

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Captain Planet Foundation Announces Implementation of Learning Gardens *Environmental-Based Educational Program Launches Pilot in Cobb County*



ATLANTA – October 7, 2009 – Captain Planet Foundation (CPF), an international, eco-foundation for youth, based on the successful *Captain Planet and the Planeteers* cartoon, is delighted to announce the launch of its brand-new environmental-based education initiative, Captain Planet’s Learning Garden Program. Designed to link standard curriculum to the environmental education of young children, the program will integrate a traditional course of study into an outdoor classroom setting, Captain Planet’s Learning Garden. The pilot program will launch fall 2009 in select elementary and middle schools within Cobb County.

“We are thrilled to begin phase one of the implementation of Captain Planet’s Learning Garden Program,” says Ira Blumenthal, President of Captain Planet Foundation. “With this initiative, we intend to further our mission of helping children become great stewards of the planet and live eco-friendly lives.” John Abraham, Chairman of the Cobb County School Board, says, “We are excited to be the first county in Georgia to participate in the Captain Planet’s Learning Garden Program. I believe this will help not only our county, but our state, become a leader in environmental education.”

Captain Planet’s Learning Garden Program aims to provide an enriching experience for children to connect to nature and also offers a creative, nontraditional path to learning. Additionally, it will be in accordance with Georgia Performance Standards so that teachers will be able to teach their requirements while incorporating the use of the garden into their daily activities. Captain Planet’s Learning Garden will help students master science, math, social studies and language arts through the course of planting, maintaining and harvesting the gardens. Raising environmental literacy among elementary school children has been a proven result in studies regarding similar educational programs. There have been numerous other positive effects from children engaging in outdoor classroom settings such as appreciation of nature, greater desire to eat fruits and vegetables, more patience, greater understanding of teamwork, improved self-esteem and a sense of ownership.

Already under way, initial gardens are being constructed and erected with a partnership through Farmer D Organics as an introduction and phase one to the program in participating Cobb

County Schools including: Keheley Elementary School, Pine Mountain Middle School, Sedalia Park Elementary School, Murdock Elementary School, Fair Oaks Elementary School and Addison Elementary School. A full garden curriculum is being developed over the course of the 2009-2010 school year. The full implementation of Captain Planet's Learning Garden Program, the on-site garden and accompanying curriculum, will begin fall 2010. Captain Planet Foundation intends to execute the program nationwide over the next few years. For additional information about Captain Planet's Learning Garden Program, please call 404-522-4270.

About the Captain Planet Foundation

Based on the critically-acclaimed cartoon series, *Captain Planet and the Planeteers*, Captain Planet Foundation (CPF) was founded in 1991 by Ted Turner. The mission of CPF is to support hands-on, environmental projects for children and youths in grades K-12. CPF's objective is to encourage innovative endeavors that empower today's children to be individual and collective environmental stewards. CPF is committed to making a global impact with a history of over 2,000 projects throughout the United States and around the world. For more information, call 404-522-4270 or visit www.captainplanetfdn.org.

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