



## For Immediate Release

### **Lessons In A Lunch Box Receives Jubilant Reception**

*Extraordinary Way To Teach About Dental Health Excites School Children*

**Baltimore**, 18 January 2008. A sea of bright orange lunch boxes initially filled the school auditorium and then spilled outside surrounding Franklin Square Elementary School on all four street corners. Parents were greeted by jubilant youngsters at the noon dismissal as every child filed out of the school with a lunch box in hand. A second grade boy ecstatically shouted to his grandmother who had come to pick him up, "Look what I've got!" and proudly displayed his shiny, new orange lunch box. The boy's grandmother read the print on the front of the lunch box as the child grinned from ear to ear.

Joining forces with the Maryland State Dental Association's, 2008 *Give Kids A Smile* program, The Maryland Children's Oral Health Institute presented the "***Lessons In A Lunch Box: Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks***" initiative to 183 children. The children were delighted to receive the lunch box containing *Dental Care In A Carrot* (toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss and rinse cup). They enthusiastically explored the entire lunch box, studying the pictures printed inside of the ingeniously crafted container. It was obvious that the carrot case was a big hit seeing the children practice removing and replacing the dental care products. Many especially liked the sand timer and the reflective, metallic sticker located at the opening of the lunch box that reads, "*See Yourself Becoming A Dentist.*"

Teachers also received a lunch box along with a Five Day Lesson Plan compiled by the Maryland Children's Oral Health Institute Board. The elementary school educators were encouraged to use the teaching manual to offer oral health education throughout the school year. Teachers were also urged to carry their lunch box to continually reinforce the creative messages and to help remind students about the importance of proper dental care and healthy diet choices.

Tooth decay remains the most common chronic disease of children ages five to seventeen. "*Lessons In A Lunch Box: Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks,*" is an oral health literacy program designed to empower children and families with the proper knowledge about routine dental care, oral health maintenance, good dietary choices and more. Grant funding obtained by the Maryland Children's Oral Health Institute will afford close to 5000 Baltimore City Public School children the educational lunch box this school year.

To learn more about The Maryland Children's Oral Health Institute and the "***Lessons In A Lunch Box: Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks***" initiative email Dr. Winifred J. Booker at [wbcuhi@aol.com](mailto:wbcuhi@aol.com).

###

*Prevention that Empowers!*

---

P.O. Box 1901 Baltimore, MD 21203 • 866-508-7400