma after overdosing on a combination of many drugs. Within days, this girl was gone after her parents made the agonizing decision to remove their 18 year old daughter from life support. Within a week, once again our school family was rocked when yet another former student was found dead on railroad tracks—dead from a heroin overdose.

All three stories were devastating. The media coverage was intense. Students were reeling. Parents were scared. Teachers were heartbroken. And, as is predictable, the community wanted to know—what is the SCHOOL doing about this problem. At that moment, we didn't have an answer. But we did know one thing—we needed an answer and fast.

THE BIRTH OF YES

The YES Fest was born in a moment of inspiration during a conversation between several stakeholders—school administration, PTS reps, parents, law enforcement, students, teachers, community members. The realization at the foundation of its invention was that the Just Say No campaign was incomplete. Just Saying NO creates a void where the negative behavior once lived. Just Saying NO leaves an empty spot in our time. Just Saying NO isolates us from the group of friends we are used to being around. In some ways, Just Saying NO creates the perfect situation for failure.

With those realizations in mind, we intuitively went to YES. The idea was, once our kids say NO, they need to find other activities to put in the place of the negative influences. They need to become involved in something positive so that being positive becomes a new habit. So we asked ourselves the most basic question—What SHOULD our kids say YES to? What kinds of activities and experiences are healthy, both mentally and physically, for our kids?

From that, we made a list of all the influences and opportunities that we believed would lead our kids to a path of positive living. Over and over, we returned to the idea of volunteering. Along with volunteering, we acknowledged the importance of physical health, mental health and spiritual health. Those four areas, then, became the categories for compiling our list of organizations with whom we knew we wanted to link.

THE MAIN EVENT

As educators, we knew that some type of a program, lecture, speech, needed to be part of our YES Fest. We didn't want to hire some unknown person from another community to come in and tell our kids scary stories about people they didn't know or to whom they felt no connection. We wanted a face, a name, and a story that connected to our community. We wanted a Boardman person to tell a story featuring a Boardman Spartan graduate as the main character.

In one of our gatherings of stakeholders, during a brainstorming session, two names were offered up for consideration: two Boardman parents who each lost a son to heroin. Though neither had done professional speaking before, each was willing to be a part of our YES Fest. Each had a similar story—the tragedy of losing a child to a deadly and unforgiving drug. They, then, became our Just Say No portion of the event.

But a far greater challenge remained . . . how would we make the transition from the sadness of their story into the happiness of becoming involved in our community. We needed a speaker with experience, someone who could straddle the line dividing public schools and spirituality/religion, someone who could acknowledge the horror of the stories of our lost students while still moving our students into a more positive state of mind. We were blessed to have just such a speaker as part of our school family already.

Getting the assembly program together was a big part of the YES Fest, but there were many other pieces to the puzzle that needed assembled.

MAKING OUR STUDENTS COMMIT

The next question we needed to answer was, how can we lead our students into this commitment? What can we do to make students feel more intimately connected to the YES Philosophy? Several ideas were hatched to accomplish this lofty goal. First, we all recognized the power of signing your name on something—of taking a pledge and making it official by putting a pen to paper. Our answer to this became a banner that was emblazoned with the words “I Said YES!” We wanted every student to pledge and sign this banner. We knew that there would be power in this symbolic act, and that the banner would become a permanent reminder of all of our commitments to the positive. For all the days of the year to follow, that banner would be hung somewhere so that students had a visual reminder of the commitment that they made on one special day.

But we wanted more. We wanted students to own something as a remembrance of the day. We wanted each student who signed the banner to get something that he or she could take home. The idea of a YES Fest T-shirt was suggested, and everyone was on board for that idea. The biggest challenge???? Getting the money to pay for 1500 student shirts and 150 staff shirts.

Where could that kind of money come from? Again, as was the entire spirit of the YES Fest, we had to reach out to the community. We needed to seek out donations from area businesses who believed in what we were doing. And believe it or not, this was not difficult. One area business owner, in fact, was so firm in his belief in our YES Fest that he stepped up to cover the entire cost of this feat. We negotiated a substantial discount from a Boardman business for the T-shirts by telling them about our vision and giving them sponsor space on the back of our T-shirts below the name of our main contributor.

THE COMMUNITY SAYS YES

* with student buy-in and a visioassembly would look like was just part of the event. We wanted to bring our community into our school in a huge way. We wanted a festival atmosphere in our gymnasium where many tables featuring volunteer agencies from our

community would be set up. We wanted music and enthusiasm to prevail in this part of the YES Fest. We wanted to move away from the sadness of the loss of our graduates and move into the good feelings of our community helpers. We needed a list—a list of volunteer agencies, health facilities and drug counseling centers. And so we brainstormed at a stakeholders meeting with each person mentioning a place that should be invited. Stakeholders suggested names of people who were in positions of power who would be on board with our YES Fest. Gradually, we compiled a list of about 50 places we wanted to invite. Over several weeks, we made our contacts. We sent them invitations to our event. The invitation described our inspiration for the event and the fact that they and their organization were an essential part of the entire day. We told them that we could not do it without their help. It was overwhelming the enthusiasm with which these people responded to our invitations. Not only were they willing to attend, they were thrilled to be asked.. It turns out that they were trying to figure out a way to be involved with the school for a long time. This invitation was something they had been hoping for!!

Community Organizations in Attendance:

Akron Children's Hospital
Al Anon
Angels for Animals
Animal Charities
Beatitude House
Belmont Pines
Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Boardman Fire Department
Boardman Police Department
Mahoning County Board of Health
Butler Art Museum
Canfield Drivers Examination
Coalition for Drug Free Mahoning County
Comprehensive Psychology
Easter Seals
Mahoning County Green Team
Habitat for Humanity
Help Hotline
Hospice of Mahoning County
Boardman Traveling Library
Mahoning County Democratic Party
Mahoning County Republican Party
Mahoning County Safe Communities
Making kids Count
Neil Kennedy Recovery
Oh Wow! Children's Museum
Purple Cat
The Rescue Mission of Youngstown
Reading Radio of Goodwill
Second Harvest Food Bank
Shepherd of the Valley Nursing Home

Sojourner's House
St. Vincent DePaul
Travco
The United Way
The YMCA
Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation

Recipe for A YES Fest

1. Select a date
2. Create a committee consisting of approximately 12-15 members:
 - Administrators
 - Teachers (S.A.D.D. Advisor, School Newspaper Advisor, TV Teacher, Art Teacher, for example)
 - Students (Student Council Leaders, Class Officers, for example)
 - PTSA Representatives
 - Parents
 - Community Members
 - Local Law Enforcement
 - Local Media
3. First Meeting (approximately 2-3 months before date)
Topics for discussion:
 - Speakers for assembly program
 - Logo
 - T-shirt design
 - Donation sources
 - Table sources
 - Community organizations to invite
 - Media contacts/Press releases
 - Parent invitations/Newsletter invitation
 - Breakfast/Lunch for speakers and community organizations
 - Student pre- and post-event surveys on drug use and volunteer involvement
 - Banner design and source
 - Calendar of activities leading up to YES Fest including future meetings
 - Select sub-committee leaders for:
 - Speakers/assembly program
 - YES Fest artwork (logo, t-shirt design, banner design)
 - Financial/fundraising
 - Community contacts
 - Tables for community organizations
 - Media Contacts
 - Parent communication (emails, newsletter, robo-calls, etc.)
 - Survey coordinator
 - Hospitality (speakers and community organizers)
 - Advertising (video for school, video for social media, signs for school, staff announcements)
 - Parking/security
4. Second Meeting
 - Get updates from sub-committees
 - Plan specific dates for the following activities:
 - appearance of signs in building (10 days prior to YES Fest)

