

said. "The numbers are such that there are not enough to support three schools for the program. We don't have enough services or teachers. If we accommodate one group, we're short changing another group and we're trying to be fair to every group."

To compensate, the district will be offering an enrichment program for students currently enrolled in the dual language program. While it's not set in stone yet if the program will be before or after school, it will offer students a Spanish curriculum

Parents voiced their frustrations with the decision at the June 18 board of education meeting, saying that not only were they upset that the district was doing away with the successful program, but that they weren't given any notice. The decision has spread word of mouth through the community after it was announced at a reconfiguration meeting at Park Avenue School on June 12.

Wright-Farnum found out from another parent about the decision and said she thinks most people are still unaware the program was cancelled. She believes the district should let the students currently enrolled in the program finish out through fifth grade.

"We have to sign a permission slip when we first enroll in dual language and it says K through fifth grade.

That's what it said and that's what we expect," Wright-Farnum said. "Our children deserve the chance to be successful. Students learn about other cultures and they're working together. Our children have invested a lot of time and hard work into learning English and Spanish."

Roxana Escobar-Merino agreed, saying that all the hard work the students, parents and staff have invested will be going to waste.

"It's been a hard two years for my first-grade child, who's brought home homework in English with components in Spanish. It's been a lot of hard work on behalf of the students, parents and teachers," Escobar-Merino said. "One of the reasons I stayed living in Westbury is because of this program. I feel like if they get rid of this, it might be time to pick up and go. It's hard for me to believe they're closing that door of opportunity for the kids."

## Students Win Grants

Carle Place High School student organization and key club officers submitted several successful fundraisers to the Spring Community Service Challenge by TeamUp4Community.

Carle Place had two events featured in the top seven finalists from across Long Island and both events took home a top grant prize. The Battle of the Classes Battling for a Cause fundraiser and the Student Teacher Fashion Show both placed in the top three community service events for Long Island schools this spring. As a result, each of the organizations received a \$3,000 check for first-place and a \$500 check for a third-place recognition. It is the first time the organization has had dual winners from one school.



—Submitted by the Carle Place School District