



For the last several years, my family has been heating the downstairs of our home with a wood burning fireplace. That's not to say we are free from our oil burner. No, a few loads of laundry or some dirty dishes in the sink have a way of keeping our burner busy throughout the day. But, there is something satisfying about producing our own heat when the temperature outside is freezing. And, not surprisingly, it does save money on our oil bill.

When it comes to the business of running a school district, there are similarities to our family's fuel usage. As you know, East Islip is not alone in its reliance on state aid to offset expenses in order to combat our community's tax burden. Pundits will tell you that Long Island does not "get its fair share" of state aid

I will not argue with these people, but, like you, I've been hearing about "fair share" for too many years with limited results. That said, several of our state representatives have been vigilant in their efforts to bring more dollars back to Long Island, but if there is scarce aid money, what's to be done?

Our new Governor has re-proposed a 2% cap (or rate of inflation, whichever is less) on government and schools in order to ease the property tax burden. This has caused a general alarm throughout the state as concerns mount about escalating costs for insurance, pensions, and mandates. The media is already reporting the doomsday budgets that some of our neighbors are considering.

We, too, are deeply concerned about the impact a tax cap and increased costs will have on our ability to deliver a quality education to our children. However, we must continue

to do our part in order to be fiscally responsible to the community, yet move forward. To that end, we have trimmed operating costs through careful preparation and multiple negotiations. Additionally, we have thoughtfully proposed spending plans for advancements in technology and infrastructure that seek to minimize the financial impact.

We will not stop here. In the next several months, you will be hearing about the District's new Strategic Planning Committee as well as other changes. We believe the business of education in East Islip needs to be retooled and we are confident that new ideas will be generated which can be meaningfully incorporated into our future.

Please consider joining us on this journey. Attend School Board meetings or submit your ideas to members of the Board via the District's website. Don't stand by idle... throw another log on the fire.







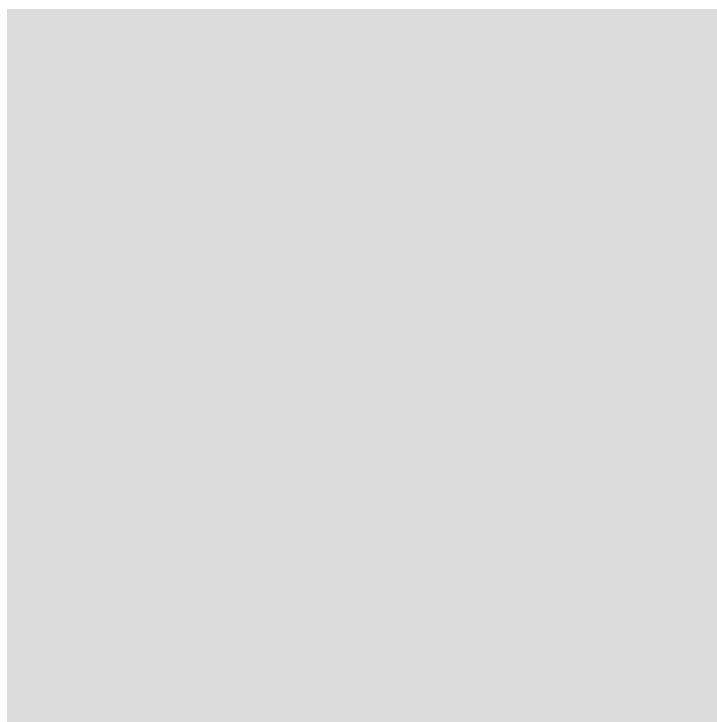
Faculty and students of Timber Point Elementary School joined together for the opening their brand new Book Nook Café. The transformation of the cafeteria was a year and a half the making. Mrs. Ilene Mauner, a parent of one of the students, coordinated with Principal Margaret Harper to create a place where staff and students can hold conversations about literature. All students took part in a contest to rename the cafeteria. The title “Book Nook Café” was conceived by Natalia Lozinski, a fourth grader at Timber Point Elementary.

“We want this to be a place where teachers and students can come together, creating a ‘teachable moment’ which can be linked to the literacy program. The students will learn that at any time, wherever they are, reading can be fun and shared,” noted Principal Mrs. Harper.



East Islip High School junior Cari Roccaro was recently named to the 2010 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) High School All-American Team. The team is comprised of approximately 40 top student-athletes from across the nation. "I've worked so hard," Cari said of the honor. "This is my dream. This is what I've worked towards."

Cari has been playing soccer for 12 years and has already been offered a full scholarship to play for Notre Dame, which she plans to accept as a senior next year.



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