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**MAPLE AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**515 Maple Avenue  
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866  
518-587-4551**

**Stuart F. Byrne  
Principal**

**Robert Loggins  
Assistant Principal  
Columbian Springs**

**Gerald Leger  
Assistant Principal  
Hathorn Springs**

**Susan Kichton  
Assistant Principal  
Excelsior Springs**

**Roseann Jackling  
Assistant Principal  
Red Springs**

October 6, 2008

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Saratoga Springs City School District has agreed to participate this fall in the Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) Youth Survey. This survey, for middle and high school students, is designed to improve the community's understanding of our children's strengths and the risks they may face for developing health problems like smoking, underage drinking and drug use. The information the students provide can help us all take steps to reduce and prevent these problems in our community. The survey is sponsored by the Saratoga Partnership for Prevention, a group we are working with to build a healthier community.

The survey will be administered to students during physical education classes on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 4 and 5, 2008. This will allow us to obtain a 100% sample of the student population at the middle school. The following are facts about the survey:

1. It is totally **voluntary**. Your child does not have to participate. You do not have to give a reason for not participating. Students are not required to answer all questions, only those that they want to answer.
2. It is **anonymous**. The survey is designed to protect your child's privacy. No names or any other identifying information will ever be recorded.
3. The Saratoga Springs City School District and the Saratoga Partnership for Prevention will use the school survey results to plan future prevention efforts.
4. The PNA Survey has been scientifically tested and is valid and reliable. It is being conducted under contract with Bach Harrison L.L.C., a nationally known research firm.

Copies of the survey are available for you to review at the Principal's Office and at the Prevention Council, 36 Phila Street. You may also call the Partnership office at 581-1230 for more information.

If you do not want your child to participate, simply sign and return the refusal form on the back of this letter to my office by Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. If you send the form, your child will be given an alternative activity to do during the survey period.

Thanks for your help. This survey is an important part of our collective effort to keep our children healthy and safe. I hope you will allow your child to participate.

Sincerely,

Stuart F. Byrne  
Principal

