

# The Port Gibson Reveille

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## **Port Gibson Middle School Offered Safety Program**

Picked as one of 12 schools in Mississippi to benefit from a \$57,000 grant from Allstate Foundation, Port Gibson Middle School offered a special program on Monday, March 20th through its Students Against Violence Everywhere Chapter at 1 p.m.

## **MDOT PRESENTS SCENERIOS**

With the guidance from MDOT employees, Port Gibson Middle School students learned many things about being safe while traveling in a vehicle. Using equipment the team travels the state to educate people, they exposed the students to the effect alcohol might have on driving by making them wear goggles.

Trying to walk a straight line or even a twist was impossible as the students tried the goggles. Next, they attempted to throw rings over traffic cones, and except for one lucky student, none succeeded. The last try was tossing bean bags into the hole in the traffic cone. Again no success.

Using a truck which would revolve as if involved in a turnover, the MDOT folks with dummies showed students what would happen if those in the vehicle weren't buckled in. They used the driver himself who wound up "thudding" onto the ground or maybe it would be a highway. Another dummy showed the students what happens when a six-year-old in a booster seat is not buckled in and finally a small baby riding with the daddy. All either got tossed out or were slammed by the driver because they were not buckled down.

Using a piece of equip-

ment called “The Convincer,” MDOT had several teacher volunteers sit in a seat with a seat belt to travel at five miles an hour down a slope. At the bottom they would be jolted to a stop. The result was a twinge at the shoulder blades, the hips, or just a jerk to the head. But all of those were less dangerous than hitting the dashboard of a real car.

The lesson taught? Wear a seat belt no matter where you are sitting in a vehicle. And with youngsters, they need a booster seat so the seat belt comes across the shoulder and not on the neck. And little kids need to be in the back seat, right?

Very rarely, according to the MDOT folks, do they have to unbuckle a dead person from the wreck. And they could offer grim stories about the results when folks didn't use seat belts.

So the Allstate Foundation funding helped make this presentation possible for many PGMS students. And perhaps it will save somebody's life in the future.

Allstate has been awarding such assistance since 2005 and by doing so, hundreds of students across Mississippi have been and will be educated and directly engaged in SAVE chapter activities.

According Mrs. Sherman, “The safety fair held on Monday was beneficial to the students. It taught them safety, the need for seatbelts, and avoiding distractions while driving or riding in a vehicle.”

“We would like to thank the Allstate Foundation for providing the resources for this event,” said Mrs. Sherman.