

around the VALLEY

SPRING 2015



929 lakeshore drive
leesport PA 19533-8631

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Recognizing the importance technology has in educating 21st century students, the school district hosted a Technology Showcase on April 23, 2015, to demonstrate to community business leaders, elected officials, and board members ways in which teachers and students are using technology in their curriculum.

According to SV's Director of Instructional and Information Technology **Mr. Michael Billman**, technology teaches students how to be critical thinkers and helps stimulate creativity among them. He says the district started a "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD) program last year by allowing students to bring their own laptops, tablets, and smartphones to school. The district's goal is to offer a one-to-one program at the high school by the 2016-17 school year.

"What we're focusing on is providing a skill set for a 21st-century student. Students are learning how to collaborate and communicate and how to be critical thinkers. The technology is one tool to help inspire creativity among students."

M. Billman

SV Showcases District Technology

Broken down into groups, Schuylkill Valley High School students in a personal finance/ economics class use a computer program to create a retirement account for an imaginary client. The school showcased technology in classrooms for community leaders and others on Thursday.



Hallie Jacobs, 15, a ninth-grader at Schuylkill Valley High School, builds a database in a computer class. The school showcased technology in classrooms for community leaders and others on Thursday, April 23.



Photos courtesy of Reading Eagle photographer Susan L. Angstadt

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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. Matthew Ammons

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

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Mr. Bryan D. Feeney

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Dr. Jay R. Melvin

Mr. G. Dane Miller

Mr. Geoffrey P. Miller

Mrs. Ann Strause

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



superintendent's

MESSAGE

Dear Families and Friends
of the Schuylkill Valley School District,

Welcome to the Spring 2015 issue of our district newsletter. In this edition, you will read about many of the awards, recognitions, and activities of our students, teachers, and staff.

Recently, we received an award for our newly formatted newsletter... thanks to the fine work of **Julie Bunnick** and **Peggy Romanies**. Also, you will find information about teacher grant awards, our high school music department Disney trip, college letters of intention by our graduating seniors, middle school poetry award winners, and elementary school reading campaign recognition. You will find information about our Girls on the Run® program and an update from the Panther Pride Stadium Campaign Committee.

Please take a few minutes to read our newsletter. You will quickly understand why we are so very proud of our students, their families, our teachers, and our staff.

Sincerely,

Dr. Warren F. Mata
Superintendent

SV Community Library Summer Reading

The Schuylkill Valley Community Library summer reading program runs June 8 to August 15 for all ages. Track the amount of time you spend reading each day on our paper tickets or online to receive prizes.

We have lots of exciting programs planned! You can find more information on our program by calling the library at 610-926-1555 or online at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/svclsummerreading/>

Save the date for our Third Annual Race to Read 5K! The 5K will be held in conjunction with Leesport Community Days on Saturday, September 12 at 4 p.m. Applications are available at www.berks.lib.pa.us/ssv/info/sf/2015Racetoreadapp.doc.



Disney Trip 2015



The 118 student musicians of the Schuylkill Valley School High School marching band, concert

HIGH SCHOOL

band, and chorus proudly performed in Disney World in March. The trip provides students with worthwhile musical, cultural, and personal expe-

riences outside of school with the hope of opening new opportunities for them by developing responsibility, social and living experiences, and exchanging ideas and dialog with friends. The student musicians work together to meet the strict expectations placed on them as Disney performers being viewed by thousands of spectators.

Thanks to **Mr. Kurt Schneiderhan**, high school band director as well as the district's music department teachers and members of the Schuylkill Valley Music League for organizing and coordinating the trip, the chaperones, and board members **Mr. Paul Bendigo** and **Mr. David Moll** for driving the equipment to and from Orlando.

SV Seniors Sign College Letters of Intent

Congratulations to the following SV seniors who signed letters of intent this spring!

Josh Giorgio will wrestle at the Air Force Academy in Colorado.

