



District Awarded Meritorious Budget Distinction

Recognizing excellence in budget presentations

The Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International awarded the Schuylkill Valley School District its Meritorious Budget Award for excellence in budget presentation during the 2015-2016 budget year.

The Meritorious Budget Awards (MBA) program promotes and recognizes excellence in school budget presentation and enhances school business officials' skills in developing, analyzing, and presenting a school system budget. After a rigorous review by professional auditors, the award is conferred only on school districts that have met or exceeded the program's stringent criteria.

"This reward reflects well on the work of our business manager and the district's business office," says **Superintendent Dr. Warren Mata**. "Every year the board, administrators, and staff make decisions about the coming year's school budget, and they take that responsibility seriously. Our goal is to run a district that's efficient, that meets the needs of our students and always keeps costs in mind."



This award means not only is our house in order with the budgeting, but more importantly, our budget is communicated thoughtfully with the board and the public."

Superintendent Dr. Warren Mata, Business Manager
Mrs. Wendy Boarder,
and Assistant Business Manager
Mrs. Ming Wang.

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**SCHUYLKILL VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

929 Lakeshore Drive
Leesport PA 19533-8631

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Warren F. Mata, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Mr. Patrick Sasse
High School Principal

Mrs. Maggie E. Drake
High School Assistant Principal

Mr. Michael T. Mitchell, Jr.
Middle School Principal

Mr. Jeremy L. Crills
Assistant Middle School Principal

Mrs. Melissa Kelchner
Elementary School Principal

Mrs. Melissa A. Rhoads
Assistant Elementary School Principal

Mr. Brian F. Lacey
Director, Special Education & Pupil Services

Mr. Michael Billman
Director, Information Technology

Mrs. Wendy Boarder
Business Manager

Mrs. Changming Wang
Assistant Business Manager

Mr. Craig A. Strunk
Director, Buildings & Grounds

Miss Stephanie L. Deibler
Athletic Director

Ms. Peggy Romanies
Coordinator, Human Resources

Mrs. Becky Robinson
Director of Food Services

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Kevin Raudenbush, *President*

Dr. Jay R. Melvin, *Vice President*

Mrs. Linda R. Lash, *Secretary*

Mr. Paul L. Bendigo

Mr. Niklas Hemdal

Mr. Jeffrey B. King

Mr. George H. Mertz III

Mr. G. Dane Miller

Mr. Geoffrey P. Miller

BOARD MEETINGS

Committees generally meet the third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Board meetings are generally held the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. High School LGI Room.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Administration	610-916-0957
High School	610-926-1706
Middle School	610-926-7111
Elementary School	610-926-4165

Proposed Stadium Improvements to Benefit Students and Community



The Panther Pride Stadium Campaign Committee, a group of community volunteers, has been working tirelessly to assist the Schuylkill Valley School District in raising funds to renovate our outdated high school stadium built in 1962 with the goal of erecting a new, safe, and modern athletic facility for our students.

The value of athletics and physical education in the growth of our children cannot be underestimated. Students benefit from enhanced physical fitness and the emotional support of teammates, coaches, and mentors outside of the home and classroom. Student athletes learn accountability, self-discipline, and leadership as they in turn instill a sense of pride in the greater community. Lessons learned on the field are directly transferable to everyday life. An improved athletic facility is an investment in the future of Schuylkill Valley School District and its student body for generations to come.

Proposed stadium improvements include:

- Expansion of the track to 8 lanes, which will enable large invitationals to take place
- An all-weather surface track which will be open for community fitness use and

provide a safer surface for all school and community events, including Special Olympics and Relay for Life

- A new digital scoreboard which will enhance opportunities for revenue-generating sponsorships to support district and community programs and events
- An enlarged field to regulation width for soccer
- A turf surface field suitable for football, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, PE classes, and youth sports
- A fence surround and permanent ticket booth to provide a single point of entry for all spectators as well as to guide visitors through an entrance area featuring donor recognition and custom brick pavers

Log onto www.schuylkillvalley.org and click on the stadium project picture or log onto

www.facebook.com/PantherPrideStadiumCampaign/

to learn about the campaign.

