

April 8, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: Nat Connors
Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy
Phone: 617-265-0019 x 7006
Email: nat.connors@popejp2catholicacademy.org

POPE JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC ACADEMY STUDENTS PROMOTE "STUDENTS HELPING STUDENTS" AT IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP BREAKFAST

March 17, Boston—Fifty students from the Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy performed at the Irish American Partnership (IAP) Breakfast, held at the Boston Harbor Hotel on the morning of Tuesday, March 17.

Under the direction of the Academy's Director of Music/Fine Arts, Mary Swanton, the students presented two songs—a vocal performance entitled "Emigrant Eyes" and a violin piece, "Galway Bay"—for the two hundred and thirty guests in attendance.

The breakfast, held annually, raises funds for libraries and science programs for children in rural Ireland. Kathleen Driscoll, a member of the Academy's Regional Board, told guests in her opening address that Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy believes strongly in "students helping students" of all cultures and backgrounds, an ideal that the Academy encourages within the school as well as in the community.

"The Academy is truly an international school," stated Mary Russo, Regional Director of the Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy. "We are very fortunate that our talented students represent over twenty countries worldwide, blessing us with a richly diverse and accepting environment."

The students performed in front of local and international leaders alike. Some in attendance included Mayor Thomas Menino, Baroness Mary Blood of the British House of Lords and the Consul General of Ireland, the Honorable David Barry. After the musical performance, Joseph Leary, President of the IAP, visited with the young performers to discuss their violin playing and their experiences at the Academy.

For more information about the Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy or the Music Program, please contact Nat Connors at 617-265-0019 x 7006 or by email at nat.connors@popejp2catholicacademy.org.

###

The Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy is an elementary Pre-K through Grade 8 school, located on five campuses in the Dorchester and Mattapan neighborhoods of the City of Boston, that dynamically prepares children for life in the 21st century. A stimulating and robust curriculum, enlightened by Catholic teaching, offers all our students an excellent education in a faith-filled and supportive environment. Our Academy strives to create an atmosphere where community in Christ is experienced, service to our brothers and sisters is the norm, and thanksgiving and worship of God are reverently and joyfully celebrated.



Joseph Leary, President of the Irish-American Partnership, with Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy first grade students Jennifer Hegarty and Malia McClerklin.



Kristy Benjamin, a fifth grade student at the Pope John Paul II Catholic Academy, performs "Galway Bay" with fifty of her peers at the Irish American Partnership Breakfast.