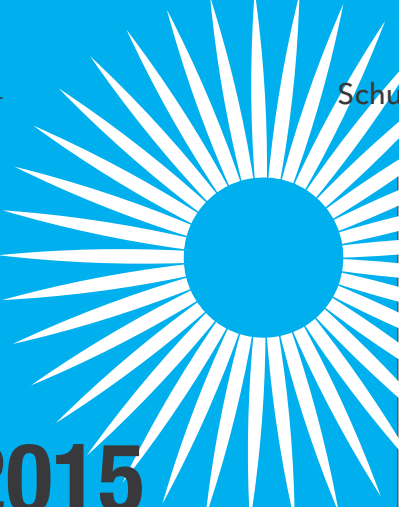
Lexi Glassmire will swim at West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, where she plans to major in physical therapy.

Becca Hauser will play field hockey at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT, where she plans to major in physical therapy.

Frank Melvin will play volleyball at Penn State University, College Park, where he plans to major in business.



From left:
Lexi Glassmire,
Frank Melvin, and
Becca Hauser.
Not pictured:
Josh Giorgio.



2015

Schuylkill Valley Middle School Young Poets Contest Winners

The following Schuylkill Valley Middle School students placed in the county-wide Reading Public Library's Young Poets 2015 Contest.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

This year over 1,000 students entered the county-wide contest, which included all public, private, home-schooled, and parochial schools. Winning poems were chosen by a panel of judges based on creativity, vocabulary, and creative expression.

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners were honored the evening of Thursday, April 30, 2015, during a poetry celebration at the Miller Center for the Arts at Reading Area Community College. The students read their poems and received awards and cash prizes. The poems will be published in an annual poetry booklet.

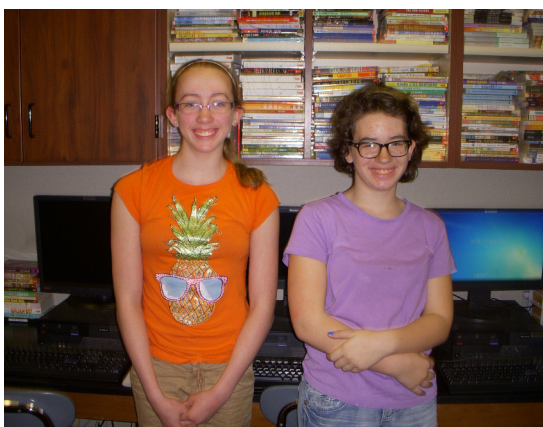
Congratulations to these young poets and thank you to all who entered the contest!



Grade 5:
Jade Weller - Honorable Mention
Hannah Krell - 1st Place



Grade 6:
Ella Jenkins - Honorable Mention



Grade 7:
Marlee Rickert - 2nd place
Elizabeth Fell - Honorable Mention



Grade 7:
Julia Winkler - 1st place
Andrea Altobelli -
Honorable Mention

District Newsletter Wins Award of Excellence

We are pleased to announce that the Schuylkill Valley School District newsletter, *Around the Valley*, won the Newsletter Award of Excellence of the 2014 PenSPRA "Excellence in Education Communication" contest.

PenSPRA (Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association) is an organization of school public relations professionals whose goal is to improve educational communication and support student achievement through systematic, proactive, and responsible public relations programs. Judging is based on the overall piece, including writing, editing, and design.

"It is nice to know that the Schuylkill Valley School District newsletter is recognized as a worth-

while and attractive tool for meeting the goals of communicating to the community," says **Ms. Peggy Romanies**, editor of the newsletter since 1998 and the district's Coordinator of Human Resources. "Thank you to **Mrs. Julie Bunnick**, Berks County Intermediate Unit graphic designer, who created the fresh new look for the newsletter beginning with the summer of 2014 issue."

The Schuylkill Valley School District Newsletter is published four times a year: fall, winter, spring, and summer. Printed copies of the fall and summer issues are mailed to all district residents. The winter and spring issues are prepared electronically and are available on our website at www.schuylkillvalley.org.



