

## **Last Call for Hamilton Area Junior Kindergarten Students to Receive Free Glasses from Local Optometrists**

Eye See...Eye Learn Pilot Program First Year Comes to a Close on June 30

**Mississauga – June 14, 2010** – As parents and students are beginning to turn their thoughts to summer camps and fun, the Ontario Association of Optometrists (OAO) wants to remind parents of Junior Kindergarten students that they have until June 30, 2010 to take advantage of the Eye See...Eye Learn pilot program.

The program provides free eyeglasses for Junior Kindergarten students, if they require a pair, after an OHIP-insured eye examination from their local participating optometrist.

The OAO was pleased to work with the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB) and the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) to launch the **Eye See...Eye Learn** program for Hamilton Wentworth area students this year- the first program of its kind in Ontario. The Eye See...Eye Learn program was developed to raise awareness among parents of the important role of vision in learning.

"We have heard compelling stories of children who have been dramatically helped by this program. We have had parents calling the school board office thanking us for the program and saving their child from struggling to learn and see well," said Dean Younger, Early Years Consultant, of the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board.

Rhonda Scott, Program Effectiveness Coordinator Early Years, of the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board agrees with Younger. "We urge kindergarten parents to take advantage of the program while they still can. We know that as many as 14% of our students require some form of vision correction that will help them perform better in school and in life."

OAO hopes the Eye See...Eye Learn program will address the troubling Ontario statistics that show less than 20% of children have an eye exam before entering school, despite the fact that annual eye examinations are covered by OHIP for children 19 years of age and under.

The program will return in September for children beginning Junior Kindergarten. Parents can learn more about the program and how to participate by visiting [www.EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca](http://www.EyeSeeEyeLearn.ca) or calling the Ontario Association of Optometrists at 800-540-3837 ext 231.

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Optometrists are professionally educated and clinically trained to provide community-based primary eye health and vision care services. Optometrists provide comprehensive eye care for patients of all ages to optimize vision and prevent vision loss.

Media Contact:  
Melissa Secord  
Assistant Executive Director

Ontario Association of Optometrists  
905-826-3522, ext 243  
Email: [msecord@optom.on.ca](mailto:msecord@optom.on.ca)