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**OWL (OUR WORLD OF LITERACY) KICKS OFF ITS EARLY LITERACY  
PROGRAM AT PS 140 IN SOUTH JAMAICA, QUEENS**

**-- Elementary School Students Read Multi-Cultural Versions of Cinderella --**

**Wednesday, January 15, 2003, South Jamaica, NY** – In an effort to promote early literacy in the South Jamaica, Queens neighborhood, Our World of Literacy (OWL) kicks off its first neighborhood reading event on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at PS 140, 115<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 166 Street, from 9 AM to 12 Noon. Students at the elementary school, from pre-Kindergarten to Grade 6, will perform, read, and listen to tales of the classic fairytale “Cinderella” as it is told in their various countries of origin. Parents of the students are invited to read to their children. In addition, storyteller Valerie Nichols will also present a variation of Cinderella.

Literacy, Inc. (LINC), a not-for-profit organization that focuses on “bridging” community and school representatives through a model program that acts as a catalyst for supporting literacy among young children, was responsible for bringing together the school and community groups to make the OWL project a reality. LINC’s mission is to provide a system of outreach and coordination of community resources that builds language-rich neighborhoods where all young children read.

The OWL project was organized by the OWL Community Leadership Network comprised of parents, school representatives and community leaders working together to provide reading opportunities and activities for young children. The OWL Community Literacy Network is a consortium that includes PS 140, South Jamaica Library, Amistad Educational Center, and the Girls Scouts.

The OWL project in Queens began in October 2002 and was made possible through a grant from Verizon.

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