

WEST VALLEY NEWS

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Spring Valley High School senior tells middle schoolers about being car smart

By NATALIE EVERETT

Spring Valley High School Senior Class President and race car driver Jace Meier made an appearance at a Frank Garside Middle School assembly on Sept. 12.

"A lot of the things I have, I have because I worked hard for them," Meier said.

Meier's speech focused on the importance of staying in school.

Meier said his academic focus will help him in the future because he will always have something to fall back on in case racing doesn't pan out.

Hearing someone close to their age talk about goals and the importance of school had an extra impact on Garside students.

"I hear about it from my dad all the time," sixth grader Amber Frank said. "After hearing it from him, I believe it."

Sixth grader Sabrina Jones said the speech probably helped a lot of kids.

"They'll have a better life than they would have had if they didn't hear his speech," Jones said.

Sixth grader Alyssa Hatch said Meier sounded so adult, she didn't notice he was almost her age. Hatch agreed with Meier's main points.

"If you're a good student, you get more chances in life," she said.

Meier, 17, has raced for three years. He placed second in Ford Focus Midget Main Event in California. Meier also races at The Bullring at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

After the assembly, Meier waited outside, leaning against a late-model, 400-horsepower stock car as children swarmed him and the racecar, oohing and aahing and asking for autographs.

"It actually started as a way for my family and I to spend more time together," Meier said of his racing hobby. "It was my dad's idea."

While the fastest he's driven is 150 miles per hour, Meier slows down long enough to maintain a 4.2 GPA and volunteer for various community organizations, including The Greater Las Vegas After-School All-Stars.

Meier gave his speech at Garside on behalf of the organization, which operates after-school programs in several schools throughout Las Vegas.

By providing opportunities for underprivileged youth to participate

Think safety first



CARY EDMONDSON/NEWS STAFF PHOTO

Local race car driver Jace Meier finishes a speech on the safety of driving to students of Garside Middle School.

'After hearing (about driving safety) from him, I believe it.'

Amber Frank,
Sixth grader, Frank Garside Middle School

them to stay in school.

Meier and his racing sponsor, York Heating and Air Conditioning, donated 1,000 tickets to the students to watch the Sept. 23 Craftsman Truck Series Race at the speedway, an event they called the "Kids On Track — Night at the Races." On Sept. 30, Meier will take 35 Garside students out to dinner and then to the Bullring at the speedway for a race. The 35 students will be chosen based on their academic achievement, according to a press release.



CARY EDMONDSON/NEWS STAFF PHOTO

Spring Valley High School senior and race car driver Jace Meier signs the backpack of Frank Garside Middle School student Josh Ohman, 14, in front of his race car while promoting the second annual Kids on Track – Night at the Races. The event culminates on Sept. 30, when students from Garside will get to see Meier race at the Bullring at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.