



May 2008

Welcome to the Northfield Area Parent Communication Network's monthly e-newsletter! You are a member of a network of unbelievable parents that do make a difference and help create a healthier and safer community for all our youth.

Congratulations 2008 Grads!

What an exciting milestone for the Northfield High School graduates and parents! As you finalize plans for graduation parties, we encourage you to make this a safe celebration.

Members of the Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use and the Parent Communication Network overwhelming support making our community healthy and safe for all our children. One way we can do this at graduation time is to remember that alcohol and kids don't mix. Teenage drinking isn't safe and it is illegal.

Again, congratulations on your child's graduation.

Note: *The consumption of alcohol by youth under the age of 21 is illegal (MN Statue 340A.503).*

Growing Up Online

Today's teens are living their private lives in public. From the constant posting of photos, videos and personal feelings and data, our youth have no concept of privacy.

Moms, gone are the days of the secret diary or clandestine phone call. If you really want to bridge the digital divide, you need to log onto Facebook, MySpace or YouTube. **WARNING:** You might be surprised at what you find.

All of this is not only worrisome to parents – and in some cases dangerous for kids – but it could also have ramifications later on if a “private” post gets circulated in broader circles or an employer searches a new hire and discovers a “private” (and perhaps provocative) photo or video.

The excitement of self expression can overshadow just how dangerous cyberspace can be. Take the time to talk with your child about privacy and the internet.

Visit [PBS Growing Up Online](#) to learn more about growing up in the internet age.

Summertime

Last day of school for Northfield Public Schools, Thursday, June 5 with an early release time.

Let's remember that warmer weather and a vacation from the school routine doesn't mean the end of rules or responsibilities. Sit down with your children and discuss expectations and curfews. Have a safe and enjoyable summer break!

The Northfield Area Parent Communication Network's mission is to foster communication between parents, to help parents develop good parenting skills and to help prevent risky situations for our children