

VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT THIRTY

February 2, 2012

Dear Valley Stream 30 Community,

Budget Update

Yesterday, the District Budget Forum was held. Lisa Rutkoske, Valley Stream 30 Assistant Superintendent for Business, presented information regarding the new tax levy cap and how it affected the creation of the proposed Valley Stream 30 budget. The budget is developed to stay within the new tax levy cap. By staying within the tax levy cap, the District will only be required to have a simple majority (50% plus one vote) for the budget to pass. Setting a higher tax levy would require the District to have a super-majority in order to pass the budget. The Board and District recognize the challenges our Valley Stream 30 taxpayers face in these difficult financial times by staying within the tax levy cap and working to keep costs low.

In order to meet the challenges of staying within the tax levy cap and still providing our students with the programs they need, the process by which the Budget was developed and recommended to the Board was shared last evening at the Forum. As in most recent years, with the increasingly-challenging financial environment, the District has worked hard to try to maximize efficiencies in order to continue to be able to deliver program to students as fiscally responsibly as possible, once again, in the 2012-13 budget. While the proposed budget includes staff reduction in ESL, Social Work and Technology, services have been realigned, through existing resources, to ensure that students will still receive similar program, but in a different way. Additionally, we are pleased that the proposed budget maintains full-time kindergarten, our full music, art, band and instrumental program, as well as our academic intervention and enrichment programs. It also provides new resources to help our students achieve the challenging new standards of the Common Core Curriculum to be implemented statewide next year.

Budget is an agenda item at the February 13th Work Session and the February 27th Board meeting. If you have any questions, or would like specific information, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Rutkoske at 285-9881, x224 or me, Elaine Kanas at 285-9881, x222. Or, email us at either lrutkoske@vs30.org or ekanas@vs30.org. If you would like to speak with us, and it is difficult for you to do so during the day, just leave that message and we can call you back in the evening. All budget information, including the PowerPoint from the Budget Forum can be found on our website at www.valleystream30.com.

Family Activity

We are fortunate that our area offers rich resources for enrichment. As time and space permit, we will attempt to share some opportunities with you. Listed below is an upcoming event that may be of interest to you.

Black History Month Conference - Presented by Molloy College

Saturday, February 4, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Molloy College, Wilbur Arts Center

Continuing the Journey: Celebrating Diversity within the Black Experience

Registration Fees: \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for youth

The day includes:

- Dramatic/musical presentation on cultural identity
- Interactive workshops for adults and youth
- Lunch
- A performance of "From My Hometown" in the new Madison Theatre at 2 pm. The performance is included in the conference registration fee. If you just want to join us for only the performance, the ticket price is \$15.00 (per person) which is payable at the door.

This year's conference is dedicated to honoring the multiple experiences of the people of the African Diaspora. Contemporary experiences within local communities have been shaped by people from the shores of Africa, the Islands of the Caribbean, and the streets of the American neighborhoods. The conference will explore and celebrate this diversity. This event is geared toward people of all ages, with special emphasis on middle school and high school students and their parents. Conference participants will experience educational enrichment, attend workshops and acknowledge the importance of cultural connections.

For more information on the Black History Month Conference, please contact the conference coordinators at 516.678.5000

Dr Patricia Mason ext 6897 • Dr Lisa Zakiva Newland ext 6410

Have a good weekend. As always, please contact me at 516-285-9881, x222 or email ekanas@vs30.org with comments and suggestions on the topic of this newsletter or with suggestions or questions on other topics.

Sincerely,



Elaine Kanas, Ed.D.