Our New Playground is a Big Hit!

After about 20 years of near constant use and abuse, the playground set in our courtyard was ready for retirement, so in the Spring of 2015 we unveiled a brand-new apparatus that is bigger, better, more colorful – and lots more fun! As an added bonus, the all-plastic construction is safer and specially designed to avoid static electricity that can damage cochlear implants.

It’s a great way to blow off steam and recharge their batteries – our kids love it!

NEW ROOF KEEPS US ALL SNUG AND DRY

Over the summer, Summit Speech School was a hive of activity as workers installed a brand new roof for the first time since our building opened more than 20 years ago. Thanks to the generosity of numerous donors – foundations, businesses, and individuals – our children and staff can look forward to many years of learning in a safe and comfortable environment.

There are several other important capital projects on our to-do list, including a new fire alarm system, repaving of our front driveway and parking lot, upgrades to the HVAC and phone systems, and exterior drainage improvements. More financial support is needed, so please contact the Development Office at 908-508-0495 or bnaidoff@summitspeech.org to be part of this important effort.
Our children are always ready for a good time!

A busy school year at Summit South!

During the summer the kids at Summit-South enjoyed an outdoor camping trip searching for wildlife, and recently they’ve learning about the people who help us around our neighborhoods – police officers, firefighters, and postal workers (the children even made their own mailboxes to practice with!). It’s been a season full of adventures and we’re all looking forward to even more fun in the new year!
Beautifully renovated Fiddler’s Elbow Country Club in Bedminster is once again the perfect setting for our ever-popular Spring Benefit—two events in one day! This year’s Spring Benefit will honor Kevin Cummings, President and CEO of Investors Bank, as well as, feature 9-year-old Summit Speech School student and gifted singer, Jake Whitenight. Our 10:00 AM luncheon keynote speaker is Max Weinberg, drummer for Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band. The evening program will begin at 6:00 PM and will feature cocktails, dinner and music! All proceeds benefit the deaf and hard of hearing kids at Summit Speech School!

**HONOREE KEVIN CUMMINGS**

Our good friend and School supporter Kevin Cummings is President and CEO of Investors Bank and member of the Summit Speech School Board of Directors from 2007 – 2014, chairing it for three of those years. Kevin has been instrumental in forming a close partnership between Investors Bank and Summit Speech School and we are so excited to bestow this well-deserved honor on Kevin!

**Student Speaker Jake Whitenight**

Despite being born with multiple physical challenges, Jake is thriving and doing wonderfully. He loves to eat and is growing into a healthy, fit, and happy “big kid” who loves to sing and play piano/keyboard, swim, ride his bike, engage you in endless conversation beyond his years, and be with family and friends. Jake has recorded several outstanding and amazing YouTube videos showcasing his singing talent, and we are so proud that he is part of our Summit Speech School family!

**MAX WEINBERG** - Musician, bandleader, session musician, author and longtime drummer for Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band - is the 26th Annual Spring Benefit luncheon keynote speaker. Max grew up in suburban New Jersey and began drumming at an early age. He attended college planning to be a lawyer but got his big break in music in 1974 when he won an audition to become the drummer for Springsteen. His powerful but controlled playing on albums such as Born to Run and Born in the U.S.A. stabilized the E Street Band sound and Weinberg became a mainstay of Springsteen’s long concert performances.

Springsteen dissolved the band in 1989, and Weinberg spent several years considering a law career and trying the business end of the music industry before deciding he wanted to continue with drumming. In 1993, Weinberg got the role as bandleader of The Max Weinberg 7 for Late Night with Conan O’Brien. Weinberg’s drums-driven jump blues sound and his role as a comic foil prospered along with the show, giving him a second career. Springsteen re-formed the E Street Band for a series of tours and albums in 1999; and Weinberg worked out an arrangement that allowed him to play with both O’Brien and Springsteen. In 2009, Weinberg moved to the short-lived Tonight Show with Conan O’Brien as leader of Max Weinberg and The Tonight Show Band. After that ended, be began touring with his own ensembles and in 2010 chose not to follow O’Brien to the new Conan show.

