

Support Quality EDUCATION

QUARTERLY UPDATE FY2016

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2



In This Issue

- Page 1 Coach 5-0 | Crow Elementary Rally for Fitness
- Page 2 APD Explorers
- Page 3 Water Utilities' Intern Program | Build A Dream
- Page 4 Arlington Public Library: Teens Find Their Voices in Poetry | LINK Off-Site Checkout

Coach 5-0

The Arlington Police Department (APD) teamed up with Arlington ISD Athletics Department for a mentorship program involving student athletes and APD officers.

Over 30 officers participate in the program throughout all six Arlington high schools and two Mansfield high schools within the city. Each officer has a customized approach in building relationships with student athletes. The program is expanding to include other athletic events across the city.

(continued on pg. 2)



Crow Elementary Rally for Fitness

Getting a jump on 2016 New Year's resolutions, the crew from Arlington Fire Engine 1-C participated in the Medical Center Arlington/Texas Rangers Fitness rally with Crow Elementary fifth-graders in December.

Talking about the importance of diet and fitness, Texas Rangers left-

handler Derek Holland is pictured above (*front*) with students, faculty, administration and the Arlington fire fighters. The Rangers mascot Captain is pictured (*back row*) next to Lt. Jayson Wittmayer.

"Great program," Wittmayer said about his first time to attend the event which is held at various eastside schools, "Positive influence on the children for a promising future."

Connect with us on social media:



www.arlingtontx.gov | www.myarlingtontx.com



Coach 5-0 *(continued)*

"If you have a servant mindset, a willingness to listen, and a commitment to investing in our youth, then this is definitely a great opportunity for you to consider," Police Chief Will Johnson said when launching the program. "We continue to make investments with our youth and look for opportunities to help kids enjoy success in all facets of their lives."

Officers volunteer to mentor athletes on the field or support coach's messages through team meetings. Accumulated time can also go toward the department's Community Service Award. The relationships being formed have led to positive conversations about policing from community engagement, to making smart decisions and learning important life skills that will extend past this program. Time spent with young people reaps enormous benefits:

- Bridging the gap between police and AISD student athletes through adult mentoring.
- Educating students on the role of law enforcement officers and the importance of building positive relationships between the athletes, community and the police department.
- Fostering a working relationship between coaches and APD to provide resources for possible at-risk student athletes or those who have a need for basic life essentials.
- Facilitating access to local social services when the need arises.

Highlights

APD Explorers

In existence since 1978, the Arlington Police Department Explorer program is one of the oldest in the state of Texas. A career-based program for young persons interested in law enforcement, it is affiliated with Boy Scouts of America Learning for Life.

The explorer program is for young persons who live in the Arlington area ages 14 through 20. The goal of the program is to provide exposure to the career of law enforcement through interactive and hands-on training.

"This program has shed light onto the world of policing and showed me that it is what I am destined to do," said **Connor Vollmering**, post captain and UNT student.

Explorers are taught in a method similar to the police academy and receive instruction on many topics such as criminal law, handcuffing techniques, accident investigation and building searches.

"With nearly 20 years of experience working with the APD explorer

program," says Jeff Lee, currently with the School Resource Officer unit assigned to Bailey and Gunn junior high schools, "it has been greatly rewarding to see young people I have worked with over the years develop successful careers in policing and other criminal justice fields in Arlington and beyond, and knowing that this program played a key role in their success!"

Weekly meetings are held from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday nights at the Arlington Police Training Center located at 6000 W. Pioneer Parkway.

The requirements to join are:

- At least 14 years of age and in the ninth grade.
- Clean background-criminal history check completed.
- Passing grades if enrolled in secondary school.
- Completion of the basic academy held during fall and spring semesters.

Candidates interested in joining can contact: #1240 Lead Advisor Jeff Lee at Jeff.Lee@arlingtontx.gov or 817-459-6040.



Explorers (left to right): Connor Vollmering, Dawson Parish, Zach Hornsby, Amanda Lee, Jhorleny Martinez, and former Explorer Jabari Porter at the December 2015 Santa Cops party.

