A Note from Dr. LaRocca

Fall Happenings

The leaves are changing and the weather is certainly cooling off now. School is in full swing and it has been wonderful seeing fall festivities happening across our four schools, many of which are supported by our dedicated PTA volunteers. Watching our students enjoy our updated fields and playgrounds in the beautiful fall weather brings a smile to my face. Playing outside is one of the greatest joys of childhood, and we thank the community for supporting these improvements so we can provide our students with a chance to run, explore, and have fun with friends.

This month we honor two very important groups in our schools: our Board of Education and our principals. School Board Recognition Week and National Principals Month give us an opportunity to recognize the important roles both play in our children's education. Board members volunteer their time to guide the district's direction and ensure our schools have the resources students need. Principals bring that work to life each day by supporting teachers, partnering with families, and creating schools where children feel welcome and ready to learn. I feel fortunate to work alongside our Board members and principals, who care deeply about our children and put that care into action every day.

Please be reminded that **schools are closed for students on Tuesday, November 3rd,** while staff attend professional development. Schools will also be closed on November 11th for Veterans Day and November 26th and 27th for Thanksgiving Recess.

Last week our new Howell Road assistant principal resigned from his position for personal reasons. We will proceed with a new hiring process as soon as possible to fill this important position. I am hopeful that we can appoint a new Howell assistant principal at the December 15th Board of Education meeting with an anticipated start date in January.

For the most up-to-date district information, visit www.valleystream13.com. If you need support, please use the Guide to Communication to find the best person to contact. I welcome your questions and look forward to hearing from you at jlarocca@valleystream13.com.

October 26, 2026