

# Reville praises Horizons



**M**assachusetts Secretary of Education Paul Reville made an appearance at the opening of the Horizons at Dedham Country Day School event on April 3 to learn more about the program and show his support for their work with children. The highly regarded education expert, a leader in the 1993 Massachusetts education reform effort and previous director of the Harvard Graduate School's Education Policy and Management program, gave a powerful and encouraging speech, praising the Horizons model.

Noting the opportunities that Horizons provides for low income children to continue learning during summer months, Reville pointed to the extensive research that demonstrates the effectiveness of programs like Horizons in reducing achievement gaps among students. The strength of the partnership between public and private schools that is forged through

Horizons, he stated, is the foundation upon which less advantaged students can catch up with their more fortunate peers. To illustrate his enthusiasm for the program, Reville referenced his own family. "I have a young daughter in public school," he said. "Since birth, she's been given every advantage, from nutrition, to constant communication with her parents, to cultural experiences, exposure to the arts, and athletic activities throughout the year – and during the summer. In class, she sits close to another girl who's just as smart

---

**"The ultimate goal of Horizons is for children to succeed in their own public schools"**

---

but who has none of these advantages and who spends her summers alone, watching TV. Without intervention it would be impossible for there not be an achievement gap between the two girls. Public schools need assistance in offering out of school time programming. They need partnerships like Horizons.

"The ultimate goal of Horizons is for children to succeed in their own public schools," he continued. "That success splashes over, child by child, year by year. We at the Executive Office of Education truly appreciate this initiative and hope more private schools will reach out to their public school neighbors to offer similar programs."