

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2008



NORTH ETOBICOKE KIDS ARE TAKING UP ARMS!

On Friday, February 22nd, 7:00 pm, at North Albion Collegiate Institute, **DAREarts kids will present their artistic alternative to guns and gangs.** Sixty children from 17 Toronto District schools in north Etobicoke will take up **their** arms: paint brushes, junkyard instruments, puppets and cameras, in a presentation which represents the inaugural DAREarts 'All the Arts' program in this challenging multi-cultural area of Toronto. DAREarts has helped over 110,000 kids make better choices about their lives in its twelve year history.

The performance evening showcases the culmination of the last two months of special DAREarts classes, in which visual arts, music, drama, dance, architecture, literature and fashion throughout the centuries have been taught to the students in workshop settings.

DAREarts is a national, not-for-profit organization which stands for "Discipline, Action and Responsibility in Education through the arts". DAREarts' unique 5-year program works with challenged 9-14 year olds from Toronto District area and inner city schools, empowering them to become leaders in their communities through education in the arts.

The grade 5 children explored world cultures of the past and present through activities in which they themselves painted, sculpted, sang, danced, composed, designed, wrote, acted and created, guided by a group of over 125 leading arts professionals. The students engaged in the arts of the 17th, 18th & 19th centuries, and gained leadership skills by returning to their schools and teaching their classmates what they learned.

DAREarts' education partners include the National Ballet School, Opera Atelier, The AGO, the ROM, the Bata Shoe Museum, the Gardiner Museum, Sampramdaya Dance Creations, Spadina House, Toronto Public Library, Lillian Smith branch, Long & McQuade Musical Instruments and St. Matthew's United Church. DAREarts students visit these sites to engage in their various art activities.

DAREarts sincerely thanks our generous supporters, without whom this much-needed program would not be possible: Lombard Insurance, Guy Carpenter, BMO Financial Group, CIBC, HKMB/Hub International, Scotiabank, Sun Life Financial, TD Bank Financial Group, and government sponsors The Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Ontario Arts Foundation.

- 30 -

For more information, please call:

Alison Postma

Director of Communications

905-729-0097 or visit www.darearts.com