



It's Elementary

VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN

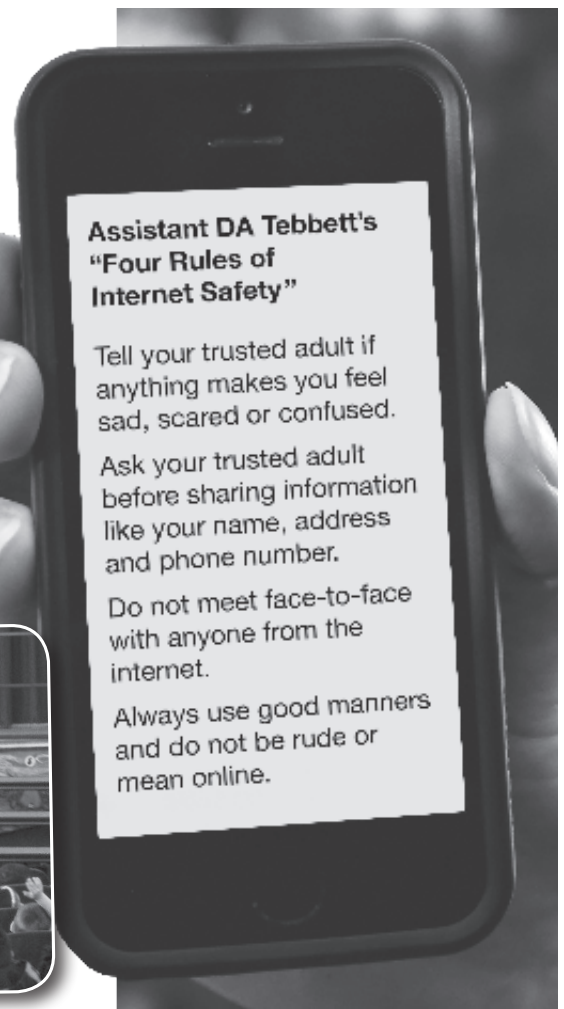
SPRING 2019

NASSAU COUNTY ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY VISITS DEVER TO TEACH ABOUT INTERNET SAFETY

The increasing ubiquity of the internet certainly has its benefits. It's easier than ever to connect to one another, for example, or to learn about the world and other cultures. There are certainly dangers associated with the ever-increasing role that the internet plays in our lives, however. Given this, everyone in the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen was grateful to have Nassau County Assistant District Attorney Theresa Tebbett visit James A. Dever Elementary School recently to give a detailed presentation regarding internet safety rules and practices. Called S.T.O.P. (**S**tudy the content, **T**hink about others, **O**nly send if appropriate, **P**ictures are forever), the presentation specifically targeted the social media habits of young people and how these habits can get people in trouble.

During one particular telling moment in the presentation, students were asked repeatedly to raise their hands if they were familiar with individual social media apps and online games, and the majority of students raised their hands each time. These responses underscored a startling reality of our internet era: these devices, apps and programs are everywhere. Assistant District Attorney Tebbett used this information to emphasize the importance of being careful online. Using her "Four Rules of Internet Safety", ADA Theresa Tebbett was able to expertly guide our students through safe internet habits.

The District would like to thank ADA Tebbett for graciously donating her time to teach these valuable lessons and keep us all a little more safe as we browse the internet.



Assistant DA Tebbett's "Four Rules of Internet Safety"

Tell your trusted adult if anything makes you feel sad, scared or confused.

Ask your trusted adult before sharing information like your name, address and phone number.

Do not meet face-to-face with anyone from the internet.

Always use good manners and do not be rude or mean online.

COMMUNITY SENDS STRONG MESSAGE AS VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN 2019-2020 BUDGET PASSES

When the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen community of parents, guardians and residents went to the polls on May 21 and voted to approve our school budget, they sent a message loud and clear: Public education is an integral component of our community. We are so thankful for that bode of confidence. Educating the children of the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen is a tremendous responsibility, and we will not let you down. Thank you.

SPRING IS THE SEASON TO FOCUS ON A H

Who doesn't love spring in New York? Take a look at some

Going Green

In the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen, we aim to develop an appreciation for the Earth in each student, and we put a special emphasis on teaching environmentally smart habits and decision making. A great way to instill these values is through hands-on experience. It's one thing to read about the beauty of nature in a textbook or on the internet; it's another thing entirely to experience the beauty and precariousness of nature up close.

Over the spring weeks, students in the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen had an opportunity to learn about "green practices" from professionals and visit natural spaces and really get their hands dirty. Howell Road Elementary School students recently visited Crossroads Farm at Grossman's, spending their day in the sunshine while learning about sustainable agriculture. Students worked alongside each other after receiving demonstrations designed to educate them about various farming practices, food systems, and the importance of environmental awareness.



