



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF**

**ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

**SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE**

June 24, 2010

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **D.A.R.E. Graduates 410 Students**

The 2009/2010 Anderson County Sheriff's Department Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program finished its instruction at the end of the school year. A total of 410 5<sup>th</sup> graders in nineteen different classrooms representing eight Anderson County elementary schools successfully completed the curriculum. Each student earned a certificate of completion and was awarded a special D.A.R.E. tee shirt as an award.



- Number of Schools - 8
- Number of Classrooms - 19
- Number of Students - 410

Over the ten week program, these students learned the skills they need to avoid drugs, alcohol, and violence. The classes include extensive student participation on practical ways to resist pressure to experiment with drugs and alcohol. The D.A.R.E. curriculum also has lessons on how to resist and avoid bullying which is beneficial to both students and teachers.

The D.A.R.E. lessons focus on four major areas:

- Providing accurate information about alcohol and drugs,
- Teaching students decision making skills,
- Showing students how to resist peer pressure, and;
- Giving students ideas for alternatives to drug use and violence.

Each student was required to write an essay expressing their thoughts about the D.A.R.E. Program and why they think it is important to be drug free and avoid violence. Nineteen students, one from each classroom, were awarded D.A.R.E. Ribbon Medallions for writing what was chosen as best classroom essay. Eight students, one from each school, were chosen as Grand Prize Essay Winners for writing what was considered the best essay for their respective school. The Grand Prize winners were awarded a D.A.R.E. Ribbon Medallion to recognize their achievement. The Grand Prize Essay winners from Lake City, Fairview, and Andersonville were also awarded special prizes that were donated by local businesses and their respective school Parent Teacher Organizations.

The D.A.R.E. program is a partnership between law enforcement agencies and the Anderson County school system. This year Chief Jim Shetterly and the Lake City Police Department not only bought all the D.A.R.E. tee shirts and awards for the students and staff at Lake City Elementary School as they have done for the past three years but also bought the tee shirts and essay winner prizes for the students and special awards for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and principles at Briceville and Dutch Valley Elementary Schools. Chief Shetterly and officers with the Lake City Police Department assisted with the awards at the culmination program at Lake City Elementary School.

The Anderson County Sheriff's Department D.A.R.E. Program received donations from throughout the county, including area businesses, to help purchase student workbooks, tee shirts, and essay awards.

D.A.R.E. began in 1983. It is taught in more than 75% of our nation's school districts and forty-three countries around the world. In the last three years, 220 communities have started new D.A.R.E. programs. The Anderson County Sheriff's Department is proud to partner with the Anderson County Schools and the Board of Education in providing these important lessons in resisting drugs and violence to our youth.

For more information on D.A.R.E. please visit [www.dare.com](http://www.dare.com) .

**Deputy Mark Whaley**