Weinberg continued playing with Springsteen and in 2014 was inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a member of the E Street Band.

Max Weinberg has been happily married to his wife Becky for over 30 years, with two wonderful children, daughter Ali and son Jay. To celebrate the arrival of the Ties That Bind: The River Collection, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band will hit the road on January 16, 2016 in Pittsburgh for The River Tour.

This year we are thrilled to have Jayne Kredatus as chair of the Spring Benefit Committee along with a largely expanded group of enthusiastic volunteers who bring a wealth of experience to help raise much needed funds for Summit Speech School. We are grateful for their loyalty to this important cause.

We could not produce this splendid event without the help of our sponsors. To date, generous sponsors for the 26th Annual Spring Benefit include Bayview Foundation; Judith Campbell; Celgene Corporation; Cochlear Americas; C.R. Bard; Chipotle-New Providence; Dearhaven Fund; Hendricks & Hendricks Attorneys at Law; Investors Bank; J. McLaughlin-Summit; JT’s Confections; Lanca Sales; Pampered Chef/Maggie Reilly; Pluckemin Inn-Gloria LaGrassa; Christine and Michael Preston; Primary Care Physicians Group-Susan Rubino, MD; Sandy Hill Foundation; Stella & Dot—Leslie Minsch, Independent Stylist; The MCJ Amelior Foundation; The Murphy Family; The Rubino OB/GYN Group, and vineyard vines-The Mall at Short Hills.

Invitations will be mailed out shortly. You can reserve your place now, donate an auction item, Sponsor our event, or place an advertisement or honorary message in our Benefit Journal by calling the Development Office at 908-508-0495 or email cheenan@summitspeech.org.
Dr. Patrick Smith (left) of Smith Chiropractic in Berkeley Heights organized a 5K run for charity on September 20 and included Summit Speech School as one of the recipients. Bruce Naidoff (right), Director of Development of Summit Speech School, accepts the generous $1,000 check on behalf of all the kids we serve.

Do you shop through Amazon?
If so, please enroll in AmazonSmile!! If you choose Summit Speech School as your charity of choice through AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate a portion of every dollar spent to our school!!!! This is free and easy to enroll! Simply go to smile.amazon.comids

25 friends at C.R. Bard, Inc. took time out of their busy day on September 24 to fold, stuff and stamp over 3,000 appeal cards for our Annual Fund. Thank you so much for volunteering to help us raise crucial dollars for our school!

Thank you so much for volunteering to help us raise crucial dollars for our school!
On December 18 the Highland Park High School Orchestra delighted the children by performing holiday music at Summit Speech School – and then the kids had a chance to try out the instruments. Musicians and audience alike had a great time!
Kathleen Borrowe Rooy, one of our earliest students, has Usher Syndrome, a genetic disorder that results in hearing loss and vision impairment – she is deaf and now has only about 5% of her vision. Despite these challenges, she graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a degree in Computer Information Systems and works as a systems analyst for Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NJ. She’s also a multi-sport athlete competing in some of the most rigorous road races and triathlons in the Mid-Atlantic region. Assisted by her guide, fellow athlete James Armstrong, she completed the Ironman Lake Placid race in July 2015, which consists of a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile bike race, and a 26.2 mile marathon. As Kathleen says, “In my heart, I feel I can do anything. People may not think I can do some of these things because of my disabilities, but I can.”

Edward Borrone, Kathleen’s brother, also has Usher Syndrome and has channeled his energies in a different direction from his sister’s. After retiring from a 16-year career with the US Postal Service, he followed his lifelong love of woodworking to become a master craftsman. He turned his Manasquan, NJ garage into a workshop, where he turns out plates, coasters, picture frames, intricately built birdhouses, and impressively detailed mailboxes.

