

VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT THIRTY

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Dear Valley Stream 30 Community,

Upcoming dates

This is the time of our wonderful holiday concerts where our students' beautiful performances help usher in the holiday spirit for us all. Concerts are as follows, all at 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 14th – Shaw Avenue

Dec. 15th – Forest Road

Dec. 17th – Clear Stream

Board of Education Meeting: Dec. 21st at 8:00 p.m. Student and staff presentation on PBIS, the district character education and positive behavior program will be featured.

H1N1 Free Vaccinations

There will be a free clinic sponsored by the Nassau University Medical Center in conjunction with the Nassau County Department of Health, where individuals may receive, free of charge an HINI flu vaccination. Place: Central High School (Auxiliary Gym). Date: Tuesday, December 15th. Time: 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. [Children under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.]

Reading Support in Valley Stream 30

As you know, one purpose of the weekly Superintendent's newsletter is to provide you ongoing information regarding our curriculum program and new learning initiatives. The District has recently made some further developments in our reading support program, with new training for teachers and enhanced scheduling.

Below is some information from Gerard Poole, Valley Stream 30 Director of Curriculum and Instruction, regarding the reading support program.

The purpose of our reading program is to accelerate the reading growth of students that are below our district benchmarks. New this year, we have made an increased commitment to identifying and intervening with targeted reading instruction, students in grades K-2 that need additional instruction, believing that early intervention lays the strongest foundation for later successful reading. For example, a special summer school program was provided this summer for incoming kindergarteners who could benefit from this additional help.

To achieve our goal of accelerating the reading growth of students who may be falling behind, the District first identifies which students are in need of reading services. This is accomplished through universal literacy screenings, state tests and other District assessments. All students that do not meet set grade level criteria for reading are identified and a reading service is developed through collaboration with the principal, reading specialists and classroom teachers. The reading services are supplemental to the instruction of the classroom teacher. Classroom teachers work with these identified students with targeted reading instruction as well.

The District has a variety of effective research based strategies to utilize in helping students reach grade level in reading. Each of these strategies is delivered in a small group setting between 1-5 times per week for periods of 30-45 minutes. Each student is matched to a strategy and the intensity of the service is determined by the gap between the child's reading level and the expected benchmark. Once services are developed, they are put into action and monitored through assessments, which are given approximately every two weeks. Students that show positive growth continue with the established service. Students that show little or no growth have their services adjusted in order to make them more effective for the student.

The District has a continual commitment to discovering, evaluating and implementing effective reading interventions. The reading specialists are involved in ongoing training to further enhance our ability to meet the needs of students receiving reading support. Reading teachers, classroom teachers and administrators meet regularly to review the progress of students and the effectiveness of reading interventions. The reading department works to deliver effective instruction for each student.

Have a good weekend

I wish everyone a good weekend. Please email (ekanas@vs30.org) or call me (285-9881, ext. 222) with any suggestions, comments, questions, etc.

Sincerely,

Elaine Kanas

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