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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BUCYRUS SECONDARY SCHOOL TO HOST “DRAMA, DIVAS, AND DEVASTATION”**

**BUCYRUS, OH (Nov. 3, 2010)** –Helping students build healthy relationships while in school is highly important to the administration and staff of the Bucyrus City School District. In order to support the students in this venture, the District has been pursuing various prevention programs with both fresh and innovative educational and character building activities, in order to get the students talking. Thanks to a new relationship with Sessa Fowler Votaw and Girl Scouts of the USA, the search for such a program is now over, and on Nov. 15, 16, and 17, the sixth, seventh and eighth grade girls of the Bucyrus Secondary School will have the opportunity to experience a program they will never forget.

Votaw, a licensed social worker and Outreach Specialist for Girl Scouts of Ohio’s Heartland Council, has worked with school-aged teens for more than 10 years. She will present “Drama, Divas, and Devastation,” a two hour interactive workshop with the sole purpose of “giving girls the tools they need to bully-proof their lives.” The workshop will target several areas, but will focus on relational aggression, why the bully bullies, healthy relationships and how to resist relational aggression.

The program, which was well received by other students in Ohio, comes at no cost to the Bucyrus City School District and stems from programming which was launched more than two years earlier. “We originally began facilitating bully programs in 2008 with a Girl Scouts of the USA program called “Sister to Sister: The Darker Side of Friendship,” said Votow. “ As I got into the schools and worked with the junior high girls, I discovered other areas that I wanted to address in our workshops. After two years of working with girls and a great deal of research, we began presenting “Drama, Divas, and Devastation” last spring.”



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Middle School Guidance Counselor and event coordinator Anne Devine was happy to discover such a program existed and was available to students. “Although the program has been done at other schools in Ohio, this is the first year for something like this at Bucyrus,” said Devine. “I’m extremely excited our school is able and willing to host such a program, as these are great values to instill in our students while they are young. I feel it’s highly important that girls learn how to communicate with one another while being able to appropriately deal with the issues of adversity and diversity that they will more than likely experience at one point or another in their lives. I’m hoping to see positive changes in these girls as a result of our school’s participation in this event.”

Votaw is also excited about working with these young women and concluded by sharing a bit more about the efforts being made to help other young girls across the nation. “Girl Scouts of the USA is on the cutting edge of girl-related research. Since 2002, they have operated the Girl Scouts Research Institute, to address the complex and ever-changing needs of girls. Comprised of a dedicated staff and advisors who are experts in child development, academia, government, business, and the not-for-profit sector, the institute conducts groundbreaking studies, releases critical facts and findings, and provides resources essential for the advancement of the well-being and safety of girls living in today’s world.”

Devine is thankful for the hard work of women like Votaw and organizations like Girl Scouts of America, and hopes to see other programs like this implemented in the school systems. “It’s a way we can support and nurture positive changes in our students’ lives,” concluded Devine. “These young women are our futures. It’s imperative we take the time and find the resources to give them that emotional boost. If just one girl’s life is impacted for the better through the experience she has with “Drama, Divas, and Devastation,” then our efforts to find such a program were more than worth it.” If you have questions about the upcoming program, “Drama, Divas, and Devastation” or would like tips on how to help “bully-proof” your daughter’s life, contact Sessa Fowler Votaw at

[sfowler@gsosheartland.org](mailto:sfowler@gsosheartland.org).

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