

## **New Parent Testimonial**

**Submitted by Frank & Ali Jolley (Ava Jolley, Kindergarten)**

As a new family to the greater Stamford area, we knew little about the local elementary schools, but we had a very clear vision of the kind of school we wanted for our kindergartener. We set out to find a school with a proven record of strong academic performance, top-notch teachers, a nurturing and safe environment, and a diverse community that would welcome our bright five year old daughter of multi-ethnic heritage.

With this lofty list of requirements, we began the long process of choosing the right elementary school. We spoke with parents, did exhaustive internet research, and visited most of the public and private elementary schools in the greater Stamford area.

We feel so fortunate that a friend finally recommended we visit Our Lady Star of the Sea. As soon as we met Mrs. Ryan, Our Lady Star of the Sea's Principal, and learned about the school's mission it was instantly clear that we found a hidden gem. For us, this school stood unquestionably apart from the countless other schools we had visited.

Today Ava is thriving in her new school. Kindness is a constant lesson in her class where the students are taught to be inclusive in their play; Ava is confident and happy among a peer group of very kind friends. In addition, Ava constantly comes home excited about the new phrase she

learned in Spanish class, or proud of the new story she wrote in her creative writing section, of raving about the special “enrichment” performance she saw in the auditorium that particular day. At these moments we feel very satisfied in the knowledge that we made the right choice in selecting Our Lady Star of the Sea for our daughter.