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VISTA PRODUCTIONS CONTRIBUTES TO PACER CENTER'S BULLYING PREVENTION EFFORTS

Students Write, Produce and Perform Vignettes for TeensAgainstBullying.Org

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Aug. 10, 2009 – Saint Thomas Academy announced today that VISTA Productions, a combined theater program with Visitation School, has contributed to PACER Center's national efforts to raise awareness and prevent bullying among today's youth. On Friday, Aug. 7, the PACER Center's National Center for Bullying Prevention announced a partnership with Hollywood Records pop music sensation and Disney Channel star, Demi Lovato, to help champion the organization's anti-bullying movement. Lovato joined the cause because she was the target of bullying when she was younger.

She will support the non-profit's national center by appearing on PACER's [TeensAgainstBullying.org](#) Web site, which launched on Saturday, Aug. 8. VISTA Productions' students participated in the creative process by writing, producing and acting in videos for the bullying prevention educational Web site.

TeensAgainstBullying.org is an extension of PACER's elementary school initiative and Web site [KidsAgainstBullying.org](#), for which STA/VIS students provided voice talent for "webisodes." The students also provided voice talent for a radio spot promoting the website back in 2006. (pacer.org/bullying/bpaw/Shrink30.mp3)

PACER will use its Web site and a social networking campaign to create more awareness for bullying during the 4th Annual National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week (Oct. 4 to 10). Families, students, schools, organizations and other groups can partner with PACER (at [PACER.org](#)) to prevent bullying in several ways. Activities and materials such as contests, toolkits and online bullying prevention training are available at [TeensAgainstBullying.org](#) and [KidsAgainstBullying.org](#) (for elementary school kids).

According to a recent study by The National Association of School Psychologists and the U.S. Dept. of Justice, 160,000 kids of all ages stay home from school everyday to avoid the stress that comes from being confronted by a bully or bullies. Most studies find that only 25 to 50 percent of bullied children talk to an adult about it.

"Bullying is intentional, hurtful and often repetitive behavior forced on a child who does not knowingly provoke the bully. There is a clear imbalance of power either in the physical strength, social status or the intimidating behavior of the bully," explained Paula F. Goldberg, executive director and co-founder of PACER.

For more information, visit PACER.org, TeensAgainstBullying.org, KidsAgainstBullying.org or call 952-838-9000.

About PACER

PACER's Center's Bullying Prevention Project is for all children, including children with disabilities. It promotes bullying awareness and teaches effective ways to respond to bullying. PACER Center primarily serves families of children and youth with disabilities. It provides resources such as publications, workshops, and individualized assistance and helps families make decisions about education, vocational training, employment, and other services for their child. Its primary Web site is PACER.org, its phone numbers are 952-838-9000; 800-53-PACER (MN toll free); and 888-248-0822 (national toll free).

About Saint Thomas Academy

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, college preparatory, Catholic, military/leadership school committed to preparing young men to succeed in college and in life. Nationally accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the academy challenges young men to excel academically, spiritually, morally and physically in and out of the classroom. For more information, please visit www.cadets.com.

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