

# PARENTING GAZETTE

*Parenting Just Got Easier*

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## **Boys Better at Math than Girls? Not So!**

In the largest study of its kind, girls and boys were found to be equal in their ability to do math. The results of a recent study of students in grades 2 through 11 conducted by the University of Wisconsin refute the myth that boys are better at math than girls.

*Journal of Science*

## **Children's Obesity Rate is High, But Stable**

A study of U.S. children and teens, ages 2 – 19 years, indicates that the rate of obese and very overweight youth has remained at 32 percent for the past few years, after a steady increase since 1980.

*Centers for Disease Control*

## **Want Your Child to be Successful in School? Discourage Alcohol & Other Drug Use**

The results of the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth Survey given to district 7th graders and a large sample of CV 9th and 11th graders in February, 2008, shows clearly that students that do not use tobacco, alcohol and other drugs are much more likely to get good grades than students that use. These results were similar to those of other Macomb County school districts.

*Chippewa Valley Coalition for Youth and Families*

## **Online Predators Less Likely – Bullying and Pornography Exposure Increasing**

Children 10 through 17 years old are less likely to be solicited by an on-line predator, but more likely to be bullied by peers and exposed to pornography. A recently released 2005 study of 1,500 children found a decline in predatory contacts from a study 5 years earlier. However, 34% of the children in the study said they were exposed to pornography (an increase of 9%) and 9% said they had experienced cyberbullying (an increase of 3%). The need for parental monitoring of the computer use of children and teens was noted.

*New Hampshire Crimes Against Children Research Center*

## **Chippewa Valley Schools Study: Parents - The Answer to Teen Drug Use**

Results of focus groups conducted by Dr. Kathleen Zimmerman-Oster, University of Detroit Mercy, in February, 2008, with 9th, 11th, and 12th graders at all district high schools showed youth believe that parents are the answer to decreasing teen use of alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs. Students at Chippewa Valley, Dakota, and Mohegan High Schools reported the need for parents to "be parents, not friends", supervise parties and gatherings, remain involved, and set a good example as a means to decrease teen use.

*Chippewa Valley Coalition for Youth and Families*

The Chippewa Valley Coalition for Youth and Families joins parents, school and community in promoting safe, healthy and drug-free youth and supporting families. For more information, please call 586/723-2360.