



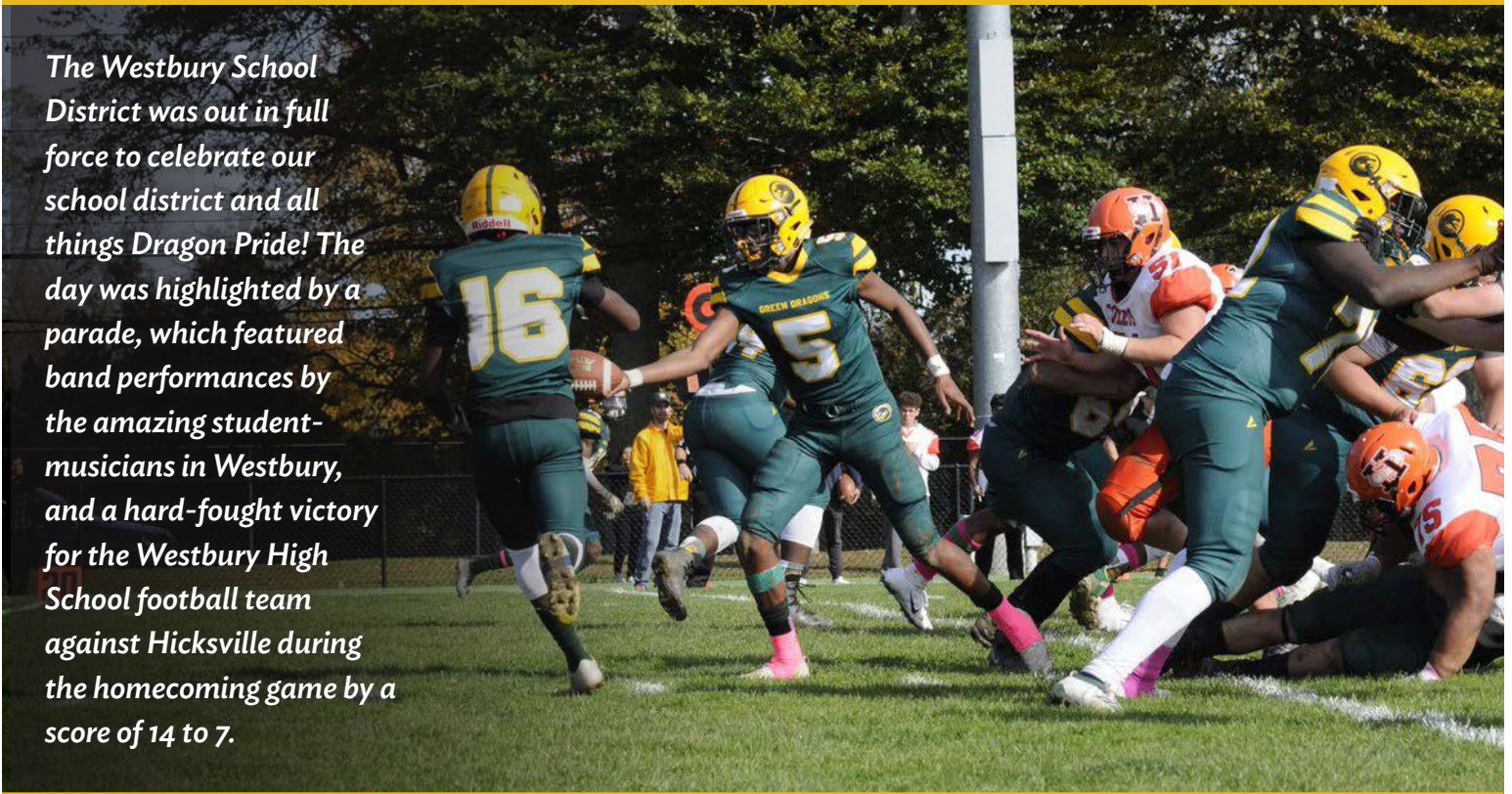
FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

# WESTBURY UFSD



## HOMECOMING 2019: CELEBRATING DRAGON PRIDE

*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.*



# Family and Community Engagement Connected to Academic and Social Emotional Success

Changing a community by changing the relationship between students, parents, community members and the local school district.

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 being intentional with the investment of what is now 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 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 business, teachers, staff, administration and the Board of Education all have a seat at this table, and all voices are valued, heard and championed.

The Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee has already seen the district work toward engagement in new ways. In recent weeks, we have held community cafes, an open schools concept, and student-led conferences at which families can come into our schools and visit with their children to witness instruction with their 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. To learn more about the Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee, visit the district website, [www.westburyschools.org](http://www.westburyschools.org).



“At the Westbury Union Free School District, we shifted **from involvement to engagement**. We want to make sure that our families are at the table with an active voice. We understand, however, that in order to achieve this goal, we need to have a group that helps facilitate this collaboration. That’s how the Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee came to be.”

*-Superintendent Eudes Budhai*



# Westbury Celebrates Hispanic Heritage

Held every October, Hispanic Heritage Month is a way for all Americans to recognize the vital contributions that Hispanic and Latino 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.



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## A Look Around the District

Everyone loves getting a visit from Westbury Superintendent Eudes Budhai, especially when he takes part in a fun activity like classroom reading. Recently, students at **Drexel Avenue Elementary School** were able to spend an afternoon with Superintendent Budhai reading to them. It was a great way to end the week, and we can't thank the superintendent enough for being such an inspirational role model.



Nothing enriches the mind quite like reading. Elementary schools throughout the Westbury School District embrace all programs that help our youngest students to embrace and love reading. One such program being used at **Dryden Street Elementary School** is Reading Rocks, a program that uses humor and fun to encourage struggling readers not to give up! Through programs such as these, we can foster a lifelong love of reading in all students.

Nothing embodies the sense of community quite like the library, a place where anyone, regardless of financial standing, can come in and have access to a world of information and entertainment. Certainly, this message isn't lost on **Park Avenue Elementary School**, where children recently built their own "little library" and filled it with donated books. Thanks to initiatives like the "little library", our community is enriched.



We may have some budding engineers at **Powell's Lane Elementary School!** Several students in the fifth grade recently took part in a lesson in which they used everyday items to construct bridges. It was a valuable lesson that gave children insight to the different types of bridges, including suspension, arch, beam and more.



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.



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.



Girl 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.