

## LIFE WITH LITTLE ONES

## CHALK TALK

*First-graders head to Grymes Hill campus*

Youngsters from PS 41 spend a day at Wagner as part of their school's ongoing 'We're Going to College' campaign

**NEW DORP** — You might think 6 year olds are a little too young to start thinking about college, but not at PS 41, where every student is encouraged to aim high — as in higher education.

The school's entire first-grade class recently spent the day at Wagner College, where they were treated to a V.I.P. tour of the Grymes Hill campus.

Education professor **Jennifer Lauria** was on hand to welcome the little ones, who were accompanied by their teachers. Along with Principal **Elise Feldman**, Assistant Principal **Adele Carbonella**, and parent chaperones, the group numbered more than 150.

The kids toured the campus, including the gymnasium, library, pool, cafeteria and locker rooms. Although officially on their summer vacation, members of the Wagner Seahawks basketball team, swim team and education department students showed up to talk to the first-graders and demonstrate their skills.

The trip was part of PS 41's on-going "We're Going to College!" initiative.

"We tell the children they're never too young to think about their future," said Mrs. Carbonella.

"Every day and every year serves as a building block. We encourage them to work hard and believe that nothing is out of reach, nothing is impossible."

The PS 41 families were hit hard by Hurricane Sandy, and this trip happened to be the first one of the year for students. Last spring, students visited the College of Staten Island campus in Willowbrook.

First-graders toured



PHOTO COURTESY OF PS 41

First-graders from PS 41 in New Dorp visit Wagner College for a tour. They posed for this photo in front of Main Hall on the Grymes Hill campus.

Wagner's Horrmann Library, where staff explained how books and materials are catalogued, and how a college or university research library differs from the libraries they use in school and in the community. But Prof. Lauria made sure the library was stocked

with more than 125 new children's books for the special visitors. Each child got to choose a new book to take home to read over the summer.

"So many people were on hand to assist with the trip," reported first-grade teacher **Michele Buccigrossi**.

"There were even people on golf carts, transporting the children's lunches to the cafeteria."

She said her students and parents were "amazed" by the college campus and grounds with its sweeping views of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, the "welcom-

ing staff" and "generosity of all involved."

"They are still talking about their experience," Ms. Buccigrossi said.

Each child went back to class with a Wagner College pen, a "Sticky Note" pad, a new book to read, and

maybe, a dream for their future.

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