

Book "Pamphlet" Review

Where's the Party?

Sponsored by the Issaquah Community Network and Drug Free Community Coalition



This month, in lieu of a book review, I'd like to bring your attention to a short, but powerful piece of literature available as a resource for Issaquah Parents. *Where's the Party?* is a three fold brochure ([attached](#)) put together by the Drug Free Community Coalition. The Drug Free Community Coalition was launched by the Issaquah Community Network in 2011. The Network focuses on reducing and preventing risky behaviors in adolescents. Inspired by the daunting results released in last spring's State Healthy Youth Survey, the coalition designed the brochure with key information parents need to know to ensure safe teen gatherings. The brochure is the perfect catalyst to start a conversation with your teen about drinking and parties. Approaching the conversation with genuine curiosity and an objective listening ear, you may quickly discover how much your teen knows about alcohol use and abuse by teenagers. Beginning a series of conversations with your high school student provides a great time to lay the groundwork for your own family values. Detailing possible consequences and thinking through various scenarios before kids find themselves faced with a party situation, may prepare them to make a good decision when the time comes. The brochure offers suggestions for how to host a party, how to handle sending your student to a party hosted elsewhere and the consequences for hosting a party with alcohol in your home.

I asked Dianne Bugge and Barb De Michele, active members of the Drug Free Community Coalition for a little background on the coalition and the creation of the brochure. The inspiration for the brochure came from The Healthy Youth Survey Results (www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/health/HYS.aspx) and from anecdotal information about parents hosting parties with alcohol. The survey results indicate that adults are increasingly tolerant of teen drinking as kids get older, even though it is illegal and the penalties for underage drinking are quite stiff. Additionally, the group had heard anecdotally from parents and law enforcement that adults are hosting parties or tail-gating with teens, especially around big events like Homecoming and Graduation.

The Drug Free Community Coalition was recently awarded a federal grant which provides up to 125,000 a year for ten years to our school district service area to prevent and reduce teen drug and alcohol use. Twelve community sector representatives make up the core of the Coalition -- students, parents, business, media, civic organizations, medical professionals, organizations serving youth, organizations dedicated to reducing drug and alcohol use, faith based groups, law enforcement, schools.

When asked what one message the group would like parents to take away from the brochure, Barb de Michelle answered:

One message: If you offer alcohol to youth, you are liable for a big fine and, worse, you would be liable if a young person was disabled or killed due to your enabling behavior. If you provide marijuana to someone under 21, you could lose your house and be convicted of a federal felony. Is it really worth it? On a positive note, I think the brochure encourages parents to talk to each other so kids get a consistent message that our community does not condone teen alcohol and drug use.

Check out the brochure, and start a conversation with your teen today.