

# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## **TITLE: SCHOOLS GET YOUTH ENGAGED DURING DRUG AWARENESS WEEK**

In November, schools were invited to increase their students' awareness of the dangers of drug, alcohol and tobacco use through planned initiatives. Participants provided awareness raising activities in the form of video submissions, substance abuse prevention games and peer leadership opportunities. The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit is pleased to congratulate the following schools for their successful entries:

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| 1 <sup>st</sup> Place | Almaguin Highlands Secondary School for their video, "Runner's High – A Way Better High"  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place | Ecole secondaire publique Odyssee for learning and leading Substance Abuse Prevention games and activities for younger students |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place | Ecole élémentaire publique Héritage for participating in a Substance Abuse Prevention learning event led by Odyssee students    |

The cash prizes will go a long way in building upon the Healthy School initiatives these schools have already initiated!

For more information, call the Health Unit at 705-474-1400 or 1-800-563-2808, or email [healthy.schools@nbpsdhu.ca](mailto:healthy.schools@nbpsdhu.ca).

### **Quote**

"The students worked really hard on this project and were excited to show it to the student body. Students commented that the video was cool, the music was cool, the effects were cool and the statistics were shocking." Lisa Rogers, Teacher, Almaguin Highlands Secondary School

"For Drug Awareness Week we tried to find a way to provide a great learning experience all while having fun. The message we wanted to give was that there are severe consequences when the choice is made to use drugs or alcohol. We also thought that this message would be great coming from our grade 7 and 8 students from our school to our grade 5 and 6 students from Héritage." Carol Vezina-Giroux, Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario

« J'ai réalisé qu'il y a des risques que nous ne devons pas prendre, car nous pouvons perdre nos soutiens, comme la famille et les amis. » ("I realized there are risks we shouldn't take because we can lose our supports, like family and friends.") Etudiant (6<sup>e</sup>), Ecole publique élémentaire Héritage

## Quick Facts

- 2012 Student Drug Use Survey has revealed that 43% of males in grade 7-12 in our district are using cannabis compared to only 23% of youth in the rest of Ontario.
- 38% of students within the NBPSDHU region used illegal drugs in the past year.
- About 14% of students in the NBPSDHU region smoked cigarettes in the past year; significantly higher than Ontario students at 9%.
- A significantly higher percentage of students within the NBPSDHU region drink at levels that were scored hazardous and/or harmful compared to students in Ontario.

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