

New Frontiers

A newsletter for ★ educators

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS AT THE JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

The White House Diary: Discover JFK's Thousand Days in Office

Travel back in time to the early 1960's and experience each of President Kennedy's thousand days in office through the interactive White House Diary—a daily schedule for President John F. Kennedy that includes digital scans of his actual appointment diary for any given date, as well as video, audio, and photographs of the day's activities. Discover events like the ones listed below by visiting <http://whd.jfklibrary.org/diary/>.

★ **August 28, 1961:** The first Peace Corps volunteers meet JFK, then depart for Ghana the next day

★ **September 3, 1961:** JFK signs \$1.25 Minimum Wage Bill

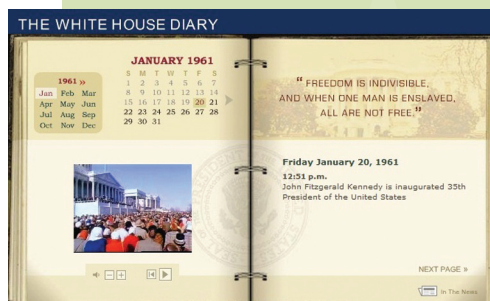
★ **September 25, 1961:** JFK endorses disarmament and challenges the Soviets to a Peace Race

★ **October 11, 1961:** JFK holds a press conference to discuss Vietnam, mental retardation, and the Berlin Wall

★ **November 13, 1961:** Pablo Casals plays at a White House dinner in honor of Governor Luis Muñoz Marín of Puerto Rico

★ **November 22, 1961:** JFK sends advisors to South Vietnam

★ **December 14, 1961:** JFK establishes Commission on the Status of Women



Jacqueline Kennedy Oral History Unsealed After 47 Years

One of the most exciting things about studying history is how, when new source material comes to light, we can re-examine existing interpretations of the past, and come to a new or deeper understanding. On September 14, 2011, one such source will be made available to the public and historians for the first time ever—an oral history of Jacqueline Kennedy. In the spring of 1964, just months after her husband's assassination, Jacqueline Kennedy sat down with historian and Kennedy family friend Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. for a series of seven wide-ranging conversations. These discussions were part of an extensive oral history project that captured the recollections and reflections of those close to President Kennedy shortly after his death. Sealed for 47 years, the oral history transcripts and tapes will be published in a new book, *Jacqueline Kennedy—Historic Conversations on Life with John F. Kennedy* with a foreword by Caroline Kennedy and annotations by historian Michael Beschloss.



PHOTO BY ABIE ROWE

President and Mrs. Kennedy view a performance of the Black Watch Tattoo on the White House South Lawn, November 13, 1963.

In the eight-and-a-half hours of audio recordings, Mrs. Kennedy shares her personal recollections on a variety of topics from JFK's early campaigns to the Cuban Missile Crisis, and from their family and married life in the White House to her evolving role as first lady. She also provides keen observations of the politics and personalities of the day, both on national and international stages. In announcing the publication in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy administration, Caroline Kennedy, president of the Kennedy Library Foundation, noted that, "My mother's passion for history guided and informed her work in the White House.... She believed in my father, his vision for America, and the art of politics.... It's a privilege for me to honor the memory of my parents by making this unique history available."

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Oral History, *continued*

The Library's Oral History Project is one of the institution's oldest continuing activities. Other oral histories recorded as part of this project include interviews with Robert Kennedy, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, R. Sargent Shriver, Theodore Sorensen, Robert McNamara, McGeorge Bundy, President Gerald Ford, and Lady Bird Johnson. These interviews are all housed at the Kennedy Library and may be accessed at www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/Archives/JFKOH. For a description of the program, visit www.jfklibrary.org/Research/How-to-do-Research-at-the-Kennedy-Library/Oral-History-Program.aspx.

Definition of oral history: the record of an individual's reminiscences, accounts, and interpretations of the past in his/her own spoken words obtained through planned interview(s) and preserved through the use of audio and video recordings, film, and/or written transcription.

