

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Family Court Judge performs ceremonial “swearing in”
of Pleasantville Elementary Safety Patrol**

In keeping with the Delaware Judiciary’s ongoing efforts to engage with our community, Family Court Judge Barbara D. Crowell on Thursday presided over a first-of-its-kind swearing in of AAA School Safety Patrol Members at Pleasantville Elementary School in New Castle.

At an assembly in front of the entire 450-student school, along with some proud parents, 29 fifth grade students raised their hands as “Judge Barbara” read out the Safety Patrol Pledge for students to repeat. The students then received their bright yellow safety patrol belts and shook hands with the judge and two Delaware State Police Troopers who attended the ceremony.

Afterwards, some students posed for photos in their new patrol belts and badges, with Judge Crowell and the troopers.

“I think it is important to demystify the court, especially for the children,” said Judge Crowell, who often deals with children in her role with Family Court. “I want children to see judges are not scary people,” she said.

This is not the first time Judge Crowell has gone out of her way to demystify the court and make it more approachable for children. In Dec. 2016, Judge Crowell presided over a Star Wars-themed adoption ceremony to fulfill the request of a young girl as she officially became part of her “forever family.” Darth Vader and the robot R2-D2, among others, participated in the ceremony that received national attention, and Judge Crowell joined in the fun by dressing up as Princess Leia to perform her duties.

Judge Crowell said she was also proud to participate in a program like the Safety Patrol, as it helps build a sense of community and form the leaders of tomorrow. As she congratulated one newly-sworn student, she told him she was confident he would be a leader some day, because he was taking on responsibility at such a young age.

This is the fourth year for the Safety Patrol at Pleasantville Elementary School and Principal Jennifer Alexander said she wanted to make this year special so she reached out to Judge Crowell and the State Police to take part in the ceremony.

The Safety Patrol is a program that is sponsored by AAA Mid-Atlantic and dates back to 1920. Alumni of the program have included U.S. Supreme Court Justices, and at least two U.S. Presidents.

At Pleasantville Elementary, members of the Safety Patrol help get their fellow students safely to their buses or to the car line as well as ensure students are behaving properly while on school property.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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