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WOODCLIFF LAKE

Pediatric dentist loves seeing children smile

February is Dental Health Month, and there's no better place to learn the ins and outs of dental hygiene than at Chestnut Ridge Pediatric Dental in Woodcliff Lake.

Pediatric Dentist Dr. Eli Rachlin, or Dr. Eli as his patients refer to him, opened Chestnut Ridge Pediatric Dental four years ago, and is about to celebrate one year of being full-time in this location. The office is dedicated to optimizing the oral health of children of all ages, including those with special needs. Aside from being under the care of an excellent, gentle dentist, patients have no choice but to feel comfortable in Dr. Eli's office. The reception area is like a storybook wonderland, and each examination room is bright and cheerful, and contains an overhead flatscreen TV that shifts to accommodate any angle so that while in the chair, children can watch and preoccupy themselves.

This comfortable and friendly office environment is a reflection of Dr. Rachlin's attitude and positive approach to dentistry. But in addition to being fun and bright, the office is also state-of-the-art. "Dr. Eli" makes best use of the latest, most effective state-of-the-art technologies that make his job and his patients' experience all around better. One example is air abrasion, which is a painless method to remove cavities that frequently reduces the need for a drill. Another good example is the soft-tissue laser, which provides a patient

with optimal comfort if soft-tissue surgery is needed.

Dr. Rachlin's intra-oral camera is a specialized miniature video camera that enables patients and parents to see their teeth up close. This allows patients and parents to participate more fully in understanding their mouths and teeth.

As if the high-tech equipment isn't enough, the office is environmentally friendly. Chestnut Ridge Pediatric Dental is proud to be paperless, meaning most every document, including X-rays, is digital.

For Dental Health Month, Rachlin and his staff make special visits to local schools and day care centers to talk about dental hygiene and healthy food choices with students. In fact, their presence is so in-demand this year that Rachlin had booked events such as these as early as January and even into March. During the rest of



Dr. Eli Rachlin, center, is joined by patient care coordinator Debbie, left, and dental assistant Jeaneth.

the year he enjoys being an active member of the community, and sponsors health fairs among other things.

Rachlin graduated dental school in 1996 from the University of Toronto in Canada, where he grew up. There, he was awarded the prestigious Student Leadership Award due to his volunteer work with special-needs children and those with life-threatening illnesses. After dental school he moved to the tri-state

area to complete a fellowship in advanced dentistry at Columbia University. Following the fellowship, Dr. Rachlin completed a residency in hospital dentistry at Montefiore Medical Center and Jacobi Hospital, and completed his specialty training in Pediatric Dentistry at Montefiore Medical Center.

"I knew I wanted to work with kids before I knew I wanted to be a dentist," says Rachlin, who was a counselor and leader of a division at a camp for children with cancer and other diseases from 1991 to 1995. He also volunteered for an organization that chaperoned sick children to Disney World, and was a participant in the Big Brother program. Even while attending dental school, Rachlin ran Child Life Services in the oncology/hematology floor at The Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto) on weekends. He also held the title of student

clinician for Alpha Omega dental fraternity, arranging seminars at which leading area dentists provided advanced instruction to dental students.

Dr. Rachlin is a Board-Certified Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. He is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and an active member of the American Dental Association and the New Jersey Dental Association. Of course he loves being a Pediatric Dentist, but above all things, he loves seeing kids smile.

And smile they do, as one can see on the "rave reviews" section of the office's website, where Rachlin happily displays some of the artwork created for him by his patients.

Rachlin is a husband to Gila, who is a speech therapist at the Felician School for Exceptional Children in Lodi. Last April, she was prominently featured in an article in The Parent Paper for her work with autistic children. Eli and Gila have three children; two daughters and one son.

Chestnut Ridge Pediatric Dental is located at 595 Chestnut Ridge Road in Woodcliff Lake. For more information, or even a picture tour of the office, visit www.CRKidsteeth.com. Call (201) 391-4441 to schedule an appointment.

Photo by Laurie Kaplan