



TO DIALOGUE



Issue No. 1, March 2010

"A positive way to change today's attitude toward drugs"

From the President's desk.....

Hello everyone,

Wow what a winter we have had! I can't believe that there is just a few more months left of this school year. As I reported the last time your DAO Board of Directors has been busy. Since my last letter The Board has completed our first strategic plan for the next three years. This should have been mailed out or will be soon for you to see. As you look it over if there are any committees you would like to Chair feel free to let me know. We have also been able to introduce the changes in the grant that we were looking for. With the hard work of District Rep. Adam Chellis, the changes were read on Feb.16th 2010. The new wording asks for 75% instead of 50%, 10% instead of the 6% for the AG (this will help purchase our books) and all schools who receive any State funds would be included to receive this grant funding. Adam was able to get Senator Tom Patton to introduce these changes and it's his hope they will be in place this fall. If you want to track this bill its SB 230.

We are still meeting with the AG and his employees. We had a meeting set for Feb.16th but we got snowed out. That meeting is rescheduled for March 16th and from my understanding there will be people from OPTA, the AGs Office, OSROA and DAO to talk about possibly doing a joint retrainor with OSROA and the AGs Office, which would pick up a lot of the cost for speakers. I have invited Jim Knallay and Bobby Stroop to attend this meeting since it would affect the years they would be President.

One last thing for this time, our State Retrainer will be held at the DARE International in Cincinnati as we all know. One would think that this would have been a pretty easy thing to do but things are still not settled. I hope that after the Board Meeting April 12th, 2010, I will be able to answer all the questions and give you dates and times of all the DAO events. Believe me when I say that the Board has spent considerable time in trying to figure out the best way to get everything done that we have to do without interfering with the International's plans. I hope to see many of you at the Retrainer if it's only to attend the DAO's events.

That's it for this time. If there is anything I can do for you I think you know how to get a hold of me by now.

Good luck with the rest of your school year,
Dick Groves-President.

For more info go to www.dare.org

Note from Membership Coordinator

Hello Ohio Dare Officers,

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to those who may not know who I am. As the newly appointed Membership Coordinator I feel you need to know who is working for you. As many of the long time DARE Officers know, I am Jeanne Botkin, born and raised in the Northwestern Ohio County of Putnam. I am a retired 19 year veteran DARE Officer and worked with the DAO Board 16 of those years. As your Membership Coordinator I will be assisting the Association with many of the task that Kari Parsons has once done. Kari will remain our Advisor and DOT Training Officer. I will also assist in disseminating information and publishing the newsletter.

I am proud and honor to serve as your Membership Coordinator for this great DARE Association of OHIO. At anytime you have questions, need information, or have something to share with other DARE officers, you can contact me at email amalilstar@yahoo.com or call (419) 236-7772.

Respectfully yours,

Jeanne Botkin – Membership Coordinator

Drug Abuse Resistance Education
D.A.R.E.

TO DIALOGUE



Issue No. 1, March 2010

"A positive way to change today's attitude toward drugs"

"5th" Annual Highland DARE Skate Night was Wonderful!

On Wednesday, January 27th we had 230 students from the 5th, 6th and 7th grades attend at Brunswick Skate Station. They had a fun evening skating to music. The highly requested DARE Song - "D" I won't do drugs, "A" Won't have an attitude, "R" I will respect myself, "E" I will educate me now; was a hit as well as **Taylor Swift's** latest songs. They skated around the rink while playing Red Light/Green Light, Four Corners and lots more. There were 33 DARE Role Models from the 8th grade and High School to add excitement to the event, as well as lots of door prizes for the students. Casey Thomas said "DARE Skate Night is an awesome event." There were three students whose birthday were on DARE Skate Night and choose to celebrate at the event with their friends.

This drug free event that keeps growing each year brings our students together in a positive atmosphere. Medina County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Sharon Centner, Highland's DARE Officer coordinates the event. Mrs. Claudia Johnson, Highland's Prevention Counselor and Mary Fran Kudla, Highland Community Education Coordinator both volunteer to help the event.

