

***THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS
OF
SUFFOLK (SCPA) AND NASSAU (NCPA) COUNTIES***

INFORMATION

TO HELP YOU SET UP A PARENT FORUM

AS PART OF

**AN ANTI-VIOLENCE INITIATIVE DAY PROGRAM
(BETTER KNOWN AS A.V.I.D.)
(IN HONOR OF THE SPIRIT OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING)**

**IN YOUR PARENT-TEACHER
ASSOCIATION/ORGANIZATION**

For **information and registration**, contact anyone of the following:

In Suffolk County:

Dr. John Kelly – (631) 912-2122

Dr. Peter Kanaris – (631) 979-2640

Dr. William M. Bennison – (631) 928-9112

In Nassau County:

Anne Adragna, Administrative Director – (516) 377-1010

Dr. Richard LaMonica – (516) 621-8211

Dr. Gloria Rothenberg – (516) 223-9318

Online A.V.I.D. information packets: <http://www.suffolkpsych.org/>

Summary of current projects on the following page.

COPING WITH VIOLENCE AMONG OUR YOUTH

2000-2001 SCHOOL YEAR

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS OF SUFFOLK (SCPA) AND NASSAU (NCPA) COUNTIES ARE TEAMING UP WITH LONG ISLAND SCHOOLS AND PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS IN AN ISLAND-WIDE EFFORT TO WAGE PEACE IN OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

The SCPA & NCPA **Anti-Violence Initiative Day**, better known as **A.V.I.D.**, has **two components** this year.

The first component is for schools. Starting **January 12, 2001** and thereafter, the SCPA & NCPA School-based Anti-Violence Task Force is again sponsoring **Anti-Violence Initiative Day (better known as A.V.I.D.) in honor of the spirit of the late Dr. Martin Luther King.** As last year, Island-Wide participating schools from elementary through high school will again hold anti-violence programs with input and assistance from the task force. Student forums and activities hosted by local school psychologists will be conducted during regular school hours. The 30 minute video special on violence and the warning signs of potential violent behavior, called "Fight for Your Rights," will be shown to older children and teenagers. This show was produced by the American Psychological Association (APA) and MusicTelevision (MTV). After viewing the video, psychologists will lead students in a discussion about their reactions to the show, how to spot the warnings signs of violent behavior, and ways to get help. A special "Warning Signs" guide on violence prevention co-produced by APA and MTV will be distributed.

A.V.I.D. day activities will also include: Signing of anti-violence pledges by students, staff, and parents, and signing on to perform random acts of kindness. Creative expression on the part of the students and their schools is enthusiastically encouraged to make this memorable day a resounding rallying point in an ongoing, year-after-year campaign to wage peace in our schools, in our homes, and on our streets.

The second component for PTAs and PTOs consists of a special program in which the 30 minute video on violence and the warning signs of potential violence will be shown to parents. This will be followed by forums for the parents on the warning signs of violence among youth, along with information and guidelines on how to better communicate with their children. Parents signing their own voluntary anti-violence pledges will conclude the program. PTAs and PTOs are asked to download the 17 page guide, entitled: "Violence Prevention and Crisis Response Guide for Parents" found on Suffolk County Psychological Association's website at: <http://www.suffolkpsych.org> on the homepage on the left-hand side. With input from their Superintendent of Schools, the **PTAs and PTOs** can then have the guide printed and distributed to parents attending the A.V.I.D. forums. The guide can also be distributed in a mailing to all parents within the school district. **For psychologists hosting** the forums for parents, a "warning signs for parents" kit and the video "Fight for Your Rights" can be obtained by calling 877.274.8787 ext. 135.

Some other resources online:

1) "**Bullying in the Schools: A National Problem**" plus the "**Violence Prevention and Crisis Response Guide for Parents**" mentioned above

<http://www.suffolkpsych.org/>

2) Anti-Violence Pledges and Pacts:

a) AOL'S PACT (Parents And Children Together).

<http://pact.aol.com/mynews/pact.adp>