

## Ribbon-cutting ceremony for new WNY Public School #2

A little rain did not dampen spirits or the day's festivities as local and state dignitaries attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for West New York's newly renovated Public School No. 2, which was held on Friday, Aug. 28.

Among the honored guests in attendance were Mayor Silverio A. Vega and the West New York Board of Commissioners, Hudson County Executive Schools Superintendent Dr. Timothy Brennan, and Kris Kolluri, CEO of the NJ Schools Development Authority (SDA).

On Friday at 10 a.m. they joined Dr. Robert Van Zanten, WNY Superintendent of Schools, and the West New York School District Community in celebrating the opening of No. 2 School, which had undergone a two-year renovation upgrade. The project, which cost approximately \$22 million, was funded through state monies distributed through the SDA.



Principal Patrick Gagliardi started off the festivities followed by introductions and remarks by Mayor Vega and Kris Kolluri. Dr. Brennan said a few words on behalf of Commissioner Lucille E. Davy of the NJ Department of Education. Students participated in the event as well, and a special recognition was given to School No. 2's 2009 Teacher of the Year Jennifer Hernandez.



In addition to celebrating its new modernized facility, the community of No. 2 School was applauded for its many accomplishments. This included the school's successful participation in programs such as in the National Alliance for a Healthier Generation - a partnership between the American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation, which focuses on the prevention of childhood obesity and creating healthy lifestyles. No. 2 School was honored earlier this month by former President Bill Clinton and received the Health Schools Program National Recognition Bronze Award for 2008-2009. Speaking on behalf of No. 2 School's efforts in the program was Georgette Hepperle, school liaison to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.