

SPRINGTIME EXCITEMENT AWAITS

Here we are well into the month of April. Sunshine and warmer temperatures have arrived at last. Teachers are feverishly using the final few weeks to cover areas of the curriculum that need some additional attention before the school year ends. The spring sports teams are looking ahead to their post-season tournaments. There's so much to do and so little time to do it!

It is this time of the year when we begin to think about the Junior-Senior Prom celebrations, the Graduation ceremonies, and the endless parties to help celebrate these special events in the lives of our children. I am always glad to see June arrive, especially if April and May have not been trouble free. It's like having a huge burden removed from one's heart and mind. You see, there is really only one thing that can truly ruin the anticipation associated with this time of the year. That one thing is a senseless loss of life or serious injury due to speeding or being under the influence while driving, or a deadly combination of the two.

It's during the Prom and Graduation time of the year that many parents typically host parties. This can be a good thing, especially if you consider a key point that I shared with you a few articles back. That point was "know where your children are, who they are with, and what they are doing." You can't just assume that all is well when it may not be. The Drug-Free Action Alliance is preparing for their "7th Annual Parents Who Host, Lose the Most: Don't Be a Party to Teenage Drinking" Campaign. The goal is a simple one--- to educate parents about their legal responsibility and the health risks involved by

providing or allowing the use of alcohol or drugs at teen house parties. While the dangers of underage drinking exist all year, Prom and Graduation parties are often the times of the year when the number of underage drinking parties increase. Here are some interesting statistics that all parents should know:

- 53% of underage youth say that it is easy to get alcoholic beverages.
- 40% of youth and 32% of parents indicated they know of other parents who host parties where alcohol is available or served to teens.
- 27% of youth indicated that they had attended a party where alcohol was available or served to teens in the last three months, while only 18% of the parents thought that their child had attended a party where alcohol was available or served.

While I don't know if any of our students participated in this survey activity, I doubt that Adams County is really so much different from any place else in this regard. Scary, isn't it? Consider these additional facts:

- Parents who give alcohol to their teen's friends under any circumstances, even in their own homes, are breaking the law.
- Parents who knowingly allow a person under the age of 21 to remain in their home or on their property while consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages can be prosecuted and everything associated with such a violation can be confiscated, including personal property.
- Parents can be sued if they give alcohol to anyone under 21, and they, in turn, hurt someone, hurt themselves, or damage property.

I would suggest to you that it is altogether possible to celebrate Proms and Graduation ceremonies without the use of alcohol or other drugs, and still have a great time and enjoy everyone's company. I urge all of us to work together to make this spring a safe one for all.

Prom Dates

- North Adams – April 22nd at Eastgate Holiday Inn
- Peebles – April 22nd at Limestone Center in Maysville
- West Union – May 13th at the high school

Graduation Dates

- North Adams – May 27th at 2:00 p.m.
- Peebles – May 28th at 2:00 p.m.
- West Union – May 26th at 7:00 p.m.

OCAN UPDATE

Ohio College Access Network (OCAN) and Gear-Up funds will be used to take the 7th and 8th graders from West Union on a field trip. The trip will involve career exploration and will have Southern State Community College as its destination point. The field trip is scheduled for May 5, 2006. Parents with any questions should contact Barb Crothers or Becky Cropper at 544-5553.

BOND ISSUE UPDATE

As May 2nd is rapidly approaching, members of the P.A.S.S. organization are very active in promoting the bond issue and its passage. If you haven't visited their website recently at www.superschools.org, you should do so. Perhaps, it would be helpful to you to have a preview of the ballot language for the bond issue. I hope that you will find this information helpful. And, of course, I hope that you will vote FOR THE BOND ISSUE AND TAX LEVY. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me, Mr. Eric Toole, Mr. John Lewis, Mrs. Joy Bauman, or Mr. Mike Pell. In addition, if you have specific questions as to how the proposed bond issue would affect your property taxes, you may contact our County Auditor, David Gifford, for more information. Thank you.

(PRINT COPY OF BALLOT LANGUAGE)

Charles P. Kimble, Superintendent