

Winter 2020

Lynbrook School News

A PUBLICATION OF THE LYNBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPREADING BOOK LOVE

Lynbrook staff reignites and instills the love of reading with the help of Teachers College.

In the Lynbrook Public Schools, an exciting shift is happening within the elementary and middle school reading and writing curriculum. This year, the district partnered with Columbia University's Teachers College Reading and Writing Project to enhance how students read and write, and help them develop a love for the written word, also known as "Book Love," a term coined by pedagogical author Penny Kittle.

Staff developers from Teachers College train Lynbrook staff members during the school year on how to incorporate engaging reading and writing workshops into their curriculum. Although elementary teachers have been utilizing units of study from Teachers College for about six years, this is the first year

that the Kindergarten Center and elementary buildings were officially deemed Teachers College schools.

Students in grades K-5 are focusing on the writing workshops that Teachers College provides, which will be followed with reading workshops next year. Through these writing workshops, kindergartners are transforming into authors by writing their own books. They participate in interactive writing activities using tools such as SnapWords, pattern text and picture support to build their skills. Teachers also emphasize rereading books and incorporating an element of play to support student comprehension, vocabulary and fluency.

In elementary school, students explore different units of study based on genres. For example,

second graders dive into series books, third graders tackle mystery novels and fourth graders focus on historical fiction. This allows students to familiarize themselves with genre types to help find one that sparks their interest. Instead of dissecting a novel, students

learn to recognize each author's unique craft which they then mimic in their own writing. In addition, all students in grades K-5 have small-group reading instruction and designated independent reading time in school. Some grades also participate in book clubs during the school year to

continue the conversation about what they are reading. According to Allison Curran, elementary curriculum specialist, this new system with Teachers College has created a shift within the district, allowing for a higher expectation to be set on the volume of reading.

This year marked the first that Lynbrook North and Lynbrook South middle schools started working with Teachers College. Unlike the primary level where the focus is on the Teachers College writing workshops, middle school teachers are starting with two units of study in the Teachers College reading workshops. The writing workshops are expected to be implemented next school year.

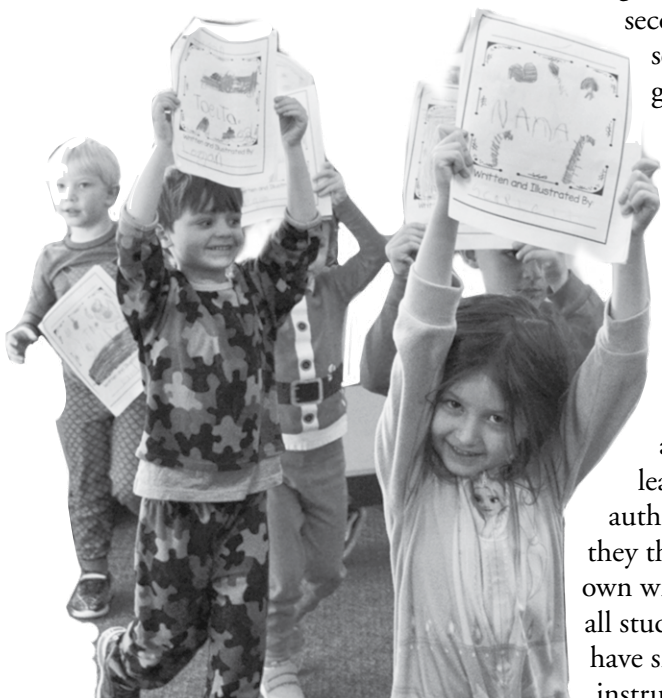
Students receive a hybrid experience in which they read a book with their class and participate in a workshop. During these reading workshops, students engage in a mini lesson in which the teacher works with the class, the class works together and then students work independently. In addition to reading whole class novels, students have the freedom to pick their own books and dive into independent reading each week during "Friday Book Love." The goal is to make students feel like reading is a reward and not a punishment.

"They are flying through books," said English language arts department chair and teacher Roxanne Migliacci. "They have read way more books this year than in whole years previously. The fundamental differences are that they are choosing their own books and we are providing them the time in class to read."

