



We invite you to be inspired.

January 24, 2011

Dear Friends,

In *Volume I of The Courage of Boston's Children* a sixth-grader named Ayanna McKinnon wrote in her essay, "Everyone has been courageous in their own way, and everyone has dreamed of being courageous. What most people don't realize is that you show courage every day of your life: making a new friend, helping someone when you want to do something else, approaching a teacher without your homework, and telling the truth – just to name a few."

Now in its 20th year, The Max Warburg Courage Curriculum has doubled in size while still maintaining its simple and profound goal of providing a model for sixth-grade teachers and their students to explore the value of courage. The Curriculum is inspired by "Max's Story" and incorporates six important novels by award-winning authors, but because these are personal essays coming from within each child's own experience, every "Courage in My Life" essay expresses the wisdom, and the freedom, that come with confronting and overcoming challenges.

Many of you already know how inspiring it is to read the thousands of essays submitted each year, and what a challenging task it is to select only one Max Warburg Fellow from each participating school. In this anniversary year, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I encourage all of you to join in this rewarding experience, in celebration of this vital work.

The essay reading will be divided into a **9am-12 pm morning session** and a **5:30-8:30 evening session**. We begin each gathering with a very brief orientation to our method of judging, and a simple buffet is provided during both sessions. Because of the volume of essays it is essential to work at an efficient pace, but because we work collaboratively, in teams, it is also possible for volunteers to come for only a portion of the time. Your participation is most welcome and will be very much appreciated.

We will meet this year **on Wednesday, March 2, at the Boston Public Library** in conference rooms near the Dartmouth Street entrance to the McKim building. There is convenient public parking in nearby locations, and the BPL is easily reached by T at the Copley stop on the Green Line.

If you are able to attend, please reply to Elizabeth Evans, the Curriculum's Program Director, at (617) 373-7399 or eevans@maxcourage.org. We encourage you to invite others to join us and look forward to seeing you to honor *The Courage of Boston's Children*.

Warm regards,

Alexandra Marshall

Wednesday, March 2nd at the Boston Public Library