

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**September 2, 2009**

**CONTACT: Bryan Christiansen**  
**(973) 817-5700**  
**Rich Ambrosino**  
**(609) 828-3192**

## **PVSC's Education Outreach Team Reached More Than 24,000 Students Last School Year**

**- Commissioners Expanding Program With K-2 Tutorial for 2009-2010 -**

**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.

Chairman Luna also announced the addition of a curriculum to the program geared to younger students, from kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, the fourth tier in the Education Outreach Program's offerings. The program will now offer educational presentations for students K-12 within its service area.

"Our program started with a presentation geared towards kids grades 3-5," Luna said. "From there we expanded to include grades 6-8 and then added a high school-aged component. With this final component added for the upcoming school year, every school-age child in our service area can receive a grade-appropriate tutorial on the effects their everyday lives and decisions have on water quality and the environment.

"We couldn't be more pleased by the number of requests we get for our staff to make this presentation and the feedback we get from students and educators about it," Luna continued. "This program is truly making a difference in teaching kids of all ages about the impact they directly have on their environment. Each student we touch becomes more environmentally aware, and that's a big part of bettering our 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 will be divided into four sections beginning in September for the 2009-2010 school year – one tailored to students in grades K-2, a second for grades 3-5, a third designed for grades 6-8, and a fourth tailored to high school-aged students.

***PVSC Expands Education Outreach Program***  
***September 02, 2009***

The program geared to the 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 our 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.”