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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PENINSULA, VA—The Partnership on Youth Violence Prevention (The Partnership) recently hosted a video contest, in collaboration with WVEC-13, aimed at promoting violence prevention activities among high schools students. The contest was organized to show support for National Youth Violence Prevention Week, which goes from March 31 – April 4th. The police chief's, sheriff's, and schools superintendents for Gloucester, Hampton, James City County, Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg, and York County were excited about the opportunity to highlight the ideas and creativity of area high school students regarding violence and its effects.

Area high schools were asked to submit their ideas for a video to showcase youth violence and the issues that are important to area youth. Submissions could include anything from bullying, to conflict resolution, or even gangs. Each high school was encouraged to submit one script from which an overall winner would be chosen for the region. Video contest finalists included:

- The Pearls, Kecoughtan High School, Hampton, VA
- Theater Club, Warhill High School, Williamsburg, VA
- Television Production Program, Gloucester High School, Gloucester, VA
- Production Class, York High School, York County, VA

Although there was not a finalist from a Newport News high school, the PYVP recognizes the efforts of the Keeping Our Kids Safe (KOK), in coordination with Newport News Public

Schools, WHRO, and People to People, who had previously led their own video campaign to promote awareness on the topics of peace and race in Newport News.

The campaign winner for the region was the Theater Club from Warhill High School in Williamsburg, Virginia led by Mr. Robert Canon. The script submitted was titled 'Chain Reaction' and was based on the understanding that violence can spur more violence. “The message is important,” says Mr. Canon, “because the smallest jokes or comments can quickly and easily escalate with a person, within a community, and most importantly in a school. The message is that the results can be tragic—chain reactions start somewhere, they end somewhere too.”

Other honorable mentions included: the Pearls from Kecoughtan High School (led by Sylvia Harris) who entered a script designed to create awareness on teen dating violence; the Production Class at York High School (led by Nina Interbartolo) who entered a piece on bullying and how it is a learned behavior; and the Theater Class at Gloucester High School (led by Jeffrey Leone) who submitted an idea regarding internet safety and online predators. (See below for photos) The winners of the contest starred in the final spot for airing, with other contest participants serving as extras. The video is available for viewing online at www.preventyouthviolence.org.

The Partnership is committed to education and awareness efforts regarding youth violence and gang prevention activities in the communities of Gloucester, Hampton, James City County, Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg, and York County. For more information, contact Sabrina Jones at 757-928-4394.

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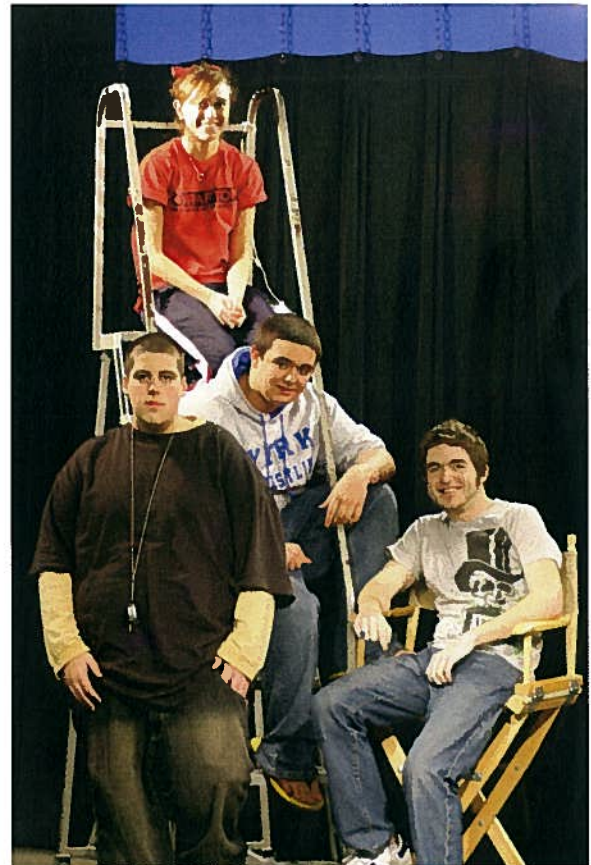
Warhill High School (winner): Front Row, Left to Right: Robert Cannon, Theatre Teacher/Director, Terance Hubbard, Cody Krzok Back Row, Left to Right: Kathryn Parsons, Athena Holt, Danique Smith



Gloucester High School: Front Row, Left to Right: Linsey Snavely, Cassady Musser, Katelynn Cullen, and Dylan Ward: Back Row, Left to Right: Mr. Jeffrey Leone, Dr. Layton Beverage, and Mr. Travis Burns



Kecoughtan High School: Left to Right: Ashley Leite, Danita Washington, Pheobe Leach, Kai Brumfield, Meghan Jackson, Mrs. Sylvia S. Harris



York High School: Top to Bottom: Amanda Thomas, Joe Pack, Nate Stokes, Chris Crockett