

Transcript

Hello Middle School Ministry volunteers. Thanks for checking in. These are the announcements for the week of Wednesday, January 31, 2024. First of all, I would like to give a shout out to all the volunteers who came and invested their time this weekend at the winter blast retreat. We cannot do things like winter blast without you. Thank you for giving up your weekend, giving up the comfort of your own bed. Thank you for giving up. Being able to be in the quiet of your own home and spending it with energetic, noisy, Excited middle schoolers at Hidden Acres. I praise God for you and your faithfulness, and I'm trusting that God is going to take the seeds that were planted at winter blast this weekend and grow them and multiply in students lives. Thank you for those of you who served.

this Wednesday, January 31st is backward night. So if you want to wear your clothes or your hat backward, you are welcome, but not required to do so. We're also going to run the schedule basically completely backward and reverse order from what we normally do on a Wednesday night. You can check out the agenda link to see more about that and this will be our final week of our series about Jesus in the Old Testament.

The following Wednesday, the 1st Wednesday in February, we will launch our heart to heart series about love, sex, dating and relationships.

Couple of things coming up to put on your radar

on February 4, that's Sunday in the evening at 6:30 PM there is a parent seminar. If you are the parent of an elementary or middle school student, it's called kids screens and mental health. Jill Thomas is a local licensed mental health therapist Who will be sharing research backed data on how screens are impacting the mental health of kids, and she'll talk with you about how you can come alongside your kids and help them use screens in a way that promotes mental health. That's Sunday evening, February 4, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the Valley Church Chapel. Knight to Shine is coming up in a few weeks.

On Friday, February 9. This is a prominent experience that Valley Church hosts for adults and teenagers who have special needs. It's a way for us to show love to our community And middle schoolers are invited to serve at night to shine by being dance buddies. They would serve from 7:00 to 9:00 PM and they would dress up and they'll dance on the dance floor in the gym, at the Community Center as the last part of the night to shine experience. And it's just nice to have more people there. The middle schoolers bring joy. They bring energy. And so I just wanted you to know, in case middle schoolers asked, that is how they can get

involved unless they're serving with their families in a different capacity. And I'd also encourage you to consider volunteering to sign up at night to shine.

Valley church is hosting baptism Sunday on Sunday morning, February 25. So if any students ask, we'll be hosting Explore baptism gatherings over the next few weeks after Wednesday and Sunday programming if they want to learn more information

we're doing pickleball night for you Only volunteers only on Saturday evening, March 2 at the Valley Community Center. We'll play pickleball in the gym, and we'll have some board games going out in the cafe that's totally voluntary. But we wanted to have a night where we can just hang out as middle school leaders together, apart from students.

The last thing I want to do today is to remind you, or maybe encourage you to slow down and pray. Life gets busy. We've got lots of commitments. If you're raising kids who are in the house or out of the house, that can be consuming. All of you work in some way, shape or form, whether it's for pay outside of the house or for pay inside the house, or not for pay, and you're working to raising kids and take care of your home. It can be easy to forget to slow down and pray. So it's really simple. I want to encourage you to take time over these next few days to make sure that you're connecting with our God the Creator through times of slow, silent, quiet prayer. And the more that you do that I believe the more connected to God and his heart you will be, which is going to make you a more effective middle school volunteer that's going to naturally overflow to middle schoolers.

Thank you for all you do. May you abide in Christ. And we'll see you for backward night this Wednesday.