



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2007 Annual Report D.A.R.E. Program

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A. Mandate of the Unit

The mandate of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program is to provide education and awareness in an effective way in developing skills, enhancing self-esteem, and teaching alternatives around drug abuse and violence to children in Grade 5 and 6.

The D.A.R.E. program operates under the auspices of a volunteer Board of Directors who provide oversight, logistical, and fundraising support for the program.

B. Executive Summary

Police presence in the schools continues to be perceived in a very positive way. The officer serves as a role model for the students and lends credibility on a subject that a schoolteacher could not provide. A benefit of D.A.R.E. is that it promotes a familiarity between the police officer and the children, teachers and school staff. The uniformed officer relates to students as a role model as well as law enforcement. This promotes positive attitudes toward police and a greater respect for the law. This benefit has been greatly noticed when walking through schools. Students are eager to stop the officer and comment that they had D.A.R.E. in grade five or six. This happens regularly when walking to scheduled classes at various schools. Some students have been known to have participated in the D.A.R.E. program more than once since they had received it when in grade five and then had either transferred to another school who was offering the program for grade six students. It is seen that those students that are taking it for a second time still have the same level of enthusiasm and excitement for the program as they did the first time.

D.A.R.E. is popular among the children as the officer is friendly and approachable, and develops a good rapport with the students. Principals and teachers welcome the program as it covers the government mandated health curriculum, which must be taught in all primary schools. It is popular with parents and media because something is being done to combat the menace of drug abuse and violence by children. Police services like D.A.R.E. because it provides an opportunity to engage in community relations.

The D.A.R.E. curriculum continues to operate under a nine-lesson plan with the tenth session being the graduation ceremony for the students where parents are invited to attend to witness their children receiving their certificates. The program can be completed within a ten-week period if there are no changes to the schedule initially provided to the schools. The schedule for the English-speaking schools is broken down into three semesters with the first being from September to December, the second being from January to the end of March and the third being from April to the end of June. The previous curriculum was a total of seventeen weeks where all schools needed to be scheduled within two semesters. The student D.A.R.E. notebook has changed format to accommodate the new teaching techniques.

The program continues to use the same work notebook as in the past, which is distributed to every student who is participating in the program. The information, principles, skills and the activities within the lessons are all designed to build students' capacities to solve difficult personal and social problems related to substance use and abuse, and to make and act on decisions that are informed and in their own best interest. Access to these capacities is through the use of effective instructional

strategies, and is realistic in the eyes of students. The goal of the entire D.A.R.E. program is to significantly reduce/eliminate the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and the use of violent behavior by young people.

Cst. Rebecca McWhirter continued to teach the D.A.R.E. program on a full-time basis in January of 2007 to the English-speaking schools up until June of 2007. Cst. Alain Bedard, who was selected in September of 2006 to replace Mr. Yvon Montcalm in teaching the French-speaking schools, attended the Ontario Police College and successfully completed the D.A.R.E. instructor's course in December of 2006. He then began teaching in January of 2007.

In September of 2007, Cst. Aaron Northrup was selected to replace Cst. McWhirter on a full-time basis and attended the Ontario Police College in December of 2007 where he successfully completed the D.A.R.E. Instructor's course. As of January of 2008, Cst. Northrup has become our full-time D.A.R.E. instructor for the English curriculum. Cst. Bedard filled in for Cst. McWhirter and taught the English curriculum from September of 2007 until January of 2008. Cst. Bedard now continues to teach the French-speaking schools.

C. Activities

From September 2006 to June 2007, Cst. Rebecca McWhirter taught in 19 English-speaking schools in a total of 22 classes. A total of 562 students graduated from the D.A.R.E. program during this period. In January 2007, Cst. Alain Bedard taught 6 classes in a total of four schools. A total of 96 students graduated during this period. Cst. Bedard completed his only semester in April 2007 and was returned to the patrol section of the Police Service, as he does not teach D.A.R.E. during the full scholastic year. From September 2007 to December 2007, Cst. Bedard was assigned again to the D.A.R.E. program and taught 9 classes in a total of 7 English-speaking schools. A total of 233 students graduated during this period.

D. Performance Indicators

Presently, there is no system in place for tracking the performance of the D.A.R.E. program and its effectiveness, other than the praise and acceptance it receives from our school principals, teachers, students and parents. The D.A.R.E. officers continue to be told that it is a valuable program by former students, who are now into their high school years, and that it has had an impact on their lives by giving them valuable information and awareness regarding drug and alcohol abuse, tobacco use and violence. What is also noticeable is the enhancement of the relationship between our youths and police officers.

E. Anticipated Issues for the Future

The D.A.R.E. coordinators believe that if we continue to meet the high demands by our schools, we do not anticipate any issues or concerns for the future.

F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year

The D.A.R.E. program is intended to educate and generate awareness for our youths regarding drug and alcohol abuse, tobacco use, violence along with building resistance to the possible temptations to the aforementioned through peer pressure and violence.

Possibly in the future, we can create a tracking system of D.A.R.E. graduates, where we can re-contact them after a certain period of time, in order to verify if receiving the D.A.R.E. program was beneficial and influential in their lives in making certain decisions regarding drug and alcohol abuse, tobacco use and violence. This would then offer some facts and statistics on the effectiveness of the program.

G. Appendices

Included in this Annual Report is a statistical chart (Appendix A) of a breakdown of the number of students who have graduated from the D.A.R.E. program since 1997 to date.

APPENDIX 'A'

GRADUATE STATISTICS

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1997 graduates | 288 |
| 1998 graduates | 496 |
| 1999 graduates | 698 |
| 2000 graduates | 645 |
| 2001 graduates | 968 |
| 2002 graduates | 913 |
| 2003 graduates | 694 |

D.A.R.E. GRADUATES 2003 – 2004

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Sept. 2003 semester | 401 |
| Feb. 2004 semester | 322 |
| Jan. 2004 semester | 112 |
| Total | 835 |

D.A.R.E. GRADUATES 2004 – 2005

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Sept. 2004 semester | 168 |
| Jan. 2005 semester | 213 |
| Apr. 2005 semester | 197 |
| Jan. 2005 semester | 101 |
| Total | 679 |

D.A.R.E. GRADUATES 2005 – 2006

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Sept. 2005 semester | 292 |
| Jan. 2006 semester | 234 |
| Apr. 2006 semester | 198 |
| Jan. 2006 semester | 131 |
| Total | 855 |

D.A.R.E. GRADUATES 2006 – 2007

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Sept. 2006 semester | 256 |
| Jan. 2007 semester | 184 |
| Apr. 2007 semester | 122 |
| Jan. 2007 semester | 96 |
| Total | 658 |

D.A.R.E. GRADUATES 2007 – 2008

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Sept. 2007 semester | 233 |
|---------------------------|-----|

Total D.A.R.E. graduates since 1997 7,962