

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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SVHS students witness impact of ‘shattered dreams’

Students at Smithson Valley High School (SVHS) on Thursday morning witnessed with excruciating reality what could happen when a drunk driver gets behind the wheel of a car.

Shattered Dreams, a youth-led community collaborative program designed to educate students and parents about the serious issue of underage drinking and driving, involves a dramatization of an alcohol-related accident staged in front of the school.

Witnessed by SVHS students, the mock crash scene depicted an “injured” student lifted by helicopter from the scene, a “deceased” student taken away in a hearse and a “drunk” student arrested and transported by local law enforcement.

The program was made possible through the work of students in Lori Niles’ Family and Community Services class. Students organized the event, which included drama students as actors in the mock scene, and contacted the Bulverde Fire Department, Bulverde-Spring Branch EMS, Comal County Sheriff’s Office, Zoeller Funeral Home and Comal Towing.

“Students got to see the reality of drunk driving,” said Cpt. Andy Fox of the Bulverde-Spring Branch EMS. Fox was responsible for recruiting the law enforcement and emergency response participants. “You can show videos all day

long, but when they see their classmates on the ground, it brings it home. It is absolutely best to make it as real as possible.”

Following the dramatization, the Grim Reaper (a student dressed in costume, who was present at the scene), entered a classroom every 15 minutes throughout the day, selecting a student victim, known as the “Living Dead.” The 15 minutes represents how often someone dies from a drunk driving accident.

At the end of Thursday, the Living Dead, the crash victims and the drunk driver gather for an overnight retreat to reflect on the learning experience. On Friday, a mock memorial service will be conducted in memory of the crash victims and the Living Dead. In the parking lot on Friday morning, the New Braunfels Police Department will sponsor a “drinking and driving” simulator for interested students.

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Photo: Local law enforcement and emergency response teams join students enacting a mock drunk driving accident in Shattered Dreams at Smithson Valley High School on Thursday.