## Arielle Ponus Ridge Middle School

A letter to Parents everywhere.

People say silent is the loudest scream. They didn't lie, it truly is. Kids everywhere are silent, they never want to speak to anybody, because they don't think it helps or they don't think anyone cares. Maybe someone close to you doesn't but somebody does. People like Mrs. Katz do, if they didn't they wouldn't have tried to help.

It's so sad to see kids find drugs as their only escape from a harsh reality. What's keeping your kids from talking to you is they're afraid of the consequences, what you might say, and what your reaction might be.

It's been told blaming society is cliché, but it isn't. A lot of people are bad role models for children, and some things are pressuring the children into thinking it's right. Kids find drugs as their only escape, because those role models or their idols do. You need to let your child know they can be open with you, otherwise they'll be mute, and lost in a maze of their own thoughts. Hug your child, and tell them they can tell you anything so they know someone cares and they know someone will listen. Don't let drugs be your child's "best friend". Don't let their shadow be the only thing that's close to them. Bad friends lead to bad places, including your deathbed. Make sure you let your child know what they did was wrong but you forgive them. A second chance is like a beautiful flower beginning to bloom.