

Press Release

BRIDGEPORT SCHOOLS MAKE A SPLASH FOR ST. VINCENT'S SWIM ACROSS THE SOUND

Bridgeport, CT – May 13, 2010 - Poised to raise funds for Bridgeport Public School students who are battling cancer, Bridgeport scholars enrolled in the swim program at Blackham, Bryant, Hall, High Horizons, Multi-Cultural and Park City Magnet schools will simulate a SWIM Across the Sound Marathon. The SWIM Across the Sound Marathon is an annual event where more than 200 swimmers from all over the country make the trek from Port Jefferson, New York to Captain's Cove, Connecticut to raise funds for cancer patients and their families.

In the SWIM-A-Thon, Bridgeport students will simulate the 25 kilometers (or 15.5 miles) marathon, swimming collectively in the pool during swim classes. Non-swimmers will have the opportunity to walk in the pool.

To make the SWIM-A-Thon even more worthwhile, scholars will collect pledges from family, friends, and neighbors. To date, Hall two schools have raised \$1,300; those schools are Hall School and Bryant School. The funds will be deposited in the endowment that the SWIM Across the Sound has set up for Bridgeport students. Should a Bridgeport student need the funds, then the child's family will talk to the SWIM about what they need help with and the SWIM will provide the financial assistance needed. St. Vincent's Oncology Nurse Coordinator for the SWIM speaks with the family and decides how they can best help – whether it be by paying for medications, paying for transportation to and from treatment and appointments, or assisting the family with groceries, mortgage payments, or utility payments.

The follow schools, dates, times and locations are scheduled for the SWIM-A-Thon:

Park City Magnet
At Blackham School Pool
425 Thorne Street
Wednesday, June 9th at 1pm

Blackham School
425 Thorne Street
Friday, June 11th at 12:30pm

(Please contact the Communications Department if you plan to cover this event to insure the busses have arrived to the schools on time.)

This event is sponsored by the Bridgeport Public Schools in conjunction with St. Vincent's Medical Center.

About St. Vincent's SWIM Across the Sound

St. Vincent's SWIM Across the Sound is a charitable, grass roots organization run by the St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation of Bridgeport, CT. Since 1987, the SWIM has had a unique niche, providing cancer education, screening and prevention programs at low- or no-cost for the uninsured and underinsured. In addition, the SWIM helps individual cancer patients on a case-by-case basis with specific needs, such as the funding of wigs and prostheses, medication assistance, free transportation to treatments and appointments, day-care scholarships, support groups and more. The charity raises funds through events such as the SWIM Marathon, Breast Cancer Luncheon, Walk/Run for Cancer and Prostate Cancer Celebrity Dinner. Wherever possible, the SWIM covers costs and expenses of events through corporate sponsorships, and staffing overhead is covered by the St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation. The SWIM's main area of reach is eastern Fairfield County, but outreach programs extend to other areas of Connecticut with the SWIM's Hartford Chapter and annual fund raisers for New Haven County, as well as support for Connecticut's first responders and correction officers with cancer. The SWIM's Teen Smokestoppers program has reached 100,000 children throughout the entire state to date. The SWIM raised \$2.65 million in the 2009 fiscal year and helps more than 20,000 people annually. For more information, contact the St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation at (203) 576-5451 or visit www.swimacrossthesound.org.

The mission of the Bridgeport Public Schools and its supporting community is to graduate all students "college ready" and prepared to succeed in life. For more information about Bridgeport Public Schools visit our website at www.bridgeportedu.com.