

Best Practices for Themed Days/Weeks/Months

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Education Program Specialist

October 8, 2015

September



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Hispanic Heritage Month 9/15-10/15

- Use morning announcements to highlight a person of Hispanic Heritage who has contributed in a positive way to society. Or use to do HHM trivia.
- Counseling Related Theme Literature:

The Rainbow Tulip: Read the story about Stella, who is different from the other children in her school. Stella loves her family and her Mexican heritage, but she wants to stand out, even though she won't look like the other girls at school.

Suicide Awareness & Prevention Week

- Suicide Awareness Training
- Distribute a resource to teachers about early warning signs
- Establish a relationship with the agencies in your community that you may have to refer students and parents.

National School Backpack Awareness Day

- Encourage students to clean out their backpacks to help with weight
- [Strategies for a successful backpack day event](#)

October

ADHD Month

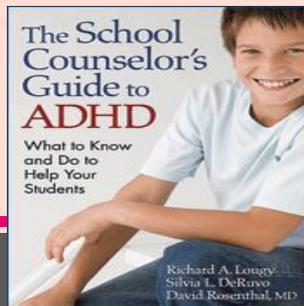


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National Communicate With Your Kids Month

- Share the following resources with your parents to encourage them to communicate with their child.
 - [100 Questions for Parents to Ask](#)
 - [The New "How Was School Today?" Questions](#)

- Familiarize self with the literature available on working with children with ADHD
- Provide resources via email links or articles to teachers about working with children with ADHD
- Individual sessions with your students who may have ADHD just to check in on them to see how they are coping. Offer some organization/ coping tips. DON'T say I'm meeting with you because you have ADHD.
- Host a small group that focuses on choices, organization, and self-control. Invite a few of your students who have ADHD to participate. Work with your school psychologist. DON'T name it the ADHD Group.
- Activities from Calm Down and Play: Activities to Help Impulsive Children, Loretta Oleck Berger



October (continued)

National Character Counts Week

10/19-10/23



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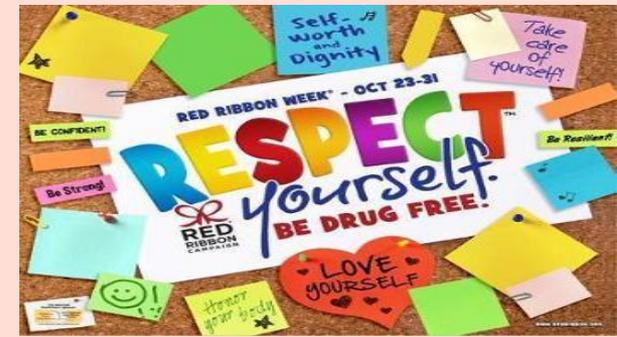
- Six Pillars of Character:
 - Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship
 - Designate a pillar day and wear the color that corresponds to the pillar.
- Student Recognition by staff & peers
- Demonstrate "Pillar of the Day" via announcements...students create demonstrations
- Community/School Service Project based on pillar
- Journal Topic, Illustrations
- Use Social Media to promote "Pillar of the Day" with quote
- Helping Hands mural (can be done on bulletin board butcher paper)
- Ask teachers to conduct a discussion on the "Pillar of the Day". How does it work in school? In society?

Teen Read Week 10/18-10/24

- What are you reading?
- Work with your media specialist to create a list of books available for teens that relates to teen issues you may encounter
- Morning Announcements: Read an excerpt from a popular teen book