Middle school teachers are using mentor texts to model skills while giving students exposure to rigorous, higher-level texts. The students are then practicing these skills at their own level with their independent reading books. With students leading the way, new books and genres are being discovered and the social aspect of reading is being enforced. Today, many people read books based on recommendations from others. With Teachers College, there is more conferencing involved, bringing humanities back into the reading and writing curriculum. Teachers are getting to know their students better, guiding them to find books that spark their unique interests and encouraging them to share their writing with others.

Student choice has been an important aspect of the reading and writing curriculum, which was evident last spring when students were asked to recommend books for their peers to read during the summer. At the high school level, book ladders filled with recommendations have been established on the platform OneNote to help students find books. The middle schools are creating a book ladder for their level as well.

This new shift in how students view reading and writing has already proven beneficial with the guidance of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. Students are not only enhancing their skills but are more aware of what books are accessible. If the increased number of readers from just this year is any indication, Lynbrook students have a bright future ahead of them.



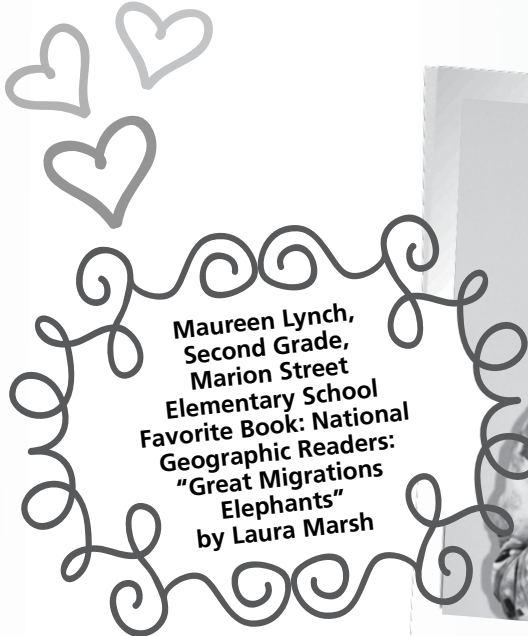
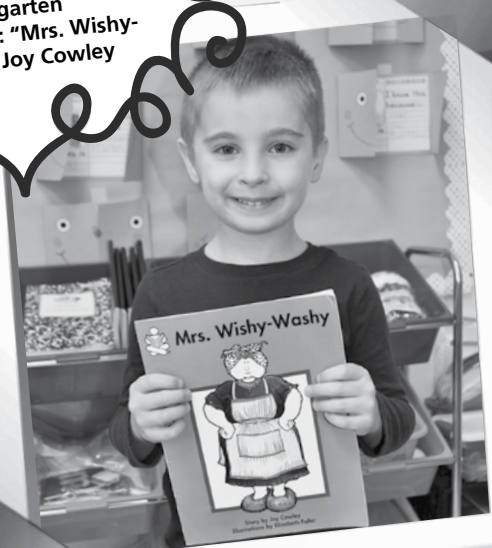
Students at the Lynbrook Kindergarten Center celebrated their writing with an author's parade around the school building. They marched with their classes and proudly held their books high while chanting "We are Super Writers!"



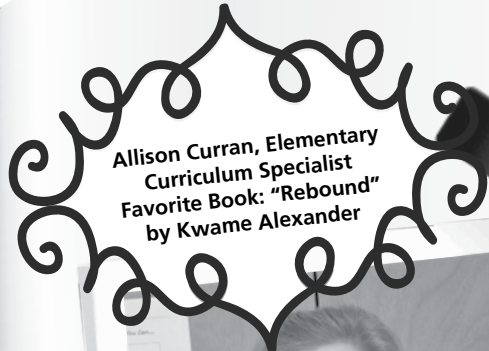
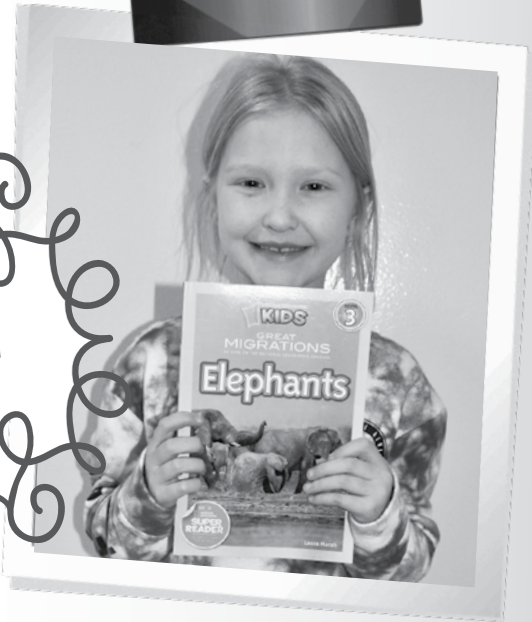
We're celebrating our love of literature throughout the district! In honor of the #BookLove movement, we asked students and staff to share some of their favorite books or what they are currently reading.



Andrew Drumm,
Kindergarten
Favorite Book: "Mrs. Wishy-Washy" by Joy Cowley



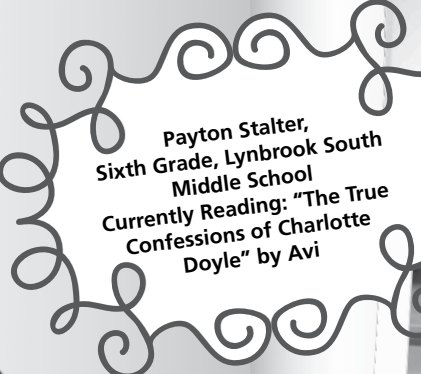
Maureen Lynch,
Second Grade,
Marion Street
Elementary School
Favorite Book: National
Geographic Readers:
"Great Migrations
Elephants"
by Laura Marsh



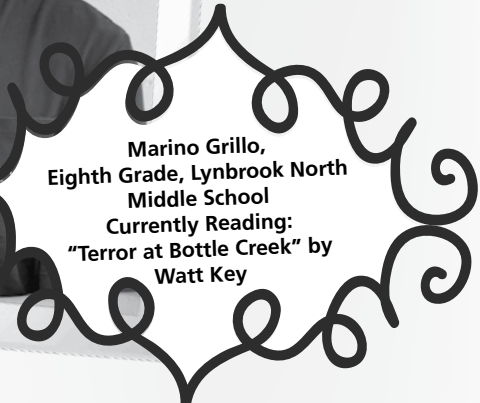
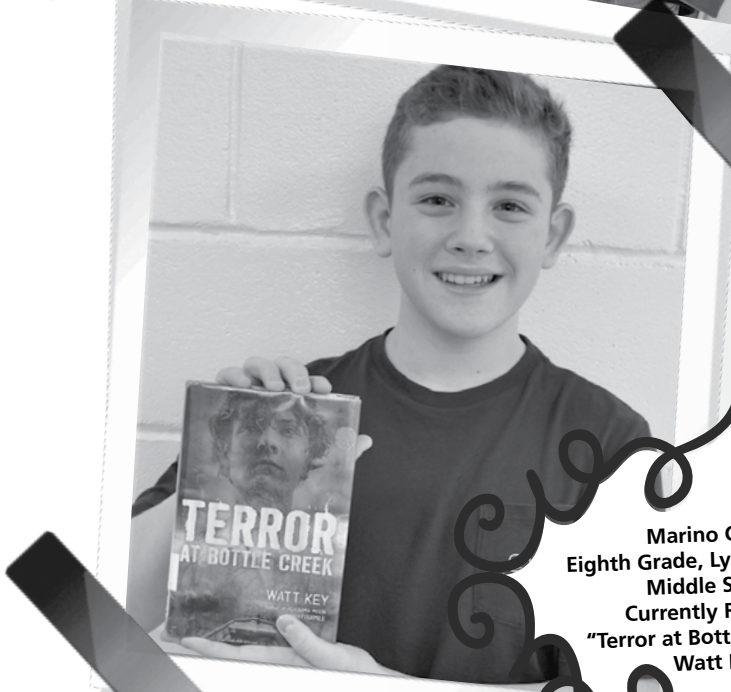
Allison Curran, Elementary
Curriculum Specialist
Favorite Book: "Rebound"
by Kwame Alexander



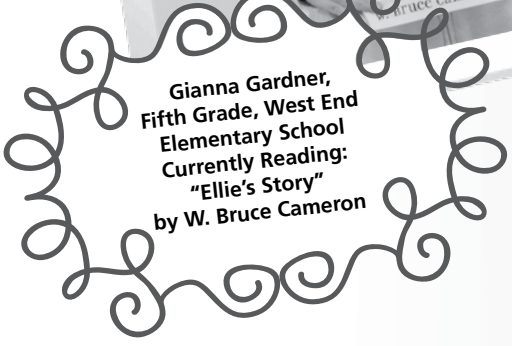
Roxanne Migliacci,
English Language Arts
Director and English Teacher
Currently Reading: "The
Extraordinary Life of Sam
Hell" by Robert Dugoni



