

PRESS RELEASE
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Breakfast for Legislators Held at Mill Neck Manor School

Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf recently hosted a breakfast for New York State Legislators at the school's Deaf Education Center (DEC). In her opening remarks, Mill Neck Manor's Superintendent Francine Bogdanoff, welcomed the attendees to "See What Makes Us Successful." She outlined the various programs and services that have made Mill Neck Manor successful in helping Deaf children unlock their potential. Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, established in 1951, is one of eleven 4201 Schools located throughout New York State that provide educational services to children who are Deaf, blind or physically disabled.

Bogdanoff also presented an overview of two additional Mill Neck organizations serving special needs populations. Since 1991, Mill Neck Manor Early Childhood Center (ECC) has provided education and services for 3- and 4-year old hearing children with a range of special communication needs. The other organization, Mill Neck Services, established in 1986, assists adults who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or are developmentally disabled gain access to the same employment and community services as their non-disabled peers.

During their tour of several of the DEC's classrooms, the attendees were able meet some of the children and get a "first-hand" look at Mill Neck programs in action. It is the hope of Mill Neck's administrators that the breakfast session facilitates a two-fold purpose. In addressing the legislative group, Bogdanoff said, "By being here today, you'll have a much better picture of why we exist and why our programs are successful. We also hope you see that we have a team of experts here ready to assist you. We have children from your districts; please remember that we can be a resource for you."

Mill Neck Manor greatly appreciates the New York State representatives who attended the breakfast, including, Greg Atherton, Representative from the office of Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci (10th District); Paul Ehrlich, Representative from the office of Assemblyman Paul Martins (7th District); Assemblyman Charles Lavine (13th District); Assemblyman Michael

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Montesano (15th District) and Assemblyman Edward Ra (19th District). Thank you to Nicholas Antenucci, Esq.; Kenneth Shapiro, Esq. and Emily Whalen, Esq., of the Law Offices of Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, LLP, who joined us, as well as Rudy Auslander, Chairman of the Mill Neck Manor Board of Trustees; Michael Killian, President of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations; DEC Principal Katie Kerzner; ECC Principal Suellyn Giserman and Chris Oddo, Associate Director of Mill Neck Services.

Mill Neck Manor would also like to acknowledge the parents who attended: Wilfredo Alfaro and the Carlsons, whose children are enrolled at the DEC. As the event was wrapping up, Ed Carlson took a moment to let the visitors know that he could be counted on to relate his family's experience. "My son has been at Mill Neck since he's 5 months old; he's now 4. The program has been great for him and he's thriving. We love this place. I'm more than willing to speak to anyone about Mill Neck," he said.



Students in the DEC's Culinary Arts Program helped prepare and serve at the Breakfast for Legislators.

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The tour of the DEC included stops in several classrooms.

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