

PREVENTION

WORKS

Educate ■ Collaborate ■ Motivate

PREVENTION CONNECTION

JUNE, 2020

RESOURCES

Explore local help resources.

INSPIRATION

We get inspired when we hear good things.

See what our community is saying about our programs and services.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Meet our 2020 shining stars.

PREVENTION WORKS

Video Highlight (Self-Image)



one small
positive
thought
in the morning can
change
your
whole day

TOP 12 FINALISTS ANNOUNCED IN "PREVENTION WORKS" POSTER CONTEST

"Prevention Works" was the theme for this year's annual Alcohol Awareness Month Poster Contest. With the closing of schools in mid-March, we are proud of the 92 students who did their part to promote awareness of the major societal problems of alcohol. A preliminary judging process narrowed the posters down to the top twelve, dividing them into three categories by age group. These twelve finalists are:

Category A – Grades 3, 4 & 5

Marian Gelirys Gonzalez, Grade 4, Dunkirk School #4

Alivia Damon, Grade 4, Dunkirk School #7

McKenzie Anderson, Grade 5, Bemus Point Elementary School

Delia McDonald Abraham, Grade 5, Dunkirk School #4

Category B – Grades 6, 7 & 8

Kirsten Chase, Grade 7, Panama Central School

Tess Flikemma, Grade 7, Panama Central School

Seth Storey, Grade 8, Dunkirk Middle School

Atreyu Laska, Grade 8, Home Schooled

Category C – Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12

Emily Payne, Grade 9, Falconer Central School

Penelope Laska, Grade 11, Home Schooled

Mika Walters, Grade 12, Southwestern Central School

Raylynn Digirolamo, Grade 12, Southwestern Central School

The Grand Prize winner will be determined at a virtual poster contest ceremony on Thursday, June 11th at 3:00 pm. Join us live on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PreventionWorks.us> to see our top 12 posters and who our grand prize winner will be.

Prevention Works Alcohol Awareness Poster Contest has been an annual competition for the past 19 years and is a great way to get the young people of our community involved in addressing issues that directly affect them. It also provides the community with an opportunity to witness the creativity and optimism of our youth as they depict positive alternatives to underage drinking. By designing posters, students send an important message to their families and peers.

Thank you all for participating and congratulations to our top 12 finalists!

PAX: I am a PAX Leader; I better my world, I better myself.

Written by The PAX Team

When thinking about PAX, it is necessary to focus on creating Nurturing Environments. PAX Good Behavior Game (GBG) incorporates simple strategies, known as evidence-based kernels, which make up the total recipe for creating a Nurturing Environment in the classroom. Whereas PAX Tools is the community based companion, used in other settings outside of the classroom. Both PAX GBG and PAX Tools approach behavior as a skill set that must be taught, and utilizes the evidence of science to understand and improve the way adults intentionally teach behavior. Each of the tools are rooted in an evidence based kernel, which are both hands-on and trauma informed strategies. Implementation of this simple set of strategies teaches children self-regulation, which is the single greatest indicator of success. As teachers, parents, and other youth workers strive to create Nurturing Environments with their children, they are creating conditions that promote resilience, social-regulation, and positive behaviors. Being a consistent and reliable adult in any of these settings helps us to have a space that is happier, healthier, more productive, and peaceful. As we move into looking at the different ways we continue to partner and work with our community, it is important to note that PAX is more than just allowing children to survive, but by incorporating these strategies into our everyday lives, we are setting our children up to thrive.

Over the course of the 2019/2020 school year, Prevention Works has partnered with a handful of Chautauqua County School Districts, including the Dunkirk, Clymer, Sherman, & Jamestown school districts on the PAX GBG. With support from New York State and the PAXIS Institute, the creator of PAX, Prevention Works collaborated with teachers to implement strategies that focus on “building learning environments that prevent emergence of problem behavior” in students. Prevention Works’ educators, Tracy Jespersen, Natasha Battle, Amy Beato, and Waverly Lancer, worked with school faculty and staff on initiating and maintaining the successful implementation of the PAX GBG. In addition to partnerships with various Chautauqua County School Districts, Prevention Works offered PAX Tools trainings to a variety of community youth workers. The PAX Tools initiative is further supported by associates of the PAXIS Institute and targets other caring adults that work or live with children outside of the classroom.

Despite the importance of bringing more peace, productivity, health, and happiness to our children in this current climate, we are limited by the unfortunate circumstances of a global pandemic. However, we continue to push forward in our mission to better our world and better ourselves. The Prevention Works PAX Team is currently in the midst of several projects to do just that. One way that Prevention Works has shifted PAX efforts is by creating a Facebook page titled PAX CHQ. This social media page was created to help further share PAX science and implementation tips with the community. The Facebook page also includes a private teacher group for those who have been certified in the PAX GBG. The group will focus on reminding teachers of the importance of PAX and help them learn new ways of implementing PAX virtually. In addition, Prevention Works has, and continues to facilitate online PAX Tools trainings open to any community members at no cost. For more information about PAX efforts in Chautauqua County, follow our Facebook page @PAXCHQ.

HOPE CHAUTAUQUA COALITION SHARES PRIDE SURVEY RESULTS

During the 2018/2019 school year, the Hope Chautauqua Coalition administered the Pride survey to Chautauqua County students in grades 8, 10 and 12. The survey is given every couple of years to our youth and is designed to identify strengths, areas of concerns, monitor their health and well-being, and determine the extent and nature of drug use by the youth in Chautauqua County.

Trends, and students themselves, are constantly shifting and evolving, and surveys are a critical component in learning and evaluating what is happening within the community. They create a scientific platform to help identify positive and negative behaviors that students have in our area. This knowledge gives us a basis for implementing change. The more we learn about what is taking place, the more we can work toward positive change. Trends can appear quickly, as we saw with vaping in 2018. This is just one reason why these surveys are so important. We don't want to miss our best opportunity for intervention and support for those students at risk.

While the survey provides transparency into the state of our youth, it also demonstrates where parents, schools, and communities can fill in the gaps and be a driving force for change.

Click [here](#) to see the infographic of current substance use among Chautauqua County youth.

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