Recognizing excellent staff partners

Spiritual Care chaplains hold VBS week for St. Jude patients and siblings

By Kimberly Russell, Chaplain

Vacation Bible school is a church event that many kids look forward to each summer. It can be hard to make your home-church VBS fit into your child’s schedule when you are at the hospital every day. For the second year, the Spiritual Care chaplains are offering a week-long VBS opportunity for patients and siblings at St. Jude.

This year’s theme is Exploration Station. Come join us in exploring the stories Jesus shares in the areas where they took place. We will explore the beach, the wilderness, the countryside, the mountains and the farmland. Navi Gator, our tour guide, will lead the group through a story, song, crafts, games and snacks. Each day we will have a new and exciting adventure.

VBS at St. Jude is offered for children ages 5–13. We also welcome teen and young adult patients and siblings who want to volunteer as helpers. VBS at St. Jude will be held on campus, and the crafts and other activities will be geared toward our diverse group of patients and siblings. Wheelchairs, crutches and wagons are welcome.

Dates: Monday, June 27, through Friday, July 1
Times: 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Where: The IRC, Room E-1003 (look for maps at the Guest Services desks in the Patient Care Center and Chili’s Care Center lobbies. Signs will also be posted.)

If your child would like to attend VBS at St. Jude, talk to a chaplain about pre-registration. We can put VBS into your child’s daily schedule, which will help other staff know that your child is planning to attend VBS that day. We look forward to celebrating a week of vacation bible school with you.
Tips for patients on leucovorin with high-dose methotrexate

By Jennifer Robertson, PharmD, Pharmaceutical Department

Leucovorin is sometimes called a “rescue” medicine. It is taken in an effort to “rescue” the normal cells in the body from the side effects of methotrexate, an anticancer medicine. Leucovorin is available in several forms:

- 5-mg, 15-mg and 25-mg white tablets taken by mouth
- A clear liquid taken by mouth
- A clear to pale yellow liquid given by vein

The doctor will tell you if your child needs to take leucovorin after methotrexate.

It works best when the amount of medicine remains constant in the body. To keep the amount constant, make sure your child takes this medicine at the planned times. It is very important that your child does not miss any leucovorin doses.

In most cases, leucovorin should not begin earlier than 24 hours after methotrexate is started.

Sometimes the staff will check the blood levels of methotrexate and use that information to adjust the leucovorin dosage.

If you have questions about leucovorin, talk to a St. Jude doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Brothers and sisters of patients can become Olympic stars at Sibling Star Day 2016

Child Life will host the 2016 Olympic-themed Sibling Star Day Thursday, June 9. The day will be filled with fun for siblings 4–19 years of age. Registration will be open from 10–10:30 a.m. in the Danny Thomas/ALSAC Pavilion. Siblings will take part in Olympic-style activities from 10:30–11:30 a.m. and have lunch from 11:30 a.m.—noon.

Families will be asked to join the siblings for dessert in the Danny Thomas/ALSAC Pavilion at noon to watch sports clips of the Sibling Star Day Olympics. After dessert, families will line the red carpet outside the Pavilion as the siblings walk and receive their medals.

If you have questions about this event, talk to a Child Life specialist.

Kay Kafe hours extended to 9 p.m.

Last month, the Kay Kafe extended its hours. It is now open until 9 p.m. every day. Evening offerings include the daily Gil’s Station selections, pizza, made-to-order grill items and new Grab-n-Go options, such as signature sandwiches, wraps and premium salads. In addition, more than 100 new retail items were added for purchase during the past month.

If you have questions about hours of operation or items offered, talk to the Kay Kafe staff.