

Make the Connection



Welcome to Our Summer Newsletter!

As we enjoy the beautiful summer weather on Long Island, we hope this newsletter finds you and your families in great spirits. The 2023-2024 school year was truly a remarkable time, filled with achievements, growth, and wonderful memories. This summer edition of our newsletter is packed with exciting stories from the last weeks of the school year and a sneak peek into what's ahead. Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer!



A SEASON OF GROWTH

As spring gave way to summer on Long Island, our talented students and dedicated educators continued to achieve, succeed, and grow

Brooklyn Avenue Students Hold Fundraising Car Wash

Late this spring, the amazing students in the graduating class of Brooklyn Avenue School organized a fundraiser in conjunction with the 6th Grade Parent Committee. Students and parent volunteers washed cars and worked cohesively as a team to raise funds to support 6th grade activities. In addition, they connected with the Valley Stream community while demonstrating the importance of contribution, volunteer service, and collaboration. Many thanks to our 6th Grade Parent Committee and our amazing BAS 6th grade students.



William L. Buck Named 'No Place For Hate' for the Second Year



William L. Buck School, part of the Valley Stream 24 School District, was recently honored for its dedication to inclusivity, compassion, and acceptance. For the second consecutive year, the school received the prestigious "No Place For Hate" designation from the Anti-Defamation League. Under the guidance of advisor Traci Ritterband, fifth and sixth grade students formed a committee to achieve the necessary goals for this designation. The year kicked off with a pep rally, where students took the "No Place For Hate" pledge. Throughout the year, the committee organized various events and activities aimed at breaking down barriers, promoting equitable access, and fostering inclusive classrooms.

Former NY Mets Pitcher Nelson Figueroa Inspires Robert W. Carbonaro Students During Special Visit

Fifth grade students at Robert W. Carbonaro School in the Valley Stream 24 School District recently had the exciting opportunity to practice their baseball skills with former New York Mets pitcher Nelson Figueroa. Before stepping up to the plate, the professional baseball star spoke about the importance of school, hard work, dedication, and character. Mr. Figueroa has a personal connection to the Valley Stream community, as his nephew, Zenon Figueroa, is a student at the school. The 50-year-old athlete shared his journey to the Mets, inspired by his father, a softball player. After his story, students asked about his career and path to becoming a professional athlete. Following the assembly, students played Wiffle ball with Mr. Figueroa as pitcher, practicing their catching, throwing, and running skills.



Dr. Comis Named Administrator of the Year

Dr. Scott Comis, principal of Brooklyn Avenue School in the Valley Stream 24 School District, has been awarded the prestigious Administrator of the Year award by the School Administrators Association's New York State Region 2. He was formally honored at the organization's recognition ceremony at the City Cellar in Westbury.

Dr. Comis is truly deserving of this incredible honor for his significant role in ensuring student success in our district.

- Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Unal Karakas



This award honors an administrator in Region 2 who has provided exceptional service to education. Dr. Comis was nominated by his colleagues for his substantial contributions to education and his outstanding efforts in developing innovative programs that have improved student learning outcomes.



It's Good to Have 'Goals'

Summer sun and soccer is a tantalizing combination, as fifth grade students from all three schools found out firsthand this June in an exciting, districtwide soccer tournament. The co-ed event featured six teams in total, with two teams representing each school. One of the teams from Robert W. Carbonaro School ultimately claimed the trophy. Families and friends were invited to watch and cheer on the students from the sidelines during the thrilling matches.

Empowering Students: Summer Learning Program for Math and ELA

Learning in the 21st century is year-round. Even during the summer, when many students are not in the classroom, learning continues—in books, in trips to the park or the beach, and in the self-discovery that only comes from making new memories. For some, however, the classroom remains the best place to continue learning. To that end, the Valley Stream School District 24 offers a month-long summer enrichment and remediation program in July to designed to help students who need extra support in math and English Language Arts (ELA). This initiative aims to ensure that all our students have the opportunity to excel academically and be fully prepared for the upcoming school year.

Valley Stream 24's Enrichment and Remediation Summer Learning Program is committed to helping students succeed. By providing targeted support in math and ELA, we aim to bridge learning gaps and ensure that every student can achieve their full potential. We look forward to a summer of growth, learning, and fun!

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The summer enrichment program, run in partnership with Nassau BOCES, was held daily from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. at William Buck Elementary throughout July. It is open to any student in Valley Stream 24, and admittance is based on teacher or parent recommendation. A lunch is provided to all students in the program.

- **Personalized Instruction:** Small class sizes allow for personalized attention, ensuring that each student's unique learning needs are addressed. Teachers will use a variety of teaching methods to cater to different learning styles.
- **Project-based learning:** Students engage in project-based learning activities that integrate math and ELA skills into meaningful projects. These projects will encourage critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity, providing students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge in practical, real-world scenarios.
- **Supportive Environment:** The program aims to create a nurturing and supportive environment where students feel comfortable taking risks and making mistakes, which are essential parts of the learning process.

IMPORTANT SUMMER DATES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

- BOE Business Meeting at WLB 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

- BOE Work Session at WLB, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

- Superintendent's Conference Day

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- Schools closed for Labor Day

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- First day of school for students

VALLEY STREAM 24 SCHOOL DISTRICT SETS VISION 2030 IN MOTION



This summer, the Valley Stream 24 School District Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Unal Karakas gathered for a retreat to launch Vision 2030, a forward-thinking initiative designed to prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century.

Dr. Karakas emphasized the district's commitment to adapting to future needs. "Vision 2030 is a comprehensive plan that incorporates feedback from our stakeholders," the superintendent remarked after the retreat. "We're dedicated to equipping our students with tools for success in an ever-evolving world. Our Board of Education has worked diligently to set the course for this initiative, and we are grateful to Ray McNulty from the Successful Practices Network for guiding our discussions."

Key outcomes from the retreat included developing strategies to support educators and students in this new learning environment. As part of Vision 2030, the district is redesigning one classroom in each school building this summer into an innovative learning hub. These revamped spaces are set to be ready for the upcoming 2024-25 school year, providing students with modern, adaptable environments that encourage creativity and collaboration.

With Vision 2030, the Valley Stream 24 School District aims to cultivate a dynamic educational experience that meets the needs of today's learners and prepares them for the future.