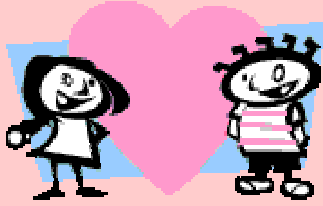


January/
February
2011-2012



BDMS NEWSLETTER

BDUSD

From the Principal...

Greetings from Beaver Dam Middle School and Happy New Year! It's hard to believe the New Year has arrived and we have completed the first semester of the 2011-2012 school year. We have enjoyed a great first semester at BDMS. Prior to winter break, BDMS students participated in numerous community events including concert programs, sporting events and an all-school community food drive. The BDMS food drive was sponsored by the Builders Club and held during the week of December 12th. BDMS students and staff collected more than 1600 food items, all of which were donated to the local food pantry. Congratulations to students and staff for making our food drive a big success and congratulations to all music directors, coaches and students for the holiday concert programs and winter athletic performances during the month of December.

As I look back on this first semester, I am proud of the accomplishments our school has made in the areas of standards-based grading and reporting, reading and math interventions, and the provision of extended learning opportunities designed to help students with homework completion and assessment re-do's. All of these accomplishments directly support our mission at BDMS, *every student, every day, success is the only option!* Thank you parents for your efforts in helping your child succeed in school. I look forward to second semester and the great opportunities that lie ahead for students, staff and our families at BDMS!

Tonya Broyles-Brouillard

CALENDAR

January



- 26 (Thurs.) - 2nd Quarter Incentive
- 27 (Fri.) - Report cards mailed home
- 30 (Mon.) - 8th Grade High School Orientation Night 6:00-7:30 p.m.

February



- 6 (Tues.) - Parade of Bands 7:30 p.m. HS
- 13 (Mon.) - 7th/8th Grade Band Concert 7:00 p.m. MS
- 17 (Fri.) - Builders Club Dance 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- 24 (Fri.) - NO SCHOOL

March



- 1 (Thurs.) - 7th/8th Grade Chorus Concert 7:00 p.m. HS
- 5-9 (Mon.-Fri.) - Spirit Week
- 8 (Thurs.) - LATE START—classes begin at 9:40 a.m.
- 9 (Fri.) - Student Council Spirit Week Dance 3:00-5:00 p.m.
- 13 (Tues.) - Student-Led Conferences 3:00-6:30 p.m.
- 15 (Thurs.) - Student-Led Conferences 3:00-6:30 p.m.
- 19 (Mon.)-23 (Fri.) - Spring Break



Reminders

A reminder that doors open at 7:10 for students. Please do not drop your child off before this time, as supervision begins at 7:10, at which time students are allowed in the cafeteria and/or auditorium.

Middle School Office Hours: 7:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m. Monday -Thursday,
7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Friday

YEARBOOKS are on sale until January 31 for \$15.00 in the Main Office. Payment may be made with cash or a check. Checks should be made out to BDMS.

Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed Box Tops to BDMS. We are grateful for the money received from your contributions. Please continue to send your box tops to BDMS.

Reminder...when you call school with a message for your child, please call the Student Office at extension 3119 or 3137. Thank you!

"Let's Talk"

Please tune in to the Beaver Dam Unified School District's "Let's Talk" radio program on WBEV 1430 AM on the fourth Thursday of each month from 11:10 a.m.—11:50 a.m. when Superintendent Steve Vessey will talk about district topics.

Call-ins are welcomed during the program.



BDMS Automated Attendance Caller

Beginning on January 30th, Beaver Dam Middle School will use an automated calling system to contact families when their child is absent and the school has not been notified. This automated calling system has been very effective at our high school and some elementary schools. However, as with any new system there may be a few "wrinkles" to iron out once the system has been initiated. Thank you for your patience!

We all know how important consistent attendance is for a student's academic success. It is also equally important for students to arrive to school on time (7:35 a.m.). Students who arrive late miss important homeroom announcements and all late arrivals must report to the Student Office prior to going to their locker and first hour class. Thank you parents for monitoring your child's attendance and arrival time to school. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

If you should have any questions regarding the automated attendance caller system, please contact Cyd Rohr, BDMS attendance secretary at 885-7365 ext. 3119.

