



PRESS RELEASE

Ben Franklin Academy National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Pays Visit to Porter Place Hospital and Retirement Center

Students Experience the Joy of Giving Just in Time for Holidays

HIGHLANDS RANCH – January 1, 2014— Ben Franklin Academy today announced the outcome of the National Junior Honor Society’s visit to Porter Place Hospital and Retirement Center. On December 16th, students and faculty members played the piano, sang carols, visited with residents and provided everyone with a handmade holiday card from the Academy’s 1st and 2nd graders.

“It was so wonderful to see the students genuinely spreading holiday cheer!” said Beth Konesky, Ben Franklin Academy Technology Teacher and NJHS Chapter Advisor. “Many of these elderly have few, if any, holiday visitors and were very excited to see our well-spoken and enthusiastic youth.”

The visit to Porter Place was designed to reinforce the National Junior Honor Society’s emphasis on showing students they can positively affect others’ lives and hopefully establish a lifelong love and commitment to community service. For several weeks, students of the honor society had been planning the visit and activities. Additionally, the creation of the holiday cards that were distributed was organized by the Academy’s Art teacher, Mrs. Ali Hinkle.

“I was so humbled by the wonderful, interesting, and funny people I met. They were so appreciative of the fact that we were reaching out and wishing them a happy holiday,” said Natalie Smith, a 13 year old member of the Honor Society and 8th. “It really brought to life how giving is better than receiving.”

This year the Academy’s chapter of NJHS has provided and served breakfast at House of Hope women and children’s shelter, helped at the Academy’s Veteran’s Day ceremony, served dinner at the Denver Rescue Mission, and will assist at a Special Olympics fundraiser in February. Several members also serve as teacher aides during their elective period.

About Ben Franklin Academy

Ben Franklin Academy (BFA) is a kindergarten through eighth grade Core Knowledge public charter school in northwestern Douglas County, Colorado. Consistent with its motto - "Stay Curious" - BFA's mission is to develop young adults with character like America's founding Renaissance man, Benjamin Franklin: well-read, scientifically curious, and civically engaged. BFA is a data-driven institution that inspires its students to excel through a challenging, sequenced curriculum that emphasizes science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and literacy while fostering the arts and sports. BFA also offers a tuition-based Core Knowledge preschool.

Media Contact:

Julia Porterfield
mco@bfacademy.org
303-704-6318



