

VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT THIRTY

May 19, 2011

Dear Valley Stream 30 Community,

Budget

Thank you very much Valley Stream 30 Community for your support of the 2011-12 Budget and Propositions. We all look forward to a terrific 2011-12 and fulfilling our commitment to continued growth for our Valley Stream 30 School District's most precious asset -- our children!

Your input and suggestions regarding the budget development, as well as the guidance provided by the District Strategic Plan, formulated with community involvement, provided the Board and District with the key information to make the best possible budget choices in a very challenging financial climate. Once again -- *thank you* -- and please continue to remember how important your voice is. Questions, concerns, ways to become involved -- please contact your building administration or the District Office at any time.

Remember, always continue to check the Superintendent's newsletter or your building newsletter throughout the year for informational meetings, parent workshops and committee opportunities.

Common Core Curriculum

New York State is adopting new curriculum. The curriculum standards being adopted incorporate the National Common Core Standards that many states throughout the country have signed on to. Next year, the Common Core Standards will be implemented in grades K-2. The following year, they will be incorporated into the remaining grade levels. The new standards are quite exciting and push students to higher levels of thinking, problem-solving and production. Go to <http://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/resources/bringing-the-common-core-to-life.html> to see an excellent presentation on these new standards. We will also keep you informed regarding these changes in our District publications, as well as through presentations at Board meetings, PTA meetings and curriculum nights.

Tuesday's Arts' Festival

Congratulations to all the students and staff for the amazing display of talent showcased in our schools this past Tuesday evening. The art, music and student writing were absolutely impressive, highlighting the well-rounded program your budget dollars have enabled the schools to continue. Following is a poem by Shaw Avenue 6th grader, Ankush Pal, detailing why the arts are so important:

Ode to Art

Art never ends.
Never changes, It's a
Road to imagination.
It expresses
Mood and feelings.
Art is passion,
My dream.

Art can be anything.
Art can be a
Sculpture or a drawing.
Art takes me down the
Road of imagination.
Art is like a
Navigation system.
Art makes
Life meaningful.

Upcoming Dates

May 26th, 8:00 p.m. – Business Meeting (**note date change**)

June 3rd, 6:30 p.m. – Parent Workshop on Student Health and Fitness

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

Elaine Kanas, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools