



Milpitas Police Department

*Dennis Graham
Chief of Police*

PRESS RELEASE

FINAL D.A.R.E. GRADUATION AND NEW CHARACTER COUNTS PROGRAM

Date: May 26, 2011
Location: Milpitas Police Department
Details: Final DARE Graduation and Implementation of the Character Counts Program.

On May 26, 2011 Pomeroy Elementary School hosted the final D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) graduation for 104 fifth grade students. All fifth graders completed ten weeks of instruction from Milpitas Police Officer Duong Nguyen. Fifth graders won awards in the following categories and are pictured in the accompanying photo along with Interim Superintendent Barbara Young, Officer Nguyen, Principal Troy Knechtel and Chief Dennis Graham.

TOP POSTER

Breanna Banh
Rebecca Maritess Fama
Sarah Mulugeta

TOP ESSAY

Amreen Gill
Tori Chu
Labonita Ghose

MOST INSPIRATIONAL

Laura Stefanko
Constance Tran
Jonas Mendoza

TOP D.A.R.E. STUDENT

Makayla Williams
Shreeya Aranake
Ryan Huynh

Over the past several years, the Milpitas Police Department has taught the D.A.R.E. curriculum to fifth graders in both public and private schools. The officers provided a series of classroom lessons that teach children how to resist peer pressure and live productive, drug-free and violence-free lives.

The City of Milpitas, Milpitas Unified School District and Milpitas Police Department are excited to announce the implementation of a new program for fifth graders known as Character Counts. The police department is converting the existing D.A.R.E. program into a 6-week program that focuses on six universal values known as the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. The Six Pillars of Character are six core ethical values that transcend cultural, socioeconomic and religious differences.



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The Character Counts program enables the instructor to modify the lesson plans based on the objectives of the community, the school and the police department. The fifth graders will be taught these pillars and why they are important. Officers will instruct through lecture, games and classroom activities that embody the message that your character counts.

By: Officer Smith #223

Date: May 26, 2011, 3:30 pm