

Volunteer Reception

*John F. Kennedy School
Windsor, Connecticut*

John F. Kennedy School honored its parent and community volunteers in a special reception during National Volunteer Week. Volunteers were invited to attend the May school-wide Student of the Month assembly, where the principal and members of the school's Community Involvement Task Force (CITF) expressed appreciation for their efforts. Students displayed a banner they created for the volunteers and sang a song in their honor at the assembly.

At the after-school event, the CITF treated the volunteers to an adults-only reception in the school's Media Center, where they enjoyed refreshments and gifts in recognition of their service. Parents of fifth graders received an additional gift in appreciation for their dedication throughout the years. The volunteer reception acknowledged the commitment of parents, caregivers, and community volunteers, who play a vital role in children's education.

In planning the Volunteer Reception, the CITF selected the theme "Helping Hands." All decorations for the celebration, including the children's banner of each student's handprint, were in keeping with the theme. Staff members provided the refreshments for the reception, and materials for the decorations came from school supplies. The CITF, which held several fundraisers throughout the year, allocated a budget of \$100 to cover remaining costs.

The CITF notified volunteers of the event as early as possible to allow parents and community members time to plan for leaving work early to participate. Planning well in advance was the key to a successful celebration.

The Volunteer Reception benefited the entire school community. Parent and community volunteers felt appreciated and inspired to continue their involvement with the school. Students developed an appreciation for volunteers' contributions to John F. Kennedy School. The event provided a valuable opportunity for staff, family, and community members to celebrate the school with one another.

*Denise Novak, Social Worker
(860) 687-2060
dnovak@windsorct.org*