

MEDIA RELEASE
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PVSC's Education Outreach Team Reaches More Than 24,000 Students This School Year

NEWARK, NJ - The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioner's (PVSC) Education Outreach Program traveled to over 120 schools and delivered its message of environmental awareness to more than 24,000 Passaic Valley area students during the 2008-2009 school year, announced PVSC Chairman Anthony Luna.

"We couldn't be more pleased by the number of requests we get for our staff to make this presentation and the positive feedback we get from students and educators about the program," said Luna. "This program is truly making a difference in teaching kids the impact their everyday lives have on our environment. Each student we touch becomes more environmentally aware, and that's a big part of improving the environment overall."

PVSC's Education Outreach Program offers a free environmental education presentation – available to public and private schools in the 48 municipalities served by PVSC – which describes aspects of PVSC's River Restoration Program and how the PVSC Treatment Plant works. The program is divided into three sections – one tailored to students in grades 3-5, a second designed for grades 6-8 and a third tailored to high school-aged students.

The program geared to younger students features "Messy Marvin and Pollution Prevent Penny" – two award-winning characters developed by PVSC who, through a 12-minute video presentation, learn the errors of their ways in contributing to water pollution.

The program for older students uses water use charts and marine debris timelines to teach about the proper disposal of household waste, how long commonly discarded items take to decompose in a marine environment and other similar issues.

"We take our stewardship of the environment seriously and realized several years ago that a key to affecting the way people act was to begin educating children on how their actions can harm or help the environment," said PVSC Executive Director Bryan Christiansen. "The more kids we involve as stewards of the environment, the better off our waterways will be in the future. We believe that PVSC's mission only begins with wastewater treatment. Doing everything we can to protect and enhance the environment is really what PVSC is all about."