LSUHSC, NFL & NODA team up to Give Kids a Smile

The LSUHSC School of Dentistry, the New Orleans Dental Association, and the New Orleans Saints teamed up today to Give Kids a Smile. About 100 children from schools in Plaquemines and St. John Parishes, which flooded during Hurricane Isaac, had a day full of fun and surprises.

The students, 2nd – 5th graders, were divided into groups when they arrived at the Dental School. New Orleans Saints staff and players, Cameron Jordan and Akiem Hicks, along with mascots Gumbo and Sir Saint, led the kids through NFL Play 60 football drills to promote physical activity and fitness. Meanwhile, the Tooth Fairy brought lessons on how to brush and floss to life, while another group visited stations staffed by LSUHSC dental hygiene faculty and students — including a coloring booth to illustrate happy smiles, a station on how mouth guards protect teeth, and another showing how drinks like juices, soft drinks, and sports drinks affect teeth.

Christy Lattinger, D4, found out that New Orleans Saints defensive players Akiem Hicks and Cameron Jordan make entertaining dental assistants!

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LSUHSC & Peoples Health launch new center

Peoples Health and LSU Health Sciences Center announced the launch of the Center for Healthcare Advancement this week. It’s a groundbreaking new alliance focused on improving the care delivered to Peoples Health Medicare Advantage plan members.

Through the Center for Healthcare Advancement, network physicians will connect with Peoples Health’s highly-trained case managers, chronic care improvement nurses, social workers, medical directors, nurse practitioners, dietitians, fitness instructors, and health

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LSUHSC streaming LPO concert live

SU Health Sciences Center will carry the Envisioning Louisiana concert live on Wednesday, January 23 at 7:30 p.m. in Lecture Room A of the Medical Education Building. The concert is presented by The Historic New Orleans Collection and the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra to celebrate the rich natural history of Louisiana and explore how composers have depicted the state and its people through music. The concert complements The Historic New Orleans Collection’s 2013 symposium, “Seeking the Unknown, Perspectives on Louisiana’s Natural History.”

Dr. Ranney Mize obtained two tickets for a future LPO concert to be presented to the LSUHSC student whose name is pulled from the hat that evening.

The concert is being made available to LSUHSC faculty, staff, and students through a partnership with LSU’s College of Music and Dramatic Arts supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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The focus of the day was Healthy Body, Healthy Teeth, and Healthy Lifestyle. Though the kids thought they were just having fun, the partners addressed two threats to children’s health – childhood obesity, and dental decay. Scientific studies indicate that the two conditions share contributing risk factors.

NODA and LSUHSC dentists, dental and dental hygiene students as well as dental residents screened and cleaned the children’s teeth. The groups rotated until all of the children had participated in all of the activities. The day wrapped up with a healthy lunch.

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Tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease, according to the US Surgeon General. It is five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever. More than 50% of children ages 5-9 have at least one cavity or filling and that proportion increases to 78% among 17-year-olds.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that approximately 17% (or 12.5 million) of children and adolescents aged 2—19 years are obese. Since 1980, obesity prevalence among children and adolescents has almost tripled.

Of the students screened during today’s Give Kids A Smile Day, 11 children had urgent dental needs, 41 have cavities, and 38 would benefit from sealants and/or further professional evaluation. This information goes home to the parents — every child gets a parent sheet as well as a list of dentists in their Medicaid region. Of course the children are also always welcome at the LSUHSC School of Dentistry!

The American Dental Association launched the Give Kids A Smile program nationally in 2003 as a way for dentists across the country to join with others in their community to provide dental services to underserved children. The program initially began as a one-day event in February, but has since grown to local and national events year-round. Dentists and other team members volunteer their time, and services, to provide screenings, treatments and education to children throughout the United States. Each year, approximately 450,000 children benefit from more than 1,500 events, all because of the efforts of 40,000 or more annual volunteers. Today’s event at the LSUHSC School of Dentistry was one of the first to kick off Give Kids A Smile Day in 2013.

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