

Free Parent Workshops Planned By SAFE, Inc. Beginning In 2013

BY LAURA LANE, SAFE, INC.

Surveys are important because they can be a great indicator of what is needed in a community. SAFE, Inc. remains committed to finding avenues to address the recent findings in the Bach-Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment Survey and is creating opportunities to help parents and caregivers in the Glen Cove community keep their children alcohol, tobacco and drug free.

Every two years SAFE, Inc. and the Glen Cove School District administer a prevention needs assessment survey to determine substances of choice and to implement prevention programming that will address these needs. The data from the Bach-Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment Survey ("the survey") administered by the Glen Cove School District to students in grades six, eight, 10, and 12 in January has led SAFE Inc. to resurrect the Parent University.

The survey, which assessed the use of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco and other drugs by Glen Cove youth, indicated that alcohol continues to be the substance of choice for Glen Cove's youth but now they are drinking as early as 10 years old. More kids are smoking in the upper grades and use of marijuana is high among 10th-graders.

After reviewing the Bach survey results, the Coalition's Parent Committee, chaired by Laurent Caballero, created a Parent University Survey to be administered at Back to School Nights (and other venues) with the purpose of determining the needs of parents and then appropriately matching a professional presenter to future workshops.

Recently, Aimee Abraham, SAFE's Pride

Project coordinator, and members of SAFE's staff attended the Back to School Nights distributing these surveys to parents. The survey is also available online on SAFE's website for parents that were not able to attend the Back to School Nights.

"This is the best way we can come up with a viable interested audience and then we will find the appropriate experts," Abraham said. "We've noticed that so far the surveys are showing that parents are interested in classes on bullying/cyberbullying prevention, underage drinking, tobacco, and marijuana prevention. We hope more parents will fill out the questionnaire on our website so we can provide the classes that will be most beneficial for our Glen Cove parents."

The workshops will be scheduled throughout the year and will begin in January or February of 2013. The dates and times of these workshops will be found on SAFE's website, the Glen Cove School District website and on the E-board.

Parent Committee members that helped create the survey include: Donna Christ, Conolly School PTA co-chair; Tony Gallo, coalition co-chair; Robin Mead, SAFE social worker; Anne Marie Gailious, Kiwanis Club; Maria Fernanda Pardo, Glen Cove Library; and Wendy Sanchez, SAFE outreach worker.

SAFE, Inc. is a not-for-profit tax-exempt substance abuse education and prevention agency located in Glen Cove. Visit the website at www.safeglencove.org or call 676-2008 for further information. Follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition.