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**Superintendent**

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Winter 2022/2023

Dear Members of the Hewlett-Woodmere Community,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the final days of 2022!

As the dawn of 2023 approaches, it is so important for us to look back and reflect on all we have accomplished throughout the past year.

After more than two years of isolation, loneliness, and virtual events, our schools approached the new academic year with a renewed sense of spirit and excitement.

The underlying theme for this year has emerged as “celebrations.” Celebrations of togetherness, celebrations of our outstanding students, celebrations of our incomparable staff, and celebrations of our wonderful community.

We started the year off with Niche naming us the 6th Best School District in New York and the 19th Best School District in America...what an incredible honor!

Our schools have been extraordinarily busy celebrating amazing learning opportunities, seasonal events, off-campus adventures, and so much more. The sense of wonder at simply being together has permeated each and every activity for the past four months.

The delight on the faces of our students as they celebrate with their classmates is infectious. Our schools welcomed the fall season with the annual Frost Valley/Long Island Adventure excursion (WMS), It's Fall Y'all (OES), Funtober (HES), Fall Festival (FECC), and Homecoming parade and game (HHS).

Our music department presented the fantastic, “Into the Woods” musical in November and had nearly 100 students participate in the All National, All State, All Eastern, All County, and LISFA competitions. Twenty students had their artwork displayed at the NYSSBA Convention in Syracuse and 16 pieces of student artwork are on display at Dolce Confections.

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Empowering the next generation for success in life.

Students and staff at FECC kicked off the holiday season for us with their extraordinary Thanksgiving Feast. OES lit up a rainy night with their Holiday Lights, a spectacular display of seasonal decorations, delicious snacks, games, and inclusivity. HES' Winter Wonderland brought children and adults of all ages together to ring in the holiday season.

As always, our students embrace the spirit of giving with countless charitable endeavors. All five of our schools ran food drives to collect nutritious groceries for those in need. OES students participated in the Hands for Hope mitten drive, Project Snowflake, and Rock and Wrap it Up. HES fifth graders once again went to Dees' Nursery and JFK Airport to deliver Trees for Troops for the holidays, and 3D printed toys to donate to Toys for Tots. HES also ran a toy drive for the Food Recovery and Anti-Poverty Think Tank and Rock and Wrap it Up. The WMS Builder's Club ran a coat drive and a popcorn fundraiser for the needy. Our HHS students ran a toy drive for SIBS Place, a sock drive, and collected sheets and towels for Posh Pets Animal Rescue.

Beginning in 2023, we have an outstanding new milestone to celebrate, the 125th anniversary of Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools. This year-long commemoration of our founding kicks off for our schools on January 25, 2023 and for the community on February 1, 2023 at our fabulous Gallery One art exhibit at the Woodmere Education Center. For the first time, our friends and neighbors from local non-public schools will be sharing the artistic talents of their students with us at the opening.

For more fantastic events and happenings throughout all schools in the District, keep your eyes peeled for our Happy New Year Newsletter, hitting mailboxes in January.

I wish you and your families a safe, relaxing, and joyous holiday recess. Happy New Year to all!

Warm regards,

*Ralph Marino, Jr.*

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