House 6Blue

Reminders:

- * Make sure your child is filling out their planner every day for every subject.
- * Check over your child's planner and sign every day.
- * Check with your child if they need to replace any supplies: folders, notebooks, glue, etc.
(Many supplies are running out or falling apart from use.)

Social Studies: Mrs. Bowser bowserj@BDUSD.org 885-7525, ext. 3108

It's the end of Ancient Times! Students are wrapping up ancient civilizations with the Roman Empire. Next, students travel in time to the Middle Ages. We will continue to work on reading maps, learning about timelines and identifying important people, places and ideas in history. A new skill students will work on is reading nonfiction textbooks and text tools. There are lots of fun movies, games, books and activities connected to the Middle Ages: check them out for you and your 6th grader to enjoy.

Reading News: Mrs. Caul cault@bdusd.org or 885-7525, ext. 4251

Prior to winter break we wrapped up our Fantasy/Science Fiction genre study by creating Far-Out Travel Brochures. The students did an awesome job creating brochures for their "fantastical" settings! We have started exploring Mythology. The students have been researching gods and goddesses, learning about myths from various cultures, and reading myths of their choice. A few of the skills we will focus on during this unit are using context clues to solve new vocabulary, supporting our predictions, connections, and inferences using evidence from the text, and determining the main idea.

Please remember to keep encouraging your son/daughter to keep reading at home as the reading requirement is 100 minutes each week. **Reading at home is extremely important;** especially if you want your child to become a better reader. If you don't have books at home and your son/daughter is not bringing books home, please contact me!

Happy Reading!

cault@bdusd.org



EEN: Brett Hupf hupfb@BDUSD.org 885-7525, ext.1311

On the EEN front we continued to make the final push towards the end of the semester. I have been very happy with some of the gains that I have seen over the past several weeks. My students have been spending a lot of time continuing to work on basic organizational skills as well as improving academics in specific areas of need in their core classes. Parents, please continue to encourage your child to touch base with all of their teachers and be accountable for any late/missing work.

Math: Stephanie Miller millers@BDUSD.org 885-7525, ext. 3110

This quarter students will be continuing their study of rational numbers. In the next months, please take the time to talk to your child about what they are working on in their math workbooks and check that these are coming home regularly. As you discuss the workbook, please do not show your child how to arrive at the answers. Instead, ask your child questions about what they do know how to do or to think of similar problems that were completed in class. If they do not know where to start after some prompting, it may be a problem that we have not discussed in class yet. (The workbook questions do not follow the same order as concepts are discussed in class.) Having your child explain their work is a great way to help them clarify their thinking, review their skills, and encourages him/her to communicate mathematically. As I will be on maternity leave in early February, returning in early May, all e-mails/phone messages will be forwarded to my long-term substitute.

Language: David Tietz tietzd@BDUSD.org 885-7525, ext. 3152

We have recently finished our unit on compare and contrast writing. As a final quarter project, students wrote an essay, based on their knowledge from social studies class, comparing and contrasting ancient Athens and Sparta. Looking ahead to third quarter, students will begin to examine strategies and techniques for writing persuasive essays, culminating in the composition of an essay on a self-selected topic.

House 6Red

Reading

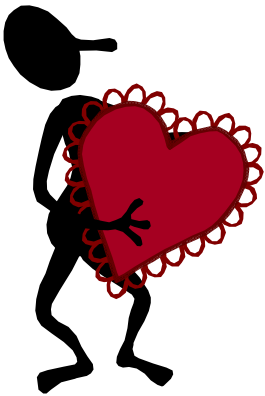
After Winter Break, students began reading *Greek Mythology*. Following *Greek Mythology*, students will begin reading *Historical Fiction* books. Some reminders:

- Students should be reading at home, 100 minutes a week
- We will continue focusing on reading strategies, comprehension and vocabulary
- Your child will be journaling while we read

Please call or e-mail Sam Premo Panetti with any questions or concerns.

premos@bdusd.org, 885-7525, ext. 3104

Math



Students worked on fractions for most of 2nd quarter. In this unit: Bits and Pieces 1, students were:

- Practicing naming fractions
- Converting fractions to decimals and then to percentages

It is extremely important for kids to know multiplication tables when working with fractions.

