

# Raffi's not forgotten, students tells parents



STAFF PHOTOS/JOERD WITTEVEEN

Toronto Maple Leafs assistant coach Keith Acton presents a signed team jersey Thursday to Sandy Krikorian, mother of Raffi Krikorian, who died suddenly in October 2004. His father, Arthur, and twin brother, Koko, look during at a memorial service at his school, Parkview Public in Unionville. The school's gym was dedicated in Raffi's memory.

The community remembers. This is the message Sandy Krikorian got Thursday afternoon when Unionville's Parkview Public School held a memorial service for her son.

Following the death of her son, Raffi on Oct. 2, 2004, Ms Krikorian's friends, neighbours, family and the Parkview School community rallied around the Markham family.

"They all pulled together ... we never imagined he (Raffi) had touched so many lives," she said.

The service began with a band playing Amazing Grace, followed by a choir singing Sarah McLaughlin's I Will Remember You. After that, staff played a DVD on which Raffi's classmates talk about how much they missed him.

"Tears started rolling ... the family is extremely touched," Ms Krikorian said. Raffi was on dialysis at age two and

had a kidney transplant at three. The Grade 6 student died when his heart stopped one week before his 11th birthday.

The school dedicated the gym in his honour, erecting a plaque outside. Artwork by the students and a poem Raffi wrote will be used in a banner being made for the gym.

Toronto Maple Leafs assistant coach and Stouffville resident Keith Acton presented an autographed jersey to the Krikorian family at the service. Raffi loved sports, playing soccer and floor hockey.

Raffi has a twin brother, Koko, who attends Ramer Wood Public School. Ms Krikorian said in a telephone interview how nice it is that Raffi's classmates still wave and say hello when they see the Krikorian family.

"They haven't forgotten us."

—Simone Joseph

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