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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Promoting Green Schools

### **Japhet School Reaches “Evergreen” Status as Green School and Hosts Garage Sale to Celebrate**

June 7, 2010 - Madison Heights, MI -- Japhet School, the award-winning private school in Madison Heights, Michigan, recently achieved the very top “Evergreen” status as a Michigan Green School, and is hosting a neighborhood garage sale June 17-19 to celebrate!

“Hosting a garage sale is the perfect win-win venue for a green celebration,” says Lisa Johnson, the chairperson of Japhet’ School’s parent group. “Japhet parents are hosting the sale not only as a fundraiser for our school, but also to encourage our community to join us in a green effort of re-using and re-purposing useful things.”

Japhet School met a 20-point list of “green challenges” that were placed to schools in Michigan. In 2009, it became a Michigan Green School at the entry level, but ramped up its efforts to reach the Evergreen level for 2010. Among its activities are involving students in recycling all classroom and office waste (plastics, metals, glass, and paper/cardboard), hosting a special guest from the Sierra Club that spoke during the Japhet’s all-school Monday morning character assembly, conducting a solar cookout with hot dogs, and collaborating with local businesses. For instance, Japhet School students decorated Hollywood Market’s handled paper bags with positive “green” messages to encourage store patrons to re-use the bags; the market distributed these special bags on Earth Day.

Japhet also has integrated environmental education into the curriculum. Students in fifth through eighth grades conducted a Rouge River water quality study in conjunction with the Friends of the Rouge nonprofit organization. “We want to help students understand their impact on the watershed,” says Brenda Gaunt, Japhet School science teacher who led the project. “We were part of a larger study to track the health of watershed, and students are now spreading the word about the importance of maintaining a healthy river system.”

Japhet School’s sale will take place on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, June 17-19, from 9 AM-4 PM on Thursday and Friday, and 9 AM-noon on Saturday. The organizers will set up the sale on Wednesday, June 16, but the Japhet parking lot already holds a Portable On-Demand Storage container to house items that come in early.

Everyone is welcome to attend the school’s garage sale, which will be in the gym. If you have items to donate by June 16, please contact the school at 248.585.9150 or [frontoffice@japhetschool.org](mailto:frontoffice@japhetschool.org).

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.

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