

## Getting Buzz: New school sparks Glenville



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While the official numbers aren't in yet, Realtors and school Principal Marc D'Amico report they are seeing an uptick in interest in the Glenville community among prospective home buyers generated by the buzz of the newly opened Glenville Elementary School.

"I have certainly had my share of meetings with prospective buyers who are coming from all over the tri-state area who are interested in seeing the school," said Mr. D'Amico in an interview with the Post last Friday.

"Yes, I think the school has just a great reputation and people are really excited about it," said Lesley Carlotti, an agent with Greenwich Fine Properties. From her perspective, a majority of the interest is among young families. "Some of them are coming from the city," Ms. Carlotti said. "Quite a few actually, have friends here and are getting the buzz."

Amy Zeeve, a Realtor with Anderson Associates and a Glenville resident herself for 15 years, said she thinks the proximity to New York City is a big draw for a lot of people.

Glenville, a small neighborhood enclave on the west side of town, offers all the amenities of a town in itself, from the volunteer fire department and the Bendheim Western Greenwich Civic Center to the restaurants and stores such as Greenwich Yoga, Centro at the Mill, Bambou, Glenville Pizzeria and Glenville Hardware.

"It caters to families awfully well," said Ms. Zeeve, the mother of two children, six and nine years old. "It's a small town in the bigger town of Greenwich."

The school, at the center of this neighborhood, officially opened in December on time and under budget.

"We've generated a lot of interest in prospective buyers," Mr. D'Amico said. "Even those who were living in the Glenville area have come back, transferring to the public school from the private schools. Academically, we've been steadily improving in our test results over the last couple years. Overall, there are a lot of positives to bringing your child to Glenville School."

The new building boasts SMART Boards in every classroom, including art and English as a Second Language, a more traditional design instead of an open air design, allowing students to focus better in class with less noise and distraction, a new media center with a computer lab and studio, and a pending new photovoltaic system on the roof that captures sunlight and converts it into electricity.

"That's something we plan on using as a teaching and learning tool," Mr. D'Amico said. The school aims to link the system to the SMART boards to teach the children how the system saves electricity and money.

"The entire facility is incredible," Ms. Zeeve said.

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Mr. D'Amico said he noticed the uptick in interest from prospective students at the beginning of the school year, before the move was made in December.

"That was a testament to the fact that parents knew we were on time with construction and we would be moving back to the school from the modular facility," Mr. D'Amico said. "I think parents said, 'We want to be there when the school opens.'"

However, Mr. D'Amico said the real indication of growing numbers of students usually comes with the kindergarten enrollment in spring. Enrollment begins March 29. Mr. D'Amico said he is expecting an increase.

"All signs seem to point in that direction," he said. "We are providing a rigorous academic environment in a brand new school. Those two things are really attractive keys for people."

"The school is always at the heart of a community," said Realtor Carolyn Anderson of Anderson Associates. She said of the interest among prospective home buyers, "you can almost date it to the new school."

Realtors say Glenville offers properties in a variety of price points and draws people of all backgrounds.

"I think there is a real neighborhood feel," Ms. Carlotti said. "There is a sense of community."

Ms. Zeeve said even though Glenville is close to downtown it has a feeling of being tucked away in the country.

"It's not as super congested as it can be in other parts of town," Ms. Zeeve said. "You get a little bit easier feeling."

Yet, with the opening of the school, new businesses coming in and the civic center getting remodeled, the neighborhood is drawing attention.

"It's been a couple years in the making," Ms. Zeeve said.

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