**Panther Pride Stadium
Campaign Committee**

P.O. Box 861, Leesport PA 19533

Email: PPSC@schuylkillvalley.org

Schuylkill Valley School Board Reorganization



Schuylkill Valley School District Board of School Directors: seated, left to right: **Mr. Paul L. Bendigo**, **Mrs. Linda R. Lash**, **Mr. Kevin Raudenbush**, **Dr. Jay R. Melvin**. Standing, left to right: **Mr. G. Dane Miller**, **Mr. Niklas Hemdal**, **Mr. Jeffrey B. King**, **Mr. Geoffrey P. Miller**, and **Mr. George H. Mertz III**.

At its annual reorganizational meeting in December, the Schuylkill Valley Board of School Directors elected **Mr. Kevin Raudenbush** president, **Dr. Jay R. Melvin** vice president, and **Mrs. Linda R. Lash** board secretary. Newly elected school board members **Mr. Niklas Hemdal**, **Mr. Jeffrey B. King**, and **Mr. George H. Mertz III**, join incumbents **Mr. Paul L. Bendigo**, **Mr. G. Dane Miller**, and

Mr. Geoffrey P. Miller to comprise our nine-member school board.

A sincere thank you to outgoing board members **Mr. Bryan Feeney**, **Mr. David Moll**, and **Mrs. Ann Strause** for all their years of service on the Schuylkill Valley School District Board of Directors. Your dedication and commitment to the district is greatly appreciated.

National Athletic Trainers Association Safe Sports School Award

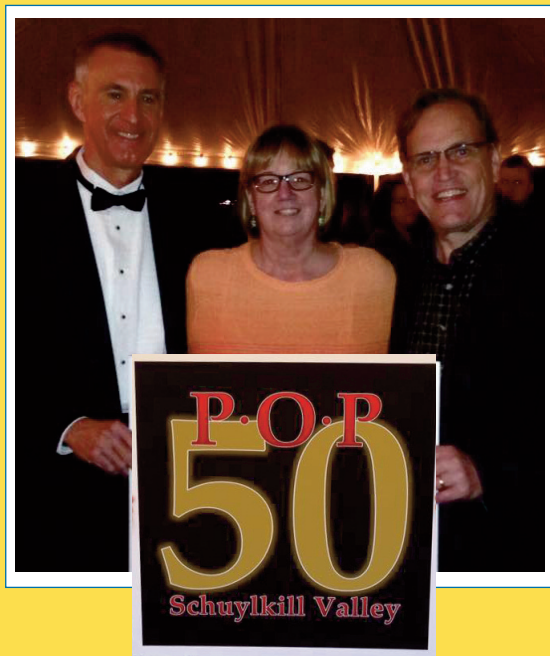
Program recognizes high schools that help keep young athletes safe

The Schuylkill Valley School District recently received the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Safe Sports School award for its Panther athletic program. The award champions safety and recognizes secondary schools that provide safe environments for student athletes and reinforces the importance of providing the best level of care, injury prevention, and treatment.

"Schuylkill Valley is honored to receive this 1st Team recognition from NATA, and we remain committed to keeping our student-athletes safe during practices and games. Our coaches and athletic trainers have worked together to ensure that student safety is at the forefront of what we do. Although we cannot completely eliminate the risk of

athletic participation, we are continually working to make sure our student-athletes are as safe as possible," said **Athletic Director Stephanie Deibler**.

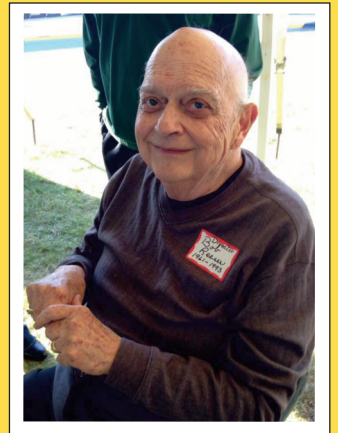
For more information about NATA and this award, visit the Athletic section of the school's website www.schuylkillvalley.org.



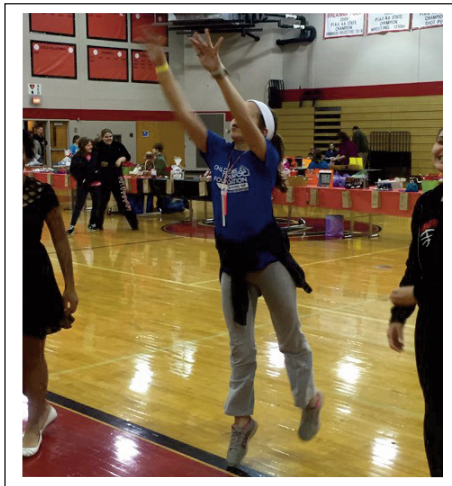
From left: **Mr. Kurt Schneiderhan**, **Miss Katie Heffner**, **Mr. Michael Buterbaugh**, long-time directors of Panthers-On-Parade

Panthers-On-Parade Celebrates 50th Anniversary

SV's spring musical Panthers-on-Parade celebrated 50 YEARS of Broadway musicals at Schuylkill Valley High School with reunion celebrations before and after each of this year's show of SHREK the Musical on April 15 and 16. POP alumni from the 50 years of POP musicals reunited under a large tent on the front lawn of the high school to celebrate and share fond memories. A huge thank you to all the many people who worked to make this event a success. Visit Facebook at POP 50th Musical Anniversary & Reunion Schuylkill Valley HS for more pictures and comments about the celebration.



Bob Reeser was a POP director from 1961 to 1993.



High School PYEA Fun Night

The SV PYEA (Pennsylvania Youth Educators Association) held Fun Night on Friday April 8, from 6-9:30

HIGH SCHOOL

pm in the high school. The event was spearheaded last year by senior **Erin Mahoney** as her senior project and all proceeds went to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital. The event was such a success that Erin and PYEA decided to hold the event again this year.

A fun indoor carnival atmosphere, Fun Night had games of chance, a photo booth, and raffle prizes in the gymnasium as well as competitive games, like dodge ball and soccer in the auxiliary gym. Delicious food donated by local businesses, caterers,

and volunteers was served in the cafeteria. Athletic teams and clubs that participated in the event by hosting a game or volunteering included Mock Trial, Football, Girls Soccer, and Girls Basketball.

An exciting highlight to the evening was the Dunk Tank Challenge held outdoors. Many thanks to teachers **Mr. Bagenstose**, **Mr. Binkley**, **Mr. Chillot**, and **Mrs. Chillot** who participated in the Dunk Tank Challenge. Lucky students won a raffle to dunk their teachers. Despite a nip in the air, the teachers were very enthusiastic while they all were dunked several times to a cheering crowd.

Overall, the event raised \$1,500 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.



Senior Kevin Cook National Merit Scholarship Finalist

SV senior **Kevin Cook** has been named a Finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program, which recognizes and honors academically talented students across the U.S. and awards academic scholarships. Kevin is the son of **Alan** and **Elaine Cook** of Mohrsville. SVHS teacher **Mr. Tim Mogford** and guidance counselor **Mrs. Sarah Reed** assisted Kevin during the application process. Congratulations on this prestigious recognition, Kevin!

To learn more about the National Merit Scholarship Program, visit www.nationalmerit.org.



Sophomore Hallie Jacobs Named Miss Greater Reading Outstanding Teen



SV sophomore **Hallie Jacobs**, a contestant in the Miss Berks County competition, won the Miss Greater Reading Outstanding Teen title at the competition held February 20. Hallie will compete in the Miss Pennsylvania Outstanding Teen contest in June. She is the daughter of **Jarrad and Stephanie Jacobs**, Bern Township.

SV Senior Daisy Grace Awarded AAUW Recognition

Congratulations to senior **Daisy Grace**, SV's highest academically ranked female in her class. Daisy's efforts earned her an award of recognition from the American Association for University Women. Daisy plans to continue her studies at Lafayette College.



Daisy Grace, left, accepts her award from Mrs. Victoria E. Troutman from the Reading branch of the AAUW

HIGH SCHOOL



Senior Brett Sigoda Wins Burlsworth Character Award

Congratulations to SV senior **Brett Sigoda** for winning the 2015 Burlsworth Character Award, which recognizes a high school senior who displays outstanding character and sportsmanship, inspires others, puts the team ahead of himself, and gets the most out of his ability.

Brett was a football captain this past season and a three-year starter on defense for the Panthers. He finished his career as the seventh leading tackler in school history. He was nominated for the award by his coaches.

The Burlsworth award is named after Brandon Burlsworth who earned many distinctive football and academic honors before being tragically killed in a car accident 11 days after being selected to play with the Indianapolis Colts in the 1999 NFL draft. Burlsworth is the namesake of the Burlsworth Trophy, presented annually to the most outstanding Division 1 college football player who began his career as a walk-on.



