

**P.A.R.T.Y. Program Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hospital Site:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) Program is an injury prevention program that aims to provide students with a realistic look at the impact of poor decision making and the immediate and long term consequences of trauma. Through the lens of health care providers, students follow the journey of a trauma victim from occurrence of injury, through transport, treatment, rehabilitation and community re-integration. Health care professionals and community volunteers that include physicians, nurses, paramedics, police, and trauma survivors share first hand experiences and provide students with strategies for mitigating risk. Students report their experience as, “eye-opening and positive” and, “a must for all young people”.

Island Health has been delivering the P.A.R.T.Y. Program on Vancouver Island since 2003. Island Health is guided by the values of C.A.R.E. (Courage, Aspire, Respect, and Empathy) and strives for a vision of “Excellent health and care for everyone, everywhere, every time.” In keeping with this vision, the P.A.R.T.Y. Program provides reality-based education. Program components include real life scenarios and often include graphic photos and information. **For any student who has recently experienced a significant traumatic incident, participation in this program may not be appropriate and should be carefully considered.**

It is also important that students eat breakfast and/or lunch prior to attending this workshop. Not eating will affect their ability to learn while at the hospital. It also reduces the chance of them fainting, which, considering the graphic nature of our topics and visuals, is a risk of their attendance at the program.

Additionally, we take photos over the course of the P.A.R.T.Y. Program day. If you do not want your child’s photo taken, please inform the school so they can ensure your child is excluded from photos.

You are also invited to attend the P.A.R.T.Y. Program with your child. Parents have found that by attending it can help them talk to their child about smart decision making. Please let your school know if you would like to attend.

The P.A.R.T.Y. Program is made possible by the support and generosity of the public and sponsors. If you would like to make a donation or are able to volunteer to help with the daily operations of the program please contact us.

Thank you in advance for your support. We hope that the P.A.R.T.Y. Program will be a meaningful experience for your child. If you have any questions or concerns about the program, please refer to our website <https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-services/children-youth-services/prevent-alcohol-risk-related-trauma-youth-party> or contact me.

Sincerely,

**Kevin Vowles** MA, Bed, BA

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