

## Dear Parent/Caregiver:

We are delighted to inform you of an exciting opportunity available to your child called the P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth) Program, offered through the Barrhead Cares Coalition.

The P.A.R.T.Y. Program is an injury prevention program designed for grade nine students to help educate them about the consequences of poor decision-making and "risky behaviors" such as drinking and driving, not wearing a seat belt, and many others. We also discuss the dangers that alcohol and drug use can have on the ability to make smart choices, and how the abuse of either one can leave a person vulnerable to risks. The Schedule includes a visit to Rose Garden Chapel and presentations by Addictions Services, RCMP, Victim Services, Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services. In the morning portion there will be a dramatic live scenario played out for the students. This scenario will be of one the risk-related trauma's that youth may experience and how emergency personal would respond to that scene. This can be an emotional day for students that may trigger some uncomfortable feelings. If students are needing support, the school counsellors will be with the students the entire day for any support needed.

The goals of the P.A.R.T.Y. program are to:

- Reduce the incidence of risk related trauma in youth
- Empower youth to recognize risk and make informed, safe choices
- Increase awareness of personal responsibility for choices
- Increase knowledge of the impact of serious injury on quality of life
- Promote injury prevention initiatives

The P.A.R.T.Y. Program will be on May 15, 2018 from 9:00 am -3:15 pm. The students will have one half hour for lunch. They must bring their lunch as there is no time to purchase lunch downtown. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to attend the program. Please advise your child's teacher if you wish to attend. Should you not want your child to attend, please make arrangements with the school.

We look forward to providing a positive learning experience for the students. It is our hope that we can give them information which will assist them in making smart choices. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the coordinator at the number below.

On behalf of Barrhead Cares Coalition

Darin Flemmer, RSW Addictions Counsellor 780-674-8239