

THE VALLEY VOICE

Spring is blooming all around EVS

Counselors' Corner

Joanne Epstein joins Essex Valley School with great enthusiasm. She received her master's degree in Social Work from Rutgers University and recently completed her requirements to become an LCSW. She comes to us from Barnert hospital in Paterson, first as a therapist in an in-patient psychiatric unit, and then at the out-patient Department of Families and Children leading groups and doing individual and family therapy.

Additionally, we have created and are starting a new drug and alcohol program to address the rise in teen usage through weekly groups to educate our students about the risk of using and abusing substances. The groups will be led by Linda DePinto, School Social Worker and Substance Abuse Coordinator.

Yearbook

The 2007 Yearbook is underway. Student portraits were taken by Lifetouch. Pictures of student activities are taken on a regular basis and the book will be ready for press very soon.



READING PROGRAMS

Essex Valley School now has the capability to provide individual and group instruction focusing on the techniques used in the Steck-Vaughn Read On Program and the Wilson Reading Program. Students are demonstrating significant progress because of this program.

The Wilson Reading System approaches students who have not internalized sounds and word structure. It directly and systematically teaches students how to fluently and accurately decode. It teaches total word construction, not just phonics. They learn to encode (spell) as they learn to decode.

Read On uses a proven incremental scaffolded approach to ensure success. Read On supports both direct instruction and independent study, including more reading levels than any other program. It provides more than 1,000 hours of explicit, systematic instruction.



WORKSHOP

Professional Development

Friday, April 27, 2007

9:00 AM - 11:45 AM

SOCIAL SKILLS IN ADOLESCENCE

The good news is that social skills can still be taught to teenagers; the bad news is that the window of opportunity for them to learn is closing fast. These skills of coping with feelings, setting goals, and interacting appropriately with others are crucial for success and happiness. This workshop will present a format for teaching these important skills to teens, even those who may be resistant to learning them.

Call 973-244-7890 for information regarding registration.

We're Dancing into Prom Season

Essex Valley School will

be returning to *The Brownstone*

in Paterson, NJ on May 24, 2007 for its annual prom. A delicious full course dinner will be served. A house DJ will be in attendance for those who wish to dance the night away. The entire staff at Essex Valley School will also be there to enjoy an evening filled with great food and company.



From the Nurse's Desk

Staff from UMDNJ will provide a Sex Education Program for students on March 15, 2007. Issues including birth control, STD's and teenage pregnancy will be addressed. Students under the age of 18 must have written permission from their parent or guardian to participate.

Transition Services

The Transition Program is in its first year of operation. To date 5 students have been placed in jobs. Career Day has been scheduled on April 30, 2007. Juniors and seniors will meet with representatives from local colleges and vocational schools. Representatives from DVR and the military will also be available to meet with students.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The Student Government Association of Essex Valley School has been active this year planning school trips, and giving voice to their peers in making positive changes in the behavioral based program. The SGA opinions and suggestions are taken seriously and brought to the Director for input and final decisions. The SGA is open to all students who want to give something back to their community. Students are encouraged to join and have the flexibility to do so.



Basketball Team

This has been an exciting season for the EVS Panthers Basketball team. As a member of the NJNCAA conference, the team competes each week for a chance of going at the play-offs and becoming league champions. Each student at EVS has an opportunity to play for the team and those students who make the commitment find it fun and rewarding. Currently, the team is doing very well with a record of 7-4 and is looking forward to the play-offs and perhaps, the league championship..

