



MEDIA ALERT for Friday, June 13, 2014

SEND OFF RALLY AT GEORGE WASHINGTON HS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED SOCCER TEAM

WHAT – George Washington HS will kick off a weekend of celebration to honor the Unified Soccer Team participating in the 2014 USA Games. Students, faculty, and guest speakers will all be in attendance to celebrate the massive accomplishments of a group of nine students from George Washington High School who will compete at the 2014 Special Olympics USA Games in Mercer County, New Jersey. George Washington High School's nine athletes will join a total of more than 200 athletes and 70 coaches and staff representing Team Pennsylvania at the games. Miss Philadelphia International will also be a special guest speaker at the event.

WHEN – Friday, June 13th at 2:30 p.m.

WHERE – George Washington High School, 10175 Bustleton Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19116

WHY - Special Olympics Unified Sports® is an inclusive sports program that puts athletes with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. This Unified Soccer elective course at George Washington HS includes a curriculum with youth leadership components, anti-bullying elements and soccer training and competition. The course provides greater access to sports for all students, with and without disabilities. The Unified Soccer team will represent team Pennsylvania at the 2014 USA games. USA games sports competition will be held at venues throughout Mercer County, New Jersey, including Princeton University, Rider University, The College of New Jersey, Mercer County Park and several area private schools. In addition to the many showcased sports, Special Olympics athletes will participate in spectacular Special Events including an Opening Ceremony at the Prudential Center, Closing Ceremony at Sun National Bank Center, a board-walk themed Olympic Town, a Special Olympics Unified Sports® Festival, and much more.

In addition, to celebrate the massive accomplishments of Special Olympics Pennsylvania athletes, Philadelphia 76ers and NBA Rookie of the Year, Michael Carter-Williams, will host a Team Pennsylvania send-off at the Wells Fargo Center on Saturday, June 14th. He will also escort Team Pennsylvania on to the field during the USA Games Opening Ceremonies on Sunday, June 15th, which will include a Parade of Athletes, the Special Olympics Torch Run and the lighting of the Special Olympics Cauldron to open the Games.

There will be ample opportunities for New Jersey residents and supporters nationwide to show their spirit and join the team through volunteerism, donations and attendance. For more information about becoming a volunteer, making a donation, or attending an event, please visit the 2014 Games website at www.2014specialolympics.org.

MEDIA ARE WELCOME – Media interested in covering should contact: Nadirah McCauley, 215.796.8262 or email: nmccauley@specialolympicspa.org