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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Promoting Green Schools

Japhet School Hosts Sierra Club on World Water Day; Reaches for “Evergreen” Level as Michigan Green School

March 22, 2010 - Madison Heights, MI -- Japhet School, the award-winning private school in Madison Heights, Michigan, hosted a visitor from the Sierra Club today -- World Water Day. Exactly one month prior to Earth Day, the lesser known World Water Day is a time to re-acquaint ourselves with the simple actions we can take to preserve clean water, especially our Great Lakes.

Japhet School hosted Gerald Hasspacher today, a founding member of the Warren Consolidated Schools Environmental Committee, Sierra Club member and volunteer, and coordinator of the Sierra Club-sponsored Green Cruise. Mr. Hasspacher was Japhet's "INSPO" keynote speaker for the week. INSPO -- which stands for INspiring Speakers, Participants, and Observers -- is Japhet's weekly all-school assembly. Every Monday for 45 minutes, the school body explores different ways to express positive character. Part of this time is led by the students themselves, who take turns giving a biographical presentation about a person of good character.

During his visit, Mr. Hasspacher delivered a comprehensive presentation to the school body about the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, with an emphasis on the threats facing the Great Lakes as well as some good news happening in Michigan in terms of environmental stewardship. He showed pictures of endangered Michigan plant and animal species, and held a handful of the invasive Zebra Mussels. He gave students advice for their families' buying habits: "In order to be 'green,'" he said, "the products we consume should come from within a 500-mile radius." While Hasspacher held a globe, a first-grader explained that buying a toy made somewhere in Michigan would require less transportation energy than buying a toy from China. Hasspacher concluded with a challenge to every student: "The next time you're shopping, refuse a plastic bag."

Next week's INSPO again will be devoted to respecting the earth, which coincides with the upcoming April character quality in focus at Japhet: Respect for Others. Students in "big buddy/little buddy" pairs will make posters for Earth Day and decorate Hollywood Market paper bags with messages that encourage market patrons to re-use the bags.

Japhet is a Michigan Green School, recognition it received in 2009. It re-applied for 2010 recognition, this time adding even more activities it does with student and parent participation, striving to achieve an "Evergreen" status. Bringing in special guests like Mr. Hasspacher is part of that journey.

About Japhet School:

Japhet School is an independent school, serving children the Detroit area in preschool through eighth grade. It provides a low student-to-teacher ratio in a peaceful setting, which means greater individual support and opportunity to excel. Integrated with academics is a nationally recognized, award-winning character education curriculum, designed to give students a foundation of character and integrity. Japhet School is a National School of Character. Parents say that among the top reasons they enroll their children in Japhet School is for its strong character program and the sense of community fostered among parents, students, teachers and staff. The school is centrally located in Metro Detroit, near 13 Mile Road and I-75.