

Clear Stream Chronicle

“The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress”
Charles F. Kettering



A Message from the Administrators...

School Building Inspections

On Saturday, January 23, the annual District Walkthroughs took place and Clear Stream Avenue and the Washington Avenue Kindergarten Center looked immaculate. The buildings sparkled and shone. A huge thank you and token of appreciation to Jon Rudy, Roz Odwin, Russell Milwood, Frank Biondo and Steve Ostop for their hard work and dedication. It is wonderful to know that our “homes away from home” are kept in a such a meticulous condition.

Haiti Disaster

Thank you to everyone who is contributing to “Donations for Haiti” for victims of the earthquake. The bucket is in our main lobby at Clear Stream Avenue and at the Washington

Avenue Kindergarten Center. We will continue to have these buckets available for donations until the end of January. As of last Friday, we have collected approximately \$1000. OUT-RAGEOUS! It is so wonderful to see so many children emptying their piggy banks for the people of Haiti. We are so proud of everyone. We will keep you posted with the totals.

Public Library

The Henry Waldinger Public Library in Valley Stream offers some wonderful programs for families and students. During this season of cold weather, it might be a wonderful idea to find out some of the programs that are offered. In addition, does every member of your household possess a library card? The library is a rich

resource with many options available. Books are quite costly, especially during these difficult economic times, and there is such a wide variety accessible at the Waldinger branch. Having your child read a good book on a cold Saturday, Sunday or day off on vacation is a great way to escape into new worlds and experiences.

NAEP

On Tuesday, January 26, our Fourth Graders took the NAEP exam. This test is a federal exam and was administered solely by NAEP facilitators. We are so very proud of our students. The facilitators commented on how well-behaved our students are. Kudos to our Fourth Grade teachers, Specialists, Mr. Finelli and of course, to the best Fourth Graders.

PTA Updates...

After a long day of labor, it could be a battle for working parents to make sure that kids get their homework done properly. When a child is struggling in a certain area, parents might tend to rush and help as there are so many other tasks to accomplish before night ends.

A natural instinct in parents is to protect their children from making mistakes and many would do everything it takes for not letting their children hand in homework that is wrong.

According to Harris Copper, an

expert on homework, author and professor of psychology and neuroscience at Duke University, a better role for parents is that of “stage manager”. That means providing encouragement, showing a positive attitude and making sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to work, with needed materials on hand. While your child works, serve as a role model by doing quiet activities of your own nearby. Dr. Copper suggests, for example, if your child is doing math,

organize your finances; if he/she is reading, pick up a book. Homework, he adds, is a great way for kids to develop independent, lifelong learning skills.

On the other hand, occasionally, if you see your child struggling, getting frustrated and repeating the same mistakes, there is nothing wrong with guiding him/her to the correct answer and then step back. However, if you are helping your child a lot, let the teacher know, as that may be signs of a more serious trouble, says Dr. Copper.

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Ms. Neiss

Ms. Neiss has been a teacher for five years. She taught Kindergarten for one year and Second Grade for four years. Her favorite part of teaching is laughing with her students. Ms. Neiss is of Italian and Polish heritage. Her favorite color is pink and her favorite food is steak. Going to the beach, the mall and traveling to the Caribbean are her hobbies. If she had not become a teacher, she would have been a psychologist. *Oh, The Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss is her favorite book.

By
**Denzel Hardy and
Natalia Fernandez**

Upcoming Events

- **February 9** - 6th Grade Science Fair - 7:00 - 8:00 PM
- February 12 - Sweetheart Dance - 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- February 13 - February 21 - School Closed - Winter Recess
- February 22 - School Opens
- February 22 - Bd. Of Ed. Meeting - Shaw Avenue Library - 8:00 PM

District Website:
valleystream30.com