



# It's Elementary

## VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN

SUMMER 2018

## Valley Stream Thirteen Marches in Memorial Day Parade

Fifth and sixth grade students in the Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen's band participated in the annual Valley Stream Memorial Day Parade this past May. The District's band, comprising students from all four elementary schools, marched to pay their respects to the memory of those who served in the United States Armed Forces and made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. Students performed a selection of patriotic songs as they marched along the parade route, starting at Wheeler Avenue Elementary School and concluding at the Village Green.

The District's involvement in this community-wide event provided students the opportunity to showcase their musical talents and develop a deeper appreciation for the true meaning of Memorial Day.



## WHEELER APPEARS ON THE TODAY SHOW!



The kids in the Drama Club at Wheeler Avenue Elementary School are officially stars! On Friday, April 27, they appeared on NBC's *The Today Show* with Kathie Lee and Hoda to film a segment about emerging and popular toys. The students were asked to play with the age-appropriate toys as the *Today* hosts discussed this season's trends. Following the taping, the students received a tour of the historic Studio 1A and learned about the intricacies of producing a live broadcast.

In Valley Stream, we're always seeking ways to provide students with unique educational experiences outside of the classroom. Filming a segment on *The Today Show* is extremely cool of course, but it also allowed our students to see the ins-and-outs of a profession some might aspire to as a career.

# *Glimpses Into the Future...*

This past June, students across the Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen celebrated their Moving-up Ceremonies in front of proud family and friends. Take a look at some photos from the beautiful celebrations at our four District schools.

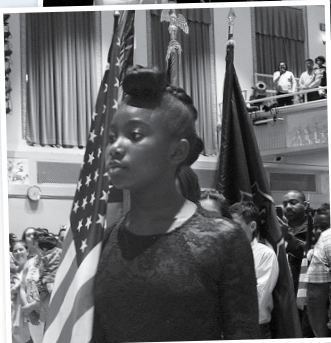
***James A. Dever Elementary School Moving Up***  
**MONDAY, JUNE 18**



***Howell Road Elementary School Moving Up***  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 14**



***Wheeler Ave Elementary School Moving Up***  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 21**



***Willow Road Elementary School Moving Up***  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 19**





# VALLEY STREAM SHINES AT STATEWIDE MUSIC FESTIVAL!

Valley Stream student musicians recently took their talents to Hofstra University to participate in the NYSSMA Major Ensemble Festival. This year's annual edition featured the Senior Chorus from James A. Dever Elementary School and the Full Orchestra from Wheeler Avenue Elementary School. Each group performed three musical selections.



All student musicians were rated on their performances. The groups were evaluated by two adjudicators and received ratings based on an array of performance categories including tone, technique and accuracy. The Wheeler Full Orchestra, led by Orchestra Director Mary Frances Scott, performed a Level II repertoire, earning a gold rating. The Dever Senior Chorus, led by Chorus Director Johanna Land, performed a Level I repertoire, earning a gold with distinction rating. The Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen's administrators, teachers and staff members congratulate all the student performers for their hard work and look forward to witnessing the students' continued dedication to the arts and music!

## *A Message from your Superintendent*



There are few combinations that go together as well as summertime and Long Island. We are truly lucky to be so close to some of the best beaches, public gardens and outdoor events in the Northeast. I hope that each of you is enjoying the summer and all the beautiful outside recreational activities that the region has to offer.

Even though it's summertime, activity abounds at the Valley Stream Union Free School District Thirteen. We owe a large debt of gratitude to all the residents of the Valley Stream community who approved our proposed budget in May, and we intend to repay that debt to you by working harder than ever to develop and implement the best possible education for you and your children. The administrators and educators are already hard at work preparing for the upcoming year including summer curriculum writing projects, completion of capital improvements, and enhancing district and building safety. You will receive more information regarding this work before school reopens.

As always, thank you for your unwavering support of our schools and our continuous efforts to enhance the quality of education for our students. The successes of the last year will be hard to match. But we have every faith in our educators, administrators, families, and, especially, our children. Together there is nothing we can't accomplish. See you in September.

Sincerely,

**Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools**



## CHECKING IN AROUND THE DISTRICT

### DEVER STUDENTS BUILD A (MINIATURE) BROOKLYN BRIDGE

Students at **James A. Dever Elementary School** recently visited the school's library for a cross-curricular, interactive and really fun activity! Dever librarian Roxanne MacDonald welcomed the students for a reading of the *Brooklyn Bridge* by Lynn Curlee, a book which details the history and construction of the Brooklyn Bridge through stunning illustrations. Following the reading, the students used their knowledge of engineering and the tales from the fourteen-year construction period of the Brooklyn Bridge to build their own bridges using cardboard, paper and tape. Students tested the strength of their bridges, placing pennies in the middle of their structures to see how much weight they could hold.



### HOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOURTH GRADERS VISIT CROSSROADS FARM

Farming plays such a significant, yet often overlooked, part in Long Island's history. Recently, fourth graders from **Howell Elementary School** visited Crossroads Farm in Malverne to discover just how significant a role agriculture has played in shaping Long Island's culture and economy. Over a few weeks last spring, the students learned how to organically harvest their own crops and were even rewarded with a feast at the farm in which the students ate the very same vegetables they harvested. In addition to giving them a chance to learn about their local history, the trip to Crossroads Farms helped reinforce the idea of healthy eating. It also allowed the young students to develop an interest in gardening as well as gain a connection with nature.

### WILLOW STUDENTS SHINE DURING RECORDER PERFORMANCE

**Willow Road Elementary School** recently hosted family, friends and community members for a special performance: the third grade students' official debut with recorders! Under the direction of music teacher Amanda Agosta, the students enchanted the crowd with their musical renditions and natural talent. Throughout the spring, the third grade students were introduced to the recorder and other handheld instruments as they expanded their musical talents and knowledge. The District continues to provide students with educational opportunities beyond classroom curriculum—with students actively participating in music, arts and physical education programs.

