VALLEY STREAM TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Provident Dichard Adams

VSTA E-Newsletter

2020-202



VP Noele Villa



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VP John Reece



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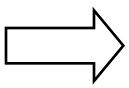
Valley Stream Teachers Rise to the Challenges of a Pandemic School Year

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This was a year for the history books, as the 2020 academic year began will uncertainty and unprecedented measures taken by teachers, staff and students, alike. VSTA, under the leadership of Rich Adams et al., was instrumental in the summer planning of the reintroduction to school, as we came to know it this year. Countless meetings and committees later, the Valley Stream Schools reopened with the hybrid model allowing students in various cohorts to be present for live instruction on an every-other-day basis, while utilizing the new devices distributed by the districts to make the new model possible, all while keeping a watchful eye on the Covid-19 Pandemic as it pertained to the safety of students and staff. VSTA was on high alert making certain that contact tracing was performed with each new positive case and schools within the Valley Stream district were closed for live instruction, when absolutely necessary.

As the year has progressed, we have seen classrooms that were virtually empty, to classrooms once again filled with socially-distant students. (see photos below) Throughout these very challenging times, we remained VSTA Strong thanks to the collective effort of the VSTA officers, teachers, and staff!







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Valley Stream Teachers' Association

Valley Stream, New York - Local 1633 www.vsteachers.org

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The Year We Never Saw Coming

If you asked anyone on New Year's Day, 2020 if they thought the year was going to turn upside down and inside out, I'd bet they'd have said, "No"! But that's exactly what happened. Shutting down in March of 2020 without returning was a crushing blow to teachers and students everywhere and Valley Stream was no exception. With high Covid numbers right here in VS, it's no surprise that students and staff alike, were reluctant to return to school. Many loved ones were lost and fear plagued and on some level, continues to plague us...

If you asked most teachers in VS in September about their predictions for the school year, most said they thought another shut down was imminent. And aside from the few transitions from hybrid to remote instructional days that occurred, we stayed open!

Friends, we did it. We absolutely crushed it. We taught our students in masks, on computers and in person. We made them feel safe and provided whatever semblance of normalcy we could. We revamped education as we once knew it—turning hands-on lessons into virtual masterpieces. We faced, arguably, the single most monumental challenge ever to face schools in our lifetime! And now, we see the proverbial finish line in the distance and know that we can cross it.

Was it easy? No. Was if fun? Not particularly. Was it worth it? Yes, yes it was.

With every passing week new students find their way back into our classrooms and we slowly see the year that we never saw coming, slowly, but surely, fading into the distance.

Wishing you all health and safety for the remainder of the school year.

A Message From Retiree, Kay Olson

Dear Valley Stream Teachers' Association,

Thank you for the [editions of] the VSTA Newsletter. I appreciate the news and thank you also for the emails. I no longer see any notes from retirees or past colleagues. As I mentioned I taught in all 4 of District 13 schools and was a member of the VSTA Financial Committee. I used to appreciate the little notes sent in and printed, from retirees, in the newsletter.

Would you consider printing some news that retirees would like to see? And while I'm at it, it would be great if the VSTA would spearhead a movement for a Valley Stream Retirees Chapter as many other Long Island Districts have...

We spend our winters in Florida thru the grace of pensions and 403b's all helped along by the VSTA! Thank you! I retired 17 years ago and there is lots of life to be lived after retirement.

2003 Retiree District 13. Kay Olson

(excerpted from letter to VSTA editor)

Calling all Retirees!

Please reach out and let VSTA know what you've been up

Feel free to email the editor: Caldo202@gmail.com Or send a letter to:

The Valley Stream Teacher's Association 738 Franklin Ave Franklin Square, NY 11010

Don't Forget to Vote!

VSTA Elections will take place on

May 19th

One hour BEFORE the school day and 1/2 hour AFTER the end of the school day!

Annual School **Budget Vote:** May 18th

In the next issue, meet the candidates!

President: Tim Boyens and Noele Villa

VP of Communications: John Reece and Thomas Schiavo

> **VP of Operations:** Ellyn Fitzgerald

VP of Membership: Virginia Calderaro

Secretary/Treasurer: Ronald Rini





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