Junior Hayley Reichardt Wins National Weightlifting Championship

SV junior **Hayley Reichardt** captured the USA Junior National Weightlifting Championship and broke four American lifting records at the 2016 National Juniors Championships in Oaks in March. Hayley snatched the 66k and clean and jerked 86K for the overall win. Congratulations to Hayley and her coach, SV alumni **Dane Miller** (Class of 2002), owner of Garage Strength, where Hayley trains. Hayley is the daughter of **Chris and Chrissy Reichardt** of Leesport.

HIGH SCHOOL

National Honor Society Inducts New Members

Twenty-five SVHS students were inducted into the Socratic Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) during a ceremony at the high school in February. Induction into NHS is based on excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Guest speaker for the evening was former SVHS mathematics teacher **Mr. Charles Gerhart**.



Thoneca Akhter
Abbie Bailey
Alysa Bainbridge
Daniel Behler
Kylie Brown
Hannah Degler
Lydia Forsythe

Nicole Frank
Elyse Geiger
Brynna Haupt
Bethany Hepner
Riley Horning
Kacie Jones

Annabella Kolasa
Megan Lynam
Jacqueline Marusiak
Bailey Miller
Steven Phan
Jenna Phillips

Austin Robinson
Olivia Roth
Bethany Schlott
Brett Sigoda
Madison Sisco
Tristan Weller

8th Grader Brock Dalton Wins SV Geography Bee

Brock Dalton, an eighth grade student at SV Middle School, won the 24th annual SV Geography Bee held Friday, January 8, 2016. The school-level Bee was sponsored by the National Geographic Society and Schuylkill Valley PTO.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Tod Witman served as the moderator at the very intense competition. Seventh grader **Aidan Gensure** came in second place. The competition came down to Brock and Aidan competing in several tiebreaker questions in the Championship Round.

The winning question was "British Columbia's largest city hosted the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup championship game. Name this city." The answer is Vancouver.



Geography Bee contestants were:

Grade 6: **Da'Shaun Davis-Thomas, Caleb Miller, Jacob Wolfson**

Grade 7: **Brice Dornblaser, Aidan Gensure, Caleb Miller**

Grade 8: **Brock Dalton, Luke Jozwiak, Jonathan Wails**

From left to right, second place winner, **Aidan Gensure**; moderator **Mr. Tod Witman**, SVHS social studies teacher, and this year's Geography Bee winner **Brock Dalton**.



Left to right:
Luke Jozwiak, Aidan Gensure, Brice Dornblaser, Da'Shaun Davis-Thomas, Brock Dalton, 6th grader Caleb Miller, Jonathan Wails, 7th grader Caleb Miller, and Jacob Wolfson.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Layomi Adejo took first place and **Byron Searle** placed second in this year's *Reading Eagle* sponsored Spelling Bee.

Eighth Graders Win Spelling Bee

Congratulations to **Layomi Adejo** for placing first in this year's Spelling Bee sponsored by the *Reading Eagle* and held at the school in February. This year's competition included

words like *shoji*, *de rigueur*, *cartouches*, and *hoity-toity*. The winning word was architecture. Runner-up was **Byron Searle**. Layomi and Byron went on to compete in the Berks County Spelling Bee Championship Finals at the Miller Center for the Arts in March.

Other contestants were:

Grade 5: **Charlotte Baumgard**, **Emily Gao**

Grade 6: **Hannah Krell**, **Josh Murillo**, **Mara Nagle**, **Alexis Smeck**

Grade 7: **Addison Angstadt**, **Brice Dornblaser**, **Nick Dundon**, **Aidan Gensure**, **Ella Jenkins**, **Reinhold Louis**,

Jadiel Mateo, **Caleb Miller**, **Kyle Noll**, **Josh Rozyski**, **Joey Weidner**, **Emily Zaharia**

Grade 8: **Layomi Adejo**, **Luke Ammarell**, **Emily Angstadt**, **MacKenzie Bossler**, **Michael Hall**, **Michael Matz**, **Jaime Moyer**, **Byron Searle**, **Jonathan Wails**, **Lillian Wiley**

This is the first year fifth graders competed in the Bee, a result of recent changes in the format by the Scripps National Spelling Bee sponsors. Competition was intense throughout the 90-minute Bee. The field narrowed to Layomi Adejo and Byron Searle, and the two went another four rounds before Layomi emerged the winner in round 17.

