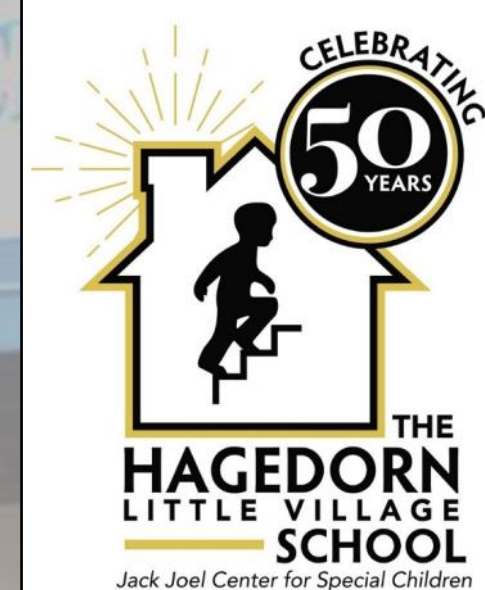


# The Hagedorn Little Village School

*Jack Joel Center for Special Children*



## January 2022 Newsletter

### Giving Tuesday/Holiday Appeal 2021

*Thank you to everyone who supported our 2021 Giving Tuesday/Holiday Appeal campaign. Your generosity will go a long way toward enhancing our school's playground—specifically our Great Lawn which will provide of outdoor fun and exercise for all of our students for years to come!*



## The Hagedorn Little Village School

*Jack Joel Center for Special Children*

 516.520.6000  
750 Hicksville Rd. Seaford NY 11783

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Click on Giving Tuesday  
box or scan any QR code  
to the right to donate....







## *Alumni Update — Haley Causeman*

Haley is a Little Village alumni student. Her mom, **Dawne** shared the following as she knows we celebrate the successes of our former students:

We know how much our family at Little Village appreciates a feel good story about their alumni as well as celebrating their successes after their time at LV. Haley has a small group of “typical” friends that she’s had since elementary school and they include her in almost everything and never ever treat her as if she has special needs. Right before Covid hit, she was in the middle of 6th grade and thriving, she was mainstreaming for multiple periods a day, was in clubs with her friends, we were able to leave her alone at playdates with this specific group of girls. Of course as we all know, the last year and a half of school has limited socialization so much but these girls never let her go. Two of them ran cross country last year and it got us thinking this year how it would be a perfect sport to “try” given that her limited communication and speech deficits wouldn’t really come too much into play. We also knew she had a few of her friends on the team that would hopefully be able to bridge the communication gap between coaches, teammates etc. She was mainstreaming. As most of our special needs world knows, things like this aren’t as easy as just saying “let’s try a sport this season” it take a village to make happen but everyone involved made it so easy for us and we couldn’t have been more appreciative.



When we approached the Athletic Director at Salk Middle School, he never once hesitated and did whatever he could to make it happen. Her coaches were so incredible with Haley and always so proud of her and never ever treated her as someone with special needs but as just another one of their competitive runners. Her teammates, the way they rooted her on and included her in everything was the most incredible thing ever.

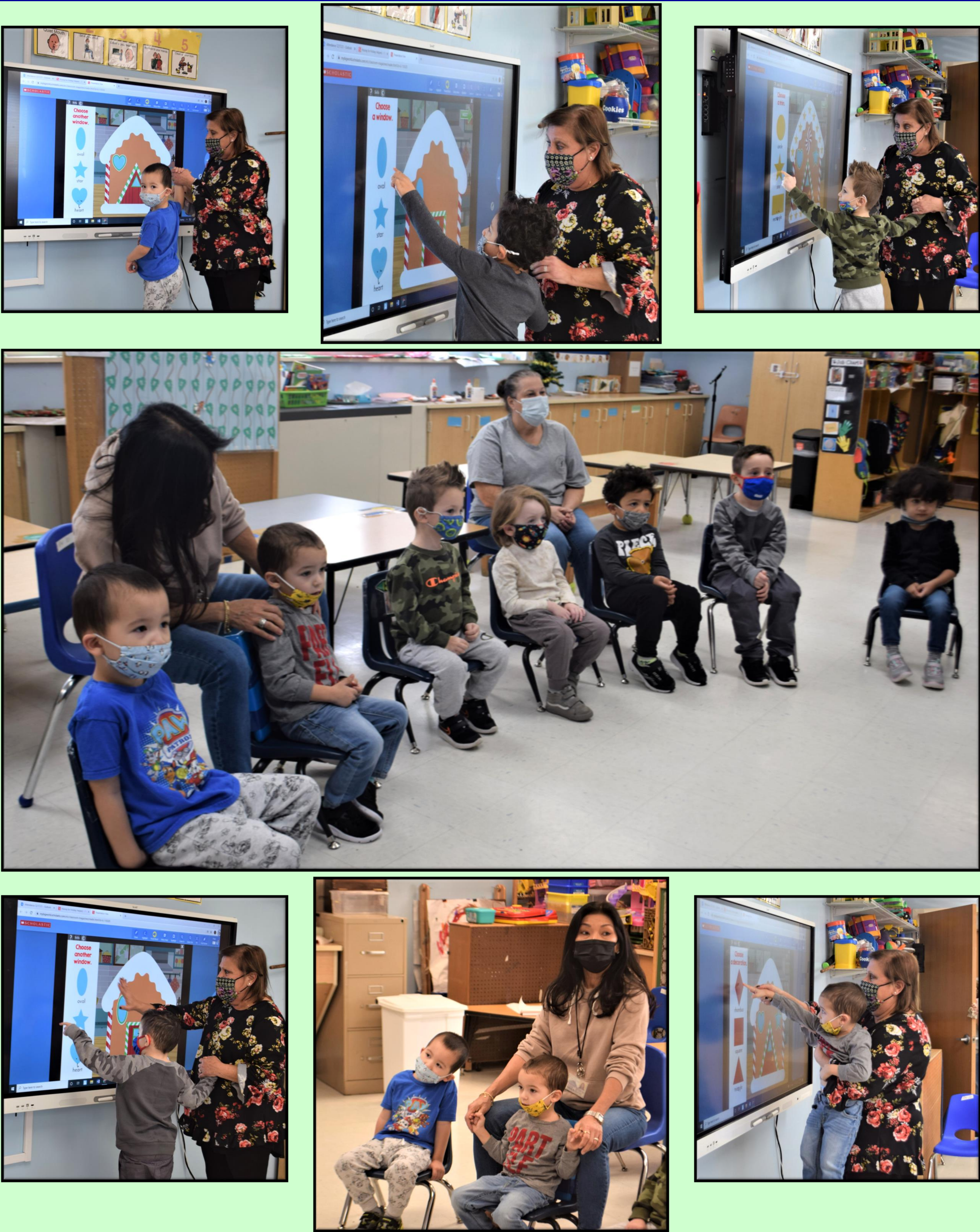
She now has new friends that she probably wouldn’t ever have if it wasn’t for this experience. Her closest friends on the team, the ones I spoke of earlier, I sometimes wondered who was more proud of her, us or the girls. These girls knew exactly the things she wouldn’t be able to communicate and made sure those things were communicated to the coaches or other teammates, they knew exactly the things that I needed to know that Haley wouldn’t be able to come home and tell us. I feel so blessed to have had them in her life all these years and we love watching them grow up and we are so grateful for them everyday. Our greatest joy was watching Haley thrive and soar through this journey, not only did we throw this cross country idea at her after she never had ever even run in a race in her life but she did it with all of her heart.

This was only supposed to be something to keep her busy and get her involved socially, it was an added bonus that she was good at it. Every meet, she bettered her team and was determined to improve and by mid season, she was finishing in the top 5 of the girls in her school! We watched her improve and challenge herself each meet and we have never ever been more proud of her. As parents, especially special needs, all we wish for is our kids to be accepted and loved and appreciated for who they are. It’s been such a blessing to watch that happen in front of our eyes and to know it was possible because other kids turned a blind eye to a disability and just loved and appreciated her for who she is.

In closing, one of our favorite moments of the season was when her first teacher ever from Little Village, **Rita** came to watch her run in a race. All these years later, and our Little Village family keeps reminding us how lucky we were to begin our journey there. Thank you for asking us to write this and for following both our children’s journeys with such admiration and love.



# Room 10am Students Work at the Smart Board





# *Giving Tree & Giving Hearts Collection*



*Celebrating the generosity  
and uniqueness of  
The Hagedorn Little Village Family*



For the last 12 years, we've been sharing our story of the *Giving Hearts Collection*. Led by **Sue Lasher**, Coordinator of Movement Therapy Services, this effort has helped many of Little Village staff families who have faced difficult times. This unique program is a way for Little Village staff to help each other and extend kindness and generosity to those around us who might be in need during the holiday season. Thank you Sue and all of our generous staff for this awesome demonstration of giving and caring.

