



Director's Digest

November 21, 2008

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." - Mattie Stepanek

Expanding Our Proactive Partnership with the Foxborough Police Department

I am pleased that we have been able to expand the services provided to the school by the Foxborough Police Department. For years, Safety Officer/Detective Timothy O'Leary has been a strong presence at our school, proactively working with our staff and students, while also responding to any issues requiring his assistance. This year, we are fortunate to have the additional services of Officer Frank Azevedo, who has already begun working closely with our students on various safety issues. The following is a brief summary of this year's collaboration:

Halloween Safety Presentations

Officer Azevedo presented and discussed Halloween safety to grades 1 and 2. Each classroom watched a short video on Halloween Safety and had a discussion on what precautionary measures should be taken before and during Halloween. McGruff the Crime Dog discussed some trick or treat dos and don'ts, such as:

- traveling with an an adult
- staying together as a group
- trick or treating only at familiar houses
- wearing light-colored clothing
- wearing reflectors on your clothing
- bringing a flash light
- staying on sidewalks when walking
- eating candy only upon arriving home
- letting parents inspect candy

Each student received a Halloween Safety bag from the Foxborough Police Department.

Grades 4 and 5 – Protecting You/Protecting Me

Officer Azevedo has begun presenting a series of lessons to 4th on 5th grade students on the dangers of alcohol. The series is being conducted for approximately six weeks beginning this week. This curriculum will be presented during Health class and Mr. Lavery will work collaboratively with Officer Azevedo to develop lessons.

The curriculum, Protecting You/Protecting Me, was developed in collaboration with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and is the latest nationwide effort to prevent

alcohol use by youth. This program was created in response to a need for materials to help reach children before they have fully shaped their attitudes and opinions about alcohol use.

The curriculum informs children, educators, parents, and family caregivers about the latest brain research and developmental risks that are associated with the use of alcoholic beverages before age 21. Protecting You/Protecting Me has been designated a Model Program by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

I am thrilled to have Officer Azevedo working with the students at FRCS on preventing the risks that are associated with alcohol. I am also extremely appreciative to Foxborough Police Chief Edward O'Leary, Detective Tim O'Leary, and the entire department for these and other partnership opportunities.

FRCS Upper School Students Support Safety Awareness Campaign

As part of our 8th grade Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Chapter initiative, Raphaella Mercier, Kayleigh Connors, Jordan Torti and Weidmeyer Ambrose created a Halloween safety awareness activity for K-4.

The students went to each classroom and talked to the kids about stranger danger and reiterated the tips and lessons presented by Officer Azevedo and McGruff. They also provided the students crossword puzzles and activities to support their discussion.

This served as another enrichment and peer learning experience, unique to our comprehensive K-12 program. Congratulations to Raphella, Kayleigh, Jordan, Weidmeyer, and advisor Mrs. Habig for their efforts!

Happy Thanksgiving

As you know, the holiday season is upon us. Next week, students will be in school only on Monday and Tuesday. We will continue with our school tradition to give families the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off from school to prepare for the holiday.

On behalf of all of us here, I wish you a happy and safe long holiday weekend!



- Mark Logan