2009 Monitoring the Future Survey

The 2009 'Monitoring the Future' survey's latest percentages to be used with the D.A.R.E. Elementary and Middle school lessons:

Used in the last 30 days by Eighth Graders:

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Tobacco | 6.5 % |
| Smokeless Tobacco | 3.7 % |
| Alcohol | 14.9 % |
| Been Drunk | 5.4 % |
| Marijuana | 6.5 % |
| Hallucinogens | 0.7 % |
| Inhalants | 3.8 % |

The Monitoring the Future study is an annual survey of the behaviors, attitudes, and values of American secondary school students, college students and young adults. Each year, a total of some 50,000 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students are surveyed.

Information released by DARE America January 2010

D.A.R.E. - Does it work?

There have been many articles written recently about the D.A.R.E. program and its usefulness in the schools and to the community at large. Many police departments and communities have cut the D.A.R.E program due to tight budgets and often state that there is no way to measure its effectiveness. Some articles have gone as far as saying it isn't effective at all. Let's look at this from the perspective of the police officers and children involved.

As a recent D.A.R.E. training graduate and long time skeptic I can see both sides of the coin. I was never a big fan of the program as an administrator because it took one of my men "off the streets". I felt that I could use that officer more effectively fighting crime in a patrol car. That being said, when I would see D.A.R.E Officers on the streets, they always seem to know which kids were causing our problems. They were an invaluable resource to our detectives because they had spent time in the schools and got to know who was committing crimes from the kids.

As a D.A.R.E. trainee I got to spend time with a wonderful fifth grade class in London, Ohio. To see the faces of those children, the thirst for knowledge, the wonder, and the absolute interest in what I did changed how I felt about what effect D.A.R.E. Officers had on our youth. It gave an old veteran like me renewed interest in my job and what I could still accomplish. It was nice to have contact with the public and their children in a positive light rather than the negative contacts that are the norm in this business. It gave me a positive outlook on the future of our society.

From the children's perspective, I have had three girls that have been through the program. My oldest daughter, who is 24 years old and is starting a family on her own, still talks about the D.A.R.E. officer that taught her in the fifth grade. She looks upon that time very fondly and remembers him like it was yesterday. All of my girls fortunately have not abused drugs or alcohol and I believe the re-enforcement of the D.A.R.E. officer of the message my wife and I were teaching at home had a part in their life choice to stay off drugs and alcohol.

I will start teaching D.A.R.E. in the schools in Sycamore Township on January 15th. I have the strong support of your Township Trustees in re-enforcing the message you pass on to your children about make positive life choices. As a team with you parents, I believe I can help make an impact on the lives of our youth. Do I believe that D.A.R.E. is effective? That is a resounding YES! Not only for the children but for the officers that have the privilege to teach them.

Lt. Dan Reid, Hamilton County Sheriff's Department
Sycamore Township Liaison

A word from Ohio's Youth Advisory Board Member.....

Hello DARE Ohio Members,

I hope this finds you well and that you're enjoying the New Year. My name is Richard Walsh and I am the DARE America Youth Advisory Board Representative for Ohio. I met some of you at the Retrainer Brunch in August.

I just wanted to officially introduce myself and let you know that I have attended the annual YAB conference. If there is anything that I can do to help out, please let me know. Before any assumptions are made, I would just like to say that my age does not hinder me from doing much or learning quickly so please do not assume that I can't do something simply because I am sixteen.

A little bit about me: As I mentioned, I am sixteen. I live in Chillicothe (an hour south of Columbus) and I attend Chillicothe High School. I am a junior and I am enrolled in all Honors, Advanced Placement, and college prep classes. I partake in my school's Orchestra, Show Choir, French Honors Society, Tri-M Music Honors Society, and Poetry Club. I founded Chillicothe GSA, a local organization and registered business devoted to ending harassment and bullying in school. I volunteer my free time to the Ross County Junior Sheriff's Deputy League, the Carver Community Center and developing websites.

I am currently working on developing a Straight Edge Campaign, a campaign that focuses on giving youth reasons to remain drug free, which, if approved, will be maintained by the Youth Advisory Board.

Please feel free to let me know if there is anything that I can do to help with DARE Ohio. My contact information is as follows:

Richard Walsh
740-941-7292 (Business)
740-851-9211 (Cell)
740-779-3809 (Home)
richardwalsh2011@gmail.com
725 E Main St, Chillicothe, OH 45601-3506

I hope to hear from you soon!

