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## **D.A.R.E. Camp Debuts in Township August 21**

One boy and one girl are being selected from every fifth grade in the Abington School District and the four parochial schools in the township to attend D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) Camp the week of August 21 at the Roslyn Boy's and Girl's Club. Their selection by the Abington Police who have worked in tandem with their teachers recognizes that these students have shown signs of leadership among their classmates this past school year.

The camp experience will emphasize teamwork and team building through competitive sports, trust exercises, and other activities; include community service in Roslyn; and focus on selected components of the D.A.R.E. curriculum. The camp will also allow the D.A.R.E. officers to have contact with students from every class before beginning the sixth-grade program. It is hoped that campers will continue to grow as leaders and help others.

Camp will be held Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sergeant Dan Buckley will run the camp in conjunction with Community Service Corporal Larry Santee and Community Service Officers Mel Rice and Mary Carminati as well as D.A.R.E. officers.

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## **SToPP Begun in Abington Schools**

The School-based Tobacco Prevention Program (SToPP) is a comprehensive smoking prevention series begun last November and being carried out to 5,500 students in grades four through 12 in the Abington School District. SToPP is unique among smoking prevention programs in that it has been developed through close collaboration between the Family Practice Residency Program of Abington Memorial Hospital and the Abington School District.

SToPP provides a set of nine lesson plans for teachers to use in presenting students with an anti-tobacco message. These lessons target students across all age groups and are integrated across the curriculum, being taught not just in health but also in social studies, English, math, and science. These lessons reflect critical aspects of the knowledge, attitudes, and social skills that children and teens need to resist smoking.

Both physicians and teachers developed and implemented SToPP, with guidance from Neil Skolnik, M.D., Abington Family Medicine; Leigh Altadonna, Director of Curriculum; and Sandra Freedman, Director of Pupil Services. The impact of SToPP will be measured by responses to questionnaires distributed periodically to students and will appear in a future "ACT Happenings."

***The Abington Community Taskforce (ACT) is a coalition of parents and Abington-based educational, religious, social service, recreational, civic, and law enforcement agencies. Its mission is to create a responsible, caring, and safe community. ACT welcomes comments, suggestions, and ideas for future events. For more information, contact Sergeant Michael Webb, Community Policing, Abington Police Department: 215-885-4450 extension 620 or Shelly Erwine, Abington School District: 215-881-2570. ACT would like to express appreciation to Abington Memorial Hospital for its assistance in printing this publication.***

***Editor: Rosemary Peters Hinkle***