

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Michelle Yadoo
Marketing Communications Coordinator
(516) 922-4100, ext. 231

27 August 2012

Mill Neck ECC Grads Sail off to their New Adventure

Recently, 48 kindergarten-bound preschoolers graduated from Mill Neck Manor's Early Childhood Center (ECC). The summer graduation ceremony was held at the Mill Neck campus, where the beaming grads accepted their diplomas to the delight of an audience filled with family, friends and staff.

ECC Principal Suellyn Giserman's welcome was followed by remarks from Assistant Superintendent Francine Atlas Bogdanoff, which included recognition of the ECC's taking "home" the Mill Neck Cup. On August 9, the Mill Neck Family of Organizations hosted a "Sail the Sound for Deafness" Sailing Regatta in conjunction with several Oyster Bay organizations. Among the number of boats racing, four classic yachts were specifically designated to race for particular Mill Neck causes. The 1905 Nautilus raced for preschoolers with special needs and won. The Early Childhood Center also raised the most money for their cause and earned the right to display the Mill Neck Cup for one year in their building.

Prior to a special performance by the graduating class, some heartfelt thoughts were offered by ECC parent Jennifer Gilhuley, mom of graduate Ryan. "I'd discovered this magical little place tucked in the woods... an environment that inspires our children to thrive," she said. "I speak for all Mill Neck parents when I say that our children have flourished in your care. You have given us many gifts at Mill Neck, but the gift of Ryan's self-confidence and positive attitude toward school is priceless as he embarks on his new adventure to kindergarten."

The graduating class eagerly gathered on stage to perform several special songs for their visitors. They clearly enjoyed the prolonged rounds of applause for their efforts! Afterwards, a slide presentation, created by Teacher Assistants Stephanie Higgins and Kelsey Gill, highlighted the children's educational experiences while at Mill Neck. It showcased both fun and touching moments at the Early Childhood Center.

At the end of the ceremony, the graduates eagerly accepted their diplomas from Giserman and Social Worker Cecelia Lynch. Some proceeded to race off the stage, others paused for a quick wave, and several raised their diplomas high; all looked quite proud of themselves.

While the day marked the beginning of new adventures for these preschoolers, it also commenced a new chapter in the ECC itself. A much-needed renovation of the 1972 structure that houses the Center has recently begun. As program needs have evolved over the years, the current space has become inadequate and requires repair and reconfiguration. The renovation will address these needs with the latest technology and equipment and will enhance the Early Childhood Center's ability to provide the very best preschool for children with special communication needs, well into the future.

Founded in 1991, the Early Childhood Center provides early and intensive assistance to children, ages 3 and 4, who may have deficits in speech, language/communication, cognitive and gross and fine motor development. The Center also provides full evaluations of preschool children suspected of having developmental delays. Most children who attend the program graduate and attend kindergarten in their home school districts. For more information about the Early Childhood Center, please call (516) 922-4100, ext. 276, or visit <http://www.millneck.org>.

Photo Captions:

- 1) Assistant Superintendent Francine Atlas Bogdanoff displays the Mill Neck Cup from the Sail the Sound for Deafness Sailing Regatta, which was awarded to the ECC.
- 2) ECC parent Jennifer Gilhuley shared some heartfelt thoughts.
- 3) Graduates Sean and Peter enjoy the moment.
- 4) ECC Principal Suellyn Giserman presents a dapper grad.
- 5) Graduate Trinity and Principal Giserman are all smiles on graduation day.



1



2

3



4



5



-###-