The Class of 2017

On June 16, students of the Preschool Class of 2017 were honored at a graduation ceremony at the school. Executive Director Dr. Pamela Paskowitz and Principal Amy Ryan distributed diplomas to Samantha Choi, Andrea Valentina Corrales-Mendoza, Shyla Donnelly, Gia Esposito, Layla Esposito, Belen Fallas, Max Silverstein, and Aubrey Troche.

Congratulations to All Our Graduates!
Dianne Robins Retires as Itinerant Program Coordinator

Dianne Robins, M.A., LDTC, has retired after more than 11 years as Coordinator of the Itinerant Program, which serves deaf and hard of hearing students in mainstream schools. When she first joined Summit Speech School, our fledgling Itinerant Program consisted of just three teachers and about 20 students. Under Dianne’s leadership the program has become one of the largest and best in the State, reaching 160 students in 57 school districts across a wide area of New Jersey.

Dianne has been involved in special education for over 35 years as a speech therapist, teacher of the deaf, and learning disabilities teacher consultant. She’s known to her team – and throughout the profession – as a superb teacher, coach, problem solver, and passionate advocate for kids and families.

We'll miss you Dianne!  Good luck, and keep in touch!

Summit Speech School Veteran is New Itinerant Program Coordinator

Mary Baumont has deep and varied experience in the field of deaf education, including six years (1999-2005) at Summit Speech School as a Parent/Infant Specialist and then as a Preschool Teacher. Since 2010 she has worked as an Education Specialist with the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Mary received a Master’s degree in Deaf Educations from NYU, and has extensive training in the latest technologies. She has established an outstanding reputation as an educator and leader in working directly with families and advocating for their children.

Mary, welcome back to Summit Speech School!
Learning and Fun at Summit Speech School!

Great Times at Family Fun Night

Friday, February 24th was Summit Speech School’s annual winter celebration. Parents, grandparents, friends, and kids of all ages enjoyed games, activities, food, entertainment, clowning around, and of course – the ever-popular ticket-basket auction. Thanks as always to Robin and Derek von Langen and all the contributors and volunteers who helped make Family Fun Night 2017 a tremendous success!
Summit Speech School returned to its roots and paid tribute to one of its own at its 27th Annual Spring Benefit held on April 4 at Fiddlers Elbow Country Club in Bedminster. This year’s Honoree was Ellen Hansen, the School’s beloved Educational Audiologist who was celebrated not only for her clinical excellence, but equally for her compassion, concern, and empathy for children and families who are dealing with hearing loss.

Ellen was followed at the podium by Becca von Langen, a 1996 graduate of Summit Speech School, who spoke about her journey with hearing loss and her personal story as a deaf person who is thriving in the hearing world.

“The skills I learned at Summit Speech School have helped me get around in my world. As a kid, I was able to join kids in my town playing soccer, dancing and other activities. Now that I am an adult, I can really appreciate everything I gained from the school. I love going back and seeing the kids light up with sound.”

Summit Speech School’s Spring Benefit originally started as a flower show 27 years ago. So we reconnected with our roots at this year’s luncheon by featuring a floral design presentation by botanist and floral designer Samantha Rothman, owner of Fairview Farm and Flowers. An ardent advocate for sustainable landscape, Samantha specializes in unique floral designs, locally grown blooms, and opportunities for creativity through flower design classes.

The event attracted more than 500 attendees at luncheon and dinner sessions, and raised more than $280,000 to support our programs for deaf and hard of hearing children.
The Spring Benefit was a financial success for our programs largely due to the generosity of our event sponsors: Bayview Foundation, Randi and David Silverstein, C. R. Bard, Inc., Investors Bank, JT’s Confections, Pluckemin Inn-Gloria LaGrassa, Sandy Hill Foundation, Poppy and Richard Segal, Lisa and Andy Abramson, Judith E. Campbell, Carol and Stephen Lampf, the MCJ Amelior Foundation, the Murphy Family, Cory and Greg Pine, Wells Fargo Advisors-Short Hills, Gary Wayne, Celgene Corporation, Diane and Robert Goldberg, Hencar Productions, Josephine and Louis Silverstein, Marcia and Glenn Yarnis, Lou Ann and Irv Brothers, Heather and Brian Carosielli, Cochlear Americas, DiFrancesco-Bateman, Suzy Freeman and Neil Kaufman, Hendricks & Hendricks Attorneys at Law, Primary Care Physicians Group, the Rubino OB/GYN Group, Hattie Segal, vineyard vines-The Mall at Short Hills, Maries Italian Specialties, Kay and Brian Preston, Stella & Dot, Leslie Minsch.


Committee member Kathy Mangano and her table having a great time!

Come Dance the Night Away!

...Enjoy a Fall Music & Dancing Fundraiser!

The Little Big Band, featuring acclaimed Billy Joel saxophonist Mark Rivera, will be performing to raise awareness and valuable funds for our School! It will be a wonderful, entertaining evening to benefit our deaf and hard of hearing kids and the perfect way to celebrate Summit Speech School's 50th anniversary!

