

# Morris spoke directly to parents



On Behalf of KC's Drug Awareness Committee, Paul Dumas presented Morris with a memento of his trip.

by Darren MacDonald  
Staff

Former Miami Dolphin Eugene "Mercury" Morris kept the crowd gathered at Lake Superior High School enthralled for more than an hour as he spoke on topics ranging from his experiences in football to the new challenges teenagers face today.

Morris was in Terrace Bay to take part in Drug Awareness Week activities. The week was sponsored and organized by Kimberly-Clark, with support from several local businesses and groups.

"When I went to school, the important factors that shaped my generation were Vietnam and the Civil Rights movement," said Morris, who spoke Thursday evening.

"Today, it's teen violence, teen pregnancy and drugs."

To really deal with issues like these, Morris said parents have to give their children an appreciation of the value of living, rather than trying to tell what they should or shouldn't do.

"You can't teach people what not to 'do'," said Morris. "But you can teach them their responsibility to other people."

Morris also made a distinction between making decisions and making choices. Making a decision not to do drugs means you have to resist them.

"And the more you resist, the more it persists," he said. "That's human nature. What you have to do is expand the conversation."

"There's no such thing as drug abuse," said Morris. "Because you can't abuse a drug. It's like saying people who jump off a bridge are committing bridge abuse. So you remove the bridge, and people jump off the cliff, so then it's cliff abuse."

Morris said that parents who tell their kids that if they don't do drugs, their life will be okay are misleading them. What they have to do is offer their children a choice of a better way to live.

"If you give your kids the benefit of appreciating what life is, it will be reflected in



Evan Grimm (centre) took second place in the High School contest. DAW organizer Linda Blake looks on as he accepts congratulations from Mercury Morris.

their values and in the way they live their life," he said.

"Parents, keep the conversation to what's possible, and not about what they shouldn't do. And if we do that, we'll find ourselves evolving out of the drug conversation."

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Gislaine St. Amand won the high school poster contest.



Jennifer Figliomeni took first prize in the elementary school DAW poster contest, while Sean Hay (above) took second spot.

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