

## Ms. Frankovich's Class at Nassau Elementary School

The K-2 P.E.A.C.C.E. class at Nassau Elementary School is designed for those children who benefit from a highly structured and visually based program with a small student to teacher ratio. When children come to this room our goal is to give them the building blocks necessary to have successful experiences in school, at home and in the community. To do this the learning environment must encompass a broad spectrum of each child's needs.

Academic instruction is just one of those building blocks and it is individualized to each child's instructional level and academic needs. Instruction is provided during a one to one work session with either the teacher or with one of two teaching assistants. Skills students have mastered are later reinforced during their independent work time. Group lessons draw on familiar concepts that have been covered during individualized lessons and incorporate hands on activities including the use of the Smart Board. This helps to keep the children engaged and learning.

Social skills and daily living skills are such an important part of our learning day. Whether it is learning how to follow the picture schedule in gym class, share a toy, greet a friend in music class or remain seated during an art lesson, these are skills that our students are practicing throughout their day. Visual cues, social stories and positive reinforcement help the children to learn appropriate behaviors.

As per their IEP, students in our classroom receive *some or all* of the following services: Speech Therapy, Adaptive Technology Consultations, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Counseling Services. Communication between therapists and staff in the classroom ensure that student needs in these areas can also be addressed in the class. This includes working towards increased language skills and providing sensory integration.

Finally, what is probably the most important part of a child's learning foundation is the relationship between school and their parents or guardians. Communication notebooks between home and school allow us to work together. Any materials or visual aides that are being used at school can be made and used at home. As children are beginning their early school years with us, I encourage parents/guardians to learn about resources in the community that are available to them and their child.