

# DAILY RECORD

## Mountain Lakes Country Day School receives award

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(Photo: Photo courtesy of Anne DeSilva)

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### Mountain Lakes preschool receives Golden Acorn Award

Mountain Lakes Country Day School has received the Golden Acorn Award for exemplary quality in preschool education from the non-profit Preschool Advantage Inc. of Morristown.

School owner Cindy Pirrello and director Diana Grisi received the award last month.

Preschool Advantage believes that all children should have access to high quality early education. It partners with 18 schools in 12 communities to fund preschool for children whose families cannot afford it. Together with its donors, supporters, volunteers and community partners, Preschool Advantage seeks to provide opportunities for a lifetime of learning.

For the current academic year, Preschool Advantage is funding tuitions for two children at Mountain Lakes Country Day School. Their families could not afford preschool for their children without the support. "While there are federally funded programs to cover the cost

of preschool for families living below the poverty line, working families making over that level have limited options,” said Molly Dunn, executive director for Preschool Advantage. “There are thousands of families in New Jersey who cannot access a quality education for their child. We are committed to addressing this need one child at a time.”

The Preschool Advantage School Committee approves partner schools based on five points of quality in preschool education: teacher and child interaction, curriculum, family involvement, staff qualifications and professional development, and management of the school. In 2016, the committee defined the five points of quality with the Golden Acorn Award.

Families demonstrating commitment to education and financial need can complete the application for the next school year at [preschooladvantage.org](http://preschooladvantage.org).