

SATURDAY, JAN. 16, 2010

Frog & Toad visit  
Children's Museum  
of N.H. today, B5



# Portsmouth Herald

## FATHER HAS 'LIFE SENTENCE OF PAIN'

Man warns  
students not to  
drink and drive

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**N**EWMARKET — On June 23, 2007, 20-year-old Rye resident Jhaime Dye was killed in a car accident after drinking at a party.

On Thursday, Jhaime's father, John, stood before health teacher Tarnya Miller's class to speak openly about the effects of drunken driving on his life.

Newmarket Junior/Senior High School students in Grades 9 to 11 listened as he described



John Dye

the heart-wrenching experience of being told his son had died and having to make the phone call to his parents to tell them the news. "Those are the things that your parents and your friends could possibly go through," Dye said. "You have to understand the consequences your actions have on every person in your life."

Dye, who speaks before classes about three times a year, and also participates in smaller events coordinated by parents, spoke to the impor-

ance of making changes in potentially dangerous lifestyles and friends in order to better oneself.

"It's about making the right decisions," he said, "and having the strength to do what's right for yourself and being there to help your friends and loved ones make the right choices.

"You guys don't want to be in the situation where I am. My heart's broken forever, and what I'm left with is a life sentence of pain."

Jhaime Dye was a 2005 graduate of Portsmouth High School, where he played soccer.

When students asked John Dye how he was able to move forward and deal with the tragedy Dye told them speaking engagements such as this help ease the pain in some way by knowing his story could have a positive influence on the life of a young person.

"One of the steps I take to get through the pain is doing what I'm doing now," Dye said, "and knowing that I get to help a few of you, if not all of you."

At one point, Dye gave the

At one point, Dye gave the students copies of a newspaper showing photos of the accident in which his son was killed.

"I'm not here to give you statistics and preach to you but I'm here to let you look at these photographs that my son is in and understand that this is serious business," he said. "If I can get one or two of you, or hopefully all of you, to bite on what I'm saying and see the pain on my face, then I've done my job."

After the class, Dye said seeing the understanding in the students' eyes makes the difficult experience of relaying his story worth it.

"When these kids come up and look me in the eye and just start shaking my hand I know they were paying attention," he said. "I just hope it means as much to them as it does to me."