**The Giving Tree** is another way Little Village staff helps families in need. The Giving Tree contains leaves with gift ideas written on each leaf. A staff member takes a leaf, buys a gift which are subsequently donated to our students' families that are in need. In addition to Little Village staff, parents and friends of Little Village also contribute to this great cause. This year, we will be providing holiday gifts to more than 25 families.

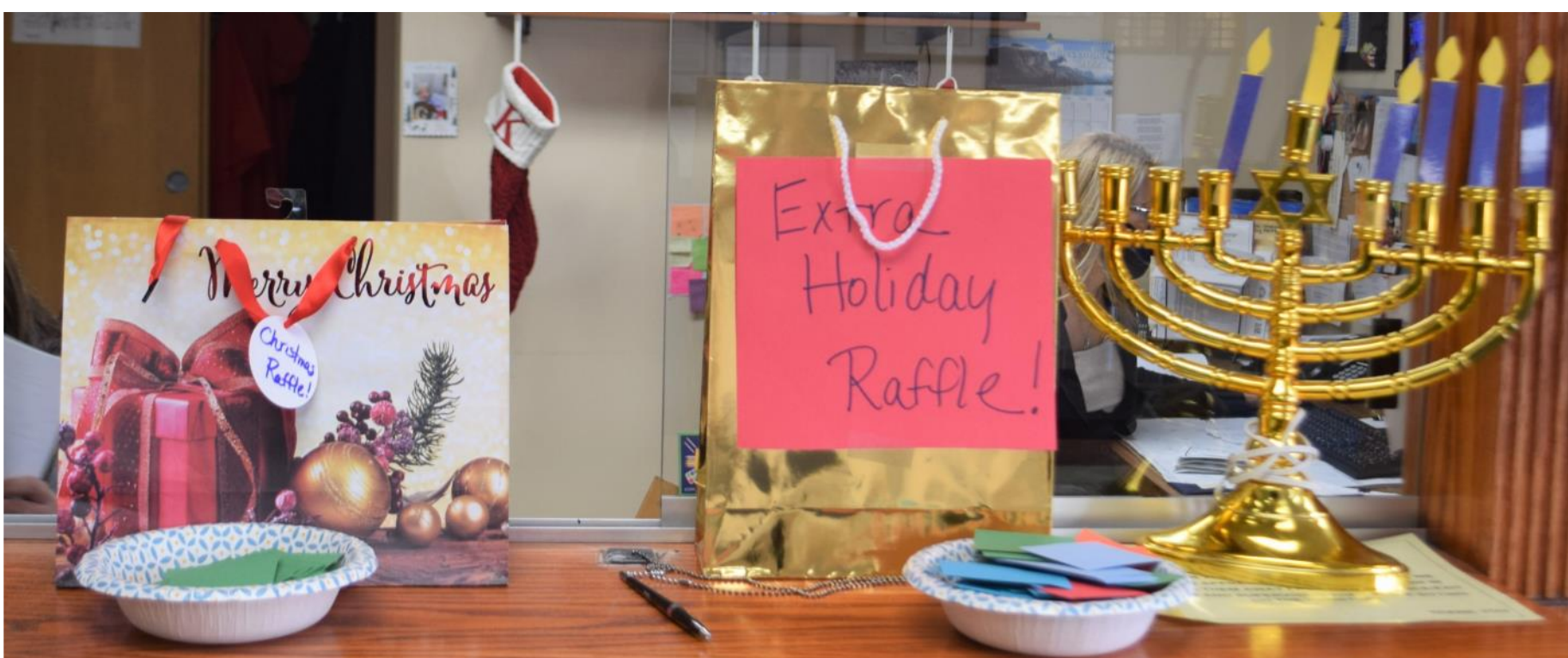
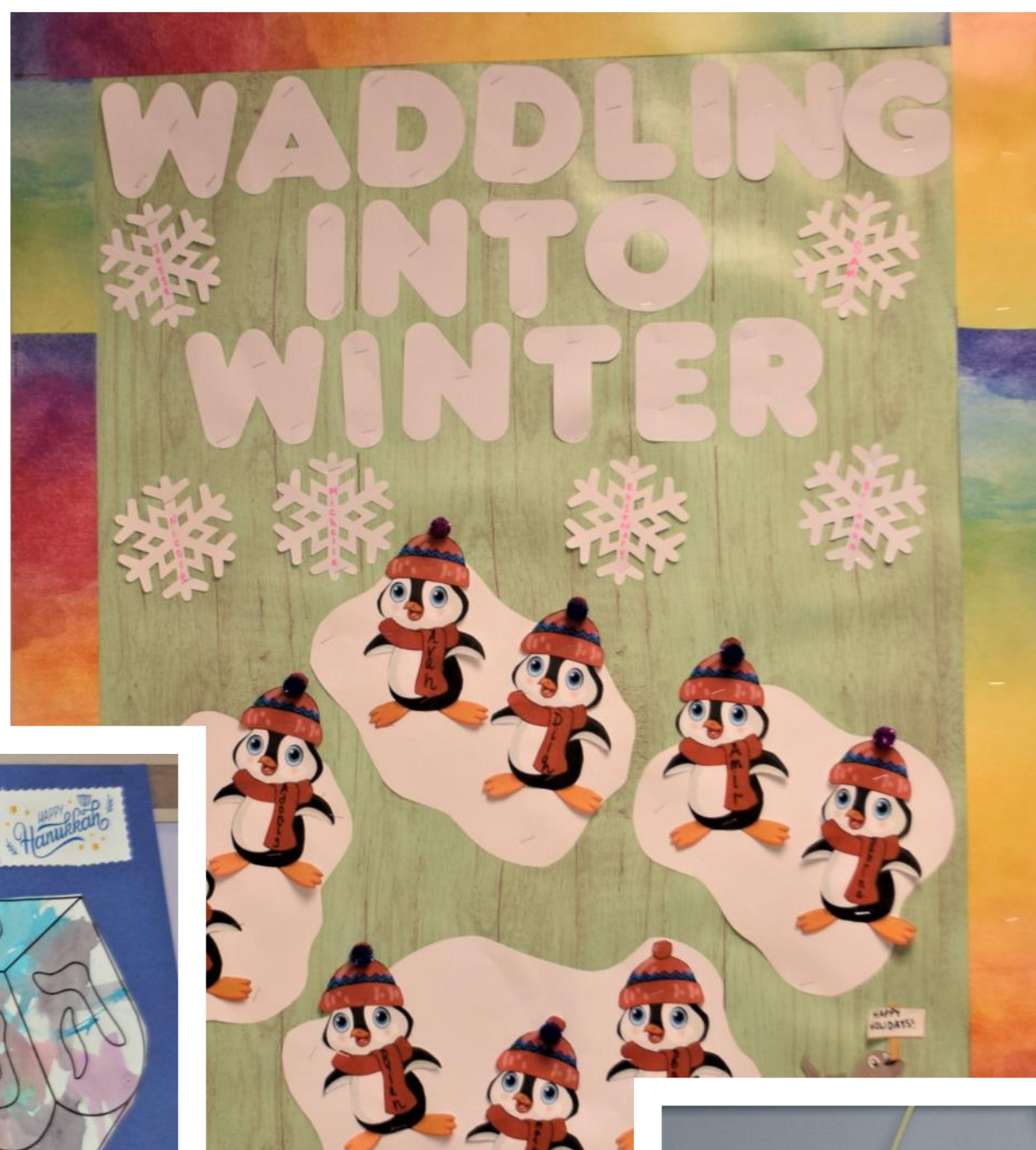
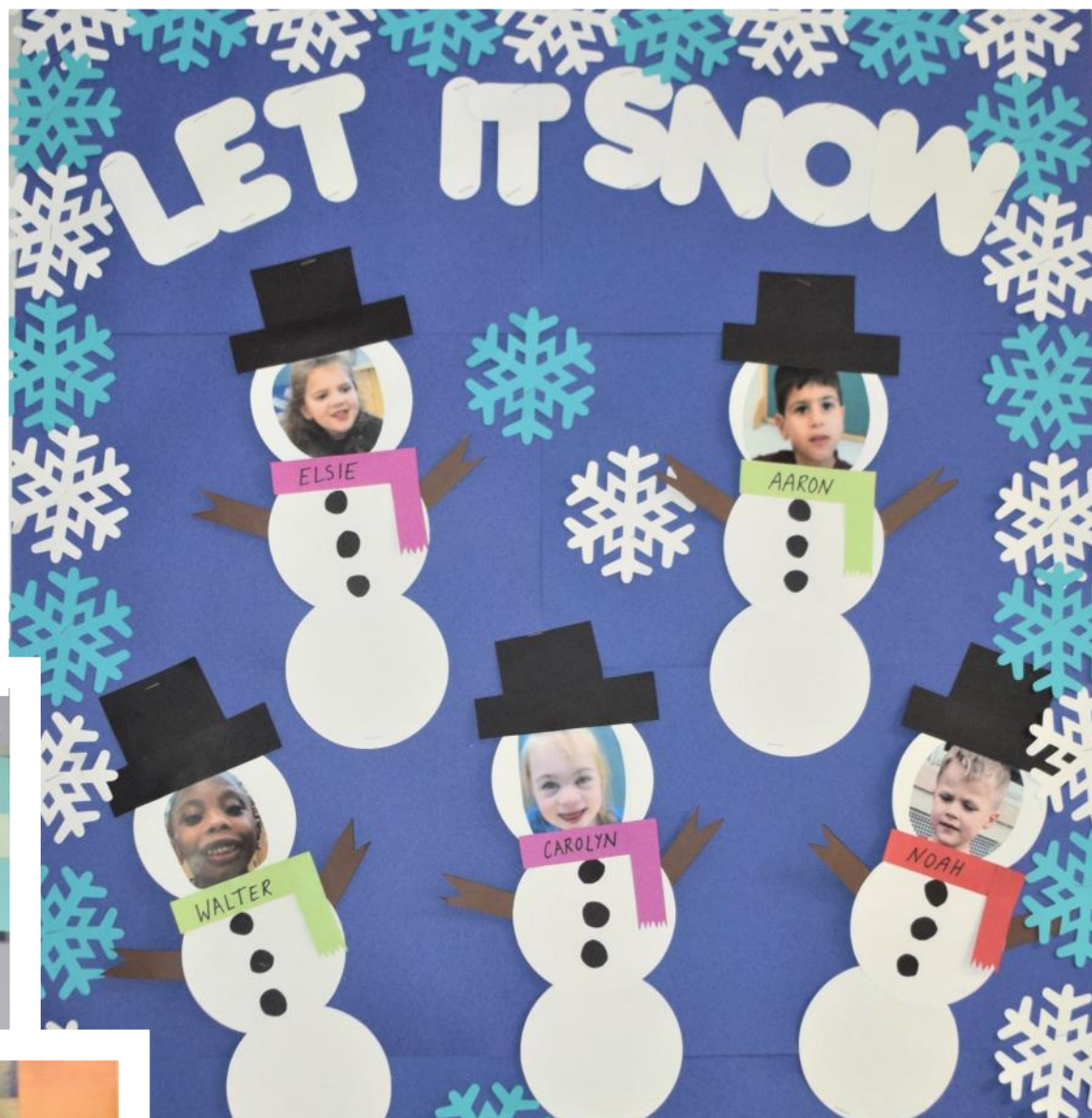


