

REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

December 6, 2010

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FIFTH-GRADERS FROM NINE PITTSBURGH PUBLIC AND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TO COMPETE IN 'COLORS OF THE RAINBOW' BALLROOM DANCING CONTEST

Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh culminates fall 2010 semester with semi-finals

WHO: Mercy Behavioral Health, Pittsburgh Public Schools and The Extra Mile Foundation

WHAT: Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh "Colors of the Rainbow" Student Competition
Teams of fifth-grade students representing the following elementary schools will compete in the semi-finals of Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh Allegheny K-5, Pittsburgh Arlington K-8, Pittsburgh King K-8, Pittsburgh Phillips K-5, Pittsburgh Spring Hill K-5, and Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5, Pittsburgh Sunnyside K-8, St. Agnes School, and St. Benedict the Moor School.

Young couples will perform five dances – the Merengue, Foxtrot, Rumba, Tango, and Swing – in front of a panel of judges. Four of the nine teams will advance to the finals, scheduled for May 2011, where they will compete against the winners of the winter/spring 2011 semester.

The event is open to the public and admission is free.

Mercy Behavioral Health, part of Pittsburgh Mercy Health System and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, brought the international program to Pittsburgh in September 2009.

WHEN: Saturday, December 11, 2010 from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Pittsburgh Allderdice High School Auditorium, 2409 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217 (Squirrel Hill)

WHY: Dancing Classrooms was launched in 1994 as a not-for-profit project of the American Ballroom Theater Company. As seen in the documentary film "Mad Hot Ballroom," Dancing Classrooms is an in-school residency for every child. Through the program, students broaden their experiences, create healthy relationships, learn social awareness, and become young ladies and gentlemen. For more info, visit www.dancingclassrooms.com.

PHOTO OPS/

INTERVIEWS: Student ballroom dancers, teachers, principals, parents, Pittsburgh teaching artists, judges, and Mercy Behavioral Health representatives.