In conjunction with the publication of Mrs. Kennedy's oral history, the Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum will unveil a new exhibit, *In Her Voice: Jacqueline Kennedy, The White House Years*. Excerpts from these conversations will be displayed in context with the objects, documents, and photographs that help tell the story of the events described by Mrs. Kennedy as she recalled her life with the President. In the exhibit, you and your students may not only *read* these excerpts, but also *listen* to her remarks and glean information from both her words and the intonation of her voice. This is what makes oral history unique in the constellation of primary source materials. Documents, such as diaries or letters, may provide a first-person perspective, but only in the study of oral history can we learn more about a person or event through the sound of her or his voice and through film footage—her or his body language, too.

Among the objects on display will be the dress worn by Mrs. Kennedy to a State Dinner held in Paris, 1961, and the October 1962 paperweight calendar given by the President to Mrs. Kennedy for her personal support during the darkest days of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The exhibit will be ongoing.

Oral History in the Classroom

Do you use oral history in your classroom? Oral history as a primary source has great appeal to students. It personalizes the past, contains a story element, often conveys emotion, and demonstrates spontaneity and candor not always

present in a written account. Encourage your students to include oral history in their research, and to assess the information in relation to other primary and secondary sources on the topic. Online oral histories ranging from narratives by former slaves to the public reaction to 9/11 are readily accessible. On the Library's website, topics such as the Bay of Pigs Invasion or the Cuban Missile Crisis, for example, may be viewed through the lens of different presidential advisors' recollections. And, in the case of the Cuban Missile Crisis, these personal accounts may also be compared to the tapes from the secretly recorded meetings of the ExCom (Executive Committee of the National Security Council). Tips for where to find and how to analyze oral histories are listed below.

History also comes to life for students when they conduct an oral history interview themselves. Preparing for the conversation by researching both the subject and the interviewee, and creating questions tailored to the individual can yield a wealth of information and provide new insights on a topic. For tips on creating and documenting oral histories, see the resources listed below. ★

Resources for Teaching with Oral History and Conducting Oral History Interviews

Engaging Students with Primary Sources is a comprehensive guide to analyzing diverse original source materials. It includes sample worksheets, lesson plans, and suggestions for finding oral histories for classroom use and organizing an oral history interview. <http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/professional/PrimarySources.pdf>

Library of Congress Teacher's Guide: Analyzing Oral Histories provides sample questions you can use to help students analyze oral histories and form questions appropriate for further investigation. www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/guides.html

You can find oral histories online at:

The Library of Congress: American Memory
memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html

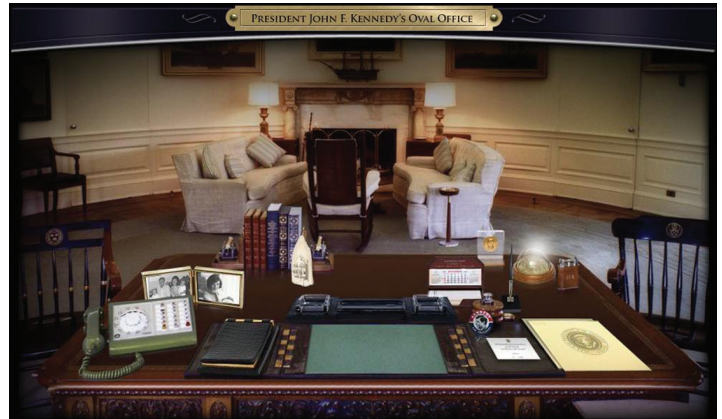
HistoryMatters: Oral Histories Online
<http://www.historymatters.gmu.edu/mse/oral/online.html>

StoryCorps: The Conversation of a Lifetime
<http://www.storycorps.org/record-your-story/>

Take a Seat at *The President's Desk!*

Did you ever wonder what it is like to sit behind the desk of the highest office holder in the land? You and your students, and visitors to the Library's website may now sit virtually at President Kennedy's Oval Office desk and explore the objects he kept around him—and the stories they tell. Created in conjunction with the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Kennedy administration, this interactive exhibit helps bring JFK's biography and presidency to life in new ways for learners of all ages.

