

around the VALLEY

SPRING 2022



929 lakeshore drive
leesport PA 19533-8631

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Special Track & Field Invitational



The annual Schuylkill Valley Special Track & Field Invitational was held on May 10 in Panther Stadium. More than 140 athletes from Antietam School District, Berks County Intermediate Unit PAL Program, Brandywine Heights Area School District, Conrad Weiser Area School District, Oley Valley Area School District, and Reading School District – 13th and Green joined Schuylkill Valley School District to compete in the Invitational. Of those athletes participating, 34 athletes represented our very own elementary, middle, and high school.

The day kicked off with an opening ceremony that included the National Anthem, athlete's oath, a team lap around the

track, and a torch lap. The track & field events included standing long jump or running long jump, shot put or softball throw, and other adapted activities. The day wrapped up with several different races for all ages. Athletes were awarded a first through sixth place ribbon for their accomplishments.

We would like to thank the 55 SVHS and SVMS buddies and helpers that volunteered, as well as many high school art members and National Honor Society members. Special thanks to **Miss Dana Carter**, middle school special education teacher, for planning this event

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SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

929 Lakeshore Drive
Leesport PA 19533-8631

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Dr. Cathy L. Taschner
Superintendent

Dr. Janet C. Heilman
Assistant Superintendent

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High School Principal

Ms. Lacey Smey
Assistant High School Principal

Dr. Joshua Kuehner
Middle School Principal

Mrs. Candice Kehres
Assistant Middle School Principal

Mrs. Courtney Maguire
Elementary School Principal

Mr. Jason Williams
Assistant Elementary School Principal

Dr. Melissa Brewer
Director of Pupil Services

Mr. Michael Billman
Director of Information Technology

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Director of Business Mgmt. & Operations

Mr. Casey Blankenbiller
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Mr. G. Dane Miller
Mr. Bryan J. O'Donnell
Mr. Alfonso F. Rossi

BOARD MEETINGS

Committees generally meet the third Monday of the month at 6:30p.m. Board meetings are generally held the fourth Monday of the month at 7p.m. in the high school auditorium. The public may view the live feed of the meeting by going to our Youtube Channel.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

School Board Reorganization



The 2021-2022 Schuylkill Valley Board of Directors

Front row, left to right: **Mrs. Linda R. Lash**, secretary; **Mr. David E. Moll**, president; **Mr. Paul L. Bendigo**, vice-president; **Mrs. Nicoleen M. Kleffel**

Back row, left to right: **Mr. Bryan J. O'Donnell**, **Mr. Alfonso F. Rossi**, **Dr. Cathy L. Taschner**, superintendent; **Mr. George H. Mertz III**, **Mr. Robert M. Dempsey**, **Mr. G. Dane Miller**



PenSPRA Awards

Schuylkill Valley School District is proud to share that we have been recognized in the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association's 2021 Excellence in Education Communications Contest! Our District has received two Awards of Merit for demonstrating excellence in the way we communicate the exceptional story and achievements of SVSD.

SVSD received an Award of Merit in the Special Purpose Project Category for our podcast Panther Profiles (<https://bit.ly/3L48rpN>), and an Award of Merit in the Social Media Category for our Facebook page (<https://bit.ly/3oiFVrF>).

Submit news of school or community interest to editor **Ms. Danielle Sabulsky** at dsabulsky@schuylkillvalley.org. Please include your name and phone number for verification.

