



**Partnership For A Drug-Free New Jersey**

In Cooperation With The Governor's Council On Alcoholism & Drug Abuse and the New Jersey Department of Human Services



*The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey*

Dear Principal,

An alarming number of New Jersey's youth are intentionally abusing prescription medicines to get high.

According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), upwards of 9 million people use prescription medication for non-medical uses. The 2007 Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey (PDFNJ) Principals Survey found that half of the principals surveyed said that prescription drugs are abused more than twice that of ecstasy and cocaine by New Jersey Middle School students.

What is equally disturbing is that 47% of New Jersey parents of Middle School Students said they know a little or just about nothing about prescription drug abuse, according to the 2009 PDFNJ Parents Tracking Survey.

But, perhaps most alarming is that the PDFNJ 2007 Drug Testing in Schools Study found that 30% of Middle School students, in New Jersey, said that using prescription drugs not prescribed to you "does not have any real health consequences or have only mild health consequences, but they're not serious or too long lasting."

In its continuing mission to assist New Jersey parents to reduce the incidence of substance use and use among our state's youth, the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey (PDFNJ) offers the "**Fifth Grade Parent Alert**".

Since 1997, over a half million New Jersey families have taken advantage of this **free program** available to all schools throughout the state, which is supported by a grant from the **Horizon Foundation for New Jersey**.

Participating schools will receive a "**Fifth Grade Parent Alert**" pamphlet for each 5th grade student, and is intended to be distributed to those student's parents and/or caregiver. The "**Fifth Grade Parent Alert**" informs parents about the need to begin or enhance conversations about substance abuse, and also contains vital prevention resources, contact information for local prevention organizations, and websites for continuous education and awareness.

**With one out of every two children in New Jersey between the ages of 10 and 12 being approached to try alcohol or drugs, the time to act is now!**

Please complete the Response Form below and return by Friday, November 20, 2009, for your school to participate in the "**Fifth Grade Parent Alert**" program. All teachers who participate in the "**Fifth Grade Parent Alert**" program and complete the post program evaluation will be entered into a drawing for a \$300 gift certificate. The program evaluation can be found on [www.drugfreenj.org/fifth\\_grade\\_principal](http://www.drugfreenj.org/fifth_grade_principal)

If you have any questions, please contact the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey at (973) 467-2100. ext. 25.



NAME OF SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF FIFTH GRADE CLASS ROOMS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL NUMBER OF FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE FAX OR MAIL THIS FORM BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009 to:**

FAX: (973) 467-2188

MAIL: FIFTH GRADE PARENT ALERT

PARTNERSHIP FOR A DRUG-FREE NEW JERSEY, 155 MILLBURN AVE., MILLBURN, NJ 07041

*This initiative is available to the first 30,000 fifth grade families in New Jersey for the school year 2009-2010.*

