



# THE STANHOPE CHARGER

Your District Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2019

## VALUES, RESPECT, SERVICE.

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 26, 6:00 PM—TREP\$ Marketplace
- March 28, 7:00 PM—Spelling Bee (Gr 3-8)
- April 1, 6:00 PM—Fine Arts Club Performance
- April 5, 3:00 PM—Student vs. Staff Volleyball
- April 9 and 16, Kindergarten Screening by Appt.
- April 10, Grade 4-8 Report Cards Released
- April 12, 7:00 PM—Family Game Night
- April 19-26, Spring Recess—School Closed
- April 29, 7:00 PM—Board of Ed Meeting
- April 30, 1:15 PM Arbor Day Tree Planting
- May 6, 7—NJSLA Language Arts Testing
- May 9-10, 6th Grade Camping
- May 13, 7:00 PM—Board of Ed Meeting
- May 13-15—NJSLA Math Testing
- May 17—Dorney Park Chorus/Band Adjudication
- May 22-24 Book Fair
- May 23, 7:00 PM—Spring Concert
- May 23-24—Science Assessments
- May 27—Memorial Day School Closed
- May 29, 8:30 PM—Kindergarten Orientation

So much has happened at the Stanhope School District since our last newsletter published in December, for which I could not be more proud of our students, staff, and community! First, I'd like to start by congratulating Mr. Ruschmeyer and Mrs. Gutwein for being selected as Valley Road School's 'Teacher of the Year' and 'Educational Services Professional of the Year', respectively. Several very deserving staff members were nominated by colleagues, parents, and students before a committee evaluated and named Mr. Ruschmeyer and Mrs. Gutwein as the winners.

Mr. Ruschmeyer is a special educator that has developed and maintained such a positive rapport with his students, and earned the respect of his colleagues. His passion and dedication allow him to effectively teach most content areas to students of different grade and ability levels. His dedication extends beyond his classroom, as he can frequently be found at his students' sporting events and activities, in addition to participating in school sponsored events. Mr. Ruschmeyer is in his third year of teaching at the Valley Road School after two years working as a classroom paraprofessional.

Mrs. Gutwein is a paraprofes-

sional in a special needs classroom and has dedicated herself to the Valley Road School in that role for five years. She consistently goes above and beyond to support her students and colleagues and there is never a challenge that she isn't willing to tackle. Mrs. Gutwein is also actively involved in school activities and events and we are so very thankful to have her as a member of the Stanhope School District.

Next, I'd like to congratulate 8th grader Alyssa Canfield for being selected as the Superintendents' Roundtable Award winner for 2019. Alyssa is the 8th grade class president and, in addition to earning high honors status every marking period in middle school, she is very involved in a variety of clubs, activities, and sports. In fact, Alyssa has earned straight A's on every report card since kindergarten! In addition to continuing as a multi-sport athlete and contributor to her church, Alyssa is looking forward to beginning her honors courses at Lenape Valley Regional High School next year. Congratulations, Alyssa! We are very proud of you and wish you the best of luck in high school and beyond.

Lastly, I'd like to recognize the collective efforts that our students, staff, and community have made towards helping

others. This year, the Valley Road School has adopted and embraced the acronym for "VRS" as Values, Respect, & Service which has been demonstrated in so many ways over the last several months. In December, Mrs. Benedetto and Mrs. Mayhood facilitated a food drive for the First Presbyterian Church of Stanhope and in February, the Valley Road School collected and donated 112 pounds of food for Mr. Nicinski's 2nd annual Feed Fest at Waterloo Village. Also in December, students participated in the Center for Prevention's 'Stuff the Stocking' initiative where new, unwrapped gifts were collected and distributed to families in need throughout the community. Most recently, Mrs. Henry has led the Valley Road School's '100th Day Challenge' and is collecting personal hygiene items for those in need. Much of what was collected was done so through Mrs. Henry's 'extreme couponing' initiative and she is currently working with administration and the health office to establish a "Community Cares" Closet" to continuously support our families in need.

Kudos to all that have been recognized for outstanding achievement, in addition to those that have made a commitment to service! Have a wonderful spring, and #WeAreVRS!

## PRINCIPAL'S PRINCIPLES: One For The Books

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

As I entered the school, I was startled as literary characters walked by flooding the hallways. I entered my office and shortly after heard a faint knock on the brick door labeled Platform 9¾, as the kindergarten classes entered my office that Monday morning. The students were suddenly transformed into another world; a world full of mystery, imagination, and excitement. One with enchanting floating candles and colorful banners that hung high. Students marveled in the delight of being sorted into their houses as the sorting hat took its time carefully choosing them aloud. Each student waited eagerly for their turn while Hedwig, the resident owl, greeted them with his animated self and we officially kicked off "Read Across America Week" here at Valley Road School.

