

Clear Stream Chronicle

“Good friends are good for your health.”
Irwin Sarason



A Message from the Administrators...

ELA Tests

ELA testing will take place next week, April 26 - April 30. Grades 4 and 6 will take the test on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Grades 3 and 5 will take the tests on Thursday and Friday.

We have assured the children, and we want to assure you, that standardized tests are but one way of looking at learning. Teachers in Grades 3 - 6 have been spending time preparing the students for the exams. Your children have been extremely focused as they prepare for these exams. We know that everyone will do his/her best. Here is how you can help

prepare your children during the week of testing:

- Make sure they get a good night's sleep every night.
 - Make sure they eat a good breakfast.
 - Please be sure they arrive at school on time because they cannot begin a test once it has started.
 - Be supportive but not too inquiring about how the week is going.
- We will be giving the students some extra “down time” after the tests each day, and homework loads will be lighter. You might think about simplifying evening activities or arranging for some “down time” at home, as well. Thank you for your support.

Lights On For Education

Date: April 29 - Memorial JHS - 7:15 - 9:30 PM

Each school submits a variety of work to display that evening. Ms. Freiberg, our Art Teacher, does a fabulous job of displaying our awesome projects.

Administrative Assistant's Day

Everyday should be Administrative Assistant's Day, however, it was celebrated on Wednesday, April 21. Thank you so much to Mrs. Catafomo and Mrs. Sanger for all they do. They help us all each and every day. You are the best!

PTA Updates...

As President Obama called on Congress for an overhaul of the No Child Left Behind law (NCLB), parents and guardians across the country are wondering what kind of changes to expect and what will those changes mean for them and their children. According to an article published in The New York Times on March 13, 2010, although the current administration's proposal would change many things about the NCLB, one central component would remain: annual tests in reading and math for students. On March 14, 2010, the Christian Science Monitor reported that if the current administration has its way, apart from changing the name of the law, we can expect five fundamental changes.

1. The goal of student proficiency in reading and math by the year 2014 would change to a standard of “college and career readiness” for students by the year 2020.
2. Although reading and math tests would remain in the administration's proposal, schools could also include student performance in other subjects as part of overall measurements of progress.
3. Evaluations of schools would shift, being less punitive and offering more rewards.
4. More federal funding would be switched from formula-

based allocations to competitive grants.

5. Schools that miss certain targets would not be required by the federal government to provide students with tutoring or with the option to transfer.

The administration's budget for 2011 would increase competitive funding by \$3 billion, according to the Wall Street Journal. However, these proposed changes could meet with swift resistance from Congress. Therefore, it is very important that parents stay current and informed as the debate on education reform continues. **This is a reprint of last week's article.**

4.22.10

Issue 27

Mrs. Neri

Mrs. Neri always wanted to be a teacher. When she was in school, Fifth Grade was her favorite school year. She loves being a teacher, reading books and going to the beach. Her favorite books is “The Tale of Despereaux.” Her Grandma's spaghetti and meatballs is her favorite food. Her most cherished moment is when her little brother was born. She is a Yankee fan and Jack Johnson is her favorite singer. Blue is her favorite color. Mrs. Neri will have her baby soon—that's exciting!

Upcoming Events

- April 26 - April 30 - ELA State Test - Grades 3 - 6
- April 26 - Bd of Ed. Meeting - Shaw Avenue Library - 8:00 PM
- April 29 - Lights On For Education - Memorial JHS - 7:15 - 9:30 PM
- May 5 - May 7 - Math State Test - Grades 3 - 6

District Website:
valleystream30.org

