



What You Don't Know Can Hurt You: A Forum on Teens, Drinking and Drugs

On the evening of March 6th a forum was sponsored by several Tenafly groups. The goal of the evening was to provide important information that every parent needs to know about teens, drinking and drug use. What took place was an open dialogue and lively discussion on the social pressures facing teens today. The panel of 12 was comprised of school administrators, guidance counselors, health care professionals, police officers and a detective.

For those of you whom were unable to attend the forum on, "*What You Don't Know Can Hurt You: A Forum on Teens, Drinking and Drugs*", here are the salient messages:

- Talk early, talk often and never stop talking.
- Know your child's friends and their parents by talking with parents and kids.
- Keep an open dialogue with your child's school.
- If you notice the slightest thing off kilter, follow your instinct and check it out.
- Lead by example.
- It is always a bad idea to send your child to an unsupervised home.
- Make sure when your child comes home at night that you have them check in with you so you may assess them.
- Be aware of changes in grades, social isolation, and/or use of particular items used to conceal drug and/or alcohol use such as: Visine, mints, mouthwash, air fresheners and dryer sheets.
- Parents can be held liable for underage drinking of minors in their company and/or in their home.
- If your child is arrested the school is notified and there are consequences that will be enforced.

We all have one shot to do it right

You'll find additional suggested readings and highlights of past PGC speakers and programs at PGC's website at: www.tenafly.k12.nj.us/pgc

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