

VFMS 5th Grade Congratulations!



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Hi Neighbors!

Good things happen when all parts of our community work together to benefit our children. Recently more than 250 Valley Forge Middle School 5th graders participated in their graduation from **D.A.R.E.**, a program providing drug & alcohol resistance education as well as tips to help kids avoid negative peer pressure. TE Middle School 5th graders will take D.A.R.E. this spring. D.A.R.E. is taught by Tredyffrin Township Police Officer Jim Mutter with a blend of police anecdotes, parenting insight (Jim is the father of teenage boys), humor and an innate love of kids. D.A.R.E. is also supported by VFMS and TEMS teachers, who incorporate D.A.R.E. into their writing program by having their students write essays explaining what they learned from D.A.R.E. and pledging to abstain from using cigarettes, drugs or alcohol. Nine students were chosen to read their essays at the VFMS graduation, and the sincerity and resolve in their voices was unmistakable.

After the graduation ceremony, the more than 100 parents in attendance were able to stop and browse at an information table, hosted by **ARCH** (Area Residents Caring and Helping), that offered helpful handouts on topics such as family cell phone contracts and hosting safe youth parties. In the mean time, the graduates were off for a celebratory lunch as guests of the **Outback Steakhouse** in Wayne. Proprietor Michael Blizzoso and a number of Outback employees graciously volunteered their time to donate and prepare an enthusiastically received menu that was served up by a team of VFMS parent volunteers who dusted off their waitressing skills for the occasion.

Law enforcement, parents, teachers, community organizations and businesses came together to send a united message of support and caring to our kids, and we all came away feeling the better for it. It is possible to do this, and to keep doing this, and our children deserve it.

Roann Brown, 5th grade parent

Look for ARCH...

The flow of information and the parent involvement in schools changes once you hit Middle School. There are still opportunities to be involved and there are still newsletters... but, you are well served to know the information to look for. Look for information from ARCH.

ARCH provides the opportunity for parents to talk and share information... information about ways to protect your older child, your tween and/or your teen.

[ARCH](#), Area Residents Caring and Helping, inc., is a local community group established in 1981 by parents in the T/E School District to assist, educate and support one another in dealing with substance abuse by community young people. ARCH sponsors parent workshops, offers educational programs for children and works closely with the T/E School District Administration to provide student services and resources in the fight against substance abuse.

Visit www.archcares.org for more information!

ARCH is a 501(c)(3) organization and gratefully accepts charitable donations.
ARCH, Box 149, Paoli, PA 19301

The D.A.R.E. program is more than just drug prevention education; it teaches students good decision making skills to help them avoid high-risk behavior to ensure they grow up healthy, safe and secure.

