



SMART

Students Make A Right Turn



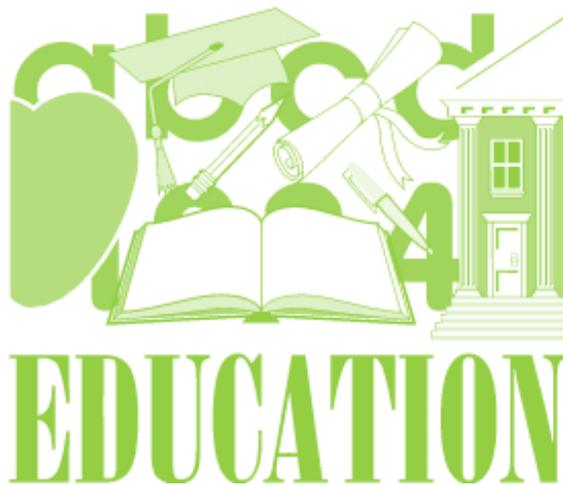
Prom and Graduation Just around the Corner

As we move into the warmer months, many students and parents will be planning on parties for prom and graduation. Here are some tips that parents should keep in mind:

-  As a parent you cannot give alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21 under any circumstance, even in your own home, even with their parent's permission
-  You cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol.

If you break the law, you can face a maximum sentence of six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine. Therefore, it is extremely important that you be at home when your teen has a party. Try to create alcohol-free opportunities and activities in your home so teens will feel welcome. In addition, anyone can report underage drinking by calling the anonymous, **toll-free Hotline at 1-877-4-MINORS.**

PARENTS should not be a party to teenage drinking. It's against the law. Remember with prom and graduation right around the corner, one small choice can make for a huge consequence.



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IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from Kim
- QUOTE
- Powerfully Positive Teens
- Did You Know These FACTS?
- Teens Want Their Own Cars
- VERTICAL Driver License & ID Cards
- After Prom Ideas

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It's About Safety



Kim Jenkinson

Message from Kim...

With Prom right around the corner, it amazes me everyday of the number of parents, teachers and volunteers that go that extra mile in helping make this event a safe and drug-free memorable time for students.

I hear from those of you who spend endless hours in planning prom and after prom activities: the many miles of driving to pick up food, decorations, flowers, phone calls begging for door prizes and giveaways from your local merchants.

You have shown an endless energy when it comes to making this a wonderful time to remember.

My hat goes off to you! With alcohol-related crashes still the number one killer among our youth today, we need to make sure that our students are making the right choices on prom night.

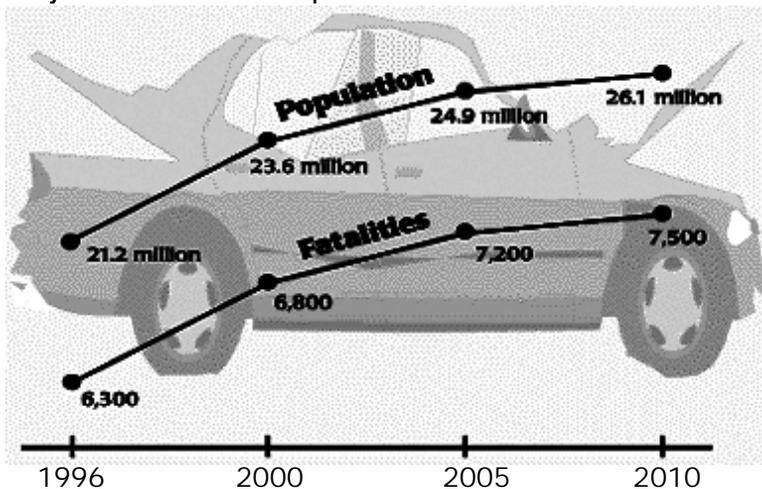
So to those of you that have worked hard in making this a memorable time, thank you for helping save our students' futures.

Let's make this a memorable occasion not a memorial.

QUOTE

"Being a parent is not an event, it is a process."

Projected 15-20 Year Old Population and Motor Vehicle Crash Fatalities



(source: NHTSA)

POWERFULLY POSITIVE TEENS

Second Annual International Collaborative Teen Conference titled "Powerfully Positive Teens" will be held July 12-15 in Detroit, Michigan. The conference is designed by teens for teens with the focus on healthy choices and safety issues. For more information, call **248-706-0757**.

