

## **Coeur d'Alene High resource officer warns parents of graduation/prom parties (4.17.14)**

Dear Senior and Junior Parents,

In light of recent events within our community and in concern for the students at CHS, I believed it was important to bring you the following information:

We have come upon a busy part of the year. Prom, graduation and the waning part of the school year are all coming up fast. With these events come celebration. Some celebrations, we as parents never hear about or learn about them after they already occur. In the recent past, we as school staff (SRO included) have learned about several large juvenile involved parties in the Kootenai County area. Some have made the news and law enforcement has also been involved in some instances. It has become apparent there has been underage alcohol consumption and illicit drug use at some of, if not all of these parties. That does not mean every person at the party took part in consumption of alcohol and/or drugs.

As we come upon Senior Prom and Graduation, the rumor mill has been winding up. There are rumors and talk of potential large parties and/or gatherings of juveniles. Typically speaking, the events, such as the dinner and dance during Prom, are very low key and uneventful. However, after these events, it seems to be common for parties to take place. Our obvious concern is the welfare and safety of our students. There are ways to try and avoid tragedies in our community and prevent harm coming to our students and your children.

There have been several rumors regarding parties after Prom. The details about where these parties are going to be and who will be hosting them has not come to light as of yet. However, I can assure you we are letting the students know we are listening and paying attention to the rumors. Contacts will be made with Patrol supervisors from the Coeur d'Alene Police Department and Kootenai County Sheriff's Office to inform them of the rumors. Contact will also be made with businesses in the local area to inform them of some information and request help in keeping their eyes open and reporting any activity they deem necessary.

I also ask for your help as parents/guardians. Please..... Please, take the time to sit down with your child(ren) and explain the consequences of partaking in alcohol and/or drugs irresponsibly and illegally. We as law enforcement and school staff do not enjoy bringing forth consequences as associated with these activities. However, we have a responsibility to keep the community and our schools safe as well as alcohol and drug free as it pertains to youth. It is very important we bestow the life lessons we have been part of and our life experience as parents/guardians. We are all fools to think our students/children are not going to try things and want to have fun. However, we as parents/guardians, school staff and law enforcement can work together in preventing unnecessary tragedy and heartache. Thank you for your time.

Detective Jon Spranget  
Coeur d'Alene Police Department

CHS School Resource Officer

