



In Case You Missed It:

“Governor Christie Visits Beach Haven For First Day Of School”

Beach Haven School Sixth-Grader: “It made me feel better that we were going to be back here...”

Kristi Funderburk
September 4, 2013
Asbury Park Press

Heading back to school had a new meaning for kids in the borough Wednesday.

Nearly a year after they left, forced out by the floods of superstorm Sandy, students were finally able to return to their beloved Beach Haven School.

But just when it started to feel like a normal, new school year, Gov. Chris Christie dropped in for a visit.

“I am so happy to be back here,” the governor told the students.

The sentiment was echoed by students and teachers alike at Beach Haven School Wednesday.

“It made me feel better that we were going to be back here,” 11-year-old sixth-grader Erika Barbera said of hearing the news that her school would reopen. “It’s small and everyone’s a big family.”

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"I was really excited," said Alyssa Tromm, an 11-year-old fifth-grader. "I was excited to see what new things there were."

Of 78 students in the pre-kindergarten through sixth grades at Beach Haven, only two remain displaced from their home after the storm, though they do live on the island, Raleigh said.

Thirteen of the 18 full-time staff were displaced after Sandy and some still are, said Debra Harkness, who teaches math for fourth through sixth grade. That makes the school's return so important, she said.

Marjie Carnevale, a fifth-grade teacher who is just beginning her 37th year at Beach Haven, tried to shield her emotion from her class as she shared her feelings on the reopening.

"This is home," she said. "This is definitely home."

The students were proud to share their excitement to be back with Christie and didn't hold back when he offered to take questions.

Students asked how many kids he has and his favorite color, and they made him laugh with inquiries about the best and worst parts of his job and whether he had been to Puerto Rico.

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