Schuylkill Valley Middle School Young Poets Contest Winners continued



Grade 8:
Courtney Hatton - Honorable Mention
Charanya Birabaharan - 2nd Place
Lily Whitmoyer - 3rd Place



Girls on the Run

Earlier this year, the staff of the Schuylkill Valley School Elementary School began promoting participation in Girls on the Run® for 3rd through 8th grade girls. An international program, Girls on the Run inspires and motivates young girls, encourages life-long health and fitness, and builds confidence through accomplishment. At the conclusion of the season, the girls and their running buddies completed a 5K running event at Alvernia University on Saturday, May 30, with nearly 900 5K participants, including 350 spring season program participants, their

running buddies, family members, coaches, and supporters.

The Girls on the Run curriculum includes a series of 24 lessons that combine training for a 5K (3.1 miles) running event with lessons that inspire girls to be independent thinkers, develop their problem solving skills, and make healthy decisions. The program is a collaborative effort of the girls, their parents, school staff, volunteers, and community. The curriculum, taught by certified Girls on the Run coaches, creates a safe community for girls to discuss various topics they face in our society today.

There was so much interest in the Girls on the Run program at



Schuylkill Valley that two teams were developed totaling 28 girls and eight coaches, including staff from the elementary school: **Mrs. Lori Bickel**, nurse; second grade teachers **Ms. Julie Emerson**, **Mrs. Kathy Gwiazdowski**, and **Ms. Carla Reimert**; **Mrs. Melissa Kelchner**, principal; **Miss Alex Kozak**, music teacher; **Mrs. Deb Werstler**, reading specialist; and **Miss Becky Yousaitis**, certified Title 1 aide. The program had great support from all the elementary staff and parents whose students were involved in the program.

Schuylkill Valley Elementary School 2015 Readers WIN! Campaign Results

In January, students at the SV Elementary School participated in the *Reading Berks Literacy Council's Readers Win!* campaign. We are pleased to report that the elementary school reclaimed first place status this year, raising \$9,432.50 for the Berks County Literacy Council!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As winner of the campaign, the elementary school receives 10 percent of the donations back to the school. Assistant Principal **Mrs. Melissa Rhoads** says the money will be used to purchase lots of new books.

As first place winners, students were treated to a spring assembly with Fightin Phil players **Mike Nesseth** and **Brock Stassi**, who presented a trophy and plaque to the building principals. The players shared stories with the students of how they learned to read as young boys and the titles of some of their favorite

books. Two students from each class were given an opportunity to ask the players a question during the assembly. The children had a great time!

First graders were the most generous grade level with donations of \$2,667 followed by kindergarten contributing \$1,942.50. **Mrs. Kathleen Deren's** kindergarten class had 100 percent participation, earning themselves a pizza party for their efforts. There were 30 elementary students who brought in \$100 or more for this worthy cause.

Thanks to all who made this campaign so successful again this year!



Caption: from left, **Fightin Phil Brock Stassi**, Principal **Mrs. Missy Kelchner**, Assistant Principal **Mrs. Melissa Rhoads**, and **Fightin Phil Mike Nesseth**.

Career Day at the Elementary School

Thank you to the following community members who visited the elementary school on May 15 for Career Day to explain their occupations and crafts with our 3rd and 4th graders:

Tatum Adams,
BCTC Health Occupations

Takota Hosier,
BCTC Occupational
Child Development

Steph Mullen,
Ontelaunee Orchards

Dr. Lee Prickett,
Bernville Vet

Phil Rapisarda, Constable

Polly Robinson,
Registered Nursing

Brad Schneider,
Wealth Advisor, Goodlife

Holly Spotts, Deka Batteries

Shelby Strunk,
BCTC Precision
Machining Technology

Rebecca Wade,
Gemologist/Goldsmith's Jewelry

Matthew Walborn,
Western Berks Water Authority

Jerry Wojciechowski,
Body Zone

Theo Clay and **Matt Yourkawitch**,
Harley Davidson

2015

Special Olympics

On April 29, 2015, 26 Schuylkill Valley School District students and their student buddies headed to Kutztown University to compete in the Berks County Special Olympics Track and Field Meet. Each student athlete participated in three events, which included running, jumping, and throwing. The following SV students participated in the meet and won ribbons:

