

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Katie McDougall, katiem@dca-dcpr.com
804-716-9142

Tali Hysten, tali@dca-dcpr.com
517/853-9862

Ilyse Strongin ilyse@dca-dcpr.com
847-432-6000

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--photography available--

www.organicsschoolproject.org

ORGANIC SCHOOL PROJECT INSTILLED IN REAVIS ELEMENTARY

Award winning program celebrates growth with garden, ribbon cutting ceremony, and health expo

CHICAGO, IL (MAY, 2009) – The Organic School Project (OSP) is proud to announce a garden partnership with Chicago Public School, Reavis Elementary, 834 East 50th Street, Chicago. To celebrate, Reavis will host an “Expeditionary Learning Family Night” on May 28 from 5pm-8pm. They are highlighting their new curriculum style, “Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound” which coincides with the OSP program’s ‘*Grow. Teach. Feed.*™’ philosophy. Additionally, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for both their new health center and garden and a health expo. Reavis anticipates most of the student body, staff, and parents will be in attendance.

OSP representatives will be on hand to talk about OSP’s programs and the health evaluation that will be conducted at Reavis. OSP’s garden coordinator will also be present to represent the garden and share what she and the students will be doing in the spring and summer. Prior to this ribbon cutting ceremony, students and staff will have raised a bed garden and filled the beds with soil.

In addition to Reavis Elementary, OSP’s program is thriving within Louisa May Alcott School, 2625 N. Orchard Street, and Lowell Elementary, 3320 W Hirsch St.

OSP is looking forward to expanding its program reach not only to other schools in the Chicago Public School system, but to any school that is looking to institute a more positive feeding and education program. “By setting a benchmark within our first Chicago Public School Alcott Elementary, we are thrilled to offer our model to additional Chicago Public Schools and we look forward to expanding OSP nationally,” says DiAnne Richardson, Executive Director of OSP.

OSP has recently moved its offices to 1111 North Wells, Suite 301, Chicago, IL 60610. The new telephone number is 312-981-3933. For more information please visit www.organicsschoolproject.org.

ABOUT OSP

Founded by Greg Christian, a Chicago professional chef with more than 20 years experience, as a result of witnessing his daughter’s health battle, Organic School Project (OSP) strives to combat health epidemics such as childhood obesity, early on-set type II diabetes and behavioral problems. The program is based on an integrated wellness systems model that connects youth with the earth and enables them to make more positive choices for themselves and the planet.

Throughout the 2006-2007 school year OSP, in conjunction with Benedictine University of Lisle, Illinois and primary investigator Deepa Handu Ph.D. R.D., studied the effect of the program on nutrition knowledge, eating behavior, intention and Body Mass Index (BMI). The study was conducted among 1,178 youth attending one of three selected Chicago Public Schools that were a part of the OSP pilot program, and found that nutrition knowledge and intention improved in all subjects. Children’s

average BMI decreased from 22.48 to 19.45, while adolescents' BMI mean decreased from 26.87 to 25.09.

OSP's primary program is the Grow. Teach. Feed™ model. The "*Grow. Teach. Feed.™*" curriculum includes: planting and harvesting a garden; healthy lifestyle workshops and classroom instruction on nutrition; yoga classes; composting in the lunchroom and recycling; using environmentally friendly products; and working with the food service staff to create healthy, attractive and tasty meals that students will eat. All of these components engage and inspire students about healthy food choices and lifestyles that the entire family can adopt. For more information please visit www.organicschoolproject.org, or contact DiAnne Richardson, Executive Director at (312) 981-3930.

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