

NEWS FROM Legislator

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The Heat is On! **Legislator D’Amaro Reminds Everyone To “Be Pool Smart” This Summer**



Legislator Lou D’Amaro shares important pool safety tips with students at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School in Deer Park and their art teachers Mrs. Joanne Buck and Mrs. Laurie Schwartz

(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY... June 14, 2016) – The heat is on and there’s no better way to stay cool and comfortable than with a nice dip in the swimming pool. Suffolk Legislator Lou D’Amaro (D-Huntington Station) recently met with students at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School in Deer Park to discuss pool safety tips and honor those who participated in Suffolk County’s 2016 “Be Pool Smart” poster contest. Established

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in 2007, the annual competition invites elementary school students to promote the importance of pool safety and prevent accidental drownings by creating a poster that illustrates one or more safety tips.

Some of the safety tips that students included on their posters and discussed with Legislator D'Amaro were:

- Always swim with a buddy;
- Children younger than five years of age should always be within arms-reach when in or near the water;
- Never push or jump on others;
- Always remove toys from the pool, which can be very tempting to young children;
- Tragedies can occur within seconds so never leave children of any age alone in or near the water;
- Children can drown in just a few inches of water so be sure to empty the pool cover;
- Keep a first aid kit stocked and available near the pool;
- Know how to dial 9-1-1 and how to get help in an emergency;
- Learn to swim!

In the "Be Pool Smart" poster contest, one entry is selected from all of those submitted Countywide to be used as a part of a seasonal safety campaign from the Suffolk County Department of Health Services. Students from schools in South Huntington, Half Hollow Hills, Deer Park and North Babylon School Districts were invited to participate in the District 17 competition. Oviya Omprakash, a student in Ms. Hyland's class and Ms. Buck's art class at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School was named the local winner and received a special Proclamation.

"A few precautions now can help avoid a tragedy later," said Legislator D'Amaro. "The students used their creative talents to share important pool safety tips which should go a long way toward ensuring a safe and enjoyable and safe summer season for all."