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ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE ACTIVE ONCE MORE

Winners drawn for the second SBLI Kids Fitness Day

WOBURN, MA-The Massachusetts Amateur Sports Foundation (MASF) best known for the Bay State Games, and The Savings Bank Life Insurance Company of Massachusetts (SBLI) are excited to announce the winners of the second SBLI Kids Fitness Day. The SBLI Kids Fitness Day seeks to teach Massachusetts youth that physical activity and nutrition is not only beneficial to your health, but fun at the same time.

The program was a free, one day event offered to Massachusetts Elementary and Middle Schools grades K-8. The fitness day asked that all students in participating schools engage in 30 minutes of constant activity in a creative way. All schools which reported their 30 minute activity, with 100% student participation, were entered in a drawing to receive one of four \$500 donations to their physical education or health department courtesy of SBLI and the Bay State Games.

Schools from across the state took part in a school wide activity to teach community and wellness to their students. The four schools which were selected from a random drawing to receive \$500 each, presented by SBLI and the Bay State Games, are Hyannis West Elementary School (Hyannis, MA), The Fessenden School (Newton, MA), Southeast Alternative School (Berkley, MA), and Whitinsville Christian School (Whitinsville, MA).

“It was a great event for all student and staff. We even had some parents and toddlers join in!”-remarked Hyannis West Elementary School physical education teacher Lorraine Dunnett.

“The Fessenden School participated in a group walk around our campus and neighborhood,” described physical education teacher Diane Sartanowicz. “The group walk brought together students from different grades. It was nice to see how some of the 4th grade boys helped out and encourage the kindergartners to keep going and not to give up!”

“One boy in particular who struggles in PE class said it was his best half hour of school so far this year,” commented Kris VandenAkker, physical education teacher at Whitinsville Christian School. “That right there made it all worth it for me.”

Brian Jenney, school counselor from the Southeast Alternative School, said that his school appreciated the opportunity to participate in the program. “As a small alternative school program we are always looking for new and exciting opportunities to involve our kids with. The SBLI Kids Fitness Day certainly provided that.” Jenney already has plans on how to use the grant, saying “The \$500 will enable us to develop an inventory of physical education supplies that we are sorely lacking.”

SBLI and the Bay State Games hope to organize more fitness days for the 2007-2008 school year. For your school to receive more information about upcoming SBLI Kids Fitness Days, please call the Bay State Games office (781) 932-6555 or visit http://www.baystategames.org/kids_challenge.asp.

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