



Dear Fourth-and Fifth-Grade Teachers and/or School Nurses:

This letter will introduce the 2011-2012 version of "Tar Wars." We begin this school year with hopes of keeping more children tobacco free than ever before. We target fourth-and fifth-grade students because they are the age group most likely to START SMOKING and we want to provide tools to allow them to SAY NO TO TOBACCO.

For those of you who are not familiar with **Tar Wars**, it is a program for fourth and/or fifth graders that involves a one-hour class session and a follow-up poster contest. The first part is a lively, interactive lesson in which students learn why people smoke, the consequences of tobacco use, and the truth about tobacco advertising. A physician or health care provider presents the curriculum to the students in their classroom.

In the days following the presentation, the children are encouraged to create posters focusing on the positive effects of not using tobacco. The schools choose a winning poster to submit to MAFP before April 15, 2012. MAFP commends your school's ongoing commitment to youth tobacco prevention.

A panel of judges will choose the top five posters. The five state finalists will receive special prizes. **The state poster winner receives a complimentary trip to Washington, DC, along with a parent/guardian, to participate in the national poster contest in July 16-17, 2012. The national competition includes the opportunity to win great other prizes.**

Please respond by emailing Nancy Griffin at ngriffin@mo-afp.org to request scheduling presentations at your school. Our goal is to match each classroom with a presenter, and the presentation will take place from January through April 2012, OR A SCHEDULE TIME BETWEEN THE PRESENTER AND SCHOOL. This program is presented in your school at *no cost*. We'll respond to your request by mailing you a **Tar Wars Curriculum Tool Kit**. **If we cannot locate a presenter in your area, a School Nurse, Teacher, or Administrator may present the program. You may download and print the program guide from the website at www.tarwars.org. Other great information is also available at this website.** If you have additional questions regarding the Tar Wars program after visiting the website, *contact our office at (573)635-0830*. Please help the fight against youth tobacco addiction.

Nancy Griffin,
Education and Finance Director