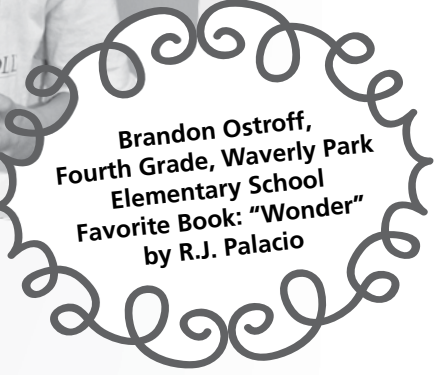
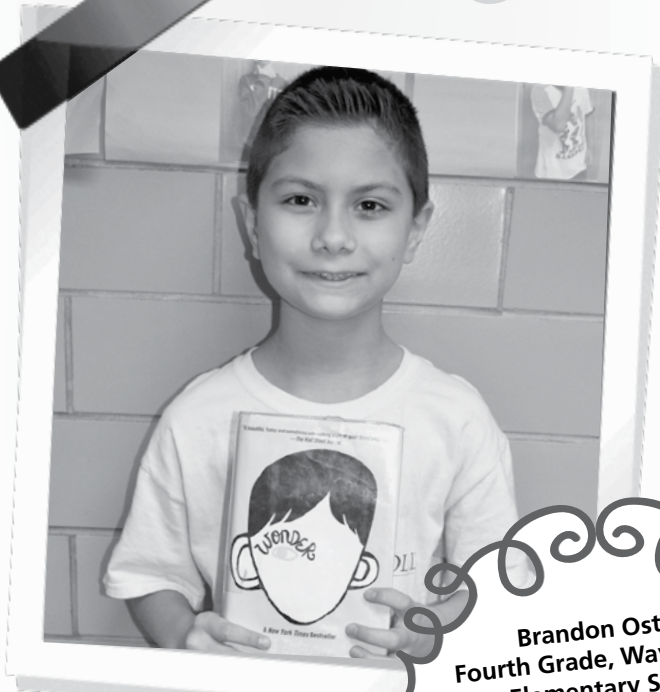
Payton Stalter,
Sixth Grade, Lynbrook South
Middle School
Currently Reading: "The True
Confessions of Charlotte
Doyle" by Avi



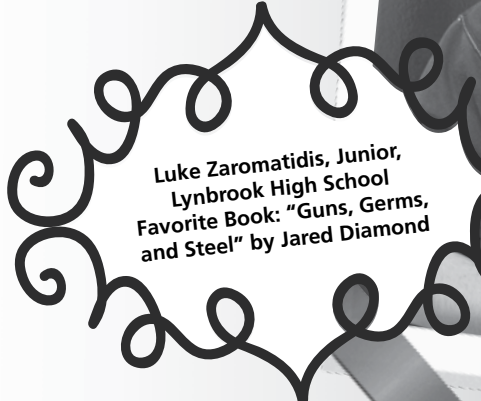
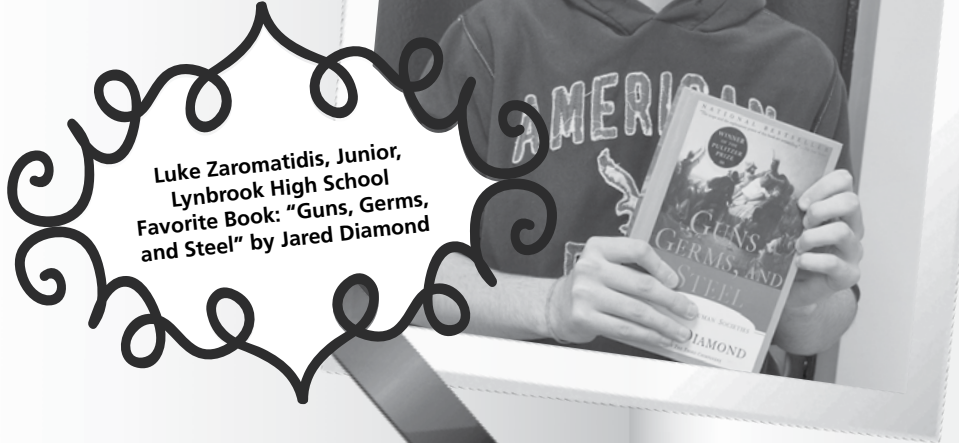
Marino Grillo,
Eighth Grade, Lynbrook North
Middle School
Currently Reading:
"Terror at Bottle Creek" by
Watt Key