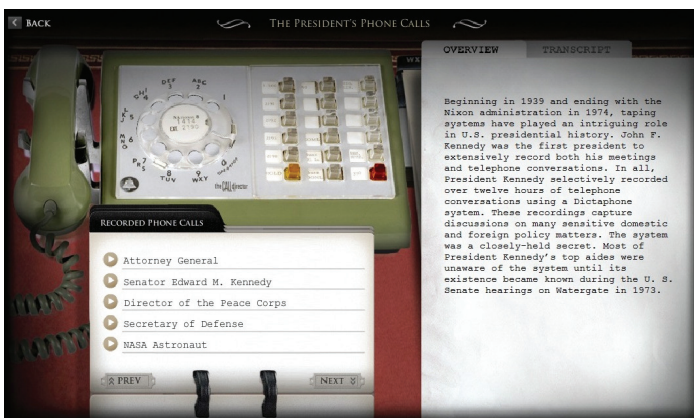
"I hope users will feel they are sitting at the president's desk themselves, and will be excited to bring history to life in this dynamic setting," said Caroline Kennedy, President of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, in a statement announcing the launch of the new interactive featured on the Library's website. "My parents shared a love of history, and I know they would have enjoyed this exhibit themselves."



The mode of presentation for each object is different, but all offer the chance to explore a variety of original sources. Students may, for example, dial up conversations with ten different people from JFK's rolodex. They can listen in on discussions with Attorney General Robert Kennedy about a Gallup Poll following the Bay of Pigs invasion, or Major Gordon Cooper after splashdown following his spaceflight. Younger students may explore the road to the White House through the 1960 election campaign button, or find out more about JFK's boyhood through the family album featured in the picture frame module. Older students may press the secret taping button and open the vault to recordings of meetings held in the Oval Office or Cabinet Room. They can play a recording on a reel-to-reel tape player, and in a "you are there" experience sit side-by-side with JFK as he and his top advisors discuss such pressing issues as Vietnam or the Cuban Missile Crisis. Students of all ages can learn more about JFK's personal interests and connections with the sea by selecting the piece of scrimshaw he kept on his desk. Clicking on this object unveils a map of Cape Cod. By sailing his boat *Victura* from port to port, students can explore JFK's maritime collections as well as view home movies filmed in Hyannisport.

As a teaching tool, *The President's Desk* has applications to classroom learning and homeschooling. To help teachers maximize its use, we created *The President's Desk: A Resource Guide for Teachers, Grades 4-12*. The guide provides curriculum-relevant lesson plans and activities with ties to national standards. It is available at www.jfklibrary.org/Education/Teachers/Curricular-Resources and will be in print copy this winter. ★

The President's Desk was made possible with generous support from IBM, Staples, Inc., and Shari E. Redstone.



The President's Desk home page is based on an archival image of JFK's Oval Office and features seven interactive modules. Highlighted objects—including the President's White House diary (official appointments book), telephone, secret taping button, a piece of scrimshaw from his collection, a picture frame, a campaign button, and the coconut husk paperweight containing the message that helped to save him and his PT-109 crew in WWII—open to reveal unique multi-media presentations. Newly-digitized resources ranging from recorded meetings in the Oval Office to family home movies populate the site, and provide an engaging and fascinating glimpse into the Kennedy White House and JFK, the man. More than 1,000 primary sources are spotlighted in this exhibit.

Conference Marks Peace Corps Anniversary

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps, the Kennedy Library and John F.

Kennedy National Historic Site presented *Crossing Borders—Through Literature, Poetry and Personal Stories*, a conference for teachers of grades 3-8 and school librarians. More than 100 people gathered at the Library on April 7, 2011 for discussions with award-winning authors and Peace Corps educators on how to deepen students' understanding of peoples and cultures around the world.

Junko Yokota, professor of education and director of the Center for Teaching through Children's Books at National-Louis University, served as moderator for a panel discussion with authors Alma Flor Ada, Naomi Shihab Nye, Linda Sue Park and James Rumford. The authors drew on personal experience, examples from their works,

and responses from readers as they offered a range of perspectives on what it means to “cross borders.”

Marjorie Anctil and Lynette Bouchie of Coverdell World Wise Schools guided participants through the Peace Corps' extensive resources for educators, available online at www.peacecorps.gov/wws. Sasha Lauterbach, librarian at Cambridge Friends School, and Marion Reynolds, professor of children's literature at Tufts University, presented high quality books set in different countries as well as criteria for selecting materials which accurately reflect a particular culture.

