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## Hopeful evening at BVHS

**Posted 5 months ago**

In 16 days Bow Valley High School's second annual Evening of Hope will occur.

This year's event will be held on Friday, May 22, 2009, in the Bow Valley gymnasium; it is a scent-free event in keeping with the school's scent-free initiative.

The doors will open at 6:30 p.m., with the evening commencing at 7:00, when MC's will bring opening greetings from the Students Leadership Group organizing the event.

Tickets are \$25, and they are available at the school office, Coffee Traders, and DNMZ Clothing.

The evening promises to hold entertainment, information, and community fun.

There will be an artwalk, several student and group performances, a fashion show, guest speakers sharing their own messages of hope, and finally, a fun money casino.

Overall, this evening promises to leave everyone with the sense of hope imbedded within its title, as student organizers set out to continue and maintain their attitude of helping others positively every day.

There will be no shortage of mindful messages and entertainment, all in the name of great causes, the largest of which is reaching out in a positive and proactive way to provide hope and help to those who need it most.

This year, the reach of this event extends both near and far, and definitely comes straight from the heart. Proceeds will be divided between the BVHS Graduation Committee, Team Taro, and the Children's Cottage Society of Calgary.

Traditionally, a third of the proceeds have gone to the Graduation Committee, a third to the Student Leadership Group, and one third to a charity or non-profit organization that is voted upon.

This year, the Student Leadership Group has decided to donate its portion to Team Taro.

Team Taro is a group of Cochrane community members united in their efforts to provide financial and caring support to the Okada family.

The family's son, Taro, a student at Bow Valley High School, was recently diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

After speaking with Mr. Okada, Debbie Phibbs began organizing a team who began putting together a plan in the efforts and interest of providing help for this family in its time of need.

The response has been immense.

Upon finding out about the contribution to Team Taro's efforts, Debbie Phibbs said, "This [contribution] is amazing. It will further help provide financial support in deferring the costs of medication required after Taro's hospitalization.

The Okada family has certainly been touched by the support the community has offered as a whole, and this is one more way that support for the Okadas, and in this case a fellow student, is being shown."

The BVHS Student Leadership Group wanted to do its part in the efforts of this organization of its larger

community, joining the approximately 100 other Team Taro members in demonstrating what true community is about. Team Taro truly is connected to the core of this evening's purpose and focus.

The Children's Cottage Society of Calgary is a 24-hour crisis nursery for families in Calgary and area. At any point during a family emergency, children can go there for full care and medical attention, if necessary.

It is a non-profit organization, where one of the BVHS leadership students volunteers, thus, bringing it to the attention of the leadership class.

Upon voting for this year's beneficiaries, this organization was chosen as a recipient for this event.

"I can't wait to see all of the art work from BVHS students, created throughout the year. In addition, it will be great to see the community come together at this spectacular fundraiser," said Karla Powell. "Not only are we raising money for great causes, but we're showcasing our students' skills through art walk and performances, and even the putting together of the evening itself."

"This event will support some worthy charities again this year. It will be a genuinely good time in the spirit of supporting others in our local and extended community. We hope that everyone will come out to support and enjoy our event," added Ally Montgomery.

For more information on the Evening of Hope, please contact Bow Valley High School. We hope to see as many community members there as possible, as this year hope is shining and alive again at Bow Valley High.

For more information on joining Team Taro, please contact Debbie Phibbs at [debbie@debbiephibbs.ca](mailto:debbie@debbiephibbs.ca).

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