



Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

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Olde Pointe Elementary School Holds Graduation for G.R.E.A.T Students

A Department of Juvenile Justice Program in Partnership with School Districts Statewide

Rock Hill, SC – On Thursday, March 20, 2014, Old Pointe Elementary School will hold graduation for 100 fourth grade students who have completed the Department of Juvenile Justice's (DJJ) Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program. Staff from DJJ's York County Office were instructors for the program.

What: Graduation for the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T) Program Participants

When: Thursday, March 20, 2014, 9:00 -10:00 a.m.

Where: Olde Pointe Elementary School Cafeteria, 380 Old Pointe School Road, Rock Hill, SC 29730

Speaker: Tori Gurley of the Cleveland Browns (NFL) will be the featured speaker. Gurley attended Oakdale Elementary, Saluda Trail Middle, and Rock Hill High School. He led the Bearcats to state championships in football and basketball before playing wide receiver at the University of South Carolina and later joining the NFL.

Background: This is the third year that the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) curriculum has been taught at Olde Point Elementary School. Two staff members from DJJ's York County Office, Sarah Garlock and Vanessa Williams, were instructors for the six-week program.

G.R.E.A.T. is a national gang violence and bullying prevention program built around school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom activities. The program is intended to prevent delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership for children in the years immediately before the prime ages for introduction into gangs and delinquent behavior.

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Program lessons focus on providing life skills to students to help them avoid using delinquent behaviors and violence to solve problems.

Besides Rock Hill, DJJ provides the G.R.E.A.T program in another 19 counties around the state including Allendale, Beaufort, Charleston, Cherokee, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Greenville, Hampton, Lexington, Newberry, Richland, Spartanburg, Sumter, Oconee, Orangeburg, Union, Williamsburg, and York counties. Providing youth with the tools they need to make good choices in life is paramount to their success, and DJJ sees the G.R.E.A.T. program as continuing to be an integral part of its prevention and intervention efforts into the future.

About DJJ

--- As the state agency responsible for providing rehabilitation and custodial care for the state's juveniles who are on probation, incarcerated, or on parole for a criminal or status offense, DJJ actively seeks partnerships that foster its mission. DJJ's mission is to protect the public and reclaim juveniles through prevention, community services, education, and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.

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