



Diversity and Inclusion: Our Story

September 17, 2018



Who We Are

- Over the years school demographics gradually changed.
- Last three years a substantial increase in non-English speaking as well as culturally diverse families have moved in.
- Syosset Council of PTAs saw a need and worked successfully to fulfill that need.





Buddy Program

New parents from different cultural backgrounds are assigned a “Buddy” to help answer questions regarding school, PTA and class activities and translate when needed.

- Launched in Baylis Elementary School in 2005.
- Each unit manages their own Buddy Program and solicits volunteer translators.
- Flyers are translated into multiple languages are included in registration packets (available at the registrar’s office) and are also distributed through the unit PTAs.
 - Languages offered include Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Hindi, Urdu, Czech, Spanish and Slovak.
- We work closely with ENL teachers, guidance counselors and principals to identify families who may require a buddy.

**SOUTH WOODS
PTA
BUDDY
PROGRAM**



**Syosset Council
of PTAs
Cultural Unity
Committee**

❖ **NEED HELP? 需要帮忙 助けが必要 도움이 필요하신가요?**
 Potřebovat Pomoc potřebovat Pomoc Necesitas Ayuda سند ندرکوز ہے

Are you new to our school and need help? Is English not your first language or do you just need to help with understanding a different culture?

SIGN UP FOR THE BUDDY (Meet a Friend) PROGRAM run by the Parent Teachers Association (PTA).

The PTA recognizes the diversity in our community. Families who may speak different languages at home or practice different cultures blend into one school and community. As a PTA we would like to reach out to these families (parents and/or students) and to new families (without language barriers) joining the school to help with:

... Questions about the School... Questions about the PTA ...
 Questions about after school activities & district events ...and much more

❖ ヘルプが必要な方は、South Woods の PTA 担当にお問い合わせください。Lorinda Zhou lorindawu@hotmail.com

❖ 如有疑问或寻求帮助，请联系 South Woods 小学家长教师联合会 (PTA) 的以下人员，我们会很乐意帮忙。Lorinda Zhou lorindawu@hotmail.com

❖ South Woods 에서 도움이 필요하시면, Lorinda Zhou 에게 lorindawu@hotmail.com 로 연락하시면 됩니다.

We are here to help you. Please reach out if you have any questions or need anything explained.

Translation services will include assistance with PTA related events and programs ONLY. Our district provides translation services to assist with school administration matters.

Parent's Name(s) _____

Child's Name(s)/Grade(s) _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

E-Mail _____

____ I need help in the following language _____

Return this form to the PTA Mailbox, Attention "PTA Buddy Program" or via email to Lorinda - lorindawu@hotmail.com





Cultural Unity Committee

District-wide initiative created by Syosset Council of PTAs

- Launched in 2015 as a result of the success of the Buddy Program.
- Each unit has a representative that sits on this committee and organizes district-wide events in addition to events in his/her school.



Eg: Cultural Unity Roundtables are hosted twice a year in the SHS Student Lobby.



Some Results

- Buddy Program participation has increased by 40%.
- Parents from culturally diverse backgrounds are now taking on roles as Council Delegates, Committee Chairs and Officers in their units and on Council.
- Third district in Long Island to have Lunar New Year approved as a school holiday in 2016.
- First district in Long Island to have Diwali and Eid approved as school holidays in 2017.
- District hired translators to help parents during Parent-Teacher Conferences and other faculty/administration meetings.
- District launched an automated phone and email system that sends out important messages in the language of preference. Eg: school closings and student safety alerts.