On June 19, students of the Preschool Class of 2015 were honored at a graduation ceremony at the school. Executive Director Dr. Pamela Paskowitz and Principal Amy Ryan distributed diplomas to Josephine Gonzalez, Samuel Joshua Lorenzo, Patrick Platek, Benjamin Roll, Tristan Tabije, and Varun Venkiteswaran. In addition, Jaxson Blue from our preschool program in Burlington County is also transitioning to a mainstream kindergarten.

Congratulations to all our Graduates!
Speaking Out!
Summer 2015

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Our sincere appreciation to Paul Lavenhar of PL Communications for his generous donation of design and production of the school’s newsletter.

Speaking Out is a publication of the Development Office. Every effort for accuracy has been made. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Editor: Bruce D. Naidoff
bnaidoff@summitspeech.org
www.summitspeech.org

Learning & Growing Every Day!
As they work hard to listen and talk, our kids experience the world through play and fun.

Kids show their dance moves on “Pajama Day.”
Young athletes carry their torches for Summit Speech School’s version of the Winter Olympics.

Celebrating the Green – the Shamrock Day parade.

The children get to watch the process as caterpillars changed into beautiful butterflies – and then set them free to soar. Amazing – just like our kids!

In June, Cloverland Stables brought their petting zoo to the delight of our Preschoolers!

Mother's Day!
Preschool children hosted a frozen yogurt party to thank the mothers (and grandmothers) who help and support them every day.

Belen and her mom
Evelyn share a moment at our annual Mother’s Day party.

Neil’s 13th Annual Charity Golf Event
Our great friend Neil Kleinwaks hosted his annual golf event on Wednesday, May 13 at Royce Brook Golf Club in Hillsborough, NJ. Nearly 80 intrepid players gathered for a day of fun, and generated more than $7,000 to support programs for our deaf and hard of hearing children! Major event sponsors included RDD Associates, Fullerton Auto Group, Investors Bank, RBC Insurance, Warren Oral Surgery, Arthur Wildman, C. R. Bard, Canada Dry – William Healey, Florez Tobacconist, Ideal Auto Body, Rich Lane, NAI DiLeo-Bram & Company, New Providence Chiropractic, Royce Brook Golf Club, and Sal’s Talk of the Town. Many thanks to Neil and all our golfers, sponsors, and auction donors!

Neil Kleinwaks (right) thanks golfer Dominick Battista, who generously donated his share of the 50/50 back to Summit Speech School.
The Winter of 2015 was one for the record books, but there was no sign of seasonal gloom on February 20th as parents, grandparents, friends, and children of all ages gathered for Family Fun Night. Summit Speech School’s annual blow-out included arts and crafts, face-painting, refreshments, activities for kids and tweens, our old friend Andy the Clown – and for the grownups, the ever-popular gift-basket raffle. Thanks to Robin & Derek Von Langen, Rachel Root, and all the volunteers who helped make Family Fun Night 2015 one of the best ever!

Children Benefit from New Equipment

This spring, Summit Speech School had a wonderful opportunity to replace the aging and outmoded FM systems in our classrooms and upgrade to state-of-the-art digital transmission equipment so that each of our kids can receive a clear speech signal from their teacher’s voice, even when they are at a distance or when there is background noise!

The new system cost nearly $30,000, and an anonymous donor offered to cover 1/3 of the need. That still left about $20,000 to be raised, so we turned to social networking and launched a “crowdfunding” effort. By reaching out to our friends – and friends of our friends – the goal was met. This new equipment is now in use and is giving our children a much-needed boost in gaining the speech and language skills they so critically need. Thanks to everyone who helped our kids take this next step forward!
Summit Speech School’s popular annual event was once again held at Fiddler’s Elbow Country Club in Bedminster, NJ on April 21st. A sold-out luncheon featured a super fun fashion show, sponsored by vineyard vines®-The Mall at Short Hills, with volunteer models of all ages and a joyous evening program where guests relaxed with cocktails, dinner and live music performed by James Gedeon.

Enthusiastic co-chairs Leslie Minsch and Lynn Hendricks Rand, along with our dedicated Spring Benefit Committee, raised over $245,000 to help fund programs for Summit Speech School’s deaf and hard of hearing children.


