



Cold Spring Harbor Central School District

*The Francis Roberts Community Center
75 Goose Hill Road
Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724-9813*

Judith A. Wilansky, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

(631) 367-5931
(631) 367-3108 (Fax)

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Dear Community Member:

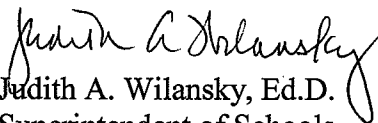
I am sure that, if you have been following the news, shopping for the holiday, or checking prices in the supermarket, you are painfully aware of the dire state of our economy. The impact from the events of 2008 will also be felt for years to come in education as school districts prepare for significant reductions in State Aid as well as the continued high costs in employee pension funds and health care premiums. The winter season is the time that we begin, in earnest, building the budget for the 2009-2010 school year and I want to assure you that careful and disciplined attention will be devoted in order to present a budget that is fiscally conservative and focused on what is important for our students to succeed. I acknowledge that this will *not* be the year to introduce any costly new initiatives but rather, a year that we will focus our efforts and energies on continuing to grow what is already our greatest strength – the instructional program in each and every classroom.

On November 5, 2008, President-elect Obama delivered a speech in Virginia that anticipated the times ahead for our country. He said, "I understand times are hard. This won't be easy. And the storm hasn't quite passed yet. Sometimes the skies look cloudy and it's dark and you think the rains will never pass. But here's what I understand... that as long as all of us are together, as long as we are committed – then there's nothing we can't do."

During my nine years as a member of the Cold Spring Harbor learning community, I have witnessed the community's commitment time and again as you express your support for the students of Cold Spring Harbor. In spite of the economic downturn, there is every reason to expect that our students will continue to thrive in a school environment that is safe and comfortable, rich with a rigorous educational program, and replete with opportunities to learn, socialize and mature.

I wish you and your family a peaceful, joyous year. I look forward to speaking with you during our budget presentations in March and, as always, invite your comments.

Sincerely,


Judith A. Wilansky, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools