

COMMUNITY NEWS

Fair Lawn's Lyncrest School re-opens nature preserve landing

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Lyncrest Elementary School celebrated the grand re-opening of the landing in its nature preserve along with its annual Earth Day walk-a-thon.



PHOTOS/BOB KING

Lyncrest School in Fair Lawn Principal Maria Corso welcomes the community to the grand re-opening of the nature preserve on April 23.



This mural was made by students with recyclable materials.

The observation deck, which is located in the school's outdoor classroom in the woods behind the school, was rededicated on April 23. Following Superstorm Sandy the landing as well as the nature trail that leads to it were damaged and made unusable.

COMMUNITY NEWS

"We have been waiting to have this rededication for a while," said Principal Maria Corso, noting, "our hopes were dashed," when the landing was damaged.

The outdoor classroom was first created in 2008 with help from the [Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission \(PVSC\)](#) to give students an opportunity to interact with nature and study the environment.

Building the new landing was a community effort with assistance from school officials, the borough and PVSC. Corso explained that PVSC agreed to do the work if the school could supply the lumber. The borough then stepped in to purchase the wood for the deck.

"I am very proud the town was involved and very proud of you for all your hard work," said Mayor John Cosgrove.

The mayor noted there is not much open space in [Fair Lawn](#) so preserving what space that is left is important.

The PVSC River Program cleared fallen trees, reconstructed the approximately 1/8 mile woodchip path leading to the landing and then rebuilt the observation deck.

"I am really glad to see you use this area and take care of it," said Brian Davenport from PVSC. "Enjoy it. Use it."

Lyncrest School Mayor Rio Matsumoto led students in the school's character pledge and cut the ribbon officially opening the new landing.

"On behalf of all students at Lyncrest thank you for restoring this deck," she said.

Superintendent of Schools Bruce Watson thanked everyone involved and said it is due to the many ongoing partnerships between the schools and the community.

"It takes a community to do such wonderful things," he said.

Guests were welcomed to the area for the dedication with music performed by the [Fair Lawn High School Honors Chamber Orchestra](#) led by teacher Alison Lucas.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The ceremony also served as a chance for Lyncrest's Environmental Club members to unveil the mural they created using recyclable materials. The gallery also included banners created by the students that showcase slogans reflecting the desire to help others become aware of the importance of the global environmental issues.

Teacher Deborah Kempin discussed some of the projects done by environmental club and how it helps to teach others about caring for the Earth.

"We at Lyncrest recognize this is an important lesson to our students," said Kempin, noting the walk-a-thon is a way for students to show their commitment to the environment.

With principals from other schools on hand for the ceremony Corso invited students throughout the district to take advantage of the area. Besides using it for studies in science and the environment, Corso said it can also serve as a place for reflection when writing.

"It really is a resource," she said.

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