

Media Release

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November 16, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wyncote Academy Students Meet Cast of Broadway's *A Chorus Line*

(Wyncote Academy, Wyncote, PA) – Nationally, schools have been forced to make drastic cuts in their budgets, frequently cutting programs in the arts. But at Wyncote Academy, arts education is alive and well!

Annual trips to New York City to attend Broadway shows have become a tradition at Wyncote Academy. This year's series opened last week, on November 8, with a trip to attend the first-ever Broadway revival of one of the most beloved musicals, *A Chorus Line*.

Students, faculty, and family members enjoyed a beautiful autumn afternoon exploring the theater district in Times Square and lunch at Planet Hollywood. Following the matinee performance, students greeted cast members and shared their impressions of the performance. Many of the gracious cast members of the hit show took time to meet with students, pose for photographs, and provide autographs.

The Wyncote Academy Theater Appreciation Program is a part of the school's commitment to provide its students with exposure a wide variety of cultural experiences in all areas of the arts. Underwritten by donations from members of the school's board of directors, students attend professional and community theater productions throughout the Delaware Valley as well as Broadway productions.

"The Theater Appreciation Program is a wonderful opportunity for our students," says Kirk Hittinger, Head of School. "In a time when arts education has been drastically reduced or even removed from so many schools, we are incredibly fortunate to be part of a school community that remains committed to the creative and performing arts. Arts education has a measurable impact on youth, especially for students who have been 'turned off' to education. I have seen our students focus their interest into the positive world of theater through these experiences and, in turn, do better in school and in life."

In prior years, students have attended performances of such Broadway shows as *Wicked*, *Assassins*, *Avenue Q*, and *Hairspray*, among others. Many of these experiences included visits with cast members after performances to discuss the shows and learn more about theater productions from “behind the scenes.” One such workshop, conducted with cast members from the Broadway hit *Rent*, included an onstage experience during which students shared with cast members several monologues they created as part of their language arts classes at school.

The Theater Appreciation Program will continue next spring with a trip to see a performance of the new Broadway production of *Mary Poppins*.

Wyncote Academy is a non-profit, nonsectarian independent school committed to fostering a love of learning and self-confidence in students with untapped abilities. The school is located on a 5-acre suburban campus in eastern Montgomery County.

A co-educational institution, Wyncote Academy serves grades six through twelve in a middle and upper school. Curriculum is college preparatory with emphasis on academic skills. Wyncote Academy is nationally recognized for its unique outdoor education program and distinctive program in the visual arts.

Wyncote Academy
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Wyncote sixth grade student Asha Aurelian, from Germantown, poses with Jessica Lee Goldwyn, a cast member from the Broadway revival of *A Chorus Line*. Ms. Goldwyn plays the character Val, who performs the hilarious solo *Dance Ten, Looks Three*.



Wyncote Academy eleventh grader Alberto Clark, from Elkins Park, gets an autograph from Michael Paterostro, who plays Greg in the Broadway revival of *A Chorus Line*.



From left to right, Keniesha Robinson, Asha Aurelian (both from Germantown), Casey Zeff (Elkins Park), and Tim Mirsch (Bensalem) stand outside the Schoenfeld Theater after attending a performance of the Broadway revival of *A Chorus Line*.

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