

Councilman Panico and Town Board Honor William Floyd Elementary Student for Raising \$3,200 for Alzheimer's Resource Center

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Farmingville, NY - At the June 18 Town Board Meeting, Councilman Dan Panico (third from left) and the Town Board presented a proclamation to Krista Cusimano (center), a fifth grade student at William Floyd Elementary School, for raising \$3,200 for the Alzheimer's Resource Center.

Krista got the idea of developing a school spelling bee in which she could raise money and awareness for Alzheimer's disease. At the age of 59, Krista's grandfather was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's and after suffering with this debilitating disease for seven years, he passed away at the untimely age of 66. With the assistance of her family and school staff members, Krista created William Floyd Elementary School's first spelling bee. Each class had a spelling test consisting of 50 words. To participate, students needed at least one sponsor willing to donate 10 cents for every correctly spelled word, with a maximum donation of \$5 per sponsor. The top speller from each class then advanced to the Spelling Bee which was held on May 28th. Winners of the Spelling Bee from each grade were awarded a trophy titled "Spelling Bee Champion." Upon conclusion of the Spelling Bee, Krista proudly gave a donation to the Alzheimer's Resource Center in the amount of \$3,200.

"Krista proves that you are never too young to make a difference in people's lives," said Councilman Panico. "Her compassion, hard work and determination, make her a role model for her peers and a great example of how we all should do what we can to help others."

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