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MEDIA RELEASE

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2010 U.S. Men's Olympic Curling Team To Visit Ashwaubenon's Valley View School

Ashwaubenon, WI – Dec. 15, 2009 – The 2010 U.S. Men's Olympic Curling Team will visit Ashwaubenon's Valley View Elementary School on Thursday, December 17 at 8:15 a.m. The team, which hails from Minnesota, is training at the nearby Green Bay Curling Club in preparation for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, Canada.

Students will have an opportunity to learn more about this centuries-old Olympic sport, which originated in Scotland. The team will participate in Valley View fifth-grade physical education classes where synthetic ice and real curling rocks be brought in. This hands-on environment will give the students and the Olympians a chance to interact and to throw a few stones.

The team is composed of John Shuster (Duluth, MN), Jason Smith (Cape Coral, FL), Jeff Isaacson (Gilbert, MN), John Benton (St. Michael, MN), Chris Plys (Duluth, MN) and Coach Phill Drobnick (Duluth, MN). The team won the 2010 U.S. Olympic Team Trials back in February. This is the second Olympics for Shuster, who won the bronze medal in 2006 in Turin, Italy.

Olympian John Benton will present digital cameras to the school as part of the United States Olympic Committee's Team for Tomorrow Ambassador Program. In partnership with U.S. Olympians and Paralympians, the U.S. Olympic Committee launched the Team for Tomorrow humanitarian relief fund in 2008. The fund provides a vehicle through which U.S. athletes can offer their assistance and support to those in need around the world, as well as a means to continue spreading the Olympic ideals of peace, understanding, tolerance and harmony.

To learn more about curling and the 2010 Olympic team, visit the USA Curling website at www.usacurl.org. For more information regarding this event, contact Julie Patzke, Valley View Physical Education Teacher at jpatzke@ashwaubenon.k12.wi.us or 920-492-2935 extension 3362.

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