

# litennis

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## She's Back

*Sharapova Returns to Tour,  
But Not Without Controversy*





Breeze and Kaitlin Deegan, set up three stations of drills, at which MacArthur's autistic students practiced tennis fundamentals.

Kayla Schmidt and Melissa Seinberg, as well as head coach Phil Machmer, Principal Joseph Sheehan, ABA Teacher Dianne Drury and members of the MacArthur Boys Tennis teams, also participated in the clinic.

Through the sale of baked goods and Aces for Autism t-shirts, \$450 was raised for MacArthur's Autism Awareness program.

## Hauppauge's Lawrence Raises Funds for Developmental Disabilities



Hauppauge High School tennis player Jill Lawrence hosted her Third Annual "Tennis Serves the Community" event earlier this spring. The event helped raise money for the Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) in Smithtown, an organization supporting children and adults with developmental disabilities in achieving a lifetime of growth, through exceptional care and innovative, and individualized service.

There were 11 girls who competed in the tournament, and in the end, Emma Bender finished in first place, while Dara Berman came in second. The event raised \$1,200 in donations which went to the DDI. Court time was provided by Sportime Syosset and the John McEnroe Tennis Academy.

## "Tennis With the Teachers" Event Brings Breast Cancer Awareness to Commack HS



The Commack High School Boys and Girls Tennis teams hosted its annual "Tennis With the Teachers" event to raise money for breast cancer awareness.

In the past, the event has donated the money raised to a school for autism in Commack, but



this year, the team decided to donate to breast cancer awareness after their teammates, one from the junior varsity team and one from the varsity squad, tragically lost their

mother to breast cancer earlier this year.

The event raised \$2,300, which will be donated to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

"This event shows how a community, school and tennis program can come together to help a family get through a very tough time," said Commack High School Head Tennis Coach Shane Helfner. "Winning is always nice and special, but we learned the importance of coming together for a great cause and helping out our teammates. To me, there is no greater accomplishment a coach could ask for. I could not be more proud."

## ACEing Autism Brings Tennis Basics to Parkwood Tennis



ACEing Autism held an event at Parkwood Tennis in Great Neck, thanks to Dalia Khakshoor and Richard Spurling of ACEing Autism.

A few years ago,

Khakshoor took her friend's autistic son to the tennis court to try and teach him some tennis. After having a tough time teaching him, she decided to call Spurling and they made plans to invite other autistic kids to play tennis.

That plan came to fruition at Parkwood Tennis, as parents, teachers and as many as 30 kids of different ages attended the event. The kids were taught how to hit the ball and learned the basics of tennis, thanks to volunteers and parents.

With the success of the event, there are hopes to start regular sessions in September.

"I will never forget seeing the kids' happy faces and their enthusiasm of learning something new," said Khakshoor. "I strongly feel that this program is a definite asset to this community."