

AMERICAN

SHAPING FACILITIES & BUSINESS DECISIONS

SCHOOL & UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 2009

THE **TOP 10** ISSUE

The biggest, best and most popular in education facilities and business.

Yan Jus!
Jandis Sanger

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 BLDGS AND GRDS DIR
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SPECIAL SECTION:
GREEN CLEANING AWARD
FOR SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES

HONORABLE MENTION

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

>> EAST MEADOW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT WESTBURY, NEW YORK



PROGRAM INFORMATION

Number of students: 7,210

Square footage maintained: 1.34 million

Number of full-time custodians: 89

Annual cleaning budget: \$305,500

Green cleaning team members: Patrick Pizzo, Director of Facilities & Operations; Dan Pletenycky, Head Custodian, Clarke MS/HS; Bob Callan, Head Custodian, Parkway Elementary; Mike Ewald, Head Custodian, Campo Center; Kevin McVey, Knight Marketing Corp. of N.Y., Janitorial Product Distributor

Although the East Meadow School District began to use green cleaning methods in 2005, the program grew substantially in spring 2008 with the appointment of Patrick Pizzo as director of facilities and operations. Shortly after his appointment, Pizzo met with the district's cleaning committee to explore additional methods to be introduced. The committee moved immediately to replace all ammonia-based cleaning products with green-certified products, and replace products containing bleach. Soon after, Pizzo met with students, head custodians and local government officials to begin a bottle-recycling program throughout the district. During spring 2009, the district introduced the use of ionized water spray cleaners. This past spring, the district also began using diamond pads for maintaining terrazzo floors in corridors. This system eliminates the use of chemicals such as strippers and wax, yet leaves floors with a high shine.

The district considers the safety and well-being of students and staff to be of the utmost priority. Inasmuch as the district's efforts are funded by taxpayer money, the district is conscientious about its obligation to be fiscally responsible while ensuring the safety and well-being of students and staff. Fortunately, the district has been able to realize substantial savings while simultaneously reducing its impact on the environment.

Pizzo meets on a monthly basis with all head custodians in the district. In addition to discussing custodial procedures and issues and providing training in topics such as boiler maintenance, CPR and safety, vendors are invited to demonstrate new cleaning products and methods. Recently, one vendor demonstrated a steam cleaner that kills bacteria and germs without the use of any chemical. This equipment is being used in a number of buildings in the district. During summer 2009, the district changed over to hands-free soap dispensers, using foaming hand soap, a green-certified product packaged in sealed cartridges to prevent product contamination. Another recent change has been discontinuing the use of pre-treated dust mops and replacing them with microfiber mops. ■

To learn more about East Meadow's winning green ways, visit ASUmag.com/green and click on its link.

STORY OF INNOVATION—GREEN OUTDOORS: Immediately after his appointment, Pizzo halted the use of weed killers on district fields, instead using rechargeable line trimmers. Turf treatments for playing fields are organic, using products such as compost tea, corn gluten, black strap molasses, feather meal and bone meal.