- broadcast of video introduction to YES Fest Philosophy (5 days prior to YES Fest)
 - signing the YES Fest banner (4 days prior to YES Fest)
 - t-shirt distribution to students and staff (same time as banner signing)
 - staff announcements advertising YES Fest (each morning the week leading up to YES Fest)
 - invitations to parents(2 weeks prior to YES Fest)
 - media contact finalizing schedule (2 days prior to YES Fest)
 - parent/guest parking instructions (close to YES Fest Day as possible)
5. Third Meeting (1 week prior)
- Finalize all areas

The Week Leading Up to YES Fest The Great Build-Up

Monday- Thursday	Morning Staff Announcement (Examples included) Announcement of Banner Signing/T-Shirt Distribution Plan Sign Banner and Begin Distributing T-Shirts
Friday YES Fest Day	<p>Assembly Program (45 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ include video, music ▪ each speaker has specific time constraints ▪ small student groups work best ▪ plan for teacher supervision during assembly <p>Volunteer Table Fest (30-45 minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ students visit tables and sign up to volunteer with organizations ▪ include music ▪ plan for teacher supervision during volunteer festival

THE COMMUNITY SAYS YES

- After planning student buy-in and assembly components, must get community
- Use gymnasium for community agency table displays
- Include music and enthusiasm in this part of the YES Fest.
- Must generate a list of volunteer agencies, health facilities and drug counseling
- Brainstorm with stakeholders for names and places and compile a guest list
- Initial contact 8 weeks in advance—get name and contact info for community outreach person
- Send an informational email to contacts about 5 weeks before—include images and text
- Invitation should stress that their organization is an essential part of the event
- Thank the organizations often

General Areas to Consider: It was overwhelming the enthusiasm with which these people responded to our invitations. Not only were they willing to attend, they were thrilled to be asked.. It turns out that they were trying to figure out a way to be involved with the school for a long time. This invitation was something they had been hoping for!!

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St. Vincent DePaul

Travco
The United Way
The YMCA
Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation

Dear

Boardman High School will once again be holding its 2nd Annual YES FEST on Friday, September 26, 2014, and we are writing to invite your organization to take part in this exciting activity. This event will feature important anti-drug information as well as alternatives to drug use. In other words, we are trying to answer the question, "After I JUST SAY NO to drugs, what can I say YES to?"

We are inviting you to come to our school on Friday, September 26 2014, at 8:30 a.m. and set up an information table (we will provide the tables) in our gymnasium for the purpose of exposing our students to the volunteer opportunities or health/medical information that your organization has. During the course of the day, approximately 1500 students, ages 15-18 years old, will be visiting the gymnasium. It will be a great way for our kids to learn how they can get involved and how they can be healthy. At the same time, it will be an opportunity for you to get the word out about your organization because we will once again have local media coverage.

Last year's YES Fest was a tremendous success and we have shared this festival with area schools. Cardinal Mooney, for instance, had their own YES Fest this year which they modeled directly on ours. In addition, we have been invited to speak at the State School Board Convention in Columbus about our YES Fest. This event is meaningful and impactful and we need you to be a part of it!

Please call me at 330-259-7148 to make plans for this exciting day.

