



THE STANHOPE CHARGER

Your District Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FALL 2018

School Year Off to Great Start

Steven Hagemann, Superintendent 973-347-0008 x4102 shagemann@stanhopeschools.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 8 - Craft/ Vendor Fair
- December 13, 7:00 PM - Winter Concert & Art Show
- December 19, 7:00 PM - Board of Education Meeting
- December 22, 2018 through January 1, 2019 - Winter Recess
- January 8, 2019 - 8th Grade Orientation at LVRHS
- January 21 - School Closed - MLK Holiday
- February 4 - MP2 Report Cards released
- February 5 - All Schools Concert at LVRHS
- February 18 - School Closed Presidents Day
- February 20-21 - Parent Teacher Conferences
- February 20-21 - Kindergarten Registration
- February 25-March 1 Read Across America Week
- March 11- School Closed - Teacher Inservice
- March 15 - Career Day

I am very excited, with the help of our dedicated staff, to be distributing the first volume of the Stanhope School District Newsletter to our community. Our newsletter will be constructed and delivered quarterly, and it will provide information about the District and schools, including but not limited to programming, facilities upgrades, student and staff accomplishments, new initiatives, and much more. Thank you for reading and for your continued support throughout the years. I hope you enjoy our newsletter!

I am nearing the end of my first full year as the District's superintendent and I am very proud of the progress and accomplishments of our staff and students during this time. Our facilities team worked very hard this past summer to clean the Valley Road School and prep it for the new year, while overseeing some significant safety upgrades and initiatives. Also in the summer, the Stanhope community stepped up and installed a new playground as part of a community build. Our volunteers helped the District save thousands of dollars that could be reallocat-

ed to our classrooms and academic programming.

Our students were met by some new faces at the beginning of the school year. September marked the beginning of Mrs. DiCataldo's first full school year as principal, and Ms. DiTonno returned to begin her first full year teaching third grade. Our other new hires include Ms. Maggie Reilly (grade 3), Ms. Leanne Sweeney (Art), Mrs. Rebecca Morgan (special education), and Mrs. Jessica Frank who took over for Mrs. Simpson as our school nurse in October. Congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Simpson on her retirement!

Some of the new initiatives and programs that we've rolled out for the 2018-19 school year include a new Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS), Standards Based Grading in grades K-3, and Envision Math 2.0 as an upgraded mathematics series to support the delivery of standards based instruction. In addition, the District continues its 1-to-1 Chromebook initiative by purchasing new devices for all teachers and students in grades 3 through 8. The older Chrome-

books from the previous cycle will be used in grades K-2.

So far this year, our students, staff and the community have participated in various events and celebrated our local heroes. We kicked off the school year with the 5th annual Ice-Cream Social, which was sponsored by the HSA, and this past October, students and staff participated in Walk & Bike to School Day. In November, the entire school came together for our annual Veterans Day program. Students from all grade levels showed appreciation for our local veterans through songs, poems, and essays. Veterans were welcomed with a breakfast reception and given medals and certificates to commemorate the event. We are so proud and thankful for all who contributed to the event!

At the Valley Road School this year, we are focused on Values, Respect, and Service and work hard each day to fulfill our responsibility as conscientious citizens. Thanks for taking the time to review our newsletter, and we hope that you will follow us in the next volume.

#WEAREVRS

PRINCIPAL'S PRINCIPLES: Communications of "Word" Responsibility

Alicia L. Finklea-DiCataldo, Principal 973-347-0008 x4106 afinklea-dicataldo@stanhopeschools.org

When learning that I would be tasked with writing a newsletter entry, it took me some time to gather ideas on what has been relevant and prevalent amongst our students in this new school year— what was really meaningful and how to approach and address it. What did I really want to communicate?

And in that word, there it was...the one word that rang out in the back of my mind continually during these past few months: **communication**. According to *Psychology Today*, I was not far off and their research seemed to agree with my observation. It seems that "in-person" communication is an art that is slowly fading but needing our undivided attention and regard. It is quoted by Yehuda Berg, that "words are singularly the most powerful force available to humanity. We can choose to use this force constructively with words of encouragement, or destructively using words of despair. Words have energy and power with the ability to help, to heal, to hinder, to hurt, to harm, to humiliate and to humble."

In a world where texting and social media reign supreme and are so relevant to our young population, these

"words" referenced to with such "power" can be so seemingly simple to exchange. Words flow without the presence of in-person, real human interaction, at the press of a button; without the face-to-face emotional attachment or involvement. And in that, communication is lost. Ironically, in a world of such highly sought computing technologies of communication, the *art* of communication has become something that needs to be addressed and even more so, taught, rather than something that is readily available.

