Valley Stream Union Free School District 13 · Where Children Come First

It's Elementary

VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN

SUMMER 2022

STUDENTS CELEBRATE END OF YEAR WITH ANNUAL FIELD DAY

Ask any adult what one of their fondest memories from childhood is, and before long you're sure to get "field day" as an answer. Great weather, a day of games and sports, and a last moment of joy together before the summer break—it's no surprise why field days are just so much fun. Around Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen, students took part in an annual field day at all four schools, and by all accounts they were fabulous events!

James A. Dever Elementary School celebrated its field day by unplugging from technology. Students spent the day outside with activities centered around music, art, reading, and physical education. The classes rotated throughout the day so everyone was able to enjoy each experience.

Howell Road Elementary School enjoyed its mega field day with potato sack races, dance parties, relay races, and more. The students also enjoyed some water games to cool down.

Wheeler Avenue Elementary School's field day was held at Fireman's Memorial Field. Students in grades four through six wore blue and gold t-shirts and participated in over 50 events, including mini-marathons, relay races, and tug of war. Ribbons were given out to all who participated.

Willow Road Elementary School's field day had a circus theme. Students participated in stations throughout the day, including obstacle courses, tug of war, and dancing.

VALLEY STREAM UFSD THIRTEEN REORGANIZES BOARD OF EDUCATION

In July, Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen held its Board of Education reorganization meeting, with Board members electing Trustee Jennifer Oliveri as new Board President and Trustee Gerardo Cavaliere as new Board Vice President. Each will serve in their respective positions for one-year terms. Ms. Oliveri, in her capacity as Board President, appointed the chairpersons and members of the Board's four standing committees: Education, Business, Facilities, and Policy. During the meeting, newly elected Board member Vincent Caposio was administered the oath of office. Dr. Judith LaRocca also took the oath of office as Superintendent of Schools.

"The District is prepared to begin a new year filled with hard work and continued success," said Dr. LaRocca. "I have full confidence in our Board members; their outstanding leadership and dedication will complement their experience and skills, which will be invaluable to Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen."

A Message from the Superintendent

I want to personally congratulate all of our former sixth graders who recently completed their Moving-Up ceremonies and as such, their elementary school journeys. The transition from elementary to middle school is a major step in a child's life, the first educational milestone in what will hopefully be a long list of accomplishments. The moment is cause for celebration, and I had such a wonderful time joining Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen students, staff, educators and families at each ceremony during the last days of June.

Throughout my time in the District, it has been an honor to watch these students grow and expand their love of learning. I am filled with admiration and gratitude for our students, families, and our staff. I know our students will have a successful transition to middle school, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds.

We are excited to prepare for the coming year ahead, and we look forward to welcoming you back soon. I hope you have a wonderful remainder of summer with family and friends!

Sincerely,
Dr. Judith A. LaRocca, Superintendent of Schools

DEVER MOVING UP

HOWELL MOVING UP

WHEELER MOVING UP

WILLOW MOVING UP

To see more photos, and to keep up-to-date on Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen, please visit our website by scanning the following code.

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STUDENTS CELEBRATE THEIR OWN HARVEST

Earlier in the spring, Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen fourth-grade students from all four schools visited Crossroads Farm to transplant the young lettuce plants they had been growing in their nursery pots at school. Students watched their lettuce grow with weekly video updates. After several months, it was time to return and see how their seedlings were doing. The students visited Crossroads Farm for a traditional harvest party, where they picked lettuce they had previously planted, tasted fresh honey, drank mint tea, picked fresh flowers, squeezed fresh orange juice, and ate bread with butter and chives. For students, it was a culminating experience to pick the lettuce they had grown and enjoy their salad during the harvest party. It's important for students to learn at an early age how agriculture impacts the world around them, making programs like our partnership with Crossroads Farm so vital.

MULTICULTURAL NIGHT AT WHEELER AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Before the end of the school year, Wheeler Avenue Elementary School celebrated Multicultural Night, a school tradition for the past 21 years. During the informative, educational, and entertaining evening, students, families, and community members were able to share their cultural traditions through food, music, dancing, attire, games, and art. To the delight of all participants, this was the first year Wheeler Avenue was able to have this celebration in person since the start of the pandemic.

A highlight of the Multicultural Night was an appearance by the Valley Stream South High School's Cultural Dance Society. The Society performed various dances from around the world, including the Classical Indian Dance, Mexican Skirt Dance, Chinese Ribbon Dance, Chinese Yo-Yo Dance, and many more.

SUMMER RECREATION 2022: ONE MONTH OF FUN UNDER THE SUN

The Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Summer Recreation Program at Wheeler Avenue Elementary School recently wrapped up. Approximately 225 students gathered at Wheeler for three hours per day from July 5th to August 5th to enjoy arts and crafts, science programs, games, and recorder lessons. There were also many outdoor activities, such as a home run derby, knock hockey, ping pong tournaments, hula hoop, basketball shooting, bouncer buddies, jump rope, frisbee contests and more. Thanks to everyone who joined us, and see you next summer!