

Spring 2019

Lynbrook School News

A PUBLICATION OF THE LYNBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

THE PEER-TO-PEER CONNECTION

Throughout the years, the methods in which students absorb information has transformed. Hands-on learning has reached new heights, allowing students to not only experience what is being taught, but also form connections with their peers. Peer-to-peer learning is when students become the teachers, sharing what they have learned with other students. Many teachers in the Lynbrook Public Schools have embraced peer-to-peer learning and collaboration, with specific lessons geared toward the sharing of ideas.

Research has found that this method of learning has many benefits. It boosts student confidence, interpersonal skills and teamwork abilities, while building leadership qualities and new friendships. Lynbrook students in grades K-12 have found that working with others in a student-driven environment has positively affected their learning experiences, from buddy programs,

which bridge classes from different grade levels together, to in-class collaboration projects where students work with their classmates.

Buddy programs start at the kindergarten level and expand to the high school. At the Lynbrook Kindergarten Center, students receive visits from elementary and high school students during the school year. Each year, Waverly Park fifth-graders visit kindergarten classes to read during their Pick a Reading Partner program. The kindergartners enjoy being in the company of the older students, while the fifth-graders become positive role models. Members of the high school's Student Kindergarten Internship Program visit kindergartners on a monthly basis, while Key Club members have stopped in to teach students important lessons, such as safety on Halloween. In addition, multilingual high school students partner with kindergarten English



Waverly Park second-graders Lucia Palleschi (left) and Ethan Norris (middle) collaborated with fourth-grader Chonyse Prunty to co-construct and engineer leprechaun traps.

as a new language students to help with homework and review topics in a Study Buddy program sponsored by the Lynbrook High School Spanish Club.

At the elementary and middle school level, classes connect with each other to enhance lessons that range from reading and writing to math. During the year, older students, such as those at West End Elementary School, visit younger students in the building to collaborate on science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics activities. Earlier this year, the same idea took form between a class at Marion Street Elementary School and one at Lynbrook South Middle School when a new Book Buddy program was born. Being in the presence of another student, especially an older one, can have a large impact on how students digest information. Sometimes these students are better able to connect with someone close in age, which makes peer-to-peer learning so special.

Understanding the strong correlation between students working together and increased success, Lynbrook High School's National Honor Society members tutor students who need extra help in their classes. This year, high schoolers in the science research program are mentoring fifth-graders in the Voyager program, a source of pride for the older students.

Being part of a tightknit community like Lynbrook allows students to share their knowledge and ideas with classmates, other students in their building or throughout the district. Peer-to-peer learning and collaboration has proved to be successful in helping students achieve academic success. With a helping hand along the way, students throughout Lynbrook know they are not alone in their journey.

On the inside of this newsletter, learn more about what has been done during the 2018-2019 school year and the positive effect these partnerships have had on Lynbrook students.



Lynbrook kindergartner Valesca Flores (right) read with Lynbrook High School senior Sadhami Caraza during the after-school Study Buddy program.

PEER-TO-PEER Learning Takes SHAPE

A Cultural Connection

Multilingual students attending Lynbrook High School are helping English as a new language students from the Lynbrook Kindergarten Center this spring. Although the program, sponsored by the Lynbrook High School Spanish Club, is still in its first stages, members of various nationalities and home languages are conducting a Study Buddy program that offers after-school homework help to kindergarten students. Facilitated by ENL teacher Madelyn Torres, the collaboration allows the high schoolers to put their language skills to great use while helping younger students reach academic success. With parent approval and supervision, the students will meet at the Lynbrook Public Library for approximately one hour after school to work one-on-one.

"Our high school students provide additional support such as homework help and review, as well as serve as role models for our little ones," Mrs. Torres said. "They show the kindergarten students how much they can accomplish and how far they can go overcoming the language barriers by the time they reach high school with a supportive education."

Lynbrook High School sophomore Luis Merlos (left) worked with kindergartner Jaden Bernal on his reading skills during the Study Buddy program.



Lynbrook South Middle School Creates Future Leaders

The first day in a new school can be intimidating. This is why Lynbrook South Middle School eighth-graders involved in Lynbrook Students Independently Networking Kids play a key role in transitioning incoming sixth-graders at the start of the school year. L.I.N.K. members serve as mentors who get to know the sixth-graders and share their own experiences. They are also a source of comfort as a friendly face for the new students throughout the school year. The program helps decrease school anxiety and promotes a positive hallway environment for all.

South Middle School also has a Peer Leadership Club which features seventh- and eighth-grade students who seek to make a difference in the school. Advised by Alyssa Papa, the students work on activities and lessons to teach their peers about important topics. For Valentine's Day this year, eighth-grade peer leaders facilitated a social-emotional learning lesson called "Torn Hearts" for sixth-graders.

