



It's Elementary

VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN

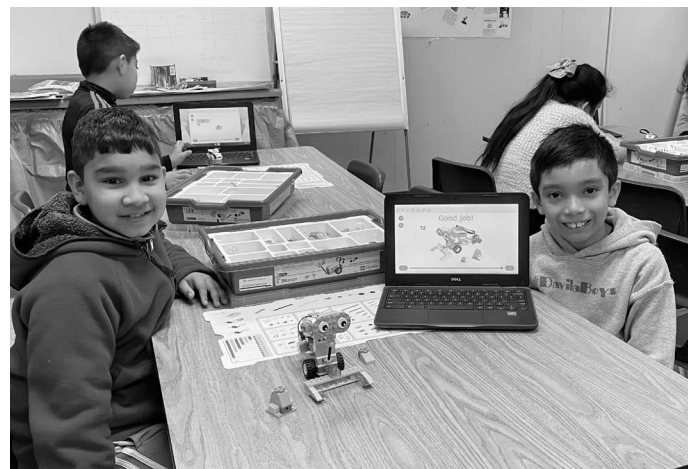
SPRING 2020

Innovation Labs at Valley Stream UFSD 13 Unlock Children's Imaginations

Innovation Labs are now set up at every school in the Valley Stream UFSD 13. These spaces offer students an opportunity to explore their creativity and ingenuity with state-of-the-art learning tools in a free-flowing, less-structured environment. Innovation Labs can lead students to create almost anything; at Wheeler Avenue Elementary School, for example, students worked with various programs to create a robot that can drive and make turns. Technology that was solely the stuff of science fiction a generation ago is now possible in our third grade classrooms.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, or STEM, subjects are such an integral part of a public school curriculum, from kindergarten right up to senior year. Innovation Labs help Valley Stream UFSD 13 educators to make the possibilities of STEM instruction nearly endless.

Innovation Labs are just one component of Valley Stream UFSD 13's commitment to using emerging technology to augment and enhance instruction. Other initiatives include the expansion of personal laptops to all Valley Stream UFSD 13 students in kindergarten and first grade; a dedicated district app for smart phones; and the use of programs such as Wakelet, Gimkit, Google and Flipgrid. At Willow Road Elementary, students used the social learning platform Flipgrid during class to create and record video to set up their own escape room for a presentation on the life of 19th century Haitian general and president, Sylvain Salnave. Another group of students coded with Metaverse, a learning tool that used augmented reality, to create a presentation on Bessie Coleman, the first African-American woman to hold a pilot's license.



With schools nationwide now relying on digital instruction during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, a proficiency and comfortability with technology and remote learning tools are more vital than ever. The Valley Stream UFSD 13 believes that the implementation of technology in the classrooms is something that will greatly assist students as they progress through their educational careers.

**FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING VALLEY STREAM UFSD 13'S
COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RESOURCES, SEE PAGES 2 AND 3**

COVID-19 COMMUNITY UPDATE

A letter from the Superintendent

This has been a challenging and unprecedented time for all us. People are rightfully afraid for their family and loved ones, and generally unsure of what the future may hold. All of us hope for a return to normalcy as soon as possible, but until that time, please know we are committed to being your partner in managing the road ahead of us. Throughout this crisis, district administration and the Board of Education have been working to keep you informed of all developments, cancellations, safety regulations, and more. For up-to-date, crucial information regarding the coronavirus and Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen's responses to this pandemic, please visit our website, www.valleystream13.com.

Our school buildings may be closed for the time being, but your district will continue to be focused on providing the highest levels of service for our students and families in meeting both educational and social/emotional needs.

Stay safe and practice careful social distancing whenever you leave your house. Consider using this time to your benefit by reading as much as you can, playing games with your family, or learning a new skill you can do at home.

We can best get through this by maintaining a positive attitude and knowing that we are all in this together.

Sincerely,

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

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION REGARDING VIRTUAL LEARNING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As of the writing of this newsletter, schools in New York are closed indefinitely. The District Administration and the Board of Education would like to assure the community of Valley Stream UFSD 13 that state-mandated school closures do not mean learning has stopped. Easily accessible and equitable virtual learning is available to all. For complete, up-to-date information, click [here](#).

Until schools reopen, students should participate in remote learning by accessing and completing instruction as provided by their individual teachers. Parents can email their students' teachers if they have any questions. Teachers will be available to support student learning during the regularly scheduled days and regularly scheduled school hours. Teachers will respond during this time and using the same methods as they had been doing throughout the year. The expectations for students is that they should complete all assigned work to the best of their abilities.

Any family that needs support with technology should email their teacher, who will work with the technology department to solve any issue. **If you do not have internet at home, Altice is offering a free internet product, with installation fees waived. Parents should call 866-200-9522.**

Update on Free & Reduced School Lunch Program

The New York State Commissioner of Education has approved continuation of the free and reduced lunch program during school closures due to COVID-19. Valley Stream UFSD 13 will provide take away lunches for students participating in our free and reduced lunch program for the duration of state-mandated school closures. The lunch packages will also contain a breakfast cereal for the following day. Lunch will be available at the following locations:

Memorial Junior High School

320 Fletcher Avenue
Valley Stream, New York 11580

North High School

750 Herman Avenue
Franklin Square, New York 11010

South High School

150 Jedwood Place
Valley Stream, New York 11581

Lunch will be distributed in the parking lots, please follow appropriate signage.

