

ELMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Clara Carlson students learn all 'manner' of things

Elmont, N.Y., Oct. 22, 2008 — The students at Clara H. Carlson are doing more than learning the staples of an elementary school education; they are learning to do so with a smile. As part of the school's recently celebrated "Good Manners Week," the youngsters participated in a host of activities designed to illustrate the importance of good manners in all areas of the students' lives — including the time spent at school.

School Social Worker Karina Koch spearheaded the initiative with the goal of showing the students the importance of having good manners in everyday situations. She believes that instilling the character traits of consideration, courtesy, respect and politeness helps create a cooperative learning environment. And it's not just the students who were brushing up on their "pleases" and "thank yous." The teachers and staff were also being asked to participate by modeling exemplary behavior so that the students had good examples of how to treat others.

"By taking time at the beginning of the year to teach a basic understanding of good manners, we feel many misunderstandings can be resolved with less anger and frustration," says Koch. "Our aim is to teach the children not just say the polite words, but to have a real understanding of what they mean."

The "Good Manner Spies" were responsible for "catching" both children and adults exhibiting good manners. Those who were "caught being good" received coupons which were tallied at the end of the week. One class from each grade level was declared the winner based on the total number of coupons the class had accumulated. The students also crafted artwork related to good manners and wrote compositions on the importance

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of being courteous and polite.

The mission of the Elmont Union Free School District is to “reach and teach for excellence,” which means continually improving instruction and increasing student achievement. Dedication to this goal is what has earned Elmont recognition from New York State for its “High Performing/Gap Closing Schools,” and as a state “model for school success.” In partnership with the community, the district holds its students to the highest standards while maintaining one of the lowest per-pupil expenditures in Nassau County.

Caption: Well-mannered students Eden Medina (left) and Sumaiya Ali smile politely while posing with School Social Worker Karina Koch and School Principal Ken Rosner. The two girls proudly display their multiple “good manners coupons” which were awarded as part of Clara H. Carlson’s celebration of “Good Manners Week.” The goal: to promote respect and courtesy throughout the classrooms and hallways of the school.