Lynbrook South Middle School L.I.N.K. students welcomed new sixth-graders to the school at the start of the 2018-2019 year.



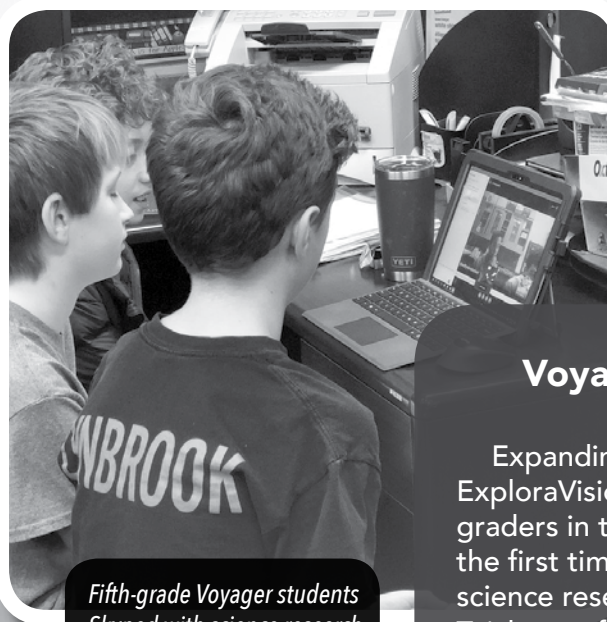
Voyagers Seek New Heights With Science Research Students

Expanding their research potential for Toshiba's 2019 ExploraVision Student Science Project competition, 26 fifth-graders in the district's Voyager Program collaborated for the first time with 14 seniors from Lynbrook High School's science research program. Advised by Voyager teacher Corinne Teichman, fifth-graders worked in groups to design a technology that would help to improve the future. Science research students, advised by teacher David Shanker, served as mentors, working virtually with the elementary students. The students communicated using Microsoft OneNote, a digital notetaking platform, and Skype, a video conferencing program.

"Lynbrook High School mentors were paramount in helping our Voyagers to elaborate on the future technology and breakthrough sections of the project," Ms. Teichman said. "The Voyagers were excited to receive feedback through their shared digital notebook. I am excited to continue this collaboration among students and to watch our Voyagers present at the Science Research Symposium this June."

With the support of the science research students, four Voyager teams received honorable mention in the competition, placing their work in the top 10 percent of all projects submitted.

Fifth-grade Voyager students Skyped with science research students from Lynbrook High School who helped them with their project for the 2019 ExploraVision Student Science Project competition.



The Peer-to-Peer Difference

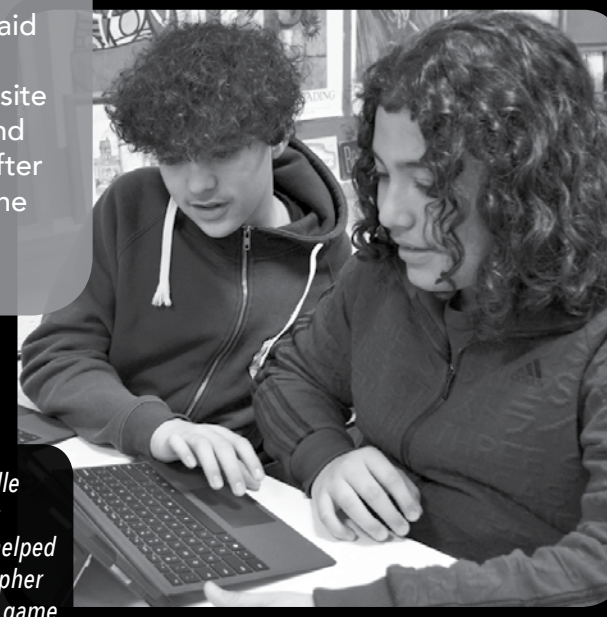
To keep lessons engaging, students throughout the district partner with classmates and peers from other grade levels in their building to further their learning. At West End Elementary School, second-graders in Sara Dinowitz's class and fourth-graders in Kathlyn Passalacqua's class connect throughout the year on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) projects as both grade levels offer new ideas to the mix. Waverly Park students thrive on lesson collaborations as well. Along with select classes participating in a Book Buddy program, some also partner as math, grammar and STEAM buddies.

At the middle school level, collaboration is also found on the technology front. At Lynbrook North Middle School, eighth-grade students in James O'Hara's coding classes create games with the helpful feedback of classmates.

"I feel that when we work together, not only does it help us get more ideas, but we also get to bond and use teamwork," said North Middle School eighth-grader Jessica Fowler.

To take their ideas to the next level, students utilize the website tynker.com. Here, they can play games made by students around the world, uncover the code and remix games to their liking. After coding their new game, students can upload their creation to the website for others to play.

Lynbrook North Middle School eighth-grader Jordan Turcios (left) helped his classmate Christopher Sierra (right) with his game during coding class.



