

Helping Each Other, Near and Far

Dear Family,

In class, your child is developing important reading comprehension, writing, science, and geography skills by reading and discussing a new book called *Nets Are Nice*. It has been provided to your child's classroom by Scholastic, in partnership with Malaria No More, with the support of the Abbott Fund, two philanthropic organizations. The story expands students' awareness of the larger world—and the common qualities that connect all kids—by exploring how people everywhere can work together to solve problems, in this case malaria, which is a preventable disease. The book's title comes from the central role of special bed nets in helping to keep children in Africa safe from malaria. Use the information and activity on this page for a family discussion about the importance of caring about others—far away and close to home.

Word Search

Help your child with a vocabulary review. Find and circle each word in the puzzle.

AFRICA	COMMUNITY	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	W	O	D
BED NET	HELPING	A	M	U	N	E	A	F	R	I	C	A	Z
CARING	SAFE	R	P	Y	B	E	D	N	E	T	H	T	S
CHILDREN	WORLD	I	R	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	F	A
		N	S	A	V	U	W	O	R	L	D	E	F
		G	B	H	E	L	P	I	N	G	Y	J	E

Facts About Malaria

- Malaria is a disease found primarily in Africa. It is carried by a certain type of mosquito. Malaria was a health problem in the U.S., primarily in the southeast, until about 1950. Since then, the U.S. has been free of malaria.
- Malaria can be prevented and treated through a comprehensive approach that involves long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets, eliminating mosquito breeding areas, selective indoor residual spraying, medicines for treatment, and education. Experts know this approach works because a similar approach was used to eradicate malaria in the U.S., as well as other countries such as Panama.
- Millions of people are infected with malaria each year, and more than one million people die from it. Ninety percent of deaths are in Africa, mainly among children under five. In fact, every 30 seconds on average, a child in Africa dies of malaria.
- Bed nets create a protective barrier against mosquitoes. They prevent mosquitoes from biting at night, when the risk is highest.
- Scientists hope to develop better medicines and even a vaccine one day to help everyone avoid malaria. In the meantime, a mosquito bed net is one of an African family's best defenses against the disease.

To learn more about malaria, visit these sites online:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/malaria

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
www.unicef.org/health/index_malaria.html

Malaria No More
www.malariaNOMORE.org

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org

President's Malaria Initiative
www.fightingmalaria.gov

World Health Organization
www.who.int/topics/malaria/en/

Your Family Can Make a Difference

Talk with your child about the benefits of helping others.