



For Immediate Release

Contact: Sharon Harris

Oct. 28, 2013

PRIDE Project Coalition

Red Ribbon Week addresses substance abuse prevention at Glen Cove schools

SAFE's PRIDE Project Coalition kicked National Red Ribbon Week district wide starting off the week at an impressive assembly for kindergartner through second grade at the Gribbin Primary School on Monday, Oct. 21. The SAFE Coalition annually sponsors and promotes Red Ribbon Week within the Glen Cove School District. Red Ribbon Week is a national drug awareness campaign aimed at addressing the importance of substance abuse prevention.

SAFE Board of Directors and Coalition volunteers, city and school administration showed their support by participating in Red Ribbon celebrations in each of the district's elementary schools and Finley Middle School. Students from Deasy, Connolly, Landing, and Gribbin schools embraced the theme of living a healthy, drug free lifestyle and created posters depicting their interpretation of living drug free.

Each elementary school held a special assembly to kick off Red Ribbon Week where students wore red ribbons and learned about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

"Red Ribbon Week is all about making good choices, not just today but everyday and we are going to help our neighbors and teachers and everyone around us to do that too," said Glen Cove Superintendent of Schools Maria L. Rianna.

Mayor Suozzi was also on hand to speak to children. He told children, "the City of Glen Cove loves you – we are all here to help you to grow up safe and strong."

All Middle School students enjoyed presentations by Coalition members of the Glen Cove Police Department in their Physical Education classes. Lt. Chris Ortiz, Sgt. Ryan M. Nardone, and P.O. Sonny Bifone spoke to the students about the risks of using drugs and the important role that decision making plays in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Students listened intently while the officers provided real-life stories from their extensive policing experience and students were given the opportunity to ask the officers questions about drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

SAFE's Coalition holds an art contest each year and the winners are announced at the Red Ribbon Week assembly. The purpose of the art contest is to encourage children to commit to making good choices and to be aware of the dangers of drug and alcohol. Winning posters appear on display in the Children's Room of the Glen Cove Public Library.

"Red Ribbon Week is an effective way to impart healthy choices to children through a celebration of wellness," said SAFE Executive Director and Coalition Co-Chair Dr. Sharon Harris. "It fosters communication between youth and adults about the dangers of substance abuse in a positive fashion."

Red Ribbon Week, a national drug awareness campaign, was created in 1985 to address the importance of substance abuse prevention. During this important week SAFE Inc., the only substance abuse prevention agency in Glen Cove, sponsors a citywide prevention celebration, working together with Mayor Suozzi's office, the Glen Cove School District, PTA, Glen Cove Police Department, the Inter-Agency Council, the Glen Cove Public Library and the Housing Authority share to help spread Red Ribbon Week's message throughout the community.

SAFE Inc. is committed to eliminating teen drug and alcohol use in Glen Cove. Through a combination of prevention, education, and law enforcement efforts, SAFE Inc. combats the devastating effects that can result from underage drinking and drug use in order to build a safer Glen Cove.

For more information regarding SAFE, Inc and the PRIDE Coalition, or to view SAFE Inc.'s Public Service Announcement, visit www.safeglencove.org. Want to follow the PRIDE Coalition on Facebook? Find us at <http://www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition>