



Fall 2018

# Lynbrook School News

A PUBLICATION OF THE LYNBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Opening Up the World of Imagination, Innovation and Inspiration

It has been said that knowledge is power, but what is knowledge without a strong support system of administrators, teachers, staff members and fellow students leading the way? Each school year, the district incorporates lessons, activities and events into the school year that provide students the means to imagine, innovate and inspire others. These three powerful words culminate in the 2018-19 school year theme.

Students in grades K-12 will continue to use their imaginations and innovation skills when they are inspired by new and exciting lessons that will help them grow into individuals who are not afraid to embrace critical thinking, social-emotional learning and their creative abilities. Pop into any classroom and you will notice students putting their

imaginations to the test. Each student has his or her own thinking skills that translate into creative projects in different subject areas. Teachers challenge students' imaginations and let their ideas take flight through in-class projects and assignments.

With imagination comes innovation. As a district, we strive to transform students into innovative individuals by providing a diverse course load. With the help of teachers, students have the ability to brainstorm new ideas, products and methods. This is especially evident in the science curriculum, in which Lynbrook students are constantly challenged to solve situations or craft something new. This level of critical thinking promotes both failure and success and prepares students for the future.

Innovation stems from

inspiration, which is found in our daily lives and in every school building. Inspiring lessons such as those from history or art come in many forms. Whether it be the school community partaking in an extended project or celebrating on a particular day, continuing to inspire students to find their passions, strengthen their character and explore their ideas is a significant part of education.

To showcase all the engaging lessons and activities that are happening in each building this year, administrators and staff members are utilizing the hashtag #GiveAHootFor on social media. The district prides itself on the great work of our students, and social media allows the community to get a glance inside the classrooms. Parents and community members are encouraged to check into Twitter to find all the imaginative, innovative and inspiring activities happening within the schools this year. With new ideas constantly on the horizon, the sky is the limit for our students!



### Imagine

"Imagine means that you are coming up with whatever is in your head. Sometimes you

can have different imaginations such as riding a unicorn or being the leader of trolls. You can have many imaginations and even play games using it. It is a whole bunch of different things."

– Hana DeSilva, Fourth Grade

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### Inspire

"Inspire means to set a good example for someone and to be a role model. It

also means to show kindness, be nice and help someone whenever they need it. We've been talking about inspiration a lot in our classes."

– Ava Palazzola, Seventh Grade

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### Innovate

"Innovate means taking something that has already been made or created and making it better, getting people to like it

more. In my Virtual Enterprise class, we are innovating by taking a dog collar and creating a device similar to a FitBit for the security, safety and the well-being of a dog."

– Connor Reichert, Twelfth Grade



*During orientation, Lynbrook Kindergarten Center's newest students had some time to get used to their new classrooms filled with innovative technology.*



# Imagine INNOVATE Inspire



Former Waverly Park fifth-grader Jillian Weston put her imagination and innovation skills to the test by building an airplane out of cardboard for her project on sports scouts last school year.

## IMAGINATION

Teachers fully embrace imagination when creating lessons for students to not only learn from but to enjoy. Throughout the years, Waverly Park Elementary School students have put their minds to the test by participating in cardboard challenges. Last year, fifth-graders researched different careers in sports and then utilized cardboard and other recyclable materials to create a model of their research topic. From a cardboard cutout of a referee to a cardboard replica of a football field, the students let their imaginations run wild as they took their research topic and ran with the challenge of working with limited materials.

During the 2017-18 school year, students at the Kindergarten Center also used their imaginations to celebrate the school's first Community Helpers Day. From police officers to medical professionals, kindergartners dressed like members of the Lynbrook community. Last spring, fifth-graders at West End Elementary School took the concept of imagining yourself in another person's shoes a step further as they transformed themselves into popular sports figures. Coinciding with the district's writing curriculum, the students researched a sports professional, wrote a paper about what they learned and then dressed as their



North Middle School students celebrated Wonder Day last year, based on the novel "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio, and reflected on acts of kindness and celebrating differences. Students (from left) Johnny Lu, Martin Lopez, Eric Shebata, Brianna Rolon and Carly Corrente were inspired by myFace presenter Dina Zuckerberg.

professional during a school Wax Museum. The hallways were filled with fifth-graders holding props in front of creative backdrops as younger students visited the museum to learn more about each professional.

Imagination will continue to be promoted through new projects and assignments, allowing student creativity to blossom.

## INNOVATION

Innovation is found throughout the district in various courses and clubs, beginning at the elementary level. Each year, students participate in science fairs, thinking of new ideas and inventions. The students then display their projects for their peers and staff members as they present what they learned. Innovating at such a young age allows students to explore their creativity, find the meaning of teamwork and find their own voice.

At Lynbrook High School, members of Dr. Benedict Tieniber's Virtual Enterprise class are true innovators, as they put their ideas together to form unique companies and products each year. The students strengthen their business skills, learn how to successfully promote and market themselves and compete in numerous competitions against other high schools. The 2018-19 class is preparing its new product, "Fit Pet," which tracks a pet through GPS, monitors its health and keeps it safe.

Science research students are also making strides in the world of innovation, as 24 juniors and seniors conducted research both in-house and in labs at different colleges and universities this past summer. Under the guidance of science research teachers Peter Dennis, David Shanker and Charles Vessalico and distinguished professors, the students demonstrated their skills with projects such as testing the effect of e-cigarette vapor on the bacteria of the lungs to assess lung infection risk. For a full list of students and their projects, please visit the district's website, [lynbrookschools.org](http://lynbrookschools.org) under the high school tab.