Special Track & Field Invitational continued



that brings everyone together each year. Lastly, thank you to the businesses/ organizations who donated and made this event possible:

CHICCO-Artsana

Conner Kleffel Memorial Foundation

Costenbader's School of Driving

Chick-Fil-A, Temple

Chick-Fil-A, Wyomissing

Chick-Fil-A, Exeter

Dieffenbach's Chips

Herr's Foods

Redner's Warehouse Markets, Leesport

Sheetz, Leesport

Tom Sturgis Pretzels

Unique Pretzels

Schuylkill Valley Community

Schuylkill Valley Elementary School PTO

Schuylkill Valley Middle School PTO

Schuylkill Valley Middle School Student Council

Schuylkill Valley High School Art Club

Schuylkill Valley High

School National Honor Society Schuylkill Valley Invitational Special Track & Field Meet Athletes

Kindergarten: **Owen Krall, Elijah Rejniak, Saphara Wertz, Pancho Zahariadis**

First Grade: **Alberto Cadena Jr., Natalie Gass, John Rinaldi, Joshua Tawney**

Second Grade: **Victor Carvalho, Dominic Fronina, Michelle Mohn, Royce Potts, Quinn Reinhard, Jason Rohlf, Noah Sark**

Third Grade: **Ryder Legarreta, Alex Zahariadis**

Fifth Grade: **Hamid Sheriff, Rashid Sheriff**

Sixth Grade: **Raymond Burch, Zack Zahariadis**

Seventh Grade: **Elijah Kulp**

Eighth Grade: **Cameron Alvarez, Kelvin Olmedo**

Tenth Grade: **Sebastian Alvarez, TJ MacDougal, Ethan Strause**

Eleventh Grade: **Mathyas Jones**

Twelfth Grade+: **Giovanni Cruz, Hoxquelin Gomez Contreras Jr.**





PROM2022



The Junior/Senior Prom was held on Friday, April 29, 2022 at the Green Valley Chateau. The theme was Enchanted Forest and students experienced a night full of fun with dinner, music, and dancing. Special thanks to **Mrs. Crystal Cammauf** and **Mr. Dean Heffner** for planning this year's prom.



HIGHSCHOOL

National Honor Society

On February 20, the Schuylkill Valley chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed 39 new members in its annual induction ceremony held in the high school auditorium. Seniors **Brenden Bernhart**, **Drew Campbell**, **Lily Crowell**, and **Krissy Wolf** delivered speeches on the four pillars of the National Honor Society – scholarship, service, leadership and character. Seniors **Sarah Gilbert** and **Reagan Rittenhouse** acted as emcees for the evening's ceremony. The NHS is advised by **Mrs. Lisa Chillot**, science teacher.

The new inductees are:

Maria Armenta
Alyssa Armpriester
Mason Bagenstose
McKaylah Booth
Brock DeJesus
Gabriella DeMarco
Emma Ertel
Chad Gangewere
Emily Fies
Emily Gao
Seth Geiger

Alexis Good
Allison Harmuth
Amanda Hoover
Elijah Houser
Leila Howe
Lindsay Kachel
Jaxon Kuehner
Victoria Lapa
Nii Larkai
Erin Livinghouse
Rylee Mann

Zoe Merkel
Katie Messner
Megan Miley
Caden Moyer
Megan Raifsnider
Victoria Reali
Jordan Shekalus
Lila Smaglinski
Emma Stauffer
Reese Stauffer
Bailey Unterkofler

Samantha Wails
Emma Walsh
Noah Wamsher
Gary Wenzel
Delaney Yeakle
Helene Yerger

HIGH SCHOOL



The SpongeBob Musical

Panthers-On-Parade presented the musical, "The SpongeBob Musical," directed by **Mrs. Kim Makosch**, on April 1 and 2. Senior **Nolan Rodriguez** played the male lead, SpongeBob SquarePants, Senior **Mara Nagle** played the female lead, Sandy Cheeks, and junior **Michael Orth** played Patrick Star.



PYEA Second Annual Man Pageant

The SVHS PYEA (Pennsylvania Youth Education Association) held its second annual "Man Pageant" to help raise funds for Four Diamonds. The contestants included high school students **Jon Rico Castellon; Kelton Faulk; Michael Goad; Caden Kline; David Kramer; Caleb Miller; Aidan Moyer; Michael Orth; Samson Phan; Nathan Raver; Nolan Rodriguez; Connor Staub; Cameron Wallace** and **Gary Wenzel**. Seniors **Sarah Gilbert** and **Reagan Rittenhouse** emceed the evening's entertainment. To participate, contestants had to answer questions in front of a live audience, perform an individual talent, and perform a dance to the "Cotton Eye Joe" with the rest of the group.

