

GARDEN CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

Today, a Safe Sun Program was presented to the sixth grade. The **Mollie Biggane Melanoma Foundation** sponsored this program. Mollie was a Garden City Middle School and High School graduate who lost her battle with melanoma at the age of 20.

The students viewed a 14 minute film, *The Dark Side of the Sun*, created and produced by the foundation. This educational video stresses the necessity of sun protection, dangers of tanning beds and the importance of mole identification.

Dr. John D. Clarke, "The Physician Musician," wrote and performed *Stop Melanoma*, an educational and entertaining rap song that reinforces safe sun behavior.

Dr. Ted Daly of Garden City Dermatology spoke to the students and answered their questions. Students received hats and "Have You Checked Your Skin Lately?" brochures.

The objective of this program is to motivate students to practice safe sun protection. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States. The National Cancer Institute informs us that melanoma is the second most common form of cancer for young adults in the 15-29 population. According to The Skin Cancer Foundation, when a person's first use of a tanning bed is before age 35, melanoma risk increases by 75%.

Please encourage your children to use sun protection. It will decrease their risk of developing skin cancer.

For more information, visit MOLLIESFUND.ORG

Sincerely,

Lorraine Phillips, R.N.

Nancy Crowley, R.N.