

PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

Information: Superintendent's Office, 714- 628-4487



OUSD Teacher Receives “A Day Made Better” Award

ORANGE, Calif., October 4, 2011 – Julia Chen, first grade teacher at Sycamore Elementary School, was recognized today by OfficeMax’s *A Day Made Better* Program. Nominated by Principal Erika Krohn, Mrs. Chen was surprised in her classroom by OfficeMax representatives and school principal, where she was honored and presented with an award and \$1,000 worth of much-needed classroom supplies.

“I love what I do and to receive recognition like this is just icing on the cake,” Mrs. Chen said in front of her class of excited first graders and family who also came to congratulate her.

Winning teachers are nominated for this award by their principals for demonstrating passion for teaching, dedication to the success of their students, and innovation in the classroom.

“When I read the criteria for *A Day Made Better*, I knew Julia Chen fit it to a „T“. She is always looking for ways to engage her first graders in learning and prepares them well for second grade,” remarked Principal Erika Krohn.

After the classroom presentation, Mrs. Krohn was led back to the office for a surprise of her own: stacks of boxes, full of school supplies, donated to Sycamore by the community through OfficeMax’s in-store school supply drive. The sight brought tears to her eyes; “I am so grateful for this wonderful program. In these trying budget times, these supplies are more appreciated than ever. It feels great to have a program that honors educators,” she said.

Because teachers spend thousands out-of-pocket annually on essential classroom supplies, OfficeMax and Adopt-A-Classroom founded *A Day Made Better* to lead the fight to end teacher-funded classrooms. Each year on the first Tuesday in October, *A Day Made Better* honors 1,000 teachers for their extraordinary efforts in the classroom. Each recognized teacher receives a digital camera, swivel chair, and a large box containing essential classroom supplies – a total donation valued at \$1,000. Teachers across the nation will receive surprise deliveries of school supplies from OfficeMax worth a total of \$1 million dollars.

Since 2007, OfficeMax and Adopt-A-Classroom have funded more than 4,500 classrooms with more than \$4.5 million in grants and school supplies and helped secure funding for more than 66,000 classrooms annually through donations to Adopt-A-Classroom.

The Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 North Handy Street, Orange, CA

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