Voting took place on the PYEA Donor Drive page and through donations at lunches. **David Kramer** was the "Student Choice Winner", and the overall winner was **Michael Goad**. Because of the generosity of the SV community, the event raised \$3,723 for Four Diamonds. The PYEA is co-advised by **Mrs. Lisa Chillot**, science teacher, and **Mr. Jeffrey Chillot**, math teacher.

HIGH SCHOOL



Students of the Month & Year

The Central Berks Lions Club and the Bern Township Lions Club presented their annual student of the month and year awards to seventeen Schuylkill Valley High School juniors and seniors. The 2021-2022 recipients are:

Isata Bah, Jonathan Castellon- Palacios, Finley Davila, Chad Gangewere, Sarah Gilbert, Elijah Houser, Madison Kubacki, Reagan Rittenhouse, Jordan Shekalus, Abigail Sisco, Lila Smaglinski, Bailey Unterkofler (Junior Student of the Year), **Gary Wenzel, Jonathon Werley** (Senior Student of the Year), **Kristian (Krissy) Wolf, Delaney Yeakle, Helene Yerger.**



Reading Olympics

On April 29, the Schuylkill Valley High School Reading Olympics team traveled to the Berks County Intermediate Unit to compete in the Reading Olympics competition. The team, coached by **Mr. Matt Reed**, high school librarian and enrichment coordinator, competed in three rounds against seven other Berks County high school teams. SVHS placed second in the county receiving a Silver medal, and only missed placing in first by one point.

Congratulations to freshmen **Isabella Burch, Thea Gangewere**, and **Ember Smollar**, sophomores **Kiki Engleman, Kimberly Heck**, and **Abigail Tenney**, junior **Elizabeth Zaharia**, and senior **Alexis Smeck**!

HIGH SCHOOL

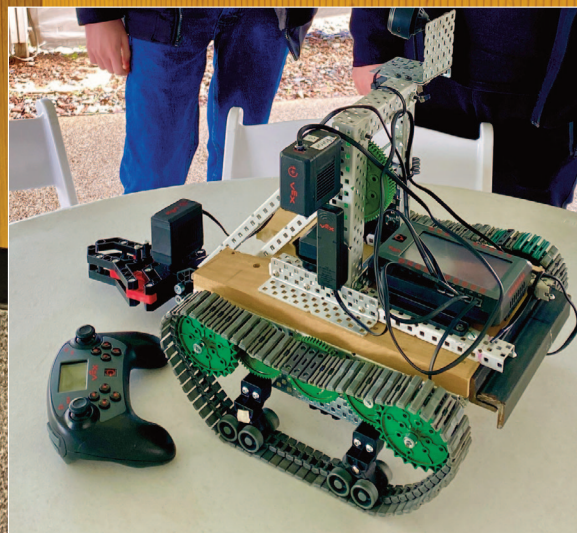
Panther Robotics Participates in Berks Regional SeAL Challenge

On April 27, the SVHS Panther Robotics Team did an outstanding job representing our school and community at the Berks Regional PSU 2022 Sea, Air, & Land Robotics Competition at the Reading Public Museum. The team of twelfth grade students **Anthony Gentile** and **Dylan Small** participated in the Land Challenge at the exciting STEM event coordinated by the Berks County Intermediate Unit featuring high school robotics teams from the Berks County region.

The Sea, Air, and Land Challenge is an Office of Naval Research sponsored program, in which teams of high school aged students learn about the engineering process through the design and build of a robotic system. The systems are then used to compete in challenges relevant to the Department of Defense which mimic

missions encountered by the military, national security agencies and first responders.

