

## PRESS RELEASE

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31 May 2013

### **WOODBINE ESSAYIST RECEIVED REPLY FROM HER "SHERO" (MICHELLE OBAMA)**

**Woodbine**—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to share this story of Woodbine Elementary School student Ky'Lecia Reneigh Sydnor.

Earlier this spring, Woodbine Elementary School held its annual Shero event at the Sam Azeez Museum of Woodbine Heritage of Stockton College.

When Mrs. Hearon's third graders were given the assignment to write about a woman who inspired them, Ky'Lecia chose First Lady Michelle Obama because:  
"She helps kids learn to healthy...by teaching them to make healthy eating choices. She is not shy. She speaks in front of a lot of people. She is a very strong woman because she fights against childhood obesity."

**(text of Ky'Lecia's essay attached)**

Nine-year-old Ky'Lecia's essay became the third grade's 2013 winning entry, read at the annual Shero event at the Museum, which also honored teacher Rose Farnan and Museum docent Deb Zweigenbaum. Her teacher, Courtney Hearon, then sent the essay to its subject, Mrs. Obama.

On April 30, Mrs. Obama's responded with a letter to Ky'Lecia.

**(copy of letter attached)**

Along with the letter, Mrs. Obama sent a signed formal portrait, picture cards with biographies of both herself and the Obamas' dog Bo, as well as stickers and worksheet of "A Day in the Life of Bo at the White House" and "Play with Your Food".

Asked about how she felt when she received the packet from the First Lady, Ky'Lecia said, "I was excited and really happy because this was a once-in-a lifetime chance."

In discussing why Mrs. Obama is her Shero she added, "I picked her because she is very interesting, because she has a lot of things to do in her mind. She seems like a very busy woman. I am grateful that she is helping people with her "Let's Move" campaign because some people in charge of things don't help out with important things like childhood obesity. I think of her as "my friend 'Chelle."

Ky'Lecia is the daughter of Megan Streaker and Kevin Sydnor of Woodbine.

Mayor Pikolycky added, "Coincidentally, I was invited to Asbury Park Convention Center by the Governor's Office to be part of President Obama's visit to the Shore. At the event, I was able to shake the President hand and speak with him after his remarks at which time I thanked him on behalf of Ky'Lecia for the First Lady's kind note to her."

**(see also picture of President Obama's reaction)**