



Dy'Asia, 4, starts running while "Miss Heidi," the lab school director, holds up a kite during a Week of the Young Child event. Watching are Kallani and Nazareth, both 4.

Children at Housatonic Community College's (HCC) Early Childhood Laboratory School took the term "soar" literally as they celebrated the national Week of the Young Child on April 14 with a kite-flying event.

Mother Nature tried to be agreeable — but the wind didn't always cooperate.

"Run!" encouraged Heidi Szobota, lab school director, to each of the children as they took a turn with the kites.

The week was filled with events to celebrate young children, including a viewing of the film *Nursery University*; a program called "Literacy Through Lyrics," which helped support language skills through music, singing and clapping; and a cultural competence interactive workshop with HCC professors Tom Coakley and Maria Vergara.

Sponsored by the HCC early childhood education program, there also was the "Little Hands Art Show" in the college cafeteria. Displayed was artwork by children from the Greater Bridgeport Director's Network that includes the HCC lab school, St. Paul's Child Development Center, Precious Memories, Precious Memories Early Learning Center Toddler Room 3, Helen King Reynolds Private School, and Creative Development Daycare Center.

The Week of the Young Child, sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, helps focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families, and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

"Children are our future adults and our future work force; and it's important to make sure they have the quality foundation they need to succeed in life," Szobota said. "At the early-learning level, we need to help them lay the foundation for lifelong success."