

September 2009

Dear Highland Park High School Parents/Guardians:

As the theme of Highland Park High School this year is one of *collaboration*, we feel it is imperative for home and school to effectively partner to help keep our children safe this Homecoming Weekend (Oct. 9&10).

Many parents and school personnel have grown increasingly concerned regarding the decisions of some students to include drugs and alcohol in their plans for Homecoming. We strongly encourage you to be involved with your child in planning all of the events for the evening and to speak to the parents of the students with whom your child is attending Homecoming to ensure that everyone is aware of the plans. *All parents should be informed and in favor of all plans throughout the evening.* We encourage you to put age appropriate limits on the activities for the evening.

In an effort to improve communication between home and school and to further support families in making positive decisions during dance weekends, the PTO formed the *Parent Dance Committee* and the communities of Bannockburn, Deerfield, Highland Park, Highwood and Riverwoods formed *Parents. The Anti-Drug* (promoting *Take Time to Talk* on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>). These two groups will continue to meet and promote healthy choices throughout the year.

With the support of the Senior Class Board Sponsor, the Homecoming Dance, which does include dinner, is planned *by* students *for* students. It is our position that the Homecoming Dance is the primary activity of the evening. All of our dances are wonderfully positive events and continue to have great attendance. As previously announced in the school's Homecoming letter, students are highly encouraged to attend the entirety of the event (7:30–10:30pm). If there is a reason for a student to leave the dance before 10:00pm, he/she must submit a completed Early Release Approval form (available on the Homecoming registration website) to a dance chaperone upon check-in. Please also know it is the school's current practice to search all multi-passenger vehicles on our campus, and upon reason, the school reserves the right to search any student vehicle as well.

Each of the signatories of this letter is a Highland Park High School parent, and like you, we hold the safety of all our children as our first priority. It is our hope that every parent in our community will collaborate with our school in making Homecoming a safe experience for all of our children.

Please feel free to contact any of us with questions, suggestions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Brad Swanson  
Principal

Janna Berk  
Parent Dance Committee Chair

Beth Shapiro Kopin  
PTO President

Laura Kaufman  
Parents.The Anti-Drug