

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



Office of Suffolk County Legislator Kevin J. McCaffrey, 14th District

For Immediate Release
Date: May 15, 2015

Contact: Gregory Atherton
Phone: 631-854-1100

LEGISLATOR MCCAFFREY VISITS JFK ELEMENTARY, DISCUSSES BULLYING



Pictured: Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey (left) and students of Mrs. Jessica Paragine's 1st grade class.

West Babylon, NY: Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey (R- Lindenhurst) recently had the opportunity to visit Ms. Paragine's 1st grade class at J.F.K. Elementary School. This spring, Ms. Paragine's class crafted Easter egg decorations that were proudly displayed on Legislator McCaffrey's office windows, which sparked his interest in visiting the young artists.

In addition to thanking the class for their artwork, McCaffrey read *One*, a book which touched upon how everybody is different and why embracing diversity can enhance our lives. The reading of *One* acted as a segue to a discussion on the topic of bullying in schools and how to stamp it out.

"These young individuals have enough to deal with in these turbulent times," said McCaffrey. "The last thing they need to deal with is fear and bullying in a place where they are supposed to be safe. I believe that if parents and educators instill values of tolerance and diversity in their children, our future will have much less cruelty and violence."

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The West Babylon U.F.S.D. has been an innovative leader in the prevention of bullying. In its schools' various clubs and organizations, students have educated one another through bullying awareness weeks and related campaigns. This commitment to eradicating this societal blight demonstrates a growing public understanding of the issue and a very positive step in the right direction.

“In the past, bullying has not received the attention that it truly deserved,” explained McCaffrey. “Today, we understand that the problem will not go away by ignoring it, and I have a lot of hope for the future generations, thanks in large part to West Babylon schools.”