



News from the ESL Corner...

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Upper Merion Area Middle School
Angela Della Valle

Upper Merion Dance & Gymnastics Center Awards Scholarships

Anticipations...

**-Holocaust Survivor Assembly:
May 21, 2013**

**-5th Annual CRE-ATE's Open Mic:
May 30, 2013**

Current and former ELLs, who are also economically disadvantaged, have been fortunate to have overflowing support from Upper Merion Dance and Gymnastics Center, co-owned by husband and wife team Michelle Elbin and Dave Evasaw. Students throughout various grades have been offered and have taken advantage of year-round scholarships to participate in gymnastics, tumbling and dance instructional programs and summer camps.

Students qualify by both maintaining outstanding academic standing and character, as well as showing an economic need. For over the past six years, Ms. Elbin and Mr. Evasaw have donated over \$10,000 to our families through at least 85 scholarships. These families would not have been able to provide this experience for

their children otherwise.

Currently, there are nine students taking classes at their facility with a fee waiver, with the co-owners absorbing the cost of the tuitions. Families of these middle school students are extremely grateful that such support exists in the community, as these extracurricular opportunities both reward students for their outstanding merit in school as well as gets them involved in the community, and engaged in healthy activities.

The Upper Merion Dance and Gymnastics Center's mission is to "provide a safe, fun-filled, educational, and healthy experience in dance and gymnastics to participants of all ages and abilities." Furthermore, students are exposed to "progression instruction" that is meant to "foster emotional development through a car-

ing staff using timely motivation and discipline" while "respect [ing] the family through convenient policies and schedules," and most significantly, "hav[ing] the participant perform at or above expectations based upon ability and time commitment."

Though extremely modest about their altruistic contributions to the community, Ms. Elbin and Mr. Evasaw have been awarded the PEP-ER Award twice (the Upper Merion Area Education Association's recognition as a "Public Education Partner and Promoter"). The Upper Merion Dance and Gymnastics Center has also been nominated the "Best of Montgomery County" through Norristown Times Herald for a Gymnastics Program for the years of 2003, 2009, 2011 and 2012.