



# Promising Futures

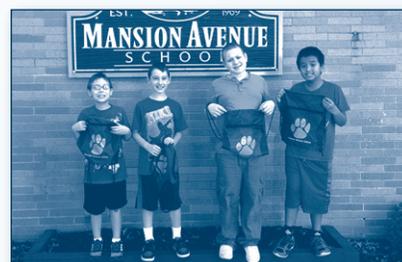
Inside ASAH

## PART OF THE SOLUTION

When you open the doors at many of Y.A.L.E. School's campus locations, you do not walk into a private school, you walk into a local public school.

ASAH is a not-for-profit association of over 145 approved private schools and agencies in New Jersey serving children with significant complex disabilities. Contact ASAH to learn more about a full range of private school options and services, and about schools near you. Call 877-287-ASAH (2724). Or visit us online [www.asah.org](http://www.asah.org).

Like a growing number of ASAH-member private schools for students with disabilities, Y.A.L.E. operates programs within public schools. According to Glenn Martins, Assistant Director and school psychologist at Y.A.L.E. School, this "school within a school" model brings highly specialized services and supports for students with complex disabilities into a local neighborhood school building.



Students from Y.A.L.E.'s Audubon Campus won a school-wide anti-bullying poster contest.

Other private schools have similar partnerships with local school districts, bringing classrooms, related services, training, consultation, and support to public schools. At the recent New Jersey School Boards Association Convention, leaders from Y.A.L.E. School, SEARCH Day Program, and Horizon School, shared ways in which private schools can improve outcomes for students with disabilities, lower costs, and build local capacity.

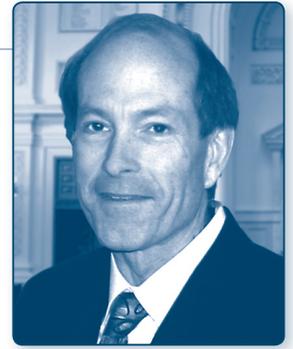
"We described innovative and pioneering approaches that bring private school expertise, services, and supports into local public schools in collaborative ways that benefit students, teachers, and taxpayers," said Gerard Thiers, Executive Director of ASAH.

At Y.A.L.E. School's Audubon campus, students with autism are valued members of the school community at two local public schools. "Our middle school students recently took part in - and won - a school-wide poster contest on the prevention of bullying," said John Wilson, campus supervisor. "And at our high school campus, one of our seniors was voted prom king by his public school classmates," he added.

"We can help public school leaders build capacity in order to better serve students who may not need a private school program, but who need extra supports," added Martins. "These partnerships are a win-win situation. The private school benefits, the local school benefits, and most of all, the students—both with and without disabilities—benefit," he concluded.



Sean Keegan, a former student at Y.A.L.E.'s Audubon Campus, with his date Nikki Zane at the prom.



Gerry Thiers  
ASAH Executive Director

## Getting to the “Core”

Can you still solve a quadratic equation, or recall that a mole is not only a back yard pest, but also a unit of measure? You may have learned it, but unless you are chemist or mathematician, it is not likely that you use this information every day. It is forgotten.

The challenge of delivering rigorous academic content is a topic of debate for parents, pundits and policy makers. While the debate rages on, students suffer through testing, crammed schedules and confused priorities.

For students served by ASAH-member private schools, the challenge is magnified. Our students need an additional “core” curriculum. They need extra time, support, and specialized services to learn life skills, communication skills, emotional self-regulation, mobility skills... some children even need to learn how to chew and swallow food.

There is more to special education than challenging academics in a way that allows a child to learn. Special education is recognizing that teaching physics or Hamlet may not be as important to a child as teaching him how to use a public restroom, or teaching her how to manage the anxiety of a sleepover. It is getting to the core of behavior challenges to teach a child more effective ways to manage frustration. It is teaching a child to use a walker or stander so his legs can extend.

*“Our students need an additional “core” curriculum. They need extra time, support, and specialized services to learn life skills, communication skills, emotional self-regulation, mobility skills...”*

Delivering a strong academic curriculum is an integral part of what private special education schools do best, but we also give equal time and emphasis to the core skills that make a lifetime of difference for our students: core skills that are not measured on standardized tests... core skills that our students will use long after they have forgotten what a mole is.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Thiers'.

Gerry Thiers  
ASAH Executive Director

# SAVE THE DATE

*Special Education Week 2015*  
May 10th - May 16th

Co-Sponsored by ASAH and The New Jersey School Boards Association each year to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of students with disabilities, their teachers and the schools that serve them.

Each year, ASAH recognizes exceptional individuals and educators who have made a difference in the lives of children with disabilities.

## Congratulations to the 2014 ASAH Award Winners



**Legislator  
of the Year:**  
Assemblyman  
Troy Singleton



**President's Award:**  
Dr. Bruce Ettinger,  
The Children's Institute



**Legacy of Caring:**  
(In Memoriam)  
William Marshall Sample,  
Founder, Sunshine Foundation



**Humanitarian  
of the Year:**  
Dr. Ronald K. Butcher,  
Member, NJ State Board  
of Education



**Educator  
of the Year:**  
Grazyna (Agata)  
Galkowska,  
Lakeview School



**Related Services  
Provider of the Year:**  
Brandy Springer,  
ECLC of Ho-Ho-Kus



**Paraprofessional  
of the Year:**  
Lori Cartagena,  
Lakeview School

---

## 2014 Region Finalists

### Paraprofessional of the Year

- Region I - Noemie Richer, The Children's Therapy Center, Upper School
- Region II - Justyna Ratajczyk, P.G. Chambers School
- Region IV - Roberta Bankston-Leconey, Garfield Park Academy

### Related Services Provider of the Year

- Region II- Lisa Grau, P.G. Chambers School
- Region III - Christina Reklaitis, Lakeview School
- Region IV - Marguerite "Marge" Rella, Kingsway Learning Center

### Educator of the Year

- Region I - Betsy Allemand, Horizon School
- Region II - Maryann Braen, The Calais School
- Region IV- Lindsey Pirillo, Garfield Park Academy



NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Trenton, N.J.  
PERMIT No. 1025

Lexington Square, 2125 Route 33  
Hamilton Square, NJ 08690

**Visit our website  
at [www.asah.org](http://www.asah.org)**

## Capitol Connections



◀ Congressman Leonard Lance (R-7) visits the Spring Run School in Flemington.

The Center School's Executive Director, Marcie Fiorentino welcomes Somerset County Freeholder, Peter Palmer. ▶



▶ Assemblyman Troy Singleton speaks to graduates at Garfield Park Academy in Willingboro.

Leaders from Princeton Child Development Institute welcome Assemblywoman Donna Simon and Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno. (l-r) Assemblywoman Simon, Lt. Governor Guadagno, PCDI Executive Director Dr. Gregory MacDuff and recently retired director, Edward Fenske. ▶



▶ Staff and students from Greenbrook Academy in Bound Brook meet with then Mayor of Newark Cory Booker. (l-r) Ms. Medina, Shawn, Mayor Booker, Kyri, Mr. Chitty.