Teams have twelve to sixteen weeks prior to the challenge to design and build unmanned vehicles and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) payloads to compete in the Challenge of their choice – teams may build submersibles for the Sea Challenge, drones for the Air Challenge or rovers for the Land Challenge. The challenges are designed by engineers at the Penn State's Applied Research Laboratory and by some of the country's finest Navy SEALs and Green Berets.



MIDDLESCHOOL

Spring Arts Festival

Schuylkill Valley Middle School held its annual Spring Arts Festival on May 12. After two years of having a virtual art show due to the Covid-19 pandemic, **Mrs. Ronda Seymour**, SVMS art teacher, was able to invite guests back into the building to view students' artwork. The theme of this year's festival was Italian, and it featured a lot of different art pieces such as Fruit Frescoes inspired by Michelangelo's painting process of the Sistine Chapel, ASL Surrealist Landscapes inspired by Michelangelo's *Creation of Man*, Dali's *Persistence of Memory*, and M.S. Escher's *Drawing Hands*, and much more. Guests enjoyed face painting, make-and-take crafts, and festival favors.

Thank you, Mrs. Seymour, for organizing the Spring Arts Festival, and thank you to everyone in the community who came to support our students!



MIDDLESCHOOL



**You're
Going to
Hear Us**

ROAR

Schuylkill Valley Middle School has implemented a new schoolwide Positive Behavior Intervention System. The goal is to promote positive behavior schoolwide using the acronym ROAR, which stands for Responsibility, Offer Kindness, Attitude, and Respect. When a teacher or staff member sees positive behavior from a student, they give the student a ROAR paw that would be displayed on their locker. To kick off this schoolwide PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System), **Mrs. Candice Kehres**, SVMS assistant principal, organized the first ROAR Incentive Day. Teachers volunteered to host different activities that students could sign up for and enjoy as a reward for earning a ROAR paw. Some of the activities included mountain biking, a visit from **Magician Matty Whipple**, wiffle ball, baking, and more.

To learn more about the schoolwide PBIS and to see photos highlighting the ROAR Incentive Day, watch this video:
<https://bit.ly/3PrHAGb>

MIDDLESCHOOL



Fifth Grade Goes Green



The fifth-grade student body did a year-long book study on the book *Me and Marvin Gardens* by A.S. King. **Mrs. Emily Calaman**, librarian, and **Dr. Elizabeth Schucker**, Gifted and unified arts reading teacher, collaborated and created a Unified Arts Reading and Library Book Club where students would complete this book study. *Me and Marvin Gardens* shares the perspective of a middle school-aged boy whose farmland is being sold for developmental sprawl, which takes place in Reading, PA. The book's message of how every person can be a 'change ripple' was used as the foundation for the book club model.

The book study expanded further than just the book club and students completed activities in other classes to dive deeper into becoming more environmentally aware and motivated to be change agents. Some of the activities included creating "Marvin" built out of recycled materials in STEM class, research projects demonstrating the students' awareness of what occurred in history that has affected the environment, and even creating podcasts about what life was like 100 years ago.

On April 7, students wrapped up their book study with a visit from Berks County native and award-winning author **A.S. King**. She talked about her background as a writer and the inspirations for her book, *Me and Marvin Gardens*. Several fifth-grade students took A.S. King on a tour of the middle school and explained the meaning behind each of their projects and how it relates back to her book. Thank you, A.S. King, for visiting our school, and to **Mrs. Calaman** and **Dr. Schucker** for organizing the book study!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