As well as:

- Common factors
- Multiples to make equivalent fractions,
- Reduce fractions
- To change mixed numbers into improper fractions and vice versa

All of these things build on one another and are intertwined in math.

Parents, please have your child spend 5-10 minutes practicing times tables nightly. Also, your child should be spending 10-15 minutes daily going over his/her daily notes to make sure he/she understands what is being discussed in class.

In our next unit students will be adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions.

A reminder about Homework Helpers: In your child's notebook binder, you will find examples, vocabulary packets and helper sheets. These items should be coming home with your child to help him/her with homework. The notebook binder is why the textbook is not needed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or e-mail Mrs. Stelsel at stelsels@bdusd.org, 885-7525, ext. 3105.

Mrs. Stelsel - House 6Red Math Teacher

Social Studies

While we finish up with the Ancient Units of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece and Rome we move toward the Middle Ages. In this unit we will discuss the typical theme of knights, kings, queens, bubonic plague and much more. We will also be including the reading and language arts classes in this unit. As we did with Ancient Greece and mythology, we will be engaging students in a study of the time period. We will focus our reading and language arts classes on a variety of literature from the Middle Ages as well as stories set in that time period. House 6Red will also be involved in a simulation called "King Lexicon". This program works with language skills and includes a group of teams attempting to solve challenges and quests.

Mr. Ambrosius



House 6Red (cont.)

Science

Hello! I am Melissa Schulz, long-term substitute for Mrs. Faust who is away on maternity leave. I am a recent graduate from UW - La Crosse where I majored in middle childhood/early adolescence education and minored in science. While in college, I taught in the BDUSD as a summer school teacher for three years. Upon graduation, I also taught at BDMS at the end of the 2010-11 school year as a long-term substitute for technology. The past weeks have been filled with exciting science labs and learning. While here, I have also had the opportunity to learn more about our science students. It is very exciting to work with the students and staff at BDMS!

Students are working hard in our current unit, electricity and magnetism, where we are working to answer the question: "How do electrical and magnetic fields come together to make a generator run?" Before the break, students focused their learning on gaining a better understanding for atomic theory. We are currently learning about circuits which can also lead into exciting labs.

Please call or e-mail Melissa Schulz with any questions or concerns.

schulzm@bdusd.org 885-7525, ext. 3106

Language Arts

Past and Present Writing Assignments:

- Sequence, writing in order
- Compare and contrast, looking at how things are the same and different
 - ◇ Cleopatra and Lady Macbeth—Essay format
 - ◇ *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* and *Snow White in the City*—Business letter format

Future Writing Assignments:

- Persuasive— writing to change someone's mind
- Expository—writing to inform
 - ◇ Students create a newspaper

Vocabulary

- Greek and Latin prefixes, suffixes and roots
 - ◇ Helps to decode unfamiliar words

Thank you for attending class with your child. It was very heartwarming for me to see so much support for our future community leaders and the importance on intellectuality.

Mrs. Kerry Stoehr stoehrk@bdusd.org 885-7525, ext. 3151

For those who could not make it for Spelling Project day:

Please mark your calendars and look for more information to come. Just a head's up, on March 13th and 15th we have student-led conferences. Mrs. Stelsel would like to have a math night (March 14 - Pi Night) hosted by the teachers of House 6Red.

If your child is struggling, please encourage him/her to seek some extra help. A reminder that we have after school study hall on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays and it is held in my room on Mondays and Thursdays so extra help can be given.



7th Grade Language Arts Ms. Vessey & Mrs. Lundin

In seventh grade, team building has played an integral role in creating our writing community during first semester. Students worked together to build foam-cup pyramids without touching the cups! Each team had a rubber band and four strings as a vehicle to pick up the cups. Next, they worked together to see which team could build the tallest straw tower, but they had to find ways to communicate other than talking. Lastly, teams raced to see who could unwrap packs of gum the fastest....with fuzzy socks covering their hands!



