

ADDENDUM TO THE OCTOBER CCHS NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM CCPI CONCORD CARLISLE PARENT INITIATIVE

SAFE HOMES, a program of the Concord Carlisle Parent Initiative (CCPI) is an informal support network of parents who are concerned about the safety, health and well being of our children. Though this initiative began with drug and alcohol use it also encompasses seatbelt and helmet usage, gun control, violence, and video games in the home. CCPI provides information and resources for you to learn about these issues to help address these concerns specifically for your family. Over the course of the year CCPI will offer a variety of programs to help you learn more about these issues, such as book groups on parenting issues, Stop the Rollercoaster discussion groups, H.E.L.P (How to Enjoy Living with Preadolescents) initiative, and Tools for Preventing and Postponing the First Use of Drugs and Alcohol.

Parents support the **SAFE HOMES** initiative by providing supervision of gatherings or parties in their homes. Participation in **SAFE HOMES** is simpler than in years past. *It is no longer required to make a written pledge* to commit to these principles. Families simply agree to communicate with each other and with other community members about reducing risky behaviors among our children. Parents can join forces and let our children know that we do not regard alcohol or other illegal drug use as an acceptable teen activity. We recommend that parents discuss these issues with their children and let them know that it is okay to not participate in underage drinking and illegal use of drugs. Teenagers will get the message that parents care and are taking the initiative to deal with the problems of alcohol, drug use and other issues of teen safety.

On a regular basis watch this column in the CCHS monthly newsletter to learn about specific suggestions for promoting positive health behaviors and youth development in our towns. The CCPI website provides information and linkages to local and national sites that provide additional information on these topics. For more specific information visit www.ccpi.info, e-mail us at ccpil@yahoo.com, or call CCPI's representatives – Shelley Mogil (978-287-5115) or Janet Lipkin (978-371-7876). Together we can promote consistency and continuity of expectations regarding the behavior of teenagers in our homes and community.

Shelley Mogil and Janet Lipkin
CCPI's Representatives