

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

SEPTEMBER  OCTOBER 2007



**W**ith a balloon from Laidlaw Transportation, a kindergartner steps onto a school bus for the first time at Parkdale Elementary's annual school bus orientation on August 29. Also present at the orientation was School Resource Officer Joe Ferrara (left) who met incoming students to talk about safety both on and off the bus. See page 3 for Officer Ferrara's "Back to School" advice.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program began as a joint venture between the East Aurora Union Free School District and the East Aurora Police Department after attaining seed money from a three-year COPS grant. The SRO program has been so successful that it has become a regular, full-time school program, with funding split between the school and Police Department. Although the program was originally borne out of a small series of unfortunate incidents it has blossomed into an integral and daily part of life with students, staff, teachers and the police. Although the primary purpose of the SRO Program is to provide law enforcement within the school grounds the SRO's other duties include, but is not limited to: conducting counseling sessions with students in conjunction with school staff; participate in various school events; providing the *D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)* program throughout the year; and serving as a liaison between the school and police department. In 2007 Ptlm. Joe Ferrara conducted 216 presentations to students, faculty and staff, including such

topics as the *D.A.R.E.* program, drug trends, legal issues, identity theft, AED/CPR instruction, DWI issues.