



Cont: Betsy Stecker
betsy.stecker@japhetschool.org
Phone: 248-585-9150
248-808-2168 cell phone

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Student Initiative

Japhet School Third-Grader Sets up Stand to Benefit Audubon Society

June 16, 2010 - Royal Oak, MI - After watching President Obama's speech Tuesday night regarding the Gulf devastation caused by the oil spill, a concerned third-grader from Japhet School decided to take action. At 7:30 Wednesday morning, young Grant Partridge set up a lawn stand with a hand-drawn poster pleading for donations to the Audubon Society to help clean the oil-stricken birds. "Watching the President talk about the oil spill, I felt sad," Grant says. "I decided I needed to do something to help."

"We watched the telecast as a family," says his father, Ty Partridge, "and my son, who loves animals, wanted to research the Audubon Society to see what they were doing for the waterfowl. Afterward, when I thought he was playing in his room, he announced he needed a piece of posterboard and some crayons. He told his mom and me his plan, and has been sitting outside with his colorful 'Save The Birds' poster and a plastic shoebox since early this morning. We had planned on going to a movie today, but he's still out there [at 3 PM], collecting."

Ty posted his son's philanthropic gesture on Facebook, and it resulted in a viral posting that brought friends -- and friends of friends -- to the Partridge home in Royal Oak.

As the word spread to Grant's elementary school -- the award-winning Japhet School in Madison Heights -- the school's Board of Trustees became involved and immediately issued a declaration that it would match Grant's collection in part or in full, depending on the size of his total collected funds. "We are so lucky to have Grant at a school like Japhet where children's natural willingness to help is supported and fostered, so it becomes a part of who they are," says Ty.

Cathy Mohan, Japhet's Head of School, shares the school's pride for Grant. "His expression of initiative and desire to remedy a wrong-doing is pure character in action. He was motivated to help, had the confidence in knowing he could make a difference, and set up camp on his front lawn with hope and courage. Grant sets an example for us all."

[photograph on next page]

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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Grant Partridge of Royal Oak, third-grade Japhet School student, was so concerned by the recent news of Gulf devastation that he initiated his own grassroots drive to help the Audubon Society's efforts to clean the waterfowl.