

Daily Freeman



Dutchess Day School seventh-grader Tassilo Adams and Astor Head Start students play with cars and trains.

DECEMBER 17, 2017

YOUTH ON THE GO:

Dutchess Day School seventh-graders travel to Astor Head Start school

The entire seventh-grade class at Dutchess Day School in Millbrook traveled to Poughkeepsie on Dec. 8 to visit the largest of the Astor Head Start schools to deliver a school bus filled with holiday gifts and to spend the afternoon reading to, and playing, with the school's children.

The Children's Foundation of Astor Sponsor-a-Family program is the favorite project of the seventh-grade class at Dutchess Day School. Every year, the current seventh-grade organizes a school-wide initiative to drum up a wonderful holiday for struggling families in the region via the Astor program. Gifts both "needed" and "wanted" are purchased and festively wrapped by the extended members of the school community, from current families and teachers to friends of the school.

The class loaded the packages into a large rented school bus and drove with them to Poughkeepsie. After unloading the bus and hiding the gifts in a private room from which they will be distributed to the families for whom they were purchased, the seventh-graders visited classrooms to interact with the preschoolers. Play, conversation and, most importantly, books, were shared with the two groups.