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EDDIE VAN HALEN MAKES SURPRISE VISIT TO LAUSD MUSIC STUDENTS

**Van Halen Guitarist Tells Young Musicians
"If You Have A Love Or Even A Like For Music, Go After It, Pursue It"**

LOS ANGELES, CA (December 9, 2013) - Eddie Van Halen, one of music's most inventive and influential guitarists, made a surprise visit to music students at LA Unified School District's Foshay Learning Center on Thursday, December 5th.

Twenty seven aspiring musicians, under the tutelage of Music Director Vincent Womack, were transfixed as Van Halen inspired them to pursue their passion for music by sharing stories about the importance of music in his own life.

"I wasn't born 'Eddie Van Halen,' successful or famous, it took years of dedication and practice, practice, practice," said Van Halen.

To help better benefit students in their quest to master music, Eddie and the Fender Musical Instruments Company donated one of his signature **EVH 5150III** amplifiers to the class. Eddie also presented each guitar student with a gift bag filled with EVH brand picks, guitar straps, cables, electric guitar strings and a Frankenstein key chain. Fender also contributed acoustic guitar strings to the gift bags.

After scoring a gift bag of his own, Mr. Womack said, "I am so grateful to you for fueling and inspiring us and raising the ceiling of possibilities for the kids. We will never forget today."

Van Halen's visit to the music students was inspired after he attended a fundraising event a few weeks ago for the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation where he was first introduced to Foshay's Musical Director.

Last year, Van Halen donated 75 electric guitars from his personal collection to the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation who distributed the guitars to nine schools throughout Los Angeles County. One of the lucky recipients of a guitar, a student named Jose, who was on hand Thursday received a hands on one-on-one lesson from the rock legend who took time to personally teach him the intro to the Van Halen classic "Ain't Talkin' 'Bout Love".

"The gift of music is yours, no one can take that away no matter what," Van Halen said to Mr. Womack's class. He added, "It is not a rich/poor thing nor does it discriminate. If you have a love or even a like for music, go after it, pursue it. Music helps lift your self-esteem, it gave me an identity, kept me out of trouble, gave me goals and the desire to improve. It gave me a life. I am an example of what music can do for someone. What it did for me, it can do for you all. Anything is possible".

Hi-res images for this story can be accessed [HERE](#)

KTLA Channel 5's coverage of this event can be found [HERE](#)

KCBS Channel 2's coverage of Eddie Van Halen's 2012 guitar donations can be seen [HERE](#).

About Eddie Van Halen and EVH Gear: Eddie Van Halen is indisputably recognized as one of the most innovative and greatest guitarists of all time. The EVH brand of guitars, amps and musical products is an independent specialty brand, manufactured and distributed by the Fender Musical Instruments Company. All products are developed by Eddie Van Halen himself to his high standards of performance and quality and available at music instrument retailers worldwide. (evhgear.com).

About The Foshay Learning Center: The mission and vision of the James A. Foshay Learning Center is to develop socially responsible citizens who are prepared to face the challenges of the 21st century. The K-12 facility is part of the Los Angeles Unified School District. (foshaylc.org).

About The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation: The Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation donates new and refurbished musical instruments to underserved schools in an effort to give youngsters the many benefits of music education, help them to be better students and inspire creativity and expression through playing music. Hundreds of thousands of students across the country have benefitted and thousands of instruments have been donated to more than 1,100 school music programs across the country. (mhopus.org).