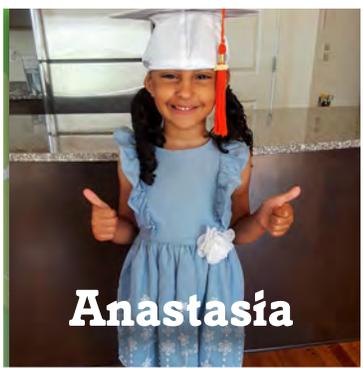


Congratulations Class of 2020!

Summit Speech School's Preschool students and teachers persevered through the challenge of at-home virtual learning start-ing in March, and by June we had 9 graduates! While we missed the fun of the traditional graduation social gathering, when all preschoolers and families enjoy student performances, we applaud each graduate for completing their preschool years successfully at SSS. Each day, our preschoolers

play, chat, sing and learn and hardly notice the extra work of their intensive Listening and Spoken Language program. You've made amazing progress!!

Congratulations to Anastasia, Esteban, Helen, Jose, Katherine, Kris, Mason, Robert and Victoria! Good luck in your new schools!



Anastasia



Esteban



Helen



Jose



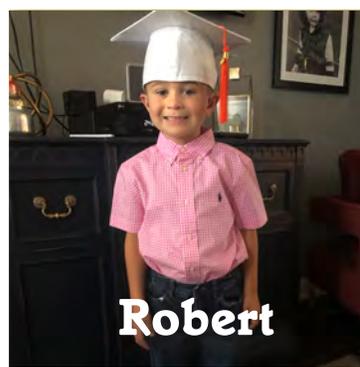
Katherine



Kris



Mason



Robert



Victoria

Speaking Out!

Summer 2020

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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: Kathy Abbott
kabbott@summitspeech.org
www.summitspeech.org

A Change in our Audiology Department

Goodbye Ellen Hansen!

We are sad to say goodbye to Ellen Hansen, who retired on June 30th. Her 14 years with SSS capped a stellar career in pediatric/educational audiology. Ellen is widely known as one of the best pediatric/educational audiologists in the NY/NJ region. Her attention to detail in testing children's hearing, creating reports, listening to the concerns of parents and educators, and her deep knowledge of personal and classroom hearing devices has been key to the academic success of hundreds of children with hearing loss who were fortunate enough to be in her care.



Ellen Hansen, M.S., CCC-A

We thank Ellen for her love and dedication to the SSS students. We also thank Ellen's husband Paul Lavenhar, who donated to the school many hours of digital media help, including the layout of this newsletter. Best wishes for your retirement, Ellen!

Hello Sidney Abernathy!

Sidney Abernathy is our new educational audiologist. She has a master's degree in audiology from The University of Southern Mississippi, and most recently worked in Burlington County, NJ as an educational audiologist and teacher of the deaf. She has over 16 years of experience in audiology and has worked with diverse populations from newborns to adults.



Sidney Abernathy, M.S., CCC-A

At Summit Speech School's Audiology Center, Sydney is now testing the hearing of children, from infants to adolescents. She assesses hearing and the functional benefit of hearing technology, and then works closely with each family to help obtain the follow-up support each child and family needs.

You can contact Sydney at sabernathy@summitspeech.org.

Spring Benefit Succeeds Despite Social Distancing

Like so many in person gatherings during the pandemic, Summit Speech School's beloved Annual Spring Benefit luncheon had to be canceled. The 2020 Benefit would have been our 30th year, and we know many loyal donors missed seeing their friends at this elegant social event and fundraiser. We are truly grateful to those who donated their luncheon tickets, bought raffle tickets, and gave through our online Spring Benefit appeals.

The event still managed to gross over \$80,000 to support the life-changing services that Summit Speech School provides to deaf and hard of hearing children from all over New Jersey. That work has continued throughout these trying times through telehealth and virtual learning sessions. We could not have done it without our wonderful supportive community.



Top Row: Sharon Tompkins, Maggie Reilly, Ellen Tepper, Kara Thoms, Jennifer Sikora, Patricia Thoms, Samantha Barbieri; Middle Row: Christine Preston, Laura Sullivan, Lisa Delano, Lynn Hendricks Rand, Jayne Kredatus; Bottom Row: JeanAnn Morgan-Liftin, Leslie Minsch, Kathy Mangano, Randi Silverstein, Arianne Sikora, Tracy Dansky.

