



Just the Facts Day teaches kids valuable lessons by Dan Murphy

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Just the Facts Day, which takes place today and is open to the public, aims to teach kids ages 6-12 about the dangers of substance abuse.

“The goal is to teach children at a young age positive decision-making habits, so those decisions will be easier to make later on in life,” said Officer Michael Charbonnier of the Boston Police, who is also a member of Charlestown Against Drugs.

Now in its 16th year, Just the Facts Day is an annual collaborative effort between CHAD and the Charlestown Boys & Girls Club that features guest speakers and educational workshops for kids. Workshops for 6 to 9-year-olds include “What to Do About Bullying,” “Drug Bingo,” “Book Peace Project” and “Healthy Heart Choices,” while workshops for 10 to 12-year-olds are “Breaking Down Stereotypes,” “Choices,” “Safe & Healthy Relationships” and “Drugs & My Body.” Lunch will be provided for all, and attendees will receive ice cream, a free T-shirt and a prize.

As part of this year’s event, a Charlestown girl, 11-year-old Michetty Tejada, will also receive a recognition award from Charbonnier and CHAD Chairman Peter Looney. Tejada coined CHAD’s slogan — “Stop. Think. No Drugs.” — three years ago.

“I feel honored because the signs [that feature her slogan] are everywhere,” she said. “It makes me feel good about myself because it helps the community.”

Meanwhile, Charbonnier said he hopes that attendance exceeds the 150 children who typically turn out for the event.

“One hundred-fifty kids is great,” he said. “We always hope more will show up. The Boys & Girls Club always does a good job for kids, and as long as CHAD can provide funding, we will gladly do what we can for the future of our children.”

Just the Facts Day takes place today, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Charlestown Boys & Girls Club, 15 Green St.