Elementary School

Dylan Ehrnfeldt – Shot- 1st, RLJ - 1st, 100m - 5th

Caden Humme – 100m 1st , RLJ 1st, Shot - 1st

Beth Hudock – 100m - 2nd , Shot – 3rd, RLJ - 3rd

Mathyas Jones – Shot - 3rd, RLJ - 2nd, 100m - 2nd

Brody Kapelski – Shot - 3rd, RLJ - 1st, 100m - 3rd

TJ Mac Dougal – Shot - 4th, 100m - 6th , RLJ - 1st

Kelvin Olmedo – Softball Throw - 1st, SLJ - 3rd, 50m - 1st

Derrick Palamar – Shot - 1st, RLJ - 3rd, 100m - 4th

Carter Sedoti – Shot - 2nd, RLJ - 1st, 100m - 1st

Shiloh Stevenson – Softball Throw - 3rd, SLJ - 1st, 50m - 3rd

Ethan Strause – Shot - 1st, RLJ - 1st, 100m - 3rd

Middle School

Alexander Arredondolopez – Shot - 1st , RLJ - 3rd; 100m - 2nd

Timothy Behm – Shot - 1st, SLJ - 5th, 100m - 3rd

Brice Dornblaser – Shot - 1st, RLJ - 1st - 100m-1st

Cruz Giovanni – SLJ - 1st, 50m - 3rd , Softball throw - 1st

Aubree Hoster – Softball Throw - 4th, SLJ - 3rd, 50m - 4th

Thomas Hummel – Shot - 2nd, RLJ - 2nd, 100m- 4th

Tanner Jerdan – Shot - 1st , RLJ - 1st, 100m - 2nd

Many thanks to the following SV students, who were buddies to the athletes: **Naomi Arnold, Cort Borelli, Kasy Bubel, Gracey Butsack, Noah Butsack, Alayna Cerankowski, Chloe Dracha, Josh Giorgio, Evan Hargrave, Bethany Hepner, Emily Hepner, Cole Hoster, Hallie Jacobs, Alexis Kowalski, Jack Lynam, Frank Melvin, Carly Mundell, Dillon Riley, Andre Rivera, Austin Robinson, Rhett Robinson, Connor Sausser, Ed Shuttleworth, Maddie Sisco, Colby Stichter, James Wiley, Tyler Worrell, and Maddie Zimmerman.**



Many thanks to SV special education teachers for their help and support of this event. Congratulations to all our student athletes!

