

To: Area Media  
Date: Tuesday, February 9, 2010  
Subject: **Hopewell Academy Participates in the Global Red Hand Day**  
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### **Hopewell Academy Participates in the Global Red Hand Day**

**Cary, NC-** Hopewell Academy students, faculty and parents are making a stand against child soldiers, along with others around the world, by participating in the global Red Hand Day.

According to redhandday.org, “The goal of Red Hand Day is to raise global awareness of the plight of child soldiers through public protests, demonstrations and other activities. The Red Hand symbol has been used all over the world by the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers and many civil society organizations to say no to the recruitment and use of child soldiers.” The official Red Hand Day date is Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

“We have been reading ‘A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier,’ by Ishmael Baeh,” said Michael Van Bramer, Hopewell Academy Junior. “Ishmael was a young man who was forced to become a soldier in the Sierra Leone Civil War when he was only 13 years old.

“The book really hit home with my English class, and we wanted to bring awareness to the worldwide child soldier situation. When we found out about Red Hand Day, there was no doubt we wanted to get involved,” said Van Bramer.

Organized by the junior class, Hopewell Academy students, faculty and parents covered the school with red hand prints and messages showing their support for the campaign. Red Hand Day t-shirts were also sold with all proceeds benefiting UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund.

“I am so proud of my students for demonstrating such ambition and compassion toward the plight of children around the world,” said Melissa Teets, Hopewell Academy high school English teacher. “This is the type of authentic learning that really changes lives.”

To learn more about Red Hand Day and how to get involved, visit [www.redhandday.org](http://www.redhandday.org).

**\*\*Below are pictures from Hopewell Academy’s participation in Red Hand Day\*\***

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Hopewell Academy provides a challenging and supportive environment for students in grades 4 – 12 with diverse learning styles. Small classes and personalized attention help our students become confident and responsible learners to achieve academic success in a college preparatory environment. For more information, visit [www.hopewellacademy.org](http://www.hopewellacademy.org) or call 919.607.6339.

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