



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

April 12, 2013

Southern Cayuga Central School District
2384 State Route 34B
Aurora, NY 13062

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for the dedication of a chestnut tree sapling from the tree that grew outside Anne Frank's hiding place, as it is planted in a garden on the south lawn at Emily Howland Elementary School.

All New Yorkers value institutions and initiatives that aspire to provide a greater understanding of the Jewish experience of the Holocaust during one of the darkest chapters in the history of humankind. Yet, even in the midst of tragedy, the light of hope and love and wonder survived in the person of Anne Frank, as we know from the words of her diary, when she wrote of the beauty of the large horse chestnut tree which she could see from her small window on the world.

This tiny tree is a piece of that reality and it is a great honor that it has come to this upstate New York elementary school to be planted and nurtured. It will serve as a reminder of the impact that each and every human being can have on our global community – being a positive inspiration to others, being a force for social justice and freedom. As Anne herself wrote, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Congratulations to the Southern Cayuga Central School District as you join the ranks of the Anne Frank Center Sapling Project, and particularly to the students of the district, as they carry this important message into the future.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Cuomo".

ANDREW M. CUOMO