

FOR RELEASE

February 19, 2010

Haitian doctor to discuss relief effort at Ernie Davis Middle School

Students at Ernie Davis Middle School, who raised more than \$2,000 for Haitian relief efforts, will get the rare opportunity to hear exactly how their donations were used on Monday, Feb. 22, when Dr. Patrick Jeudy, a Haitian surgeon, visits Ernie Davis Middle School.

Jeudy operates a medical clinic in Haiti and is in the United States for a few days gathering supplies to bring back to his clinic.

Opal Golden, a physical education teacher at Ernie Davis Middle School, was part of the relief effort in Haiti from Feb. 4-9, where she worked with Dr. Jeudy to help rebuild his clinic beneath tents and tarps.

Golden is one of the co-founders of a Christian sports outreach organization in Haiti (haitisportsoutreach.net). Since its inception several years ago, the group's focus was to sponsor soccer tournaments throughout the country. Golden usually spends two to three weeks each summer in Haiti, working and helping train people to work there during the rest of this year.

"After the earthquake, I was bombarded by e-mails from my staff and friends asking for help and supplies. I didn't think I could do much because what I usually take care of is soccer ... but after a week of these e-mails, I knew I had to do something," Golden said.

What Golden did was arrange to deliver 300 pounds of medical supplies to Haiti and to help build a temporary medical clinic. Upon her return, she told the students that the money they raised -- all from collecting spare change -- was used for medical supplies (including the large tent that housed the clinic) as well as for enough food and water to last about 20 people for a month.

The media is invited to Ernie Davis Middle School between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday to speak with Dr. Jeudy and Golden about their experiences.

Elementary Schools

Beecher

735-3500

Broadway

735-3600

Coburn

735-3650

Diven

735-3700

Hendy

735-3750

Fassett

735-3900

Pine City

735-3800

Riverside

735-3850

Middle Schools

Broadway

735-3300

Ernie Davis

735-3400

High Schools

Alternative High School

735-3350

Elmira Free Academy

735-3100

Southside

735-3200

Administration

735-3000