To access a bibliography created for the conference and to hear excerpts from the panel discussion, visit <http://www.jfklibrary.org/Education/Teachers/Professional-Development.aspx>.



Pictured from L-R are Junko Yokota, Alma Flor Ada, Naomi Shihab Nye, Linda Sue Park and James Rumford.



Audience members asked questions and shared ideas during the panel discussion.

“As I think about borders, though, I think that many times there's a confusion between another word beginning with the same sound, and that is “barriers.” And I think that it's essential that borders should not be barriers.... Having been a several-times immigrant—from Cuba to Spain, from Spain to Peru, from Peru to the United States—I know very well at a personal level the difficulties entailed in changing completely from what is familiar and known to the unfamiliar and unknown, and yet how enriching that possibility can also be.” — *Alma Flor Ada*

Striking Gold in the Digital Archives

On January 13, 2011 the Kennedy Library launched a new website, highlighting its digital archives. Teachers and students may now access a large number of the Library's textual and audiovisual collections from home and school. Entire archival boxes of textual materials have been digitized and presented in a manner that will help students experience the excitement and challenges of real archival research.

As an example of how you can explore the digitized resources, we have "pulled" a document from a virtual folder in the President's Office Files collection. (See image below) This memo, dated August 14, 1961, from President

Kennedy to Secretary of State Dean Rusk was written the day after construction of the Berlin Wall began, and offers students an opportunity to evaluate Kennedy's initial response to the Wall. You might have students consider the following questions:

- How would building the Berlin Wall reflect poorly on the East German government?
- Why would Kennedy be concerned with "how far" exploiting the Berlin Wall should be pushed?
- You might also ask students to put themselves in the shoes of Secretary Rusk and provide possible ways the U.S. could use the Berlin Wall as a propaganda tool.

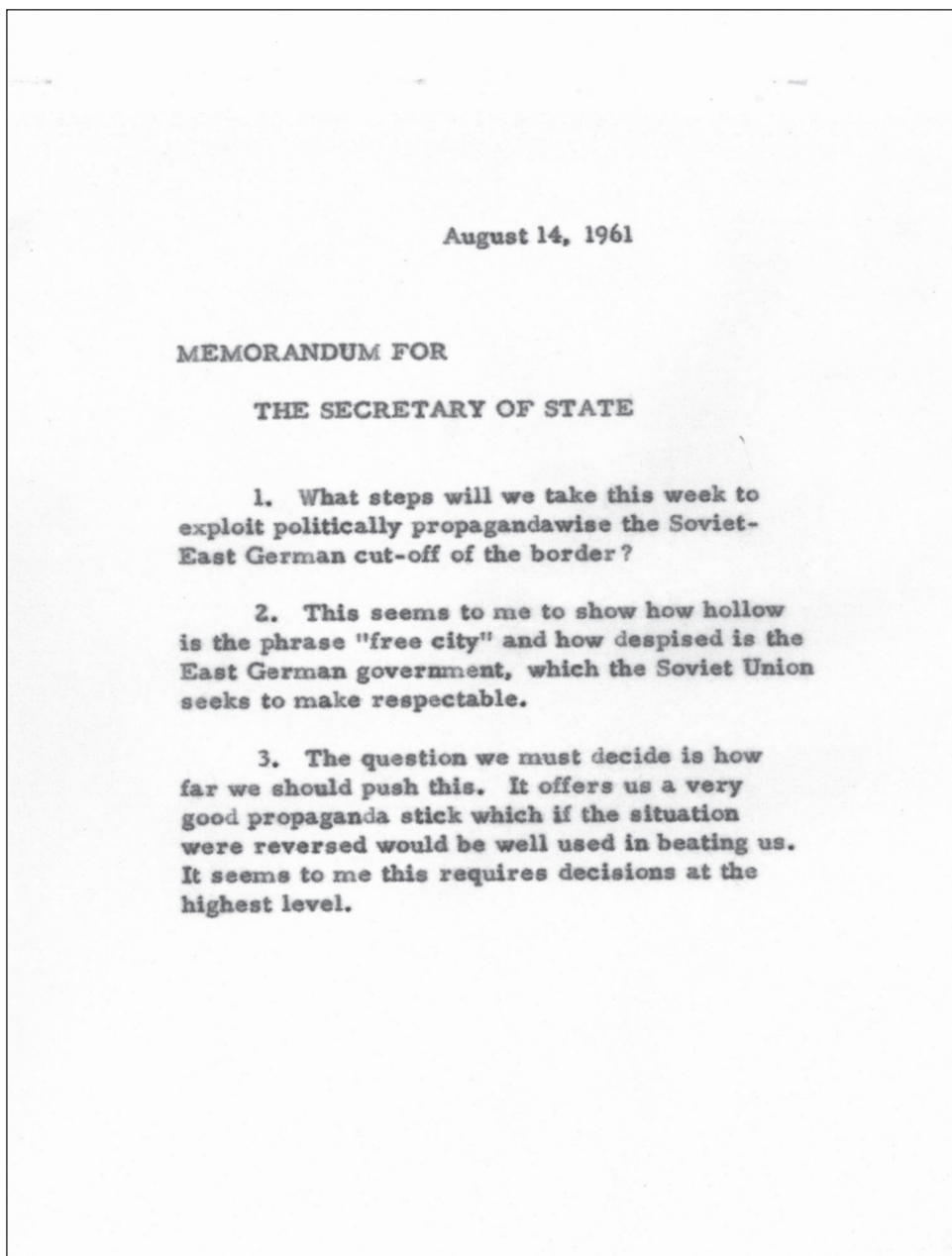
As you can see, this document can provide a "hook" for discussing the critical situation in Berlin. How did we find it among the thousands of items in the digital archives? Here is one of several methods:

Step One – Destination: President's Office Files

The fully digitized collection of the President's Office Files was originally a set of working files kept by President Kennedy's personal secretary, Evelyn Lincoln, in her office located just outside the Oval Office in the White House.

1. Visit the main page of our website at www.jfklibrary.org.
2. Click the "Research" tab and select "Search the Archives."
3. If you click the "Search" button without entering any data, a screen will appear with a row of topics on the left side of the page. You can now browse the various categories in the Digital Archives.
4. Under "Digitized Collection," select "Papers of John F. Kennedy. Presidential Papers. President's Office Files."

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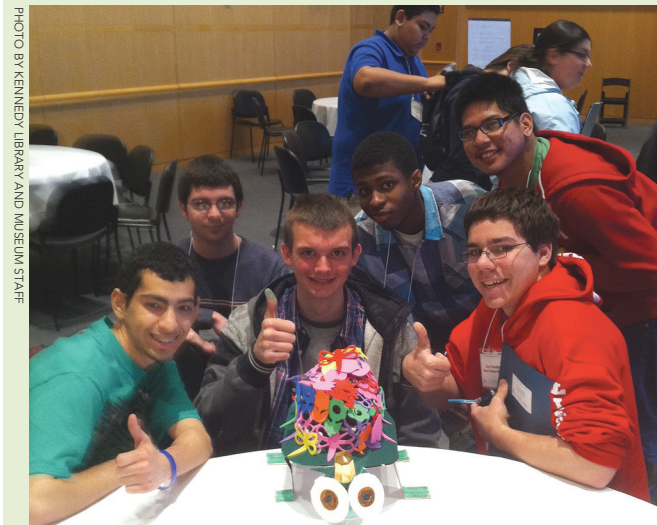
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT!



100 middle school students from across Massachusetts were honored on March 23rd with the *Make a Difference Award* at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. Each student received a personalized certificate in recognition of his or her volunteer work.

The Library's *Make a Difference Award* is given to Massachusetts students who are nominated by a teacher or principal for their outstanding volunteer work in their school, neighborhood, town, or global community. ★

“President Kennedy believed that every person can make a difference and each of us should try. These students are an inspiring example of JFK’s timeless call to service.” — *Library Director Tom Putnam*



Kevin Kay, a junior at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, Maryland, was selected as the first-place winner of the 2011 *Profile in Courage Essay Contest*. Kay was honored at the *Profile in Courage Award* ceremony on May 23, 2011 along with *Award* recipients Elizabeth Redenbaugh and Wael Ghonim.

