

# VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT THIRTY

January 5, 2012

Dear Valley Stream 30 Community,

## **Board of Education Meeting Change**

Please note that the January 30<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting has been rescheduled to **January 31<sup>st</sup>** at 8:00 p.m. at Shaw Avenue Elementary School.

## **Budget Development**

During the next two months, the Board of Education, in collaboration with the District Administration, will be working hard to develop a budget for the 2012-13 school year that supports our students' continual progress, the goals of our five-year strategic plan and that also provides the support necessary to implement all of the required changes from New York State that involve implementation of the Common Core curriculum, data monitoring and new criteria for evaluating effectiveness of instruction.

Most challenging is that all of the above considerations must understandably take place within the context of recognizing that these are challenging financial times for our community, and we must proceed with continuing to move our program forward, as always, in the most cost-effective manner.

Though a 60% majority school budget vote, under new State legislation, permits a school district to exceed the recently imposed 2% tax levy cap, Valley Stream 30, like many area school districts, will be working hard to develop a budget that maintains the general program but that does not exceed the recently enacted 2% tax levy cap. To do so will, necessarily, mean rethinking some program delivery models and consolidating some services. We are confident that, working together, we will be able to reallocate our resources, be creative in how we deliver service, and look to establish partnerships that will enable us to accomplish this task.

Your input is important, and it is our desire to ensure that the entire Valley Stream 30 community is informed at all stages of the budget process. Please check our website, [www.valleystream30.com](http://www.valleystream30.com), for regular updates on budget information, as well as read the building and Superintendent's weekly newsletters. *A Community Forum on the budget will take place on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 p.m. at Shaw Avenue Elementary School Library.* Board discussion regarding the budget will also take place at the January 23<sup>rd</sup>, January 31<sup>st</sup> (note date change), February 13<sup>th</sup> and February 27<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meetings. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Public comment can be made at the January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 27<sup>th</sup> Board Business meetings and at the February 1<sup>st</sup> Community Forum. At any time, input can also be shared by emailing [budgetcomments@vs30.org](mailto:budgetcomments@vs30.org), Elaine Kanas at [ekanas@vs30.org](mailto:ekanas@vs30.org) or Lisa Rutkoske, Assistant Superintendent for Business, at [lrutkoske@vs30.org](mailto:lrutkoske@vs30.org).

We look forward to a busy and productive budget preparation season, working hard to ensure careful planning of resources to support Valley Stream 30's continued success in the 2012-13 school year.

Very best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!

Sincerely,



Elaine Kanas, Ed.D.