

Talking about
the Elmont
UFSD
Elementary
Schools



Elmont Dialogue

Fall 2010

Important dates:

Nov. 2

Election Day
Superintendent's Conference Day
(Staff Only; No School for Students)

Nov. 9

Board of Education Meeting
Covert Avenue School, 8 p.m.

Nov. 10

Parent-Teacher Conferences
(Half Day of School for Students)

Nov. 11

Veterans Day
Schools Closed

Nov. 12

Superintendent's Conference Day
(Staff only; No School for Students)

Nov. 15-19

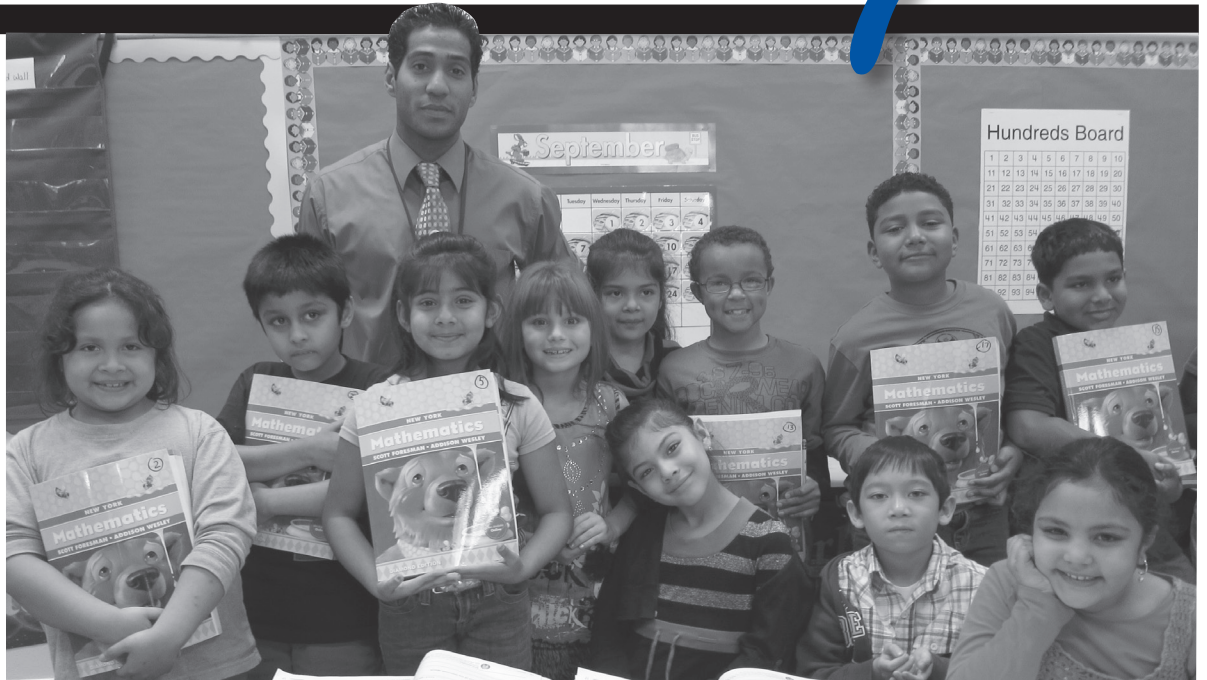
Bully Prevention Week

Nov. 25/26

Thanksgiving Recess
No School



Reaching
and
Teaching
for
Excellence



Second-graders in Daniel Gutierrez's class at Clara H. Carlson School are all smiles. The students look forward to applying mathematic skills to solve real world math problems.

District Rises to Challenge of New Assessment Standards

Curriculum Mapping Assures Teachers Keep Students on Course

The Board of Regents adopted the National Common Core Standards and redefined academic proficiency in July. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) will redesign the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests. The new assessments will cover a broader range of content performance indicators. In order to accomplish this, NYSED has made changes to the format of the testing program, lengthened the amount of time each test will take, and changed the administration dates to later in the academic year.

The Elmont School District curriculum map is aligned to the New York State Standards and Performance Indicators and is revised annually by a team of Elmont teachers.

The curriculum map identifies, paces, and guides the instructional program. Each grade level map contains the content, skills, assessments, and resources that must be mastered in order for a child to meet or exceed the New York State Standards.