Read Across America Week was a huge success this year with special mystery readers from our community visiting the K-3 classrooms. Stanhope Police Chief Pittigher delighted in talking to students about his story, exclaiming that he would love to stay,

while Mr. Hagemann and Mrs. Frank cheerfully read their favorite stories that they also enjoy sharing with their own children. The reading train was up and running on Tuesday as teachers listened for the sound of the horn down the hallway and read to each classroom on the track. The students cheered for their former teachers and were in awe of the teachers that they will have in the near future. This was followed by a visit from our own "Cat in the Hat" on Wednesday, which has become an eighth-grade tradition. He made sure to visit with each and every student at Valley Road and brought lots of laughter and cheer, as the 4th-8th grade students read to the PreK-3rd graders as mentor reading buddies. The week wrapped up with an amazingly delicious "Green Eggs & Ham" breakfast sponsored by our

wonderful Home and School Association. In attendance were Sneetches, Grinches, Cindy Lou Who, Thing 1 & Thing 2 and even the Lorax! To culminate Friday's activities Mrs. Mayhood and Mrs. Benedetto's classroom

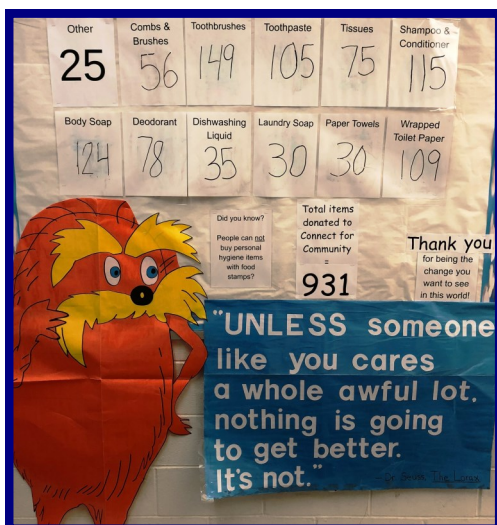
knocked the door decorating contest out of the park with "Maniac Magee," Mrs. Davis' class made a trail of paper links all the way to the main office representing their accomplishment of reading 1,000 plus minutes in the great Charger reading race and students from all

grade levels dropped everything to read in solidarity! Kudos to Valley Road's staff and students for making this eventful week one for the books!



## IS THIS COOL OR WHAT?!

During the 100th Day Challenge, students brought in Health & Beauty Aids for the Connect for Community Collection, coordinated by Mrs. Henry



During *Read Across America* week, Mrs. Grube's Kindergarten students visited **Hogwarts**. Hidden among them is Principal Alicia Finklea-DiCataldo. **Can you find her?**



## KEEPING IT HEALTHY: Time to Play!

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

The weather will start to change soon! This means it's time to get outside! Here are some tips on playground safety. Most modern playgrounds have two separate areas: one for children 2–5 years of age and one for children 5–12 years of age. To help prevent playground injuries, do not allow your child to play on structures that are not designed for his or her age group. Important aspects of playground safety include the following:

- Use safe and appropriate sized play structures.

- Provide adequate supervision.
  - Make sure your child knows and follows playground safety rules.
- To prevent playground injuries always watch children on playground equipment. Do not allow rough play, pushing, or play fighting. Prevent children from walking in front of swings. **Insist that children use equipment only as intended.**

Make sure bicycles, backpacks, and other items are a safe distance from the play structures to prevent tripping. Never attach ropes such as jump

ropes, dog leashes, or clotheslines to playground equipment. Check any metal parts and surfaces before allowing children to play. Metal components become hot in the sun and can cause burns. If



appropriate, make sure children are wearing sunscreen. Always have children wear rubber soled footwear to play in playgrounds. (Sandals are **NOT** appropriate footwear).

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

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

### How to Help Your Child Prepare for Standardized Testing by *Scholastic Parents Staff*

Standardized tests currently play a major role in the United States public schools. As a parent, there are a number of ways that you can support your child before and after taking a standardized test, as well as a number of ways you can support your child's learning habits on a daily basis that will help her/him be more prepared when it's time to be tested.

**Before The Test** —Help your child in areas that are difficult for her/him: If your child has struggled with a particular area or subject in the past, you may be able to help the child overcome some of that difficulty by providing some extra practice. Many workbooks target test preparation by offering practice exercises and questions like the ones students see on the test. Focus your practice on your child's weaknesses rather than his/her strengths so that she doesn't get bored with the exercises. Give your child a chance to practice: If your child has trouble taking tests, try practicing test questions and studying new words. Your child's school or the library may have some samples to use. Keep the

sessions short, and set small, manageable goals so that the extra practice boosts your child's confidence .

