FOCUS eNewsletter

September 16, 2014

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REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

11th Annual Alabama Youth Council (AYC)
October 7, 2014

Montgomery Performing Arts Center (MPAC) Theatre at the Renaissance Hotel and Spa in Montgomery, AL

Professional development will be provided for STI-PD and Social Work.

Registration deadline is October 2nd!

For more information and to register visit the FOCUS website (http://thefocusprogram.com/alabama-youth-council/)!

UPDATE YOUR SCHOOL'S FOCUS REGISTRATION FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR!

Please visit www.thefocusprogram.com (http://www.thefocusprogram.com/registration/) to register. You can also sign-up for the eNewsletter to stay informed of monthly news and activities. There is no charge!

When we receive your updated registration, you will receive the Facilitator Page User Name and Password for updated information.

Mix It Up at Lunch Day is set for Oct. 28, just six weeks away. Now is the perfect time to join thousands of other schools dedicated to creating inclusive climates where all students can thrive.

Mix It Up is designed to improve intergroup relations by asking students to break out of their normal social circles and connect with someone new over lunch. It's a simple act with profound implications; social and behavioral research suggests that positive interactions across racial and ethnic lines can reduce prejudice.

Want to join a campaign with a 12-year track record of success involving more than 6,000 schools nationwide last year? The first step is easy. Register your school online. Once you register, you will receive links to free materials to help you plan and enjoy Mix

It Up at Lunch Day on Oct. 28, plus ideas to extend the Mix It Up energy throughout the year.

For more information and to register visit the Mix It Up webpage (http://www.tolerance.org/mix-it-up/what-is-mix).

Reminder

October-
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
National Bullying Prevention Month
October 19-25 – National Teen Driver Safety Week
October 23-31 - Red Ribbon Week

November 20 - Great American Smoke Out; and

December 1 - World AIDS Day

Welcome to our new FOCUS Schools!

Clements High School
Limestone County

Florala High School
Covington County

Limestone Career Technical Center
Limestone County

Pike County High School
Pike County

Susan Moore High School
Blount County

Tuscaloosa County High School
Tuscaloosa County

& thank you to the schools who updated their information!

Chilton County High School
Chilton County

Fayette County High School
Fayette County

Florence High School
Lauderdale County

Foley High School
Baldwin County

Georgiana School
Butler County

Handley High School
Randolph County

Madison County High School
Madison County

Midfield High School
Jefferson County

Sylvania High School
DeKalb County

FOCUS School of the Year

New Guidelines for FOCUS School of the Year! We will no longer be selecting a FOCUSED and Featured School of the Month. All applications will be submitted by April 16, 2015, to be considered for FOCUS School of the Year.

The FOCUS School of the Year was created to acknowledge schools that have implemented the FOCUS program within their school and, as a result, have created successful prevention activities and projects.

Each school will need to submit a narrative of their activities from August 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015, with attached pictures, news articles, or other supporting materials in order to be considered for the FOCUS School of the Year. If you would like to submit a video of your activity you can download your video on the FOCUS YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/AlabamaFOCUS.

FOCUS School of the Year and runners-up will be announced, and receive awards, on April 30, 2015 at the 12th Annual FOCUS Rally at Shocco Springs in Talladega, AL!

Please see the FOCUS School of the Year flyer for complete information (http://www.thefocusprogram.com/uploadedFiles/File/FOCUS_School_of_the_Year_Flyer.pdf).

-NAPPP Conference on January 21-23, 2015
(www.jennifermoorefoundation.com/events/national-conference/)

-FOCUS Rally on April 30, 2015

Children's Mental Health Week

The Jefferson County Mental Health Group will once again host the annual "Children's Mental Health Week" the first week in May 2015. This is a public awareness initiative promoted by their Mental Health Group since 2011.

Eligibility: All schools and community organizations are encouraged to participate
Theme: "Who Am I"
Artwork Requirements: It must be original artwork based on this year's theme. It can be any media: photography, stories, essays, poems (no longer than 300 words, legible and proof read for grammar/spelling); paintings, drawings, paper mache sculptures. Artwork should be no smaller than 8"x10" and no larger than 11"x14". Submit artwork with student's first name, school or organization and age of student.

More information can be found online at the SAMHSA website (http://beta.samhsa.gov/prevention-week/about).

The FOCUS eNewsletter provides links to articles and websites with information on current events, research, funding opportunities and other items related to the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other adolescent risk behaviors. The inclusion of this information does not imply endorsement by FOCUS and the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position, policies or views of FOCUS.