Red Ribbon Week

Oct. 23-31, 2015



- 2015 Nationwide Theme: Respect yourself. Be Drug Free
- Check with your local PTA to see if they would like to sponsor activities
- Themed Days...Select days that are fun, yet educational and meaningful. Builds unity.
- Select students to discuss why they are drug free on AM announcements or to discuss meaning of RRW on first day. Take it a step higher and get on the October agenda of your local school board, city council, or county commissioner meeting and allow your students to make a 5 minute presentation about why they choose to live drug free.
- Encourage teachers to incorporate RRW activities into their lessons this week.
- [50 RRW Ideas](#)
- [Use Social Media](#)...sample scripts
- [RRW Planning Guide](#)
- Get community involved...Have your entire town "GO RED". Talk with your business partners. (i.e. have all the car dealerships park all of their red cars up front for a week; have stores dress their windows in red, etc.)
- Community Involvement: Beyond the School Grounds...take initiative into the streets.
- "Dodge Drugs" Dodgeball Tournament... Students vs Faculty \$\$\$\$
- Dreaming Of A Bright Future: You can live the dream if you don't use drugs...Students come dressed in outfit of their dream job
- Family Night In...families stay home and spend time together doing "family activities". Encourage parents to include a "heart to heart" discussion about drugs. Students turn in a summary of night for a chance to win prizes.
- Invite parents and families to a Health Fair
- Door Decorating Contest amongst the classrooms where all doors have a drug free message; offer prizes to the winning class in each grade level
- Football Game: "RED OUT" game
- "Rock for Red Ribbon...School dance \$\$\$\$
- [High School Facts and Resources for Red Ribbon Week](#)

November



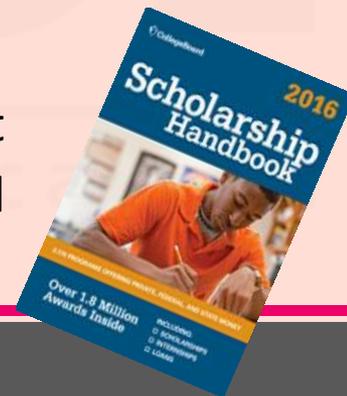
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National Career Development Month

- Career Day
- Career Week 11/16-11/20
- Career Dress Up Days
- [Career Café](#)
- Career Cluster Speakers to speak to the career pathway classes you offer
- Career Vision Board
- [Career Small Group](#) (Middle School)
- [Career Small Group](#) (High School)
- Cluster Spotlight
- Read Career Focused Books during storytime
- BRIDGE Bill activities kickoff
- [Career Family Tree](#)

National Scholarship Month

- Scholarship Awareness Events
 - Parent Night: Show Me the \$\$
 - Scholarship Fair with local organizations that offer scholarships
 - Scholarship Saturday Seminar
 - Scholarship Essay Writing Workshop
- Host a scholarship awareness event each week
- Make sure students know how to research, apply and gather necessary documents
- Scholarship Tip of the Day
- Scholarship tracking form
- Scholarship Bulletin debut
- Scholarship Bulletin Board
- Resources



November: College Awareness Week



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- [Elementary College Activities](#)
- [College Awareness Activities](#) (ALL LEVELS)
- [101 Pathways to College Activities](#)(ALL LEVELS)
- [College Awareness Toolkit](#) (ALL LEVELS)

Georgia Department of Education

December: Special Education Day 12/2



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- Meet with your special education teachers. Find out how you can best support them.
- Do the same as above with some, if not all, students on your caseload that are served in the special education program. Discuss their grades.
- Visit and sit in on your special education classes (both resource and collaborative)
- In resource classes, do a classroom lesson with students on a particular concept (academics, career or social)

January



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Get Organized Month

- Small group with the focus of organization
- Provide teachers with ideas on how to organize their room or tips for helping their students get organized.

National Mentoring Month

- Celebrate your school's mentors
- ACTION IDEA: Service oriented project that can be done with mentors and mentees on MLK's Day of Service
- CAREER FOCUS: Encourage the mentors to talk with their mentee about their journey to their career.

