



The Maryland Children's
Oral Health Institute

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***School-based Dental Health Program Completes First
Year Adored By Elementary School Children***

Baltimore, MD – The Maryland Children's Oral Health Institute presented the final *Lessons In A Lunch Box Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks™* program for this school year at Dallas F. Nicholas, Sr. Elementary School on Tuesday, April 22nd. Once the students were seated Dr. Winifred J. Booker, CEO & Director of Development of The Maryland Children's Oral Health Institute introduced all of the dentists and dental hygienists that had come to help that afternoon. Dr. Booker explained why the oral health professional had come to their school and proceeded to show a video about proper brushing and another about the correct way to use dental floss. Just as with the eleven previous elementary schools the children could hardly contain themselves in anticipation of receiving their very own bright orange lunch box as promised by the dentists. The Director of Outreach & Advocacy, Dr. Leslie E. Grant who always thoroughly describes the educational lunch box had to contain the excitement and insist on calm more than once during her presentation. The Education Resource Consultant, Mrs. Sherry Holland Senter reviewed the lesson guide compiled by the dentists with each teacher in attendance. The lessons plan empowers the teacher and helps to further the school-based dental health program.

The president of the National Dental Association (NDA), Dr. Nathan L. Fletcher took the time to join fellow members of the Maryland Dental Society (MDS) to help give out the lunch boxes at the East Baltimore school. Despite a busy travel schedule, Dr. Fletcher remained at the school for the duration of the program surrounded by hundreds of ecstatic, barely controllable students. Ms. Christina Eckhart, clinical director for the Department of Dental Hygiene at the Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) came with student Ashley Smith to also provide some very much-appreciated additional assistance.

For the second time in less than a week, *Maryland* Congressman Elijah Cummings, true to his commitment to the oral health of our nation's children, sent representatives from his office to witness the *Lesson In A Lunch Box: Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks* program in action. Ms. Trudy Perkins, Communications Director and student intern, Anthony Kinslow traveled from the Washington, DC office. They saw first-hand to celebratory reaction of the school children when they received their lunch box covered with invaluable information about dental medicine and filled oral health care products designed especially for kids.

The brightly colored lunch box, crafted with oral health messages, serves as a constant reminder to help provide children and families with the information needed to practice healthy life-styles. The school-based dental health program completed its first year adored by elementary school children, admired by dental students, valued by educators, appreciated by advocates, and supported by organized dentistry and other health care and corporate professionals. The Maryland Children's Oral Health Institute has plans to expand the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program beyond Maryland in the next school year.

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