

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Wendi Patella
609-777-2600

RELEASE: March 9, 1999

Governor Whitman Teaches State History to Fourth Grade Class in Camden

Gov. Christie Whitman today taught New Jersey history to a fourth grade class at the Cramer Elementary School in Camden, 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 of third and fourth graders 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.

During the assembly, students performed the "Wax Museum" for the Governor, a show in which students dressed in period costumes and portrayed the lives of 12 famous black Americans.