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## Youth Services Officer Makes "School" Calls

By Cathy Tyson



Officer B. Parker talking to kids at Old Firehouse School Photo submitted

It was a two-fold lesson for children at the Old Firehouse School on Moraga Road. Three- year olds had a talk about finding a lost gingerbread man, and older tots heard about jail, something they were curious about, along with information about safety and dialing 911.

Just another day in the life of Youth Services Officer B. Parker. Whenever there is a crime by or against a minor, his job is to intervene - he also works with the schools heading off issues for student having problems, online safety, preventing bullying, and other youth-related matters.

He advises parents to, "Be aware, be present, and make your house the place your kids and their friends want to hang out," and model good behavior. He also recommends, "Be in your kids business," starting in elementary school, junior high and high school. If there is a break in those firm boundaries along the way, it's difficult to get back on track.

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