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Dad Flies High



May 30, 2008
Glen Cove, NY.

Connolly fifth grader, Pete Budraitis, had just finished telling some of his fellow classmates about how his dad was going to “fly by” and take pictures of the school from a helicopter. Their response was, “Yeah,

right, sure!” Although it was well known to his classmates that Pete’s dad was a professional photographer, they were sure Pete was coming up with a rather tall tale. Only moments later, however, the quiet afternoon was interrupted by the unmistakable sound of a nearby helicopter. Sure enough, as Pete and his classmates peered out the classroom window they could see a small helicopter circling the school grounds.

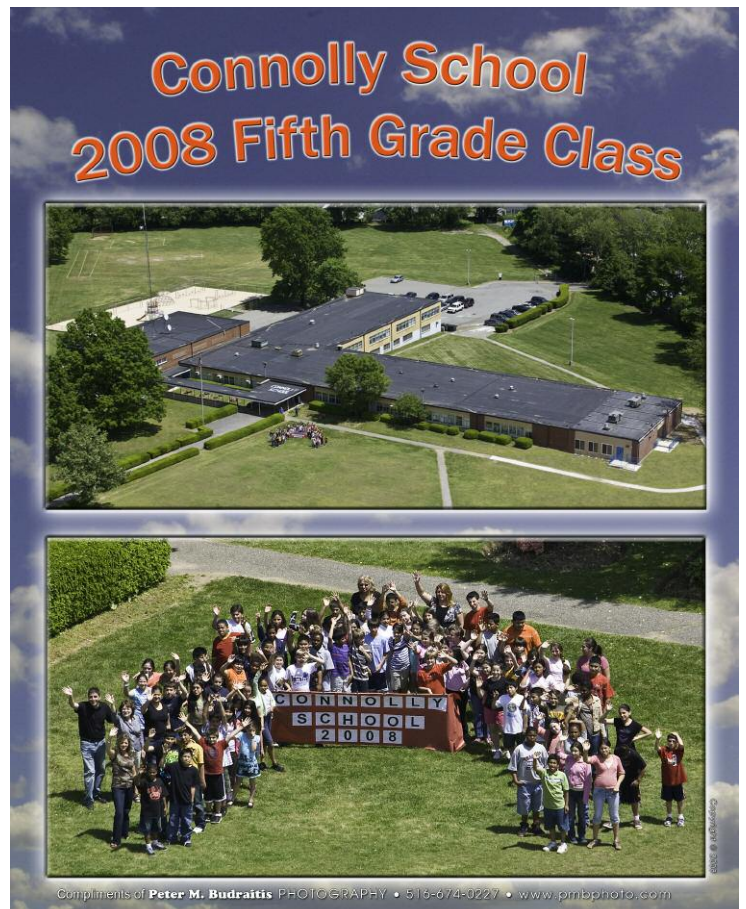
What Pete’s classmates were unaware of was that Peter’s dad had already made tentative plans with the school’s principal, Rosemarie Sekelsky. “I was scheduled to do an aerial portrait of an estate in Mill Neck.” said Peter Budraitis, “When I realized I would be overhead nearby during school hours I proposed the idea to Mrs. Sekelsky. When I dropped Pete off at school that morning we made the final arrangements. Mrs. Sekelsky was excited about the idea and would get the graduating students out in front of the building when I arrived. It really just all worked out to be perfect timing on a beautiful day. The students all seemed to get a real kick out of seeing their classmate’s dad up in the air photographing them.”

Peter M. Budraitis owns a photography studio on Forest Avenue in Glen Cove with his wife, Nancy, and routinely does commercial aerial photography around Long Island in addition to the portrait business that he is best known for. Peter and Nancy will be donating a large print of the aerial portrait of the school that features a close-up image of the fifth grade class taken from the sky. Additionally Peter and Nancy are arranging for each student in the fifth grade class to receive a copy of the print as a keepsake of their last year at Connolly. “Doing this portrait meant so much to me,” continued Peter Budraitis, “Connolly School holds a special place in my heart. It was

my elementary school from kindergarten through the fourth grade. Back then it was called ‘East School’ and Margaret Connolly, the school’s namesake, was my principal.”

“Although I still get nervous when Peter flies,” said Nancy, “Our son, Pete, won’t soon forget the day his dad photographed his class from the sky.” Rosemarie Sekelsky commented, “The students were thrilled and in awe!!! Many thanks to Mr. Budraitis for his generosity. Please look for an aerial view of the school, which will be proudly displayed in Connolly School’s main lobby.”

You can see more of Peter’s aerial photography by visiting his website at www.pmbphoto.com.



Compliments of Peter M. Budraitis PHOTOGRAPHY • 516-674-0227 • www.pmbphoto.com

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