



**Safe Schools
Healthy Students**

**Volume 3
Issue 2**

December 2010

School Resource Officers

- Special points of interest:**
- Since July 2010, Birth To Five served over 564 individuals through their home groups.
 - Youth Empowered to Serve took a field trip to Miami University for Dalai Llama presentation on "Ethics in a Modern World".
 - Richmond Volunteer Corps organizing at Dennis Middle School

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Officer Rick Thalls

The role of the School Resource Officer (SRO) is to ensure the safety and security of Richmond Community Schools' students, faculty and staff.

SROs, counselors and principals use a "team" approach to help connect troubled kids with the right resources. Administration and teachers also work with SROs to keep the schools safe from problem outsiders. As a result of the team effort, RCS provides a safer environment for the students to be successful.

In addition to regular school hours, the SROs provide security for dances, ball games and special events upon request.

A Safety Committee comprised of teachers, environmental staff, administrators and CIS staff meet twice a

month to discuss safety issues and implementations for improvements.

Officer Rick Thalls is currently Richmond Community Schools' SRO supervisor. He worked with Richmond Community Schools as a Richmond police officer from 1988-2009. In 2009, he retired and joined RCS as a SRO and received police powers through the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. Officer Thalls dedicates his primary responsibilities to the safety of those at Richmond High School.

In 2009-2010 school year RCS hired 2 additional SROs. David Winburn pre-



Officer David Winburn

viously served many years with Bloomington's IU campus as a police officer. Officer Winburn has responsibilities at Dennis Middle School,

Test Middle School and the State Hospital School.



Officer Harold Raver

Harold Raver had 30+ years experience with Richmond Police Department with a background as a detective. Officer Raver focuses his attention mainly between Test Middle School and Richmond High School. All of the SROs are available in all locations as needed.

Richmond Community Schools can feel safer as a result of knowing the current School Resource Officers, genuinely care about the safety of Richmond Community Schools. Officer Raver was retired for two years before he chose to become a School Resource Officer, He states, "I want to do it." Officer Thalls agrees, "We don't have to do this. We *choose* to do this."



Positive Alternatives Program

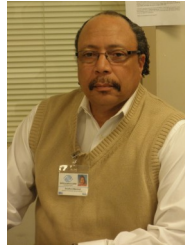
Positive Alternatives Program (PA) offered through Boys & Girls Clubs (B&GC) began eight years ago. It is a collaborative effort between Wayne County Schools, and B&GC.

PA offers an alternative education situation for students who have been suspended or expelled from Middle or High School. They are referred by the school, probation office or parent. Suspended students average stay is from 3-10 days. Expelled students may participate through the end of that school year.

The only requirement for participation in the program is to be a member of B&GC. As long as students complete one day of PA they are given a one year membership to B&GC.

They have a structured day which includes homework, drug education,

conflict resolution, community service, and a time for recreational physical activity.



Brad Marshall, the Director of PA, has worked for nine years preparing and overseeing this program.

Al Glover, the instructor, oversees the students while they complete homework provided from their school principals or he prepares homework himself for the students to complete. Al's responsibility is to help the suspended students maintain their class level. Often, students return to school ahead of where they were



in the class.

Aaron Nell, the Conflict Resolution Instructor uses experiential curriculum. Through activities he addresses routine causes of why the students are sent there.



They discuss why fights happen and the drawbacks of fighting vs. having friends as allies.

As a result of students participating in PA, evaluation tools reflect attitudinal change, and better understanding of the purpose of rules. Often the students say they do not want to go back to their school, because they like the small, loving, understanding, orderly and controlled environment. Students say this program has changed their lives.

After School Enrichment-Fairview Update

Boys And Girls Clubs

The Boys & Girls Club, After School Enrichment program at Fairview Elementary offers a "Smorgasbord of activities for the kids", says Director David Woolpy. "It's a place the kids want to be, not 'cause they have to be!"

