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PRESS ADVISORY – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 5, 2007

OAKLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PROMOTE PEACE & UNITY DURING NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK

OAKLAND – In partnership with Safe Passages and the Oakland Police Department, Oakland Unified Middle Schools will make clear their commitment to non-violence on Friday, April 6, the last day of National Youth Violence Prevention Week. During the day, students will learn about peaceful conflict resolution and positive alternatives to violence in a number of different forums.

“A significant number of victims or witnesses of violence in Oakland are young people, and too many of our students have lost friends, siblings or even parents to homicide,” State Administrator Kimberly Statham said. “Oakland schools are committed to teaching our students about non-violent communication and behavior, and to helping our students grow as caring and competent individuals.”

National Youth Violence Prevention Week is a campaign to raise awareness and to educate students, teachers, counselors, parents and the public on effective ways to prevent youth violence. Thousands of Oakland middle and elementary school students will participate in events promoting non-violence Friday.

After school, students from Bret Harte, Westlake and Edna Brewer and other schools will host a rally/festival at **Lincoln Square Park, 261 11th Street** to celebrate National Youth Violence Prevention Week with music, entertainment and food. Community based organizations will inform the public of services offered to youth and families.

Highlights on Friday include:

Cole Middle School – 1011 Union Street

When: 8:00 a.m.

Activity: Peace Walk – students will walk on campus and in the surrounding community as a show of peaceful congregation.

Westlake Middle School – 2629 Harrison Street

When: 10:00 a.m.

Activity: Violence Prevention Assembly – mural and poster contest winner will be announced, student art will be displayed and speakers will address unity and cross-cultural understanding.

Havenscourt, Coliseum College Prep & Roots International middle schools – 1390 66th Avenue

When: 11:00 a.m.

Activity: Talent Show – students will showcase their talents to promote positive alternatives to violence.
Location: Havenscourt Auditorium

Bret Harte Middle School @ Lincoln Recreation Center, 250 10th Street

When: 4:00 p.m.

Activity: Non-Violence Youth Festival – students will gather at Lincoln Recreation Center to participate in a violence-prevention resource fair.
