

# VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT THIRTY

175 N. Central Avenue

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Valley Stream, NY 11580-3032

Dr. Elaine Kanas  
Superintendent of Schools

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May 13, 2010

Dear Valley Stream 30 School Community,

## **Budget Vote**

Reminder that Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> is the day of the School Budget Vote. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Residents vote at their elementary school. There will be three propositions. Proposition 1 is the School Budget for the 2010-11 School Year. Proposition 2 is approval to spend the money in the Capital Reserve Fund for the buildings and grounds projects and repairs necessary to maintain our schools and keep them in good working and safe condition. Please note, voting for Proposition 2 does not cost any additional money. This money was already put aside for these purposes when the public approved the establishment, last year, of the Capital Reserve Account. (New York State regulations require another vote to actually take the money out of the account and spend it on the designated projects.) Proposition 3 is voting on the Central High School District budget. You will also have the opportunity to vote for one board trustee seat.

Unlike many neighboring school districts, we are fortunate that the proposed budget for Valley Stream 30 for 2010-11 does not contain any staffing or program cuts. It includes some program enhancements, as well, including new enrichment after-school clubs and new science units in some grade levels. At the same time that all staff and program is maintained, with some enhancements, the proposed 2010-11 budget has the lowest budget-to-budget and tax-levy increase in the past five years. At the present assessed value of the average Valley Stream 30 home, the cost comes to less than \$35.00 a year, or \$3.00 a month, or 10 cents a day.

Ed Cullen, Assistant Superintendent for Business, and I have presented information regarding the budget at recent PTA meetings in each of the three elementary schools, as well as at the May 10<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearing. If you were not able to attend any of those meetings and have questions about the budget, PLEASE feel free to give either of us a call at 516-285-9880. (Ed Cullen's extension is 224 and mine is 222). We would be happy to provide you with any information and would look forward to talking with you.

We are privileged to live in a democracy where every citizen's voice has the opportunity to be heard through the casting of a ballot. We hope to instill an appreciation of this right and responsibility in our students through such activities as our Democracy in Action project, where students in each school get to vote for a favorite book.

A strong turn-out by Valley Stream 30 citizen-residents at the polls on May 18<sup>th</sup> is yet another way to reinforce, for our students, the importance of active participation in the democratic process. And, actually, what better way than to have them witness first hand the adults in their community coming out to exercise their right to vote.

## **Board of Education Work Session, May 17<sup>th</sup>, Shaw Library/Special Presentation at 8:00 p.m.**

Many of our classroom and ESL teachers will be presenting an information workshop on SIOP at this meeting. SIOP is an approach to learning that not only supports English Language Learners, but also supports ALL students in improving vocabulary and content-area learning. Teachers will share examples from their classrooms of projects they have been piloting this year. This program will be expanding into many more classrooms next year. The May 17<sup>th</sup> presentation is an excellent opportunity for parents to learn more about some of the new language-based experiences our students are/will be participating in. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers as part of the presentation. We invite you to join us at this informative presentation by our staff.

I wish everyone a good weekend! Please email ([ekanas@vs30.org](mailto:ekanas@vs30.org)) or call me (285-9881, ext. 222) with any suggestions, comments, questions, etc.

Sincerely,

*Elaine Kanas*

Elaine Kanas, Ed.D.