

VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT THIRTY

December 1, 2011

Dear Valley Stream 30 Community,

Parents Make A Difference!

We are fortunate to have significant parent involvement and partnership in Valley Stream 30. Never doubt that this partnership between home and school makes a difference. You may have heard of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which is a worldwide assessment of 15-year-old school pupils' scholastic performance. The test is given every three years. The test assesses student's mathematical content knowledge and reasoning applied to real world contexts. The literacy test measures how students construct, extend and reflect on the meaning of what they have read across a wide range of continuous and non-continuous texts. Along with the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), the PISA is the gold standard by which various countries' education performance is compared.

On the PISA website -- <http://www.pisa.oecd.org/dataoecd/4/1/49012097.pdf> -- you will find the following findings that come from many years of PISA test performance analysis.

- **Fifteen-year old students whose parents often read books with them during their first year of primary school show markedly higher scores on the PISA than students whose parents read with them infrequently or not at all**
- **The performance advantage among students whose parents read to them in their early school years is evident regardless of the family socio-economic background**

PLEASE try to make a commitment to read to your child EVERY day, if possible, or at least several times a week. The study shows that parents who engage in regular reading-related activities during the first year of primary school, for example, had children who scored markedly higher on the PISA test at age 15 than students whose parents did not regularly engage in these activities.

The study also indicates that well beyond the first primary year of school, parents' involvement with reading-related activities with their child, at home, exerts important influence on how children perform at age 15.

The parent-child activities in elementary school that were associated with the highest score point advantage at age 15 were when parents read a book with their child, when they talk about things they have done during the day, and when they tell stories to their children. The score point difference is smallest when the form of parental involvement is parents playing with alphabet toys with their children.

For a full copy of the story, follow this link -- <http://www.pisa.oecd.org/dataoecd/4/1/49012097.pdf>. The study can also be found on our website www.valleystream30.com under "For Parents".

Upcoming Dates

Early Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences

December 14th – *Early Dismissal*, 11:15 a.m.

Parent Teacher Conferences – Clear Stream Avenue, Forest Road, Shaw Avenue
12:30 – 4:15 p.m. and 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting

December 12th – Board of Education Work Session, 8:00 p.m., Shaw Avenue

December 19th – Board of Education Business Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Shaw Avenue

Holiday Concerts – All 7:30 p.m.

December 20th – Clear Stream Avenue

December 21st – Forest Road

December 22nd – Shaw Avenue

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.