



LAKE COUNTY NARCOTICS AGENCY

JOHN A. GERM, Executive Director

P.O. Box 490, Painesville, Ohio 44077
(440) 350-3333 ● (440) 918-3333 ● Fax (440) 350-3313



Dear Parents:

We are proud to inform you that your child will have the opportunity to participate in P.L.U.S. (Peers Learning Usable Skills) as part of his/her fifth grade learning experience. P.L.U.S. is a program developed by the Lake County Narcotics Agency, which began in 1999 as a replacement for the D.A.R.E. program. The funding for P.L.U.S. is provided entirely by the Lake County Narcotics Agency bringing no cost to your school district.

P.L.U.S. is a sixteen-week program taught by a specially trained, uniformed officer of the Lake County Narcotics Agency. The main objective of the program is to help your child develop life skills that he/she can use regarding all types of pressure - including the pressure to use drugs. Some of the topics that will be discussed are consequences of drug use (alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, and inhalants), personal pressure, self-image, stress management, internet safety, assertiveness, decision making, and alternatives to drug use.

The Officer will meet individually with each fifth grade class once a week for a one-hour period of time. Each child will receive worksheets that coincide with the lesson being presented. The students will also receive a folder to organize the worksheets. In addition, we will also be sending home with your child a *weekly "Parent's Guide"*, which covers the basic information being taught in the P.L.U.S. class that week. If you are in need of a homework assignment or are missing your *Parent's Guide*, please visit our web site at www.lakecountyohio.gov/lcna/. You will need to have your schools P.L.U.S. username and password to access the assignments. This information will be given to your child during his/her first class.

We sincerely believe the P.L.U.S. program will benefit your child by providing accurate information regarding life-long resistance skills. However, there is nothing more beneficial for your child than frequent discussions with you about serious issues (drug use, violence, gang involvement, sex, etc.). Therefore, the majority of your child's homework assignments will need your active participation to assist him/her in developing appropriate responses to the questions.

If you have any questions, please contact the Principal of your school or you can reach me directly at the Lake County Narcotics Agency (440-350-3302 or 440-918-3302).

Sincerely;

Officer Willis

Officer George "Pat" Willis, M.ED.
Lake County Narcotics Agency
Lake County Drug Education Supervisor