Micheala Zerbo, Alana Bichutsky, Michael Andaloro, and Rachel Russo were preschool classmates at Summit Speech School, and quite to their mutual surprise, they reconnected as incoming Freshmen at Rochester Institute of Technology. Here is an archive photo of Micheala and Alana from their student days –

Harrs Engel, age 23, was served by our Early Intervention Program. He later attended the Allegro School in Morris Plains, and then Livingston High School. He went on to the County College of Morris and graduated with an Associates degree in Electronic Music. Recently he was accepted in the Jazz Program at Montclair State University and is now in his junior year. His real love, however, is Jewish liturgical music - he plays piano at Friday night services for four different congregations. He also loves to sing and hopes to audition for The Voice, NBC’s on-air talent contest.
Tributes Received—July 1, 2015 – December 31, 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

IN HONOR OF . . .
Lilly Alvarez’s Bat Mitzvah
Jane and Arlan Eisler
Giuliana Barbieri
Samantha and Rocky Barbieri
Miriam Esterkis
Doug Bean
Kenneth Cole
Jamie and Jeff Dresser
Abby Berman and Family
Joanna Mintzer
Arthur Bogart
Sally Fullman
Dr. Laura Bridges wedding
Ellen and Russell Tepper
Brady Broyer
Miriam Esterkis
Domenica Callandrello
Domenica Nava
The Campbell and Preston Families
Roberta and Arnie Krumholz
Jacqueline Cassano
Myra Miller
Susan Chorost
Michael Chorost
Will Cromarty
The Cromarty Family
Eddie Cwiek
Meron Austin
Miriam Esterkis
Steve Deering
Steven Adler
William Fiore-Meyner and Landis LLP
Largavista Companies
Ed Poling and Gary Cutler-Poling and Cutler Marine
Transportation
Michael Schechner-Schechner
Lifson Corp.
Steven Schroeder-Atlas Refinery
Robert Spitzer
Samantha DeMarco’s 18th Birthday
Margaret DeMarco
The DiGiorgio Family
Anne and Carl Stocking
Conor Doherty
Shirley and Jon Shook
Jane and Arlan Eisler’s 50th Wedding Anniversary
Liz and Eric Greenbaum
Mimi and Ken Heyman
Carole and Richard Kirschbaum
Susan and Joel Sacher
Diana and John Sands
Valerie and Nat Stirberg
Harper Eisler’s Birth
Diana and John Sands
Harris Engel
Helen and Peter Engel
Cindi Galiher
Marc Berson
Grace Gleba’s 16th Birthday
Mary and Gerald Gleba
Lisa Haarmann
Morristown Cotillion
Noah Jaffe
Amanda and Mark Jaffe
Devon Kiessling
Carol Irwin
Chris Kiessling
Ann and Ernie Kiessling
Marc and Steve Kiessling
Walter Kiessling
Russell Polio
Diane Tastet
Michael Kirby
Teresa DiMeo
Susan Kogan
Barry Scher
Theresa and David Langer
Nancie and Jeffrey Perlowitz
Francie and Joel Lippman
The Halpert Family
Kathy and Charles Luchs
Christine and Walter Erhardt
Judith and Walter Erhardt
Kelly Erhardt-Wojie and Scott Wojie
Frank Macioce
Diane and Edward Dye
Lucia Mangano
Eileen and John LoBianco
Jasmine McCall
Rita Ridley
Charlotte Mon
Kristen Mon
Dana and Devon Monahan
Donna and Donald Monahan
Donna and Donald Monahan
Devon Monahan
William Morley
Dina Morley
Robert Morton
Gloria Jean Morton
Karen Murphy
Constance Silverman
Barbara Murray
Anonymous
Ahmad Nawaz
Muhammad Qasim
Diane and J. Malcolm Simon
Melanie Simon and Mark Flinn
Tom O’Neill
Elizabeth and Gerald
Parent Infant Staff
Nancy Hovey
Pam Paskowitz
Macy Egerton and Thomas Lycan
Sally Fullman
Marcus Porraro
Gregory Porraro
Christine Preston
Carol and Alan Silberstein
Delia Preston
Phyllis and Peter Flemming
Geraldine Xydas
Matthew Leonard Riedinger
Dorothea Riedinger
Brian Rittman’s College Graduation
Patricia and Roy Rittman
Benjamin Roll
Linda and Ken Roll
Annabel Ross Bat Mitzvah
Linda and Sean Ross
Sophia Rose Ruocco
Mary Beth Hennessy
Jack Rubin
JoAnn and Frank Spadaro
Mark Scherzer
Laurence Scherzer
Lisa Shaffer
Donna and Robert Merrick
Courtney and Kelsey Siegel
Helen O’Neill
Max Silverstein
Poppy and Richard Segal
Carly Skibinski’s 20th Birthday
Patricia and John Sebok
Donna Stevens
Constance Silverman
The Summit Speech School Staff
Carol Jean Kissane
Sharin and Gavin Natelli
Randi and David Silverstein
Rebecca Von Langen
Robin and Derek Von Langen
Katie and Matt Wagner
Judith and Charles Wagner
Jennifer Walters
Donna and Donald Monahan
Maxx Wortman and the Parent Infant Program
Deborah and Michael Balesterri
Miriam Esterkis
Josephine Melone
Adeline Yankoski
Miriam Esterkis
Aidan Zagarola
Ann Marie Cappadona
Andrea and Darren Zagarola

