



DRAFT FOR TWP NEWSLETTER

### **School Security**

The Board of Supervisors and the police department recognize the greatest resource we have to protect are your children. Our dayshift patrols are visible every day in front of the two schools located in East Fallowfield. In addition we work closely with the CASD police and each school's administration to respond to and assist in any emergency.

Our police canine teams are used to patrol around and in the buildings, and our explosive detection canine team is frequently used to search CASD buildings. Ofc. Martinez and K-9 Ricky are a valuable resource to the community, as are the four other County explosive detection canine teams.

Within minutes of the Nickel Mines shooting we had patrol cars stationed in front of both the East Fallowfield and South Brandywine Schools. The officers were equipped and deployed with patrol rifles, tactical gear, and a police canine. Once it was clear there was no immediate threat to our schools, we resumed normal activities but continued with high visibility patrol for the remainder of that school week.

We have to understand that terrorists have targeted schools throughout the world, and despite the low probability that our schools may be targeted we need to be aware, be pro-active and alert.

In September, one of our patrol officers saw a U-Haul truck driving slowly around the front of the East Fallowfield Elementary school. It stopped, backed up, and then drove around to rear of the school. The officer stopped the truck as it slowed down next to the rear of the gym. It was the Chester County IU delivering science kits to the school. Prior to 9/11 these circumstances would have never been suspicious.

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