

Oct. 25, 2016

For Immediate Release
Contact: Sharon Harris
SAFE Glen Cove Coalition

SAFE Inc. Sponsors Annual Red Ribbon Week at Glen Cove Schools to Address Substance Abuse Prevention

SAFE kicked off National Red Ribbon Week on October 24th. The agency annually sponsors and promotes Red Ribbon Week within the Glen Cove School District. Red Ribbon Week is a national drug awareness campaign created in 1985 aimed at addressing the importance of substance abuse prevention.

SAFE Board of Directors and staff, SAFE Glen Cove Coalition volunteers, the Glen Cove Police Department and School Administration showed their support by participating in Red Ribbon celebrations in the District's elementary schools and Finley Middle School. Students embraced the theme of living a healthy, drug free lifestyle and created posters depicting their interpretation of living drug free using this year's National RRW slogan "YOLO. Be Drug Free. #You Only Live Once".

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.

Len Cove School District students enjoyed presentations by Coalition members from the Glen Cove Police Department. Sgt. Ryan M. Nardone, Sgt. Sonny Bifone and PO Ted Karousos spoke to the students from grades K-8 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.

As part of this weeklong celebration, members of the Glen Cove After 3 Program participated in a interactive youth presentation with members of the Army Nation Guard Counter Drug Task Force to teach kids about making healthy decisions and lifestyle choices. SSG Sean Cassidy spoke to students at Connolly Elementary School, Landing Elementary and Finley Middle School about the consequences of substance use and dangers associated with risk taking behaviors.

SAFE's Coalition holds an art contest each year and the winners are announced at the Red Ribbon Week assembly by SAFE Board members and executive Director. 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 will appear on display in the Children's Room of the Glen Cove Public Library from October 25th - November 15th.

"Red Ribbon Week is an effective way to impart healthy choices to children through a celebration of wellness. It fosters communication between youth and adults about the dangers of substance abuse in a positive fashion" said Georgie Connett, SAFE Board Chair".

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 about SAFE and its other initiatives please contact the office at: 516-676-2008 or visit the website at <http://www.safeglencove.org> or our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/safeglencovecoalition>.