WEST HAVEN (June 18, 2014) - It was a sweltering near-90 degrees outside and not much less inside the auditorium at the former Molloy School building on Wednesday evening, June 18, as siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles waited patiently for the West Haven Community House's KinderKlub 2014 graduation ceremony to begin.

Ironically, the program was based on the Disney animated film, “Frozen,” itself a take-off from the Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale, “The Snow Queen.”

As many in the audience fanned a makeshift breeze with the event program, School Age Program Director Carol James opened the evening by thanking everyone for attending and explaining the delay of a few minutes – they were waiting for one of the performance’s “princesses” to arrive. The words were no sooner spoken when the family arrived through the side door, with a cheery, “Here she is!” from Carol as several of the onlookers applauded.

And it was not long afterward that everyone agreed that the performances of the Class of 2014 graduates – all going to First Grade in West Haven in the Fall – was worth the wait – and the heat!

“Frozen” tells the story of a brave princess who accompanies a strong mountain man on a fantastic journey along with a pet reindeer and a bumbling snowman to find the princess’s estranged sister whose powers have mistakenly trapped their kingdom in an eternal winter freeze.

The first scene opened with ice men with axes entering through the rear door of the auditorium, swinging their paper “axes” while chanting their song as they made their way down the center aisle, then to the left and up the stairs onto the stage:

Born of cold and winter air and mountain rain combining. This icy force both foul and fair has a frozen heart worth mining.

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Each ice man then continued chopping the imaginary ice blocks on stage, as the song continued,

*So cut through the heart, cold and clear.*
*Strike for love and strike for fear.*
*See the beauty, sharp and sheer.*
*Split the ice apart — and break the frozen heart.*

The next group to enter through the rear door was the AM KinderKlub group of students who while on stage accompanied the song, “Do You Want to Build a Snowman?” which finds the heroine Anna knocking on the door looking for her sister, Elsa,

*Do you wanna build a snowman?*  
*Come on let’s go and play*  
*I never see you anymore*

The next group then assembled on stage, with one graduate giving a knowing glance and wave to the audience, which elicited a tiny young voice responding from the crowd, “I love you!” This was quickly followed by the third feature song, “Let it Go,” which won Best Song at the 2013 Academy Awards.

*Let it go, let it go*  
*And I’ll rise like the break of dawn*  
*Let it go, let it go*  
*That perfect girl is gone*  
*Here I stand*  
*In the light of day*  
*Let the storm rage on*  
*The cold never bothered me anyway!*

The performance then approached its climatic end, with graduates joining in the chorus of “In Summer.”

*When life gets rough I like to hold onto my dreams*  
*Of relaxing in the summer sun, just letting off steam*  
*Oh, the sky will be blue, and you guys’ll be there too*  
*When I finally do what frozen things do*  
*In summer*  
*In summer!*

The graduates then were introduced one-by-one by their teachers to receive their diplomas. Each received applause and posed on stage for pictures. One young grad flung his arms in the air for empha-
sis. Another turned and smiled to the audience on cue, but then turned away before the picture could be taken. One young princess virtually flew up the steps and stage, her graduation cap flying off in the process. Another boy was in no hurry, facing the audience and smiling until being asked to take a seat on stage.

A young man who took to one knee and posed received loud applause and laughter.

The evening ended with graduates singing a takeoff of Frank Sinatra’s famous hit, “New York, New York,” with the words “First Grade, First Grade” substituting.

“Didn’t they do a great job,” Ms. James noted at the end, to appreciative applause and bows from all. She also praised the KinderKlub staff for their work with students throughout the year.

Congratulations to all the 2014 KinderKlub graduates and Best of Luck in First Grade next Fall!