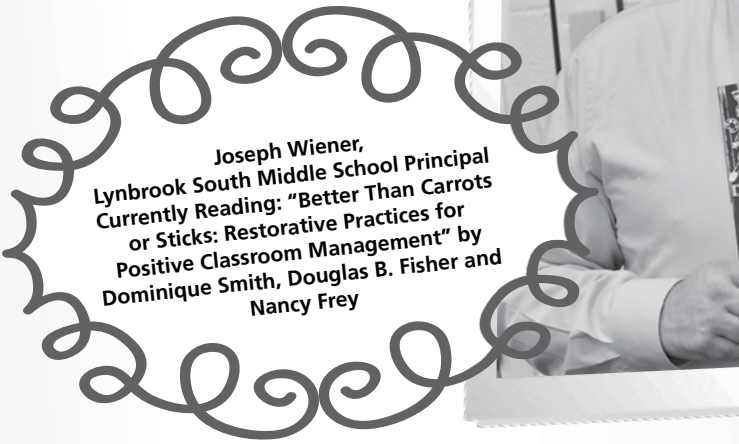
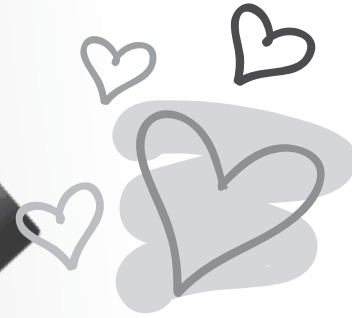
Gianna Gardner,
Fifth Grade, West End
Elementary School
Currently Reading:
"Ellie's Story"
by W. Bruce Cameron



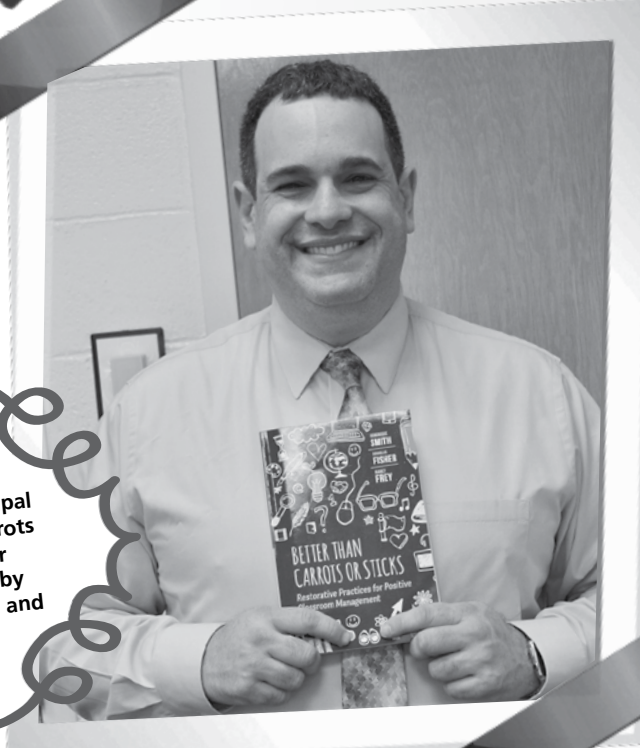
Brandon Ostroff,
Fourth Grade, Waverly Park
Elementary School
Favorite Book: "Wonder"
by R.J. Palacio



Luke Zaromatidis, Junior,
Lynbrook High School
Favorite Book: "Guns, Germs,
and Steel" by Jared Diamond



Joseph Wiener,
Lynbrook South Middle School Principal
Currently Reading: "Better Than Carrots
or Sticks: Restorative Practices for
Positive Classroom Management" by
Dominique Smith, Douglas B. Fisher and
Nancy Frey



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Alumni Spotlight

Lynbrook Graduate Finds Sweet Taste of Success

Lynbrook High School alumna Allison Shapiro Winterton is a talented pastry chef who has made herself known in the community with her bustling business, The Sweet Peace Specialty Cakes of Lynbrook.

