



## *Kids pool pennies, give back to the library*

by Jennifer Bliss

Area schools are helping Millbrook Free Library build their planned addition. It is a reciprocal relationship, said Mariel Verdibello, the library's director.

"It's partly a matter of educational institutions supporting each other and partly because we do serve their students with pleasure," she said.

Among the contributors was Laurie Levesque-Bell's first-grade class at Elms Drive Elementary School. The class brought in change for the school's 100th day celebration, and the students learned how to make \$1 (or 100 cents) out of different coin combinations. At the suggestion of a room mother, Teri Donovan, the class decided to donate the \$30.78 they collected to the library building fund.

Mary Richwine, 7, said she donated because the more money the library receives, the bigger the new library will be - and that means more books for her. Sam Reisman, 6, said the library is important "because we learn from it and find new things there."

Donovan said she thought the donation would be a nice part of the Kindness is Contagious program that students are involved in. Everyone benefits from the library expansion, including the children, she said.

The Millbrook Teachers' Association has donated a brick for the library's pathway, and the Millbrook School made a donation for a memorial brick as well. The Millbrook Jr./Sr. High School Student Council purchased memorials for students who have passed away: Ben Doice, class of 2000; Amber Hammond, class of 2002; and Erin Edgeworth, class of 1997. In addition, the Elms Drive faculty and staff contributed, and many faculty members from different schools have contributed independently as well. Verdibello said.

Students are very much a part of the library, she said. The Millbrook elementary school, and Dutchess Day School bring students to the library to get library cards, learn how to use the library, learn how to research, and attend story hours there.

"I think the staff would really miss it if we didn't do that (programs with kids)," Verdibello said.

"We feel it's an important part of our job to help them learn how to use the public library in addition to the school resources."

One reason for this is they will be able to use the public library even when they are out of school. Some things in the new space designed for young people are reading areas where kids can curl up with a book, their own kiosk, and a new circulation desk with a librarian just for children.

### **Fundraising campaign drawing to a close**

Verdibello said the library expects to close the formal building campaign by the end of May. There will be benefits going on in May such as a dinner in New York City and a gala preview party on May 26 in conjunction with an antique show. They are still looking for sponsors to help finish work of the project even after the campaign ends, and they plan to have a party to thank all contributors. The library must still obtain site approval from the village planning board, but hope to break ground in September.