

West School
91 Maryland Avenue
Long Beach, NY 11561
516-897-2215
sschneider@lbeach.org

David Weiss
Superintendent of Schools

Sandra Schneider
Principal

April 14, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Vanessa Krywe and I teach General Music to Kindergarten through fifth grade at West Elementary School in Long Beach, NY. Recently, our area was devastated by Superstorm Sandy. The west end of Long Beach was hit particularly hard and homes were completely washed away. My students' families owned most of these homes. West School is also located in the west end and the entire first floor of our school had six to eight feet of water and sewage. My music room, art, reading, K-2 classrooms, and the main office among other rooms on the first floor were destroyed and gutted. I personally lost lessons I have written and collected, music, instruments, plan books, and countless other items that cannot be replaced.

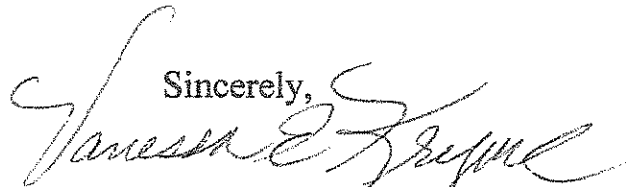
I was eight and a half months pregnant with my second little boy at the time of the storm. My family lived without electricity, heat and hot water for almost three weeks. Our house was damaged but we were able to live upstairs until it was put back together. The heat came back on four days before I went to the hospital to have my baby. While still pregnant, our students from West School slowly returned to the district. Schools opened three weeks after the storm with very little expectations. The high school and middle school combined at the high school and four elementary schools functioned out of two. West School combined with East School and about eighty percent of our students returned. Busses were sent all over the county to pick up students who were displaced. I attempted to teach music with no lessons, no materials and now, nine months pregnant. Did I mention; East School has no elevator? Thankfully, I had some music lessons saved on the network drive for the SmartBoard. Most of the classrooms at East had SmartBoards. I made it to Thanksgiving and then went on bed rest. My substitute entered into this situation with lessons but no instruments to work

with. West School moved in with Lindell School in January and I returned in February with very little to teach with.

I was told that a young man named David Jaffin had heard about West School and wanted to help. I learned that he has been fundraising for natural disaster victims since he was twelve. David helped schools in Louisiana put their music programs back together after Hurricane Katrina. This was the blessing we needed to give music back to the students at West School after loosing so much. We received two large donations filled with lessons, instruments and music. We will be forever grateful to this young man and his inclination to help our program thrive once again. West School is not supposed to open until September but we will keep our hope alive through music.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me: (516) 884-9292 or Burnsphd@msn.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vanessa E. Krywe". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Vanessa E. Krywe
Music Teacher

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David Weiss
Superintendent of Schools

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Principal

July 10, 2013

David Jaffin
36 Concord Road
Ardsley, NY 10502

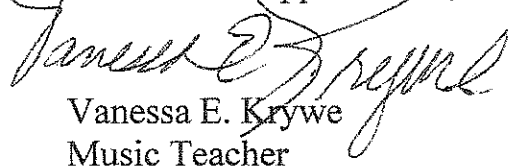
Dear David,

Thanks to you and your efforts, West Elementary School will again, continue to enjoy the rewards of a music education.

As you know, Hurricane Sandy devastated West Elementary School in Long Beach, NY in late October 2012. When the ocean met the bay during the storm surge, Long Beach quickly flooded. West School had four to six feet of sewage water on the first floor, which is where my classroom was. The extent of the damage was so great that we lost the entire room. Instruments, music and lessons that I have written and collected were all washed away. When we merged with another elementary school in town, I had nothing to teach music with.

We are so thankful for your donations of music, instruments and books. We were thrilled when the first two donations arrived. My students got excited to have music class again, and looked forward to it. I then learned that you were working with the National Honor Society at your school to orchestrate another fundraiser, which raised another \$350 for our classroom. I was overwhelmed. These materials have and will continue to allow me to continue the music program for the students at West. We hope to have a new music room in September when our school re-opens. Many of our students lost their homes completely and because of your hard work and dedication, we will be able to give back the gift of music.

With sincere appreciation,



Vanessa E. Krywe
Music Teacher

P.S. We hope you will come and visit us in the fall so we can thank you personally. In the meantime, I will continue to update you on our progress.