



PO Box 535, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
732-613-4790 – syoung@sueyoungmedia.com

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CONTACT: SUSAN YOUNG
(732) 613-4790

CELEBRATE NJ! MONTH WINDS DOWN:
BERGEN COUNTY STUDENTS HONORED
AT JACKALS GAME

(Montclair, NJ) -- It was the culmination of months of hard work for fourth graders from Bergen County who participated in the Celebrate NJ! school program. After researching and writing articles for a newspaper, dozens of area students were honored by the New Jersey Jackals during a recent home game. Each child earned two tickets to the game.

Brianna Reis, a fourth grade student at B.F. Gibbs School in New Milford says Celebrate NJ! is, “a good way to learn about New Jersey and the people and places in the state. It was a lot of fun and I learned a lot.”

According to Stacy Novoshelski, a fourth grade teacher at the B.F. Gibbs Elementary School in New Milford, “The best thing about the Celebrate NJ! Program is that it makes the students more motivated and is fun. It’s not just another assignment they have to do. The students love the positive reinforcement they get from the program and they love to compete against each other. Anything they can do to get rewarded for their work is going to make them work harder.”

Novoshelski adds that even teachers can learn from the program. “One student reported that New Jersey had the world’s largest spoon collection. I had to check that out and she was right. I also learned there were a lot of famous people I never knew were from New Jersey. It was a good learning experience for me as well.”

Children from the Jefferson Elementary School in Bergenfield, B.F. Gibbs School in New Milford, Berkley Street Elementary in New Milford, Roberge Elementary School in River Vale, Lincoln Elementary School in Pompton Lakes, Gregory School in West Orange and Jefferson Elementary School in Maplewood participated in the festivities.

The student reporters' articles ranged from Clint Black and the Tenafly Nature Center to the story of the blueberry and the NJ Children's Museum. They are all published online at the organization's web site.

Karen Hatcher, Celebrate NJ! Executive Director, points out, "These students worked so hard and learned so many wonderful things about the place they call home. We were inspired and entertained by the variety and depth of topics that they chose. It's great to have an opportunity to celebrate their efforts and to create a positive association with learning about our State."

Governor Corzine has issued an official proclamation again this year designating June as the *Celebrate New Jersey!* month. To conclude the school program, eight local minor and independent league baseball teams will host Celebrate NJ! game nights throughout the month for the 9,000 students who participated in the program.

Celebrate NJ! is also running a year long campaign that invites everyone who has a Reason to Celebrate NJ! to log on to www.CelebrateNJ.org and enter that reason. The group will continue to unveil the reasons each month based on the number of days in a particular month. Residents are encouraged to enter specific reasons describing the interesting and unique aspects of the Garden State. Entry cards are also available at over 350 libraries across the state. The selected reasons are announced daily on the organization's website.

The "365 Reasons to Celebrate NJ!" campaign is made possible through the generous support of sponsors NJ Cable Telecommunications Association, ArborSys Group, and St. Barnabas Health Care System. For more information about the campaign, visit www.CelebrateNJ.org.

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Photo Caption – Karen Hatcher, Celebrate NJ! Executive Director with a group of students from Bergen County who were honored at a recent Jackals game for their contributions to a student newspaper developed for the Celebrate NJ! School program.