In high school, she was an integral part of the school community as Class Night chairperson, captain of the kickline team, coach of the junior high kickline team and member of the varsity badminton and swim team, French Club and more. She graduated Lynbrook High School in 1999 and continued her education at the University of Delaware to study art and psychology. This was followed by some time at the School of Visual Arts to study art therapy and then culinary school, which she says is one of her proudest moments. Mrs. Shapiro

Winterton attended the French Culinary Institute, now known as the International Culinary Center, and was at the top of her class.

Today, you can find her giving back to her community as the owner of The Sweet Peace Specialty Cakes of Lynbrook, selling delicious baked goods and designing and baking specialty cakes. She is also a proud board member of the Lynbrook Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Shapiro Winterton believes that the Lynbrook School District was the foundation for all her future successes. She said she received a great education and met great people in the community.

"It made me want to give back and open my business here," she said. "I wanted to give back to the community I love."

FACILITIES UPDATE

This year, the goal is to continue implementing projects from the bond referendum. The Lynbrook High School construction and renovation project has been approved and the finalization of bid specifications is complete. The bids will be opened on Jan. 31. If they are within the district's budget, a recommendation will be made to the Board of Education at the Feb. 12 Board meeting. The district anticipates breaking ground in the early spring of 2020.

In addition, the bids for the air conditioning projects in the gymnasiums of Marion Street and West End elementary schools have exceeded the district's budget. They were rejected at the Dec. 9 Board of Education meeting and a rebid was scheduled for Jan. 9. The district continues to complete the installation of air conditioning projects in the Atlantic Avenue, North Middle School, South Middle School and Waverly Park gymnasiums. Most of the work is complete, with electrical getting finished and the duct insulation 85% complete at Atlantic Avenue.

For the locker room projects at Atlantic Avenue, North Middle School and South Middle School, floors have been recoated and an electrician has completed North and South light strobes. They are working on tying the new equipment into the existing system. Lastly, the renovation of the Atlantic Avenue wrestling room is approaching the end of the punch list phase.

DISTRICT CALENDAR UPDATE

To ensure that the Lynbrook Public Schools meets the minimum number of instructional hours that the New York State Education Department requires for state aid, a slight modification has been made to the 2019-2020 school calendar.

This year, a snow day will result in a makeup day to meet the instructional hours. If there is one full snow day, school will be in session on **May 21, 2020**, and if there is a second full snow day, school will be in session on **May 22, 2020**. If there is a state of emergency requiring all schools in the state to close due to inclement weather, a makeup day will not need to be taken. An updated version of the district's printed calendar with these changes can be found on www.lynbrookschoools.org.

#GIVEAHOOTFOR...



Follow Dr. Burak's Twitter account, @LynbrookSupt. Look for weekly tweets with the hashtag #GiveAHootFor...

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Communication Corner

Adult Education Classes Begin Feb. 24

Adult Continuing Education spring classes will begin on Feb. 24. In-person registration will take place on Feb. 10 from 6-7:30 p.m. at South Middle School.

Budget Work Session: March 4

In preparation for the May 19 budget vote, a budget work session will take place on March 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Lynbrook High School. For more information, please visit the Finance and Budget page at www.lynbrookschoools.org.

Transportation Requests

Requests for transportation to nonpublic schools for the 2020-21 school year must be submitted to the Lynbrook UFSD Transportation Office, 111 Atlantic Ave., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Forms must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2020. For details, please visit www.lynbrookschoools.org or call 516-612-5490.

Emergency School Delays, Closings and Early Dismissals

In the event of weather-related school delays, an announcement will be made beginning at 6 a.m. and all schools will open exactly two hours after they would normally open. If there is a need for closing, announcements will be made beginning at 6 a.m. and all activities, field trips and programs in schools and on school grounds will be canceled. The decision to call an early dismissal will be made before the school day begins. All schools will be dismissed two hours earlier than the normally scheduled dismissal time. If nothing is posted by 6:30 a.m., assume there will be a normal school schedule.

Families will be notified with an automated voice message and notices will be posted on www.lynbrookschoools.org, the Lynbrook Schools Facebook page and the district app. Announcements will also be made on KJOY, WALK and WCBS radio stations and on ABC 7, CBS 2, FOX 5, NBC 4 and News 12.



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