



2016-17 Welcome Back to School Message

Can it be that the lazy, hazy days of summer will soon be behind us? It must be because we are already putting into action plans for a **GREAT** year for the classes of 2016-2017. I am peeking out of one of the new windows installed at Pasadena and Parkway and behind me are staff who are working hard to prepare your children's classrooms for opening day.



The district make-over continued in every building this summer. Our high school has a new roof and parking lot, Mattlin new boilers, Old Bethpage a new playground and soon POBMS will have new windows. We also addressed a number of asbestos removal projects at Mattlin, Stratford Road and Old Bethpage and hope to complete the extension of playgrounds at each elementary school to accommodate our early learners by the end of September.

During the summer, we sadly said goodbye to Sharon Lasher who is now a principal in Oyster Bay and Christian Bowen, now Director of Instruction in Valley Stream CHSD. We welcome a number of new, talented staff who will be joining our team this year. The new administrators are: Eileen Annino, Chair of K-6 Literacy, Michael Rodgers Director of Music and Performing Arts, Joseph Coladonato, Principal at Mattlin, Dorothy Drexel, AP at POBMS, Jodi Marchese, AP at Pasadena, Vanessa Schack, AP at POBJFKHS and Genevieve Lagattuta, Chair of Mathematics. We also have some internal movements. Regina Talento is now AP at Mattlin, Nicole Yerk, AP at Parkway, Lynn Winters, AP at Stratford Road, Greg Scesney, Principal at Parkway and Chris Donarummo is now Assistant to the Superintendent, in charge of Transportation and Security. Today I attended the new Teacher orientation and I can assure you that we have hired a **Great** group of teachers.

Our theme for this year, **Great Happens Here**, came about after our Leadership Team reflected on the wonderful happenings in our schools. This theme salutes our **Great** and talented students, **Great** and dedicated staff, **Great** and committed Board of Education, and **Great** and supportive parents and community. Working together we make the Plainview-Old Bethpage schools a very special place where possibilities are endless.

We have a dedicated staff eager to welcome your children into those magical, engaging classroom experiences POB has come to be known for. Enjoy the rest of the summer and return refreshed to confirm that **Great Happens Here**.

Dr. Lorna R. Lewis

Proud Superintendent of POB Schools