



News Release

Contact:

Renee Kojane
Marketing Director, The Push
c. 530.363.2091
renee@woodenhoop.com

Mike Daniels
President, De Marillac Academy
p. 415-552-5220 x.25
mike_daniels@demarillac.org

HISTORY-MAKING SOUTH POLE EXPEDITION TEAM VISITS DE MARILLAC ACADEMY

First Adaptive Athlete to Trek to South Pole Aims to Inspire Tenderloin Students

(TRUCKEE, CA – November 7, 2011) – “The Push” Expedition, a team of Americans including spinal cord-injured athlete Grant Korgan, plans to make history this January, timed for the 100-year anniversary of the South Pole’s original exploration. Fueled by perseverance and, for Grant, a motivation to recover from a paralyzing injury, he along with guide Tal Fletcher will present on Tuesday, November 8th from 9:30 to 11:15 a.m. to the Tenderloin’s De Marillac Academy.

Founded in 2001 by the Daughters of Charity and the De La Salle Christian Brothers, De Marillac Academy provides an innovative, comprehensive, and accessible Catholic education in the Vincentian and Lasallian traditions for children from low-income, underserved families of the Tenderloin and other similar communities in San Francisco.

The presentation to De Marillac students is part of the expedition’s mission to impart the global message of the human spirit and human possibility. Along with detailing the extreme conditions they will face for two icy weeks, the presenters will showcase the custom sit ski on which Grant will literally use sheer upper body strength to push across the icy terrain.

“This journey is not just about my physical recovery from a snowmobiling accident that burst my lower vertebrae,” said Grant Korgan. “It’s ultimately about the mental fortitude each and every one of us possess—including these kids at De Marillac who live each day in some of the most extreme conditions—to accomplish everything they want in this life.”

To reinforce this message from the field in January, the team will correspond regularly to De Marillac students with semi-live Internet dispatches, answering questions and providing updates on their trek. Upon arrival to the South Pole, “The Push” team will call in live via satellite to the classrooms as well, announcing their historic success. The entire journey, along with the advance training and school presentations, is being documented for an upcoming film scheduled for Fall 2012 release.

“The Push” is in support of the High Fives Foundation, a California-based non-profit organization whose mission is to help winter athletes suffering life-altering injuries get back on their feet, and ideally, back to their sport. To learn about sponsorship opportunities and follow “The Push” journey visit www.southpolepush.com. To learn more about De Marillac Academy, visit <http://www2.demarillac.org>

###