High School

Jacob Bashore – Shot - 1st, 200m - 4th, 100m - 1st

Clayton Bentley – Shot - 2nd, RLJ - 3rd, 100m - 6th

Patrick Henshaw – 200m - 1st, RLJ - 2nd, 100m - 1st

Jacob Jerdan – Shot - 1st, RLJ - 2nd, 100m - 1st

Brandon Matukonis – 200m - 1st, RLJ - 1st, 100m - 1st

Brian McFalls-Rios – Shot - 1st, RLJ - 2nd, 100m - 6th

Eddie Montes-de-Oca – Shot - 1st, RLJ - 1st, 100m - 1st

Sarmed Sadiq – Shot - 4th, SLJ - 5th, 100m - 4th



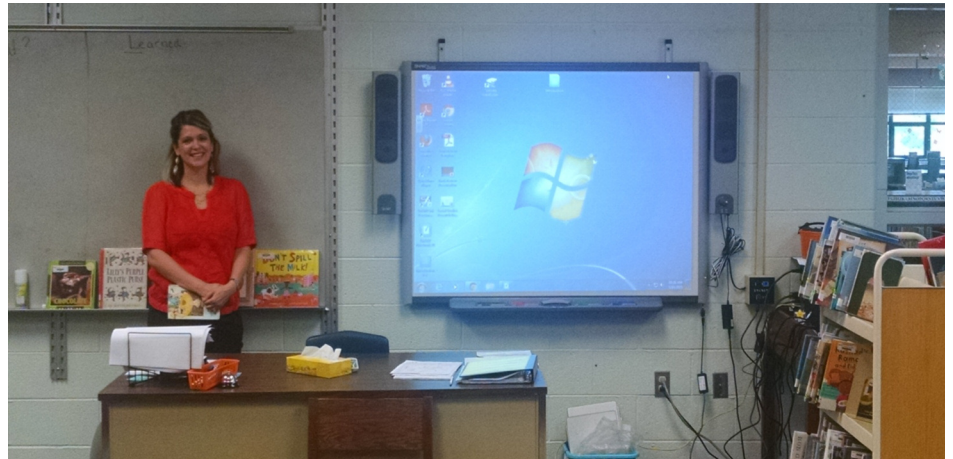
Special Olympics Pennsylvania



2014-2015 School Year Technology Innovators Grant Recipients

by Michael Billman,
Director of Instructional and
Information Technology

This year's recipients of the Technology Innovators Grant in support of classroom innovation and engaging experiences with technology with students are Mrs. Stephanie Jacobs, elementary school librarian, and Mrs. Jennifer Syret, 6th grade social studies teacher. Both proposals focus on student engagement and seamlessly integrating technology into the classroom.



Mrs. Stephanie Jacobs' proposal entitled Hand Held Library was selected in the purchase of a classroom set of iPad Minis for the elementary school library, charging cart, protective case, projector adapter, and an allowance for app purchases. Goals

of the initiative include promoting an educational philosophy in which technology is integrated into the curriculum through active, student-centered learning. Additionally, Mrs. Jacobs' goal is to increase student motivation and ownership of learning.



Mrs. Jennifer Syret's proposal entitled Chromebooks for Education was selected in the purchase of 32 Chromebooks, a charging cart, and an allowance for app purchases. Mrs. Syret plans to integrate the student technology into her 6th grade social studies classroom at the middle school. She is striving to move

toward a paperless classroom as much as possible through the use of Chromebooks. Her goals include increasing creativity, increasing participation, and promoting active and engaged learning.

Congratulations, Mrs. Jacobs and Mrs. Syret!

Panther Pride Stadium Campaign Update

The Panther Pride Stadium Campaign committee wishes to thank all the sponsors, players, guests, and volunteers who participated in its second annual SV Panther Pride Stadium Campaign golf outing at Golden Oaks Country Club on Sunday, May 17. There were more than twice as many players and foursomes from last year with more than 100 guests for the post-play clam bake. A huge thank you to all the sponsors, players, guests, and committee volunteers for supporting the cause.

Mark your calendars for the 2016 outing on Sunday, May 22, 2016, at Golden Oaks!

For more information about the Panther Pride Stadium Committee, please visit the Schuylkill Valley School District website at www.schuylkillvalley.org, the Panther Price Stadium Campaign Facebook page, or email PPSC@schuylkillvalley.org.



From left: SV PPSC committee member **Roger Schmidt** with **Etta Schmidt**, **Stephanie Hornberger**, and **Bill Hornberger**.



Four lucky golfers qualified to compete in the Putt for Cash contest. From left: SV PPSC committee member **Dane Miller** with **Brad Gehman**, **Elaine Cook**, and **Coach Dan Shuman**.



You Can Help

Help us accelerate the awareness and success of the Panther Pride Stadium Campaign. Help us reach out to your community neighbors and businesses to gain momentum for the project ... SV Panther Pride starts with YOU!

On behalf of the committee, we thank you for your support. Your enthusiasm and involvement will

surely impact the Panther Pride Stadium Campaign, our community, and most importantly, our students.

Panther Pride Stadium Campaign Committee
P.O. Box 861
Leesport PA 19533



<https://www.facebook.com/PantherPrideStadiumCampaign>



929 LAKESHORE DRIVE
LEESPORT PA 19533-8631



schuylkill valley
SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Schuylkill Valley School District newsletter, *Around the Valley*, winter and spring issues will be 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.

We welcome your comments at **promanies@schuylkillvalley.org**

HELP WANTED

FOR THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR:

- Classroom aides – part-time and substitutes
- Cafeteria workers – part-time and substitutes

Visit our website for more information or call Human Resources at 610-916-5436.