**On Test Day** —Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast: Many teachers report that students who don't do well on tests haven't gotten enough sleep, and haven't eaten breakfast on the morning of the test. Doing both of these things will ensure that your child is working at full capacity. Remain positive: Staying calm will help your child stay calm. If he/she gets nervous about the test or is likely to experience anxiety during the test, help the child practice some relaxation techniques that he/she can try once he/she is taking the test.

**After the Test** —Review tests with your child: Help your child review any parts of the test that he/she did not understand. Talk with your child's teacher if you have any questions about the test results. Remember that standardized tests and grading systems are not perfect; each format has its own limitations. As you help your child do his or her best on the tests he or she takes and in all of her/his schoolwork, also remind him or her that testing is just one part of his/her

education. With your support and involvement, he or she will be well on his/her way to a bright future.

**If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 973-347-0008 ext. 4108 or [ajardine@stanhopeschools.org](mailto:ajardine@stanhopeschools.org)**

**MAKE SURE YOUR  
CHILD GETS A  
GOOD NIGHT'S  
SLEEP AND EATS A  
HEALTHY  
BREAKFAST.**



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



Above: School Nurse, Jessica Frank, RN reads to Kindergarteners.

### ReadAcrossAmerica Week by Mrs. Grube

My kindergarten class had so much fun celebrating "Read Across America Week." Mrs. Frank, our school nurse, came and read to us and we visited Mrs. DiCataldo's office which was turned into Hogwarts School from Harry Potter. We dressed up as our favorite book characters, had a pajama party cuddling with our favorite book and stuffed animal, dressed up as a character from one of Dr. Seuss' books and many other fun events took place at our school. We are reading and learning more and more about how a book can give us information and joy.

Below: The Cat in the Hat makes an appearance in a Kindergarten classroom.



### Second Graders Love Google Slides!

by Mrs. Henry

Have you ever wondered what topics 2nd graders are experts on? Recently Mrs. Henry and Mrs. Jaust found out the answer to just that. After completing a reading unit on nonfiction text, students were introduced to Google Slides with a challenge to "create a presentation to share something you are an expert on." Students were very excited to apply their new found knowledge of nonfiction text features to their own writing. Presentations were complete with Tables of Contents, Headings, Photographs and

Drawings, Captions and Labels, Glossaries, and Indexes. "It was fun to watch students as they discovered just how much they already knew and could apply to their work without direct instruction from an adult. For example, one student got right to work on creating a professional looking Table of Contents. She shared it with the class and instantly became our resident 'table of contents expert' for any students who wanted help on creating one of their own. Another student became our 'expert' on creating multiple text boxes, while another student became the 'expert' on inserting photographs. And it just kept growing from there. It was a beautiful, spontaneous, real life example of how when we put our heads together to combine our areas of expertise, we can accomplish great things." So, what are 2nd graders experts on? Everything from different types of animals, to famous landmarks, to the solar system, to weather, to storms, to entertainers, to cars, to coins, to historical figures, to video games, and more. Wow! It goes to show just how much a person can learn in 7 or 8 years of living on this Earth!

## COMMUNITY BASED INSTRUCTION

### Class is in Session!

by Ms. Waldron, Ms. Mason, Mr. Ruschmeyer, Mrs. Morgan

Mr. Hagemann, the Director of Special Services, and the teachers of our self-contained, LLD, ASD, and BD programs have recently completed a four day CBI training with the Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities through Rutgers University presented

by Jessica Mayfield. The program, Foundations of Community Based Instruction, focused on the Fundamentals of Community Based Instruction (CBI), using CBI to teach the application of academic skills during community living, using CBI to teach community-based recreation, and the management and leadership of Com-

munity-Based Instruction programs. Upon completion of the program, Mr. Hagemann and the teachers met and created a Community Based Instruction Development Plan to establish, implement, and expand instruction within the community. Stay tuned for our next CBI adventure!

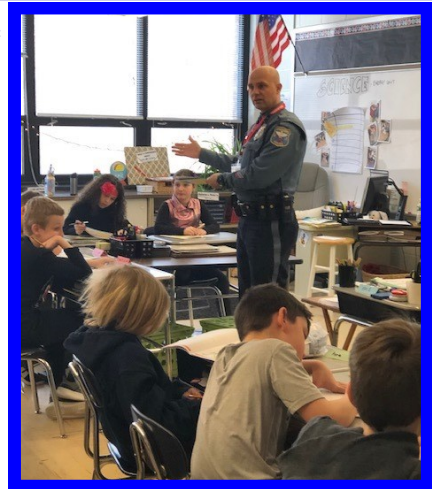
## BACK HALL HAPPENINGS

### **G.R.E.A.T. stands for: Gang Resistance Education and Training by Mr. Hagemann**

As he does every year, Detective Johnson from the Stanhope Police Department works with 4th and 6th grade students to deliver the G.R.E.A.T. program. G.R.E.A.T. is a violence prevention program taught by trained law enforcement officers. In this program, children learn important skills to help them avoid participation in bullying, violence, drug abuse and crime. Detective Johnson serves as a

mentor and positive role model for the students and he works with them to help identify solutions when they become aware of a bullying situation. In the program, students also learn about goal setting, dealing with peer pressure, developing empathy for others, and the role they play in their families, school, and community.

