

# 'Grim' succeeded by 'Reaper' in Anne Arundel sheriff's K-9 unit



Cps. Jason Jett of the county sheriff's office sent to Crofton Elementary School Tuesday with his K-9 partner, Grim. Grim is retiring soon and a student at the school won a contest to name his successor. (Joshua McKerrow / Capital Gazette)



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**W**hen Crofton Elementary School student Marc Portaro learned his name of Reaper was chosen for the newest member of the K-9 unit in the Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office, his mouth was immediately agape.

For the department, Marc and two other students had helped choose the name for its new 18-month-old Dutch shepherd. It ended a search for a new name that spanned about 1,200 submissions from the county's

elementary students, Sheriff Ronald [Bateman](#) said.

And inside the school on Tuesday, Marc celebrated alongside the rest of his class at the announcement, as well as winning a \$25 gift card to Mission BBQ and a sheriff's pin.

He said the name Reaper fit because "his black fur kind of went well with it."

But he also pointed to the play on words that helped craft his and the other two elementary students' choice for a name.

Reaper is succeeding Grim, an eight-year veteran of the force handled by Lcp. Jason Jett.

A dual patrol and bomb detection dog, one can still find photos of the then-1-year-old Belgian Malinois on Bateman's campaign website and articles detailing his exploits in old newspaper articles.

"He is a socialable lovebug," Jett said. "He loves children, but he's like a light switch. He knows how to turn it on if he has to."

Jett said there have been signs that Grim was reaching the end of his time on the force. Some slight hip dysplasia and a groin injury had started to take their toll.

While Grim will go home with Jett, he said he has "mixed emotions" about Grim's retirement.

"We've been together for eight years now and it's sad to see him go. I thought we'd (have) ... a bit longer (as) a team," he said. "But at the same time ... I'm very proud of him for the job he's done for us over the years."

According to the sheriff's department, Reaper is currently undergoing training and is expected to join the force in April.

Top finalists

**First place (Reaper):**

- Marc Portaro, Crofton Elementary
- Kylie Hall, Marley Elementary
- Grace Kyper, Solley Elementary

**Second place (Titan):**

- Veronica Fillhart, Crofton Elementary

**Third place (Mr. Bubbles):**

•Patrick Groves, Shady Side Elementary

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