Special thanks to the 25th Annual Spring Benefit Committee members. From left: Donna Stevens, Maggie Reilly, Maryam Rohati-McDonald, Karen Murphy, Christine Preston, Co-Chair Leslie Minsch, Co-Chair Lynn Hendricks Rand, Jayne Kredatus, Lisa Haarmann, Michelle Porraro, Jacklene Chesler, Kara Kraeutler, Dr. Susan Rubino and Arianne Sikora.

Left Photo: (l-r) Board member/Sponsor/Honoree Caroline McMahon and Dr. Carolyn Sheenan. Right Photo: Spring Benefit Sponsor vineyard vines®-The Mall at Short Hills General Manager Jeannie Murphy (right) with the amazing and stylish vineyard vines crew! The audience loved the charming Fashion Show Master of Ceremonies, Don Thomas of vineyard vines-King of Prussia, and his vineyard vines bowtie!

Vineyard vines® fashion show finale! Pictured from left, our models include: Charlotte Walsh, JeanAnn Morgan-Lifson, Joe Carter, Sara Haarmann, Bob Mellen, Susan Hendricks, Matt Minsch, Michael Minsch, Owen Davis, SSS alum Lucia Mangano, Mark Minsch, Cami Haarmann, Hadley Rand, Catherine Howarth, Kip Rand, SSS alum Katerina Kraeutler, Emery Fowler, Amanda McLoughlin, Kara Kraeutler, and Blake Sikora.

~Honoring Spring Benefit Chairs of 25 Years~
The emotional highlight of the event came from Summit Speech School’s Student Speaker, 15-year-old Rithvik Yerreddu. A freshman at South Brunswick High School, Rithvik shared his personal story of how his parents moved from India to New Jersey specifically so he could attend Summit Speech School.

“My parents left India, their family and friends, and jobs to give me the absolute best chance at success. Because of the sacrifices they made, my future, and my little brother Arjun’s future is BRIGHT.” – 2015 Student Speaker, Rithvik Yerreddu

After moving to America in 2001, Rithvik received his first cochlear implant (his second came 10 years later) and started services from our early intervention Parent/Infant Program. He entered our Preschool at age 3 and graduated at age 5. When he enrolled in the local kindergarten he was already reading first grade level books and “talking up a storm.” Today, Rithvik is in 9th grade, takes AP physics and advanced math, and is a passionate violinist. He thanks the staff and faculty of Summit Speech School “for giving me the confidence, courage, and knowledge to succeed in my further studies and the rest of my life. “

Many thanks to our dedicated Benefit Committee, honorees, sponsors, advertisers, auction donors, contributors, and everyone who attended our 25th Annual Spring Benefit! Your support made the event a great success for the deaf and hard of hearing children we serve throughout New Jersey!
Summit Speech School Welcomes Five New Trustees

The Board of Trustees recently elected five new members to serve a three-year term ending May 31, 2018.

Douglas A. Bean is President of Bean Investment Management in Summit, a firm he founded in 2005. He previously worked with Philippe Investment Management, Inc. where he managed private accounts and ran the U.S. equity portion of several funds. A longtime resident of Short Hills, he also was a Board Member of the Millburn Red Cross Chapter from 2009-2012.

Stephen J. Deering of Morris Plains is a Senior Vice President in Investors Bank’s Business Lending Unit, responsible for the Bank’s commercial and industrial lending activities in Northern New Jersey. He manages several teams of relationship managers providing banking and lending services to midsize companies in a range of business sectors.

Lisa DiGiorgi was an executive at Dun & Bradstreet from 2002 to 2015, most recently as Vice President for Analytic Implementation. A resident of Westfield, she is an expert in strategic data management and technology leader with significant experience in developing enterprise-wide process improvements.

Cindi L. Galiher, a Chatham resident, is owner and designer at “Sweet Clover,” a small, specialized jewelry enterprise that she founded in 2012. Before that she was Vice President of Sales for Suite K Cosmetics and President of Cheeky Cosmetics, a natural cosmetics line.

Betty D. Larson of Berkeley Heights joined C. R. Bard in September 2014 as Vice President, Human Resources. She is responsible for HR, communications, and community relations. Prior to Bard, she spent over 15 years at Baxter Healthcare in a number of positions of increasing responsibility.

