

Monique Ferrer
Student Government Day 2010

Gr:8

March 22, 2010

March 15, 2010 was a day that I will never forget. This was the day I got the chance to become Chief of Police for the day. It was an exciting, informational opportunity for me, as well as my fellow 8th grade classmates. My day started off with a speech given in the meeting room at the Acushnet Town Hall. During this meeting, my classmates and I got sworn in to our positions. Kellie Rucolo swore us in; she was shadowing the town clerk. We were then sent with our mentors. Chief Alves gave me a badge for the time I was spending with him. Chief Alves and I spent a few moments at the Town Hall, where we had a meeting with the students who were representing the selectmen and the one student who was representing the town administrator. The meeting included talking about a grant the Chief wanted for helmets for the children of our town. Chief Alves then took me to Dunkin' Donuts just like a real cop would! We rode up to the police station, where I was then given a tour. I even got to do my own finger prints! I learned a lot about the police station that I had not known. For example, the detective's office is down stairs in the "dungeon", and all of the old files are also in a room downstairs in the cellar. I was ecstatic when I got to take a ride with the Chief to Hamlin Street to see the flooding. The flooding was bad, and I was told that if it rained the next day, the street would have to be closed down. It was exciting to be part of the experience.

The police chief, you will be surprised to know, does not just sit around bossing people around all day and drinking coffee. He signs grants and does payroll to make sure his employees get the right amount of money they deserve. While I was there he showed me a grant that he had to sign about new guns the station was getting. I never realized how expensive some of the items the station needed were. I

learned he has to make decisions on grants, budgets, and personnel. Chief Alves also works with S.E.M.L.E.C, which stands for South Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council. By the way Chief Alves talks, I can tell he fully enjoys his job helping people and being there for his community.

We headed back to the Town Hall to receive our folders that were presented to us by our mentors. We all enjoyed a great lunch at the Century House, where we listened to a speech given by Miss Acushnet, Phoebe Laplante. The speech made me realize how important this opportunity was. The lunch really made me open my eyes and realize that my classmates and I were representing the school, as well as the town. I think Student Government Day was such an eye-opener and an unforgettable learning experience for the students and the town officials. I'm glad that I got to participate in this activity. I was happy of the job I received, and I was really interested in what the Chief had to say to me. Hopefully, one day another 8th grader will get to become a town official and enjoy it the same way my classmates and I did.