After each team-building activity, students worked to identify accurate adverbs, action verbs, descriptive adjectives, and specific nouns to write about the experience. Students have been busy writing, writing, and more writing. They've been focusing on choosing the best words to communicate their messages to readers, revising their writing to continually improve, and editing for those pesky errors that many of us adults struggle with when we write! Last quarter, students also continued to deepen their understanding of a graphic organizer called 4-square. Students use this same organizer across the curriculum, which really builds their understanding of concepts in other classes. All of these skills played a role in building a strong foundation for second semester when students will be creating more technical writing such as persuasive, problem and solution, and compare and contrast. Please enjoy the photographs of our team-building activities and examples of onomatopoeia poems written second quarter.



Hiss

A death adder skillfully defeating his prey.
Cold water sibilating as it hits the stove.
A threatened cat menacingly escaping.
Cobras carefully warning off predators.
A cat desperately escaping a dog.
A popped tire hissing like a snake.
A mongoose painfully trying to defeat a predator of equal size.
A train slowing to a complete halt.
Hissing is a leaf whispering across the ground.

Trickle

The horror tingling down a spine as if it were brutally breaking.
The rain leaving the gloomy sky and teasing the freezing air with a splat to the ground.
Tears gently brushing her cheeks as they leave her glassy eyes and fall to the floor.
Snow gradually dancing and hitting the window as if the unique flakes were attacking the inside.
Love is poison, slowly moving through my system, breaking all of my defenses with time, and I just don't get how something so deadly can feel so right.
Racing red, blue, and black paint carefully dripping down the gang tag inhabited wall.
Water being released to its original home after being robbed from its destiny in the rough ocean.
The colorful sunset piercing my brain and attacking my heart as the purples, pinks, oranges, and blues drip into my honey brown eyes right before the twinkling stars appear in the moonlight sky.

~Alia

onomatopoeia

[on-uh-mat-uh-pee-uh]

the naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it

Get The Scoop



In December, House 7 Blue recognized students who have contributed to creating a positive learning community, made significant improvements, and/or have taken responsibility for learning. In November, each homeroom wrote examples of how students take responsibility for learning and contribute to a positive school environment. The ideas were written on paper scoops of ice-cream. A display of everyone's ideas was set up in the hall and discussed in homeroom. Each month of school, 7 Blue teachers will reward a different group of students who demonstrate these positive behaviors. Students received framed certificates of recognition, Smencils, and an ice cream treat.

Pictured above from bottom left: Veronica G., Selena E., Josie H., Ashley A., and Olivia S.

Middle row from left: Kennedy F., Ellyce K., Jazmyn L., Sarah W., Jessica E., Lorena G., and Sarah M.

Back row from left: James J., Melanie K., Alexis C., Davis B., Hunter W., Zackeri H., Hailey K., Yulissa M., and Angel D.

BEAVER FITNESS FEVER FAMILY FITNESS FLURRY

Fitness Greetings to All:

The Beaver Dam Unified School District Physical Education and Health Departments, along with our Beaver Fitness Fever Community Partners, are teaming up this year to get through the long Wisconsin winter, in top physical condition, and we would love for you to join us! As part of our on-going effort to improve the overall wellness of our K-12 students, emphasize healthy eating, participation in daily physical activity and help students and their families develop healthy lifestyles for a lifetime, we are kicking the New Year off right with the Beaver Fitness Fever Family Fitness Flurry!!

The Goal: We are working together with our partners to create six weeks of daily Family Friendly Fitness and Nutrition opportunities all over the community!

Starting January 27, 2012 and running until March 10, 2012

Keep your eyes and ears open for more information including our six week calendar of Fitness Fever events!! No better time to make a change, create a healthy habit, spend some time with your loved ones, and get some physical activity, than now!

7th Grade Math

Ms. Bindl, Mr. Braemer, Mrs. Boucher

Our current unit of study in 7th grade math is focusing on the Common Core standard area of Expressions and Equations. Students are being introduced to the basics of algebra by solving real-life and mathematical problems using algebraic expressions and equations. Our focus has been on using tables, graphs, and equations to solve problems. Students have been learning how to identify variables, describe patterns of change, and use algebraic symbols to write equations. This is only the beginning. There is a lot more algebra to come!

The following websites are excellent resources for extra practice on a variety of math skills.

