



NORTH BAY POLICE SERVICE

2008 Annual Report D.A.R.E. Program

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Author: Cst A.Northrup #5816**

A. Mandate of the Unit

The D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program provides early education and awareness to local grade 5 and 6 students in the North Bay and area. The students are introduced to numerous subjects, including drug and alcohol abuse, school violence and self esteem promotion.

The students are provided with tools and support in how to deal with day to day problem and ongoing issues.

B. Executive Summary

Police presence in the schools continues to be perceived in a very positive way. The Officer's serve as a role model for the students and give credibility on a subject that a School teacher could not provide. A benefit of D.A.R.E. is that it promotes a familiarity between the police and the children, teachers and school staff. The uniformed Officers relate to students as role model's 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 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.

In January of 2008 Constable Aaron Northrup took over as the full-time D.A.R.E. Officer for the North Bay Police Service teaching in the English schools. Constable Al Bedard continues as the French D.A.R.E. Officer.

C. Activities

From January 2008 through December 2008, Constable Northrup taught 25 classes in 21 different schools within the region, having 608 student graduate from the program.

Constable Bedard taught 7 French classes in 5 different schools having 123 graduates between January 2008 and April 2008.

On the 19th and 20th of February 2008, Constable Northrup attended the 1st ever Canadian D.A.R.E. conference in Niagara Falls, Ont.

On September 4th 2008, the North Bay Police Association hosted a Charity Golf tournament raising \$3500.00 for the local D.A.R.E. board, this event was supported by current National Hockey League player's Craig Rivet of the Buffalo Sabres, Alex Auld of the Ottawa Senators, former Toronto Maple Leaf Paul Harrison and a gift from the Atlanta Thrashers.

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

At this time there appears to be no issues with the Schools, as the program is well received and in demand, the only possible problem could be with the current economic

situation in the Country and the local School Boards ability to pay the D.A.R.E. fee

F. Performance Objectives for the Next Year

To continue the long standing relationship with the local school's, also during the 2008 year, all new Recruit Officer's have been assigned to Constable Northrup during pre OPC training, and all have attended D.A.R.E. classes and participated in the teaching with the students, this is beneficial for the new officer's and should be continued.