



Dr. Phyllis Glassman

## From the Office of the Superintendent

Welcome back to the new school year! We look forward to an outstanding 2007-2008 year on behalf of our students. Together I know we can make a positive difference in the lives of each and every child.

As we are aware, the primary mission of the Ossining Union Free School District is to provide each of our students the best possible education and prepare all of our young people for informed and active participation in our American society.

Because rising energy and fuel costs continue to impact our operating expenses and annual school budget, the Ossining Union Free School District has contracted Energy Education, Inc. (EEI) to evaluate our district's energy usage. EEI's Energy Management Consultants have worked closely with educational institutions nationwide for over twenty years. Their Energy Conservation and Management Plans have yielded many school districts significant savings by reducing operating expenses without compromising student and staff needs. Once implemented, we will see notable changes in energy consumption and energy-related costs throughout our district.

The EEI program is a people-based program that requires participation from every student, staff member, teacher, and administrator. By investing just a few seconds daily, every individual occupying a classroom, office, or work-area in our school buildings will contribute to the success of our district's energy conservation program.

Following our commitment to foster an Energy Conservation Ethic across our school district, EEI and the Ossining Union Free School District interviewed various fine candidates for implementation of the district's energy-management program.

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Nancy Vargas was appointed as Energy Manager, effective 1 August 2007. Nancy will be responsible for implementing a comprehensive energy management program to optimize energy use and reduce energy-related expenses throughout our school district.

Many of you have interacted with Nancy in her role as our district registrar over the past ten years. In addition to her current responsibilities, Nancy will be working closely with the Ossining Union Free School District administrators, teachers, and staff in her new role as Energy Manager. The Board of Education and School Administration will be reviewing energy-related recommendations and building audits regularly to ensure that energy is being used more efficiently district-wide.

Some may argue that their job is education, not energy conservation. Please know that every dollar that our district saves can contribute to the education of our children. Conversely, every dollar that our district pays for unnecessarily high energy bills can amount to substantial budget cuts in other areas. Our school district funds could be put to better use – teaching our children. Energy Management is a necessity to benefit our students and our entire district.

- *Energy conservation is a lifestyle.*
- *Every dollar saved makes a difference in the life of a child.*
- *Everyone makes a difference!*

In advance, thank you for cooperating with our Energy Manager and becoming personally invested in conserving energy in your respective classroom, office, or work area daily. As each of us makes a commitment to conserve energy, we will reap the additional benefit of seeing our personal energy-related expenses lowered at home also.

We must pledge ourselves to make a personal commitment to conserve our natural resources by fostering an energy conservation ethic in our classrooms, offices, and school buildings. By diligently conserving the use of electricity, water, and fuel, we will be able to continue providing the same quality educational services our community expects and deserves.



### **5 Simple ways to conserve energy at home and work:**

- ☑ Shut off lights when an office, classroom, or bathroom is not occupied.
- ☑ Close all windows and doors to allow for proper ventilation.
- ☑ Turn off computers and monitors.
- ☑ Turn off desk-top printers and office copiers.
- ☑ Turn off air conditioners (wall units) when room is unoccupied.