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Save the Date



## HORIZONS JUST CELEBRATED ITS 45<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, AND THESE ARE A FEW OF THE THINGS THAT MADE SUMMER 2008 OUR BEST ONE EVER:

- We welcomed an enthusiastic, energetic group of 247 students and 81 faculty and staff
- 45% of our teachers and teaching assistants were Horizons alumni
- 60 new students joined the Horizons family
- George Stevens, whose vision launched Horizons, shared his memories, wisdom, and humor with a class of 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys as they completed an oral history of Horizons
- Students in grades K through 2 cooked once a week and expanded their culinary horizons (hummus—yum!)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> graders wrote and performed their own fairy tales
- 6<sup>th</sup> graders designed, built, and launched rockets
- 7<sup>th</sup> graders studied African drumming with Kojo Bey of Sounds of Afrika
- Through choreographed hip-hop routines, 8<sup>th</sup> graders learned the fundamentals of dance with the staff of the Stamford Performing Arts Center
- Students in grades K through 5 borrowed 500 books from the NCCS libraries
- 9 local artists set up stations and guided students' creative expression at our annual Arts Happening
- Everyone in grades 5 through 8 saw "The Lion King" on Broadway, and it was even more magical than they had imagined
- Parents came out in record numbers for Parents Night, when over 500 dinners were served, friendships were renewed, and the crowd was entertained by our 7<sup>th</sup> grade drummers

- By the end of the summer, students who clung to the wall for dear life in June had learned to swim



- Coca Cola Enterprises donated all of our beverages
- Frances Miller, our 2008 visiting author, discussed her craft with students in grades K through 3 and invited them to write and illustrate an ending to her latest book
- Tim Rivlin, the Head of the Senior Division, celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> year at Horizons

- The entire staff attended a pre-program workshop, "A Framework for Understanding Poverty," which helped them identify with the challenges facing Horizons families
- Students became better stewards of the environment as teachers across the grades embraced our summer theme, "Horizons Is Going Green"



- The Olympic Games were kicked off at Horizons on July 23—and Italy won!

## Art in the Afternoon

Every summer day at Horizons is jam-packed with learning, exploration, and fun—enough to tire out the most energetic students. But some aren't ready for the day to end at 3:00. In an effort to provide additional enrichment to these students—and some much-needed child care to their parents—we offered an after-hours art class this summer which was led by Mirgill Joseph, himself a Horizons alumnus.



The afternoon art classes were consistently oversubscribed. From 3 to 6 p.m., Mirgill opened his studio to students in grades K through 8. Over the course of the summer, 100 students took advantage of this special opportunity. Among their spectacular creations were masks, wax sculptures, collages, and painted T shirts.

One of Mirgill's goals in offering the classes was to provide a venue for older Horizons students to lead and work beside the younger students who look up to them. He accomplished his goal, and the Horizons community was strengthened as a result.



# Horizons Parents Learn to Swim!



It all started in an 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom last summer. Jackie Roberson, a beloved Horizons teacher, challenged her students to set goals for the future. And they challenged her to do the same. Jackie was game and told her students that one of her lifelong goals was learning to swim. The students could relate, as most of them had

learned to swim at Horizons, and they enthusiastically encouraged Jackie to take the plunge.

Over the next few weeks, Leah Kimmet and several teachers met Jackie at the Horizons pool after the students had gone home. It took courage and persistence, but Jackie was soon gliding through the water, feeling the same sense of accomplishment and empowerment that so many of her students had experienced over the years.

When Leah shared this story with Horizons parents in the fall, many admitted that they had never learned to swim and expressed interest in taking lessons. Leah enlisted the help of Horizons teachers and lifeguards, reserved the pool two evenings a week, and the parent swim program was launched. This summer, 18 Horizons parents learned to swim, and many more are waiting in the wings

for their turn!

Leah commented: "Teaching Horizons parents to swim is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. We are not only helping them overcome their fears—we are making it possible for them to share the delight of a cool swim on a sweltering day with their children."



Horizons is delighted to announce that Alan Arellano was appointed School Year Program Director effective August 1. Alan, who has been a member of the Horizons family for several years as both a classroom teacher and Head of the Junior Program, resides in New Milford, CT with his wife and 2 children. A graduate of Brooks Institute School of Photographic Arts and Sciences, Alan spent 17 years as a medical/corporate photographer before transitioning into education. Most recently, Alan worked in the special education and technology departments of the New Milford School District. He is currently enrolled in a graduate program at Southern Connecticut State University, where he is working on a masters degree in Assistive Technology; he is also working towards his state certification in Special Education. We are thrilled that Alan has joined our year-round staff!

Horizons Student  
Enrichment Program

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Save the Date!  
Come celebrate 45 years of  
Horizons history and honor  
George and Jill Stevens.  
The Horizons gala - Building  
Brighter Futures - will be  
held on February 27, 2009  
at the Greenwich Hyatt.  
For more information or  
sponsorship opportunities,  
please call:  
(203)972-7005.

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