

Twin Pines Elementary School, the Suffolk County Sheriff's department along with the school-based **Gang Resistance Education and Training Program** (G.R.E.A.T.) instructors, participated in a graduation ceremony. The students participated in the eight week-long program to learn about ways to resist destructive behaviors, such as gang involvement, set goals and take positive actions to achieve them.



Sheriff Vincent F. DeMarco recognized the need for a proactive approach in gang prevention here in Suffolk County and researched the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) program which was being provided in many states throughout the nation. The G.R.E.A.T. program slogan is No Violence is GREAT. The program is a classroom curriculum provided to elementary and middle school students which is taught by law enforcement officers with specialized training in teaching the lesson plans.



With prevention as its primary objective, the program aims to prevent bullying, youth crime, violence, drug use, and

gang involvement while developing a positive relationship among law enforcement, families, and young people to create safer communities. G.R.E.A.T. lessons focus on providing life skills to students to help them avoid using delinquent behavior and violence to solve problems, and make positive choices in life.

We would like to thank the Elementary School Counselors that coordinated this program with teachers and administrators in several of our elementary schools.

