

WINTER 2012

It's Elementary



VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN NEWSLETTER

50 Students Selected for NMEA Concerts

District Thirteen is proud to announce that 50 students were selected to participate in this year's Nassau Music Educators Association (NMEA) All-County Music Festivals held in mid-January. The student-musicians performed at the Tilles Center on the campus of C.W. Post College. Congratulations to all of the All-County musicians:

James A. Dever School

Angelica Celis
Karen Chan
Amelia Cossentino
Chloe Cossentino
Kailyn Fan
Brennan Foskolos
Jessica Fornells
Alexa Foster
Samantha Graham
Kaitlin Hawkins
Jenna Jelich
Colleen Knoblach
Clara Leyendecker
Mackenzie Manno
James Saracino
Nithin Seelan
Emma Wischerth
Justine Woracek

Howell Road School

Selina Barnes
Amirah Campbell
Mel Goodman
Isabel Hernandez
Sabreena Jacob
Stephen Jean
Christelle Jean-Baptiste
Niki King

Simon Kwok
Annaelle Lafontant
Robby Lyallpuri
Emanuel St. Fleur

Wheeler Avenue School

Zachary Carhuayo
Ashley Gavin
Michael Higgins
Matthew Manza
Kaithlyn Massiah
Angelo Stincione
Lynette Soler
Daniel Toy
Aina Urgel
Eddie Ye

Willow Road School

Jessica Buontempo
Daniela Crimi
Laila Drosman
Brianna Farzatian
Daniela Gilliberti
Joseph Gisonda
Corinne Lima
Corinne Miller
Kenya Pinos
Jacob Schoenfeld



READING NON-FICTION ACROSS SUBJECT AREAS

The New York State Common Core Learning Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy include standards for reading and non-fiction, as well as those for social studies, history, science and technology.

District Thirteen teachers have been using non-fiction as part of the District's core curriculum and have been participating in district-sponsored professional development and curriculum focus groups.

Wheeler Avenue Elementary School Principal Dr. Christine Zerillo shared information about the Common Core Learning Standards for English Language Arts during a Board of Education meeting held at the elementary school. A copy of the presentation is available on the District's website, www.valleystream13.com, under the "Board of Education" tab. It was evident from the presentation that students are engrossed in learning non-fiction reading strategies.



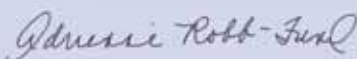
A Special Note From Your SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

As the school year progresses, I am delighted by the success of our students and staff to overcome new challenges presented before them.

Throughout our schools, our students and staff are experiencing their own triumphs in the classrooms and beyond. For students, those victories may be learning how to read, mastering division or finally understanding a concept that proved difficult. For teachers, success may come from meeting the new state standards for Annual Professional Performance Review, learning about the Common Core Learning Standards or implementing new technologies to enhance their classroom lessons. For our administrative team, triumphs most certainly would be successfully integrating the new Common Core Learning Standards released by the state this summer and balancing a budget in a year of a two-percent tax levy cap.

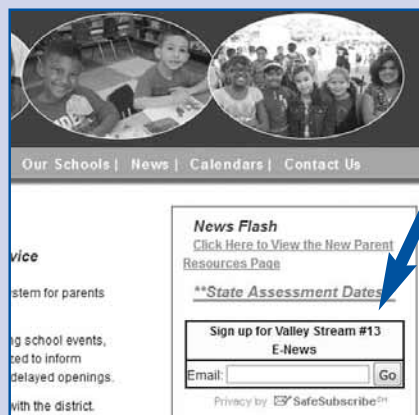
In an effort to inform the community about the property tax cap and its impact on the 2012-13 school budget, please join us at our school board meetings and budget meetings. Please also consider becoming a Budget Ambassador. Together we can meet the challenges of the tax cap and continue our District's pattern of success.

Sincerely,



Adrienne Robb-Fund, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

STAY CONNECTED



District Launches Email Notification Service

The District has now implemented an email notification system for parents and community residents called "E-NEWS."

The District will use E-News to provide updated information regarding school events,

meetings, activities, as well as to inform recipients about any weather-related school closings or delayed openings. Anyone can sign up for E-News by going to the District's website, www.valleystream13.com, and clicking on the link for E-News.