Thank you Detective Johnson for taking the time to work with our students and staff!



## SPECIAL EVENTS: Career Day at Valley Road School

### **SNAKES ALIVE!**

by Mrs. Yonki

Career Day was a big success. Yes, folks, we had a live snake (and turtles) at a career booth set up by Hunter Space of Space Farms last Friday, as students heard about what it takes to be a zookeeper. Mr. Space was happy to accept the invitation to participate from his cousin, 2nd Grade teacher Mrs. Jaust. Some presenters, however, weren't as charmed as our students



were, by the presence of his scaly demonstrator. In addition to a zookeeper, students learned first hand, and sometimes, hands-on, about careers in sales, fitness, nursing, physical and occupational therapy, history, psychology, ministry, flight, retail grocery, and finance. What an exciting day for all our students, our staff and presenters. Thank you to all our presenters! Hope to see you back next year!

## HONOR ROLL: Marking Period II

### **High Honor Roll**

#### ***Sixth Grade***

Shea Ewer, Samantha Krauklis,  
Sean Palermo,

#### ***Seventh Grade***

Ava Madonna

#### ***Eighth Grade***

Alyssa Canfield

### **Honor Roll**

#### ***Sixth Grade***

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

#### ***Seventh Grade***

Amira Abdallah, Leigha Arnott,  
Brooke Baisley, Sydney Durand,

Lindsay Fehir, Avinash

Goyal, Sila Ozbay,  
Juliana Ramirez, Sara  
Rappoport, Ella Smith-Christie, Ryan  
Stricchiola, Mia Vergano

#### ***Eighth Grade***

Kayla Bhagaloo, Madelyn Davies, Ava  
Kattermann, Naheel Naeem, Luisa  
Rios, Jared Scharfstein, Krista  
Wihlborg, Dominique Zambrano



## STANHOPE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Steven T. Hagemann, Superintendent

Alicia L. Finklea-DiCataldo, Principal

Gordon Gibbs, Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary

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

Follow us on Twitter  
& Instagram:  
@StanhopeVRS

### BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

7:00 PM

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

## TAKING COUPONING TO THE EXTREME!



By Mrs. Henry

Have you ever wondered how extreme couponing works? If you ask me, it is well worth the time and I will gladly share what I've learned. Last year when I became friends with the founder of Connect for Community, a Sussex County based volunteer organization, it was brought to my attention that personal hygiene items cannot be bought using Food Stamps. Personal hygiene items are just as vital as food to help people stay healthy and maintain a decent living. I learned that Connect for Community has a volunteer team that utilizes the extreme couponing technique on a weekly basis to help support 40 local food pantries. I asked some questions and learned the technique as I contemplated how this could help the children in our school and their families, as well as co-workers that are experiencing some difficult financial times. Over the past year, I have become pretty good at

extreme couponing and have been stockpiling goods to open a Stanhope School Community Cares Closet which is now stocked, and up and running through the nurse's office. Items in the closet include shampoo, body wash, laundry detergent, feminine napkins, razors, shaving cream,



diaper rash cream, hand lotion, toothpaste, and more. Families in need may contact either our school nurse, Mrs. Frank, [jfrank@stanhopeschools.org](mailto:jfrank@stanhopeschools.org) to set up a time to "shop" in the closet for free or contact me, Karen Henry, 2nd Grade Teacher and Community Cares Closet Coordinator at [khenry@stanhopeschools.org](mailto:khenry@stanhopeschools.org) to advise us of what other needs there are

that we can help fill.

If you would like to help with this new venture, there are a few ways you can do that. First, donations of personal hygiene items will gladly be accepted, especially things like toilet paper, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and deodorant. Second, if you receive Sunday newspapers, please send in any coupon insert fliers you obtain after you clip the coupons you plan to use. I hope to get a team of volunteers to work together to maximize the extreme couponing potential to replenish the stock as opportunities arise, but we will need lots of coupons in order to do that. Third, if you would like to become a member of the Stanhope School Community Cares Closet team, please send me an email so I can contact you directly. Working together to help make the world a better place for our "Stanhope Family" is very much appreciated. Thank you to everyone who has helped so far and to those who are inspired to help in the future.