

# Ware kindergartners start new program

By Melony Gabbert  
IST INF. DIV. POST

In an effort to build a strong relationship with Families and students from the beginning, kindergartners at Ware Elementary School were treated to "Kindergarten Connection," a new program this year, said Bryan Scruggs, kindergarten team leader.

While other students began regular school days Aug. 15, 16 and 17, kindergarten parents came in for pre-arranged 30-minute appointments with their student, Scruggs said.

"It's a good time to ease anxiety of the students and the parents," he said. "It allows students to see where they will be learning (and) who their teacher is. It allows parents to see where their student will be learning (and) meet the teacher."

The idea for Kindergarten Connection was initiated through discussion between the kindergarten teachers in the district and the district's director of elementary curriculum, Scruggs said.

"We wanted to establish

a strong relationship with our kindergartners and their Families from the start, while also providing a kindergarten screening that would be used to help with the education of our students," he said.

"We did some testing. It eased them into the situation, with some one-on-one," added Valarie Lamoreaux-Reist, Family support coordinator. "There were fewer tears."

Scruggs said the first day of school went really well for the kindergartners, and he attributes that partly because of Kindergarten Connection.

"We're really excited about having a great year and seeing a lot of smiling faces of kindergarten students. We've had a great day so far," he said. "The first day went really well, that can be partly attributed to the new program. We had a lot of very positive responses."

Ware Elementary School is the largest elementary school on post, with more than 750 students in attendance this year. Of those, about 140 are kindergartners, with about 25 students per classroom.

## KINDERGARTEN CORNER

What are you most excited about on the first day of kindergarten? What do you think will happen during this school year?



"Play puppets. They said, 'How are you doing?' They were funny."

"The puppets will play nicely. They will play rock, paper, scissors - like rock, paper, scissors, shoot. Puppets will play tag, play with their best friends, take turns on the slide."

AURORA ESTRADA



"I'm most excited about everything, except for the bus, which was a little scary."

Holiday said he anticipates liking kindergarten.

CHRISTIAN HOLIDAY



"I got excited so my mom had to rush me to the bus because she knew I would be really excited. Then I got to sit on the bus with my friend and my brother. When we went outside, I had a great time, and I did lots of fun things."

"I don't know what will happen in kindergarten, but I don't have any questions about kindergarten."

KAYLA WISDOM



"That I was going to eat here."

"I think we're going to have a party if we fill up a jar in our room with colored cotton balls."

LOGAN MCDUGALL



"I was afraid because these were not my friends."

"I don't know what will happen in kindergarten, but recess sounds fun."

MIA COLE



"I was really excited of like going on to the next step, like riding a bus, going on to kindergarten, taking a step up."

"If I have a birthday in kindergarten, I will be the 'girl of the class' and they'll throw a party. There might be a Halloween party and everyone will wear costumes, have food and games. What if we bob for apples? That's not healthy. What if you put your mouth on the same apple? I think I might do that for my birthday though."

DILLON RIDDLE

## COMMUNITY CORNER

# Report suspicious behavior, commander says

By Col. William Clark  
Garrison Commander

Watch - Maybe you've seen this term in the 1st Infantry Division Post newspaper or on Fort Riley's command information television channel. Either way, it's an important term to know. And as August - Antiterrorism Awareness Month - nears an end, I want to make sure if you don't already know what it means, you will be the time you finish this column.

Watch, a program in place for about a year, is the Army's latest antiterrorism and force protection campaign. It aims to heighten public sensitivity to indicators of possible terrorist activity, while encouraging people to report suspicious behavior to military or civilian law-enforcement agencies.

The idea is that if I watch - and you watch - we can catch potential terrorist activity before it becomes a threat or even an incident. It's based on one major principle: if you see something, say something. So what types of behavior are reportable?

Here is a list of a few examples of suspicious activity:

- People drawing or measuring important buildings
- Strangers asking questions about security procedures
- Briefcase, suitcase, backpack or package left behind



Col. Clark

- Vehicles left in no parking zones in front of important buildings

- Intruders in secure areas where they do not belong
- People wearing clothes that are too big and too hot for the weather
- Chemical smells or fumes that seem out of the ordinary for the specific location

- People asking questions about sensitive information such as building blueprints, security plans or VIP travel schedules without a need to know
- People purchasing supplies or equipment that can be used to make bombs or weapons or purchasing uniforms without having proper credentials

- Some of you may think you'd rather not get involved; you may think some activity is suspicious, but not necessarily

reportable.

I'll remind you it is always better to report suspicious behaviors than to refrain from doing so. It is your awareness to local law enforcement that can help predict and prevent attacks before they happen. Please help us in this effort to protect our installation and each other.

To report suspicious activities, call the Fort Riley Police Department at 785-239-MPMF (6767); Antiterrorism office at 785-239-6303 or 239-6044; the 902nd Military Intelligence Detachment at 785-239-2268; or 1-800-CALL-SPY (225-5779).

