

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



MEDIA ALERT

More information contact:

Robert Thompson, Director of Outreach
and Development / Theatre Instructor:
952-224-1345 / rthompson@msspahs.org

Or

Tracy Johnson, "Super Scientist" at MSSPA:
952-224-1357 / tjohnson@msspahs.org

Main Street School of Performing Arts Science Teacher Wins "Super Scientist" Award

Tracy Johnson is one of nine metro teachers recognized for excellence

Hopkins, MN: The students, fellow faculty, administrators, friends and family of Main Street School of Performing Arts are celebrating the public recognition of what they've all known — Tracy Johnson is an exceptional teacher. So exceptional in fact, she received FOX 9's 2011 Super Scientist Award.

Nine area teachers received this significant award, which comes with a \$900 check for their school from Royal Credit Union, to be part of a 30-minute special on FOX 9, and the opportunity to be a featured presenter at the FOX 9's Girls & Science event at the Science Museum of Minnesota on October 15th.

"We are incredibly proud of Tracy, and feel so lucky to have her as part of our MSSPA family," said Main Street School's principal Barbara Wornson. "Although we are a school focused on the performing arts, science does not take a back seat. Tracy exemplifies our commitment to a well-rounded, rigorous curriculum that engages and challenges our students."

Upon receiving news of being named a "Super Scientist," Tracy Johnson responded, "Though the award is an amazing honor, the most rewarding part of being a Fox 9 Super Scientist is the knowledge that I've made a meaningful impact on my students. None of this would have been possible without the amazing students of MSSPA – their creativity, talent, and enthusiasm brings out the best in everyone." Johnson added, "Though I began imagining myself as a science teacher half my lifetime ago, I never dreamed I'd find a school, or students, that make every day so enjoyable. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to work in an environment that encourages teaching beyond the textbook, with students who are extraordinary in every way. I didn't know I'd been nominated for this award, and the announcement that I was a recipient came as a total shock. Fox 9's generous financial award, in addition to contributions by our awesome Parent Teacher Organization, will go toward funding a scientific excursion for this year's AP Biology students."

The FOX 9's Super Scientist Award recognizes teachers who inspire students in science, technology, engineering or math. Submissions come from fellow teachers, students and parents. Teachers are also able to nominate themselves. The judging panel is made up of education and S.T.E.M. experts from the Minnesota Department of Education and the University of Minnesota. The award culminates in the FOX 9's Girls & Science event held at the Science Museum of Minnesota, giving kids the opportunity to explore their passion for science and encourages them to choose a path of math, science, or technology at school or in their career. Kids spend the day participating in fun, hands-on experiments while learning from leading female science and technology experts. More than 6,000 people attended the event in 2011.

- continued -

About Tracy Johnson:

Mrs. Johnson has lived her whole life as a scientist, exploring the natural world from rural MN, the Great Lakes, and Australia. She completed her Biology B.A. and education licensure at the University of MN, Morris. As an enthusiastic new member of staff, Mrs. Johnson teaches Anatomy & Physiology, Biology, Environmental Science, Forensic Science, and Healthful Living. Mrs. Johnson emphasizes inquiry-based teaching in all of her courses, along with a mix of humorous anecdotes, technology, and field/lab work. Her philosophy is that “Life is a Science,” and her goal is to bring scientific awareness and inquiry to all aspects of students’ lives.

About Main Street School of the Performing Arts (MSSPA): Established in 2003, MSSPA is a tuition-free, four-year charter high school conveniently located in the heart of downtown Hopkins, and serving students from across the Twin Cities metro area. A place of inspiration and imagination, MSSPA offers students an arts-centered education, wrapped in a challenging academic curriculum. In 2011 the University of St. Thomas became MSSPA’s Authorizer. Both schools look forward to a productive partnership in the years ahead.



MSSPA VISION: Through the creation and performance of theatre, music, and dance, learners will establish their unique personal signature. Rigorous academics and collaboration with professional artists will prepare learners for higher education and lifelong engagement in the arts.

Music. Theater. Dance. Life!

Now Enrolling! For more information about the Main Street School of Performing Arts please visit www.msspahs.org or call 952-224-1340