November 4, 2017, 7:00 pm

Our Lady of Peace Church in New Providence
Tickets are $150 – call the Development Office at 908-508-0495 or development@summitspeech.org

Billy Joel’s saxophonist Mark Rivera has performed before millions of fans with a ‘who’s who’ of music’s elite including Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Don Henley, Tony Bennett, Paul Simon, and Paul McCartney. In addition to playing soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones, Rivera’s musical abilities encompass vocals, guitar, flute, percussion, and keyboards. His 2014 album Common Bond, features guest appearances by Elton John and Ringo Starr.
**ALUMNI NEWS**

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEWS** (high school, work, college, sports, moves, marriages, children, and more...): development@summitspeech.org We’d love to hear from you!

**Brian Christian**, who attended our Preschool from 2003 to 2006, became a published author at the age of 14. An avid video gamer, Brian wanted to begin creating his own games, so he mastered the GameMaker coding language, GML. His expertise quickly surpassed his teacher’s, and he was invited to be lead author of a book on GML. “I gained a lot of programming knowledge and experience from writing the book, as well as more practice in writing clearly and concisely,” he says. “The experience provided me with creative problem-solving skills that I use to this day.” The book, GameMaker Programming By Example, is available at amazon.com.

Congratulations to **Cody Mang**. He and his wife Christine are the proud parents of Connor Warren Mang, born on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2016. Cody attended Preschool at Summit Speech School from November 1987 until June 1990. He received an MBA from Rutgers in 2013 and is a Major Accounts Sales Executive with ADP.

**Lucia Mangano**, a graduate of our Parent/Infant Program and our Preschool, was named the “7th Grade Student of the Month” for April at David Brearley Middle and High School in Kenilworth. Her teachers commended her kindness and helpfulness, describing her as a “natural teacher.” She’s an enthusiastic learner both in and out of the classroom. Lucia was recently cast for one of the starring roles in this year’s Middle School play, and she has also been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Congratulations to Lucia – she’s a true role model trying hard to reach her greatest potential!

When our Itinerant Teacher **Courtney Smith** married Paul Zeidman in January 2017, several of her students were on hand to share her joy and wish her well. Pictured with her from left to right are: **Emer Vessey, Garrett Dzikowski, Tierney Vessey, Delia Preston, and Seamus Vessey**.

**Neil’s 15th Annual Charity Golf Event**

A blustery day on Wednesday, May 10 couldn’t chill the spirits of our dedicated group of golfers who hit the links at Royce Brook in Hillsborough for Neil’s 15th Annual Golf Event. The outing raised almost $8,000 to benefit the programs at Summit Speech School.

The event was inspired and organized by our great friend Neil Kleinwaks. Sincere thanks to our Platinum Sponsors, Investors Bank and Randi & David Silverstein. Other sponsors and supporters included C.R. Bard, Fullerton Auto Group, Florez Tobacconist, New Providence Chiropractic, Warren Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Ideal Auto Body, Raritan Valley Orthodontics, Sal’s Talk of the Town, Sparkle USA, Alfonso’s Family Trattoria, Dominick Battista, Sue and Doug Bean, Drew University, June Ehrenberg, Grand Summit Hotel, Calli Heenan, J.C. Klein Estate Jewelers, JT’s Confections, Rich Lane, Lifetime Fitness, Stella & Dot/Leil Minsch, NY Red Bull Soccer, Panatieri’s Royce Brook Golf Club, Dr. Pamela Paskowitz, Somerset Patriots, Tailored Image/Kim De Rienzo, TD Bank, Tessuto Menswear, Test Sports Clubs, and Debbie Zajkowski. **Many thanks to Neil and all the players for their continued friendship for our children!**
New addition to Board of Trustees

Scott B. McBride, a Partner with the law firm of Lowenstein Sandler, has been elected to a three-year term on Summit Speech School’s Board of Trustees. He joined the firm in May 2016, focusing his legal practice on matters of government, securities, financial, and health care fraud; Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations; and civil business litigation. He gained valuable experience from more than 10 years in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Newark, where he supervised a 15-attorney unit dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of large-scale corporate, securities, banking, and mortgage fraud matters, as well as cyber-crime, identity theft, and intellectual property-related offenses.

Scott lives in Chatham with his wife Heather and their four children. He enjoys time with his family and playing golf, and he volunteers at his local church in Chatham, St. Patrick Parish.
DOUBLE YOUR GIFT FOR THE KIDS!

Many companies will match employees’ charitable contributions dollar for dollar. Check with your Human Resources office (or your spouse’s) to see if the company you work for will match your donation! Summit Speech School’s Employer Identification Number is 22-1829502.

Thank You!

You can use the attached envelope or make a secure online gift at www.summitspeech.org/supportus. Questions? Call 908-508-0495 or email development@summitspeech.org.