Kay’s winning essay tells the little-known story of Florida State Representative John B. Orr Jr. who risked his career and personal safety in 1956 when he proclaimed that “segregation is morally wrong.” His lone dissenting vote in the Florida House of Representatives challenged measures to perpetuate school segregation in his state.

To read the winning essay and access information on the *Profile in Courage Essay Contest*, visit www.jfklibrary.org and follow the links *Education—Profile in Courage Essay Contest*. ★

On April 22, 2011 sixty students and staff members from New England enrichment programs attended the annual *Student Leadership Conference* at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. Students toured the Museum, listened to a panel of peers discuss youth volunteerism, and participated in several workshops where they solved a budget crisis, wrote letters to U.S. senators, and built model communities. ★

Digital Archives, *continued*

Step Two – Destination: Department of State

On the left side of the page you will see that you have selected the President’s Office Files among the Digital Archives and find options for refining your search. Since the U.S. response to the Berlin Wall would be an issue of great importance to the State Department, you might want to narrow down your search to JFK’s correspondence with that department.

1. Scroll down to “Organization,” expand the selection by clicking “more.”
2. Scroll down to “United States Department of State, 09/1789.” Click on it.

Step Three – Destination: Berlin

Now you will want to narrow down the correspondence to those dealing with Berlin.

1. Scroll down the page until you see “Place,” and expand the selection to find “Berlin (Germany).”
2. When you click on it, you’ll see one folder “pulled” from this search: “State, 1961: August-September.”

As you scroll through the documents in this folder, you will notice that they have been digitized in the same order as they are found in the actual folder in the paper collection. You can have the same “aha” moment you may have had yourself when visiting an archive—in the process of browsing through a folder, you stumble upon a gem while looking for something completely different. Yes, the memo noted above is there, but are you also curious about Kennedy’s thoughts on England joining the Common Market? You have the folder—dig in! ★

UPCOMING KENNEDY LIBRARY FORUMS

September

**Protecting
Jacqueline Kennedy**
Monday, September 22
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.



Clinton Hill, Jacqueline Kennedy’s Secret Service detail, shares memories of the Kennedy White House and his service protecting the first family. ★

**Jacqueline Kennedy:
Historic Conversations**
Monday, September 19
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.



On the publication of *Jacqueline Kennedy: Historic Conversations on Life with John F. Kennedy*, **Caroline Kennedy** will join a panel of historians to discuss the 1964 interviews Arthur Schlesinger Jr. conducted with Mrs. Kennedy. This oral history has never before been open to the public. ★

**50th Anniversary: The
Missile Gap Controversy**
Monday, September 26
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.



50 years ago this month, President Kennedy received national security estimates indicating that the United States had surpassed the Soviet Union in missiles, dispelling the notion of Soviet superiority in the arms race. Join historians **Timothy Naftali**, **Fred Kaplan**, and **John Prado** for a discussion of this pivotal moment in world history. ★

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NEW CLASSROOM AT THE KENNEDY LIBRARY!

On May 4, 2011, fourth- and fifth-grade students and teachers from the Winship Elementary School in Boston joined Caroline Kennedy in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new state-of-the-art classroom at the Kennedy Library. The new space will allow for additional offerings for school and family audiences. For more information on Museum programs for elementary, middle, and high school students, visit the “Teachers” section of our website at www.jfklibrary.org. ★



Winship Elementary School students join Kennedy Library Foundation President Caroline Kennedy (center, front), Boston Public Schools Superintendent Carol Johnson (far left), University of Massachusetts Boston Chancellor J. Keith Motley (center, back), and JFK Presidential Library Director Tom Putnam (far right) at the official opening of the new classroom.

PHOTO BY TOM FITZSIMMONS

For more online educational resources, be sure to visit www.JFK50.org, winner of the 2011 Gold MUSE Award for Education and Outreach.

Additional support for the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum’s history and civic education programs is provided by: The Coca-Cola Foundation; Connell Family Fund; the John F. Kennedy Irish Abroad Legacy Gift; and



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Museum Hours
Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Thanksgiving,
Christmas, and New Year’s Day

The Kennedy Library
Department of Education and
Public Programs offers free
museum passes to teachers
considering a field trip to the
Library. Please call 617.514.1600.

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