Sincerely,

Cindy Fernback
Assistant Principal
Boardman High School

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Sincerely,

Cindy Fernback
Assistant Principal
Boardman High School

YES Fest Schedule 2014

- 8:00 Sophomores excused to BPAC.
- 8:10 Sophomore assembly begins. Speakers are Jared Cardillo, Mike Trelle and Tim Saxton.
- 8:55-9:45 Sophomores in gymnasium. When the bell rings at the end of 2nd period, Sophomores will be released from the gym. Sophomores will be in their regularly scheduled 3rd period classes.
- 9:00 Seniors dismissed to BPAC. 8th graders from BGMS attending.
- 9:10-9:50 Senior assembly.
- 9:50-10:40 Seniors in gym. When the bell rings at the end of 3rd period, Seniors will be released from the gym. Seniors will be in their regularly scheduled 4th period classes.
- 12:15 Juniors dismissed to BPAC.
- 12:25-1:10 Junior Assembly.
- 1:10-2:00 Juniors in gymnasium. When the bell rings at the end of 6th period, Juniors will be released from the gym. Juniors will be in their regularly scheduled 7th period classes or dismissed as part of early dismissal.
- 1:15 Freshman excused to BPAC.
- 1:25-2:10 Freshman Assembly. 8th graders from BCMS attending.
- 2:10-2:55 Freshman in gymnasium.
- 2:55 WE NEED TEACHER VOLUNTEERS TO HELP TEAR DOWN TABLES, TRANSPORT TABLES TO ST. LUKE'S, AND SET UP ST. LUKE'S BINGO. CAN YOU HELP US OUT????

Commit to bringing the positive into our lives; promise to replace a negative with a positive; learn to “just say no” and beyond; say “yes!” to all the positive opportunities around us.

Boardman High School and the Boardman Community

PRESENT

YES FEST 2014!

You are important, you are needed, and you CAN make a difference!

Friday, September 26, 2014

An informational and inspirational assembly will feature Spartan parent, Mike Trell, father of Erin Trell who died tragically of a drug overdose in 2013. Additionally, Boardman High School Principal Jared Cardillo will share some personal reflections on the important role we can all play in changing a person's life for the better. Finally, Boardman's own Spartan Tim Saxton will challenge students not only to say “NO” to drugs and unhealthy lifestyle choices, but also to say “YES” to all the **positives** our community has to offer. After the assembly, students will explore our YES Fest in the gymnasium featuring wonderful volunteer community agencies, mental and physical health agencies, as well as BHS school clubs.



Mike Trell, father of Alexis, Maddy and the late Erin Trell; Boardman Softball Assistant Coach



**Timothy Saxton,
Boardman Schools Director of Operations**



**Jared Cardillo,
Principal Boardman High School**

*Linking our school with
our community . . .*

**YES
FEST!**

What is the YES FEST?

On Friday, September 26, 2014, Boardman High School students and the 8th grade classes from BGMS and BCMS will participate in an assembly that will explore the negative influences that surround us all, as well as the multitude of positive opportunities that also exist in our community. An assembly in the Boardman Performing Arts Center will feature speakers who will challenge students to continue saying “No!” to the drugs that unfortunately still surround us—drugs that have deadly consequences. But more than that, these speakers will also challenge students to open up to the positive influences that exist right in our backyards.

Volunteer agencies will be set up in the gymnasium and students will have the opportunity to visit the YES FEST and become aware of the positive agencies that are working tirelessly to make our community a better place. Volunteer opportunities for students will be highlighted so students can link to something bigger than themselves. Mental and physical health agencies will be here to show students healthy options for stress management. Also, our own BHS clubs will be here to showcase their unique opportunities for high school students.

It is the hope of Boardman High School that this day and this YES FEST will remind students that they are important, they are needed, and they can make a difference.

Some of the many participating community agencies:

Second Harvest
The Beatitude House
The Rescue Mission
Sojourner's House
The United Way
Habitat for Humanity
Oh WOW!
Easter Seals
Golden String Radio/Purple Cat
Making Kids Count
Hospice of Mahoning Valley
Animal Charities
The YMCA Davis Branch
Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation
Angels for Animals
Boardman Fire Department
Boardman Police Department
Boardman Township Park
St. Vincent De Paul
Green Team
Purple Cat/Golden String Radio
Youngstown Neighborhood Development
Butler Art Museum
Big Brothers, Big Sisters
Shepherd of the Valley
Akron Children's Hospital
State Farm Insurance
And many more . . .

Sign the YES PLEDGE between September 22-September 25

“I sign this YES PLEDGE and promise to ‘let go of a NO’ and become part of something positive. I pledge to be drug-free and instead get involved in one of the many positive organizations that exist in my school and my community.”

