WEST ISLIP EDUCATOR INSPIRES STUDENTS THROUGH PSEG LONG ISLAND'S *"I AM EM-POWERED"* PROGRAM

Justin DeMaio, 5th grade teacher at Bayview Elementary School in West Islip, is in his 25th year of teaching! Committing all these years to the same school district of West Islip, Justin has been teaching 5th grade for most of his career, while focusing on science for the past five years, and has been participating in the *I Am Em-Powered* program since its inception.

"As a teacher, it is so exciting to me to be able to see my students create great projects that are informational, while learning to meet criteria, and knowing they did it all on their own. Since day one, I am not involved in the kids' creations, everything you see from the scripts to the production, the final video, it's ALL the kids, from THEIR mind, THEIR creativity. Through this project, the kids are learning to research; if they aren't sure about something, I encourage them to look it up, which helps them build independence and skills to use for the future, all while having fun! Plus who doesn't love a good contest!?"

This year, the I Am Empowered program introduced the use of graphic organizer storyboards for the students, which Mr. DeMaio loves for his students. "This year's addition of the storyboards is very impressive, I wish I thought of it myself! The kids work in groups, writing scripts, planning, brainstorming. I encourage them not to rush the process, to take their time, put in the time and effort and they will certainly reap the benefits in the end."

"Through the activities that I create, and the lessons provided by PSEG Long Island, the kids are learning about saving energy in everything they do, everyday. They even remind me to shut the lights in the classroom to save energy on a sunny day! They are learning, applying what they learn in everyday life, their personal lives and how we can benefit the future with all we have learned."

Justin will continue to guide and inspire his students to learn and advocate for electrical energy efficiency!