2012-2013 BUDGET PREVIEW PRESERVING OUR PROGRAMS IN DIFFICULT FISCAL TIMES

Amid an atmosphere of uncertainty about state aid revenues and the impact of the tax levy limit, the District is moving toward completion of its preliminary 2012-2013 budget. The State Comptroller's estimates of tax receipts continue to be well below the level forecasted earlier in the year. This will almost certainly result in lower state aid. With little or no increase in anticipated revenues, the District is moving toward building a budget that will support its educational programs and maintain a safe and secure learning environment.

Ways to Get Involved...

The District invites community members to be a part of the budget process. At each of the schools, parents and community members participate in **Shared Decision Making Committees** that meet to consider building needs. They share their ideas for improvements or new initiatives with the building principal and staff.

Each November, members of the community attend the **Annual Education Planning Meeting**. At this year's presentation, the Superintendent discussed student demographics and performance data, all phases of the instructional program, and plans for future initiatives.

In mid-December, the Board of Education toured the District to inspect the buildings and grounds. This **annual inspection** gives Board members an opportunity to observe the condition of the facilities and to consider future capital needs.

Members of the community are invited to join the tour at any point on the tour date to get a firsthand look at the District facilities and plans for projects to be included in the 2012-2013 budget.

On February 15, the public will be invited to attend the **presentation of the proposed budget** for 2012-2013 at a meeting in the Board Room of the James A. Dever School. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robb-Fund will detail the contents of the budget plan and the estimated change in the tax levy. Members of the public will be invited to ask questions and share their thoughts on budget issues.

Community members can also become an active part of the budget process through the **Valley Stream UFS District Thirteen Budget Ambassador program**. Each year, the District asks interested parents and community members to consider becoming a District Thirteen Budget Ambassador. Ambassadors are kept fully informed of the components of the proposed budget and related issues in the anticipation that they will become a source of accurate information when their friends and neighbors have questions about the District and its finances. In addition, the Ambassadors share questions and concerns of community members with District staff so that they can be addressed.

Ambassadors are also provided with a list of questions and answers that frequently arise when discussing the District and budget issues.

During April and May, the budget is presented at **meetings of faculty and staff, PTAs and civic organizations**, to which members of the community are invited to attend. The schedule of these meetings will be published on the District's website. Finally, on Wednesday, May 2, the **Annual Budget Hearing** will take place at the James A. Dever School, where both District Thirteen's and the Central High School's proposed budgets are formally presented prior to the vote on May 15.

Throughout this process, the District welcomes the opportunity to interact with community members to keep them informed of budget planning as well as to clarify any questions they may have regarding the budget, the tax levy and the anticipated impact on the taxpayers.

Interested in Becoming a Budget Ambassador?

Community members who are interested in becoming a Budget Ambassador are encouraged to attend a meeting that will be held on February 28th at 9:00 a.m. in the cafeteria of the James A. Dever School. During this meeting, the District will present the preliminary proposed 2012-2013 budget, provide background information on the District's programs and accomplishments, and answer questions. A second Ambassador meeting is scheduled for April 4th at 9:00 a.m. in the cafeteria of the James A. Dever School.

Honoring Professionals



Board Recognition Night

Howell Road School's gymnasium was turned into a boarding station as the staff and students honored and thanked the Board of Education for everything they do as volunteers to help the schools of Valley Stream UFS District Thirteen. Board members were presented with cardboard suitcases filled with favorite books and passports to visit upcoming events at Howell Road. District staff members also created a video montage to show the Board of Education and community just how well District Thirteen students are learning because of their ongoing support.

MIT Scholar Recognizes Howell Teacher

Each year the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) asks its incoming freshman class to write about a teacher who made a difference in their lives. Ms. Maria TehBradley, a teacher at Howell Road School, received a letter from MIT indicating that a former student had written that it was she who had encouraged the student's interest in science and engineering.

KIWANIS DONATES PEDIATRIC TRAUMA KITS

The Valley Stream Kiwanis Club, in association with the residents of Monica Village, raised funds to purchase two pediatric trauma kits for the District. One kit will be located in the Health Office at the James A. Dever School and the other in the Health Office at the Howell Road School. The Kiwanis Club donated pediatric trauma kits to Willow Road School and Wheeler Elementary School in 2009.

