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News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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23rd Annual D.A.R.E. Graduation

The Lake Havasu City Police Department is proud to announce that 480 of the city's fifth-grade students will participate in the 23rd annual D.A.R.E. graduation at the Aquatic Center, 100 Park Avenue, on Friday, March 5, 2010, at 12:30 p.m.

The graduation is a celebration of fifth-grade students completing the 12-week D.A.R.E. program. The Lake Havasu City Police Department currently has six certified D.A.R.E. instructors that instruct the D.A.R.E. curriculum for one hour each week. Topics include instruction on the dangers of drugs, making good life choices, dealing with peer pressure, and understanding the consequences of decisions the students make. The theme of this year's D.A.R.E. essay and drawing contest is "Taking Charge." All fifth-grade students completed an essay and picture representing their interpretation of the theme.

The graduation celebration will include a reading of the essays picked as best representing this year's theme. Pictures chosen as best representing the theme will be on display also. Students will receive a certificate of graduation and sing the D.A.R.E. theme song. Former NFL veteran Robert Tate (Arizona Cardinals 2005 – 2007) will be the keynote speaker at the graduation. He will speak to the students about setting personal goals and to always be willing to work hard to accomplish them, no matter what obstacles get in the way.

Cake and refreshments will be served at the end of the graduation. The aquatic center is hosting a free swim party for the students after the graduation ceremony.

The Lake Havasu City police department's D.A.R.E. program is fully funded by contributions from the community. The monies are used to certify officers in D.A.R.E. instruction, purchase supplies to teach D.A.R.E., and to offset the cost of the D.A.R.E. graduation each spring.

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) was founded in 1983 in Los Angeles and has proven so successful that it is now being implemented in 75 percent of our nation's school districts and in more than 43 countries around the world. D.A.R.E. is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children from kindergarten through 12th grade how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug- and violence-free lives.

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