



WESTBURY UFSD

GO DRAGONS!

Westbury's 2022 Homecoming was a wonderful occasion loved by all. Enjoy these beautiful pictures that captured treasured moments.



Check out Our New Website!

Our brand-new—and innovative—district website launched just after Homecoming. A total revamp, our new site will soon be your go-to source for all information about the Westbury School District. Visit www.westburyschools.org today and let us know what you think!



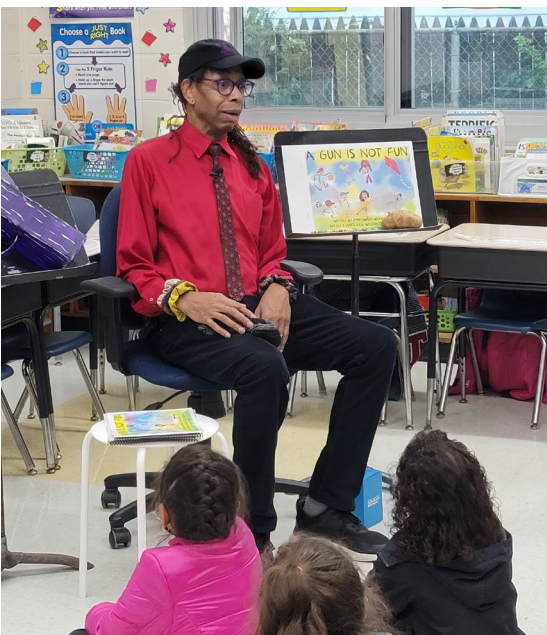
AROUND THE DISTRICT

Westbury Middle School Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



The Westbury School District has no doubt been incalculably improved by the influence of our Hispanic and Latino students, faculty and community members. It is for this reason that many of our schools take such pride in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, an annual, month-long observation in the United States when we honor the contributions to culture by Hispanic and Latino people.

Westbury Middle School students and staff went all out for the occasion. The entire school was decorated with flags representing every Hispanic and Latino country in hallways and assembly rooms. Classrooms were assigned different countries and each door was decorated with flags, pictures and facts about the country assigned to them. One highlight was Latinos in the Arts Day. Bad Bunny, Selena, Rosalía and Shakira were just some of the fan favorites to grace the hallways. Other themes included Culture Day, when scholars and staff wore traditional clothing from their favorite Hispanic countries to school; Sports Day, when the school was flooded with jerseys from Hispanic sports teams; and Flag Day, when everyone wore or brought a small flag to school.



Emmy-Winning Sesame Street Writer Visits Drexel for Vital Lessons on Gun Violence

Every September, Drexel Avenue Elementary School holds “Start with Hello” Week, part of The Sandy Hook Promise, an organization that aims to put an end to all gun violence in schools. It’s a powerful—and tragically vital—week, and this year’s event was particularly memorable. The school was visited by William Electric Black, a seven-time Emmy Award winner for his writing on Sesame Street and a leading voice in the gun violence prevention movement. In 2014, Mr. Black launched GUNPLAYS, a series of five plays addressing inner-city gun violence.

During his time at the school, Mr. Black visited with first graders to read a passage from his book *A Gun is Not Fun*. The book, illustrated by a former Sesame Street colleague, is a means for educators to spread awareness of gun violence early on.

Welcome, New Teachers and Staff!

The start of a new school year is exciting for so many reasons. One of our particularly favorite parts of the new year is the welcoming of new educators to our District schools. It is truly a wonderful feeling to witness new educators—many of them at the start of their educational careers—begin a new journey at the Westbury School District. We have the utmost confidence they will be an incredible asset to our students.

To officially welcome the new teachers, the District held a two-day orientation at the high school in September. While the orientation had many goals, one of the primary objectives was introducing new teachers to the District's protocols, procedures, policies, curriculum, instruction, social-emotional learning and financial literacy frameworks.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION

- An overview of the technology and learning platforms used by the District
- Talks from administrators regarding benefits, opportunities and support systems for new teachers
- Review of expectations, policies, procedures, and COVID-19 protocols, among other topics
- A bus tour around the District
- Presentations on mentoring, buddy programs and raising scholar achievement
- Presentation by high school scholars on their expectations for their teachers



Westbury School District Superintendent Dr. Tahira DuPree Chase speaks to new teachers at the District's orientation. Dr. Chase's main message to new teachers? "Everything we do here at Westbury centers around our vision: to create an empowering, collaborative and supportive learning environment that promotes maximum success for all scholars."



Westbury's newest educators.

**WESTBURY UNION FREE
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
2 Hitchcock Lane
Old Westbury, New York 11568

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FACILITIES UPDATE

New Solar Panels Point to Green Future at the Westbury School District



If you've visited Westbury High School recently, you've no doubt noticed the impressive new solar panels above our parking areas. We're so excited about these solar panels and their potential to reduce our environmental footprint and our energy costs, but if you're curious as to how they came about or what exactly they are accomplishing, read on for all the pertinent details.

In May of 2022, the Westbury Union Free School District entered into an Energy Performance Contract with Honeywell. Honeywell's contract included 11 measures designed to provide cost savings to the District. One of those measures was the installation of solar photovoltaic systems—or solar PV systems. The solar PV systems were installed as a solar array in the South parking lot at Westbury High School and roof mounted panels at Westbury Middle School. Once fully operational, the solar PV systems will generate electricity for both schools, reducing the amount of electricity needed from the utility company. It is estimated that both systems will be fully complete by late November.

SPORTS NEWS

Westbury Dragons' Carlos Turcios Named Top 100 Soccer Player on LI

Westbury High School senior Carlos Turcios has been named one of the top 100 soccer players on Long Island by Newsday. Turcios, a midfielder for the Westbury Dragons, has been called a multitasking playmaker who will play a pivotal role in the Dragons' chase for the Nassau AA championship. "Last year, Carlos helped lead the Dragons to the Nassau AA championship," said Varsity Coach Chris Valentini. "Carlos is an exceptional player who has returned to lead the Dragons back to defend the Nassau AA championship title. I could not be prouder to have Carlos on my team, and to see him grow as a player. Carlos is a team player, always there to support and give advice to his teammates, and I am sure will go on to continue to make Westbury proud in the next chapter of his life after graduation."

MUSIC AND ARTS

Westbury High School Unveils Beautiful Frida Kahlo Portrait

The incredibly talented student artists in Westbury High School's art club recently unveiled an incredible portrait of Frida Kahlo, the iconic Mexican surrealist painter. The portrait, which now resides in the Yes We Can Center in North Hempstead, was a perfect way to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month.

