



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOLMDEL TO HOST FIFTH ANNUAL UNIFIED GAME DAY

HOLMDEL (May 12, 2017) – The Holmdel Schools will host its fifth annual Unified Game Day on May 16th at Cross Farm Park in the township. Participants include students from the Colts Neck, Little Silver, Upper Freehold and Middletown Township School Districts and the Harbor School. Over 300 Special Needs and their General Education Peers will be involved in the event.

All students will enjoy yoga to start the day and then will engage in multiple soccer skill-building events, led by the members of the Holmdel High School Girls and Boys soccer teams and members of the school district's Team Unify. Holmdel Related Services professionals will be on site as well to assist in modifying certain activities so that all students can be involved. The organization of the day is a collaborative effort of many individuals and community based organizations and businesses. All 300 students will be provided lunch in the park thanks to donations from Best Market, Chartwells, Costco, Dearborn Farm, Delicious Orchards, ShopRite, Stop & Shop and the Village School PSA. Transportation for Holmdel students is being donated by Helfrich and Sons, Keyport Autos and Unlimited Autos and music will be supplied by Hotspot DJ Nicky Paolantonio.

The driving force behind the Unified Game Day is Project Unify, a Special Olympics peer program designed to promote and develop understanding, acceptance and respect between young people. It motivates youth to become advocates for and together with all people, thus building a school community where all young people are agents of change. The Special Olympics Movement unlocks the joy of sports to inspire people to open their minds to accept, include and value people with intellectual and physical disabilities in all aspects of life. "Our efforts to do more in the area of unified sports is a great example of the commitment of our staff, students, families and our community to inspire all within Holmdel to be the best version of themselves," said Superintendent Dr. Robert McGarry.