The students are able to freely move between a variety of activities. The game room offers pool, foosball, computer

games, etc. Students run and play with balls in the gym. The cadet room provides games exclusively for 6, 7, and 8 year olds. Several programs are offered in the educational area such as Power House tutoring, and Mitch's Kids which helps underachievers in math and reading. Other special activities are provided in the hallways, computer and art rooms.

"The reason this program works is because of Fairview's principal, Jennifer O'Brien's, generosity", shared Woolpy. He is very grateful that she has made it possible for B&GC to have their own room this year and shows support of this program.



www.bgcrichmond.org

Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant funds Boys & Girls Clubs' Afterschool Enrichment & Positive Alternative.



2010-2011 Budget Approval

In October 2010, Richmond Community Schools received official approval that year three of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students budget was approved. The budget amount approved for 2010-11 year is for a little more than \$1.4 million.

“While we have been allocated the four year grant, we have to continue to prove our work and request the funds each year of the grant,” shared Project Director Misty Hollis. “We were thrilled to be renewed for another year.”

The focus of year three continues with our major partners; however, there were a few additions this year that include:

- Data Technician Coordinator will work closely with Grant Evaluator in follow-

ing and managing the grant data.

- Expansion of Volunteer Security Dads into Dennis Middle School.
- Expansion of hours and responsibilities of one of the Positive Supports Behavior Coaches.

The continued efforts of Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative opens the doors of Richmond Community Schools to our community partners. “We know it requires all levels of services to support our youth. SS/HS is working to build those relationships and programs.” A few of those continued programs will be:

- Communities In Schools, Centerstone Mental Health Services, Boys and Girls

Club programs and expansion at Fairview Elementary, Youth as Resources, Peer Information Center for Teens, DIPLOMAS, Girls, Inc. programming and after school transportation services.

- SS/HS will continue to support the effort of Positive Behavior Supports expansion with funding staff and training opportunities.

A big focus during the next year will be our discussion on evaluation of programs that are effective and reviewing those programs that we need to sustain beyond the grant. Congratulations to Richmond Community Schools and its partners on another year of funding.

Police Youth Club

The Police Youth Club began in the fall of 2010 during bonus period. Officer Thalls & Officer Raver oversee this program. Students who have an interest in law enforcement are given an opportunity to participate.



RHS students are exposed to different speakers who share a variety of topics. Recently Detective Legear spoke on the use of tasers. The Chief of Police, Swat Team, and the K-9 unit all plan to share in the future. In the picture above, Wayne County Prosecutor, Mike Shipman,

spoke to the group. Shipman gave opportunity to ask questions regarding any area of law enforcement and showed a genuine interest in helping the students.

RHS students are called Cadets In Training when they begin the program. They move up in rank as they earn points. Points are earned from

taking notes during special speakers, reports, attendance, assignments, teacher feedback, participation and club projects.

The RCS Safety Committee is considering adding one or two student representatives to the Safety Committee team. If they decide to do this, the representatives would come from the Police Youth Club. Student participation on the Safety Committee would give a student perspective to the group.

The students show a great respect and interest in the new Police Youth Club.



COUNTYWIDE
PARTNERSHIP
FOR YOUTH

cpywayne.org

We're On The Web!
www.cpywayne.org

Formed in 2004, the Partnership's Youth Development Plan provides a vision for enhancing positive factors in a child's life. CPY consists of volunteers from all areas of the county. Business, Non-Profits and Individuals alike are stepping up to make a stand for the youth of Wayne County.

CPY supports the work of Wayne County partners who bolster positive youth devel-

opment. By working collectively we will have better outcomes for our youth and more effective use of our resources. Come, connect, share and empower – for the sole purpose of giving the youth in our community the opportunity to excel.

You are welcome to view our web site at www.cpywayne.org for past meeting notes or materials related to Positive Youth Development.

Safe Schools Healthy Students is a Federally funded initiative under the umbrella of the Countywide Partnership for Youth. For more information on the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant, please call Misty Hollis at 973-4930 or email: mistyd@rcs.k12in.us.

It is the policy of Richmond Community Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age or disability in its educational programs or employment policies.



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