

Stonewall tunes in for TV Turnoff Week

Stonewall Elementary School is participating in national TV Turnoff Week beginning today and for the rest of the week.

PTA member Kim Browning is spearheading the first-time effort. "I'm a firm believer that less TV is better for children and certainly better for their school achievement," she said. "By promoting a TV-free week, it gets people to think there are so many other activities that kids can be doing."

Students are asked to consider unplugging their televisions, DVD players and video games for the whole week and to instead explore more creative, more active pastimes.

"I hope they find out they can turn off the television and find things more fun to do than just sitting there and passively taking in whatever comes across the screen," Browning said.

The PTA has organized a skating party Tuesday night at Champs and a Family Fun Night on Friday evening at the school. Children also could visit a local library or bookstore, write letters to far-away friends, play outside with neighbors, or hike a trail Wednesday on Earth Day.

"We want to promote that there are other ways to entertain yourself that are healthy choices or choices that help the environment," said Principal Bill Gatliff. "I'm hoping the kids will understand you don't have to rely on the TV or video games to be entertained. You're capable of creating your own enjoyment by going out and doing things in the community or helping others."