Sincerely,

~Richard



Sergeant Don Wilson listens as Hannah Wourms reads her DARE essay at the graduation ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 17. The ceremony was held in the auditorium at the Springboro High School. (Photo by Jennifer Osterday)

Ohio Officer Featured in DA Newsletter

For 17 years, Sergeant Don Wilson has been teaching the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program at Springboro schools and he doesn't plan on stopping any time soon.

"I have a lot of fun," Wilson said. "Believe it or not, I've been doing this for 17 years and I still to this day love to come into the classroom."

The DARE program at Springboro schools is taught to second, fourth and seventh graders and is entirely taught by Wilson. It covers topics such as peer pressure, sources of peer pressure, drug education and ways to say 'no'.

At a class on Wednesday, Dec. 9, in a seventh grade class, the children were eager to raise their hands and share their answers and stories.

"The seventh grade kids - they've been so on the ball. I have had a lot of positive feedback this year, which is great," Wilson said.

The seventh graders were split into three groups and the last group graduated on Thursday, Dec. 17. Every student - all 148 of them - successfully completed the course, which required completing the DARE handbook, class participate, writing an essay on what they had learned, and committing to living drug and alcohol free.

"This is probably the most caring group of students that I've seen come through," said Springboro Junior High Principle Andrea Cook. "They're just a tremendous help to one another and very sensitive to one another's needs. It's truly been a pleasure to spend the amount of weeks that we've been together with them."

A few weeks earlier, seventh grader Ally Smith shared that not only has DARE been fun for her, but she's learned a lot on how to handle peer pressure in the future.

"I would handle it (peer pressure) a lot differently than I thought I would," she said. "I would have probably been

Are you in need of a certificate for the 'kiR' training from last year's International Conference? If so, request one from:

**Scott Gilliam, Director of Training
DARE America at email address:**

scott.gilliam@dare.org

Drug Abuse Resistance Education
D.A.R.E.

TO DIALOGUE



Issue No. 1, March 2010

"A positive way to change today's attitude toward drugs"

Officer Wilson Continued

pressured into doing it or something like that, but now I know that I can say 'no' and walk away."

Before the graduation, Wilson said he makes it a point to share that this isn't just something he's doing, or the school is doing; it's a contribution of the parents as well to encourage the students.

"It is all of our jobs as a team to work on these things," he said. "We're not making perfect kids, but together when things happen that we can all work to get them back on the right path. It's kind of opening doors."

The Tuesday before they graduated, Wilson had a pizza party for the students. Wilson said this is a way for the students to see they don't have to be best friends with each other and can still have fun without using drugs and alcohol.

"It's kind of an affirmation lesson," Wilson said.

Wilson, who teaches more than 800 students a year, is also the district's only school resource officer, so in addition of teaching all of the DARE classes, he is there for any problems that occur in the schools. This includes any counseling or interventions that need to happen. He said this becomes a benefit in the long run for the school as well.

"If you get into a classroom and you teach, you get to know the kids and you give them something," he said. "What we end up happening is, when they (the students) have problems and I walk into the office they no longer know me as this police officer guy. They're more free to open up and let me know things. So it's a big asset not only to the school, but as far as the police department as well."

"Is my goal that I'm making 100 percent of kids never do any of this stuff? It never was," he said. "But if you arm them with this stuff I do really believe you make kids take second looks and they do use the information."

As printed on the DARE America website.

Harrison Central Middle School start Bully Program

SCIO, OH – Sgt. Eric Wilson of the Harrison County Sheriff's Office turned cheerleader during a bully prevention rally at Harrison Central Middle School in Scio.

Wilson, a Drug Abuse Resistance education officer and also the school's resource officer, involved the students dressed in matching neon green t-shirts sporting the logo "PAWS OFF!" in a cheer rally to get the daylong program started on Friday, January 15.

Middle School Principal Sandy Leggett led the beginning cheer, accompanied by the middle school band, to kick off the rally. Also participating in the activities was Harrison County Prosecutor Shawn Hervey, trainers from the Olweus program, and teachers and staff members of the school.

Teachers participated by acting out a skit showing the type of behavior that constitutes bullying. The effort wasn't just from teachers but included guidance counselors, principals, resource officers, secretaries, cooks, custodians, bus drivers and community representatives.

Leggett told students that the results of a survey conducted at the school last spring revealed that 42 percent of all students believed they had been involved a bullying incident in the past year.

