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Rod Kelley Teacher Honored During “A Day Made Better” Campaign *Community Can Adopt A Classroom to Help School Win Challenge*

GILROY, (Oct 2, 2008) – Azucena Quiñonez, a kindergarten teacher at Rod Kelley Elementary School, was honored today along with 20 other Bay Area teachers and hundreds of teachers at schools across the United States during “A Day Made Better,” an OfficeMax Incorporated (NYSE:OMX) campaign to eliminate “teacher-funded” classrooms.

OfficeMax also kicked off another opportunity for participating schools, like Rod Kelley, to make the day even better - The Adopt-A-Classroom Challenge.

The Challenge is to raise the most amount of money in classroom adoptions by December 31, 2008. The school that raises the most will receive an additional \$15,000 from Adopt-A-Classroom. Second place will receive \$10,000. Third place will receive \$5,000. Rod Kelley is the only participating school in South County, so everyone can help the Knights win this challenge even if their child attends another school.

To Adopt-A-Classroom fill out a donation card and mail it in. While it’s not required to list a specific teacher to adopt a classroom, a list of teachers is available on the school web site. Donation cards are available at visit www.RodKelley.com/fundraising, in the main office at Rod Kelley, or by visiting www.adoptaclassroom.org.

Selected by OfficeMax’s non-profit partner, Adopt-A-Classroom (www.adoptaclassroom.org), Quiñonez was chosen for exemplifying a passion for learning and innovative classroom techniques.

“Ms. Quiñonez takes her job very seriously and works hard to make sure her students start off their academic career with a solid foundation,” said Principal Luis Carrillo of the kindergarten teacher. “She is a real asset to our staff.”

Quiñonez, along with teaching partner Ruben Martinez, are in charge of the dual immersion program, which offers children an opportunity to learn to read, write and communicate naturally in two languages, English and Spanish. This is the first year of the DI program at Rod Kelley. However, Quiñonez has taught for 4 years, including 2 at Rod Kelley as a kindergarten teacher.

(more)

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With a surprise in-class ceremony Quiñonez received nearly \$1,200 in school supplies, including a digital camera, paper cutter, leather office chair and other items for the classroom. OfficeMax donated more than \$1 million in school supplies for the “A Day Made Better” campaign.

According to National Education Association studies, teachers spend nearly \$1,200 out of their own pockets each year for basic classroom supplies – adding up, nationally, to teachers spending about \$4 billion a year.

“It’s astounding that teachers in the Bay Area have to reach into their own wallets to buy basic classroom materials such as markers, posters and pencil sharpeners,” says Bob Thacker, SVP Marketing for OfficeMax. “Our October 2 ‘A Day Made Better’ campaign has one message: it’s time to act together so that our Bay Area teachers can focus on educating our children, without worrying about where their classroom supplies will come from.”

Established in 1987, Rod Kelley Elementary, 8755 Kern Ave., was named after the late Rod Kelley, who was appointed director of elementary instruction in 1968 for the Gilroy Unified School District, promoted to assistant superintendent in 1975 and served as the superintendent of Gilroy schools from 1980 to 1983. Today, with nearly 800 students Rod Kelley School has taken great pride in making huge strides academically in the last decade, including a 30-point increase in the API score for 2007-08 school year. With the Leadership of Principal Luis Carrillo and the dedication of every single teacher, test scores continue to improve. For more information call (408) 847-1932 or visit www.RodKelley.com.

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