

Internationally acclaimed speaker hosts workshops at Lamont High School

Michelle Pinon
Editor

Dwayne Peace didn't even have time to finish his sandwich between presentations at Lamont High School on Wednesday afternoon before he was being called into action once again. But the former Calgary Police Officer turned Facilitator with Life Synergy is able to handle pretty much whatever he is faced with, and he is teaching youth to do the same

Peace, along with other members of the organization, offer programs for youth, parents and staff. His message causes his audiences to think about the power of their words and actions. Much of his work has been in a proactive role with students, assisting in making smart choices in their lives through the use of his many presentations. Social responsibility is something that students need to be aware of on a daily basis for a life time.

The presentations and workshops he performs go underneath the surface to deal with the reality of what is going on in today's school environment and the family dynamics that play a role in students' lives. Peace, who also served

in the capacity of School Resource Officer (SRO) with the police service for seven years, helps students identify and deal with issues such as: bullying, body image, suicide, rumours, gossip, drama, texting, sexting the dangers of drinking, drugs, tobacco and much more. "The goal is to work with schools before an unfortunate incident occurs, however, this program has been very effective both during an event and post-crisis," he adds.

He touched on the dangers of drugs, and in particular, "With the emergence of Fentanyl over the last few years, and all of the deaths associated with it, (343 in Alberta in 2016), a person has to be crazy to remain involved with drugs as you never know what it is that you are getting.

This is 40 times more toxic (not more powerful) than heroin, and 100 times more toxic than morphine. The equivalent of two grains of salt is enough to kill a person in 15 minutes. One pound is enough to kill 200,000 people."

He went on to say, "It is strongly suggested that when dealing with this drug you need to have gloves and a mask because it is dangerous if it

becomes airborne. Naloxone kits do not reverse death or organ damage. They provide a window of time to get a person to a medical facility where professionals are able to hopefully save that person."

Peace also informed the students about marijuana and its levels of THC, which has increased from 0.5-0.8 per cent in the 60's and '70's to between five and 49 per cent presently. He also spoke about the various strains of marijuana and some of its effects as well as some of the consequences of using the drug under the legal age limit.

He explained the two offences when charged with drinking and driving. They include: impaired driving and over .08. "Scientific studies have shown that a person's ability to func-



MICHELLE PINON PHOTO

Guestspeaker Dwayne Peace, middle, poses with Lamont High School counsellor Dianna Graziano, left, and math teacher Allan Hope between presentations on Wednesday, February 22.

tion normally is impaired somewhat at .05 or the equivalent of 50mg/100ml. "The formal wording of the Criminal Code of Canada for the charge of Impaired Driving is by alcohol or a drug whether it is illegal or prescription. At this time there is no data to show what the corresponding level of impairment is for marijuana."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Andrew School staff and students wore their pink t-shirts with pride on anti-bullying day on Wednesday, February 22. Staff also showed their appreciation to students by cooking them pancakes and bacon for breakfast that morning.



MICHELLE PINON PHOTO

Kierstyn Buck, left, a representative with Lamont High School's student council, poses with Clarissa Strickland. Buck was selling bracelets and cookies with pink icing in support of the nationwide anti-bullying campaign. Clarissa bought enough cookies for a table of her friends who were most appreciative of her kindness and generosity.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Town of Bruderheim declared February 22 Pink Shirt Day, and staff members dawned t-shirts in support of the anti-bullying campaign. Pictured from left to right are: Andrea Taylor, Patty Podoborzny, Sharron Sinclair, Melynda Waldner, Sherry Cote, Karen Teslia and Judy Koschade.



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