

## Washington Township Brass Castle School students win anti-tobacco poster contest

Posted by [kmlechis](#) June 09, 2009 18:02PM



COURTESY COMMUNITY

PREVENTION RESOURCES From left, are anti-tobacco poster contest winners Christian Stagaard (3rd place), Kathryn McLean (2nd place) and Stacey Giordano (1st place). All are sixth graders from Brass Castle Elementary School in Washington Township.

Ninety-five students at Brass Castle Elementary School in Washington Township learned about the dangers of smoking, and then created a message through a poster contest in association with Community Prevention Resources of Warren County.

Sixth grade students Stacey Giordano, Kathryn McLean and Christian Stagaard won the top prizes -- finishing first, second and third places, respectively. Each of them earned a gift card as a prize. Their winning posters, with a combination of pictures and words, were based on originality and how well they related to the theme.

**"Students were enthusiastic and open to this activity as it required them to come up with their very own 'tobacco health warning slogan' in honor of World No Tobacco Day,"** said Jordana Bradley, school counselor for Washington Township schools. **"This was their chance to get their message across and be creative. Overall, students actively enjoyed this activity, and learned many new facts about the dangers of tobacco. The poster contest was a great experience for our students and an effective tool in the prevention of tobacco use."**

Leeanne Del Prado, tobacco educator at Community Prevention Resources of Warren County, Inc., notes that research clearly indicates nicotine is considered a highly addictive drug found in tobacco and that nicotine addiction is similar to problems arising from more serious drugs.

"Over time, you can actually build a physical and emotional dependence on tobacco," she said. "It can also be a very expensive habit. It's important to get the message across to young people as early as possible."

In Washington Township, tobacco awareness is a necessary component of the 6th grade character education curriculum, noted Bradley, adding that students should be aware of the harmful effects of

smoking and chewing tobacco. Prior to engaging in the contest, the students were introduced to the ill health effects associated with tobacco.

"This was a great opportunity for students to be creative while learning about such a serious issue," Bradley said.

For more information about quitting smoking, call Community Prevention Resources of Warren County at (908) 835-1800. Community Prevention Resources is a non-profit agency dedicated to promoting the mental and physical health, wellness and safety of individuals and families living in the community through a variety of preventative programs. For further information, visit [www.communitypreventionresources.org](http://www.communitypreventionresources.org).

Categories: [Education](#)

## Comments

Footer