

For Immediate Release

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Child Identification Kits Distributed

Ripon, WI – The Ripon Area School District assisted in distributing a free Child Identification Kit to every student K-12 on Monday, November 30. This tool for parents was made possible through the District's collaboration with the City of Fond du Lac Fire/Rescue and The Ripon Fire Department.

The fingerprint/DNA kit includes three basic items: an inkless fingerprint card, a DNA Collection swab, and a cut-out wallet card. Step-by-step instructions are also provided in the kits for parents to follow when using it. Once completed the information is to be kept at home in a safe location so that in the event of an emergency the Child ID Kit would be turned over to local authorities to provide vital information to assist in locating a missing child.

Funding of the kits, through the National Child Identification Program, was provided by Agnesian Healthcare Foundation, the Fond du Lac Firefighters, the Green Bay Packers, the American Football Coaches Association's National Child ID Program and the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin. In America each year 800,000 children are missing – that's one every 40 seconds. Ripon Chief of Police, Dave Lukoski explains "One of the most important tools for law enforcement during an investigation of a missing child is an up-to-date, good quality photo along with descriptive information on the child. A Child ID kit is a simple yet effective tool to help families maintain current photographs of and descriptive information about their kids"

Through the partnerships with this program Wisconsin has the opportunity to become a leading state in the protection of children. According to Superintendent Whitrock, "The Ripon Area School District is very pleased to partner with the City of Fond du Lac Fire/Rescue and the Ripon

Fire Department to provide parents such important tools to ensure essential information is within reach in the event of an emergency. The Child ID Kit is a simple yet innovative way to help parents protect the safety of their child. My hope is that every parent takes full advantage of the kits and uses the time it takes to complete the kits as a learning moment to remind their child of how to stay.” Please contact Superintendent, Dr. Mary Whitrock, at whitrockm@ripon.k12.wi.us with any questions.

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