IN MEMORY OF . . .
Anne Bean
Susanne and Doug Bean
Anne and Kenneth Bean
Stephanie Mallios
Gina Zimbardo Boehm
Kathleen Kuzan
Nancy Cashel
Jessica and John F.X. Keane
Capitola Dickerson
Penny and Frank Bolden
Frances and William Holzapfel
Kathryn and Richard Lucas
Joseph Fabian
Diane and J. Malcolm Simon
Steve Faust
Amy and Mark Fischer
Hedyth Fishman
Jane and Michael Groothuis
Monica and David Jankelvich
William E. Ford, Jr.
Amanda and Steven Ford
Charles Hirsch
Maria and Alfonso Lopez
Louis Intropaco
Aurelie Fritschy
Claire Kantor
Estelle and Marvin Edelman
Barbara and Michael Jacob
Janet and Martin Mellinger
Brenda Klein
Robert Klein
Richard LaMotta and his son
Frances and Mauro Fanelli
Teddy Leyon
Ellen Ivey Bates
Alexis Whitney Logothetis Clark
Julie Logothetis
James McNamee
Joan and Herbert Goldberg
Robert Morton
Gloria Jean Morton
Maggie O’Kane
Karen Weiss
Mercedes D. Owen
Matthew Owen
Rico
Elaine Weinstock
Gil Salanga
Cleotilde Salanga
Tom Sayles
Isabel and S. Rodgers Benjamin
Judi and John Feeney
Kitty and Dave Hartman
Agnes and Joseph Simon
Diane and J. Malcolm Simon
Dr. Robert Sofferman
Jane and Arlan Eisler
Peter Spiridon
Basilia Spiridon
Jason Stowe
Susan Scherler
Anne Thoms
Marie and Paul O’Hare
Jennifer Tino
Joan and Salvatore Tino
Karon Trachman
Jane and Arlan Eisler
Rev. Dr. Bruce D. Williams
Patricia Williams

Note: Minimum tribute donation is $25.00
Let’s Get Serious...

Our kids may act a little silly sometimes, but they work very hard every day learning to listen and talk.

They need your help!

Your donation to our Annual Fund will ensure that they have the very best teachers and state of the art technology to prepare them for success in mainstream schools – and beyond!

Please send your gift today in the attached envelope, or make a secure online donation at www.summitspeech.org. You’ll be giving our children a great reason to smile!

Thank you!

A Lifelong Friend

Mrs. Betsy Potter, a longtime resident of Summit, was a member of the Junior League of Summit and an important force behind the founding of Summit Speech School in 1967. She continued her support of the school – and her interest in our children – throughout the following years. When she passed away in 2014 at the age of 94, her commitment to our mission was carried on through a charitable bequest in her will.

Betsy’s generosity and thoughtfulness are a wonderful example. Whether through a bequest, charitable trust arrangements, insurance, or retirement funds, your financial and estate planning can be a powerful tool to help you achieve your philanthropic goals. If you would like to have an obligation discussion about including Summit Speech School as part of your long-term plan, please contact Bruce Naidoff in the Development Office at 908-508-0495 or email bnaidoff@summitspeech.org.