Layomi went on to represent the SV Middle School in the Berks County Championship at the Miller Center for the Arts in March. She delivered a praiseworthy performance, successfully spelling in 11 rounds and defeating all but two of the other 41 spellers in the competition!

Congratulations, Layomi, for representing Schuylkill Valley in an outstanding manner.



"PJammin" Raises \$1,400 for Childhood Cancer

Elementary school staff and students participated in a pajama day on Wednesday, March 16, as part of the American Childhood Cancer Organization's "PJammin for Kids with Cancer" program. Often times, children with cancer spend most of their time in their pajamas. By "PJammin" and wearing pajamas in exchange for \$1 or more per

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

participant, the elementary school raised over \$1,400 for the American Childhood Cancer Organization (ACCO), the largest producer and distributor of childhood cancer books and support materials in the world.

Students Raise \$5,189 for Literacy During Read-A-Thon

We are proud to announce that the SVES raised a total of \$5,189 in donations toward stamping out illiteracy in Berks County during the 2016 Literacy Council of Berks County Read-A-Thon held earlier this year. As a result of incentives

with the goal of motivating students to get stuck on reading.

Reading Royals players **Matt Hatch** and **Derik Johnson**, along with mascot **Slapshot**, proudly wore their new SV gear after participating in an assembly focused on teamwork. The Reading Royals presented the assembly to our elementary students on February 18 in recognition for collecting the largest amount of nonperishable items for the Reading Royals Shelter Night back in the fall.

On Friday, February 12, students in kindergarten through 3rd grade participated in an exciting program called Safety Town presented by the Lehigh Valley Health Network Trauma Prevention Center. The elementary



school gymnasium was set up as a town. Students walked through Safety Town as they would walk through a town in their daily lives and learned safety tips for each aspect of the town, such as safety on the bus, a 911 simulator, snow safety, and stranger danger.

Students Collect 408 Items for Animals

In early April, the elementary school held its annual school-wide spring donation drive. This year, the students chose the Animal Rescue League and Humane Society. Items collected and donated included food,

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

treats, toys, metal bowls, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, lint rollers, towels, and bedding for small animals. The picture to the right shows some of the donated items. The Animal Rescue League was very grateful for all of our donations.





SV Alumnus Awarded Philosophy Teaching Award

Dr. Sean Riley, a member of the SV Class of 1999 and now an academic dean at the Stony Brook School, Stony Brook, NY, was recently awarded the Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization's K-12 Philosophy Teaching Award in recognition of excellence in education. The Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO) advocates and supports introducing philosophy to K-12 students through programs, resource-sharing, and the development of a national network of those working in pre-college philosophy. Dr. Riley was one of just

four candidates nationwide to receive the award.

Dr. Riley has taught philosophy at the secondary school level for eight years. He holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Penn State University and a doctoral degree from Baylor University, all in philosophy.

"My experiences have convinced me that high school students can and should be studying philosophy," says Dr. Riley. "Students are full of wonder and can be led to wisdom with the right mentors."



SV Alumna Christina Steffy Releases Book

Christina J. Steffy, Leesport resident and Schuylkill Valley High School graduate of the Class of 2002, released her first book, *Librarians & Stereotypes: So, Now What?*

The book, available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble's websites, examines librarianship through communication, gender, psychology, anthropology, and cultural studies theories to begin to get to the root of why certain librarian stereotypes exist and whether it's possible to change these stereotypes. It looks at what stereotypes librarians think exist about the field, how librarians present themselves, whether this is helping or hurting the profession, and what public perceptions exist

about librarianship and offers tips to help librarians combat stereotypes.

In addition to writing this book, Christina is a freelance writer and the manager of library support services at Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences, Lancaster, Pa. She earned bachelor's degrees in Speech Communications in 2006 and English/Professional Writing in 2009, both from Kutztown University, and a Master of Library and Information Science from Rutgers University in 2011.

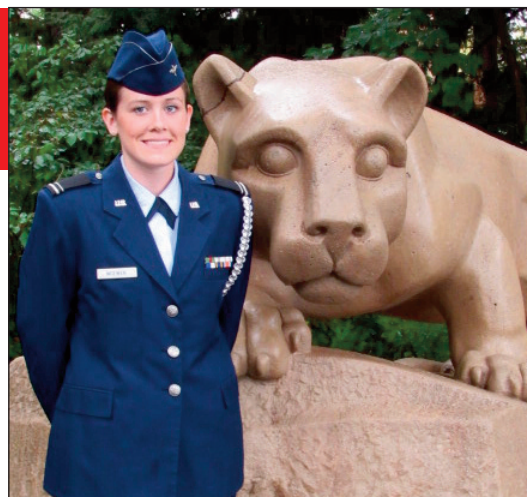
For more information about Christina and her book, email her directly at cjsteffy@gmail.com or email david@cravepress.com.