No Name Calling Week January 18-22, 2016

- [Elementary Lesson Plans](#)
- [Middle School Lesson Plans](#)
- [High School Lesson Plans](#)
- [Celebrate Kindness Resources](#)



**NATIONAL
MENTORING
MONTH**



February



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Black History Month Groundhog Job Shadow Day

- Use morning announcements to highlight persons who have contributed in a positive way to society. Or use to do Black History trivia.
- Diversity Lessons using literature to support counseling related themes
 - Dream Deferred
 - Inventions (Persistence)
- Career Focus: Associate prominent African Americans to the career clusters. Use a picture and biography to identify. Have students name someone they may know from their local community.
 - Agriculture: George Washington Carver
 - Arts/TV/Communication...Oprah Winfrey
 - STEM: Mae Jemison

- Virtual Job Shadowing
- In Person Job Shadowing
- Shadow a school employee
- [Groundhog Job Shadowing Packet](#)

Random Acts of Kindness Week

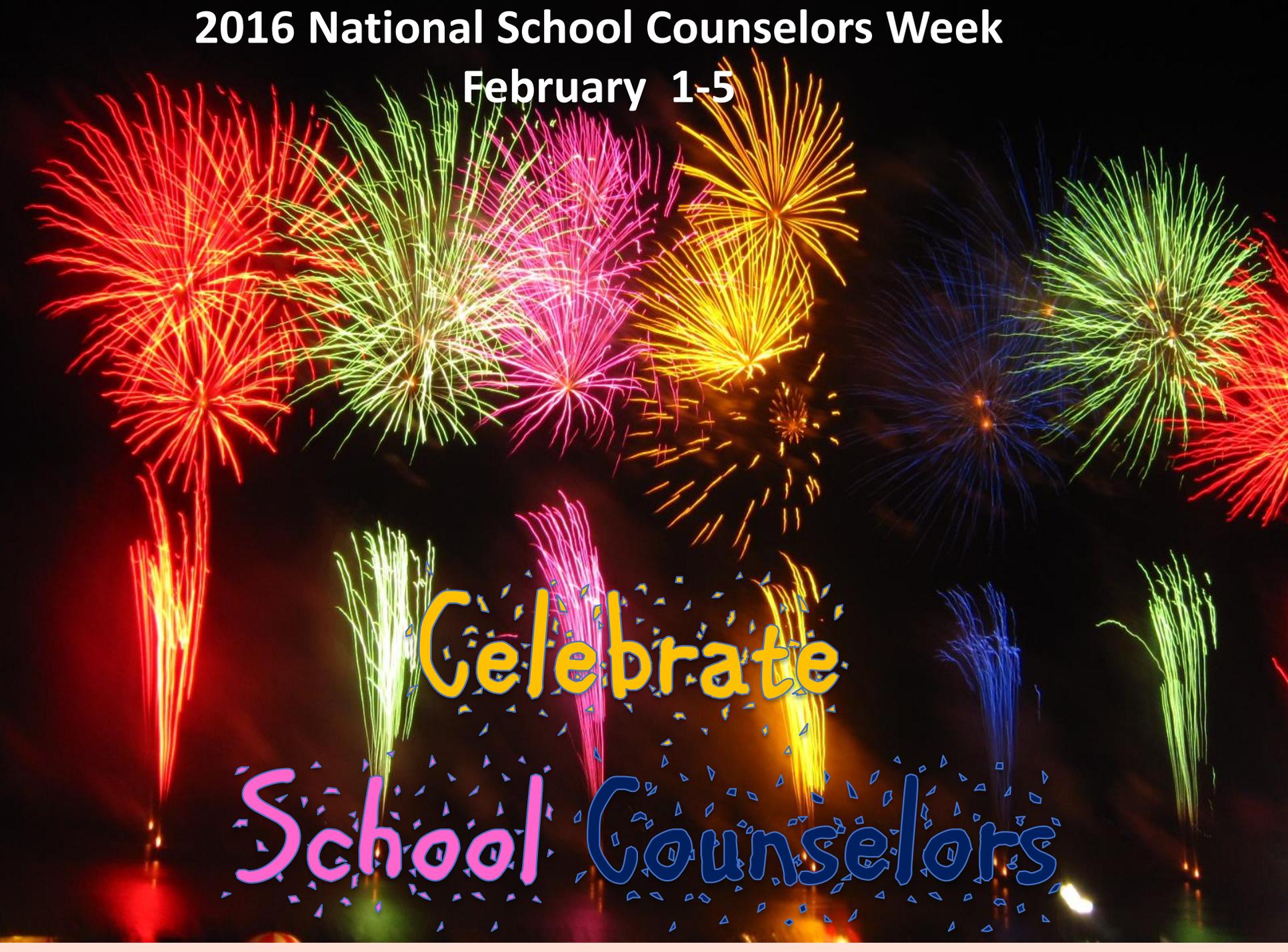
February 14-20, 2016

- [Yearlong activities](#)
- [Elementary Activities K-2](#)
- [Elementary Activities 3-5](#)
- [Middle School Activities](#)
- [High School Activities](#)
- [Staff Ideas](#)

2016 National School Counselors Week

February 1-5

Celebrate
School Counselors



National School Counseling Week: Feb. 1-5, 2016



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Celebrating Means Educating

- Sweet Treats: Provide something for the staff; include a thank you note for supporting school counselors.
- Display a bulletin board in a prominent place in the school that outlines all the services school counselors offer.
- Speak at a school staff meeting about the work you do with students. Share data.
