



Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

585 N. Corona Avenue Valley Stream, New York • 11580 • (516)568-6100
www.valleystream13.com

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

January 3, 2020

Dear Willow Road Families:

The traffic accident that happened yesterday at our school is extremely concerning to all of us in the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Community. I have immediately partnered with the Board of Education, professional services, and members of our community to set in motion several steps that have and will be taken to fortify the playground areas at the Willow Road School. Many of the initial action steps are outlined below.

1. The playground impacted will be unavailable into the near future until we can fortify the fencing around the perimeter and finish soil testing.
2. We contracted EnviroScience, a company that we have regularly partnered with to certify environmental safety concerns in and around our schools, to manage testing and perform soil removal at the accident site. Seven (7) 55 gallon drums of soil were removed yesterday and soil samples were taken. We will receive the results of these sample soils in approximately seven (7) days in a comprehensive report.
3. We are working with L.K. Mclean, an Engineering Firm specializing in traffic safety studies to begin the process of creating information to share with Town of Hempstead Traffic Control in an effort to expedite any recommended changes that this municipality has the authority to execute.
4. We have engaged the District's longtime architectural firm, BBS to develop an expedited plan of replacing the fence and providing highway grade guard railing to strengthen our defense against the kind of accident that occurred yesterday. BBS will be looking at all outdoor recreation spaces at Willow and throughout the District.

I will continue working collaboratively with my school community to ensure that I am actively communicating what we are doing to fortify the safety of our outdoor learning and recreation areas at the Willow Road School and across the District.

As the Superintendent of Schools and a parent of a public school student, I will honor my commitment to immediately improve the potential dangers highlighted by yesterday's events.

As always, the District's highest priority is the health and safety of our students, staff members and all those who visit our school.

Sincerely,

Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D.
Superintendent