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Benihana's 11th Annual "Lunch with the Principal" Event Recognizes 48 Local Students For Their Dedication To Improvement

CITY OF INDUSTRY, Calif. (May 13, 2009) – Benihana will honor 48 local elementary students for their "significant improvement in academics and/or citizenship" as part of the restaurant's 11th annual "Lunch with the Principal" program.

Students from Rowland Unified, Walnut Valley Unified and Chino Valley Unified school districts will be rewarded at Benihana's recently remodeled City of Industry restaurant with a delicious hibachi lunch prepared and served by Benihana's famous knife-wielding, entertaining chefs. The children also will take center stage when each student's principal recognizes them with a Certificate of Merit. Benihana will present a signature Benihana chef toque as a keepsake memory of their special day.

The program started in 1998 when Benihana decided to recognize students for rising above language, behavioral and academic setbacks. Since the program's inception, more than 500 students have been recognized from local elementary schools.

Fifteen elementary students from Rowland Unified School District will be honored on Tuesday, May 19 followed by nine students from Walnut Valley Unified School District on Tuesday, May 26. The final luncheon will take place on Wednesday, May 27 when 24 students from Chino Valley Unified School District are recognized. All luncheons will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Benihana's City of Industry restaurant is located at 17877 Gale Ave. For more information about Benihana, please visit <http://Benihana.com>.

About Benihana

Benihana Inc. (NASDAQ GS: BNHN and BNHNA) operates 64 Benihana teppanyaki restaurants, nine Haru restaurants, and 22 RA Sushi restaurants. Under development at present are nine restaurants: four Benihana teppanyaki restaurants and five RA Sushi restaurants. In addition, 22 franchised Benihana teppanyaki restaurants are operating in the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean.

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