

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Governor Whitman Teaches State History to Fourth Grade Class in Hamilton**

Gov. Christie Whitman today taught New Jersey history to a fourth grade class at the Yardville Elementary School in Hamilton, keeping a promise to volunteerism that she made during her State of the State address in January.

"I made a promise to add to my commitment to volunteerism by teaching the New Jersey history and government curriculum in one fourth grade class every month," the Governor told a school assembly after finishing her stint in the classroom. "I have to comment on how well the class treated their substitute teacher!"

In 1998, Gov. Whitman challenged more New Jerseyans to volunteer to help their fellow citizens, and throughout the year Gov. Whitman spent time each month reading for Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic. The organization provides audio tapes of books for those with vision problems. She added teaching to her list of volunteer activities in her 1999 State of the State address.

"In my class, I spoke about how one of my favorite things about being governor is that it gives me a chance to make a real difference in people's lives. Teaching a class each month is one small way of making a difference," Gov. Whitman said. "But if I can set an example for others to follow, maybe they will volunteer - not only in schools, but in organizations and communities around New Jersey."

Gov. Whitman told the students that they, too, should strive to make New Jersey a better place to live, play, and go to school. "You don't have to be a governor to make a difference in people's lives. Each one of you can set an example for others to follow. You can work hard in school. You can be kind, tolerant, and demonstrate respect for all people," she told the students.

The Governor was joined in the classroom by Assemblywoman Barbara Wright, who shared her experience in the General Assembly with the class.