"It's time we realize, stop, and begin the intervention process," said teacher Georgia Pavlic when she presented a segment on rules and consequences. "Any type of bullying will not be tolerated." And there are serious consequences for those actions.

"Teachers need to what's going on. We can't stop it if we don't know about it. Tell an adult. Tell a teacher."

The program has been used in more than a dozen countries around the world and has been proven to reduce bullying situations.

Activities at the school included a hat day, PJ day, sock day, puzzle activities, posters, T-shirts, bracelets, and a movie that included entrance and exit questions to initiate discussion among the student groups.

Students also were divided into groups with non-friends or students they don't associate with and were given group tasks to perform so they could learn they can get along even with those who are different, according to teacher Angie Bailey.

Explanations and education were provided to students clearly defining what actions or words constitute a bullying situation and what school consequences would be for such actions.

The Olweus Bullying Prevention program was made possible by a grant through the juvenile court system and Harrison County Juvenile Judge Matthew Puskarich.

Story written by Nancy Schaar, and published by The Times-Reporter.



CHECK THIS OUT!



Discussion Board for Officers on www.dare.org

This discussion board is called the
"FORUM"

It is located in the 'Officers Only' section at the website. When you arrive you will be asked to log in your User name and Password. If you are 'new' you can register at this time.

This is your own personal cyberspace to communicate with DARE Officers from around the world. Brought to you from DARE America!

Random Tidbits to Know

2010 Kings Island Corporate Partner Discount Tickets

Tickets are available now from the web page listed below for the entire week of the conference. The discounted price is half the price of normal admission. Tickets can be printed at home, mailed to purchaser or left at will call. Parking passes can also be purchased simultaneously for \$10. This information is for ANY DARE family members— spread the word.

www.visitkingsisland.com/dareconference

Grant Available Through Your School District

The US Department of Education, through the State of Ohio, Offers the Safe & Drug-Free schools grant that can be applied for through you school district. For more information visit:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEPrimary.aspx?page=2&TopicRelationID=435>

The grant supports efforts based on evidence based research. (DARE Officers: even though the DARE curriculum is science based, a waiver can be submitted through you school district to accept the DARE curriculum. This is a little known fact and it can assist in applying for this grant)

Losses of Officers and Family

~ In January, Officer Chuck Norris, Mansfield Police Dept. passed away from complications resulting from a stroke. Chuck had helped on the planning committee for conferences in the past few years. Chuck will be sadly missed.

~ In February, the father of Officer Jim Hall, Defiance County Sheriff Office, passed away. Our sympathy goes to Jim and his family.

~ March 6, Officer Ronald Stephenson, Ravenna Police Dept. passed after a lengthy battle of Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS). Keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.



Legal marijuana substitute gets authorities' attention

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS [Sunday, November 8, 2009](#)

KANSAS CITY — Kansas law enforcement and some lawmakers are taking notice of a new, legal substance that is designed to mimic the effects of marijuana.

The substance, called K2, works and smells like marijuana. Kansas City-area police confirm that little bags of dried herbs are starting to pop up among teens and young adults. Kansas State Rep. Peggy Mast is considering trying to outlaw the substance.

The risks of smoking the substance are unknown, and some European countries already have moved to ban it. Johnson County police first discovered the drug was being used by ex-convicts on probation, and now they're seeing it in high schools.

The Sacred Journey, a botanical store in Lawrence, Kan., sells K2, and it's available online. Other brands go by the names Spice, Genie and Zohai.

"It is new on the scene here," said Johnson County sheriff's Deputy Tom Erickson. "It's just been a few weeks since we found out it was being sold locally."

The active ingredients are just a few atoms away from the real thing, which means it isn't covered by laws banning marijuana. The product is sold as being used for incense or as "plant food."

The Johnson County Crime Lab ran an analysis on K2, finding it tested negative for THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. But it did have synthetic cannabinoids, chemical compounds created in a lab that act on the brain like THC.

Clemson University chemistry Professor John Huffman said the risks of smoking synthetic cannabis haven't been studied. Johnson County Sheriff's Deputy Chris Farkes worries that teens might assume synthetic cannabis is safe because it's legal. "I've even talked with parents who say, 'Oh, it's completely legal, so I don't have a problem with my kid smoking it,'" Farkes said.