DID YOU KNOW THESE FACTS?

- FACT:** On the basis of current population trends, there will be 23 percent more 16 to 20-year-old drivers on the road in 2010 than there are today—26.1 million.
- FACT:** The 16-year-old population alone will increase from 3.5 million to more than four million by 2010.
- FACT:** One out of four 16-year-old drivers will have a crash in the first year of driving.

(source: teendrivers.com)

TEENS WANT THEIR OWN CARS

The truth is, only about four in ten teens age 16-17 have a car, according to data from Teenage Research Unlimited, which specializes in teen polling.

But by age 18-19, seven in ten teens have cars. Peak months for buying cars for teens are June, September, and November.

“That's not to say that these teens are paying car payments. Some are, probably, but many are not,” says Rob Callender of Teenage Research, based in Northbrook, Ill. “I don't think a lot of teens could pull it off on their own.”

Because of a baby boom, there are more teen-age drivers now than at any time in the past 20 years.

“Most teens have waited their entire life to gain the freedom that a driver's license entails. Once they get it, they're ready to escape their family. It's a real watershed moment in their life,” says Callender.

The market for new cars for teens is up. National Automobile Dealers Association figures show that between 1996 and 2000, the percentage of people ages 15-20 who bought new cars rose from 2.9 to 3.8 percent of the total market.

Teens argue that it will make their parent's lives easier because the parents will no longer have to play chauffeur.

But each parent will have to decide if the car payments and insurance are worth it. Parents need to take into account that teens usually are more inexperienced and take more risks behind the wheel, which causes more traffic crashes. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for young people 15 to 20 years of age, causing roughly one-third of all fatalities in this age group.

NHTSA points out that “it has been said many times that children are our most precious resource. While parents throughout time have loved their children enormously, today's parents have taken this saying to heart in more visible ways than previous generations. From the 'Caution-Baby on Board' window decals of the early 1980s to the ubiquitous 'My child is an honor student at' bumper stickers of today, modern parents use the family car as a billboard to showcase their parental pride and their children's accomplishments. But the same motor vehicle that goes from school to soccer to piano- in which Mom, Dad and the kids seem to live-may also be the vehicle in which our teenagers die.”

(parts adapted from an article in Knight Ridder Newspapers and Teenage Research and NHTSA)

VERTICAL Driver License & ID Cards

VERTICAL

Beginning March 1, 2002, for Ohioans under 21, there will be a vertical license or identification card. A new feature is a date showing when the person turns 18. This date will assist in identifying the age of those Ohio teens trying to purchase tobacco products. The 'Under 21 Until' will remain on the license and ID cards to assist in identifying those Ohioans who try to purchase alcohol products prior to their 21st birthday. Those under 21 that have been issued a horizontal license or identification card will not be required to convert to the vertical license. These will be phased out over five years.



Licenses & ID Cards

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After Prom Ideas (from Elyria Catholic High School)

It started four years ago by a small group of Elyria moms who were concerned when a private party after the Junior/Senior prom almost resulted in tragedy at Elyria Catholic High School. By working at concession stands in the area, holding a father/daughter snowball dance, a steak fry for parents and a beach party for students, the parents raise more than 10 thousand dollars each year to provide a positive night for students to remember.

Many activities provide a fun evening. Once students arrive, they aren't allowed to leave unless personally picked up by a parent. Activities such as laser tag, bungee jumping, gladiator jousting, karaoke singing, sumo wrestling and a velcro wall provide constant entertainment. Prizes range from computers and televisions to PlayStations, dorm refrigerators, microwaves and stereos. They also rent a "Cash and Prize Cube." Students can climb in to grab play money that enables them to win movie passes, cash, gas cards and car washes from local businesses. The students also leave with a parting gift. One year it was a beach towel, another it was a picture frame and last year it was a disposable camera.

This year's theme is "Life is a Highway," and the After-Prom committee has secured road signs, construction barrels, truck posters and even a few motorcycles for decorations. Big wheel races down the main hallway while wearing drunk driving goggles will be videotaped and replayed for the students to send a quiet message but a fun and effective one.

For more information on these exciting after-prom ideas, please call Kim Jenkinson at (614) 466-3250.



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