



It's Elementary

VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN

SUMMER 2021

Congratulations to All Students Who 'Moved-Up' This Year!

For photos from each of our four moving up ceremonies, please visit the Valley Stream UFSD 13 District website at www.valleystream13.com.



After a Difficult Year, We'd Like to Say Thank You

The 2020-2021 school year was a challenge for every school district in every community in America. On behalf of the Board of Education, the administration, and all our faculty and staff, the Valley Stream UFSD 13 would like to say to the community: Thank you. Because of your perseverance, patience, and tenacity—and thanks to the incredible, hard work of our facilities staff, teachers, and personnel—we never had to shut down our school buildings due to a COVID-19 incident this year. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. We look forward to next year.



Checking in Around the District

CLASSROOMS TRANSFORMED INTO CLASSIC CHILDREN’S GAME TO TEACH ELA CONCEPTS

This spring, fourth graders at the Willow Road Elementary School and fifth graders at the Howell Road School participated in a *Candy Land*-themed ELA review day as students were then in the midst of preparing for their upcoming state assessments.

Valley Stream’s teachers transformed sections of their classrooms into locations found on the classic *Candy Land* game board. In the classroom’s representation of the old “Peppermint Forest” found on the board game, for example, children read about the real-life development of the *Candy Land* game. In the “Cupcake Castle,” students identified text structure, and in the “Licorice Castle,” children reviewed character traits after reading the official bios of the residents of Candy Land. The students were able to collaborate with one another using their Chromebooks to answer questions and concluded the day by playing a modified version of *Candy Land*. Overall, it was a fun, inventive way to teach critical ELA concepts.



CULTIVATING A CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS

The Valley Stream UFSD 13 is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion and is actively working to create a districtwide culture of dignity with a climate of belonging in our schools. One important aspect of this is the implementation of a Culturally Responsive–Sustaining Education (CR-S). CR-S Education is grounded in a cultural view of learning and human development in which multiple expressions of diversity—race, social class, gender, language, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, ability—are recognized and regarded as assets for teaching and learning.

The District has continued implementing CR-S by helping educators create student-centered learning environments that affirm racial, linguistic, and cultural identities; preparing students for rigor and independent learning; developing students’ abilities to connect across lines of difference; elevating historically marginalized voices; and empowering students as agents of social change.

“Our District has created an academically rigorous and intellectually challenging environment, while also taking into consideration the various ways students learn,” said Superintendent Dr. Constance D. Evelyn. “Over the past few years, and even now despite the pandemic, we have continued to have great success with celebrating diversity and inclusion in our schools.”



Students at James A. Dever Elementary School read together about different cultures and backgrounds.

VALLEY STREAM STUDENT ARTWORK IS 'DRAW'-DROPPING!

In May, Valley Stream UFSD 13 held a virtual Board of Education Commendation Ceremony to celebrate student achievement in art. The District's Art Department recognized the students that participated in the New York State Art Teachers Association (NYSATA) Student Art Exhibit. The following students were commended: Ryan Stevens, grade 2; Isaac Roberts, grade 2; Omar Iqbal, grade 2; Anthony Ramirez, grade 6; Davina Somerville, grade 5; Nizar Saoud, grade 6; Gabriella Basile, grade 5; Isabella de los Santos, grade 2; Lorenzo Centore, grade 1; Victoria DeOliveria, grade 2; Kyla Washington, grade 2; and Yaelle Pierre, grade K.

Students were also recognized for the work chosen to be displayed at the 31st Annual Legislative Student Art Exhibit, that was held virtually due to the pandemic. The following students had their work featured: Kaylie Soto, grade K; Julian Melendez, grade K; Aya Bosaka-Stewart, grade 3; Aurelia Bahadar, grade 2; Bristol Lindsay, grade 3; Ava Roman, grade 3; Hamna Adrees, grade 6; Shariq Khan, grade 5; Mohammed Arshad, grade 6; and Herwinder Multani, grade 6.

Several students were commended for participating in the 17th Annual Art Supervisors Association All-County Art Exhibit: Muzzamil Shehzad, grade 6; Mikayla Aziz, grade 6; Manraj Singh, grade 2; Julian Melendez, grade K; Kaylie Soto, grade K; Journie Nembhard, grade K; Joseph Lentini, grade 6; Mia Graine, grade 6; Simardeep Kaur, grade 6; Joanna Joseph, grade 6; Aila Ahmed, grade 6; Natalie Sammarco, grade 4; Alexandra Nanavrakis, grade 4; and Austin Snyder, grade 4.

Finally, several remote students were selected to earn the "Remote Art Achievement Award." The following students were awarded: Steven Santiago, grade 6; Alessia Surdich, grade 6; and Aliyah Fajardo, grade 5.



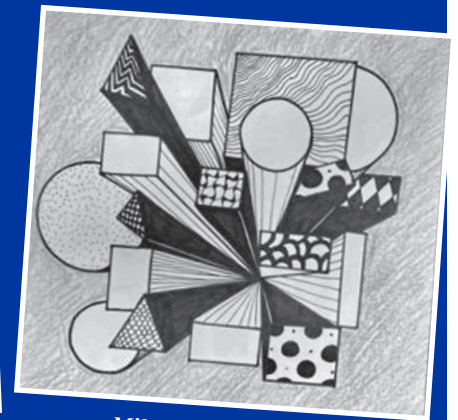
*Alexandra Nanavrakis, grade 4,
James A. Dever School*



*Nizar Saoud, grade 6,
Wheeler Avenue School*



Shariq Khan, grade 5, Howell Road School



*Mikayla Aziz, grade 6,
Howell Road School*

CONGRATS TO SOME OF VALLEY STREAM'S FINEST

We'd like to congratulate three amazing members of the Valley Stream UFSD 13 family who were recently recognized for their contributions to our school district. Dever Elementary School first grade teacher Debora O'Connor was recognized for her 35 years of service to the District and 50 years of service as a member of the Girl Scouts. Kristina Karouzakis, Willow Road School speech therapist, was commended for her determination and perseverance in attaining and creating opportunities for Willow students. Additionally, Andrea DiMango, District Director of Instructional Technology and Innovation, was honored for being a "COVID Technology Warrior," ensuring critical success of remote learners and the District's Reopening Plan. Congratulations to Debora, Kristina, and Andrea! You make our District proud.

TO THE VALLEY STREAM UFSD 13 COMMUNITY:

Have a great rest of your summer! See you in the fall!

Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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HOW'S YOUR SUMMER READING GOING? TRACK YOUR BOOKS HERE!

Nothing beats the combination of a good book and a nice summer day! And there's still plenty of time to read new books this summer or track the books you've already finished. Use the chart below to keep track of the books you've read so far and add new books as you finish them. **In September, bring your log back to your classroom teacher.** Happy reading!

VALLEY STREAM 13 SUMMER READING LOG

| BOOK | AUTHOR |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. | |
| 2. | |
| 3. | |
| 4. | |
| 5. | |
| 6. | |
| 7. | |
| 8. | |
| 9. | |
| 10. | |
| 11. | |
| 12. | |
| NAME _____ | CLASS _____ |