Any student who signs the YES Pledge and makes a small donation to one of the volunteer agencies championed by the BHS Emerging Leaders Club will receive a YES Fest T-shirt that has been sponsored by:

- *The Drug Education Officers of Mahoning Valley Deo/D.A.R.E.*
- *Chik-fil-a Southern Park*
- *X-pert Design*
- *On Demand Drug Testing*

Students will then wear their YES Fest T-shirts on September 26th for our festival

SCHEDULE

Sophomores

8:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m.

Seniors and BGMS 8th Graders

9:10 a.m.-10:40 a.m.

Juniors

12:15 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Freshman and BCMS 8th Graders

1:10 p.m.-2:55 p.m.

Beyond the Conflict of Inner Forces

–by *Cherokee Story* (Feb 04, 2013)

Listen To Reading!



An old grandfather is teaching his grandson about life:

“A fight is going on inside me,” he said to the boy.”It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One wolf is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.” He continued, “The other wolf is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, faith and service. These two wolves are both fierce and one will likely not survive this great battle. Believe it or not, the same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person, too. In each of us there is the good wolf and the evil wolf, and the two are battling until the end.”

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: “Which wolf will win?”

The old Grandfather simply replied, “The one you feed.”

This is a story that captures the central message of our YES Fest. It describes the negative and positive influences that constantly bombard each of us and the choice, the power we have in limiting or enhancing those influences. If we feed the negative, then that wolf wins. Conversely, if we feed the positive, that wolf wins. In the end, it our choice which is fed.

This week, we have challenged you to say YES. There will be two opportunities during the next few days for you to take the word YES and turn it into action. On Thursday at 2 and 3 in our cafeteria our Emerging Leaders Club will meet for the first time. This is a club that provides group volunteer experiences for its members. Then on Friday, I encourage you to look at all the agencies that have come to our YES Fest. Some care for our hungry. Some build homes for our needy. Some care for our abandoned animals. Find the one that speaks to you and sign up to volunteer. Not only will you be helping others, but the good you create will shine on you as well.

“In each of us there is the good wolf and the evil wolf, and the two are battling to the end. Which wolf will win?? The one you feed.”

Happy YES Fest BHS!!

Good afternoon SPARTAN NATION.

One week from today, on Friday, September 26th, BHS will hold its second annual YES Fest. This special day was created last year following the tragic deaths of three former Boardman Spartans—deaths that were all drug related.

As we planned our first YES Fest, we knew we wanted to move beyond the traditional “Just Say NO” message and challenge our students to be courageous enough to say YES to volunteering in our community.

This year’s YES Fest will embrace the same message—Say No to the negative/say YES to the positive. We will once again have an assembly that will be followed by OUR FESTIVAL gymnasium.

The assembly will feature Mr. Mike Trell, the father of the late Erin TRell who died tragically in 2013 of a drug overdose. Following Mr. Trell, we will hear some words of encouragement from our own former principal Mr. Tim Saxton.

At the conclusion of the assembly, students will travel to our gymnasium and visit the tables of over 50 community agencies who work to make our community a

better place. It is our hope that you will commit to volunteering with one of the agencies and become part of something bigger than yourself.

Leading up to this important day, we will begin distributing the 2014 YES Fest T-shirts and signing the 2014 YES Fest Banner on Monday during all three lunches.

Because it has been our mission to help our community, we are going to be collecting donations from students prior to issuing you your YES Fest T-shirts.

There are three agencies that you can donate to IN ORDER TO GET YOUR SHIRT:

Those three agencies are The United Way, Second Harvest and Animal Charities.

For the United Way, you may make a monetary donation that you are comfortable with. For the Second Harvest Food Bank, you may donate non-perishable food items. And finally, to Animal Charities--students and staff will have the opportunity to donate a bag of dog food.

We will present our donations to the agencies on Friday when they arrive to take part in our YES Fest. On Friday, we want the entire school to be wearing the 2014 YES Fest T-Shirts as evidence of our generosity and our commitment to caring.

Lets Make this year's YES Fest bigger and better than ever! Go Spartans!!!!!!