

Town Hall on Underage Drinking

April 14, 2008

The BIG IDEAS from our Break-Out Groups

What Parents Can Do

- Provide lots of food and a safe place for our kids to hang out.
- Provide recreational opportunities (the latest games, ping pong table, etc.)
- When a lot of kids are coming over, have another parent visit with you for moral support.
- Call parents at the house where your child is gathering – offer help, food
- Ask for a land line number
- Anyone who comes over has to come through the front door and say “hello”
- Talk with your child about ways to deal with unsafe situations
- Chaperone dances even if your child doesn’t want you there
- Talk about the Town Hall with your child
- Get to know parents of your kid’s friends
- Encourage each other to call.
- Call our School Resource Officer, John Zlatic
- Parents provide fun alternatives for weekend nights.
- Education to Parents:
 - Home: Lock up your liquor.
 - Notice the reasons you drink.
 - Brain: Differences between teen and adult brain
 - How to get this information out to parents: Should be repeated throughout the year.
- Talk and ask questions
- Peer pressure on parents
- Parents need consequences for enabling
- More parent education outreach at curriculum nights and other events geared toward parents.
- Emphasize facts and information over values
- Ask your doctors if they are educating teens and parents at doctor’s visits
- Let kids fact the consequences of their choices and behavior: suspension from school, tickets, etc.
- Find more venues to gather with and get to know other parents.
- Give teens opportunities to practice good decision making
- Have a code word to use when your child needs to escape a situation
- Set a good example. Be less casual about drinking around kids.
- Adults be social and have fun without alcohol at least some of the time.
- Ask questions
- Keep alcohol out of reach
- Keep kids’ personal belongings: back packs, water bottles, purses, everything left at door.
- Kids who leave a party, aren’t let back in.
- Greet/socialize with kids in the community.
- Do not support hotel parties.
- Start when kids are young – connect with kids’ friends’ families
- Build a network of parents committed to being alcohol and other drug free.
- Communication
- Have conversations with other parents. Are they condoning drinking? Support each other in doing what is best for our kids.
- Be honest with your kids about your experiences.
- Know their friends.
- Know what they’re watching on TV
- Talk about why they might try alcohol.

- Need choices for kids where there is no alcohol: places to go, don't want kids to feel they are dorks if they don't drink, think outside the box,
- Lead by example.
- Don't be afraid to be nosy. Snoop.
- Don't be afraid to be a parent.
- Get to know other parents. Network.
- Call other parents regarding parties, etc.
- No sleepovers.
- Talk to kids about being an enabler and the dangers of that behavior.
- Talk to parents.
- Keep kids busy.
- Don't leave your home unattended.
- Tell neighbors and your kids' friends' parents if you are out of town.
- Keep educating parents about the brain research.
- Lock up alcohol.
- Get to know parents and friends
- Know where they are and who they are with.
- Drive by house to see if they are there.
- Make child call from land line, GPS
- Find/create healthy alternatives
- Stay up and talk with your kids when they come home.

What Can Neighbors Do?

- Call if a party develops in a neighbor's house – call the family and/or police
- Talk to your neighbors about these issues. Tell them to please tell you if they see anything that concerns them.

What Can School Do?

- Eliminate open campus lunch
- Need more serious consequences at school.
- Consequences take away leadership roles.
- Be patient with changing the norms at the dances.

What Can City /Community Do?

- Need strict enforcement of the law.
- Police officers follow through with consequences.