

Actor Ed Asner to Kick Off The Winston School Conversation Series with “Living Life on the Spectrum: Student and Parent Perspectives on Autism and Asperger’s Syndrome” at the Del Mar School Campus June 11

College Prep School for Students with Learning Differences Launches Community Forum Series to Discuss Leading Educational Issues of the Day

Del Mar, Calif. (June 3, 2009) -- Actor Ed Asner, well-known for his “Lou Grant” character from *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and more recently for his role in the movie “UP,” is kicking off *The Winston School Conversation Series: A Path to Educational Excellence* on Thursday, June 11 with a community forum discussing “Living Life on the Spectrum: Student and Parent Perspectives on Autism and Asperger’s Syndrome.”

Open to the public, the free event is at the Del Mar school campus at 215 Ninth Street. Guests will gather at 3:45 p.m. for refreshments and an opportunity to meet Asner and other special guests, followed at 4:15 p.m. by an interactive forum of educators, students, and parents as well as audience members, with Asner serving as moderator. The event concludes at 5:30 p.m.

The Winston School (<http://www.thewinstonschool.com>) is a college preparatory program for students grade 4 through 12 with learning differences and whose needs are not generally met through traditional school settings. This is the first forum in the series, which the school created to educate and foster dialogue about leading educational issues of the day.

Asner, whose son and grandson have autism, said he became involved with The Winston School because he wants to support the good works of this school and other educational programs that help kids with learning differences overcome challenges and thrive in the world. “From my experience with my son, I know how challenging it can be to find an educational environment that adjusts to the student and not the other way around. Finding the right educational setting is one of the most impactful things you can do to influence your child’s success in life, and The Winston School Conversation Series is going to help parents know the options and make the best choices for their kids.”

According to The Winston School’s headmaster Mike Peterson, “We have a proven record in educating children with learning differences and The Winston School Conversation Series helps extend our reach into this often under-served community, providing support and guidance. This is the first in an ongoing series of open forums where students, their families and the professional community supporting them can gather to discuss current topics in education and learn about the best options when choosing an educational path. We appreciate Ed Asner helping us launch the series and look forward to his sharing his perspective on the topic from the standpoint of a father and grandfather.”

Earlier in the day Asner will make a guest appearance at a private screening of this summer’s must-see comedy adventure “UP.” Asner provides the voice for one of the two star characters, Carl Fredricksen, a 78-year-old balloon salesman in the film. Disney-Pixar and Quince Productions provided the film for the invitation-only event for The Winston School students, parents and friends.

ABOUT THE WINSTON SCHOOL

[The Winston School](#) is a college preparatory program for children with learning differences in grades 4 through 12. A group of pediatricians and parents in San Diego founded the school in 1988 for bright children whose needs were not being met in traditional school settings. Students such as those struggling with dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, ADD, ADHD, specific learning disabilities or learning disorders, nonverbal learning disorders and slow maturation find what they need in the school's small, safe and caring environment. By incorporating small classes, multi-sensory teaching methods and individual attention, the school's faculty works together to help students fulfill their academic, physical, artistic, social and emotional potential. In the past 20 years, The Winston School has educated nearly a thousand students, preparing them for college and for the working world. This year's graduating class has been accepted by 22 colleges. Each senior who applied at a two or four-year-school received at least one college acceptance. The school is located at 215 Ninth St., Del Mar, Calif., 92014. Those interested in receiving information can email mindy@thewinstonschool.com or call the school at 858-259-8155.

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