



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jeffrey D. Klein

## Senator Klein Honored for Long-Term Financial Support & Outstanding Dedication to Primavera Italian Language Program

JEFFREY D. KLEIN February 27, 2015

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**BRONX, NY** - Celebrating the hard work and achievement of this year's graduating class of Primavera Italian Language students, **State Senator Jeff Klein (D-Bronx/Westchester)** was honored for his critical funding support and outstanding dedication to the language program at today's graduation ceremony at the School of St. Benedict.

“The Primavera Program serves a vital purpose in the Bronx, teaching our children not only the basics of Italian language and culture, but providing our kids with a solid foundation for the future,” **said Senator Klein.** “Foreign language plays an important role in childhood development and can lead to higher scores on exams later in life. Year after year, I’m proud to be able to give students the opportunity to study this beautiful language and connect with these proud Italian traditions. Thanks to everyone here for this wonderful award and to all the students graduating today, compliemnti!”

Each year, St. Benedict’s hosts the Primavera Italian Language Program for 16-weeks, enrolling more than 40 students. The foreign language program is headed by Loretta Ziano, and focuses on interactive learning through hands-on demonstrations, activity books and more.

“The Primavera Program considers Senator Klein their angel -- ‘un'angelo’ is what we say in Italian,” **said Loretta Zaino, Director of the Primavera Italian Language Program.** “Every year he manages to come through for the program, and it was through his guidance and generous support I was able to take over in 2009. At that time, the program was in jeopardy of closing for good. On behalf of the program and the community, we recognize Senator Klein for his support and generosity with a special plaque. ‘Grazie mille’ to a great man!”

Senator Klein provided the funding for the program through Project BOOST. Project BOOST (Building Options and Opportunities for Students) is an enrichment program that serves both elementary and middle school students, focusing on providing academic, cultural and community service learning opportunities for kids.