

## **Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT)**

This year the City of Woodland and the Woodland Police Department launched the first ever GREAT program at Freeman, Whitehead and Prairie elementary schools in the Woodland Joint Unified School District. Three School Resource Officers: Officer Flores, Officer McMannus and Officer Gray, participated in a rigorous 8-day training this past summer in order to be able to present the GREAT curricula to 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in the pre-selected elementary schools.

Each of the officers has completed at least one full session at their respective sites and the responses from students, parents, teachers and administrators have been extremely positive. The goal is to present the curricula to all 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at these sites and to all 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in the district during the 2016-17 school year.

If you have any questions regarding the program you may contact the YGRIP Coordinator at: email: [ygripcoordinator@cityofwoodland.org](mailto:ygripcoordinator@cityofwoodland.org) or at (530)668-7070.

Below is a description of the elementary GREAT program:

### **G.R.E.A.T. Elementary School Component**

The G.R.E.A.T. Elementary School Component consists of a competency-based life skills curriculum designed as a precursor to the middle school curriculum. This component establishes the foundation that prepares children for the intensified content and cooperation exercises taught in the middle school curriculum, while developing a positive bond between law enforcement and youth. Reaching children at an earlier stage of development allows for a better transition into the middle school curriculum. Children who have aggressive behavior in the elementary school years are more likely to display antisocial and violent behavior as adolescents and young adults. By providing prevention programs to students in elementary and middle school, it is believed that such programs have a better chance of affecting the developmental course of the problem behavior.

#### **Goal**

To prevent youth violence while developing positive relationships between criminal justice professionals and youth during their early developmental years

#### **Program Structure**

- The curriculum is designed for fourth- and fifth-grade students as a precursor to the G.R.E.A.T. middle school curriculum, has integrated the National English Language Arts Standards and National Health Education Standards, and is based on effective research practices.
- Sworn/certified criminal justice professionals must first be certified to teach the G.R.E.A.T. Program.
- The curriculum can be used in conjunction with and to reinforce other prevention programs to encourage positive relationships among the community, parents, schools, and law enforcement.

#### **The Lessons**

The curriculum consists of six 30- to 45-minute lessons designed to be taught in sequence. Each lesson is accompanied by a family letter that the student takes home explaining the lesson and encouraging parent/student interaction.

One special feature of the curriculum is the activity about bullying behaviors. This activity uses a pervasive and realistic problem to prompt student discussion and the development of positive solutions. The goal is to help students practice developing positive solutions and appropriate decision making when faced with tough decisions.

**The curriculum consists of the following lessons:**

1. G.R.E.A.T. Beginnings  
Lesson Goal: Students will identify facts about the G.R.E.A.T. Program and various aspects about violence and prevention.
2. To Do or Not to Do  
Lesson Goal: Students will demonstrate decision-making skills and identify to whom they can talk if they need help making decisions.
3. Loud and Clear  
Lesson Goal: Students will demonstrate effective communication skills.
4. Staying Cool When the Heat Is On  
Lesson Goal: Students will practice controlling anger and develop strategies to manage their anger.
5. We're All in This Together  
Lesson Goal: Students will identify individual and group differences and discuss respecting others.
6. G.R.E.A.T. Days Ahead  
Lesson Goal: Students will identify ways of being a G.R.E.A.T. citizen.