

Pre-K programs valued

I would like to congratulate the Sun-Gazette for dedicating the time and energy to so thoroughly cover the recent event highlighting the critical importance of quality pre-kindergarten initiatives.

It is important that we extend our thanks to the 100+ who took time out of their busy lives to visit with the proponents of pre-k, including teachers, childcare providers, members of the law enforcement and business communities.

As a kindergarten teacher in the Williamsport Area School District, I witness first-hand the value of strong pre-k programs and the astounding impact they have on our youngest learners. Our kindergarten staff works diligently. Our staff has written several articles on pre-k and we developed a DVD highlighting what public schools expect children to know before school starts.

As kindergarten teachers, we know how critical and enriching it is for young children to be as well-prepared as possible when they walk through the school doors on their first day of school. We see it in our classrooms every day. Children who have participated in quality pre-k programs are better prepared to start school because they have better reading, language and math skills. In addition, these children are better prepared to handle the social challenges that all children must confront when they start school.

I urge lawmakers to stand up and make a commitment to fund pre-k programs in the 2007-2008 budget that will be crafted in the coming weeks.

Michelle Dixon

Williamsport

Submitted by Virtual Newsroom

Section: Letters

Date Posted: 5/6/2007