

SDM Shout Out

Weekly News Updates for SDM Faculty, Staff and Students

2022 Give Kids A Smile Day: A Rootin' Tootin' Affair



Ahmad Salah, '22 and Abigail Fallon, '22

On February 12th, the UB School of Dental Medicine's Department of Pediatric & Community Dentistry held its 19th "Give Kids A Smile" (GKAS) celebration with joyful energy and diverse activity.

An upbeat mood was created with steel drum music and red heart balloons brightening the hallways. This year's theme, chosen by the pediatric dental residents, was the 'Wild Wild West' emphasizing the importance of children brushing in every direction: North, South, East, and the harder-to-reach back teeth of the 'Wild Wild West'.

Under the guidance of Dr. Meelin D. ChinKit-Wells, clinical assistant professor, Department of Pediatric & Community Dentistry and Dr. Hema Arany, clinical instructor, Department of Pediatric & Community Dentistry, the American Academy of Developmental Medicine & Dentistry (AADMD) club

provided interactive educational stations to children, while Pedro club students provided preventative care, operative dentistry and took impressions to make mouth guards for local athletes.

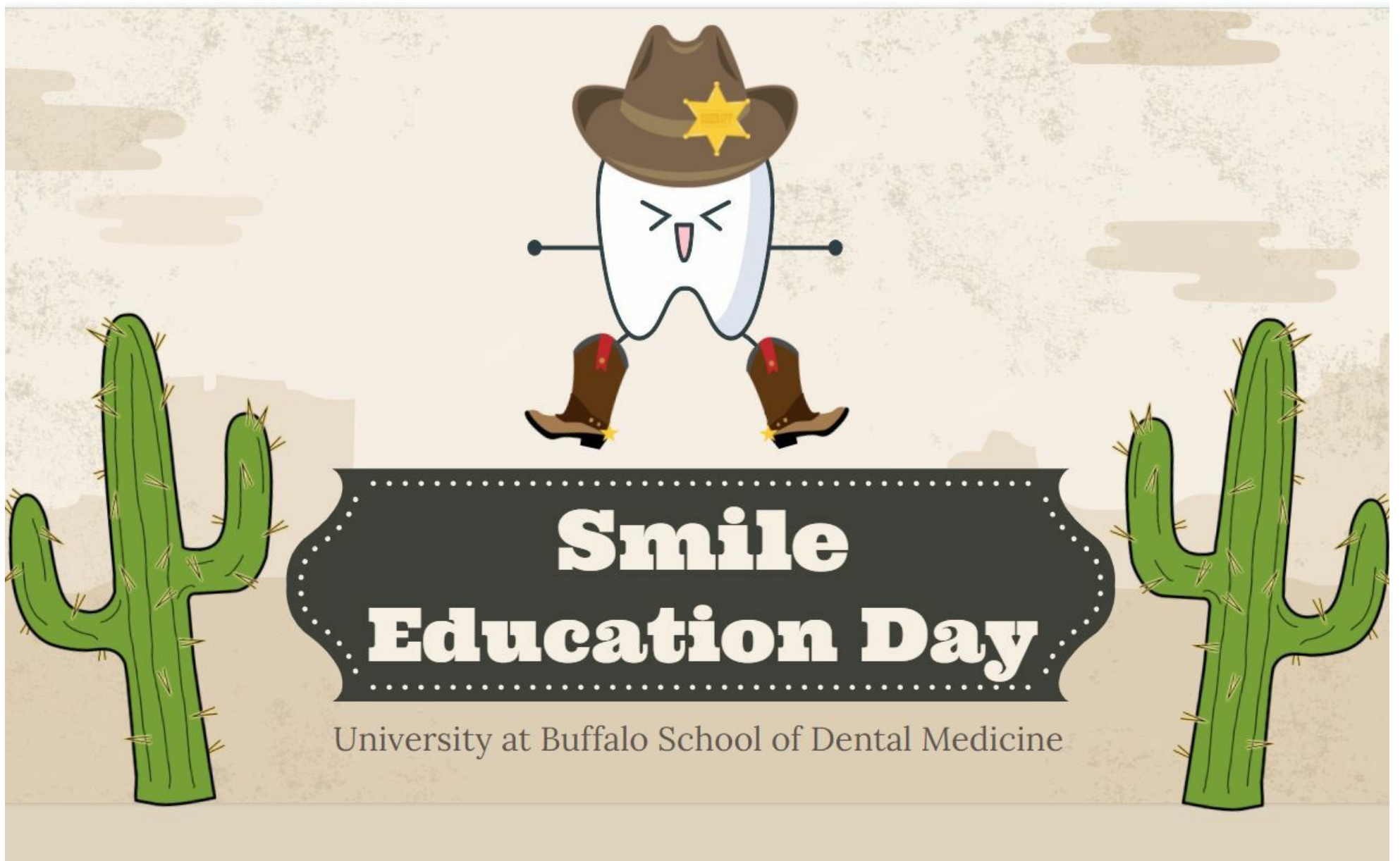
The Give Kids A Smile® (GKAS) program, launched nationally in 2003, provides underserved children with free oral health care. Each year approximately 6,500 dentists and 30,000 dental team members volunteer at local GKAS events to provide free oral health education, screenings, preventive and restorative treatment to over 300,000 children.



SDM dental students participate in the 19th Give Kids A Smile Day event!

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Smile Education Day! Thousands of School Children Reached Across the Country Virtually



Lindsay Lassett, '25

This year's Smile Education Day 2022 was held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

The Department of Pediatric & Community Dentistry implemented our second virtual Smile Education Day reaching over 4000 children in their classrooms.