Updates

From Intern to College Graduate to City Employee

In January 2016, **Brendan Hamilton** (pictured at right) was hired as a Graduate Engineer in the Engineering and Support Services Division of the Water Utilities department. Since June 2015, Brendan had served in an intern position. He graduated in December from the University of Texas at Arlington with a BS in Civil Engineering and is a Certified Commercial Diver. Previously, he worked for Texas Tank Services, where he supervised and performed cleaning and inspection of water storage tanks - including many of ours here in Arlington. Brendan is part of the City's Engineering Planning group and will, among many other tasks, work closely with UT-Arlington and our Field Operations staff in performing the Large Diameter Sanitary Sewer Condition Assessment project over the next few years.



City's interest in recruiting young people.

Water Utilities' Intern Program

Since it began in 2010, the purpose of the work-study program has been to introduce high school students to the water industry and generate interest in pursuing college degrees in engineering and science for more advanced careers. The American Water Works Association projects 37% of water utility workers and 31% of wastewater utility workers will retire over the next 10 years. The potential shortfall in qualified personnel spurred the

Council Priority for Higher Education

Encourage partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses, nonprofits and City departments to provide opportunities to build relationships that encourage graduates to choose Arlington as their home after graduation.

**“Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn. –**
Benjamin Franklin
(01-17-1706 to 04-17-1790)
A leading author, scientist, inventor, civic activist, statesman and diplomat, Franklin is considered one of the Founding Fathers of the United States and was one of the 56 who signed the Declaration of Independence.”

Be a part of the conversation on social media @CityOfArlington:
#SupportQualityEducation



Build A Dream

The Arlington Parks and Recreations Department (APRD) *Build A Dream* program offers scholarships for Arlington residents, based on federal income guidelines, toward many youth programs for children age four months to 16 years. February 18 is the *Build A Dream* application deadline. Go to the APRD office, located at 717 W. Main, between 8am and 5pm. For info, visit www.NaturallyFun.org or call 817-459-5474.

About this and other offerings, read the *Naturally Fun* magazine published three times each year. The [spring 2016 issue](#) is available in digital and print formats. Free copies available at the APRD office, recreation centers, City Hall and City of Arlington Libraries.

Teens Find Their Voices in Poetry

It takes a lot of courage to talk about the joys, pains, insecurities and observations of teen life. It takes even more to create a poem and speak those words in front of a live audience, but that's exactly what a group of students from Nichols Junior High did this fall.

Since mid-September, 20 teens began attending weekly Teen Lit Poetry sessions at the Arlington Public Library. Hosted by slam master, Michael Guinn, these sessions combined classical and spoken-word poetry, progressing from reading the words of others to writing their own.

"Mr. Guinn provided an atmosphere of encouragement and acceptance, and sparked the interests of the students by bringing in material and topics they connected with," said LaTonya Lynch, programming librarian. She said many of the teens who participated in the program blossomed from shy "blend-

in-with-the-crowd" individuals into "confident and self-assured young men and women who are passionate about their lives, their stories and their realities."

The weekly sessions led up to a final, live performance on Saturday, December 12, at Arlington Improv. Six students read a classic piece and then shared an original piece of their own for their friends and family members.

Whisper the Poet, an AISD Librarian who has volunteered with Teen Lit the past two years, said she believes very strongly in the program, "I believe it helps teens not only with [reading and writing], but it gets them creating rather than just sitting and receiving information. It's very important for them to explore their feelings and views of the world and create art from that."



A panel of three judges scored the performances and named seventh-grader **Dayci Gordan** (pictured above) the Slam Champion. Second-place honors went to **Kennedy Johnson**, and **DeMario Wright** came in third.

The Teen Lit program was made possible through support from AISD and the Texas Literacy Initiative, whose goal is to ensure every Texas child is strategically prepared for college and career literacy demands by high school graduation.

LINK Off-Site Checkout

Beginning spring 2016, the Library's new Literacy LINK will provide children and families a new way to discover and checkout their favorite materials.

Funded by a grant from the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation, this colorful vehicle is stocked with English and bilingual picture books, board books and child-friendly tablets pre-loaded with literacy games and activities, called Playaway Launchpads. Part of the Library's outreach services, the van visits schools, recreation centers, apartment complexes and other



locations around Arlington.

"Our hope is that the LINK will enhance services to current patrons and also bring in new users," says Library Services Manager Ivonne Kieffer. "This could be the bridge to help them discover what the library has to offer."

Library cardholders can borrow materials from the LINK and return them to any Arlington Public Library location. Library cards are free for Arlington residents, and cards can be issued from the LINK.

To apply for a library card, visit <http://arlingtonlibrary.org/library-card/>.