The district takes pride in continuing to build student innovators, as it hosted a Women in STEAM Night during the 2017-18 school year to inspire girls in grades 4-8 to pursue innovative career fields. Students were invited to hear from exceptional Lynbrook High School female students and real women involved in STEAM careers. The 2018-19 Women in STEAM Night will be held on Thursday, May 30 at 7 p.m. at Lynbrook High School.

## INSPIRATION

It only takes a spark of inspiration to affect a student in a positive way. At the start of the school year, Marion Street Elementary School celebrated International Day of Peace, when inspiration was found with every colorful pinwheel that was raised in the air. Students and staff created pinwheels in honor of Pinwheels for Peace, an initiative that corresponds with International Day of Peace, which promotes making the world a better place. Marion Street families were invited to the special ceremony where students sang and learned about the importance of showing kindness and spreading peace. Marion Street's act of standing as one inspired not only students and staff members but all those who were present for the ceremony to look toward a brighter tomorrow.

From author visits, career fairs and special days that focus on character building, both North Middle School and South Middle School have incorporated inspiring lessons into the curriculum. Last year, North Middle School celebrated its first Wonder Day, based on the novel "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio. Students focused on the power of kindness and embracing their unique self with positive sessions featuring motivational speakers, teambuilding activities and creative projects. The day inspired students to reflect on the main character of the story who had facial differences, and to strive to be a better version of themselves.

Just this year, South Middle School along with West End Elementary School participated in Start With Hello Week, a program celebrated throughout the nation from Sandy Hook Promise. Through different activities, students learned how to make a difference with their peers and learned the meaning of inclusion. The week was inspiring for both staff and students as they created a school environment of connectedness.



This year, Marion Street Elementary School students and staff provided a source of inspiration as they gathered together for International Day of Peace. The student body proudly held up their colorful pinwheels to symbolize the peace they want to see in the world.

*"Cultivating a learning environment which encourages imagination, fosters innovation and nurtures inspiration allows our students the opportunity to further develop skills needed for success today, tomorrow and beyond." – Superintendent of Schools Dr. Melissa Burak*





# Alumni Spotlight

## Lynbrook Alumnus Serves for a Safer Nassau County

Lynbrook High School graduate Patrick Ryder saw his dreams of one day becoming a police officer reach new heights as he was proudly named the Nassau County Police Commissioner in February 2018. Following his high school graduation in 1980, Mr. Ryder earned his master's degree in homeland security and management from LIU Riverhead, followed by a career in law enforcement for 35 years, starting with the New York City Police Department and continuing as an officer for 32 years in the Nassau County Police Department.

His humble beginnings at Lynbrook High School consisted of being heavily involved in the high school community and on the athletic fields. Mr. Ryder honed his leadership skills as senior class president and

participated on the varsity football, wrestling and baseball teams. He credits the great teachers and coaches that he encountered at Lynbrook High School with preparing him for life beyond the classroom, along with the leadership and social interactions he experienced as a student.

Mr. Ryder is already making strides as Nassau County Police Commissioner, implementing new initiatives to keep the county and its residents safe. Among his many endeavors, he established a police task force known as the Commissioner's Community Council to help fight the opioid crisis in each of the county's districts and created a School Resource Program, providing additional resources to school districts in the event of active-shooter situations.

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# Facilities UPDATE

It was a productive summer for both the district's business office and facilities office as capital projects were completed for the start of the 2018-19 school year. The brick pointing was finished at West End Elementary School and the boiler was successfully set up at Waverly Park Elementary School, as was a completed electrical update. The hallways of Lynbrook High School were brightened as ceiling and lighting projects were completed, and room 306 was converted from a computer

lab to a regular classroom. In addition, the computer room and room 20 at Marion Street Elementary School were all redone. Smaller projects during the summer months included installing new fencing and netting at the Kindergarten Center and providing an extension of the netting at Marion Street Elementary School.

Future bond projects are also in progress, as the preliminary plans for Lynbrook High School are currently being processed at the New York State Education Department Office of Facilities Planning. The district has moved forward with its Smart Bond Investment Plan, calling for the installation of security vestibules in all buildings, which will give each school additional safety measures. Lynbrook High School already has a security vestibule in place for any building visitors. All remaining plans for security vestibules have been approved and will be out to bid this month.

## A Shift in Presenting Voting Information

At the end of the 2017-18 school year, the Department of Justice reached out to Nassau and Suffolk County schools about the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Under this act, there shall be no discrimination in terms of voting rights. The Department of Justice now requires school districts to provide voting information in the form of newsletter

articles, website stories, banners, flyers, etc., in the predominant languages for each jurisdiction. Last year, English and Spanish were deemed by the federal government to be the predominant languages spoken in Nassau and Suffolk. Therefore, moving forward, the district will be providing all voting information in both English and Spanish.

## Communication Corner

### Lynbrook Kindergarten Center 20th Anniversary Reunion

The Lynbrook Owl is a wise old scholar - if you're in kindergarten, stand up and holler!

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.

### Save the Date

Veterans Day Observed: Nov. 12, schools closed

Thanksgiving Recess: Nov. 22 & 23, schools closed



#GIVEAHOOTFOR...



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



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