



## **For Immediate Release**

February 4, 2014

Contact: Mary Conway  
[mary@syvphp.org](mailto:mary@syvphp.org)  
686-0295

### **TEEN Drug Facts Week - February 3-7**

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) "Teen Drug Facts Week" is a national observance for teens that aims to shatter the myths around drug abuse. Community organizations and schools across the nation are joining forces to encourage teens (and parents) to get the undeniable scientific facts about drugs and drug abuse. Learning what science has taught us about drug abuse and addiction helps to counteract the myths kids receive from the internet, TV, movies, music and friends.

**Locally**, Drug Facts Week will be observed at Santa Ynez High School the week of February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Santa Ynez Valley Youth Coalition has been working with the Coalition's Youth Action Council (YAC) club on the high school campus, to share facts on drugs and to challenge common misinformation that often lead to increased drug use. Daily announcements will be made throughout the week to share important drug facts with the entire student body. Teacher and YAC Club Advisor Cheryl Lee, will work with her Video class to interview students on "Know the Facts" trivia questions regarding their perceptions on facts and common myths of drug use. The video class will share their project at a later date during their regular **Pirates Newscast** which is available on the School's website.

Lindsey Drewes, Youth Coalition Prevention Specialist an advisor to the Youth Action Council said that, "(A) solid foundation of knowledge prior to entering high school is critical since we know that drug use by youth escalates between 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades."

Ms. Drewes works on the front lines of the battle against youth drug use/abuse by teaching a curriculum to local middle school students that empowers them to make safe and healthy life style choices. "When given the truth about drugs and alcohol and how it can jeopardize your health and rob you of your dreams, young people can make an educated choice about drug use, added Drewes."

The Youth Coalition wants to remind parents and other care givers that knowledge is power and prevention is the key. Get the facts and better yet, talk with your child today. The information for parents is available on the NIDA website at [drugabuse.gov](http://drugabuse.gov). A separate teen link can be found at [teens.drugabuse.gov](http://teens.drugabuse.gov).

The Youth Coalition is sponsored by Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People who provides staffing and administrative support for its programs and services. If you would like to learn more about the Coalition, contact Mary Conway at 686-0295 [mary@syvphp.org](mailto:mary@syvphp.org).