Dear WH Families,

As you know, the students in our school will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week the week of October 23rd-27th. We wanted to share some information with all of you so that you can understand what Red Ribbon Week is and why/how it came to be celebrated in schools.

In the 1980s, there was a special agent who worked for the Drug Enforcement Administration named "Kiki" Camarena. Kiki spent his adult life trying to fight the war against drugs. He was assigned to help bring down one of the largest drug cartels. This group trafficked drugs around the world. Kiki was very brave in his fight to keep drugs off of the street. Unfortunately, during an undercover operation, things didn't go well and Kiki was killed. He left behind a wife and 3 young children.

Kiki's high school friend started a club in Kiki's home state of California that was set up to encourage everyone to live a drug-free life. A local high school teacher started wearing a red ribbon as a remembrance of Kiki's sacrifice and as a pledge to live drug-free. The trend caught on and other clubs were started throughout California and other states. The club members decided to wear red ribbons during the last week of October every year to celebrate Kiki and his efforts. *Thus, the start of Red Ribbon Week.*

Our elementary school celebrates Red Ribbon Week by focusing on how students can celebrate life by living drug free and also by making healthy choices!

We hope that this little "history of Red Ribbon Week" will help your family to understand what we are celebrating this week and why the children are encouraged to participate in the "spirit days."