Lending a Hand in Literacy

Placing an emphasis on literacy, Lynbrook South Middle School seventh-graders in Jeanette Roch and John Christ's English class teamed up with Marion Street Elementary School fifth-graders in Allison Sales and Danialle Nelson's class during a new Book Buddy program between the schools. Coordinated by Roxanne Migliacci, English department chairperson, and Allison Curran, elementary curriculum coordinator, the program allowed students to work together and form a collaborative book club. Seventh-graders served as reading mentors to the fifth-graders and together, the students discussed the book "Restart" by Gordon Korman and created a project based on the book's message of "Don't Be a Bully, Be a Buddy."

"I thought it was really fun to work with the students here at Marion Street," said South Middle School seventh-grader Caroline Larow. "I learned a lot from them. It's interesting to see how little kids see things like bullying and how we view it."

Waverly Park Elementary School students in fourth and fifth grade also collaborate in a Book Buddy program for just Waverly students. The programs foster literacy and new friendships among peers in different classes and grade levels.



Lynbrook South Middle School seventh-graders and Marion Street Elementary School fifth-graders worked together on a poster project relating to the book they read together.



(L-R) West End second-grader Donovan Mattera, fourth-grader Adrian Santome and second-grader Joshua Pereira tried out an aluminum foil hockey game during their collaborative STEAM lesson.

Alumni Spotlight

From Student to Staff Member

Lynbrook is a special community for many reasons, one being that many former students return to serve the next generation of Lynbrook children and young adults as district staff members. Lynbrook High School graduate Samantha Lancaster did just that and now proudly serves as a social worker at Lynbrook South Middle School and Lynbrook High School.

Ms. Lancaster graduated from Lynbrook High School in 2003 with her sights set on a future of helping others. While attending the high school, she played lacrosse and was a member of the kickline

team. Following graduation, Ms. Lancaster attended Monmouth University in New Jersey and graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work in 2007. She continued her education at Adelphi University, where she graduated in 2008 with a master's degree in social work.

Switching roles from Lynbrook student to staff member has been a wonderful transition as she works closely with adolescents to enhance social-emotional development. Ms. Lancaster enjoys being able to create new memories in a place that already holds formative ones for her.

"Lynbrook is a special place and being back as a staff member is quite nostalgic," she said. "Contributing to the continued success at Lynbrook, now as a staff member, feels like things have come full circle for me. As a student, I had amazing experiences both on the field and in the classroom. I love seeing how the school and community have evolved, while also maintaining the same community feel it had when I was a student here."

Ms. Lancaster credits the teachers and coaches who shaped her during her years as a Lynbrook student and athlete.

"They encouraged me to push through challenges and to believe in myself," she said. "I see the same great work being done with students all these years later in the hallways of our schools each and every day. I am proud to be a part of it."

The district is proud to have her as a valuable member of the Lynbrook Public Schools' family.

District Continues to Deliver High-Quality Financial Reporting

Due to its commitment to transparency and high-quality financial reporting, the district was once again awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ending 2018 by the Association of School Business Officials International. This is the sixth consecutive year that the district was recognized with this distinction.

The Association of School Business Officials International recognizes school districts that have met the program's high standards for financial reporting and accountability. By participating in the Certificate of Excellence program, districts demonstrate their commitment to financial transparency.

To receive this honor, applicants must submit

their Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, which is reviewed by a team of professional auditors who provide feedback to improve future documents. If the report meets the requirements of the program, the document may receive the Certificate of Excellence. A district's participation in the Certificate of Excellence program can facilitate bond rating and continuing bond disclosure processes.

"I would like to thank Dr. Lynch and the entire business office, because this is truly a feather in our cap," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Melissa Burak said. "There are not many districts on Long Island that have earned this distinction and that are being recognized by the association."

You're Invited! Lynbrook Kindergarten Center 20th Anniversary Reunion

Kindergarten Center alumni from the year 1998-99 to 2017-18 are welcomed to join current kindergarten students for a special 20th anniversary reunion celebration on Sunday, June 2 from 12-3 p.m. on the Lynbrook Kindergarten Field. Brunch will be provided as Lynbrook Owls come together to reminisce and celebrate the past and the future.



Lynbrook Public Schools
Lynbrook, NY 11563

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Communication Corner

Save the Date: June 24

10 a.m., KC Graduation @ HS
6 p.m., NM Graduation @ HS
8 p.m., SM Graduation @ HS

June 25

9 a.m., MS Moving Up
11 a.m., WE Graduation @ HS
1 p.m., WP Graduation @ HS

June 26

7 p.m., HS Senior Prom

June 27

6 p.m., HS Graduation @ MS

July 2

7:30 p.m., Board of Education
Reorganization Meeting @ AA



#GIVEAHOOTFOR...



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



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