

## NATIONAL AQUARIUM IN BALTIMORE ANNOUNCES 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR “GRADE A NIGHT”

*Annual event celebrates grade “A” students with special admission*

*Students encouraged to step up studies during last six weeks of school year*

Baltimore – (April 1, 2009) –The National Aquarium is encouraging students throughout the area to keep up their studies during the last six weeks of the school year as the organization announced **Thursday, June 25, 2009** as the date of their annual **Grade A Student Night**. The event celebrates students who have achieved three or more grades equal to or above 90% in any one marking period and are enrolled in K-12 in Baltimore City or County and offers those students **free admission from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

“We are proud to once again sponsor this unique program that rewards students for their hard work,” said Joe Harber, formal education program manager for the Aquarium. “The event is always well attended and we are looking forward to hosting hundreds of students who have shown their skills in the classroom.”

Each child may bring one accompanying adult free of charge; other family members are invited to join in the celebration at a special rate of only \$4 per person, cash only. To receive free admission, **students must bring their report cards. To register, please call 410-576-3870 by June 22, 2009.**

Students who attend will be able to view all of the Aquarium’s exhibits including the newest addition, *Jellies Invasion: Oceans Out of Balance*, which opens May 23, 2009. During the event, students will have the opportunity to meet the Aquarium’s mascot, Puffin, and will be able to enjoy face painting, participate in fun education activities, have an animal encounter, see 4-D showings, and much more!

Grade “A” Student Night is just one of the educational and outreach programs offered by the National Aquarium that benefit the community. During the 2008-2009 school year thus far, the National Aquarium has provided free admission to over 59,000 students through a grant from the MDSE.

The National Aquarium in Baltimore, a non-profit organization, is Maryland’s most exciting and popular cultural attraction, as well as one of the region’s leading conservation and education resources, hosting more than 1.4 million visitors per year. Through transforming experiences, the National Aquarium inspires people to enjoy, respect, and protect the aquatic world. It is dedicated to education and conservation through more than a dozen programs that serve the environment and the community.

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