

Link Community School
120 Livingston Street
Newark, NJ 07103
Serving Newark for 40 Years

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR PRESS INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Sharon Machrone, Director of Communications
973-642-5343, smachrone@linkschool.org

LINK COMMUNITY SCHOOL TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS

(Newark – September 12, 2008) Link Community School marks 40 years of service, innovation and achievement on September 29, 2008 with a birthday party at 3:30 p.m. The school’s founder, Sister Vivien Jennings, O.P., and current principal, Marnie G. McKoy, will speak, commemorating Link’s historic achievements and ongoing mission. The entire Link community – students, parents, alumni, staff, and trustees as well as former trustees and principals - will honor the occasion and enjoy birthday cake.

An independent middle school located in Newark’s Central Ward, Link was the inspiration of Sister Vivien and others from the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell. They established “Project Link” as non-denominational middle school offering an exceptional educational opportunity for young people left in poverty; a bold, affirmative answer to the devastation of the riots in the late 1960s. They believed that a safe, nurturing environment with small classes and opportunities for creative expression would inspire and prepare students to succeed in high school and beyond thus transforming potential dropouts into productive and responsible citizens.

Regarding the birthday party, Principal McKoy said, “We have much to celebrate—young lives changed, even lives saved—so we draw deeply on the past for inspiration to continue and expand Link’s mission. It’s a time for us to look back with pride and look forward with optimism and renewed commitment.”

After 40 years and over 2000 graduates, Link is proud to point to the success of its mission. As a result of the school’s rigorous academic program and system of Core Values, Link students have experienced an average increase of 2.0 grade levels in their standardized test scores, 100% admission to private high schools, substantial scholarships of over \$7 million in the past 7 years to some of the nation’s top high schools and a 90 percent or higher high school graduation rate. More than 80 percent of Link’s graduates enroll in college.