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Child Center Team Gears Up for Move

By Jennifer Davis

The Child Development Center of the Hamptons in Wainscott has announced new roles for its administration team as it gears up for the relocation of its preschool program from the former Most Holy Trinity Catholic School in East Hampton to its main campus in Wainscott this fall.

Former Southampton School District Superintendent Richard Malone will continue to serve as assistant executive director of the school, where he oversees the general operations at its Wainscott campus. Mr. Malone will also directly supervise staff and students in grades four through eight. "I've been in that role this year," Mr. Malone said on Tuesday. "I'm very happy here. I love it. One of the things I like very much about being here is having the opportunity to work right alongside the teachers and the students."

Janice Goldman, the current principal at the CDCH Preschool, will expand her role as the school's director of early childhood education in September. Her new role will involve overseeing all early intervention and preschool programs, as well as directly supervising staff and students in kindergarten through third grade. The preschool and charter programs, which serve about 85 East End children, have operated out of the former Catholic school in East Hampton since 1997.

When building its new facility in Wainscott in 2004, school officials planned for an eventual expansion to house the preschool. Renovations began last summer, and officials anticipate work will be completed by early summer. The phased plan will add additional classrooms on the 10-acre campus that will eventually house the school's full range of programs, which run from preschool to eighth grade.

"This was always the goal when the school was planned and instituted," Mr. Malone said. "We're hoping, obviously, to have a smooth transition from preschool programs by having everything on one site." He added that among the additional benefits will be allowing siblings to attend the school in one location and eliminating the need for teachers, staff and service providers to travel back and forth, which will be more cost effective.

After the move, the school will continue to develop its applied behavior analysis and positive behavior support programming with current director Lindajeane Schwartz, a board-certified behavior analyst. It will expand the programming to provide for students with intensive needs including children with autism spectrum disorder who require the level of teaching to build new skills.

School officials have decided to add additional certified and experienced speech, occupational and physical therapists to fulfill the individual needs of its enrolled students. The staff at the preschool and charter school are undergoing professional development in curriculum mapping, differentiated instruction, balanced literacy and positive behavior supports in preparation for the move.

CDCH will hold an open house on Wednesday, March 7. There will be two sessions held at 4 and 6 p.m. For more information, call 267.0133 or email info@cdch.org.