

Changing the World



**Rockwood
Young Leaders**

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January –March 2011

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ROCKWOOD YOUNG LEADERS SHOWCASE



On December 12, 2010 youth from across the district put aside their rivalries and came together to share their message of a better tomorrow through hard work today.

"It is so very important to share the message that not ALL kids drink, smoke and use other drugs, and that some area teens are really making a difference in

setting the stage for healthy behavior," said Renee Heney on the Patch.com website. When asked about the experience, Abby Kemp, a senior at Notre Dame High School, said "It was neat being interviewed because I knew my voice would be heard."



"Leadership should be born out of the understanding of the needs of those who would be affected by it." ~Marian Anderson



ROCKWOOD YOUNG LEADERS ACADEMY DATE IS SET!



July 31st - August 4

Come to the Reunion

on Feb. 28th

to learn more!



**YOU COULD
LEARN TO CHANGE
THE WORLD!**

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE DETAILS!

THANK YOU DR. WHITE



Dr. Johnathon White, the Junior Class Assistant Principal at Eureka High School, recently took time out of his busy schedule to answer a few questions.

What motivates you to encourage students to take an interest in their community?

Our schools are a reflection of the community. Everything that happens in both the school and community is a shared experience for our students. So the more involved students are in the bigger picture of the community they live in, the more connected they become with each other and with the community in general. This creates ownership of where they live, pride in their community, and an overall better place for everyone to live.

Why do you feel it is important for our schools to be involved in drug free community efforts?

As I mentioned before, the reality is that what happens in our community is connected to our schools. That includes some of the negative aspects of our community. Obviously, drugs are one of the most immediate and dangerous parts of the community that our students are faced with on a regular basis. Our schools' involvement in drug free efforts is imperative because many of our students are dealing with a variety of issues related to drugs in their own lives, and all of our students should be informed about the dangerous effects of drug use. The most important aspect of school involvement is the potential to

positively change/save a student's life by working together against drugs.

What is happening at Eureka High School in regards to student involvement in drug free community efforts?

For the first time ever, EHS has started a **S.T.A.R.** (Supporting Teens At Risk) program. With the help of a cabinet of terrific, concerned students and Ms. Patel (Sophomore Principal), we have had our first meeting, where the topic was alcohol. Amy Wheeland from Crossroads was the expert speaker, along with a current Eureka High School student who spoke about his story involving alcohol and drug abuse, including how he found his way to Crossroads and now has had over 10 months of sobriety. It was a powerful and inspirational account that left the students with a true understanding of just how dangerous and life threatening drug abuse can be for anyone. The discussion was meaningful and honest, with many questions from the students. We intend to continue with topics like peer pressure, drugs, stress/depression/suicide, abusive relationships, tobacco, sex/STDs, eating disorders. Hopefully we will be able to tackle all of those before the end of the school year.

Thank you Dr. White for all you do for Eureka High School students and the community. Any students interested in working with Dr. White can contact him via email at:

whitejohnathon@rockwood.k12.mo.us



I'm Just Sayin'

Relationships- Why

Dating should be taken seriously.

Some people say that dating is for adults and shouldn't be for kids, and that younger relationships don't "count." I have to disagree. There are plenty of cases in which people have married the person who they have dated since high school. Of course, there are also break-ups, but not all are the same. People have the right to go out with the person they like, and that shouldn't be tossed aside like trash. Just because you are older doesn't mean that the person you are going out with likes you more, or that you are better than younger aged couples. I think that sometimes when you are older, people could like you for popularity or because you have a car, but when you are younger, much of that other stuff doesn't affect who you like, and you can make better decisions. When you are younger you see things different-

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ly than older people. You have another angle, and an altered perspective. You should be given a chance. Also, some people say that young couples don't know what love is, and that is another topic I have to speak against. Many maturing couples do experience the feeling of love. It's not like once you reach a certain age you all of the sudden have the weird feeling of love. Plus, having a relationship is a good thing for younger people because it lets them know more about what they like in a person and how to build and shape a better relationship. So if you started dating as a teenager, by the time you are older you will know everything you need. It's like the developing stages of dating for the rest of your life. That's why teen dating should be taken seriously.



Madison Robinson is a freshman at Rockwood Summit and an active member of TREND.

Have an opinion you would like to share? Email it to mintiebrad@rockwood.k12.mo.us and yours might be featured in our next issue!



TRUNK OR TREAT



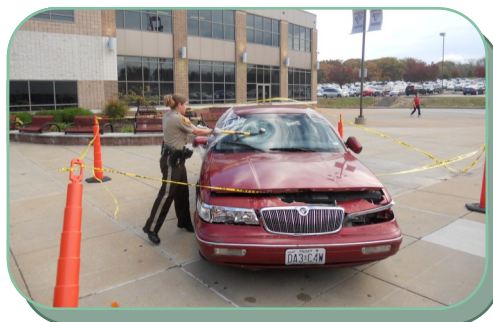
Members of the Youth of Sacred Heart Initiative, or Y.O.S.H.I., partnered with Valley Park Fire and Rescue to host an alternative Trick or Treat in October of 2010. The event was attended by 2500+ people who went from vehicle to vehicle telling jokes, collecting candy, and participating in games that taught about making good decisions. The games covered a variety of topics ranging from proper dental hygiene to the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.



SUMMIT STUDENTS PUT A BAD VEHICLE TO GOOD USE

Students gladly paid a dollar per swing to take a sledge hammer to a vehicle impounded by police because it was involved in a drunk driving accident only a few days earlier. After Officer Kathy Koenig removed the glass, students set to work and raised over \$400, along with awareness of the dangers of drunk-driving. Steve Merrit played a photo sequence over the school closed circuit system that included before and after photos of the vehicle, as well as photos of a totaled vehicle from a fatal drunk driving accident. The message was clear: the hundreds of students trying their hardest with a sledgehammer were not as destructive as one person behind the wheel while under the

influence.



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Free Coalition"

**LEADERSHIP THROUGH
COURAGE
COMPASSION
CONNECTION
COLLABORATION
COMMUNICATION
COMMITMENT**

ROCKWOOD YOUNG LEADERS ACADEMY

Want to change the world?

Join us this summer as we learn how to take our ideas and make them a reality. High School students from across the Rockwood School District Community are invited to attend.



July 31st - August 4

Contact Mr. Brad Mintie if you would like to attend or recommend a student for this FREE 3 day event.

Email: mintiebrad@rockwood.k12.mo.us

Phone: 636-733-2137

IN THE COMMUNITY



February

Rockwood Young Leaders Academy Reunion

Feb. 28, 2011 7:00-9:00pm St. John's Lutheran Church Cornerstone Youth Building

March

Rockwood Drug-Free Coalition Speaker Series "Keeping Teens Safe During Spring Break, Prom, and Graduation Season" All are Welcome!

March 9, 2011 (6:30 Refreshments) 7:00-8:30pm The Pointe Recreation Center (Ballwin)

Sacred Heart Valley Park Youth Ministry "Luke 18 Retreat" All 7th and 8th Graders Welcome!

March 18-20, 2011

NCADA "Speak Hard Youth Rally" Located in Jefferson City All High School Students Welcome!

March 30, 2011 Sign up now!

April

Rockwood Drug-Free Coalition Medication Take Back

Visit www.rockwood.k12.mo.us/drugfree for locations. April 30, 10:00- 2:00 pm

Rockwood Summit High School TREND Group "Used and New Shoe Drive"

April 2011