

Rutgers Prep Kindergartners Dramatize Their Most Important Themes
Never Hurt Anyone On the Inside or the Outside
Let's Live Peacefully

On Friday, April 11, the Kindergarten students at Rutgers Prep will perform a very important play for the school and for their parents. The students in grades PreK through four will see the play at 8:45 a.m. Parents and other family members are invited to see it at 1:00 in the afternoon. The Play is a culmination of the important stories and values that have permeated their year in Kindergarten: Let's live peacefully, Never hurt anyone on the inside or the outside, See me beautiful, There are many kinds of homes.

"The children are not just singing the songs, they have absorbed and understand the themes of kindness and acceptance woven into their entire Kindergarten year at Rutgers Prep", Primary School Principal Tara Klipstein tells us. "The play has a similar theme each year".

The children are thrilled with anticipation. Six year old Kamari Donaldson of Somerset is fascinated by all the kinds of homes there are. She says, "There are barns, and hives, and shells. A dog is a home for a flea, and my face is a home for a smile". Her classmate, Olivia Humlen of Bound Brook is looking forward to introducing the play: "I get to say two important things in the beginning of the play: we painted the shirts we are wearing, and people everywhere in the world are the same".

Lanetta Putnal, parent of two children who were in this play four and six years ago, sees the lasting importance of the play for children. She has this to say: "Even years later this play continues to be important in my childrens' lives. They still sing the songs and sleep in the Tee shirts that were their Kindergarten play costumes. Best of all, they still seem to practice those most important lessons they learned in doing this play".

The play will go on the road on April 15, when the children travel by bus to perform it for the people living at the McCarrick Home in Somerset. First Student Bus Company is providing free transportation for the children to and from McCarrick on that day.

Kindergarten teachers Leonore Kaufman and Mythili Lahiri really believe in the lasting value of this yearly play. They recreate the theme each year, making small changes to suit each new group of children. Mrs. Lahiri sums it up this way: "This Kindergarten Show is a culmination of a year's worth of hard work. It is wonderful to see the surprise and pride on the faces of the children as they show their families how capable they are. Most parents are amazed at how much the children can accomplish. They are singing and dancing and are able to get up in front of the whole audience and say their solo parts. By the end of the show, you really see how these children are beautiful not only on the outside, but on the inside as well".