- Board Presentation—So often school counselors wait to present at board meetings until they know that their job is on the line. Present during this week or month and make sure that you include results about how your program is making a positive difference and how that aligns with the district's mission.
- Visit ASCA's website to get scripts that can be read during morning announcements...use students to read announcements
- Counselor Spotlight on morning announcements...Have a student leader or yourself introduce you and tell a little about your interests.
- Wear a special shirt—you can have counselor shirts made and wear one day during week
- Visit ASCA's website to get certificates that you can give to staff members who support your counseling program
- And hopefully your school, especially your administration, will do something to show you how special and important you really are

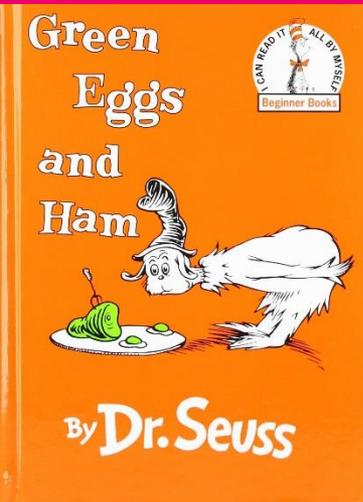


March 2: Read Across America Day

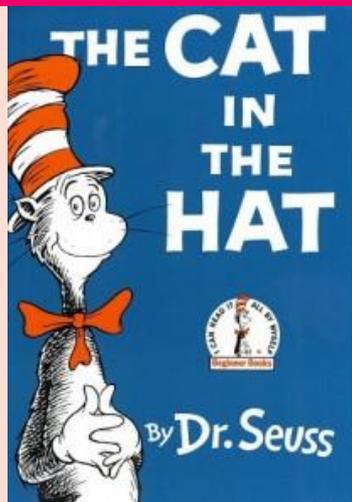


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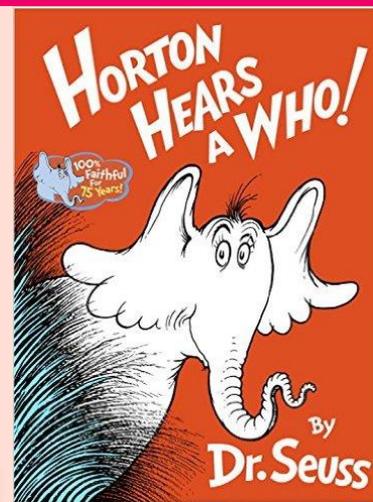
- Go into classes and read a book to students
- Can be a Dr. Seuss Book
 - Grades, 5, 8, 12: Oh the Places You'll Go...great for transitioning to another level
 - Create a lesson around counseling themes related to his books/quotes. Next two slides shares some of those counseling theme related books/quotes.
- [Top Read Aloud books about Mighty Girls](#): Many are for 9 year old girls and above. Great for a girls group.
- Can be similar to Teen Read Week
- Service Project for 8th graders and high schoolers: Go read to local elementary school students, at local library on weekend or even a bookstore in the children's section



