

For Immediate release
December 16, 2008

Parents and Teachers Protest Bubble Tests

- ▶ We'll be blowing bubbles in Federal Plaza to send a message to President-elect Obama and Secretary of Education nominee Arne Duncan about testing.
- ▶ We want what the Obamas want – a high-quality education for our children that is not focused on standardized “bubble” tests.

Contact:

Wade Tillett – (773-398-0839) – CPS teacher and parent, seeking to opt children out of ISAT
Jackson Potter (312-731.2743) and **Norine Gutekanst** (708-466-5381) – CPS teachers, organizers for CORE (Congress of Rank and File Educators)

Sue and Jim Gill – (708-334-2131/708-334-2096) – Oak Park schools parents, have opted children out of ISAT for several years

Julie Woestehoff (work 312-491-9101 or cell Wednesday only, 773-715-3989) – Executive director, Parents United for Responsible Education (PURE)

WHO: Parents and teachers from the Chicago area.

WHAT: We will be blowing bubbles in Federal Plaza to send a message to President-elect Obama and Secretary of Education nominee Arne Duncan about what parents and teachers value in education, and about the change we need for our schools and our children, that is, taking the focus off of standardized “bubble” tests and returning public schools to their real purpose, providing our children with a full, rich, empowering education.

WHEN: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 at 1:30 pm.

WHERE: Federal Plaza in Chicago (Dearborn and Adams), in between Arne Duncan’s office at the Chicago Public Schools and the offices of President-elect Obama.

WHY: Standardized “bubble” tests now dictate almost every aspect of our children’s education. Like our parents before us, we want our children to have a better education than we had, but the bubble test mania means that our children are receiving less.

Presidential candidate Obama spoke out against the misuse and overuse of standardized tests. For seven years, Arne Duncan has led a school system that has been a prime example of overemphasis on tests. We will encourage him to support President Obama’s vision and lead the revision of the No Child Left Behind Act to reduce its reliance on bubble tests.