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[www.littlevillage.org](http://www.littlevillage.org)**





# The Holiday Spirit is Alive and Well in Our Hallways at Little Village





# *Community Care RX Direct Support Professional of the Year Awards -*

## **HLVS Principal Patti Pizza Receives Champion Leadership Award**

HLVS Principal **Patti Pizza** was one of five Long Island Professionals to receive the prestigious Champion Leadership Award at the 2021 Community Care Rx dinner at the Muttontown Country Club on December 9, 2021. Keynote speaker was **Kerri Neifeld**, acting NYS Commissioner of Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. The event is held to honor Long Island professionals who go to “incredible lengths to ensure the safety, well-being and inclusion in the community of the people they support”.

Patti joined Little Village in September of 1978 as a part time Special Education Teacher. She has been with Little Village for over 40 years as a teacher, supervisor and finally being promoted to School Principal in 2008.

Patti holds an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from Hofstra, a Masters degree in Special Education from Adelphi and received her Administrative degree from C.W. Post.

Join us in congratulating Patti and this terrific honor!



### ***Thank You Rite Aid!***

We would like to thank  
The Rite Aid Foundation's  
Board of Directors and Staff  
for their very generous  
donation to the school.







**The Hagedorn Little Village School**  
*Jack Joel Center for Special Children*  
**27th Annual Golf Classic**



***Save the Date!***  
**June 6, 2022**



Honoring  
Phil DelPrete,  
Co-founder and President  
of  
Uncle Giuseppe's  
Marketplace



***Cold Spring Country Club • 22 E Gate Drive, Huntington, NY 11743***

***Thank You Starkie Brothers!***

Thank you to **Butch & Hank Starkie** of Starkie Brothers Nursery for donating and planting a new tree in the front of our building.

Thanks also to **Lainie Hochman**, one of our Little Village receptionists for helping to coordinate the effort.

