

VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT THIRTY

Administrative Offices

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Dear Valley Stream 30 School Community,

Literacy Parent Workshops

Workshops to date have been held at Clear Stream Avenue Elementary and Forest Road. **Shaw Avenue's workshop is tonight at 7:00 p.m.** Thank you to faculty members Donna Annunziata, Diana Clarke, Cathy Itri, Julie Levine, Tami McElwee, Caroline Reser and Lauren Weick for their presentations.

The Literacy workshops have presented many helpful hints. A PowerPoint describing some of the ideas and directions for games that you can play with your children will be posted on our Valley Stream 30 website at www.valleystream30.com. Go to Our District tab and then scroll down to Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. The information will be available on our website by early next week. In the meantime, here are some helpful questions from the Forest Road presentation on how parents can engage their children in a book talk at home and develop student higher-level thinking skills.

Think of 2-3 new titles that give a good idea of what the story was about. Retell the story from another character's (such as an animal's) point of view. How else could the story have ended?

Compare two of the characters. Was the main character in the story good or bad? Explain your answer. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

Parent Foundations Workshop Coming Soon!

On *December 9th* at 7:00 p.m., Shaw Avenue Elementary School Library, there will be a Districtwide workshop for all parents on our K-3 Foundations program. Please come if you have children in those grades. You will learn all the lingo that includes scooping, blending, tapping, trick words and skywriting, etc. that your children use everyday in Foundations, their phonics/spelling/handwriting program. Tips on how to support your children at home with this learning will be provided.

More Literacy News

The parent workshops have all featured the value of reading aloud to children. Clear Stream Avenue Elementary School recently did a project where the whole school read a single book. The book is called *One* by Kathryn Otoshi. It is a simple and beautiful story about the power of one person to show others how to stand up and have their voices count against bullying and how to bring everyone into the fold of community, including the "bully." Clear Stream recently had an assembly program celebrating the book. The Clear Stream administration and the faculty members of the PBIS team all performed a play for the children based on the book. We have videotaped that performance. Look for a link to the play on the front of our website, coming soon. The performance was quite professional and it is a fun play that all parents and children in the District will enjoy watching. You may also wish to purchase a copy of the book at your local book store or check the book out from the public library to follow up as a read-a-loud with your child. The message of the story is an important and powerful one.

Upcoming Board of Education Meeting – November 29th - 8:00 p.m., Shaw Avenue Elementary School

Included on the agenda there will be a presentation by Shaw regarding their Peaceful Playground Project -- an exciting new initiative that is part of the school's anti-bullying, character education program. There will also be an update presented on the current implementation so far of the District's five-year Strategic Plan. There will also be Board discussion regarding a possible Budget forum with roundtable discussions to be held to gather community input in January. There will be significant financial pressures on the 2011-12 budget due to state aid cuts, increased costs to state employees' retirement systems and changes in the tax certiorari process as just passed by the County Legislature. The Board will be discussing the format for a community forum by which to get voter input into budget priorities, as well as the best ways to provide the community with information regarding the overall budget picture within which decisions will need to be made.

Upcoming dates

December 15th – Early Dismissal, 11:15 a.m.

Parent-Teacher Conferences, 12:30 – 4:15 p.m., 7:00 -8:30 p.m.

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.