

SAFE and Glen Cove School District mark National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week

National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week was originally launched in 2010 by the National Institute on Drug Abuse as a prevention awareness campaign aimed at educating youth on the facts about drugs and alcohol. Students are given facts related to substance use in an effort to counteract myths they may have learned from movies, the internet, social media or friends.

When it comes to teens and drugs it is all about choices and consequences. In honor of National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition's School Committee, Chaired by Denise Kiernan, Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics, participated in a week-long campaign by creating a program for students at Glen Cove Finley Middle School and Glen Cove High School. The school committee's efforts were targeted at arming students with the facts to help them make the right choices surrounding drugs and alcohol.

The campaign included the announcements of drug facts every morning during the traditional morning announcements. During health classes at Finley and at GCHS students in health classes played the WreckEd Card game — an educational game that is designed to teach teens to think more introspectively about their decisions, regarding drugs and alcohol. This program not only encourages youth to look at their own behavior, but also to reach out and look out for their friends who may be making the

wrong unhealthy decisions.

Substance Abuse Free Environment (SAFE, Inc.) formed a community based coalition in 2003 to change societal norms about alcohol and substance abuse and to address the risk factors that contribute to them. The Coalition is overseen by SAFE's Board of Directors and Co-chaired by SAFE Executive Director, Dr. Sharon Harris and Glen Cove School District health teacher Tony Gallo. It is composed of 12 sectors of the community: Youth (an individual 18 or under), Parents/Youth Caregivers, Business

Community, Media, School, Youth-serving Organization, Law Enforcement, Religious Organizations, Civic Organizations, Healthcare Professionals, and Local Agencies with Expertise in the Field of Substance Abuse and associated issues.

For more information about the SAFE Glen Cove Coalition or other SAFE initiatives contact SAFE at (516) 676-2008 or visit the website at <http://www.safeglencove.org> or Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition>.