



Banning Police Department

321 W. Ramsey Street, Banning, CA 92220 (951) 922-3170

Press Release

Date: Friday, March 13, 2009

Location: Coombs Intermediate School - 1151 W. Wilson Street, Banning, CA 92220

Incident: **G.R.E.A.T. Program- Student Hand-Tile Mural Completion**

**Presentation-Wednesday, March 18, 2009, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.,
at Coombs Intermediate School located at 1151 W. Wilson Street in
Banning**

The Banning Police Department and Banning Unified School District are happy to announce that the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education And Training) student hand-tile mural is completed. In April, 2008, Detective Doug Monte, who teaches the G.R.E.A.T. Program for the Banning Police Department, challenged his sixth-grade students at Coombs Intermediate School to participate in a class-wide "Make Your School a G.R.E.A.T. Place" project. The students voted to make a mural consisting of their handprints on ceramic tiles. The handprints would be cast in a variety of colorful glazes on white 8" x 8" ceramic tiles. All 385 G.R.E.A.T. students and their teachers participated in the project. **(In addition, Banning Police Dog "Zorro" also left his paw prints on a few tiles which are now part of the mural.)**

The mural, which now covers the entire west wall of the boy's and girl' locker room building, is a gift to the school by the G.R.E.A.T. students who graduated from last year's G.R.E.A.T. Program. The mural will be there for many years and will provide an artful site for future students and staff.

The mural project was paid for by G.R.E.A.T. grant funds and by generous labor and supply donations from local businesses. The credit goes to Bear Creek Pottery, Debbie Douglas with the Banning Unified School District, Home Depot of Beaumont, Tilden-Coil Constructors, Facility and staff at Coombs Intermediate School, and Keith Peace Tile, Inc.

The G.R.E.A.T. mural project is special because it is "Youth Centered." Each tile represents a student, a person, and future citizen. The G.R.E.A.T. mural project proves that the G.R.E.A.T. Program is not just a "program" but also a relationship that has been established between youth and the Banning Police Department.

A brief presentation will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., at Coombs Intermediate School located at 1151 W. Wilson Street in Banning. The public is welcome to come see the mural and meet the students who provided their hands for the project.

For more information about this project, contact Det. Doug Monte at: 951-840-8562