



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 Student Educator,

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

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

In the latest PDFNJ Parental Survey, New Jersey parents estimate that approximately three in ten middle school students are abusing prescription or over-the-counter drugs (28%).

But, perhaps most alarming is that the latest PDFNJ Drug Testing in Schools Study found 30% of Middle School students in New Jersey said 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 trial and use among our state's youth, the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey 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 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 18, 2011, for your local 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 at 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 18, 2011 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 2011-2012.

