



ABOVE AND BEYOND DAC volunteers, above, together for a meeting at Headquarters, recently made a presentation, at the Braddock Drive Elementary School in Culver City. Below, giving the presentation were Linda Wilkison of Division 6 (center, standing), Paul Magallanes of Division 7 and Dyana Elloriaga of Division 1 (seated, center). Not shown is volunteer Sam Saucedo of the RRC.



DAC Volunteers Take MTA's Safety, Vandalism Messages to Area School

(March 1) In the past two months, MTA Division Advisory Committee volunteers have taken the agency's bus and rail safety and anti-vandalism messages to more than 7,000 elementary pupils throughout Los Angeles.

A remarkable record for the 146 Transportation and Maintenance employees who spend many hours of their own time preparing for or making presentations in area schools, says Helen Ortiz, Transit Operations communications officer and DAC coordinator.

Armed with flip charts and some of the tools used to remove graffiti, the DAC members dramatize the harmful effect of graffiti and how it can destroy buses and the children's neighborhoods. They also teach the children how to ride buses and trains safely.

"The volunteers have a tremendous amount of pride in what they're doing," says Ortiz. "As role models, they plant a seed of respect with the children."

25 schools by year's end

One recent week, DAC volunteers gave presentations at assemblies in five different schools. They plan to reach 25 more schools before the end of the school year.

DAC volunteers also are involved in education efforts, community clean-ups and parent education seminars. Working in partnership with schools, community groups and businesses, the volunteers help remove graffiti from targeted neighborhoods.

At the parent education seminars, DAC members help parents identify anti-social signs in their children's behavior and appearance. They stress the importance of personal responsibility and communication between parent and child.

"We've had excellent cooperation from division managers who have released our DAC members for meetings and the school presentations," says Ortiz.

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