This number is small compared to the past twenty plus years of providing dental education during National Children's Dental Health Month, so UB SDM, pat yourself on the back for years of service to the community.

Smile Education Day has had to adapt from a school wide program to one that's part of the D1 PDO 801 curriculum. Pediatric dental residents Dr. Jihwan Lim and Dr. Esther Chung assisted in the assignment of 94 dental students to classrooms in the community and beyond. The theme this year was the 'Wild, Wild West, dividing the mouth into cardinal points and encouraging brushing all areas for optimum self-care.

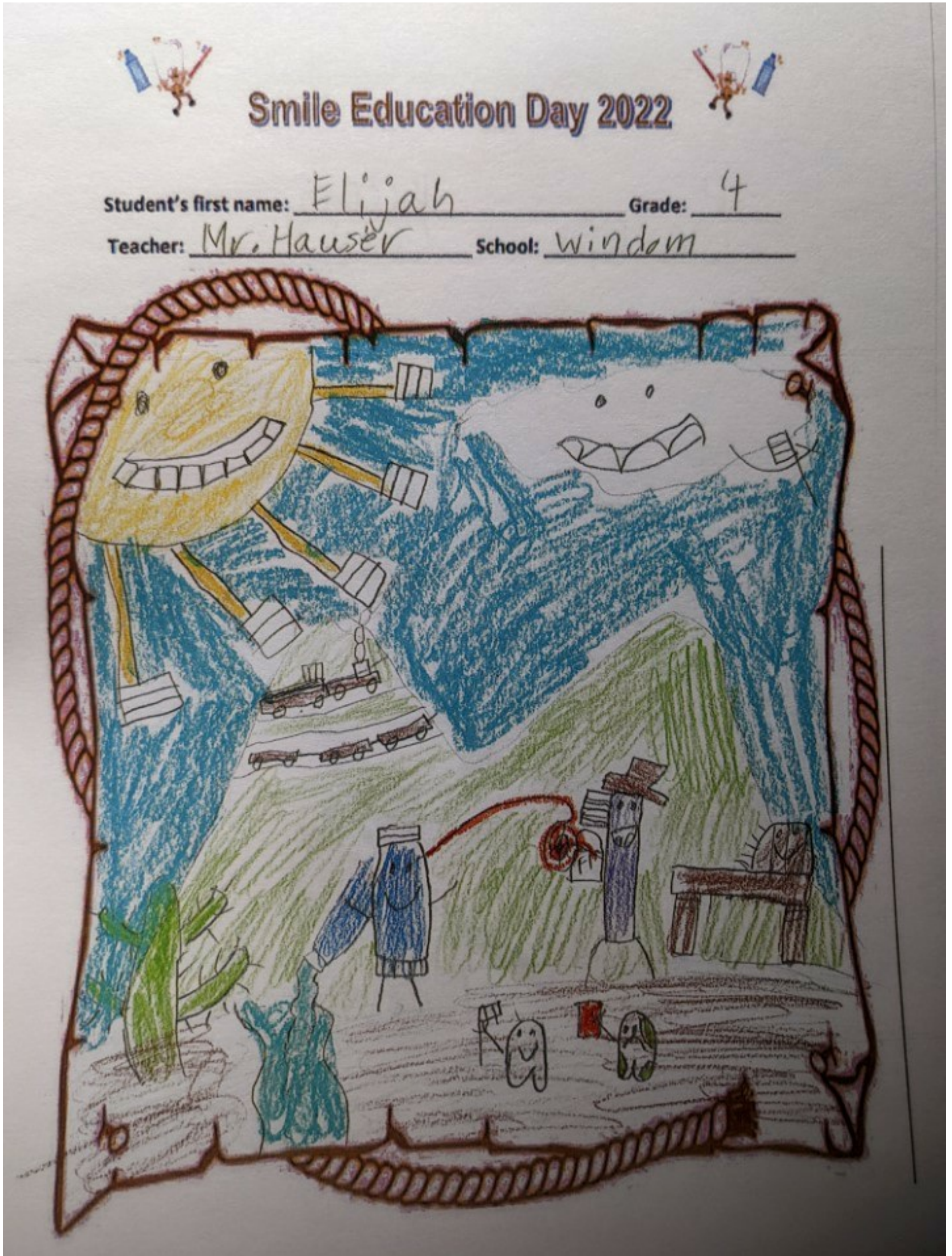
The D1 dental students were instructed to create three slides each. They presented in groups or individually to over 81 schools. A coloring contest was sent along with a post event evaluation form, and our dental students were asked to complete a formative evaluation.

" I had a great time participating in the Smile Education Day event! I had a class of 22 second graders and we did the presentation over Zoom. They were all very receptive and excited to participate in my games and questions," stated D1 Lindsay Lassett. "Many kids even said they wanted to be dentists when they grow up! It was great to see so much passion and excitement in such a young group!"

In response to the American Dental Association National Children's Dental Health Month, Smile Education Day was launched in 1994. An outreach program of the Department of Pediatric and Community Dentistry, it was the vision of Dr. Paul Creighton, interim chair, to connect University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine students with the community to provide resources, instruction, and

role models for children.

Smile Education Day seeks to spread both knowledge and tools to maintain oral health and leave children bubbling with excitement, perhaps even sparking their interest in a career in dentistry.



If you have any news you would like to share, please contact Kelli at natale@buffalo.edu.

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