

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the *Slick Tracy* Home Team Program!

The *Slick Tracy* Home Team Program for young people and their families is designed to prevent underage alcohol use. The program was developed as part of Project Northland, a research-based alcohol-use prevention program, and its development was funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, a division of the National Institutes of Health.

Each week for four weeks, your child will receive a *Slick Tracy* comic book at school—like the one sent home with this letter—to share with you at home. This comic book includes activities that will help you and your child relax and have fun together while discussing underage drinking concerns and alcohol-related issues faced by young people. Each comic book contains

- a *Slick Tracy* comic strip about two teenage super-sleuths: Slick Tracy and Breathtest Nobeera.
- activities for you and your child to do together as a Home Team.
(If your situation makes it impossible for you to participate, have another caring and responsible adult complete these activities with your child.)
- a scorecard to be signed by family members when the activities are completed.
- tips suggesting what you can do about alcohol-related issues that your child may face.

Specific directions for all activities are included in each comic book. When you have completed the activities for one week, please sign the scorecard and have your child return it to school. Students will be rewarded for each Home Team assignment they complete.

If, for any reason, you cannot participate, please have another trusted adult complete the comic book activities with your child. Please let me know if you would like help connecting with an adult who can support your child in this way.



The seriousness of alcohol and the role it plays in our children's lives point to the importance of prevention and of communicating to children about alcohol and the issues that come with its use. After all, alcohol-related car crashes are the number one cause of death for young people ages fifteen to twenty-four.

It is not always easy for parents and children to discuss alcohol issues together. The use of comics and humor in this program is designed to capture the interest of young adolescents and to make communication about this serious topic more comfortable.

Research has shown that children who know their parents disapprove of underage drinking are less likely to start drinking at an early age. This is important because the earlier young people start drinking, the more likely they are to have problems in school or become sexually active at an early age.

This prevention program has been created to give you a starting place for communicating with your child about alcohol. We hope that you and your family will find the program helpful and fun!

Sincerely,

Classroom Teacher