



DRUG & ALCOHOL EDUCATION & AWARENESS EVENT

**Wednesday, March 17, 2010
7:30 PM at Plainedge Middle School
200 Stewart Avenue, Bethpage
Call (516) 992-7455 for more information**



In the wake of the release of the findings of a survey of Plainedge students about drug and alcohol use, on Wednesday, March 17, at the Middle School, Dr. Stephen Dewey will lead an informative session for parents, students, and all interested members of our community. His presentation will feature a slide show depicting the brain's decreased activity after consistent drug and alcohol abuse, and educate parents about how "gateway drugs"—drugs like alcohol and tobacco—can open the door to addiction by altering the brain's chemicals. He will also share startling statistics about drug use that every parent and caregiver should know.

In the spring of 2009, Plainedge students in grades 5 through 12 took a survey called the Pride Survey. Schools have been using Pride Surveys since 1982 to gather data about alcohol, tobacco and drug use. The results for Plainedge showed that:

At the Middle School

- 10% of 6th Graders, 23% of 7th Graders and 41% of 8th Graders *DO NOT* believe alcohol use is harmful
- 17% of 8th Graders *DO NOT* believe marijuana use is harmful

At the High School:

- 39% of 9th Graders, 40% of 10th and 11th Graders, and 48% of 12th Graders *DO NOT* believe alcohol use is harmful
- 28% of 9th Graders, 31% of 10th Graders, 46% of 11th Graders and 44% of 12th Graders *DO NOT* believe marijuana use is harmful

Dr. Stephen Dewey is a lead researcher at the Center for Neurosciences at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research at North Shore, LIJ. For more than 30 years, Dr. Dewey has studied the effects of substance abuse on the brain. He is a renowned speaker who has delivered his message to numerous schools and organizations throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties.