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GDOE/GPD D.A.R.E. Commencement Ceremony at Talofof Elementary School

Tiyan, Guam - The Guam Department of Education (GDOE) and Guam Police Department's (GPD) Auxiliary Services Division has been working with the team from Talofof Elementary School with the pilot Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program. **GPD is hosting a commencement ceremony on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 9:30am in the school's library. This event not only celebrates the achievements of the participants but also serves as an acknowledgment of the community's commitment to nurturing the well-being of its youth.**

The successful completion of D.A.R.E. "Keeping it Real" curriculum at Talofof Elementary School marks a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts of the Guam Department of Education and the Guam Police Department's Auxiliary Services Division. Over the past ten weeks, the program has engaged fifth-grade students in a comprehensive educational experience designed to equip them with the skills necessary to make safe and responsible choices. The curriculum, which emphasizes critical thinking and informed decision-making, has been an integral part of fostering a positive and proactive approach to challenges that young individuals may face.

The commendation from GDOE Superintendent Erik Swanson towards the Guam Police Department highlights the importance of collaborative efforts in educational initiatives. The D.A.R.E. program, with its emphasis on 'keeping it real,' serves as a vital tool in guiding the youth on the path of informed choices and resilience against substance abuse."

Guam Police Chief Stephen Ignacio said, "The commencement ceremony is not just a conclusion of a course but a beginning of a lifelong journey of growth and learning for the students. It is hoped that the ceremony will be a memorable and inspiring event for all involved, marking the start of many more successful endeavors in the field of education and community engagement."

The D.A.R.E. program is a comprehensive effort to teach young people to resist peer pressure and live productive drug-free lives. It has been implemented in thousands of schools across the United States and in over 50 other countries, reaching millions of students annually. Studies have shown that D.A.R.E. programs can lead to significant reductions in the use of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana among students. The curriculum, which is often taught by trained law enforcement officers, covers a wide range of topics including the effects of drugs, strategies for resisting peer pressure, stress management, and positive life choices.

For more information, email GPD, Sgt. Paul Tapao at paul.tapao@gpd.guam.gov or Tes Reyes-Burrier, mtreyes@gdoe.net.

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