

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

JUNE 2008

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

Hello everyone –

Thanks to those of you who attended our last Herndon Coalition meeting on Wednesday, May 28th. Here is a recap of what was discussed –

Agenda Items –

- **Alcoa Grant** – the Coalition received funding from Alcoa Fastening Systems for a parent education program for Hispanic Parents in 2 age groups – K through 6th grade and 7th – 12th grade in the Spring. We have had 3 classes so far and the last one is June 7th from 4 – 6 pm at the Neighborhood Resource Center. Attendance has been between 7 – 12 people each time.
- **Budget for 08-09** – We will receive \$3000 next year (same amount as this year). There may be some additional restrictions on what we can spend it on.
- **Meetings & Times for Next Year** – we discussed the date of our meetings (4th Wednesday of each month) and the time (3:30 pm at HHS) and decided it works well for most people, so we will continue with this date & time for 08-09.
- **Current Proposals** – We spent \$130 for clinic resources for Teen Pregnancy in English & Spanish for our School Nurse to use. The funding came from non-grant funds.
- **Programs for Next Year** – We discussed some Parent Programs for next year and decided that we would like to coordinate a Town Hall meeting on Drugs & Alcohol; Internet Safety; and Gangs. We also discussed including the School administration, School counselors, law enforcement and Parent Liaisons on the Gang meeting, as well as school custodians, SACC, and the Boys & Girls Club/Teen Center/Health Department people.

Announcements –

- **Hutchison Elementary** – Brittany Good reported that it is SOL crunch time; Juan Pacheco (World Vision) spoke to the 6th graders and they loved him; trying to get 3 to 4 kids to be DJ for their 6th grade dance on the last day of school (from the HMS DJ club). Julie Brenson reported that they submitted a grant to COX for an after-school program and would also like Juan Pacheco to speak to the parents next year.
- **Young Life** – Brittany Good reported that they are ending their year and having a cookout to close out the school year. 60 kids will attend Lake Saranac from HHS. Discussed trying to work with the new HMS Principal when that person is announced about having a WyldLife program at HMS.
- **Department of Family Services** – Marilyn Bursch announced that St. Timothy's will have a Nurturing Parent Program (English) beginning on June 24th for parents of 5 – 11 year olds. Child care is provided and the children who attend also receive information. For more information, contact Debi Hackney ~ 703-324-7790. A flyer is attached for you.
- **Town of Herndon Police** – Officer G reported that they have been meeting re: Road DAWG. Referrals have been received (about 60) and they are trying to narrow them down to the 30 that they can have. Youth Academy has 2 weeks left and then he hopes that they will join the Explorer's Program. They are also trying to develop a Senior Academy.

Officer Beatrice Giron will be coordinating the effort. They are working the Bishop O'Connell All Night Grad @ Worldgate and will be involved in Herndon Festival. He said that the Explorer's Group is helping with Traffic Surveys and is looking for volunteer opportunities in the community. Contact [Officer G](#) if you are interested in coordinating an event with them. Officer G also reported that the "Underwear Ride" held this past winter was very successful and they collected new underwear for Reston Interfaith.

- **Hispanic Parent Meetings** – The next meeting will be held on June 7th from 4 – 6 pm at the Neighborhood Resource Center, in conjunction with the last Parenting Education class. We will offer resources on Summer Programs.

- **Health Department** – Virginia Wilkinson, school nurse for HHS & HMS, reported that they are up an additional 2 new moms (one at HMS and one at HHS). She is concerned about how to reach the parents. We discussed having a meeting with our Hispanic Parents and inviting a Teen Mom to talk and we need to involve the middle school parents in this meeting, as well. We discussed at length a process where we could get people to be willing to answer phone calls for a 2-hour period. We could list on a business card the phone numbers and times available and maybe some of the Hispanic parents who would like a 2nd opinion on how to handle a situation could call someone. More discussion is needed on this topic.

- **Herndon Middle School** – Jaquelyn Wallace reported there was a group speaking about adolescents and the process of change. The group is JSSA ([Jewish Social Service Agency](#)).

- **ALCOA** – Jacquelyn Wallace reported that she is planning to volunteer at All Night Grad and that they are donating printer cartridges to the high school. She attended the Senior Volunteer Fair and reported that it was very well attended.

- **Reston Interfaith** – Jody Tompros reported that they are wrapping up the year. She also said that the author of the book, [Black Baby White Hands](#), was speaking to their Transitional Housing group. For more information, go to www.soulwater.org. The author, Jaiya John, is from Silver Spring, MD. Also, there is a golf tournament to raise money for Reston Interfaith on July 14th at Hidden Creek Country Club and the benefactor of the funds will be Embry Rucker Shelter. To sign up to play, [click here](#).

- **Fairfax County Department of Health Services** – Jenifer Henry reported that there is a North County Network Luncheon being held on June 24th from 11:30 – 1:15 at St. John Neumann Catholic Church. It is free and open to the public. For more information, call 703-787-4962. Jenifer also passed out [Rec Pac](#) (FCPA) applications. This year there is a \$10 per child/per week minimum charge. [RecQuest](#) is available through various locations. The closest ones for us are Southgate or Mott Center.

- **World Vision** – Henry sent a report since neither he nor Juan could attend our meeting. They have one new mentee they are working with (7th – 12th grade level); they coordinated 5 new presentations this past month; 18 youth received academic assistance (17 in K- 6th and 1 in 7- 12).

Other Announcements –

- **Beer Pong Wii Game Normalizes Binge Drinking** - After battling with retail stores to get Beer Pong games off their shelves, now Beer Pong has been turned into a game for the popular Nintendo Wii system. Electronic entertainment company JV Games Inc. recently announced that Beer Pong would be the first of a series of Frat Party games for the Nintendo WiiWare, a move which CADCA believes will only normalize binge drinking and promote underage drinking. The new game, scheduled to be released in mid-June, will feature two distinct competitive games. Beer Pong, a tournament-style game of beer pong for one to four players, and Speed Pong, during which two or three players compete at the same time, each trying to be the first to eliminate all of his or her beer cups. If you are concerned about the Beer Pong game, and would like to send a letter similar to the one that CADCA sent to JV Games, please use the attached [letter](#) as a guide.

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.

- **National Group Focusing on Underage Drinking for Elementary-aged Children** – See the website – [click here](#).
- **Department of Justice Internet Safety Program** – be a part of the studio audience! The program will be held on June 7th from 12:30 – 4:30 pm. For more info, [click here](#).
- **Asian Community Forum** – June 14th. For more information, contact Detective Lam Nguyen at 703-246-2440.

Upcoming Dates

June 7 - Hispanic Parent Class, 4 – 6 pm @ Neighborhood Resource Center. Topic – How to Talk so Kids Will Listen and Listen so Kids Will Talk

June 24 – Nurturing Parent Program, 5:30 – 8pm at St. Timothy's

June 24 – North County Network Luncheon, 11:30 – 1:15 pm St. John Neumann

Have a wonderful summer!! Your dedication to our youth is so wonderful!



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