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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SHERIFF SHAUN GOLDEN PROMOTES CHILD SAFETY THROUGH BILINGUAL DANGERS OF STRANGERS PROGRAM**

**Freehold:** Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden continues to make the safety for children throughout Monmouth County a priority. The agency's bilingual Dangers of Strangers program which makes students aware of the Dangers of Strangers in their communities and elsewhere, was presented to students at the C. Richard Applegate Elementary School in Freehold on April 30. The program is conducted at schools throughout Monmouth County in an effort to keep children out of harm's way.

"The safety and security of our children remains a principle concern for my agency," said Sheriff Shaun Golden. "That's why it is vital that children are made aware, and often reminded, about the Dangers of Strangers. Strangers have a way of luring children into harmful or possibly fatal situations through bribes and false claims such as a family emergency, a fake injury or a lost pet."

Sheriff's Officer Iliana Velazquez presented the 45 minute program to students from the second grade. It teaches them what to do if a stranger tries to engage them in conversation, whether on the street, on the telephone, when home alone or on the internet.

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In addition, students learn how to report suspicious activities to local law enforcement by using 9-1-1.

According to the Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 797,500 children under the age of 18 were reported missing in a one year period of time, which resulted in an average of 2,185 children being reported missing each day.

The program makes students aware of important information about the Dangers of Strangers including:

- What is a stranger and how to deal with strangers
- What to do if home alone and a stranger telephones or comes to the door
- Tricks strangers employ to lure children into dangerous situations and how to recognize those tricks
- What to do if grabbed by a stranger
- Safe places to go
- Safety tips for inside and outside the home
- The importance of never giving personal information about yourself and family to anyone over the phone or Internet.

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