Families who wish to apply for the free and reduced lunch program can find the [application](#) on our website. Applications may be dropped off at any of the lunch distribution points or mailed to the address on the application. Please know that the Valley Stream UFSD 13 will continue to look for opportunities to assist our students, families and community during this time. The wellness of our students is paramount to us all.

BOND UPDATE



Work continued unabated on the Valley Stream UFSD 13 bond work over the summer and fall of 2019. All four of our schools have seen a whirlwind of activity including much-needed and well-deserved facelifts. Highlights include:

James A. Dever Elementary School

- Kitchen addition
- Bathroom renovations
- Fire alarm system replacement
- Classroom unit ventilator replacements
- Classroom case work replacements

Wheeler Avenue Elementary School

- Bathroom renovations
- Fire alarm system replacement
- Classroom unit ventilator replacements
- Classroom case work replacements
- Staircase

Howell Road Elementary School

- Kitchen addition
- Bathroom renovations
- Fire alarm system replacement
- Classroom unit ventilator replacements
- Classroom case work replacements

Willow Elementary School

- Kitchen addition
- Bathroom renovations
- Fire alarm system replacement
- Classroom unit ventilator replacements
- Classroom case work replacements

In addition, since 2018, all four schools have received the following improvements: • New exterior and classroom doors • Playground resurfacing • Renovated student bathrooms • New P.A. systems

Furthermore, as many of you have no doubt noticed, Valley Stream UFSD 13 has improved safety and security procedures, including the addition of contracted security personnel, and the installation of cameras and security vestibules to allow for proper screening and access control of visitors. We have also implemented a swipe-card employee ID system in all four of our district schools for an additional layer of security.

Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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Checking in Around the District

HEART HEALTH IN FOCUS AT DEVER

Getting exercise, staying fit and caring for your heart health are important whether you're a child or a senior citizen. One of the best, most fun ways to do this is to participate in group sports; that's why Hoops for Heart, a national fundraising program that works with the American Heart Association, promotes heart healthy living through fun, accessible basketball activities. Students in Mr. Schwasnick and Mrs. Lundgren's classes at **James A. Dever Elementary School** this past winter participated in their own Hoops for Heart event, even inviting parents to come to the school and watch children participate. With health and safety now on the minds of people across the world, events such as Hoops for Heart remind us of how important it is to take care of ourselves, stay active, and be well.



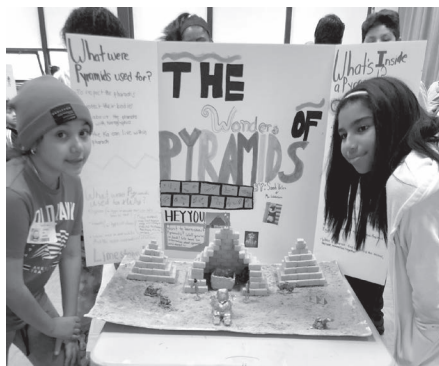
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT WHEELER FOR A LESSON IN SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship is an integral part of being a student athlete. It's a lesson that sixth-graders at **Wheeler Avenue School** know well, thanks to their friends at Valley Stream Central High School. As part of the Athletes Helping Athletes (AHA) program, high school student-athletes visited Wheeler Avenue School students to teach them about what to expect in middle school and high school. AHA comprises a series of three workshops. During the most recent visit, the student-athletes focused on the importance of civility and how these behaviors relate to sportsmanship on and off the field. They also used their personal experiences and problem-solving scenarios to highlight and discuss the positive choices while combating negative behaviors such as bullying and teasing. At the end of the session, Wheeler Avenue students in the class were given an opportunity to ask the high schoolers questions. The athletes serve as positive mentors and role models to the younger students.



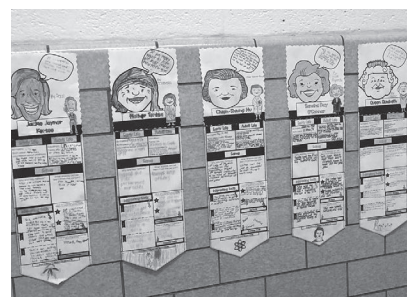
HOWELL'S ANCIENT EGYPTIAN EXHIBITION SHINES A LIGHT ON MESMERIZING CULTURE

Ancient Egypt is a subject of endless fascination for students of all ages, and studying the culture is a rite of passage for many American children. Sixth graders at **Howell Road Elementary School** have embraced this tradition, holding another iteration of their ancient Egypt exhibit, a science-fair like exhibition of various ancient Egyptian research projects. The wonders of the ancient pyramids, the customs and fashions of the beguiling civilization, and the mysteries of mummification were all on display at Howell's ancient Egypt exhibit, making for a memorable day at the school. Thank you to all who participated and attended!



WILLOW ROAD CELEBRATES INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN

Every March 8, on International Women's Day, countries around the world pause to praise the countless advancements and achievements of and obstacles overcome by women. International Women's Day inspires special events and activities, many of which can be brought to elementary school classrooms. At **Willow Road Elementary School**, Mrs. Lepe's fourth grade class researched inspirational women who made a difference in politics, science, human rights, athletics and more. Using their research, the students created posters to display in the halls of the school, spreading these women's powerful stories of success in the face of adversity to all grades.



VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN 2019-2020 BOARD OF EDUCATION

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