

VALLEY STREAM UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT THIRTY

Administrative Offices

175 North Central Avenue

Valley Stream, NY 11580

www.valleystream30.com

Dr. Elaine Kanas
Superintendent of Schools

Tel: (516) 285-9881
Fax: (516) 706-1177
e-mail: ekanas@vs30.org

June 10, 2010

Dear Valley Stream 30 School Community,

Clear Stream Avenue Steppers

You are invited to attend an inaugural performance by the Clear Stream Avenue Steppers at Green Acres Mall on Friday, June 11th at 12:30 p.m. (in front of J.C. Penney's). Ms. Natalie Nelson, a fourth-grade teacher at Clear Stream Avenue and the leader of the step team, is hoping that the team becomes a tradition that celebrates and reflects the rich diversity of the Valley Stream District 30 community.

2010-11 Slight Change in School Start Time

Beginning in the September 2010-11 school year, there will be a slight change in the start of the school day to accommodate new school schedules. Next year, the children will start school at **8:15 a.m.** instead of 8:20 a.m. We will be sending you reminders over the summer, as it will be important for children to arrive at school promptly to support the successful implementation of our learning program.

Six-Day Schedule

Speaking of schedules, next year Valley Stream 30 will join many other school districts in the area, including Valley Stream 24 and the Central High School District, in going to a "six-day" schedule instead of a "Monday through Friday" schedule. This type of schedule provides a more balanced and even distribution of specials classes throughout the year. (For example, children who had music on a Monday this year had less music classes than other children due to several Monday holidays).

In addition, a six-day schedule provides the District more flexibility in efficiently scheduling shared staff across all three elementary schools equitably and provides the opportunity for exploring some content area and arts integration projects for our students in each building, in addition to their regularly-scheduled specials classes.

Another very important plus is that the new schedule allows us to provide more academic intervention services to students, as students from the same grade level will be available at the same time of day for pull-out services and support. Previously (because art, music, library and physical education (PE) might have been scheduled at different times of the day for various classes on the same grade level), the support teachers often had to duplicate services to the same grade level. Now, they will be able to work with children on the same grade level with similar needs during the same period, providing them more time in their schedule to see other children and more grade levels.

How will the days be numbered?

Beginning with the first day of school, all days throughout the year will be numbered consecutively from Day 1 through Day 6 in a repeating pattern. Regardless of the day of the week, students will have specials classes based on which day of the cycle it is. A calendar will be sent home on a monthly basis identifying for each school day which day of the cycle (Day, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6) it is. The calendar will be posted on our school website and will also be listed on the monthly lunch calendar. If we were to have a snow day, we would come back to the same number day on the cycle that was missed for snow. This way no students would miss a special area class due to school being closed for inclement weather.

For parents, the only change should involve checking the calendar to see which days students have PE classes (wear sneakers) rather than just remembering that children have PE on a Tuesday and Thursday, for example, like this year. However, even in this instance, since children usually go out to play at lunchtime every day of the week, weather permitting, it probably is best to always dress children for active play, including sneakers, every day of the week, regardless of what day it is on the six-day schedule!

If parents have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to give your building principal or me a call.

Upcoming Dates

- June 21st, 7:00 p.m. – Awards Ceremony, Shaw Avenue Library
- June 21st, 8:00 p.m. – Board of Education Work Session, Shaw Avenue Library
- June 28th, 8:00 p.m. – Board of Education Business Meeting, Shaw Avenue Library

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
Elaine Kanas, Ed.D.