

# EDUCATION NEWS & NOTES

## Better Grades In Classroom Cleanliness

(NAPSA)—Kids learn better in clean classrooms, but many of the nation's classrooms may not make the grade.

Ninety-four percent of elementary and middle school teachers agreed with that statement in a recent survey, saying there is not always time to clean up or the money for cleaning supplies.

The survey for Bounty by Wakefield Research found that more than half of elementary school teachers (54 percent) admit that the need to clean their classroom has interfered with teaching or academic work.

Along with planning spelling quizzes and geography lessons, 42 percent of busy teachers have to add cleaning to their list of daily duties. Half of elementary and middle school teachers (51 percent) also avoid messy projects due to the dread of cleaning up afterward.

To help clean up classrooms and promote in-class creativity, Bounty teamed up with PTO Today and Golden Globe-nominated actress and mother of two Julianne Moore and business mogul and mother of three Kimora Lee Simmons to launch "We Love Our School Week."

"As a mom and as someone who has a passion for fashion and design, I'm always encouraging my children's creativity through hands-on learning," says Simmons. "It's a thrill to be able to help improve the learning environment for students and I hope that parents and teachers will continue to get involved to better the classrooms in their own communities."

The program, part of the company's Make A Clean Difference campaign, has helped to mobilize volunteers in 1,000 schools across



**Schools are enlisting volunteers to help provide clean, creative learning environments for their students.**

the country while also alleviating some of the costs of needed cleaning supplies through Clean Kits.

The kits include paper towels and Mr. Clean supplies, which can be used to clean often-touched surfaces such as doorknobs, computer keyboards, telephones, light switches, desks and chairs.

Also in the kit is a cleaning checklist that becomes useful as the school year begins to wind down. Teachers and parents can download the checklist from Bounty's Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/Bounty](http://www.Facebook.com/Bounty) and schedule a classroom cleaning event of their own this spring.

Some suggested items from the cleaning checklist include washing out the trash can, vacuuming air supply vents, shaking out mats or carpets, mopping hard floor surfaces and washing soft items such as pillows, stuffed animals and costumes.

Pitching in to create classrooms that sparkle can help teach students a valuable lesson about the importance of learning.