If you would like to comment on this column or suggest a topic for the Community Corner, send an email to rik.post.newspaper@cons.army.mil.

# IMCOM opens headquarters with ceremony

IMCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas - Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch and five representatives of the Soldiers, civilians and Family members served by the U.S. Army Installation Management Command officially opened the command's new headquarters campus Aug. 19.

The ceremony completed IMCOM's Base Realignment and Closure-mandated move from Arlington and Crystal City, Va., and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., to Fort Sam Houston, an Army stronghold since 1876.

Lynch, IMCOM commanding general and assistant chief of staff for IMCOM, cut the ribbon, alongside IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola; IMCOM headquarters 2011 Stalwart Award winner Wanda Stover; IMCOM non-commissioned officer of the Year Sgt. Jeremy Blake; Fort Sam Houston Army Community Services Volunteer of the Year Nikki Longoria; and Fort Sam Houston Youth Volunteer of the Year Imani Trice-Gayden.

"I'd like to thank the magnificent workforce here at IMCOM," Lynch told the crowd of about 700 gathered beneath blue skies on an 84-degree morning, as a Texas breeze blew through the six-building complex. "We're going to dedicate a building, but the building is nothing without the people. For the remarkable Soldiers and civilians who work at IMCOM headquarters, thank you for what you do every day because you're making a difference."

"I tell people you've got a choice in life, you can read history, or you can make history, and indeed you're making history on a daily basis."

The newly constructed

headquarters building in the center of the campus was inspired by the surrounding Spanish colonial revival-style buildings.

It incorporates environmental practices supported by the Army's strategy for the environment. The facility is designed to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certification, a national benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. This achievement required planning by the client, building owner, architects, engineers and contractors.

"Yesterday, I had the chance to recognize almost 150 individuals who were intimately involved in the construction of this facility, and it's a magnificent facility, no doubt," Lynch said. "If you take the time to read the details in the program, you'll see it's a 300,000-square-foot facility that cost our nation about \$120 million, and it's exactly what we needed and expected. The building itself is superb."

"This building, the way it's constructed, allowed us to reduce our energy consumption by 24 percent. I know that for a fact because when I'm sitting in my office and typing emails, if my fingers are not wildly active, the lights go out."

"I also know we've reduced the water consumption in this facility by 50 percent," Lynch said. "You have to lead by example, so the building itself is superb, and for the folks who've had anything to do with the construction of the building, you have our appreciation."

The purpose of the building, however, exceeds the periphery of the facility, he said.

"Our purpose is to provide

our Soldiers, our civilians and their Families with a quality of life commensurate with their quality of service - that's our purpose," Lynch said. "And that purpose will never change."

Lynch vowed to help the Department of Defense with the nation's struggle to reduce a \$14.3-trillion debt.

"As a result of the ends being the same and the means being reduced, we have to modify our ways," Lynch said. "And, how we're going to modify those ways is a function of this building. We're going to spend time in this building talking about how we can indeed continue to accomplish the end-state with reduced resources."

"I spend zero time worrying about our Army or our other services because of the service members. I'm just so proud of what they do."

"When they look in the mirror, the reflection back is somebody who sacrificed themselves for the greater good, and they continue to re-enlist in droves. As I say all the time, I'm humbled to be in their presence, all the time," he said.

Lynch said he worries more about the impact of war upon military Families than the troops themselves.

"I'm worried to death about the impact on our Families," he said. "Ten years of war has taken a toll. Ten years of war are difficult for our Family members."

Lynch said about 146,279 children went to bed the night before while their mother or father was deployed.

"And oh, by the way, their mom or dad had been deployed to combat two or three times before," he said. "That is having a significant impact on our children, and it's evi-

denced by behavior in schools and academic performance. What we do at IMCOM is focus on efforts to mitigate that impact."

"So it's not just a building. It's a people with a passion to focus on our purpose, and this facility and this campus gives that opportunity to do that."

Lynch applauded civic leaders of San Antonio for welcoming IMCOM to "Military City USA."

"We know that we can establish this as our home because the people of San Antonio have made us feel so, so very welcome, and we promise to return the favor," Lynch said. "We promise to establish a relationship with the leadership and the people of San Antonio, so together we can work towards that purpose of providing our Soldiers, our civilians and their Families with the quality of life that is commensurate with their quality of service."

Command Sgt. Maj. Ciotola seconded that sentiment while speaking about the "unabashed compassion" of IMCOM Soldiers and civilians.

"I say to you here today that we at this campus are more than equal to the challenges of today and those that we must confront tomorrow," Ciotola said. "That we shall, that we must, commit ourselves to doing it more efficiently and effectively. That those who yearn for the knowledge and insight required to take our Army and our nation down a new path need only do this simple thing - come to San Antonio, come to Fort Sam Houston, and while you're at it, come to Installation Management Command."

"As a community, as your Army, as a command, we'll show you the way, and we'll do all that is required."

Volunteers are needed to be school crossing guards at Fort Riley. Contact Becky Willis at 785-239-4593

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