PANTHER PATHS



SV Grads Pursuing Futures in U.S. Air Force

Ryan McEwen (SV 2011) graduated from Penn State University Main Campus in May 2015 with dual bachelor's degrees in Crime, Law and Justice as well as International Politics with a concentration on Homeland Security. He commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force and resides in Pensacola, Fla. He completed his Initial Flight Training in Colorado and SERE (Water & Land Survival) training in Washington. Ryan is currently in Undergrad Combat Systems Officer training.



Marissa McEwen (SV 2013) successfully completed field training for the Air Force and is currently completing her junior year at Penn State University Main Campus as a nursing student. Marissa has been on the Dean's list every semester and has completed three minors in Biology, Human Development and Family Studies, and Military Studies. She was recently selected to be featured in an article about a day in the life of a Cadet: <http://news.psu.edu/story/376051/2015/10/22/academics/rotc-students-balance-commitment-program-school>

HIGH SCHOOL

Saturday, June 4
SAT I AND II

Thursday, June 9, 6:30 p.m.
BACCALAUREATE

High School Auditorium

Friday, June 10, 6:30 p.m.
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
FOR STUDENTS
COMMENCEMENT

High School Stadium or Auditorium
(weather dependent)

Saturday, June 11
ACT TESTING

WHAT'S happening ?

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Thursday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.
GRADES 5 & 6
SPRING CONCERT

High School Auditorium

Thursday, May 26, 7:30 p.m.
GRADES 7 & 8
SPRING CONCERT

High School Auditorium

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wednesday, June 1 (Rain Date June 3)
FIELD DAY
GRADES 2, 3, 4

Thursday, June 2 (Rain Date June 3)
FIELD DAY
GRADES K & 1

Friday, June 3 (Rain Date June 4)
SPRING LUAU CARNIVAL
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Elementary School

Wednesday, June 8
FIRST GRADE DINOSAUR PLAY
2:00 p.m.
ES Café



NONPROFIT ORG
PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Reading, PA
Permit No. 208

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



schuylkill valley
SCHOOL DISTRICT

End-of-Year Early Dismissal Days

Thursday, June 9
HS/MS 11:00 a.m.
ES 12:00 noon

Friday, June 10
HS/MS 11:00 a.m.
ES 12:00 noon

WANTED: Part-time Food Service
cafeteria workers. Call HR if
interested. 610-916-5436.

Winter and Spring District Newsletter Online

The Schuylkill Valley School
District winter and spring issues
of the district newsletter are
available online only at
www.schuylkillvalley.org.
If you would like to receive a
printed copy of the newsletter,
please call the Administration
Center at 610-916-0957.



PAVING THE WAY FOR PANTHER PRIDE

Panther Pride Stadium Campaign (PPSC)
Committee of Schuylkill Valley School District

Please join us for the **SV Panther Pride Stadium Golf Outing**

Monday, July 11, 2016
Berkleigh Country Club
Shotgun Start, 1:00 p.m. / Dinner 5:00 p.m.

This fundraising event supports the SV Panther Pride capital campaign to renovate the track and field facilities at Schuylkill Valley High School. The first stage of the project includes a regulation size all-weather track and artificial turf playing field that will accommodate various sporting events, teams, youth and community groups throughout the year. On behalf of the Campaign Committee, THANK YOU for your support. Your enthusiasm and involvement will surely impact the campaign, our community, and most importantly, our students.

For more information on event sponsorship, foursome and dinner registration, or to volunteer, please contact:

Jeremy Crills
610-413-8148
jeremycrills@gmail.com
or email the Committee at **PPSC@schuylkillvalley.org**

REUNION

We are gathering for a time of
greet, meet, and eat on **Saturday,**
September 24, 2016, from 5–9:00
p.m. at Weaver's Market Banquet
Hall, Denver, PA.

SVHS CLASSES OF 1967 1968 1969

For more information, please
contact **Nancy Wagner James** at
610-562-2850 or email her at
nmj5622@gmail.com.