Multiple sources of instructional and assessment data are collected and analyzed by the district's educational team. Each summer the Elmont School District reviews and revises the curriculum map to assure the alignment of curriculum, standards, and assessments. When students return to school in the fall, the district has a revised educational blueprint designed to better meet their needs. Ultimately, student achievement improves throughout the school year and enables the chil-

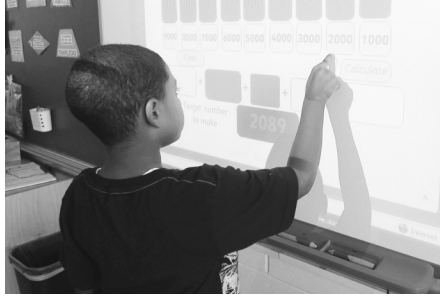
dren to meet the challenges of high state standards and 21st century skills.

The Elmont community believes in the potential of all the children attending the Elmont Elementary Schools. The District continues to build upon a successful curriculum framework initiated ten years ago. Elmont is proud of its outstanding educational program. The children are successful as a result of a strong curriculum design and delivery, dedicated professionals, an outstanding support staff, supportive parents, state of the art technology, data-driven instruction and a Superintendent, Board of Education, and community who support the education of the whole child.

District Rises to Challenge of New Assessment Standards



(continued from cover)



Mrs. DeNicola's class learns the importance of place value using SMART Board technology. Her fourth-graders at Clara H. Carlson and students across the district are engaged in learning through interactive activities everyday.

Clara H. Carlson's administrative team, from left, Principal Kenneth Rosner and Assistants to the Principal Shawneé Warfield and Stacia Walfall, review the Math curriculum map.



First-grade teacher, Mrs. Brereton, challenges her students to a game of "One Fewer or One More." Math unifix cubes engage students and foster primary number and operation skills.

Covert Avenue and Dutch Broadway Students are introduced to READ 180



Dutch Broadway students enjoy small group reading sessions with Teacher Assistant Mrs. Cartwright and Teacher Aide Mrs. Leidner.

Students at Covert Avenue and Dutch Broadway schools are enthusiastically participating in the READ 180 program this year. This innovative, individualized, technology-based reading program is known to motivate even the most challenged readers. The students at Covert and Dutch Broadway are excited to have an opportunity to participate.

Each session begins and ends with whole-group teacher-directed instruction in reading, writing and vocabulary. The students break into three small groups that rotate among three stations that emphasize: skill development; small group direct instruction; and independent reading, with the

assistance of a teacher, teaching assistant and teacher aides. At the conclusion of the lesson, the teacher brings all students together for a whole group wrap up activity. Student progress is assessed and the software adjusts instruction based on student responses. There are paperback and audio books for modeled and independent reading which meet each child at his/her interest and instructional level.

The teachers enthusiastically support READ 180 because they see how excited their students are to participate and can see the difference this research-based program is making in the lives of children.



Students at Covert Avenue learn at their own pace with READ 180 computer software.

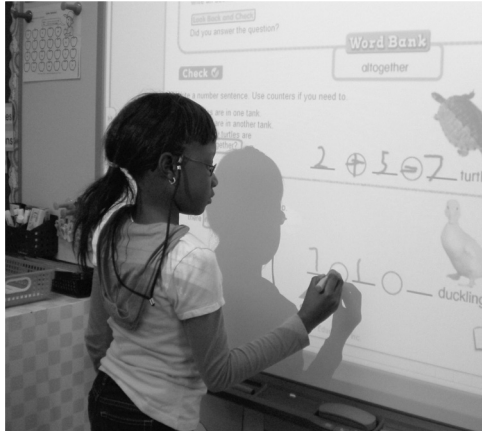


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School happenings...

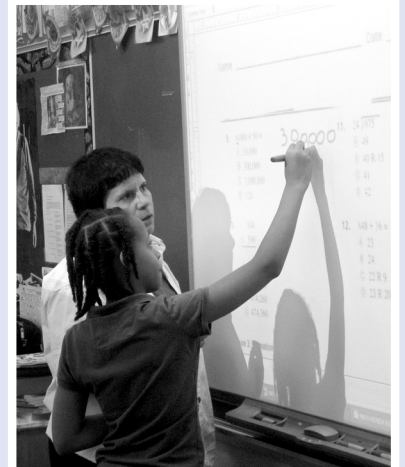
Interactive Learning at Alden Terrace

Students throughout Alden Terrace School are actively engaged in learning. SMART Board technology is incorporated into daily instruction. Whether making use of hands-on manipulatives, viewing a video clip about grouping objects for addition, reviewing key vocabulary or expounding on solutions to open-ended math problems, the SMART Board affords students the privilege of encountering life-like applications. Additionally, this powerful learning tool enhances planning and instructional delivery to meet the New York State Standards.



