

## Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

### NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor  
Steffanie Bell  
609-777-2600

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### **Governor Whitman Teaches State History to Fourth Grade Class in Pompton Lakes; Discusses Journey of USS New Jersey**

Gov. Christie Whitman today taught a fourth grade class at the Lenox School in Pompton Lakes, keeping a promise to volunteerism that she made during her State of the State address in January. During the Governor's visit, fourth graders from Lenox and the nearby Lincoln School learned about the history of the battleship USS New Jersey.

As part of the lesson the Governor and students participated in a conference call with Bob Wernet, a correspondent aboard the tugboat which is pulling the decorated battleship from the state of Washington to New Jersey. The Governor will be in Panama from October 16th-18th to witness the passing of the USS New Jersey through the Panama Canal.

"The USS New Jersey is a great ship bearing the name of a great state," said the Governor. "I'm proud of our state and I want all of you to know how important it is to learn about our state and the rest of the world around you."

The USS New Jersey was launched in 1942 and saw action during World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, and Beirut and participated in various training exercises, NATO exercises and official visits. During the battleship's trip home the state has prepared a website, [www.battleship-newjersey.org](http://www.battleship-newjersey.org), chronicling the journey of the ship including historical information and a daily update on the ship's progress.

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.

