



NEWS

www.mcleancountyil.gov/health



200 W. Front St.

Bloomington, IL 61701

(309) 888-5450

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 7, 2009

CONTACT: Bree Davis
(309) 888-5489

McLean County Asthma Coalition is “Taking Asthma to School”

The McLean County Asthma Coalition is celebrating World Asthma Day by “Taking Asthma to School.” Over the next two weeks, a school nurse or a volunteer will read the book “Taking Asthma to School” to 2nd graders across the county. About 1700 students in 26 McLean County Schools will hear the story and be part of the awareness project.

The story will help students understand asthma and how it affects them or their fellow classmates. A copy of the book will be provided to the reader and then will be donated to the school library. At the end of the day, each student will be provided a pencil and activity booklet with age appropriate asthma educational information they may take home.

Teresa Pratt, a school nurse at Ridgeview Elementary, read the book to students on Tues., May 5. She had a student with asthma demonstrate how he uses his inhaler when he has an asthma episode. She also had students pinch their noses and breathe through straws so they could learn how it may feel to breathe during an asthma episode.

Local World Asthma Day activities are sponsored by the McLean County Asthma Coalition and the Illinois Asthma Partnership. Asthma is one of the most common chronic childhood diseases and is responsible for more absenteeism and more hospitalizations than any other childhood illness. The mission of the McLean County Asthma Coalition is to reduce asthma morbidity and mortality and enhance the quality of life of children in McLean County. The coalition is comprised of representatives from the McLean County Health Department, school nurses and other health professionals.

###