

1st Annual Safe and Sober Spring Planning Night: A Success!

The West Allis-West Milwaukee School District hosted its **1st Annual Safe and Sober Spring Planning Night on Monday, April 19, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the West Allis Central High School Auditorium.** Working in collaboration with the West Allis Police Department and the West Allis-West Milwaukee Community Coalition, the three organizations presented information to parents and students on making positive choices, and informing them about the dangers of drinking and driving, current trends in teenage substance use, and several programs which hope to keep our students safe. This program will become an annual event hosted by West Allis Central and Nathan Hale High Schools in alternating years. Next fall Nathan Hale High School will host the event.

Approximately 200 people were in attendance. Of those, 100 were parents, and 100 were students from both Central and Nathan Hale High Schools. The event was meant to be a proactive intervention to promote safe behaviors during the upcoming high school proms and graduation celebrations. West Allis Central's prom is Friday, May 7th and Nathan Hale's prom is Saturday, May 8th. Speakers at the event included Beth Heflin, WAWM School District Mental Health and Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Abuse Coordinator; Lieutenant Ed Benish, Corporal Rod Nelson, and Traffic Investigator, Chris Sohre, WA Police Department; and Tammy Molter, WAWM Community Coalition Coordinator.

Students who attended the planning night with their parents/guardians will receive a \$10 discount on their prom ticket this spring. Over \$1000 in gift certificates and prizes donated by local businesses were given away at the end of the program, which included discounts at local hair/nail/tanning salons, florists, and tuxedo rental businesses. We hope the event will increase awareness and help to make this year's prom and graduation a safe event for all students and their families.