



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: October 9, 2014

LOCATION: Mission Hill Middle School

TOPIC: Arrest for Loaded Firearm on Campus

CASE NUMBER: 14S-08382

INFORMATION:

On Thursday October 9, 2014, the Santa Cruz Police Department School Resource Officer (SRO) responded to Mission Hill Middle School, 425 King Street, on a report of a loaded firearm seized from a student's backpack on campus.

A teacher was alerted to the presence of the gun after reports from other students about seeing the firearm in a student's backpack. The teacher seized the backpack and brought it to the office.

A campus supervisor recovered the firearm from the backpack and secured it until the Police Department's School Resource Officer arrived.

The owner of the backpack is a 13 year old student at Mission Hill Middle School, and resides in Santa Cruz. The student was summoned to the office and detained in the Principal's office until the arrival of police. The 13 year old student was placed under arrest and booked into Juvenile Hall for Possession of a Firearm on School Grounds, and for Possession of a Stolen Firearm.

Further investigation revealed that, in addition to Thursday's discovery, the same student had been seen on campus Wednesday in possession of the firearm.

The firearm was stolen out of a home in Hot Springs, Arkansas in 2012. It is unknown how the student came to be in possession of the gun, as he refused to cooperate with the police and provide this information. The handgun is a .380 caliber semi-automatic. The firearm had a fully loaded magazine and a round in the chamber (for a total of 8 rounds) when it was recovered. Two photos of the actual handgun are attached to this release.

SCPD detectives will enter the gun into the National IBIS System (Integrated Ballistics Identification System) for comparison and matching. This is a national firearms system that compares forensic ballistics information to match and identify firearms used in crimes. Think of it like a fingerprint system for guns.

The police department worked with school administrators to provide notification of the incident to parents. This case underscores the importance of the relationship and full cooperation between Santa Cruz City Schools and the Police Department's School Resource Officer to ensure the safety of students and staff in our city schools. We are thankful the situation was resolved as quickly and safely as possible, without injury to any of the students or staff.

For additional information, contact: Deputy Chief Steve Clark

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Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or from our Website; www.santacruzpolice.com. Tipsters can also submit an anonymous tip via our smartphone app or from an SMS text. Visit our Website for instructions.