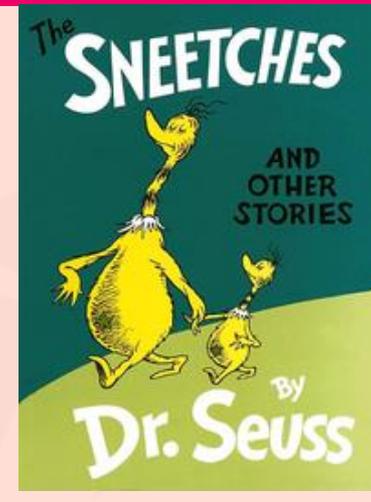
It teaches kids the lifelong lesson of "never judging a book by its cover".



It is great for teaching young children about safety and responsibility.



It is great for teaching kids about friendship. Horton and the Who are very unlikely friends, but because they are different, they can help each other.



It tells an interesting story about differences. This story teaches kids not to judge someone or treat someone differently based on appearances.



The book could help teach kids the consequences of being selfish.

Promote reading all year and do a book a month.

Inspirational Quotes by **Dr. Seuss**



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- Why fit in when you were born to stand out?"
- "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose."
- "Today you are you, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is youer than you!"
- "Think left think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if only you try!"
- "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
- "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."
- "Don't give up. I believe in you all. A person's a person no matter how small."
- "To the world you may be one person; but to one person you may be the world."

April



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Child Abuse Prevention Month

- Refresher handout or presentation to teachers on child abuse reporting procedures
- Send home an article to parents on positive discipline information and information about communicating effectively with their teenager

Community Service Month

- Encourage classes or teams to do at least one project this month.
- Schoolwide project by grade level.
- Testing Month, but after testing check with administration about doing a project schoolwide during the school day.
- [Community Service: Middle & High School Kids](#)
- [Service Learning](#)
- [Animals, Seniors, Environment, Troops, Helping Other Kids](#)
- [35+ Service Projects for Kids](#)
- [366 Community Service Ideas](#)



Month of the Military Child



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- Wear Purple in support of the military child
- Military Child Fun Day
- Arrange for military students to lead the school in the morning pledge; allow the opportunity for each student to state their name, parent's name & number of years of service their parent has in the military
- Create a school drive to collect items to donate to deployed service members
- Have students write letters or assemble care packages to send to deployed troops
- Implement a "Wall of Heroes"; ask students and faculty to bring in pictures of family members that are currently serving or have served in our armed forces
- Conduct a Military Parent breakfast/lunch where military parents are invited to join their children

May



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Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Screen Free Week (TV Turnoff Week)

May 2-8, 2016

- Use morning announcements to highlight a person of Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage who has contributed in a positive way to society. Or use to do trivia.
- Art Activity: Students complete hands-on activities that teach about origami, an Asian paper-folding art form
- Career Focus: Explore Hospitality/Tourism Cluster and have students create recipes for Asian inspired food.
- <http://www.screenfree.org/screen-free-activities/>
- Spend seven days screen-free. Instead of watching TV or playing video games, they tend to read, play, think, create, get physically active, and spend more time with friends and family.
- Link has several resources that can be shared with faculty and parents.

Click on the session's topic to register.

Elementary

27

Value Added Career Activities

Presentation Time:
11:00 AM

High

27

**Spicing Up Your College
Counseling Initiatives**

Presentation Time:
2:00 PM

OCTOBER WEBINARS

REGISTER TODAY!! DON'T DELAY!!
Click on the session's topic to register.

That's all Folks!

Questions?