Gotham Teaches Math Skills for Life

"Skills for life and creative thinking are stressed in Dr. Bonich's Math class each day," says Gotham Avenue Principal Marshall Zucker. Dr. Bonich works with four sixth-grade math groups on a daily basis. Students in her classes enjoy the enhancements she brings to instruction, including the use of SMART Board technology. Besides teaching basic sixth-grade Math skills, Dr. Bonich also encourages students to become active mathematicians as they apply their skills both inside and outside the classroom.



Stewart Manor Welcomes New Parents

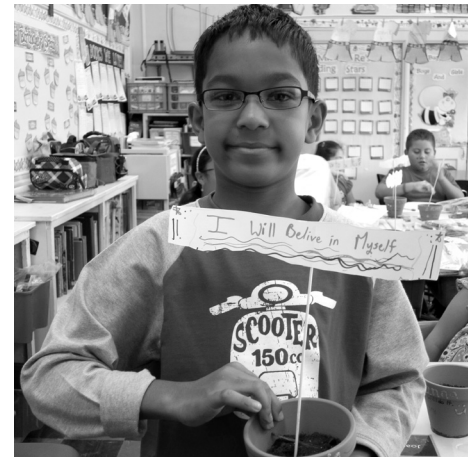
Stewart Manor's Principal Hope Kranidis tells her students, "Be the best you can be and never settle for less than your best." Speaking at the school's annual New Parent Breakfast, sponsored by the PTA, Ms. Kranidis encouraged parents to share these same sentiments with their children at home. About 60 parents attended the meeting, where they were introduced to key school faculty and PTA officers. They learned about school safety policies and building routines and had a chance to ask questions of the principal and staff. "It was informative and gave us a chance to meet some of the other parents" said Seana Bart.



Standing, from left, Principal Hope Kranidis and PTA President Ann Burger welcome Seana Bart and Alfred Jean-Francois to the Stewart Manor family – their daughter, Sofia just started kindergarten at the school.

Growing Positive Affirmations at Clara Carlson

After burying his negative idea (written on a piece of paper) and then planting a flower bulb, Nevin Balgobin proudly placed his hand-decorated positive affirmation in the planter. It reads, "I will believe in myself." The symbolic act of burying the negative and planting the positive was just one of the many activities that classes participated in to kick-off Clara H. Carlson School's annual Community Read initiative.



Welcome Back!

Elmont School District Superintendent Al Harper greets students at Alden Terrace School on opening day. Mr. Harper visited all six schools to welcome students to the new school year.



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**New Principal at
Covert Avenue School**

Covert Avenue's new principal, Andrew Weisman, brings 15 years of experience to the district. His most recent post was as districtwide assistant principal at North Shore Schools, where he supervised staff in three elementary schools. Mr. Weisman was involved in programming for 1,300 students in grades K-5. Prior to that, he taught in the Syosset Central School District and was the director of the Teacher Center.

"I look forward to getting to know the children at Covert Avenue School," said Weisman. "I hope they come to know me as someone who will help them grow in a supportive way."

"We are delighted and extremely fortunate to have Andrew join our staff," said Elmont School District Superintendent Al Harper. "I'm confident that his experience and strong leadership skills will help motivate students to reach their full potential."

Mr. Weisman has an ambitious agenda. "You won't find me in my office a lot," he said. "I will be out and about – in the classrooms everyday, meeting kids at lunch and recess and meeting parents at special events and community happenings. I want to create a family atmosphere," he said. "I'm looking forward to an amazing year, working with everyone and building relationships. My door is always open."



**DISTRICT TO LOWER TAX LEVY
Immediate benefit to all taxpayers in the district**

The 2010-11 tax levy will be reduced from 2.7 percent to 2.3 percent. As a result, the average homeowner's annual tax bill, which was slated to increase by \$78, will increase only \$62 — a \$16 per household decrease. The lower tax levy will yield an annual savings of \$200,000.

The tax levy is the amount of money a district needs to raise through taxes, after receiving its share of state aid, to meet its budget. Reducing the tax levy was possible as the district applied cost-saving strategies to various budget lines, and continued to research areas such as transportation, special education, utilities and building operations for additional savings even after the levy was set.

"This is great news," said Elmont School District Superintendent Al Harper. "It's more proof that the district's strategic approach to fiscal management is working. We continue to provide quality education for our children, while being ever-vigilant to the financial concerns of our community. It also means that Elmont continues to have one of the lowest per pupil costs in the county."

Since Mr. Harper became superintendent five years ago, the Elmont tax levy has increased by an average of only 1.8 percent per year, comparatively lower than other districts in the county.