

Merrick Messenger

DISTRICT UNVEILS **Impactful Vision**

We've unveiled a new district vision with the start of the 2023-24 school year: "We Are Merrick. I Have Impact."

"We are blending our initiatives to create one message," Dr. Jill Karp, deputy superintendent, explained.

"We are using our impact to support, educate, include and inspire our students, families, colleagues and community."

SEL, Belonging and Visible Learning all fall under the focus of the initiative, which encompasses all district staff members.

"No matter their role, every employee who works in this district is a teacher," added Superintendent Dr. Dominick Palma at the Superintendent's Conference Day ahead of the

school year. "Every employee of this school district has an impact on how we function. Additionally, everyone has the opportunity to make an impact – not only on our students but on each other."

"Impact is a perfect word to define our educational community," Dr. Karp said. "Everything we do focuses on how we IMPACT our students, our colleagues, our families and our community. In each decision we make and meeting we have, we have our impact in mind."



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CHATTERTON KICKS OFF 100th Birthday Celebration

The Chatterton School PTA, faculty and staff welcomed families back for the new school year with a picnic on Sept. 8. Celebrating the school's 100th birthday, students wore special T-shirts gifted by the PTA, sang "Happy Birthday" and even had a special cake.

"It was so heartwarming to see the Chatterton community enjoying good food, music and many

laughs together," Principal Dana Bermas said. "This was a wonderful kickoff to our 100th birthday celebration."

Retired staff returned to Chatterton on Oct. 5 as part of the ongoing celebration for the building's 100th birthday. Students enjoyed getting to discuss Chatterton School from both back then and now. It was a reunion of sorts, where current students could see and listen to some history and favorite memories.



The new playground at Birch.



One of the new playgrounds at Lakeside.

Students Enjoy NEW PLAYGROUNDS

Playgrounds were replaced at Lakeside and Birch schools during the summer break. At Lakeside, the playground closest to Charles Street was replaced with two climbing structures. At Birch, the playground south of the building was replaced. The existing swing set remains. Both schools utilized committees to choose the playground equipment.

Lakeside Welcomes New Assistant Principal

Christopher Colarossi was appointed as the new assistant principal at Levy Lakeside School, beginning with the current school year.

"As the assistant principal, it is my role to continue to nurture that culture by supporting teacher development, enriching schoolwide programs and systems, and by making sure every member of our community feels welcomed, valued and dignified," he said. "Most importantly, it is my job to ensure that our students enjoy coming to school each and every day and realize that with hard work and dedication, they can achieve anything."

Hailing from Lynbrook,

Colarossi has been an educator for 22 years and previously served as the principal of Shaw Avenue School in Valley Stream for eight years.

"I lead by listening and collaborating with all stakeholders so that every building decision is made with the notion that 'kids come first,'" he noted in a welcome letter to Lakeside families. "I join the Levy Lakeside School with a wealth of experiences and training in curriculum and pedagogical enhancements, data analysis, strategic intervention services, enrichment programming and parental outreach."

Colarossi attended Fairleigh Dickinson University where he received both his Bachelor of Arts



degree in psychology and Master of Education in elementary education degree. He later attended Brooklyn College where he earned his New York State school administrator and supervisor certificate.

He replaces Meredith Kelly, who was assigned to Birch School for the 2023-24 school year.

NEWS Around the Schools



Taking Learning Outdoors

Teachers at Chatterton can take their lessons outdoors thanks to a collaborative purchase between the Merrick UFSD and the school's PTA. At left (top), Mrs. Gonzalez's students enjoy a math lesson in the courtyard.



Mapping Tools

Mrs. Millevoi and Mrs. Mastellon's class practiced using a compass rose and map keys to identify places on Long Island during a recent social studies lesson.

Math Club Fun

From community-building activities, to making frisbees out of geometric shapes, to playing card games involving adding and subtracting, Mrs. Walsh's Math Club members are practicing their math skills while having fun at Lakeside.



Welcome TO MERRICK

Our school district welcomes new faculty and staff members who will be joining us for the 2023-24 school year. These friendly faces can be seen around Birch, Chatterton and Levy Lakeside. We can't wait to see their positive contributions to our school communities.

Assistant Principal

Christopher Colarossi Lakeside School

Merrick Office Personnel

Lisa McElroy Lakeside School
Danielle Palmer Birch School

Teacher

Alexa Bernesby	Special Education	Lakeside School
Amanda Carroll	Special Education	Lakeside School
Caroline Davis	General Education	Lakeside School
Brittany Grassi	General Education	Chatterton School
Jessica Helbock	Leave Replacement, Art	Chatterton School
Grace Horcher	General Education	Birch School
Priscilla Liberatos	General Education	Birch School
Brianna Mauren	General Education	Lakeside School
Amanda Papa	General Education	Birch School
Mackenzie Venezia	Leave Replacement, Technology	Chatterton School
Lindsay Warsaw	Reading Teacher	Lakeside School
Melissa Weiss	Pre-K	Birch School
Jessica Wigand	Special Education Teacher	Birch School

Social Worker

Jarrod Alexander Birch School
Marisa Taddeo Chatterton School

Nurse

Jennifer Lopez Birch School

Teaching Assistant

Laurie Ackerman Lakeside School
Jonathan Grossman Lakeside School
Michele Loughlin Birch School
Eliana Puglisi Lakeside School
Amanda Rogawski Lakeside School
Vittoria Tangredi Lakeside School
Lauren Zlotoff Lakeside School

Cleaner

German Guzman Birch & Lakeside Schools
Yanira Pereira Lakeside School

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