



*April 2007*

Welcome to the Northfield Area Parent Communication Network's monthly e-newsletter! You are a member of a network of unbelievable parents that do make a difference and help create a healthier and safer community for all our youth.

### **Parent Prom Prep**

Adding up the costs of prom can be staggering for parents but clothing, dining, flower and manicure expenses aren't what worry parents most. It's the risky behaviors associated with prom night.

Proms are notoriously linked to alcohol consumption, poor judgment and teenage sex. It's a high cost item in many ways, but you can be prepared and so can your teen.

- Require a complete itinerary for the evening, including who, what, where, when and how.
- Decide on a curfew and stick with it.
- Discuss drinking, drugs, driving under the influence and sex.
- Ask your teen how he/she plans to act responsibly and avoid risky situations.
- Establish set times for your teen to call you.
- Discuss the school's prom rules with your child and the consequences for violating them.
- Give your teen the unconditional option of calling you at any time for help, advice or a ride home and promise not to humiliate him/her in front of others.
- Lay down ground rules regarding drinking and driving. Know who is driving - if it's a limo, check their policy on allowing alcohol in the vehicle.
- Do not rent hotel rooms for prom-goers.
- Encourage seatbelt use - the best accessory!
- There's safety in numbers – talk with other parents before prom and discuss the evenings events.

Visit [www.newsforparents.org/expert\\_prom.html](http://www.newsforparents.org/expert_prom.html) for more ways to ease prom anxieties and help keep children safe.

### **Chillin' after the Prom**

Parents of the Northfield High School junior class have put together a safe, fun way to celebrate after the last dance of the prom. A chaperoned after-prom party will be at the Jesse James Lanes from Midnight to 4 a.m. The cost is \$6 at the door. The party is for junior and senior students only and check-in will be monitored by parent chaperones. Doors will remain open until 1:30 a.m. If students decide to leave, they will be checked out by an adult and will not be allowed to return inside. The event includes bowling, blackjack, video games and lots of food and entertainment. Also, chances to win great raffle prizes!

This event is made possible through the dedicated efforts of parents and the support of community businesses. Interested in volunteering? Call Beth Vivant, 952-652-2338.

### **ZAP Effort**

Local law enforcement agencies will be making a collaborative effort to respond to underage drinking parties and to prosecute those who provide alcohol to those under 21.