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Sun West School Division/Heartland Health Region

Joint Media Release

Biggar Central School 2000 and North West Central School Grade 10 Students to Participate in P.A.R.T.Y. Program

Students in grade 10 will participate in the P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth) program on May 14th, in Biggar. Staff from Heartland Health Region, Sun West School Division and volunteers and professionals from the Community will offer the program in Biggar. The professionals and volunteers are very passionate about the messages they send to the students with their presentations.

The greatest incidence of serious injury and death is the 15 to 24 year old age group. Dangerous behaviour such as speeding, drinking and driving, not wearing a seatbelt or other protective equipment, reckless skiing or diving into shallow water can have tragic consequences. Consequences that often could have been prevented. Promoting injury prevention through reality education can decrease the number of teens killed or disabled in our community. Early education about consequences of risk-taking behaviours can change behaviour. Rather than discouraging kids from participating in fun activities, P.A.R.T.Y. encourages the consideration of consequences.

The grade 10 students will follow the path of an injury survivor and meet the professionals who would be involved with them in a trauma situation. Emergency Services, RCMP, Therapists, Emergency room nurses, the Funeral Home and Addictions counsellors assist the students to experience the difficult journey of a trauma patient. Facts are presented about brain and spinal cord injury and the students have hands on experience with the equipment used in trauma care and rehabilitation. The students are challenged at lunchtime as the volunteers in the program assist the students to simulate a "disability" This is intended to provide some difficulty to the students as they eat their lunch and to remind them that we often take simple tasks for granted. The students will also have a chance to listen to an injury survivor talk about their personal experience Thanks to the sponsors who have supported this event, Pizzeria Adria, Hannigans, Shop Easy Foods, Super A Foods, Quick Stop and the Westwinds Motor Hotel.

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