

VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT THIRTY

Administrative Offices

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Dear Valley Stream 30 School Community,

Board Appreciation Night Program

Thank you to the PTAs of Valley Stream 30 for hosting a wonderful Board Appreciation Night this past Monday. This year the lead organizer for the event was the Shaw Avenue PTA and, with the support of their classroom teachers, the second grades at Shaw Avenue performed a wonderful music program, as well as listing the many things they find special about the Valley Stream 30 schools, all of which result from the committed involvement of the District's volunteer Board of Education. Thank you also to Music teacher, Stephanie Distler, who conducted the musical program and Orchestra teacher, Lydia Kloc-Alberghini, who provided musical accompaniment.

Meeting the New State Expectations for Student Performance

At Monday's Board meeting, Gerard Poole, Valley Stream 30 Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented to the Board and public the many steps Valley Stream 30 is taking that continue to support student success now that New York State has raised the bar for meeting State standards. Some of the actions he described that the District has undertaken include: a detailed review by District and building administration and teachers of last year's test performance involving specific goal setting for this year at both the building and individual classroom level; revised curriculum maps in ELA and Math; an increased focus on student critical thinking and lessons that promote it; formative assessments that provide regular information about individual student progress to ensure that no student falls significantly behind without needs addressed; twice-monthly meetings between individual building and District administration to ensure coordination of efforts; regularly-scheduled meetings between support and classroom teachers and building administration to monitor progress of at-risk students; enhanced staff development in Special Education and Math for administrative and instructional staff to meet new requirements; and a new afterschool Academic Intervention Services (AIS) Academy. The entire PowerPoint of the presentation can be found on our District Website at www.valleystream30.com.

Important Legislative Information That Can Potentially Affect School Taxes

At this past Monday's Board meeting, the Valley Stream 30 Board of Education, along with the majority of school districts in Nassau County, passed a resolution opposing the elimination of the "County Guarantee." If this guarantee was eliminated, school districts, and not the County, would become responsible for reimbursing tax certiorari claims which could potentially add a significant financial burden to school districts and take money away from the classrooms.

The proposed Nassau County budget also imposes new taxes on water and sewer service on all school districts and not-for-profit organizations. These new taxes alone would cost Valley Stream 30 approximately \$50,000 next year -- again, money that would be taken away from classroom programs.

The Nassau County Legislature meeting where the budget is to be passed is taking place on **Friday, October 29, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.** at the Nassau County Executive Building located at 1550 Franklin Avenue, Garden City. The Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association urges all parents who are available to attend this meeting to demonstrate dissatisfaction with the intended budget changes and discourage their passage so that our school programs can be maintained.

Parent Literacy Workshops

Help your child at home with reading. These workshops are all the same content, so feel free to attend the one that is most convenient for your schedule regardless of the school your child attends.

November 4th – Clear Stream Avenue

November 17th – Forest Road

November 18th – Shaw Avenue

Have a Good Weekend

As always, if you have any questions regarding the information in this newsletter, or on another topic, please do not hesitate to contact me or your building administrators for further information. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email me at ekanas@vs30.org or call 516-285-9881, x222.

Sincerely,
Elaine Kanas
Elaine Kanas, Ed.D.