This discovery is a calling to all of us: defining a need for social-emotional instruction and learning to occur amongst our students to use their "words" with responsibility; applying Bernard Meltzer's thinking, "is it true, is it kind, and is it necessary? And, if the answer is no, then maybe what is about to be said should be left unsaid."

So, what are some ways that this can be accomplished?

- By continually having open conversations with one another and our students, asking questions both simple and difficult
- Providing supportive platforms

where students can effectively communicate

- Responding with attentive and emotionally attached, thoughtful answers that support comprehension of the process

- Holding accountable ourselves and our student population in our choices of communication

- And, taking the hard road...opening lines of communication to present

positive outcomes, rather than those that take emotional tolls, that cause confusion and frustration.

To learn more about how you can help our students communicate more effectively please reference the following link: "8 Methods for Effectively Improving Student Communication Skills," from the Global Digital Citizenship Foundation <https://globaldigitalcitizen.org/8-methods-improving-student-communication-skills> and "Communication Tips for Parents" from the American Psychological Association <https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/communication-parents.aspx>

"IS IT TRUE, IS IT KIND, AND IS IT NECESSARY?"

IS THIS COOL OR WHAT?!

Skype A Scientist by Miss Pipher and Mrs. Morrison

Don't phone a friend, Skype a Scientist! In November, 5th graders in Miss Pipher's and Mrs. Morrison's classes paired up with Dr. Christie Sampson @WildEcology, a wildlife ecologist from Clemson University for a student-led video chat, bringing a scientist into the classroom. Prior to the meeting, students prepared by researching Dr. Sampson's field of research, human-wildlife conflict, specifically Asian Elephants in Myanmar.

Conversation ranged from the different ways scientists work to study and prevent human-wildlife conflict, to how they are using drones and satellite GPS collars to track elephants. Each child compiled research from print articles and websites, prepared a question, then communicated one-on-one with Dr. Sampson, as classmates and teachers listened in! Because of the collaborative nature of Google Meet, the video-conferencing app, younger elementary teachers tapped into the conversation as well; with the support of technology, our classroom learning

can go far beyond our four walls! Skype a Scientist has connected working scientists with over 800 classrooms in locations worldwide.



Dr. Christie Sampson @ WildEcology via video chat with 5th Graders

KEEPING IT HEALTHY: Don't Let The Flu Stop You!

Jessica Frank, RN, BSN 973-347-0008 x4110 jfrank@stanhopeschools.org

The evenings are dark and there's a chill in the air. This means flu season is upon us. Get the vaccine! If you haven't gotten your flu shot, get one now. It's not too late. The vaccine helps prevent the flu and reduces the severity of illness if you do get sick. Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches, chills, and fatigue. Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu shot. The shot is especially important for those at high risk of serious flu complications— children; pregnant women;

people with chronic health conditions, like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease; and people 65 and older. Stop the flu from spreading! Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds... the time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub. Cough or sneeze into a tissue, not your hands. Toss used tissues. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way. If you're sick, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone

without the use of fever-reducing medicine. If you get the flu, prescription antiviral drugs can shorten your illness and make it milder. They can also prevent serious flu complications, like pneumonia. Those at high risk should contact their health care provider at the first sign of the flu. For more information on how to protect yourself and others against the Flu - visit www.cdc.gov



GUIDANCE CORNER: Mrs. Jardine wants you to know...

Assunta Jardine, Guidance Counselor 973-347-0008 x4108 ajardine@stanhopeschools.org

Bullying was once considered a simple, harmless rite of childhood experienced by many students. Today, research shows that bullying has significant short- and long-term effects that impact education, health and safety.

Education—Bullying can negatively impact a child's access to education and lead to:

- School avoidance and higher rates of absenteeism
- Decrease in grades
- Inability to concentrate

- Loss of interest in academic achievement
 - Increase in dropout rates
- Health**—Bullying can also lead to physical and mental health problems, including:

- Headaches and stomachaches
- Sleeping problems
- Low self-esteem
- Increased fear or anxiety
- Depression
- Post traumatic stress

Safety—Bullying also impacts student sense of well-being, such as:

- Self-isolation

- Increased aggression
- Self-harm and suicidal intentions
- Feeling of alienation at school
- Fear of other students
- Retaliation

If you have any questions or if you know of anyone being bullied please contact the Guidance Counselor.

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT BULLYING HAS SIGNIFICANT SHORT - AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS THAT IMPACT EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SAFETY.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

CLASS OF 2016

Saige Berkowicz, sang her way to a shutout in net for Lenape Valley Patriots field hockey team against Kitatinny this past fall. She started the night singing the National Anthem, and finished with a win, clinching the NJAC division crown. Way to Go Saige!

CLASS OF 2015

Anthony Oliveri, scores his first state tournament goal against Hawthorne, last October.

GOOOOOOAL !!!!!

If you know of a VRS alumnus that is succeeding in high school, college, the workplace or in military service, we'd like to know about it.





IT'S ELEMENTARY: What's new from K, 1, 2...

Thanksgiving Fun by Mrs. Marra

Kindergarten students had fun preparing for Thanksgiving by pretending to be Pilgrims and Native Americans. They made their own turkey decorations, churned butter, and created Native American head dresses and necklaces.



They also enjoyed listening to stories about Thanksgiving.

Annual 1st Grade Feast by Mrs. Davis

The first grades had a wonderful feast on Thursday, November 29th. The children prepared the food with the help of many parents. The first grades would like to thank the Stanhope HSA for their continued financial support of our feast.



2nd Grade Celebrates International Dot Day by Mrs. Jaust

September 15th is also known as In-

ternational Dot Day. This day was inspired by Peter H. Reynolds book, *The Dot*. Throughout the day, lessons were based on a dot. In Science, students used an app called "Quiver" to make their artwork three dimensional. During Language Arts, students wrote and illustrated about what a black dot could be. Some students thought a dot could be a flower, a balloon, or even a dog! Students visited different dot themed centers in math. In the centers, students used dominoes to add, solved dot to dot puzzles, and rolled dice to write addition equations. Did you think you could do all this based on a dot? It was a fun learning day.

... and 3

Transforming in 3rd Grade by Ms. DiIonna & Mrs. Reilly

To celebrate finishing their first math unit of the year, third grade classrooms were transformed into glow in the dark game rooms. Students wore white shirts and were decked out with glow stick necklaces, bracelets, and glasses. They participated in various addition and subtraction glow in the dark games. We are excited to transform our classrooms throughout the year.

After spending the first month of school dissecting different current event news articles it was time for third grade to create their own newspaper. Reporters researched topics such as school news, science and technology, weather, and sports. They also interviewed teachers and staff about various topics within the school. Published newspapers were delivered to classes around the school.

Currently, third grade is working on becoming Ninja Masters of multiplica-

tion and division. Students earn belts for their ninja after achieving success in each factor. Our classmates are supportive and encouraging towards one another. They work together to study their facts and demonstrate a positive attitude, no matter the outcome.

**OUR
CLASSMATES
CHEER EACH
OTHER ON
AND
ENCOURAGE
EACH
OTHER!**

Community Based Instruction

All About Town by Ms. Waldron, Ms. Mason, Mr. Ruschmeyer, Mrs. Morgan

Throughout this year, our self-contained special education classes are embarking on a program of Community Based Instruction (CBI). CBI provides students with "real life experiences" through educational instruction in naturally occurring community environments. Our goal is to give stu-

dents access to a variety of hands on opportunities to acquire functional and daily living skills. We began the year with a trip to the Netcong Fire Station. Prior to the experience, students were exposed to informational text and vocabulary pertaining to community helpers, the fire station environment and fire safety. During the activity, students were engaged in instruction and simulations by Fire Offi-

cial Ron Puco, supporting and reinforcing lessons previously taught in the classroom. Older students prepared and conducted interviews with Mr. Puco, as well. Our first CBI experience culminated in a writing activity where students incorporated strategies learned through Readers'-Writers' Workshop framework to compose expository and narrative pieces. Stay tuned for our next CBI adventure!

BACK HALL HAPPENINGS: News from the Middle School

Eighth Grade Travels Back in Time Through Project Based Learning

by Mrs. Fehir & Mrs. Truesdell

The eighth grade recently collaborated on a new historical fiction writing unit through their ELA classes. In flexible grouping, students were first tasked with choosing a historical event to research. They then read two articles from Google Classroom based on that event. Students used the information from the articles to brainstorm ideas collaboratively which would eventually become a historical narrative. They accomplished this by creating a fictional character that would have lived in the time period, along with situations that character(s) would've encountered. Then group members each chose the section of the narrative they would compose. Using a shared Google document, students worked together to draft the narrative. Through the revision process, students received feedback from members in their group, peers in other groups, and their teachers. This project allowed the students to learn more about a time period of interest, while cooperatively improving their narrative writing skills.

Math Workshop in Action! **by Mrs. Mutz**

Math workshop is a twice-a-week program at Valley Road School which was initiated by the Middle School Math Department last year. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 rotate attending Math Workshop during EHA period. Each math class is scheduled every 2-3 weeks. Students have an opportunity to engage in deepening math knowledge while having fun! Some of the activities so far this year included:

- *Students have "landed a plane" to discover how slope of linear functions work
- *Played "hit the hoop" to determine if a parabola can help in predicting if a given basketball player can score
- *Practiced skills with Kahoot!*
- *Created their own Kahoot! activities for other students to use
- *Challenged each other with Quizlet Live!
- *Solved Mathological Liar Mysteries to see "Whodunit" in solving crimes!
- *Polygraph - "Lie Detector" activity to guess another student's graph or math problem.

Student Government Officers Help at Valley Road School

by Mrs. Mutz & Mr. Morrissey

Students in Grades 5, 6, and 7 elected four officers to serve this year as the Valley Road School Student Government. The officers serving this year are: Alyssa Canfield, President; Madeline Davies, Vice President; Krista Wihlborg, Secretary; and Kayla Bhagaloo, Treasurer. Elections were held after campaigning and delivering speeches in June of 2018. The officers meet with the 8th grade class advisers several times a month to plan activities and brainstorm ideas for future events and fundraising. Our first Middle School Dance, Fall 2018, was planned by our Student Government, who also collected the funds, decorated and ran contests at the dance! The officers welcomed the Veterans, escorted them on building tours for our Veteran's Day program at Valley Road Schools, and presented them with medals and certificates of appreciation for serving our country. Planning is underway for staff/student events, another dance and some surprise activities! The Student Government are here to serve the student body at VRS!

#WEAREVRS

HONOR ROLL: Marking Period I

High Honor Roll

Sixth Grade

Shea Ewer, Sean Palermo, Michael Signorile

Seventh Grade

Amira Abdallah, Brooke Baisley, Avinash Goyal

Eighth Grade

Kayla Bhagaloo, Alyssa Canfield, Madelyn Davies

Honor Roll

Sixth Grade

Joel Berkowicz, Lucinda Clauson, Lucas Granada, Peter Kay, Samantha Krauklis, Kelly Morales, Ashley Mueller, Riely O'Brien, Austin O'Connor, Ariyana Poole, Iann Proano, Madelyn Schuddeboom, Santiago Valencia

Seventh Grade

Leigha Arnott, Sydney Durand,

Lindsay Fehir, Mary

Hallowich, Jadyne Kappes, Ava Madonna, Sila Ozbay, Juliana Ramirez, Ella Smith-Christie, Ryan Stricchiola, Mia Vergano

Eighth Grade

C.J. Balogh, Luisa Rios, Jared Scharfstein, Jimena Torres, Krista Wihlborg, Jason Worthington



STANHOPE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Office
24 Valley Road
Stanhope, NJ 07874

Phone: 973-347-0008
Fax: 973-347-8368



Steven T. Hagemann, Superintendent
Alicia L. Finklea-DiCataldo, Principal
Gordon Gibbs, Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

Creating Stanhope's Future...
One Child At A Time!

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Instagram:
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BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

7:00 PM

Regularly the Third Wednesday of the
Month (check school calendar for updates)

How Parents Can Help Students with Homework

Student homework serves multiple purposes. Homework provides practice in the mastery of skills, helps in the development of responsibility, and can be used to assess student understanding of topics and/or concepts covered in class. When used as an assessment tool, teachers can use student homework to appropriately pace and plan future instruction.

Students are more successful in school when parents take an active interest in helping them with their homework. This does not mean that parents should spend hours 'hunched' over a desk with their child, rather parents can support by demonstrating effective study and organization skills, explaining multi-step problems, or encouraging kids to take a break. The following are some tips for parents when assisting students with homework:

1. **Set up a homework-friendly area** that is well-lit, free of distractions, and has needed supplies (pencils, paper, etc.) within reach.
2. **Schedule a regular study time** that works best for you and your child(ren).
3. **Help make a plan** on heavy homework nights. Help break work into manageable chunks and include time for breaks.
4. **Keep distractions to a minimum**, which includes TV, loud music, and phone calls.
5. **Make sure they do their own work.** Students won't learn if they don't think for themselves, and teachers won't know what students need help with if they didn't do the work themselves.
6. **Be a motivator and a monitor** by asking about progress and giving encouragement. Be available for questions. Praise their work and efforts whenever possible.
7. If you and/or your child has persistent problems with a subject or assignment, **ask for help.** Your child's teacher is only an email away. If they are not aware of your struggle, they won't know to assist.

