

Grant Today

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Where Are They Now?

Personnel Profile

Q and A



Teen racer visits Norwood

By

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Pro Legend race car driver Jonathan Mawhinney started racing in 2003, when he was only 12 years old.

One day his dad came home, asked him if he wanted to race cars called Bandoleros at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, and a passion was born.

Thinking there would be a steep learning curve in the first year, Mawhinney didn't expect to do well. Twenty-six wins later he was Nevada State Points Champion.

Today, at only 15 and without a real driver's license, Mawhinney races Legend cars, small vehicles that average 90 mph on a track and can reach speeds of 120 mph.

Mawhinney, the nephew of Grant District Educational Options Coordinator of Support Services, Wendi Cowan, was in Sacramento recently for a race.

On the last day of summer school, Mawhinney stopped by Norwood Junior High School with his cars to talk to the students.

"I wanted to let them know that anything is possible and follow their dreams," Mawhinney said.

The students seemed excited and three were given tickets to a July 22 race at the All American Speedway in Roseville to see Mawhinney compete.

Mysson Smith, Lizet Perez and Dylan Maxey were given tickets after being recommended by their teachers for being outstanding summer school students.

Maxey said he loves to watch racing with his dad and couldn't wait to go to the track this weekend.



Jonathan Mawhinney's Legend car.




Norwood students talk to teen racer Jonathan Mawhinney.



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Before Mawhinney left, he had one more message for the students. This year, one of his best friends and mentors, Spencer Clark, died in an auto accident. Clark was also a race car driver, but died not wearing his seatbelt on a trip home.

"Always wear your seatbelt," Mawhinney told the students. "And keep your friends close."

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