

SUMMER 2017

## *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*