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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unique Relationship between Children and Seniors Benefits Both

Tuxedo Park School Students' Monthly Visits to Residents of The Promenade at Tuxedo Place Builds Relationships, Teaches Compassion, Brings Joy

TUXEDO PARK, NY When children are in the third grade at Tuxedo Park School, they become buddies with the senior residents down the mountain at The Promenade at Tuxedo Place. Each month throughout the school year, the children ride down in the school bus or in parents' cars to engage in lively activities and conversation with the Promenade residents. Both seniors and students benefit from the ongoing interaction with one another.

In years past the Tuxedo Park School children would play games with the residents. This year the third grade teachers decided to give a deeper purpose to the program by focusing on community service projects. According to Colleen Schilly, third grade teacher at Tuxedo Park School, "By having the seniors and students team up to give back to the community, it allowed everyone to feel connected, instead of one group feeling 'served' or 'helped.' As a result, meaningful connections formed as a natural byproduct of the team effort instead of trying to create relationships in a forced situation."

Some of the service projects this year included assembling bags of candy and cards for Valentine's Day to send to a local soup kitchen, putting together bags to send home with TPS students to collect dry and canned goods for a TPS food drive for the Sloatsburg Food Pantry,

making no sew fleece blankets for a children’s hospital in Bucharest, and making posters for a “spare change” collection for earthquake victims in Haiti.

According to Mindy Quinn, Director of Community Relations for Promenade at Tuxedo Place, *“You can sense the excitement when the children are coming to visit. Our residents want to be involved in the greater community and give back. Working with the children provides a wonderful sense accomplishment and fun at the same time. This partnership is invaluable to us.*

Visiting seniors once will brighten their day, but ongoing visits are much more beneficial to both the residents and the children. After a couple visits, they begin to recognize one another’s faces and names and become more comfortable initiating conversation. A level of trust starts to build and everyone can relax. Ms. Schilly recognizes, “the children learn what sorts of things they can do to make and keep the residents comfortable. This might include adjusting the volume of their voices or knowing when a resident might need help with cutting or gluing.”

This year, in addition to the TPS third grade visitors, the TPS fourth graders, who visited monthly when they were in third grade, started a Pen Pal program with some of the Promenade residents. Everyone loves to get mail! The students shared stories of their activities in and out of school, and the residents shared some stories about their lives. Many students are fascinated with history and stories of times before computers, when television was new and pizza cost only 5 cents a slice. Both the seniors and the students had a chance to work on their writing and made new friends.

At the end of the school year, the staff at Promenade threw a party for both the third and fourth grade classes from Tuxedo Park School. This year the party was particularly exciting because Promenade arranged for a special guest, Rascal the Raccoon, mascot of the Hudson Valley Renegades, to appear. The children and the residents were thrilled with the giant huggable critter.

For the residents at Promenade, having energetic and smiling children visit each month and others write them letters, brings much joy to their lives. The children, Ms. Schilly remarked, have the experience of stepping outside their comfort zone and find it both challenging and rewarding. I think they get to know a group of people so vastly different from themselves that it shakes their world a little bit, and perhaps gives them a bit more empathy and compassion towards others. I think they have a sense that what they’ve done and the time they spent is something they should be proud of.”

ACCOMPANYING PHOTOS



Rascal and one of the residents of *The Promenade at Tuxedo Place* share a dance at the gathering with the *Tuxedo Park School* students.



The *Tuxedo Park School* fourth grader, Olivia, talked with her *The Promenade at Tuxedo Place* pen pal at the gathering.

More Information about The Promenade at Tuxedo Place

The Promenade at Tuxedo Place is an affordable luxury senior residence designed for today's discerning seniors. The Promenade offers three gourmet meals served daily in our elegant dining room, a carefully planned Lifestyles Program to enrich the mind, body and spirit of each resident, and a schedule of trips to off-site locations on our motor-coach. Located in the quaint and historic Town of Tuxedo, and situated adjacent to the exclusive Village of Tuxedo Park, the community offers its residents many amenities including, a cozy parlor with fireplace, library and computer center with internet access, outdoor decks, gardens and natural walkways, a billiards room, TV room, beauty salon, exercise room, and more all in a warm and caring environment. For those residents in need of some extra help, there is an on-site Home Health Care agency to provide for any personal care needs. For more information call (845) 351-0000 or visit the website www.promenadesenior.com.

More Information About Tuxedo Park School

Founded in 1900, **Tuxedo Park School** is one of the oldest schools in the country specializing in elementary education. Beginning in the Pre-Kindergarten program and continuing through the Freshman Year, TPS offers a curriculum that is traditional in its roots yet innovative in its approach, designed to spark intellectual curiosity while creating confident young leaders ready to embrace the challenges of the 21st century.

Small by design, the school maintains a low student-teacher ratio, allowing for a strong focus on knowing and challenging each child. The program includes a purposeful blend of core academics, foreign language, performing and fine arts, athletics, community service, environmental stewardship, and character education.

Experienced, well-trained, and caring faculty, combined with our unique location, provide students with a safe, nurturing, and dynamic learning community that celebrates individuality and fosters critical thinking. State of the art technology opens the doors to the global community at large, providing students with a sense of social and environmental responsibility.

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