

St. Louis County Library **News Release: December 17, 2007**
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St. Louis County Library Foundation presents National Medal of the Arts Winning Educator Rafe Esquith

*** Due to the tremendous response from area educators and parents, the St. Louis County Library has decided to move Rafe Esquith's "Teach Like Your Hair's on Fire" presentation and book signing on Wednesday, January 9th to a venue which can accommodate more people. The event will now be held in the Danforth Chapel on the Mary Institute and Country Day School (MICDS) Campus (101 N. Warson Rd.). The event will start at 7:00 pm with doors opening at 6:00 pm. Please contact Carrie Robb at the St. Louis County Library (314-994-3300 ext 474 or crobb@slcl.org) with any questions.

The St. Louis County Library Foundation and the Boeing Company are pleased to present award-winning teacher Rafe Esquith for a discussion and signing of his memoir "Teach Like Your Hair's on Fire: The Methods and Madness Inside Room 56" on Wednesday, January 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Rafe Esquith's work with inner-city fifth graders in Los Angeles has been celebrated around the world. His students, who often live in poverty and speak English as a second language, are encouraged through lessons that include Shakespeare, Vivaldi, rock 'n roll, an in-class economic system, and baseball. Esquith's education style continually challenges traditional thinking and his students score in the top 1 percent in national standardized tests and go on to Harvard, Yale, and other major universities.

"Teach Like Your Hair's on Fire" combines personal stories from Esquith's classroom and offers tips, techniques, and inspiration to parents and teachers interested in bringing hard work, creativity, and fun back into the education system.

Rafe Esquith is the only teacher to be awarded the president's National Medal of the Arts. His many other honors include the American Teacher Award, Oprah Winfrey's Use Your Life Award, and the Compassion in Action Award from the Dalai Lama. Mr. Esquith will be accompanied by the Hobart Shakespearians, 8 of his students who will perform their unique combination of rock 'n roll and Shakespeare.

St. Louis County Library's Author in Residence, Julius Hunter will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

The program is free and open to the public. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Left Bank Books will provide copies of Mr. Esquith's books for purchase at the program. This program is a St. Louis County Library Pacesetter Author Series program sponsored by The Boeing Company. Co-sponsors include MICDS, The Booksource, Focus St. Louis, Cooperating School Districts of St. Louis, Plaza Frontenac, and Brio Tuscan Grille.

Program sites are accessible. Upon two weeks notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Contact St. Louis County Library by phone 314-994-3300, (TDD\TTY) 314-994-9255 or visit www.slcl.org.