



For Immediate Release

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Red Bank Charter School First Graders Get Cross-Cultural Perspective in Pennies for Peace Program

RED BANK, N.J. — Jan. 26, 2010 — First graders at Red Bank Charter School, a non-profit, non-partisan, K-8 public school, are selling pencils, erasers, and related items this week to raise money for children in Central Asia through Pennies for Peace, an international service-learning program that helps educate American children about the world to show them they can make a difference “one penny at a time.”

Through the Pennies Through Peace program, Red Bank Charter School first graders have experienced language arts, social studies, mathematics, and geography activities designed to heighten their awareness and understanding of how children live in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Teaching tools included interactive white boards, video clips, and a reading of the book “Listen to the Wind,” which tells the story of building an elementary school in the small Pakistani village of Korphe.

Pennies for Peace is a program of the Montana-based, Central Asia Institute (CAI), a non-profit organization that promotes and provides community-based education and literacy programs, especially for girls, in remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. As part of their Pennies for Peace activities this week, Red Bank Charter School first graders are also attending a talk by CAI co-founder Greg Mortenson at Brookdale Community College.

“The Red Bank Charter School has always believed in the power of children and their ability to care for others while contributing to their larger world,” said Meredith Pennotti, principal. “With the Pennies for Peace program, our first graders are seeing for themselves their ability to make this world a better place while providing a cross-cultural experience that shows their common humanity with children everywhere.”

For additional information on its programs and admissions, please contact Red Bank Charter School at (732) 450-2092.

ABOUT THE RED BANK CHARTER SCHOOL

The Red Bank Charter School is a K-8 public school serving children in Red Bank, N.J. Founded in 1998, the school has a current enrollment of 180 students with a highly qualified faculty and staff numbering more than 40. New Jersey Charter Schools are free public schools that are open to all children and which typically offer their students more individualized attention, longer school days, longer school years, and innovative programs with substantially less funding than conventional public schools. Further information is available at www.redbankcharterschool.com.