

D.A.R.E. GRADUATION AT SAINT JAMES SCHOOL

The Red Bank Police Department, along with Saint James School, would like to honor the entire fifth grade class for graduating from the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. All 59 students took the pledge to stay off drugs as they graduated from the program on April 24.

As part of the 10-week D.A.R.E. program, each student was required to write an essay on what he or she learned in D.A.R.E. and why it is important to be drug- and violence-free. The graduation ceremony featured two winning students reading their outstanding essays, which highlighted the ways they learned to take a stand against drugs. For their hard work, those students, Tessa French and Michael Sullivan, each were presented with a beautiful 10-speed bicycle.

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a preventative program whose goal is to equip youth with skills for resisting peer pressure to experiment with tobacco, drugs, and alcohol. The D.A.R.E. program uses a police officer to teach a formal curriculum to students.

Red Bank Police Officer Dawn Shields, who taught the weekly lessons at Saint James, explained that life is all about making choices and good things normally happen to people who make good choices. She explained how important it is for young people to surround themselves with other kids who are positive influences.



(Left to right, front row) Mrs. Byrne, fifth grade teacher, Michael Sullivan, and Tessa French; (back row) Mr. William Cardone, Saint James Principal, Red Bank Chief of Police Stephen McCarthy, Police Officer Dawn Shields, D.A.R.E. instructor, and Mrs. Signoriello, fifth grade teacher.