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Portneuf Cancer Center Brings Education to Syringa Elementary Kindergarten “Head Huggers”

Pocatello, ID (April 29, 2009) After being diagnosed with cancer at Portneuf Cancer Center, Syringa Elementary kindergarten teacher, Mary Spiker, decided to make something good out of a bad situation. Concerned that loosing her hair after chemotherapy might frighten her kindergarten students, Mary developed a project called “Head Huggers”. Each child was encouraged to design a bag, hat and journal after their favorite children’s book. Mary wears a different child’s hat each day during school.

Faced with mounting cancer questions and concerns from her students, Mary Spiker turned to Portneuf Cancer Center for help. **Portneuf Cancer Center Social Worker, Robb Dye, will address Mrs. Spiker’s morning and afternoon kindergarten classes on Monday, May 4th at 10:15-11:10 AM and 1:50-2:50 PM.** The goal is to educate students, field questions, alleviate fears about “catching cancer”, discuss death and dying and survivorship.

Portneuf Cancer Center will also make a children’s cancer book donation to the Syringa Elementary Library. Portneuf Cancer Center wishes to support the students, parents and faculty in discussing the sensitive feelings and issues behind cancer.

For more information about this event, please contact Mary Maberry at the Portneuf Cancer Center at 239-2119, or to cover the event, call Brad Huerta at 251-2768

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