National Library of Virtual Manipulatives

nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html

NCTM Illuminations

<http://illuminations.nctm.org/>

Skill Practice & Other Great Math Websites

www.ixl.com

www.math.com

www.mathgoodies.com

www.coolmath.com

www.aaamath.com

www.mathplayground.com

www.flashcardmachine.com/

www.coolmath-games.com/index.html



8th Grade

The 8th grade students have been continuing to prepare for their transition to the high school. The high school guidance counselors will be visiting the 8th graders at the end of January in order to share and discuss course selections. Students will also be given the opportunity to communicate with some high school students about ways to be successful during their transition to high school.

In December we were fortunate to have Tim Scott, a presenter focusing on the Holocaust and putting the "hate flame" out in our lives, interact with our students. He walked us through a journey with a Jewish family during the Holocaust. Following the presentation, students met in small groups to discuss and reflect. Letters were also written and sent to Mr. Scott sharing their feelings on the presentation.

We would also like to welcome Miss Debra Lew to House 8 Blue. She is a student teacher who will be working with Mr. Pearson in English.

As a reminder, we would like to encourage all parents/guardians to monitor your child's grades on Skyward Family Access. Please talk with your child about the skills they are learning in each class along with how they are attaining their goals set at first quarter conferences. The 8th grade teachers are always available to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Builders Club Food Drive

Spearheaded by the Builders Club, Beaver Dam Middle School students collected food items for the needy during the week of December 12-16. The homeroom from each grade with the most food items donated won a donuts and milk breakfast which was served by Builders Club members. The winning homerooms were: 6th Grade - Mrs. Stoehr's, 126 items; 7th Grade: - Mrs. Plier's, 132 items; and 8th Grade - Mr. Mitchell's, 175 items. In all, 1656 items were collected for the Dodge County Food Pantry.

Pictured are 8th grade students who helped deliver items. A special thank you to Mr. Anderson, one of our custodians, for loading all of the food on to a van that carried it to the food pantry.



Art Department

Hello from Beaver Dam Middle School Art Department!

Eighth graders are presently finishing up their comic book inspired masks and beginning to glaze their coiled pottery. We are very excited to finish up our projects and have our glazed pottery go through the kiln.

Students in eighth grade Art Talents classes had their first "art night" after school in December in the art room at BDMS. We had a blast making whatever we were interested in as well as having some time to work on assigned artwork for class. Yummy snacks and music added to an evening of fun art making.

Look for grade eight photography prints that were created by Multimedia students that are on display at the Seippel Art Center this January 15-February 12. The show is called "Through the Lens", an exhibit by the Lightcatchers Photo Club and other area photographers. How exciting it will be to have close to fifty student artworks on display in our community.

Mrs. Schumacher



Art News From Ms. Gannon's World:

I have welcomed my 3rd rotation of 7th graders. We are currently creating clay critter banks. The artists are refining their hand building skills. What a vast array of animals we came up: from silly snails to dramatic dragons! Our next unit we plan to visit is Pointillism and Surrealism; we love our 'Isms' in 7th grade.

My 8th grade artists spent the past few weeks watching "The Joy of Painting." They were introduced to the artistic styling's of Bob Ross. They learned how to make 'happy little trees' and 'happy little clouds.' Each artist painted along with Bob while watching his TV show, which is still running on PBS. We all highly recommend you check it out if you get the chance. Ask your artists to see their final product: very impressive!

Open Enrollment



APPLICATION DATES

FEBRUARY 6-24, 2012

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

FEBRUARY 24, 2012

NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M.

The Wisconsin Open Enrollment Program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school in another school district.

Families who might be moving out of the Beaver Dam Unified School District and wish for their children to continue attending in the district, need to complete an open enrollment application for each child.

Apply online through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website at

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/>

[psctoc.html](http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html)

Paper applications are also available.

For more information or to request a paper application, contact Mary Posthuma at (920) 885-7470, ext. 1114 or posthumam@bdusd.org or visit our website at www.beaverdam.k12.wi.us.

NOTE

This is not the same procedure as applying for an In-district Elementary School Attendance Waiver.

These forms are available in May.



