



It's Elementary

VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN

SUMMER 2017

Valley Stream Students Celebrate Inclusion for all with Victory Challenge



In late June, the Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen arranged an opportunity for students from throughout the District to participate in the Empire Game's Victory Challenge held at the Mitchel Athletic Field in Uniondale, N.Y. For the seventh consecutive year, students and staff attended the athletic event, which promotes inclusiveness for all children by offering competitive sports and recreational activities adapted to best suit an individual's unique abilities.

Following the Victory Challenge, the Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen Board of Education held a special recognition ceremony to present participating athletes, buddies and staff with medals and certificates to recognize their involvement. The Victory Challenge is meant to support the success of all children, which is reflective of Valley Stream's inclusive learning environment.



Butterfly Garden at Wheeler Avenue

Guy Jacobs, a retired 5th grade Wheeler Ave teacher, volunteered many hours of his service to develop a Butterfly Garden and Courtyard Classroom at Wheeler Avenue.



A Message from your Superintendent



I hope all of you are enjoying the summer and the multitude of beautiful outside recreational opportunities abundant on Long Island. Although classrooms are closed, there is still much going on in the Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen.

Administrators and educators are already hard at work preparing for the upcoming school year in a few weeks, and we can't wait to see what wonderful things we will all accomplish together in the 2017-2018 school year.

Before we get there however, we should look back at the year gone by and reflect. As always, thank you for your unwavering support of our schools and continuous improvement efforts extending the quality of education for our students, staff and families. Our school community enthusiastically engaged in much of the work that we had hoped to successfully implement.

We had a tremendous year. We completed Phase I projects of our \$32M bond referendum that address the health, safety, and security needs of our District's four buildings. All VS 13 schools finished their second year of fully implementing Superkids®, a new English language arts (ELA) curriculum used in grades K-2. Students were visited by Cass, a Superkids

character, in the month of January. These additional resources further support aligning our instructional practices with the Next Generation Learning Standards.

All VS 13 schools fully implemented Math in Focus K-6, a standards-aligned math program that helps our students develop multiple strategies to understand mathematical concepts and problem solve. We enhanced our Instructional Coach Program, implemented the RULER Program, and installed Chromebooks in all classrooms in grades 4-6 giving both educators and students access to technology that has provided a boon to their engagement and learning.

We look forward to building on the successes of the 2016-17 school year. We have built strong relationships with our Board of Education, educators, families and—especially—our children. Together, there is nothing we can't accomplish. I can't wait for the new school year to start. See you in September.

Sincerely,

Constance D. Evelyn, Superintendent of Schools

FARM-TO-TABLE LEARNING AT CROSSROADS FARM

This school year, Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen arranged for fourth grade students from throughout the District to participate in a farm-based education program. In the spring, students paid a visit to Crossroads Farm at Grossman's located in Malverne, N.Y. to take part in an exciting and informational program that teaches children about how farms operate, the complexity of nature, and a human being's impact on the environment.



During their initial field trip, students were led by farm educators who taught them all about plants, animals, and the lifecycle of honeybees. Students concluded the first phase of farm-based learning by planting their own seeds that were later transported into a garden at Crossroads Farms. Upon returning to the farm weeks later, students were finally able to enjoy the fruits of their labors. They harvested what they had previously planted to prepare a nutritious feast and celebrate the end of their farm-to-table educational experience. Students from Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen were able to walk away with a fresh understanding of environmental friendliness and the hard work it takes to maintain a farm.



MOVING-UP

In June, schools in the Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen celebrated their Moving-up Ceremonies. Take a look at some of the beautiful photos from those celebrations, and congratulations to all those students who officially moved up!



VALLEY STREAM DIRECTORY

JAMES A. DEVER SCHOOL

585 North Corona Avenue
Valley Stream, New York
11580-2099

Principal Darren Gruen

568-6120; 568-6121
(Fax) 568-6119

Nurse Carolann Jaffe

568-6123

Early Absentee Calls:

568-6123

School Hours:

8:25 a.m.-2:50 p.m.

