



course.

Buckle My Shoe, Tribeca's oldest nursery school, was founded in 1981 by Linda Ensko. It started out with seven two-year-olds and has now grown to three schools in Tribeca, Greenwich Village and (the newest addition) Chelsea. A generation of Downtown kids has passed through their doors, with the latest class of 4- and 5-year-olds set to graduate tomorrow. Before they head off into the grownup world of kindergarten (and beyond), the youngsters who participated in the MDA Hop-a-Thon learned the key principles of awareness, acceptance and the importance of offering assistance to those with disabilities.

What's Hopping?

Charity and Empathy Have Tribeca Preschoolers Jumping

On Pier 25's turf lawn last Friday (May 30), Buckle My Shoe preschool partnered with the Muscular Dystrophy Association for a "Hop-A-Thon" to raise both money and awareness. With the assistance of teachers and parents, the Pre-K class concluded a week-long program of learning that "Everyone's Different, Nobody's Perfect" with a sunny morning outdoors where they jumped, tumbled and crawled through what was essentially a children's obstacle



Genvieve Johnson, alumni, daughter, and Special Events Planner for Buckle My Shoe, with Linda Ensko, Founder and Executive Director of Buckle My Shoe and Aria Grillo, Associate Director of Business Development for the Muscular Dystrophy Association



Sabina Kovach jumps for joy

It was fitting that an alumna of the school, Aria Grillo, a born-and-raised Tribecan who is now the Associate Director of Business Development for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), helped launch the "Hop-a-Thon" program, which she brought back to Buckle My Shoe. The fun and games were coordinated by another alum, Genvieve Johnson, daughter of the school's founder Linda Ensko. Ms. Johnson now serves as the school's Special Events Planner.

The funds raised at the event will be used to support cutting-edge neuromuscular research, health care services and education. For

more information about the MDA's Disability and Awareness & Acceptance Program with lesson plans for home or school use, please visit mdahops.org



Who's that wriggling like a worm? wonders Pre-K teacher Ada Gierlak



Musti Murillo-Fenik runs like the wind

text and photos by Robert Simko