Nurses Notes

Louise Wilson RN, BSN, MS, NCSN

Health Service Supervisor

Adolescent Prescription Drug Abuse

This February, Beaver Dam community members will be hearing a lot of information about the abuse of prescription drugs. That's because several organizations, including the BDUSD, have come together to alert the community to the increasing danger of prescription drug abuse, particularly in adolescents.

Although we often hear about young people abusing "street" drugs, such as marijuana and methamphetamine, prescription medicines have become the second most frequently abused type of drug among 12-17 year-olds (2002 National Survey on Drug Use and Health). In fact, most teens (56 percent, or 13.4 million) find that prescription medicines are easier to get than illegal drugs (www.family.samhsa.gov).

Abuse of prescription drugs covers a wide variety of medications. The prescription drugs most abused by teens are "opioid" pain relievers such as Darvon®, Dilaudid®, OxyContin®, Vicodin®, and products containing codeine or morphine. Teen abuse of prescription drugs also includes sedatives, tranquilizers, and stimulants such as Ritalin®, Concerta®, and Adderall®, which are known for treating attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

A False Sense of Security

Because prescription drugs have been tested and are prescribed by doctors, adolescents may see no harm in using them, even if the medication was prescribed for someone else. Taken by the right person, at the right time, and in the right amount, prescription drugs are generally safe. Yet, like other forms of substance abuse, misuse of prescription drugs is risky. Abuse of pain relievers and drugs used to treat anxiety and sleep disorders can lead to dependence and addiction. In fact, abusing prescription pain relievers can be "as dangerous-and addictive-as using street narcotics and other illicit drugs" (National Institute on Drug Abuse).

High doses of stimulants, used to treat conditions such as ADHD and obesity, can cause high body temperatures and irregular heartbeat, paranoia, and hostility. In addition, teens may increase the risk by "pharming" mixing prescription drugs-or combining them with alcohol or illegal drugs.

Be Alert

To help prevent prescription drug abuse in your home, monitor your child. You can store prescription drugs where teens cannot get them, watch for missing drugs, keep an eye out for drugs in a teen's possession, and look for physical signs of use. Prescription drugs are amazingly easy to buy on the Internet, so look at the history of Web sites your teen has visited and check credit card receipts.

Set an Example

Still, there is more to prevention than being watchful. Youth take cues from their parents. So, set a good example in your approach to prescription drugs:

- Only use medications when necessary. Being quick to seek prescriptions and to constantly reach for the medicine cabinet can give kids the idea that there's a "pill for every ill."

- Consider non-drug measures such as exercise, relaxation, meditation, or massage for relief of minor pain or other situations when prescription drugs are not vital to your health. Tell your kids about these options and when they apply.
- Show caution in taking prescription drugs or giving them to family members. Openly read instructions regarding prescribed doses, time between doses, and the need to avoid substances such as alcohol and certain other medications or foods when taking a prescription.
- Keep medicine containers closed and out of the reach of young children and pets.
- Ensure safety. Check labels about what not to do, for example: driving, using machinery, or climbing ladders when taking prescription drugs-and enforce these safeguards with family members.
- Be consistent. Making exceptions because you're too stressed out, uncomfortable, or in a hurry undermines your stance on prescription drugs.
- Start early. Reinforcing a message of caution and restraint before your child reaches adolescence can build a solid foundation for resisting temptations and outside influences
(<http://family.samhsa.gov/be/prescriptionharm.aspx?printid=1&:>).

While most teens do not abuse prescription drugs, the rapid growth of the problem shows that parents need to pay attention. Stay alert, set a good example, and talk to your child about the dangers of abusing prescription drugs.

Conversation Starters

1. Why do some people gulp down something without knowing if it's bad for them?
2. Do you think medications can do harm?
3. What does "illegal drug" mean to you?



Proper Disposal of Unused Prescription Medication

DO NOT flush unused medication down the toilet! It contaminates the water supply. Instead:

1. Take advantage of community pharmaceutical take-back programs that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal.*
2. Mix prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter, and put them in containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags, to make sure the drugs aren't found and abused by someone else.

Sources:

http://www.theantidrug.com/drug_info/prescription_drugs.asp

National Institute on Drug Abuse

Parents. The Anti-Drug. [What's Driving Teens to Abuse Prescription Drugs?](http://www.family.samhsa.gov)

www.family.samhsa.gov