

Suburban Journals

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Madison County State's Attorney William Mudge, Madison County Sheriff Robert Hertz, Granite City Police Chief Richard Miller, Collinsville Police Chief Scott Williams, and Alton Police Chief David Hayes visited a preschool class in Granite City today to call for rejection of proposed state preschool cuts in the Metro East area. They joined State Representative Thomas Holbrook to read to preschoolers at Granite City Early Childhood Center. "As a police chief, I can see a direct connection to the early childhood programs in our community as a major factor in influencing positive growth and behaviors in this vulnerable age group," said Miller. "At a time of economic turmoil, it is not the right choice to abandon a proven strategy, which directly affects all ages of our community through reduced crime." Pointing to evidence that preschool cuts future violent crime and saves money, the law enforcement leaders called on the General Assembly and Governor Quinn not to cut additional funding for preschool programs in the state budget. Over 1,000 Metro East area children could lose their spot in state-funded preschool under Governor Quinn's proposed budget for FY 2011. Statewide, the budget cut could affect 23,000 children. "One of the best weapons we have in the fight against crime is preschool," said Hertz. "As a sheriff, I want to use any tools we have to prevent crime." Over the past eight years, Illinois has prioritized preschool opportunities for families. With the Preschool for All program, Metro East area preschools serve almost 4,200 three- and four-

year-olds in state-funded preschool. STATE DIRECTOR Tim Carpenter Co-Chairs Tom Dart Sheriff, Cook County Raymond Rose Chief of Police, Mundelein Robert Haida State's Attorney, St. Clair County Ignacio "Joe" Pena Chief of Police, Channahon Hundreds of Police Chiefs, Sheriffs, Prosecutors, other Law Enforcement Leaders, and Violence Survivors Preventing Crime and Violence 70 E. Lake Street, Suite 720 • Chicago,

Law enforcement officers read to children

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Collinsville Chief Scott Williams (from left), Madison County State's Attorney William Mudge, Alton Chief David Hayes, Madison County Sheriff Robert Hertz, Granite City Chief Richard Miller and state Rep. Thomas Holbrook (D-Belleville) read to preschool students.

The group visited a preschool class in Granite City recently to call for rejection of proposed state preschool cuts in the Metro East area. They joined Holbrook to read to preschoolers at Granite City Early Childhood Center.

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