



Western New York's Top 'Energy Detective' Announced

Buffalo Sabre, Paul Gaustad, to visit 8th-grader, Spencer Miliotto, at Ben Franklin Middle School on Monday, February 23rd

(February 19, 2009) Williamsville, N.Y.: National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation ("National Fuel"), the Buffalo Sabres and the National Energy Education Development Project ("NEED") are pleased to announce that Spencer Miliotto, an eighth grader at Ben Franklin Middle School, has been named western New York's top Energy Detective.

Spencer was nominated for top Energy Detective honors by Andy Lueth, his Technology teacher at Ben Franklin Middle School. As part of being named top Energy Detective, Sabres forward Paul Gaustad, will visit Spencer's classroom on February 23, 2009, at 1 p.m. and Gaustad will meet with other students at the school during an assembly at 1:25 p.m. Spencer also won four tickets to attend a Sabres game at HSBC Arena and four passes attend the post-game press conference with Sabres' head coach Lindy Ruff on March 4, 2009.

Last November, as part of National Fuel's Conservation Incentive Program, National Fuel, the Buffalo Sabres and NEED joined together to offer a new, free and exciting program for teachers at the fifth through 12th-grade level to help their students to become Energy Detectives by learning about energy efficiency, conservation and energy sources. Through the Energy Detectives Program, more than 9,000 students and 100 teachers joined thousands of others and became part of the Buffalo Sabres' "Green Team." Introduced in 2007, the Buffalo Sabres' Green Team highlights the team's dedication to the sustainability of the environment in western New York and Southern Ontario through the "Blue & Gold Make Green Initiative." The organization is committed to creating programming to help fans reduce their environmental footprint and at the same time, educate Sabres fans on conservation issues, teaching fans how to be greener, and directing them to additional resources where they can learn more about environmental issues.

The Energy Detectives Program includes hands-on classroom materials and take-home Kits that make it possible for the participating students to share these energy lessons learned with their families. Together, the students and their families can install energy efficiency and conservation measures, including: outlet gasket insulators, faucet aerators, water-saving showerheads, and other tools. Materials provide structure for students to work with their families to save energy and integrate their efforts with a classroom activity.

Andy Lueth, Spencer's Technology teacher at Ben Franklin Middle School has led an effort to bring these important lessons on energy efficiency not only to his students, but to also include: students who are entered in a national problem-solving competition and are focusing on reducing the amount of energy wasted in the school district; eighth-grade science students who are studying the laws of physics relative to forms of energy and energy conversion; a team of Science Olympians who are creating an energy-related project; foreign language students who are translating the lessons and data from English to Spanish; seventh and eighth grade BOCES students who are studying energy efficiency and conservation; sixth-grade special education students involved with Science curriculum; and members of the Energy and Environmental Club who strive to raise awareness about energy choices and their impacts.



In addition to grand prizewinner, Spencer Miliotto, 10 runner-up Energy Detectives will receive autographed Sabres merchandise. And, in the coming weeks, Buffalo Sabres' mascot, Sabretooth, will visit 10 area schools so the students can share what they've learned through the Energy Detectives Program.

National Fuel's Conservation Incentive Program was approved by the New York State Public Service Commission in September 2007 and, in addition to the Energy Detectives Program, includes rebates for residential and non-residential customers on the purchase of high-efficiency natural gas equipment and free weatherization services for low-income customers. Since its inception, nearly \$6 million in rebates and weatherization services have been provided to more than 19,000 of National Fuel's customers in western New York. For more information on the program, ***which is still offering rebates and weatherization services***, visit www.NationalFuelForThought.com.

The NEED program includes teacher-tested educational materials, evaluation techniques, recognition of student achievement, and professional development for educators. NEED materials and training provide comprehensive, objective information about the scientific concepts of energy and the sources of energy - their use and impact on the environment, the economy and society. Materials provided by NEED also include activities to educate students about energy efficiency and conservation, and tools to help faculty, staff and students use energy more wisely at school. To learn more about NEED visit www.need.org.

National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation comprises the utility segment of National Fuel Gas Company, a diversified energy holding company that is engaged in a number of natural gas-related activities. The Utility provides natural gas service to approximately 500,000 customers in western New York. Additional information about National Fuel and its customer services is available at <http://www.nationalfuelgas.com> or by calling **1 (800) 365-3234**.

Photo and Interview Opportunity Details for February 23, 2009

**Ben Franklin Middle School
540 Parkhurst Blvd.
Buffalo, NY 14223**

**1:00 – 1:20 p.m. Classroom visit by Buffalo Sabre Paul Gaustad
1:25 – 2:00 p.m. Student assembly with Paul Gaustad**