

## McElroy Makes First Sticks-2-Schools Visit at Lincoln Elementary

By: Ben Tole

As the 2012 Washington Stealth season approaches, newly appointed Sticks-2-Schools Program Instructor and Stealth defenseman Chris McElroy kicked off Sticks-2-Schools' second year in Washington State with a visit to Lincoln Elementary School in Mount Vernon on October 27<sup>th</sup>. McElroy was the featured speaker at a school-wide assembly and later gave some instruction to the second grade class.

"I'm really happy to be a part of the Sticks-2-Schools program," said McElroy. "We're here to fight obesity and promote active, healthy lifestyles and hopefully lacrosse, the sport I love, excites them and encourages them to get active."



The students were extremely excited when McElroy arrived at the school with lacrosse equipment for the school to properly teach the game of lacrosse in their physical education class. The Sticks-2-Schools program donates sticks, balls and a curriculum guide to each school, as well as preliminary instruction from McElroy.



"The kids were so excited to have a professional athlete in the school," said Physical Education teacher Julie Scott. "They are so excited to get into lacrosse."

The program draws interest from more than just the students and faculty of Lincoln Elementary; it sparks interest from the parents as well.

"Sticks-2-Schools is very close to our hearts because we love Lacrosse so much and the Stealth," said Erin

Burkholder, whose son attends Lincoln Elementary as well as the Stealth Lacrosse Academy. "When we found out about this Sticks-2-Schools program fighting childhood obesity and reaching out to kids to

improve physical health, as well as having fun, it was a natural fit for us.”

While at Lincoln Elementary, McElroy talked to the entire school about the importance of education and living a healthy lifestyle through regular exercise and a healthy diet. He then went on to give a brief history of lacrosse and demonstrated the basics of the game.

After the assembly, he stuck around to teach the second graders the basics skills of the game. He even found time to sign a few autographs for his new young fans.

McElroy will return to Lincoln Elementary on Monday October, 31<sup>st</sup> to teach the other grades of the school the basic skills of lacrosse.

“If we can teach kids about an active lifestyle and do it through a fun game like lacrosse then that’s ideal,” said McElroy, “ I’m really excited to be a part of this program.”