The 2020 Spring Benefit Committee, led by Board Member and Chair Lisa Delano, worked hard all winter preparing this important benefit luncheon for 300 supporters. Special thanks go to Maggie Reilly/Pampered Chef, Leslie Minsch/Stella and Dot and Christine Preston for a delightful fundraiser at Christine's home with other committee members and friends. Thanks also to Lisa Delano and J.McLaughlin for hosting a holiday Sip and Shop for the School.

30th Annual Spring Benefit Sponsors

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Stella & Dot/Leslie Minsch



Lisa Delano, Chair, Spring Benefit 2020

We were looking forward to hearing inspirational speaker Laura Schroff, author of *The Invisible Thread*. Laura's message about the profound and lifelong impact that small acts of kindness can have on a child's life is particularly relevant during these challenging times. We expect Laura to join us at the Spring Benefit in 2021. join us at



Leaping into Technology to



Virtual Home Visits in the Parent Infant Program

The 100 Parent Infant Program families were invited to continue one-on-one therapy virtually once NJ Early Intervention officially allowed telehealth on April 1, 2020. Teachers reached out and were able to connect with most families for weekly telehealth via cell phones, laptops, or tablets.



Teacher Elfie and Spanish Interpreter Brenda via WhatsApp

Mom Deisi and student Dennisse

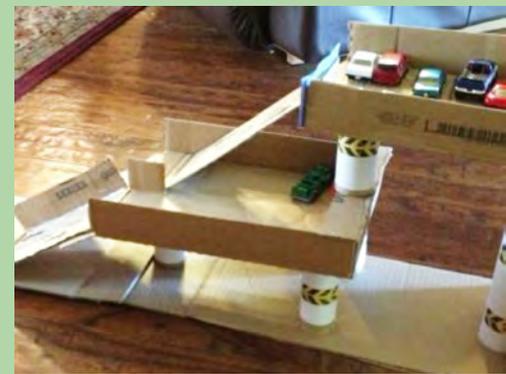


Student Bella and Mom Emily



Sierra, and Antonio with Nicole teaching language through singing, talking and movement

Making empanadas and eating lunch are good moments for fostering Listening and Spoken Language during teletherapy.



During social distancing, whole families engaged in games and building toys like this parking garage and playhouse from found objects to spark language learning.



Maximo's "home" within his home



Our Vital Weekly Toddler and Parent Group Training Continued Virtually

Kids are happy to see the faces of their friends and hear the familiar voices of their teacher of the deaf Elfie Eisman, Speech Language Pathologist Danielle Catanzaro, and Occupational Therapist Ann Marie Quinn. Songs and finger plays, new books, familiar routines and listening games are part of the fun. Parents stay on the Zoom call to check in with one another, ask questions, and share experiences. Program Coordinator Nancy Schumann and audiologist Ellen Hansen are there to facilitate the action and respond to the needs of the families.

Make Distance Learning Work



Teacher Lea Marx reading and discussing via video from home



Jose busy with online lessons

The Preschool also began operating online, starting immediately in March. They provided daily live speech therapy and live group lessons, such as circle time, conversational snack time, music, and show and tell. Teachers also sent families videos of themselves reading or teaching a science lesson or craft. In addition, the students worked on homework via mailed paper sheets and online activities.



Cooper's parents share on Instagram



Victoria

Thank you parents for gathering materials and setting up to make our lessons at home successful.



Kris

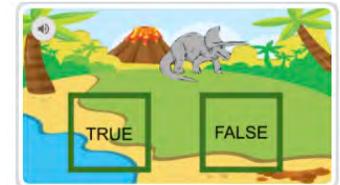
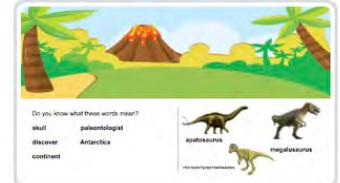
The Itinerant Mainstream Support Program teachers each reached out to their 200 students in March and continued teaching each child as soon as possible. In addition to speaking with students and parents one-on-one live, the teachers created new distance learning ideas, which they shared through their online professional development platform or chatting by phone. Examples of their online teaching tools are interactive Google slides with themed graphics, and imbedded audio and video files of listening exercises. Avatars of teachers also helped to maintain a personal presence. Some students had no available technology except parent cell phones. Our dedicated teachers dropped off paper homework packets to families, and received photos of finished homework via parents' cellphones. Overall, with Itinerant services taking place at home rather than at mainstream schools, parents had a new opportunity to increase their understanding of their child's individual Listening and Spoken Language goals.



Brittany Pare's student Bianca holding Brittany's avatar while Brittany connects via computer. "I feel like a more creative and innovative teacher because I adjusted all of my materials to work completely online and had to format them for access on tablets, cellphones, and computers."

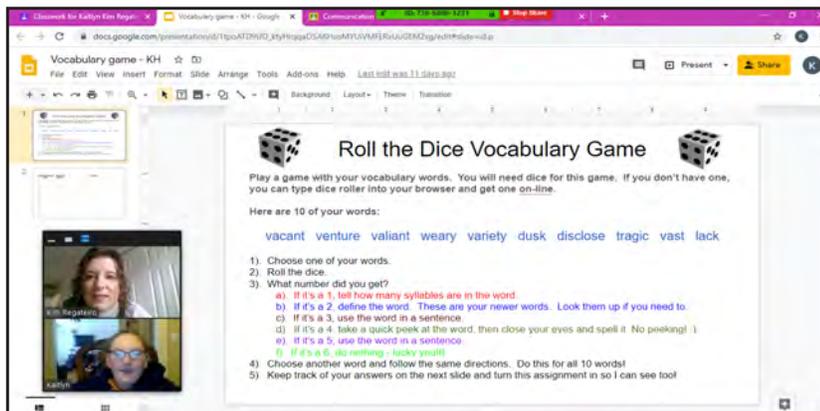


Teacher Lee Vandenberg's "Ms. V Riding a Rooster" avatar—teaching creative language and providing an cheerful online personal presence.



Teacher Kim Regateiro recorded a video of herself teaching listening exercises and created a vivid audio-visual experience with interactive exercises.

Live Session of teacher Kim Regateiro with middle school student Caitlyn engaging in a virtual word game.



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!



Ian Bregman, graduated from Wayne Hills High School, where he ran cross country, participated in robotics club, challenged himself with advanced placement classes, and was inducted into the National Honor Society. Ian also recently volunteered at SSS parent group training, Family Fun Night and Listening Expo. In the fall, Ian will attend Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, majoring in biomedical sciences. Ian said he chose RIT in part because of their powerful network of deaf and hard of hearing professionals.



Jessica Ehling graduated from North Plainfield High School and will attend Raritan Valley Community College in the fall. Jessica has declared a major in photography. Congratulations, Jessica!

Annie Kleinle graduated from Ridge High School in Basking Ridge. Throughout high school, she was



a member of the hockey team and the fencing team, which won 1st place this year. She succeeded in honors English and four years of American Sign Language training. Recently she was named Student of The Year by the Mr. Local History Project, a non-profit that focuses on

modern ways to share local history. This fall, Annie will enter Catholic University of America, which has agreed to provide accommodations to ensure her success. She plans to major in psychology and nursing. "I want to have a profession where I can help others," says Annie.



Ethan Morrobel graduated from Scotch Plains Fanwood High School and will be attending the Rochester Institute of Technology to study aerospace engineering. In high school, Ethan was a varsity swimmer, ran cross country and participated in the Children's Lightning Wheels Paralympic Club and Para-lympic swimming events. Ethan's accolades include induction into the National Honor Society and the award for Union County Interscholastic Athletic Conference Scholar Athlete. He is also an Advocacy Ambassador for Ava's Voice,

an organization that supports families with children with Usher Syndrome.

Eric Stiver graduated this June from Brookdale Community College with an associate's degree in special education and in business administration. He and his family still remember fondly his teachers at SSS, specifically Heather Freeman, Margie Gallo, Michele Murray, Lindsey Rhine and Courtney Zelenak. Eric is interested in cars and real estate and his next pursuit is a real estate license



Sewing Angels Founder Christine Preston and her daughter Delia, an SSS Student

As the coronavirus pandemic was beginning, SSS Parent Christine Preston co-founded the nationally-recognized Front Line Sewing Angels, a group of grassroots volunteers who sew and donate face masks to medical workers. This volunteer effort led to the creation of the Read My Lips mask designed for people with hearing loss.

Preston's co-founding partner is Sparta resident JoAnn Gregoli, who was coincidentally Preston's wedding planner. They had stayed in touch through social media for years and connected as each was raising money for personal protective equipment. They began to collaborate right away to form Front Line Sewing Angels, and only then did they realize they each had a deaf child.



