

## TEACHING LIFE LESSONS AT TEE TIME

The Golf Club at Chelsea Piers is proud to be the first metropolitan area golf club to sign on as an affiliate of The First Tee of Metropolitan New York. As an affiliate, the Golf Club has the opportunity to reach children of all ages and social backgrounds and introduce them to the benefits of golf. Greta Wagner, General Manager of the Golf Club, believes that The First Tee and the Golf Club are perfect partners. "Through The First Tee program, children who have no access to the sport can now be part of the Golf Club's junior golf programming," explains Greta.

The First Tee program is designed to teach the basic values of the game of golf and show participants how these values transfer into other aspects of their lives. Students are taught about responsibility, courtesy, how to make decisions by think-

ing about the possible consequences, how to set goals, how to define those goals, the importance of maintaining a positive attitude, as well as the importance of showing respect for others.

The First Tee programming started at the Golf Club in June 2003 with a five-week USA Network-spon-



*The GRADS Foundation Inc. kids pose with their new clubs, donated by the USA Network.*

sored series of clinics. USA Networks also generously donated sets of new golf clubs to the young students. Participating in the clinic this year was The GRADS Foundation, Inc, a partner organization of The First Tee. More than 30 children, ages 12-17, from The GRADS Foundation, Inc. have had the opportunity to experience the game of golf. One of the new golfers will receive a scholarship to be a member of this year's Chelsea Piers Junior Golf Team.

The GRADS Foundation, Inc. is an organization that encourages and prepares students to complete their high school education and pursue post-secondary education in New York. The foundation was created to enrich the lives and enhance the development of deserving students from economically depressed communities. The GRADS Foundation, Inc. takes a uniquely long-term approach in helping children in high-risk environments capture their potential for achievement.

"Students not only benefit on the golf course, but in life. Playing golf is an invaluable experience because of the life skills golf teaches — integrity, honesty and sportsmanship," said Alan Farrell, Executive Director of The GRADS Foundation, Inc.

For more information on The First Tee program ([www.thefirsttee.org](http://www.thefirsttee.org)) or The GRADS Foundation, Inc. ([www.gradsfoundation.org](http://www.gradsfoundation.org)) or to get involved, log on to their websites or contact the Golf Club at 212.336.6400.