

# GRAMON FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

NEW BEGINNINGS | GRAMON SCHOOL | GLENVIEW ACADEMY

## GFS PARTNERS WITH AUTISM NJ AND ASAH

Gramon Family of Schools has become partners with Autism NJ and ASAH. We are proud to have been vendor representatives at the 35th Annual Autism NJ Conference at Harrah's Atlantic City Waterfront Conference Center on October 19-20, 2017. GFS and North Jersey Outreach for Therapeutic and Training Services provided information booths for conference attendees. We also had guest speakers the following week at the ASAH conference in Atlantic City.

**ASAH is a not for profit organization of 150 private schools and agencies in New Jersey that provides highly specialized services to more than 11,000 infants, children and young adults with disabilities. GFS staff members, Michele Gunnello, Tracy Lee, Marcia Podvey, Barbara Nowling and Molly Smith presented at the 40th Annual ASAH Conference at Harrah's Atlantic City Waterfront Conference Center.**



Photo: Gramon Family of Schools-Playground Grand Opening Event

Gramon Family of Schools (GFS), the oldest private special education program in New Jersey, kicked off a year of anniversary events with the grand opening of its new playground on Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

"This has been a labor of love for the past two years for our staff and our parents," said Amy Goldberg, marketing coordinator for GFS. "Our Parents and Professionals Organization (PPO) provided direct financial support so our students could enjoy a state of the art facility. We also used the expertise of our staff to make sure it was functional and fun."

"We really started talking about this in 2014," explained David Nankivell, occupational therapist, standing on the new playground as children arrived for an afternoon session. "Our old playground was outdated. There was one piece of equipment and one set of swings. It wasn't really engaging for the students and we said we can do better." Nankivell met with staff, and the committee discussed wanting a space that could be used both as a playground and for therapy. "This truly was a collaborative effort," he said, noting staff, administrators and parents were enthusiastic and determined as they moved forward with the plan. Nankivell also stated, "Executive Director, Candace Galvez, was working on the administrative end trying to figure out how we could fund it. That is when the parents stepped in and made a commitment that the PPO would raise the



**GRAMON FAMILY OF SCHOOLS HOSTS FREE PARENT FORUM AND OPPORTUNITY EXPO...**

We are proud to announce our partnership with the The Arc of New Jersey and Planning for Adult Life . Gramon Family of Schools hosted and participated as a resource for families on November 4, 2017 at the amazing Planning for Adult Life Expo here at the New Beginnings School. We had over 60 guests and 16 vendors attend the Saturday morning Expo. Topics discussed in small group format were Guardianship, Yes! Your Child Can Work, Accessing Services and SSI & Medicaid. Gramon Family of Schools is participating in another Resource Fair with Allied Wealth Partners on November 18, 2017 at Allied's Parsippany location.

funds. Umbrellas provide shade because some of the students are sensitive to heat. Equipment is coated so it doesn't get too hot to the touch. There is a slide with rollers, a rock-climbing wall, a zip line, oversized swings, and many ways for students to work on balance and strengthening their bodies. Children can stretch out on a set of rollers with curved bars over the top and work on upper body strength as they pull themselves across it. They can practice balance by moving across a set of hanging stepping platforms of various heights. Every piece of equipment is an opportunity to climb, slide, hang, and have fun."

The playground grand opening was the first event in a year of celebration at Gramon Family of Schools which is celebrating the marking a total of 78 years of educational excellence supporting special education students.

Gramon School, the oldest of the three schools, was started in 1939 by Ruth K. Newman, an educator and parent of a neurologically impaired child. Glenview Academy was opened in 1984 and New Beginnings was established in 1997, and is celebrating their 20th Anniversary. Newman believed that only by single-mindedly pursuing an individualized program based on each child's strengths and weaknesses, could she truly help them achieve the best of their potential. Gramon Family of Schools has been carrying on that legacy ever since.

Photo:

(Left to Right)

Brandon A. - New Beginnings Student Council President

Robin Alampi- PPO President

Candace Galvez- Executive Director GFS

Raimonda Rrapo - Chief Financial Officer GFS

