

erald After-school coalition draws crowds

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The Mundelein After School Coalition has experienced a tremendous amount of success in a short period of time since its inception in October 2004. The goal of the Mundelein After School Coalition is to provide a safe place for teens in grades six through 12 to go after school, reducing the amount of crime and other risky behaviors that are associated with teens that lack activity to do with their free time away from school.

The Mundelein After School Coalition committee members include students and staff from Mundelein High School, Santa Maria del Popolo grade school, and Mundelein school districts 73, 75, 76, and 79. The students representing the coalition were chosen by their teachers, principals or superintendents. Current eighth-grade students have chosen younger students to replace them at the middle school level this fall and will continue to represent the coalition in high school.

Additionally, representatives from Omni Youth Services, Fremont Library, Mundelein Park District, and the Mundelein Police Department meet with the students on a monthly basis.

Mundelein Police Chief Ray Rose is the chairman of the coalition.

The first event of the Mundelein After School Coalition was a dance for middle school teens in grades six through eight Dec. 4 at Mundelein High School. The student representatives coordinated all aspects of the dance including purchasing supplies,



COURTESY OF WENDY WHITAKER

Front row, from left are Bobby Mandell. Second row: Doug Lewis, Caroline Emde, John Devito and Marcello Garsato. Third row: Christian Ramos, Jessica Collette, Paige Parola, Kristin Torres, Briana Traub, Shannon Franley, Kaitlyn Andersen and Jack Gavin. Fourth row: Justin Deguia, Maggie Semple, Christopher Langlie, Connor Boike and Taylor Crombe.

decorations, hiring a disc jockey and promoting the dance. The Mundelein Police Department sponsored the dance that was attended by more than 300 students and staff.

Next, the students met with U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin at a round table hosted by state Rep. Kathy Ryg, to discuss the importance of after-school programs. Durbin, who is a member of the Senate After-School Caucus, pledged to fight for increased federal funding for after school programs. The students planned another dance April 8 at Carl Sandburg Middle School. It was attended by more than 400 students.

High priority for the After

School Coalition is the development of a Teen Center for students in grades six through 12. The committee members are seeking input from Mundelein residents and area business members regarding ideas of what the Mundelein community would like to see incorporated in such a center. Special interest is the building location, funding, center components, and the volunteer effort involved in such an endeavor. Residents and area business members are invited to the monthly Mundelein After School Coalition meetings to share ideas.

Call Rose at (847) 968-3775 for more information concerning the Mundelein After School Coalition.

Mayor
Village Administrator
Village Board