Grades K-6

HOWELL ROAD SCHOOL

1475 Howell Road
Valley Stream, New York
11580-1396

Principal Frank Huplosky

568-6130; 568-6131
(Fax) 568-6107

Nurse Caroline Montalbano

568-6133

Early Absentee Calls:

568-6133

School Hours:

8:50 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Grades K-6

WHEELER AVENUE SCHOOL

1 West Wheeler Avenue
Valley Stream, New York
11580-3497

Principal Gayle Steele, Ed.D.

568-6140; 568-6141
(Fax) 568-0061

Nurse Janice Nolan

568-6143

Early Absentee Calls:

568-6143

School Hours:

8:50 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Grades 1-6

WILLOW ROAD SCHOOL

880 Catalpa Drive
Franklin Square, New York
11010-4028

Principal Rosalie Ambrosio

568-6640; 568-6641
(Fax) 292-2095

Nurse Michelle Vitalo

568-6643

Early Absentee Calls:

568-6643

School Hours:

8:00 a.m.-2:25 p.m.

Grades K-6

DISTRICT NOTES

Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Bids Farewell to 12 Retirees

The end of a school year is always bittersweet. While we are celebrating our accomplishments and looking forward to adventures that lie ahead, we are also saying goodbye to people who have meant a lot to us over the years. At the end of 2016-2017, the Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen bid adieu to a dozen educators and staff members who have been a major part of the success of our students and schools. This year's retirees include custodians Saverio (Bo) Auricchio and James Babst; reading teacher Patricia Hopkins; classroom aides Barbara Cash, Toniann DiMartino, Mindy Isacoff, Colleen O'Brien, and Terry Sales; physical education teacher Cindi Gomez; noon-hour aide Mildred Hendrickson; secretary Claudette Costa; and Superintendent's secretary Denise Michels. "We are extremely thankful for the years of commitment and dedication that our retirees have provided to our District and students," said Constance D. Evelyn, Superintendent of Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen. "Throughout their tenures here, they have been instrumental parts of our culture and a familiar, welcome presence in our hallways. They will be missed."



L-R: Retirees Toniann DiMartino and Cindi Gomez, Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Superintendent Constance D. Evelyn, Retiree Mildred Hendrickson, Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Board of Education President William P. Stris and Willow Road Elementary School Principal Rosalie Ambrosio



L-R: Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Superintendent Constance D. Evelyn; Retirees Patricia Hopkins, Colleen O'Brien and Terry Sales; Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Board of Education President William P. Stris; and Howell Road Elementary School Principal Frank Huplosky



L-R: Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Board of Education President William P. Stris, Retiree James Babst, Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Superintendent Constance D. Evelyn, Retiree Saverio "Bo" Auricchio and James A. Dever Elementary School Principal Darren Gruen

District Congratulations Newly Tenured Teachers

The Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen recently granted three classroom teachers tenure during a Board of Education Meeting. The following teachers were granted tenure, effective September 1, 2017: classroom teacher Pamela Gollin at Wheeler Avenue Elementary School, classroom teacher Megan Lupo at James A. Dever Elementary School, and classroom teacher Aleksandra Rance at Howell Road Elementary School. "Our teachers receiving tenure continue to make a positive impact on the learning environment and our community," said Superintendent Constance D. Evelyn. "Ms. Gollin, Ms. Lupo and Ms. Rance are celebrated for their unyielding efforts to provide all students a joyful and engaging place to come learn every day."



L-R: Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Superintendent Constance D. Evelyn; tenured teachers Megan Lupo, Aleksandra Rance and Pamela Gollin; and Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Board of Education President William P. Stris

Megan Lupo receives a celebratory hug from a student after being granted tenure during a recent Board of Education Meeting.

VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT THIRTEEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

William P. Stris, *President* • Vinny Pandit, *Vice President* • Frank Chiachiere, Ph.D., *Trustee* • Sean Douglas, Ph.D., *Trustee*
Patricia Farrell, *Trustee* • Toni Pomerantz, *Trustee* • Milagros Vicente, *Trustee*