Students from Howell Road Elementary School learn various farming practices at Crossroads Farm.



Meanwhile, at James A. Dever Elementary School, students explored the realm of solar power as they attempted to answer the question, "How do we collect energy from the sun?" Children in Ms. Rogers and Ms. Ullrich's fourth grade classes worked together as they used light power to create sound energy through solar panels. This environmentally conscious activity provided students with hands-on experience in an engaging and educational learning project—an opportunity that goes right to the core of the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen mission to provide a curriculum that proves helpful in all areas of students' lives. In addition to encouraging environmental awareness while educating students, this activity also demonstrated the ways in which students can contribute to sustainability. The District aims to instill a passion for learning in students, utilizing hands-on activities and introducing a number of innovative ideas to achieve this.

Fourth grade students at James A. Dever Elementary School worked together to produce sound energy through solar panels.



HEALTHY PLANET—AND A HEALTHY YOU

The spring happenings across Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

Focus on Heart Health

As part of the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen's commitment to educating the whole child, educators and administrators at the District place a continued emphasis on health and wellness as it pertains to physical, social and emotional health. After all, spring isn't only for remembering our obligation to the environment, it's about remembering our obligation to ourselves as well.

Wheeler Avenue Elementary School students recently gathered in the gymnasium to celebrate the importance of heart-healthy habits. As part of the American Heart Association's Kid Heart Challenge initiative, students participated in the Jump Rope for Heart activity, aimed at raising awareness on how to keep hearts healthy from a young age by incorporating techniques such as jumping rope into their weekly routine.

In addition to teaching students the benefits of staying active, the Wheeler student body jumped rope to raise funds for the American Heart Association to support cardiovascular research and educational programs to save lives throughout the country. The District will continue to offer students programs highlighting healthy living techniques they can utilize long after their days in elementary school.

Earlier in the year, Willow Road Elementary School students recently participated in a balance beam activity during their physical education class. Students practiced their balancing skills as they walked across the beam, developed the confidence to incorporate leg lifts and followed the procedures to safely dismount. After the routine, students scored each other through peer assessment, a process that helps expose students to a broad range of perspectives, encourage collaboration and further develop assessment skills.



Wheeler Avenue Elementary School students participate in the Jump Rope for Heart Day.



Willow Road Elementary School student stands on the balance beam.

Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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STEAM in our Schools

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE AT WHEELER'S ROBOTICS ASSEMBLY

Wheeler Avenue Elementary School students recently enjoyed an assembly called BOT, providing students the opportunity to interact with robots face-to-face. The event, sponsored by the Wheeler Avenue PTA, covered all things robot, including what classifies as a robot, real-world applications for robotics and the history and modernization of robots. The STEAM-centric assembly was hosted by David Jack (and his robot counterpart Cozmo). Together, they took students on an entertaining and educational adventure to learn more about robotics and the importance of a STEAM curriculum. The District continuously seeks new opportunities to bring learning to life, even when that means bringing robots to life.



GLOW IN THE DARK MATH AT WILLOW

When fourth-graders at Willow Road Elementary School were gearing up for their math assessments, they decided to go beyond the traditional test prep and try something a little more outside the box. After researching several possibilities, they landed on a program called Glow Day. Glow Day is just like any other math lesson—collaboration, use of rigorous techniques and strategies, etc.—except with one noticeable difference: everything is glowing! The lights in the classroom were turned off, the shades were drawn, and a black light was turned on. With their special glasses and clothing illuminated, the students got to work on special math lessons and discussions. They were engaged in math all day! The added touch of the glowing stood to liven up what could have been another challenging day of test preparation, providing for a memorable day of math learning.

HOWELL ROAD GETS THEATRICAL

The too-often forgotten letter in the STEAM acronym is the “A”, which stands for art. Fortunately, that’s not a problem at the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen. We love engaging our students in the arts and believe the benefits of an arts curriculum are innumerable. This was evidenced recently at Howell Road Elementary School, where students spent time practicing their acting and theatrical skills. The school hosted an in-school theater workshop with the help of a teaching artist from the Tilles Center at LIU Post. Activities such as these allow our students to expand their learning outside of the classroom, while ensuring that they are still gaining knowledge and broadening their experiences.



EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION FIGHTS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

Over the years, through grants, contributions, and fundraising activities, the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Educational Foundation has been able to make donations to the District on behalf of children. These items include laptop computers, smartboards, scholarships, band uniforms, 3D Printers, friendship benches and more. The Valley Stream Educational Foundation also has an established fund to assist children in need. If you are interested in joining our Foundation or making the donation to either the foundation’s general fund, the charity fund, or becoming a lifetime member for \$100, please connect with us at www.valleystream13.com. You can follow the foundation on Facebook at Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Educational Foundation, Inc. to review ongoing work.

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