

# Superintendent Highlight of the Week

## *An Inside Glimpse at Plainview-Old Bethpage's Parent University*

This week I had the good fortune of attending several workshops hosted by our Parent University. Thanks to the incredible efforts of the Curriculum and Instruction Office – led by Ms. Gierasch – administrators and teachers presented us with great learning experiences on a range of topics.

As the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District aligns their classrooms to Common Core instruction, it's imperative that we assist parents in any way that we can. The Parent University represented a wonderful opportunity to do just that; several of the sessions offered concrete suggestions to parents on how to support their children with the new shifts.



*At Parent University, POB parents participated in hands-on demonstrations of the education their children receive.*

In one of the sessions I attended, parents got a first-hand glimpse into an elementary math classroom. Three teachers, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Sidito and Mr. Matassa (grades 1 – 4), from Old Bethpage, and first grade teacher, Mrs. O'Heir, from Parkway, worked with Old Bethpage principal Mrs. Gray to demonstrate how first-graders use place value and how that becomes the building block for the fourth grade curriculum (addressing shift coherence).

Parents also participated in a fourth-grade lesson on geometry in which they used problem solving strategies to measure angles without using protractors. I wanted to see this concept in action with students. The following day I dropped in on Mr. Matassa's fourth grade classroom where students modeled that same lesson and demonstrated their understanding of the angle measurements of various geometric shapes. They were impressive in their mastery of the concept and, more important, were having fun with mathematics. That is what learning has to be about: engagement and joy.



*Following Parent University, I visited with fourth graders at Old Bethpage Elementary School to observe students learning geometry concepts.*