

PRESS RELEASE  
*For Immediate Release*

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25 August 2014

## **Mill Neck Preschool Grads Head to New Adventure – Kindergarten!**

Recently, 52 preschoolers from the Mill Neck Manor Early Childhood Center (ECC) received their “diplomas” at a heartfelt ceremony held at the Mill Neck campus. Proud parents, family, friends, teachers and staff celebrated the end of a wonderful experience for these children at Mill Neck and the beginning of their new journey to kindergarten in their home school districts.

ECC Principal Suellyn Giserman’s welcome was followed by remarks from Superintendent Francine Bogdanoff and some reflections from Jill Koppelman, whose twins were among the graduates. Bogdanoff, after acknowledging the roles of parents and teachers in helping prepare the preschoolers for their new venture, concluded her address by saying, “As our young children move into their respective tomorrows so bright with goals already achieved and more dreams still to aspire to, we say to them... enjoy being four today with all your heart and soul. Hold onto your uncanny gift of finding everything in nothing, of not only seeing seven wonders in the world – but several thousand.”

The children then eagerly gathered on stage to perform the ABC song and “Good Day Sunshine.” They clearly enjoyed the prolonged rounds of applause for their efforts! While watching highlights of their days at Mill Neck, the grads giggled often during the slide presentation created by ECC teacher Stephanie Zingale and speech therapist Michelle Negoshian.

At the end of the ceremony, the graduates 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 colorful certificates high; all looked quite proud of themselves. A glance toward the audience revealed the beaming faces of proud family and friends too. The Mill Neck Family joins them all in congratulating our little graduates and wishing them the best of luck in their new school adventures!

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Founded in 1991, the Early Childhood Center (ECC) 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. The ECC is part of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, which also includes Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, founded by Lutheran Friends of the Deaf in 1947. For more information about the Early Childhood Center, please call (516) 922-4100, ext. 276, or visit <http://www.millneck.org>.

Photo Captions:

- 1) Twin grads Jacob and Harrison show off the certificates presented to them by ECC social worker Cecelia Lynch (left) and ECC Principal Suellyn Giserman.
- 2) At the Early Childhood Center's preschool graduation, the audience couldn't be prouder.
- 3) ECC Principal Suellyn Giserman presents a smiling graduate as ECC social worker Cecelia Lynch looks on.
- 4) The ECC preschoolers performed two special songs for their guests.

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