



VALLEY STREAM SCHOOL DISTRICT 24

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Dr. Unal Karakas
Superintendent of Schools

December 19, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

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As the holiday season approaches and the calendar year draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of our families. Your unwavering partnership in supporting your child's education means the world to us, and we deeply appreciate the trust and dedication you bring to our district community.

This December, our community came together to celebrate the season during our holiday concerts. These performances were inspiring, with our students showcasing their incredible talents and hard work. I would like to thank our amazing music teachers, Mrs. Wilkey, Mrs. Milanese, Mr. Shmorhun, and Mr. Garzetta, for their tireless efforts in preparing our students for these unforgettable events. At our most recent Board of Education meeting, we were treated to a special orchestra performance, serving as a wonderful reflection of the talent, hard work, and enriching opportunities that define our district.

I am also thrilled to share some exciting updates that highlight the collaborative spirit and advocacy of our Board of Education and Legislation Committee. Thanks to a **half-million-dollar grant** secured through Assemblywoman Solages, our district will soon begin new initiatives to enhance our schools. This funding will help support the creation of an inclusive and sensory-friendly playground at Robert W. Carbonaro School, benefiting all students, including those in our new 8:1:3 special education program. Additionally, we are expanding access to clean drinking water by installing two new water filtration systems in each of our three schools within the next few weeks. With these projects, we continue to prioritize the health, well-being, and inclusion of all students in our district. The playground is expected to be ready for use by spring 2025, and we extend our sincere thanks to Assemblywoman Solages for making this possible. We also extend our sincere gratitude to our dedicated Board of Education and Legislation Committee for their collaboration and commitment to securing resources that enrich the learning environment for all our students.

As we look toward 2025, we remain committed to innovation, inspiration, and growth. Together, as a community, we will continue to achieve great things for our students, shaping a future full of possibilities.

I wish you and your loved ones a joyous and restful holiday break filled with treasured memories. May the New Year bring you happiness, health, and success. Thank you for being such an integral part of the Valley Stream 24 family.

Warmly,

Dr. Unal Karakas
Superintendent of Schools

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