

Media Advisory September 27, 2005 Contact: Ivette Weis 972/925-3905

Dallas ISD's Harry Stone Montessori School to Launch National Afterschool Traveling Light Bulb Tour

Tour Will Kick-Off Sixth Annual Lights On Afterschool

Dallas – The Afterschool Alliance's annual celebration of *Lights On Afterschool* begins in Dallas this year, home of the national rally's National Presenting Sponsor, the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. On September 30, students at Harry Stone Montessori School will kick-off the national *Lights On Afterschool* traveling light bulb tour. The tour, which leads up to *Lights On Afterschool Day* on October 20, will include 14 cities across the country. It will end at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. on October 20.

The tour's giant inflatable light bulb symbolizes the need to keep the lights on for children after school. Students at Harry Stone Montessori will be the first in the U.S. to decorate the accompanying mural with light bulb-themed artwork. Joining in the kick-off will be the Afterschool Alliance's Executive Director, Jodi Grant, and Julie Berkhouse from the JCPenney Afterschool Fund.

What: National Lights On Afterschool Tour Kick-Off Event

Where: Harry Stone Montessori School, 4747 Veterans Drive, Dallas

When: Friday, September 30, 3:30 PM

Who: Michael Hinojosa, Superintendent of Dallas ISD

Harold Wright, Principal of Harry Stone Montessori

Julie Berkhouse, JCPenney Afterschool Fund

Jodi Grant, Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Students and Educators from Harry Stone Montessori

Lights On Afterschool began in October 2000 with 1,200 events across the country. Last year, more than half a million people rallied at 7,000 events to show their support for afterschool programs. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is National Chair of Lights On Afterschool, a position he has held since 2001. Among other stops, the National Lights On Tour will visit Los Angeles, Tucson, Chicago, Charlotte, Miami and Albany, before reaching D.C.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private, and nonprofit entities working to ensure that all children have access to afterschool programs by 2010. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

The JCPenney Afterschool Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports programs designed to keep kids safely and constructively engaged during out-of-school time. The Fund's contributions allow for the creation and continuance of afterschool programs aimed at the academic, physical, and social development of children throughout the U.S. The JCPenney Afterschool Fund also works to raise awareness of the benefits of afterschool programming, and is committed to ensuring that every child has access to the world of opportunities that awaits them after school.