

Milton students get a motivational message

MILTON – Milton Elementary School students welcomed back motivational speaker Geri Mariano of Armonk, whose “can do” attitude showcased in her presentation, “Just Call Me Geri,” reinforced student learning about acceptance, diversity and compassion.

Mariano, 45, of Armonk, was born with diastrophic dysplasia, which affects bones and cartilage and causes unusually short stature. She wears prosthetic legs to stand and walk.

She overcame multiple handicaps as she defied the odds, and her message teaches children to do the same.

As a speaker, she shares her story of the difficulties she faced growing up to inspire students to get out and ac-

complish their goals, and not to judge others by their physical characteristics.

She encouraged students to stand up to bullies as a classmate once did for her.

Milton students were actively engaged throughout, particularly when Mariano demonstrated her love of music and dance, and asked children to join her dancing to Katy Perry’s “Firework.”

The presentation supported DASA, the newly mandated Dignity for All Students Act, which fosters civility and provides all public school children with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, taunting or intimidation.



Photo provided

Geri Mariano, left, of Armonk, whose “can do” attitude is showcased in her presentation, “Just Call Me Geri,” reinforces students learning about acceptance, diversity and compassion.