

Superintendent's Highlight of the Week: March 21

Stratford Road Raises Thousands for Long Island Food Bank

Kudos to the Stratford Road community for another astounding Empty Bowls Project. Through hard work and determination, they broke all records for collecting funds for the hungry and homeless on Long Island! The Empty Bowls project is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger through raising awareness and gathering donations. This project begins each year with the fourth grade students making a clay bowl under the guidance of an Artist in Residence, Cliff Mendelsohn, and their art teacher, Mrs. Mittleman. The other grades are also involved; first graders made decorative flowers, second graders wrote thank you letters to restaurants donating soup, and third graders made signs advertising the event.

Students, staff, parents and local merchants all collaborated and volunteered their time, money, and soup to make this event such a success. The community was invited to feast on the soups and stews provided by local restaurants and served from the bowls created by the students. The “entrance fee” to the event was a bag of canned goods which will be donated to Island Harvest. Hundreds of pounds of food were donated and funds from a raffle raised over \$1,000 for Island Harvest.

Great lessons in giving were learned by all.

Some additional information we thought you might find interesting:

Did you know that Nassau County has consistently been ranked in the top 3 wealthiest counties in New York State and in the top 10 wealthiest counties in the United States of America? Did you also know that, according to a February 2010 study by Island Harvest and Long Island Cares/Harry Chapin Food Bank, **1 in 10 Long Islanders is hungry and sought assistance from a food kitchen or pantry?** This amounts to over 280,000 Long Islanders seeking assistance.