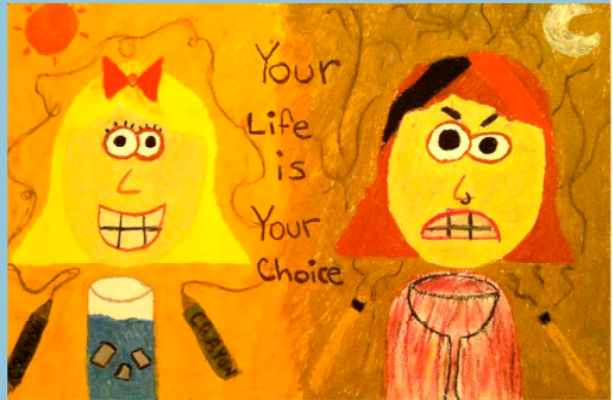


impact

Parents And Community Together
to reduce youth alcohol & drug use



IMPACT UPDATE

November 2011

Greetings!

Thanks for reading IMPACT UPDATE, the Monthly Newsletter for members and supporters of IMP.A.C.T. - Parents And Community Together to Reduce Youth Alcohol & Drug Use.

IMPACT UPDATE will keep you informed of local news and events regarding youth drug and alcohol use in Oak Park and River Forest. Feel free to forward this to friends, family, concerned individuals and especially kids who you care about.

What would you or your child do?

District 97 Parent Cafe - Anatomy of a Middle School Party
Monday, November 7, 2011 - 7 pm to 8:30 pm
Percy Julian Middle School

416 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Oak Park

Join IMP.A.C.T. and District 97 at an enlightening and practical Parent Café on November 7th. Melissa Ford of Empowered Parenting Solutions will guide us through a case study of an actual middle school party. Parents and concerned citizens will participate in guided small group discussions to share experiences and strategies on how to best guide our kids as they navigate the challenges and choices they face regarding drugs and alcohol.

Everyone is invited and needed! To provide for ample seating, reservations are appreciated. Please RSVP by [clicking here](#).

Student Behavior Improves at OPRFHS with Modified Closed Campus

Since implementing the Modified Closed Campus for Juniors and Seniors at Oak Park & River Forest High School, the administration has been tracking attendance, discipline and pass/fail statistics for students. As of 10/22/11, Juniors and Seniors showed marked improvement on all measures over the same period in 2010. Here are some of the highlights for Juniors and Seniors:

- Tardies are DOWN 46.4%
- Unexcused Absences are DOWN 35.4%
- Total Failing Grades are DOWN 19%
- Discipline Occurrences are DOWN 40.0%
- Number of Juniors & Seniors in the discipline system is DOWN 22%

Did you know...

THE POWER OF PARENTING:

Frequent family dinners can help your child or children avoid substance abuse. In fact, kids in families who do NOT eat together often are twice as likely to smoke tobacco or marijuana and 1-1/2 times as likely to drink alcohol.

[The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse \(CASA, 2001\)](#)

We applaud the administration and the Board of Education for implementing policies that so positively have improved student behavior and support them in their ongoing efforts with students, teachers and parents to create an even better learning environment.

WALK AWAY Teen Substance Abuse Awareness Through Art Contest Winners



One hundred sixty three students from 6 Oak Park and River Forest schools entered the Teen Substance Abuse Awareness Through Art Contest. The winners were announced at the Oak Park Art League on November 1st. And the winners are...

- Best of Show: *Choose a Better Life* video by James Ungarretti, 7th Grade, Brooks
- 1st Place Oak Park: *Walk Away* acrylic on canvas by Laurand Royal, Leah Silver & Esther Ramsay, 8th Grade, Julian
- 1st Place River Forest: *Your Life is Your Choice* pastel by Julia Krause, Roosevelt, 7th Grade, Roosevelt
- 2nd Place Oak Park: *Make Your Own Decisions* illustration by Jen Eisner, 8th Grade, Julian
- 2nd Place River Forest: *Don't Let Drugs Change You* drawing by Elizabeth Muraiti, 8th Grade, Roosevelt
- 3rd Place Oak Park: *Puppet* painting by Sophia Iannacone, 8th Grade, Ascension Catholic
- 3rd Place River Forest: *Throw It On the Ground* video by Michael Danganan, Jacob Schaidler & Michael Tucci, Roosevelt

Congratulations to the winners and all who entered for being great leaders and role models to their peers.

[Click here to view the Best of Show entry.](#)

Marijuana Potency up 175%

Marijuana is often thought of as the most benign of narcotics. Many adults, particularly those over 30, believe it is non-addictive and fairly harmless. However, in a study conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA), it is reported that the THC in today's pot is 175% higher than that of 1992. The study also finds that although marijuana use among teens is actually down, from 1992 to 2008 there was a 492% increase in the proportion of teen treatment admissions for marijuana abuse or dependence, compared with a 54% decline for all other substances of abuse.

"The message for teens is clear--today's pernicious pot is not your parent's pot," said Joseph A. Califano, Jr., CASA's Chairman and President and former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. "The THC potency in marijuana seized in the 1970's, when marijuana use was most prevalent, was less than one percent; today such potency levels have climbed to 8.8 percent. This increased potency parallels the increases we see in teen medical diagnoses, treatment admissions and emergencies. Parents and teachers, coaches and clergy, all who work with teens, must understand that marijuana is a risky and addictive drug with serious health and social consequences."

[Click here for the full press release regarding the study.](#)

Where to turn

Local Resources

Network of Care
[Click here](#)

Alanon/Alateen

Tom T., 708.524.9360
www.thrivecc.org

Face-It
Bert Patania, 708.445.2727

Families Anonymous
Ann S., 708.848.2968

OPRF High School
Dana Horowitz, 708.434.3615

Rosecrance
<http://www.rosecrance.org/>
888.928.5278 24/7

Thrive Counseling Center
of Oak Park & River Forest
www.thrivecc.org
708.383.7500

Youth Services of Oak Park
& River Forest Townships
John Williams, Bert Patania,
708.445.2727

National Resources

Partnership at DrugFree.org
www.drugfree.org

Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Administration
www.family.samhsa.gov

National Institute on Alcohol
Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
www.nih.niaaa.gov

National Institute on Drug
Abuse: The Science of Drug
Abuse www.nida.nih.gov

For Students:

www.abovetheinfluence.com
www.freevibe.com
www.teens.drugabuse.gov
www.staysharp.us