

# PortAdvances

**Port Washington Union Free School District**

## Port Washington Schools ESL Department Awarded \$658,000 Grant

The Port Washington School District was awarded a two-year grant for \$658,000 from New York State Education Department. Shirley Cepero, District Director of ESL, wrote the grant to provide an extended day elementary program for English Language Learners in grades 3, 4 and 5. In June of 2011, Ms. Cepero was notified by NYSED that the Port Washington School District's Department of English as a Second Language was a winner of this highly competitive grant.

The ESL STAR Elementary Extended Day Program began in October of 2011. All costs are covered by the grant. English Language Learners in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade are bussed from their home schools to Guggenheim on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and are then bussed home at the end of each day.

On Mondays and Tuesdays, the students receive an hour of extended literacy training and 40 minutes of homework help. Students also receive a daily snack. On Thursdays, the children have an hour of special classes, including art, music, movement, dance and Expressive Elocution, as well as an hour of homework help. Each class spends 6 weeks in a special and then rotates to the next class. All students benefit from the variety of classes offered.

There are currently 64 English Language Learners students enrolled in the program. New students are invited to join as they register in the PW School District.

The goal of the program is to help English Language Learners increase their English proficiency through additional help with literacy. The ESL STAR Elementary Extended Day Program seems well on its way toward helping our students achieve results!