

Carlie's Crusade teaches Milton students self-defense techniques

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Kicking is one self-defense technique that children can use against predators. Dominic Magistro holds a pad for Milton Elementary School students in the Carlie's Crusade program as they practice this technique.

Photo provided

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MARLBORO — The Milton Elementary PTA sponsored a visit from Carlie's Crusade for a day of instruction on personal safety.

Carlie's Crusade was founded by Dominic Magistro and Officer John Jenerose in response to the abduction of 11-year-old Carlie Brusia in Sarasota, Fla. What these men noticed in the videotape of her abduction was that this young girl did not know what to do to defend herself once her abductor had her in his possession. They have been on a mission since then to educate and instruct parents, kids and teachers on how not to become the victim of a predator.

During their visit to Milton Elementary School, Dominic and John taught students that their most powerful weapons are their minds and their voice. Students were also educated on what should be considered their circle of personal space and that if they feel threatened by someone entering that space, they should yell at that person to "get back!" and move away themselves.

Students were able to perform hands-on defensive techniques during their physical education classes with the use of pads and dummies to demonstrate that they understood what they'd been taught about how to create an opportunity to get away from a predator.

Most of all, it was emphasized to students to always stay in view of their parents or "safe side adults" and to never go with anyone unless they have been given permission by their parents.

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