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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Japhet School Sponsors Anti-Bullying Conference

November 19, 2010 - Madison Heights, MI - Japhet School, the award-winning private school in Madison Heights, Michigan, is sponsoring *Metro Parent Magazine's* November 30 conference titled, "Growing Up in Today's Crazy World: Strategies for dealing with crushes, frenemies, gossip, and bullying." The conference keynote is Rosalind Wiseman, author of New York Times best-seller *Queen Bees and Wannabes* that was later made into the movie *Mean Girls*. It will take place at the MET Hotel in Troy from 8 AM to 5 PM.

The issues of gossip, bullying, and cliques are growing troubles for children, and recent advancements in technology have profoundly altered the speed and ways in which youth communicate. As keynote speaker, Wiseman will guide attendees through the transformations in the adolescent landscape over the past several years, and she will offer strategies for helping children navigate conflict ethically and with social competence.

After the keynote, eight workshops will continue to help parents and teachers create a better climate for their students and children. Japhet School, as an event sponsor, is hosting two of these workshops.

"Weaving Character Education into an Academic Curriculum" will explain what true character education is and how it can benefit an entire school population -- students, teachers, and parents. The teaching of character is pro-active discipline to help diffuse bullying before it arises. "Effective character education is integrated with academics and homeroom activities, not an add-on," says workshop leader Betsy Stecker of Japhet School. "Participants will receive character-based, practical ideas that can be put to use immediately in the classroom."

The second Japhet workshop, "Education of the Whole Child -- Supporting Social, Emotional and Cognitive Achievement in the Classroom," will share cutting edge-findings from the study of Positive Youth Development. Ty Partridge, Japhet parent and associate professor in the Department of Psychology at Wayne State University, will explain how Positive Youth Development emphasizes that children are full of potential to be developed, not problems to be managed. This approach recognizes that academic achievement goes beyond standardized test scores. By creating positive school and family partnerships, each child can become a competent, confident, and engaged member of his or her community.

Japhet School has the esteemed recognition as being Michigan's first National School of Character, as designated by the Character Education Partnership, and the first independent school in the country to win the award. Since then, the school has been committed to sharing its best-approach practices with other schools and parents by hosting its own annual character conference. For 2010, it decided to help underwrite the Metro Parent conference, rather than hold its own.

"With each year's character conference, our goal is to reach as many people as possible -- fellow educators and parents," says Cathy Mohan, Head of School at Japhet. "We know that Metro Parent events are respected and well attended, and so we approached them with a partnership idea. We're

proud to be a sponsor of this year's event that gives strategies for dealing with a troublesome issue affecting families everywhere.”

For more information about Japhet School, visit www.japhetschool.org. The school is centrally located in Metro Detroit, near 13 Mile Road and I-75.

To learn more about the conference and to register, visit www.metroparent.com. The conference venue -- the MET Hotel in Troy -- is located on Crooks Road near I-75.

About Japhet:

Founded in 1973, Japhet School is an independent school, serving children the metropolitan Detroit area in preschool through eighth grade. Its mission is to nurture and prepare children for life by integrating character education with a strong academic program. The school provides small classes, which are purposefully designed as “blends” or two-grade classrooms. This setup enables teachers to challenge students with academic material that is appropriate for their intellectual readiness, regardless of age or grade. Integrated with strong academics is Japhet School’s national award-winning character education curriculum, which builds a peaceful community within the school and creates leaders with integrity. Japhet is a National School of Character, and was the first school in Michigan -- and the first independent school in the country -- to receive this award.

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