Matthew Moraller was diagnosed at 2½ years old with a bilateral hearing loss but he hasn’t let that stop him from being passionate about school. He just wrapped up sixth grade as an honor roll student at Shrewsbury Borough School. He enjoys science and studying nature. Last summer he attended a science camp on Sandy Hook, where he studied marine life. Matt helps his father tend the family’s honeybees and chickens and has a pet snake, turtles, and a dog. Sports keep him busy throughout the year - soccer, basketball, baseball, and track. He competes in the half-mile and cross-country, and qualified for the NJSIAA Meet of Champions.

Emma Colavito, age 7, was in our Parent/Infant Program. She now lives in Maryland and recently participated in a Johns Hopkins University made about early cochlear implantation. According to her mom Melissa, Emma is totally mainstreamed in 2nd grade with an itinerant teacher of the deaf visiting the class once a month to check in and see if things are OK. She is reading about a year and a half above grade level and recently tested in the gifted range in verbal reasoning! Her family is so thankful for the great foundation she received at Summit Speech School.

Aidan Zagarola, age 8, was in our Parent/Infant Program and just finished 3rd grade at Orange Avenue School in Cranford, NJ. Aidan has a cochlear implant and a hearing aid and has received audiology services from JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute (JRI) in Edison since he was 1 year old. When JRI celebrated its 40th anniversary in September 2014, Aidan was asked to participate. He spoke to an audience of over 100 people about his experiences with hearing loss, and met with several hospital officials as well as Congressman Frank Pallone. Afterwards, he went back to school and told his teachers and classmates about his day. He, his parents, and grandparents were very proud!

Eleven-year-old Marcus Porraro, a graduate of our Parent/Infant and Preschool Programs, has been skiing since he was 5, and on a recent family vacation in Breckenridge, CO he was able to take a side-trip to the Cochlear Americas headquarters. The whole family was inspired by the amazing people that work there. They welcome recipients to come visit, and the young man that conducted their tour wears a cochlear implant and is one of the marketing managers. They talked to some of the scientific development team and saw where the implants are repaired and shipped out to recipients. Next summer (2016) the family plans to attend Colorado Neurological Institute’s “Cochlear Camp” in the Rocky Mountains, four days of activities for child cochlear recipients and their families.

Alana Rothstein, who was in the Parent/Infant Program, is going into her Senior year at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania, studying Communications with a minor in Emergent Media. She loves the college experience, and says she is lucky that Bloomsburg has speech therapy and audiology programs so she can use if she needs any help with her hearing aids. She also is thankful for all that Summit Speech School has done for her growing up and getting her on the path to where she is today.

Emma Colavito
Tributes Received—January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015

Gifts to our Tribute Fund are a thoughtful way to recognize an anniversary, remember a friend, associate, or relative while providing needed support for the children we serve. An acknowledgement is sent to the person or the family of the individual recognized. Your name and the purpose of the gift will be known, but not the amount of the gift. Your gift is tax deductible. Note: Minimum tribute donation is $25.00

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Giuliana Barbieri
Samantha and Rocky Barbieri
Frank Barnes III
Frank Barnes, Jr.
Judy Campbell
Robert Krumholz
Eddie Cwiek
Debra Cwiek
Daniel Khouri
Herbert Buehler

Francie and Joel Lippman
Susan Halpern
Kathy and Charles Luchs
Kelly A. Erhardt-Wojie
Barbara Murray, for a job
well done!
Patty and George Lucas
Tom O’Neill
Elizabeth and Gerard O’Neill
Dana Porraro’s Birthday
Henry Trepecchio

Christine Preston
Roberta Krumholz
Delia Preston
Trina Mallik
Manali Patel
Carol Preston
Breanne Saitta’s College
Graduation
Barbara and Raymond Aarons
Owen Sanford
Nancy Wotanis

IN MEMORY OF . . .

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Susan E. Ford
John “Jack” Barker
Susan Chorost
Mary Anna Kleban
Ellen K. Hansen
Rose Mathesius
Pamela Paskowitz
Lisa Shaffer
Marlene Bartholomew
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Nancy and John Dorer
Judy Shipley
Pam Paskowitz
John W. Wiggins
Kathleen Kuzan
Your Support Puts Smiles on Our Kids’ Faces

Our new school year started July 1, and that means your contribution to our 2015-16 Annual Fund is just as vital as ever. It will enable us to provide outstanding teachers and the very best resources to help our children succeed.

You can make a HUGE difference right now for a child’s future!

So please send your gift today in the attached envelope – or make a secure online donation at www.summspeech.org/supportus.

Thank you!