Sewing Angels Logo designed by Delia

Cristina Phaneuf of Bumbleroot Design of Summit volunteered to create the pattern, which includes a flexible 12-gauge vinyl clear window, and wide cotton area around the nose to help with breathability and reduced fogging. You can choose a mask that ties with strings rather than behind the ear so that it doesn't interfere with hearing devices. Summit Speech School helped Sewing Angels test the Read My Lips masks.

Professional seamstresses manufacture the Read My Lips mask, and the proceeds support the group's volunteer efforts to provide hand-sewn masks to frontline workers and underserved communities across the country. See website: www.sewingangles.org.

Tributes Received: 1/1/2020 thru 6/30/2020. 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 acknowledgment 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 . . .

Abby Berman & Family
Joanna L. Mintzer & Donald Ferrell
Lillian Buehler
Herbert Buehler
Ava Rose Bullis' 8th Grade Graduation
Jacqueline & James Bullis
Allison Cabe's Great Progress
Theresa & John Pallarino
Thomas Chasanoff
Debra & Andrew Chasanoff
Lisa Delano
Angela & Jeffrey Schroeder
Chase Diaz
Lori Chen-Diaz
Riley Donner's Bar Mitzvah
Arlan Eisler

Miriam Esterkis
Anonymous
Grace Gleba's Birthday
Mary & Gerald Gleba
TJ Hacker
Stephanie R. Shaeffer
Scot Haney
The Meredith Corporation Foundation
Nancy Hovey
Joan Dancker
Claire Kantor
Stephanie R. Shaeffer
Daniel Khouri
Herbert Buehler
The Langer Family
The Perlowitz Family
Caiden Markowitz
Lego & Rosen Enterprises LLC (The Learning Experience)

Heather McBride
Kevin Libby
Leslie Minsch
Lois A. Taddeo
Tom O'Neill
Elizabeth & Gerard O'Neill
The Parent-Infant Program
Anonymous
Azka Fayyaz & Mahmood Iqbal
The Parent-Infant Staff
Nancy D. Hovey
Jeffrey Plump
Amy Bersch
Christine Preston
Helen & Guy Raymaker
Delia Preston
Sheryl Murphy
Kathryn & Brian Preston
The Preston Family
Christopher Lutz

Kim Regateiro
Samantha & Rocky Barbieri
Zachary Root
Helene S. Pahl
Sajan Shriram
Suryakavinilavu Easwaramurthy & Shriram Ramalingam
Max Silverstein & Summit Speech School's Incredible Work
Julie Gordon
Spring Benefit Chair & Committee
Susan Rubino
Laura Sullivan
Theresa & Craig Sweeney
John Tompkins
Pamela A. Paskowitz
Aiden Zagarola
Ann Marie Cappadona
Andrea & Darren Zagarola

IN MEMORY OF . . .

Courtney A. Dillard
Constance & Oscar Dillard

Mrs. Deborah Kean
Loredana Cromarty
Yogesh Kumar Khanna
Rajat Khanna

Sarah Langer
Jill C. Stolz
Robert Morton
Gloria Jean Morton

Robert Peacock
Thomas Benton
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Robin & Rich Pzena
The Tolkowsky Family

TEACHER MILESTONES

10 Years:



Laurie Smith, MS
CCC-SLP, Speech Language Pathologist, Preschool

Laura Joseph, M.Ed.,
Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf



Lindsay Rhine, MA, M.Ed.,
Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf

20 Years:

Nicole Milchman, M. Ed., Parent Infant Program Teacher of the Deaf, is dedicated to children and makes sure families are informed. She is often



Kim Regateiro, Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf: Kim is animated and engaged with her students. She is known for her professionalism and generosity in sharing with colleagues her innovative and interactive teaching materials.



Lisa Schaffer, Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf, is known for her outgoing personality and personal dedication to her students. Among colleagues, she is known for her mentoring and collaboration.



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**We appreciate your
donations to help our kids!**

Mark Your Calendar!



Summit Speech School's First Annual Golf Outing Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020 MAPLEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Golf, Lunch, Beefsteak Dinner, Free Gift and Open Bar: \$285
12 noon: golf registration; 1 pm: shotgun start; 5:30 pm: cocktails
Dinner Only: \$150 (subject to availability)
Raffle and Silent Auction

Tune in at 6:30 to our FREE live evening Zoom program
featuring magician and comedian Denny Corby.
REGISTER AT SummitSpeech.GiveSmart.com.