

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK, MARCH 15 – 21, 2009

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVED SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT BY IMPLEMENTING PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AND EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

The National Poison Prevention Council has reported that more than 2 million poisonings are registered every year with various Poison Control Centers across the country. More than 90 percent of these poisonings occur in the home. The majority of non-fatal poisonings occur in children younger than six years old. Among adults, poisonings are listed as one of the leading causes of death. The U.S. Congress established National Poison Prevention Week in 1961. Thereafter, the Poison Prevention Week Council was organized to coordinate this annual event and promote poison prevention.

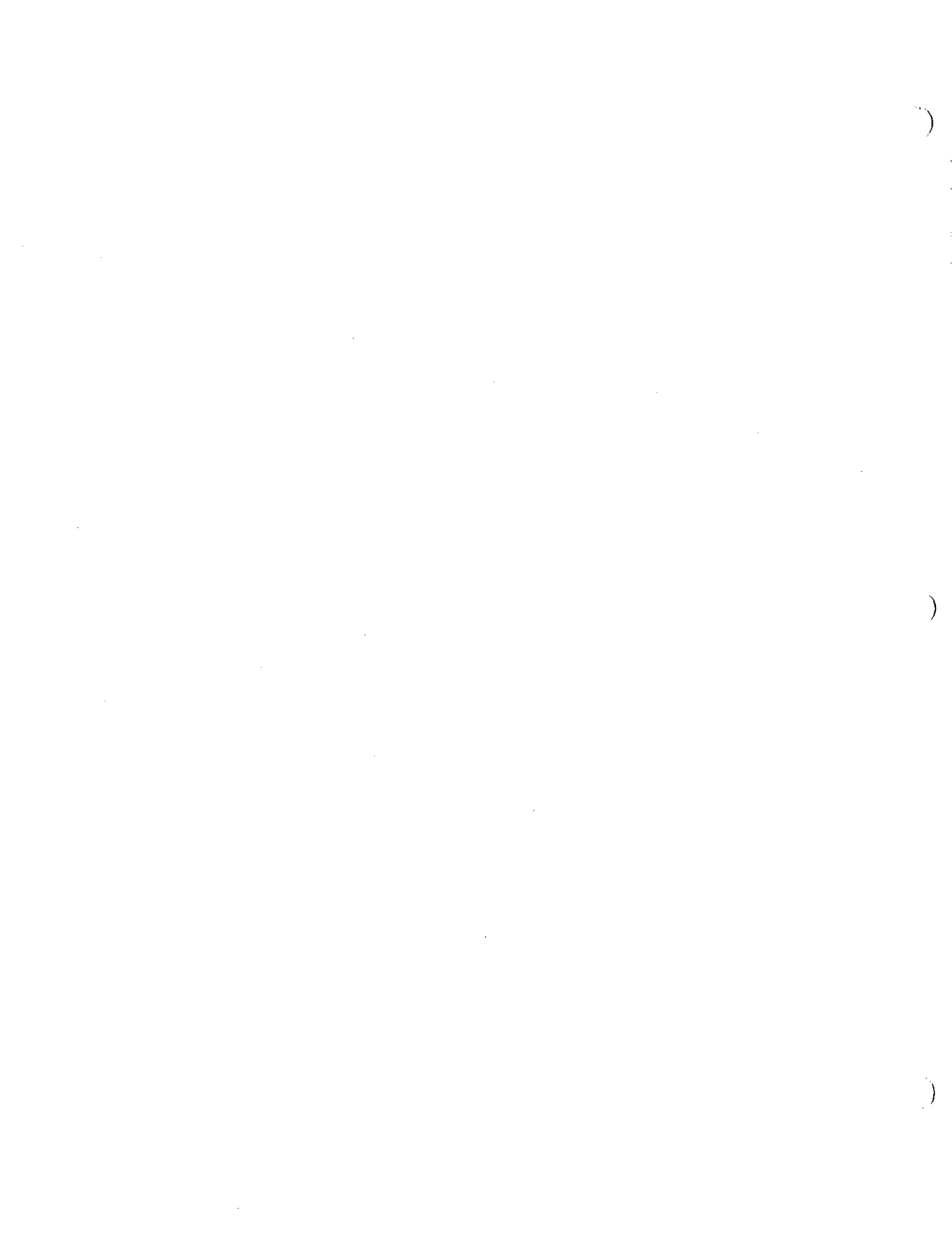
National Poison Prevention Week is now designated during the third week in March each year, with programs geared towards highlighting the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them. In observance of this life/safety initiative, the Miami-Dade County Injury Prevention Coalition (Injury Prevention Coalition), in collaboration with Jackson Health Systems Emergency Department (Jackson Memorial Hospital), promotes community involvement in poison prevention during the entire month of March. In this regard, these agencies produced the attached newsletter encouraging the community to perform a "Medicine Cabinet Check Up".

To advance this important safety initiative at Miami-Dade County Public Schools, it is recommended that the School Board endorse the third week in March as National Poison Prevention Week, and promote the annual event at all public schools.

ACTION PROPOSED BY

PERLA TABARES HANTMAN, BOARD MEMBER:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse National Poison Prevention Week, March 15 – 21, 2009.



March is National Poison Prevention Month
Protect yourself with a
Medicine Cabinet Check Up!

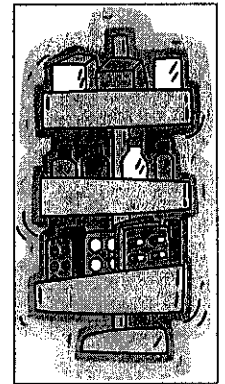
What's In Your Medicine Cabinet?

Studies show 66% of adults clean out their refrigerators regularly however only 31% of adults clean out their medicine cabinet annually.

While having medicine available is important, making sure it is not out of date is even more important. The bathroom and kitchen are not good places to store medicine. The bathroom is moist and humid and the heat in the kitchen may be detrimental to the medication. Ideally, medicines should be stored in a cool, dry, dark place such as in a locked box on a top shelf in a linen closet.

This Check Up Allows You To:

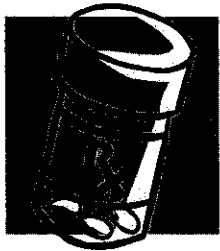
- Ensure you have the right medication on hand.
- Make sure all medicine is in its original, labeled container.
- Check for outdated, discolored or unfinished medicine. Safely discard old, expired or unused medications. Do not keep them around "just in case." Expired medicine loses effectiveness.
- Clean and organize the shelves or better yet get a much safer lock box.
- Restock with basic first aid items.



What should you have in your medicine box?

Band-Aids * Gauze * Tape * Hydrogen peroxide * Antibiotic ointment * Antacid for upset stomach * Antihistamine * Age appropriate pain reliever/fever reducer such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen * Tweezers * Scissors * Thermometer * Adult Cold medicine/decongestant * Elastic bandage for sprains/strains * Poison Control number 1-800-222-1222 * First aid information * Emergency phone numbers * A list of medications and allergies for each family member

Poison Safety Tips:



- ✓ Do not leave medications within reach of children.
- ✓ Double checking for the RIGHT medicine and the RIGHT dose .
- ✓ Keep medications in the containers they came in with child-resistant lids firmly in place.
- ✓ Use a proper dosing cup or tool for proper measurements.
- ✓ Kitchen utensils should not be used as a measurement tool.
- ✓ Do not confuse a teaspoon with a tablespoon—a tablespoon is three times larger than a teaspoon.
- ✓ Never take or administer medication in the dark.
- ✓ Inform your doctor of all the medications you are taking including herbal and over the counter products.