The Westbury School District was out in full force to celebrate our school district and all things Dragon Pride! The day was highlighted by a parade, which featured band performances by the amazing student-musicians in Westbury, and a hard-fought victory for the Westbury High School football team against Hicksville during the homecoming game by a score of 14 to 7.
Education is evolutionary. How we teach, the tools we use to teach, instructional strategies in a classroom, the new technology and education—all look vastly different now based on innovation and shifts in the world. One way in which education has particularly changed in the Westbury Union Free School District is through our enhanced focus on engagement with the Westbury community. We are investing in a pillar of the educational system in Westbury: family and community engagement. Simply put, collaboration with our families and community is a must.

As a centerpiece of Westbury’s focus on family and community engagement, the district has recently launched the Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee. This group is a partnership among all of our constituents. Students, parents, guardians, family members, local nonprofits, community advocacy groups, local businesses, teachers, staff, administration and the Board of Education all have a seat at this table, and all voices are valued, heard and championed.

The district is working toward engagement with families and communities in new ways. We are holding community cafes and student-led conferences. In addition, we have established an open-schools initiative in which parents can visit their child’s classroom to witness instruction by their child’s teachers and make meaningful connections with our schools.

These partnerships have provided for increasing student achievement and access to high-level academic courses while being mindful of the social emotional well-being of our children, staff and community. Engaging with the families and various communities in Westbury provides for holistic, around-the-clock learning for students while strengthening the bonds that children have with not just their schools and families, but their community as well. The Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee helps us to empower our families and provide the best-possible education for our students.
Westbury Celebrates Hispanic Heritage

Held every October, Hispanic Heritage Month is a way for all Americans to recognize the vital contributions that Hispanic Americans have made to our country. All across the Westbury School District, our schools engaged in events meant to honor and showcase this important month. There was live music, dancing, games, snacks, arts and crafts, and so much more, all celebrating and honoring Hispanic and Latino culture.
Fostering a love of reading in young children is something very important to educators at Drexel Avenue Elementary School, and one way teachers choose to emphasize this belief is to encourage children to continue their reading adventures at home with their families. Recently, the school held a fun pajama party and bedtime story event, at which students wore their best pajamas to school and read stories to one another. It was a lighthearted way to put the focus on a vital truth: reading everywhere—at school and at home—is a fundamental part of the educational process.

Nothing enriches the mind quite like reading. Elementary schools throughout the Westbury School District utilize all programs that help our youngest students to embrace reading. Recently Dryden Street Elementary School celebrated their participation in Reading Rocks, a program that uses humor and fun to encourage a love of reading. Through programs such as Reading Rocks, we can foster a lifelong engagement and enthusiasm for reading in all our students.

The moon is certainly one of the many symbols of the fall season, and students in Westbury Middle School recently learned more about our only natural satellite by researching the cycles of the moon. Students in Mr. Ouellette and Ms. Augustin’s science classes learned all about the various cycles of the moon and the movement of the earth.

Soup power abounds at the high school as well. Girls Inc. is an afterschool initiative that provides mentoring, enrichment and extracurricular programs for girls. Girls Inc. empowers our young ladies to be strong, smart and bold.

The My Brother’s Keeper Challenge aims to empower young men of color by addressing their unique challenges and fighting to put an end to racial inequality. Westbury High School has been “All In” (our motto) in embracing My Brother’s Keeper to better the lives of our children. Recent events have included our students meeting with and engaging in dialogue with an admissions representative from Dartmouth College.