



Media Release: Immediate
Date: February 6, 2009
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The Play, *Ben Carson, M.D. Story*, to be performed

The play, *Ben Carson, M.D.*, is coming to St. Mary's County. This inspiring play will be performed on Monday, February 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Great Mills High School and is sponsored by St. Mary's County Library, St. Mary's County Public Schools, and the Boys and Girls Club of Southern Maryland in celebration of Black History Month and Lights On After School. There is no admission charge.

The 45-minute play follows Dr. Carson's struggle from an inner-city childhood to his current position as director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He was raised by a single mom with only a third grade education. Even more amazing is the fact he was only 33 when he became the director of this renowned institution.

Ben Carson, M.D. is presented by The Columbia Center for Theatrical Arts, Inc., (CCTA), a professional acting company and arts nonprofit. CCTA developed this original production 15 years ago in partnership with Dr. Carson and his family to motivate children to read, become better citizens and go after their dreams. The program offers students the opportunity to enjoy theater while absorbing the play's important messages on the value of good character, hard work, and education in one's life.

From 6 to 6:45 p.m. community members are invited to see student demonstrations of the various activities offered in the county's after school programs. This Lights On After School event will focus on the student's future dreams. Dinner from Bear Creek Barbeque will be available at no charge to the first 100 guests.

For more information contact Mark Smith, St. Mary's County Public Schools Coordinator of Special Programs at 301-475-5511 x137 or Marilyn Lash, St. Mary's County Library Publicity Specialist, at 301-475-2846 x1007.

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