Kiwanis President Robert Coppolla, Kiwanis Secretary Frank Farella and Monica Village representative Lucille Moran presented the kits to Board of Education President Dr. Frank Chiachiere, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Adrienne Robb-Fund, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services Lisa Sells-Asch and Principals Darren Gruen and Frank Huplosky earlier this year. The District is very fortunate to have community partners who are working to help the children of Valley Stream.

Spreading a Caring Initiative



James A. Dever students performed holiday and winter songs for all to enjoy during their school's concert.

District Thirteen students have continued to demonstrate their desire to care for the community in a variety of ways this holiday season. **James A. Dever** donated toys to the John Theissen Toys for Sick Children program; **Wheeler Avenue** and **Willow Road** made donations to Toys for Tots; and **Howell Road** donated toys and other items for distribution within the community. The District's students also participated in a variety of food, clothing, coat and mitten drives. To further spread holiday cheer, the schools' musical groups performed locally at concerts, events, and hospital and senior citizen venues. Teaching children compassion is at the heart of the Valley Stream UFS District Thirteen Cares.

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585 North Corona Avenue, Valley Stream, New York 11580-2099
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Transportation Request *Deadline - April 1st*

Pupils attending private and parochial schools out of the District are eligible for transportation if the distance to the school is not more than fifteen (15) miles. New York State Law requires transportation requests for the following September must be filed on or before April 1st with the local school district. Applications can be obtained by calling the Business Office at 516-568-6110.



TAX CODE INFORMATION - 655

The New York State Tax Code Number for the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen is 655. This is to be entered in the appropriate box on your state income tax return. It is used in the apportionment of state aid.

Emergency Closing Procedure

Should it be necessary to close school due to emergencies, announcements can be heard on local radio stations and Channel 12 News. Information will be on the District's website www.valleystream13.com, and parents/guardians will receive an automated phone call. For more information about this procedure, please review page 3 of the District calendar.

UPCOMING *Events*

Budget Meeting:

February 15th @ 6 p.m. in James A. Dever Boardroom

Budget Ambassador Meetings:

February 28th @ 9 a.m. in James A. Dever Cafeteria

April 4th @ 9 a.m. in James A. Dever Cafeteria

Board of Education Meetings:

February 28th @ 8 p.m. at Willow Road School

March 27th @ 8 p.m. in James A. Dever Boardroom

April 24th @ 8 p.m. in James A. Dever Boardroom

Lights on For Education:

April 26th @ 7:15 p.m. at Memorial Jr/Sr High School

Budget Hearing:

May 2nd @ 7:30 p.m. in James A. Dever Auditorium

Kindergarten Registration

Do you have a child residing in Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen who will turn five by December 1, 2012? Do you know a child who resides in the District who will turn five by December 1, 2012? The earlier parents register children for school, the better the District can plan for their arrival in September. Parents can register students for kindergarten at any time when the Central Registration Office is open. The Central Registration Office is located at Memorial Junior High School, One Kent Road, Valley Stream. Registration information and the associated forms are located on the District website at: <http://www.valleystream13.com/district/enrollment.asp>.

If you have any questions about registration, please contact the Central Registration Office at 516-872-5694.

Voter Registration Information

This year's school budget and trustee election will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, at each of the District's elementary schools. If you are not yet registered to vote, the District encourages you to register.

To be eligible to vote, a person must be a United States citizen, at least 18-years-old, a resident of the school district for at least 30 days, and registered. Unregistered individuals who meet the above criteria can register any day school is open between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the District Office located at James A. Dever School. A special evening registration event will take place one week before the election from 5 p.m.-9 p.m.



With Deep Condolences



It is with sadness that the District learned of the passing of former Wheeler Elementary School teacher Dolores Hanc. Mrs. Hanc, who was 82, taught kindergarten and first grade prior to her retirement. She touched the lives of many students, faculty members and families. Her passion for teaching children to read and to care was apparent throughout her career. The District wishes to express its condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Joseph DiSibio Sean Douglas, Ph.D.
Debra Evans Jeanne Greco Jacobs

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Adrienne Robb-Fund, Ed.D., *Superintendent of Schools*

