



HOUND HIGHLIGHTS

A Weekly PTSA E-Newsletter for Pope High School Parents and Students

3001 Hembree Road, Marietta GA 30062, 770-578-7900

Special Edition ♦ Monday, May 3, 2010

The spring social season is in full swing with prom and graduation just around the corner. Our community has many wonderful reasons to celebrate these rites of passage with our children.

We want to remind everyone that it is also a time for good decision-making by both teens and adults. The information provided on pages 2 & 3 gives parents a starting point for discussions to reinforce your family value system and guide your children with some of the choices they will have make when it comes to safe and appropriate celebrations.



PROM 2010

Mystery

Masquerade

When: Saturday, May 8, 2010

Time: 7:30 PM to 11:30 PM

Where: Fox Theater, Egyptian Ballroom

All juniors and seniors are welcome to attend Prom as long as they are current with their class dues.

Invitations/ticket pick up will be during all lunch periods on **Monday, May 3, Tuesday, May 4** and **Friday, May 7** on Main Street between the 300 and 400 Hall.

ID will be required when you pick up your ticket. Photo information will also be available.

Due to the theme, students may choose to bring a hand held mask only. No others will be permitted.

Please see Pope website for additional information or email Mrs. Epps at Cary.Epps@cobbk12.org,

This is always a fun and exiting time; don't miss out!



GRADUATION 2010

Friday, May 21, 2010

6:30 PM

Roswell Street Baptist Church

Worship Center

Please see the Pope website for graduation information and a schedule of activities.

***CONGRATULATIONS TO
ALL POPE SENIORS!***

*We wish you the best of luck with
your plans for the future!*



Underage Drinking: It's Time to Face the Sobering Facts

Underage drinking is an adult problem with youth consequences. Take a look at who is drinking, where youth get alcohol, and the results of mixing kids and alcohol.

- Approximately 69.3 percent of Cobb high school youth report drinking alcohol
- Alcohol is the most frequently used drug by high school seniors - 81 percent report using alcohol
- Alcohol is a contributing factor in the three leading causes of death for youth ages 15 - 20 including suicide, homicide, and accidents
- Underage drinkers are 4 times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who wait until age 21 to use alcohol
- 1 out of 5 underage drinkers have experienced blackouts, where they couldn't remember what happened after drinking
- 50% of all juvenile justice cases are reported to involve alcohol

Youth report adults contribute to the problem of underage drinking. Look what Cobb high school students reported in the Spring 2003 Smart Track computer survey:

69% reported alcohol available at home

88% reported alcohol available in the community

62% reported businesses don't check IDs

Parents and other adults can help reduce youth access to alcohol and help protect youth from the consequences of underage drinking.

Parents can report illegal commercial alcohol sales at 1-877-CheckID. To report underage drinking parties (in advance), call 770-499-4719.

From Cobb Underage Drinking Task Force, www.cudtf.org

When will we all learn it's not cool to let teens drink alcohol, and understand that alcohol causes more harm to teens than all illegal drugs, combined? Some adults in our community persist in holding onto a variety of mistaken beliefs about underage drinking. The first is that drinking is a rite of passage to adulthood. Another is that teens will drink alcohol and there's nothing that adults can do about it. Many adults who subscribe to these attitudes and beliefs do the youth of our community a disservice by enabling them to engage in behaviors that are detrimental to their own health and safety, as well as putting all citizens' safety and quality of life at risk.

According to the 2008 Georgia Student Health Survey, Cobb students binge drink at a friend's house on the weekend more than other students in the state. We all need to support enforcement efforts and implement new policies here in Cobb if we want to change the current norm. I applaud law enforcement for enforcing the law equally without prejudice or favoritism.

Editorial by Laura Searcy in the Marietta Daily Journal, February 16, 2010. "Is Cobb Ready to Crack Down on Teen Drinking?" Ms. Searcy is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and a member of the Cobb Alcohol Taskforce Board.



The Cobb Underage Drinking Task Force is a community-law enforcement partnership, comprised of 39 organizations throughout Cobb County. Their goals include limiting alcohol availability to underage youth; increasing community organizing around the issues of underage drinking and adult providing of alcohol to minors; and shifting community underage drinking norms to acceptance of underage drinking as the unhealthy and illegal activity that it is.

WHAT ADULTS SHOULD KNOW

According to Georgia law (O.C.G.A., Section 3-3-23 & 3-5-5):

- ⇒ Parents can **not** give alcohol to their teen's friends who are under age 21, under any circumstances, even in their own home, even with their parent's permission.
- ⇒ Adults can **not** knowingly allow a minor, other than their own child, to remain in their home or on their property while consuming or possessing alcohol.
- ⇒ Beer kegs must be registered and marked for tracking purposes. Retailers must document keg purchaser's name, address, age, and location where the keg will be consumed.

Georgia's "social hosting liability" law was created by case law in 1985, allowing the courts to settle lawsuits against adults who serve alcohol negligently.

IF YOU BREAK THE LAW

Criminal action can include various fines, penalties and/or imprisonment.

- ⇒ Up to \$1,000 and/or 12 months confinement for a first offense, under state law.
- ⇒ Additional penalties vary, under local law.

Civil action can include substantial financial liability if injuries and/or death result from an underage drinking accident.

- ⇒ It is not uncommon for salaries and personal property to be garnished as a result of such lawsuits.
- ⇒ There have been significant increases in the number of such civil cases in Georgia courts over the past decade.

WHY AGE 21?

- ◆ The 21 MLDA (minimum legal drinking age) saves the lives of over 1,000 youth each year and when the MLDA is lowered, motor vehicle crashes and deaths among youth increase.
- ◆ An adolescent's central nervous system and brain are not fully developed until age 21 and they can become addicted to alcohol in as little as 6 to 18 months.
- ◆ More than 67% of young people who start drinking before the age of 15 will try an illicit drug.
- ◆ Teens under 15 who have ever consumed alcohol are twice as likely to have sex as those who have not.

THINGS ADULTS CAN DO TO HELP

- ◆ Know your child's friends and set up a "Parent Network."
- ◆ Talk with and listen to your children.
- ◆ Provide a consistent family policy and set consequences you will carry out.
- ◆ Check to make sure your children don't have fake IDs.
- ◆ Refuse to supply alcohol to minors in your home and on your property.
- ◆ Be at home and visible if/when teens have a party at your home.
- ◆ Store alcohol under lock and key or at least keep track of it.
- ◆ Set a good example for responsible adult alcohol use, if you use alcohol.