

**ADULTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN**

JANUARY 2009

WWW.FCPS.EDU/HERNDONHS/COALITION/HOMEPAGE.HTML

Hello everyone –

This will serve as our January e-newsletter since I had to cancel our meeting. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, Feb. 25th at 3:30 pm in the HHS Principal's Conference Room.**

Announcements –

Action in the Virginia General Assembly – there are a number of bills being put forth that we would love your help on.

Senate Bill 1084 Learner's Permit, sponsored by Senator Howell and **House Bill 1782**, sponsored by Del. Albo. Requires that minor applicants for a driver's license show they have successfully completed, with a parent or guardian, an in-person 90-minute or longer driver safety course prescribed by DMV. The program shall emphasize parental responsibilities regarding juvenile driving behavior, juvenile driving restrictions pursuant to the Code of Virginia, and the dangers of driving while intoxicated, and underage consumption of alcohol. The entity providing the course may charge a reasonable fee to cover the provision of this program. We urge you to contact your legislators and ask them to APPROVE this bill.

Senate Bill 1266 **School Calendar**, sponsored by Senator Vogel, a member of the Northern Delegation which is being heard on Monday by the Commerce and Labor Committee, chaired by Sen. Saslaw. This bill is asking for local school boards responsibility for setting school start dates and eliminates post-Labor Day mandated opening. A similar bill in the House (**HB 2090**) would allow for flexibility for specific reasons.

House Bill 2087 **Reducing Penalties for providing alcohol to those under 21**, sponsored by Delegate Melvin. Currently, it is a Class 1 misdemeanor to provide alcohol to those under 21 and multiple offenses are treated individually. The proposed bill would reduce it to a Class 3 misdemeanor and treat multiple offenses as a single offense (such as at a house party). We urge you to contact your legislators and ask them to vote AGAINST this bill.

Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic Open House – Jan. 31st – 1:30 – 2:30 pm. The Free Clinic (500 Grove Street, Suite 330, Herndon) will be hosting an Open House, Tour, and Outreach Volunteer Meeting this Saturday. You can RSVP to [Meagan Ulrich](#).

Chris Skinner to Speak at Herndon HS – Students & Parents – on Thursday, Feb. 12th at 7:30 pm, Chris Skinner will speak at Herndon HS to parents about the power of choices in determining how our lives progress; Personal responsibility and good decision-making skills; Overcoming negative influences; Avoiding high-risk behaviors such as the use of drugs and alcohol; and The importance of academic achievement. He will speak to students earlier in the day during 2 assemblies. Chris is a dynamic speaker and you can bring children with you to hear this powerful message.

[Proposed School Start Times Website Link](#) – check out this link for more information on the proposed School Start Times change. There will be a community meeting to hear citizen input on **Wednesday, February 25, 7 to 9 p.m. at Herndon High School.**

North County Lunch to Hear Results of Youth Survey – On Tuesday, Feb. 24th from 11:30 – 1:15 at St. John Neumann Church (11900 Lawyers Road, Reston) you can attend a meeting to hear the results from last year's Communities that Care Survey. The speaker will be - Denise Raybon, Countywide Prevention Coordinator. You can bring your own lunch or purchase one for \$6.00. For more information, please call 703-787-4962.

Department of Systems Management for Human Services is happy to welcome the new Regional Director - **Michelle Gregory**. Please join us to welcome her!

[Analyze Your School Capacity & Enrollment with Dashboard](#) – very interactive site from FCPS for Cluster 1.

[Prevention Connections Young Adult Tobacco Use Conference](#) – April 29 & 30th in Alexandria. Coalition funds can be used for someone to attend this conference. If you are interested, please let me know.

[Hispanic Fund Google Scholarship](#) – applications are due by March 31st for a \$10,000 scholarship.

Countywide substance use and violence prevention conference, “What Today’s Youth Needs You to Know.” The conference, designed for Fairfax County residents and employees, will focus on educating adults, youth, and professional service providers on current trends recently reported in the 2008 Fairfax County Youth Survey, as well as issues pertinent to raising healthy families. The Conference will take place on **Saturday, March 28, 2009**, from 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at **Oakton High School** at 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna, VA 22181. If you know of any organizations that would like to be involved as a conference sponsor, please have them contact [Lisa Adler](#). We expect an attendance of 500-600 adults & youth.

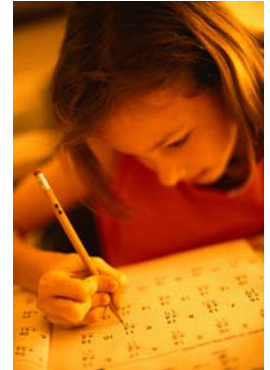
National Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Week – Feb. 2 – 6, 2009 - The Virginia Department of Health, Division of Injury and Violence Prevention is providing resources to help communities and organizations address the issue of teen dating violence in Virginia. The Virginia Department of Health is offering: (1) Choose Respect Video Guide, (2) DVD - Causing Pain: Real Stories of Dating Abuse and Violence (both youth and adult versions) and (3) a set of the six Choose Respect posters (while supplies last). You may visit www.chooserespect.org to learn more about this campaign and download the Community Action Kit along with many other valuable resources to help address teen dating violence with youth ages 11 to 17.

OUR MISSION

The GHCC is united in a drive to help ensure the well-being of all youth in the Herndon community. We dedicate our efforts to provide information and education about preventing under-age drinking, drug-abuse use issues, and personal character issues faced by our young citizenry, because all kids are capable of success, no exceptions.

Meetings for 08-09 (all meetings are at 3:30 pm)

- February 25
- March 25
- April 22
- May 27



Upcoming Dates

- Jan. 31 – Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic Open House, 1 pm
- Feb. 2 – 6 – National Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Week
- Feb. 12 – Chris Skinner presentation to Parents & Community, 7:30 pm at Herndon HS
- Feb. 24 – North County Lunch Meeting on Youth Survey, 11:30 am at St. John Neumann Church
- Feb. 25 - **Coalition Meeting, 3:30 pm – HHS Principal’s Conference Room – PLEASE BRING PROPOSALS**
- Feb. 25 – Community meeting re: School Start Times, 7 pm at Herndon HS
- Mar. 28 – Unified Prevention Coalition 2009 Conference – SAVE THE DATE
- Apr. 29/30 – Youth Tobacco Conference



There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer. With it beats the spirit of service, generosity, and compassion....and the health and well-being of our community, our country, and our world.

--Kobi Yamada