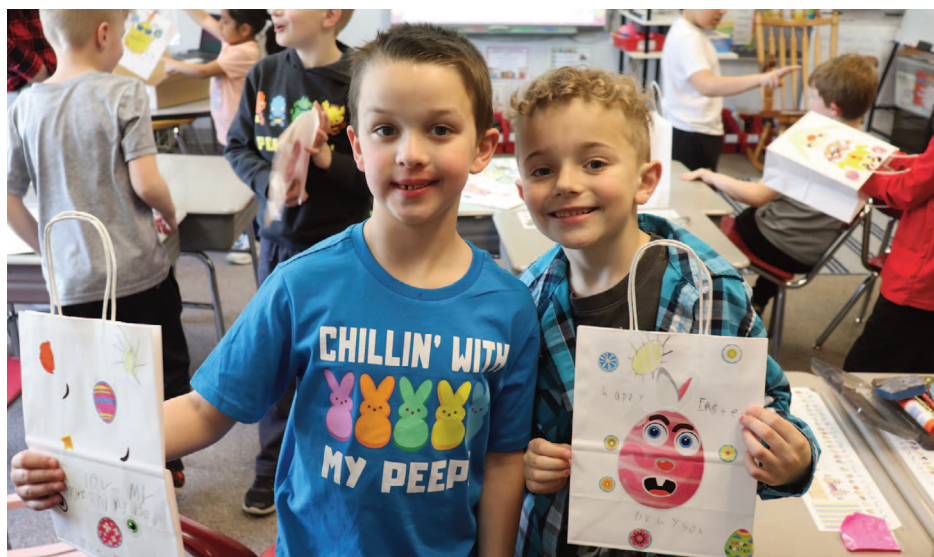


SVES Spring Celebrations

During the month of April, Schuylkill Valley Elementary School had a lot to celebrate! Prior to leaving for Spring break, our elementary staff and parent volunteers set up egg hunts, brought in festive snacks, and helped students create Spring inspired crafts.

April 21 was National Kindergarten Day and **Mrs. Taylor Serafin**'s kindergarten class had a blast! Students made crowns and answered the writing prompt, "My Favorite Part of Kindergarten is..."

All grades celebrated Earth Day on April 22. All second-grade classes went outside and completed an Earth Day inspired scavenger hunt, kindergarten classes made crafts that demonstrated how they can help the Earth, and third grade classes colored Earth Day pictures.



ELEMENTARYSCHOOL

Reading Olympics

On May 12, two teams of Schuylkill Valley Elementary students competed in the Berks County Elementary Reading Olympics Celebration. The teams, *Rad Readers* and *Where the Wild Books Are*, were led by **Mrs. Stephanie Jacobs** and **Miss Amanda Redcay**. Over 220 students in grades 4-5 from Berks County participated in the event. To prepare for

the Reading Olympics, each team must read the assigned 25 books collaboratively as a group. Before the start of the virtual competition, students enjoyed pizza, snacks, and ice cream!

The team captains for *Rad Readers* were **Vienna Krick** and **Aria Maeder**, and the captains for *Where the Wild Books Are* were **Ava Neider** and **Cole Sienzant**. Congratulations to both the *Rad Readers* and *Where the Wild Books Are* for coming in first place in the competition!

**RAD READERS****WHERE THE WILD BOOKS ARE**

HIGH SCHOOL | WINTERSPORTS AWARDS



Swimming (Central Penn Swim League)

200 Medley Relay Team-
Aryanna Kulp, Emily Gao, Katie Eisenhofer, Annie Gao – 2nd Team

Megan Ehrnfeldt – 1st Team,
100 Butterfly

Annie Gao – 2nd Team,
100 Butterfly

Megan Ehrnfeldt –
100 Freestyle

200 Freestyle Relay Team-
Annie Gao, Emily Gao, Katie Eisenhofer, Megan Ehrnfeldt – 3rd Team

Katie Eisenhofer – 2nd Team,
100 Breaststroke

Congratulations to the girls' swim team on their record-breaking season! The team won the District III Championship for the sixth year in a row and became state champions at the 2022 PIAA Girls 2A Swimming and Diving Championships for the first time in Schuylkill Valley history.



Boys' Basketball

Troy Frantz –
All Division

Ben Eddinger –
All Division
Honorable Mention

HIGH SCHOOL | WINTERSPORTS AWARDS

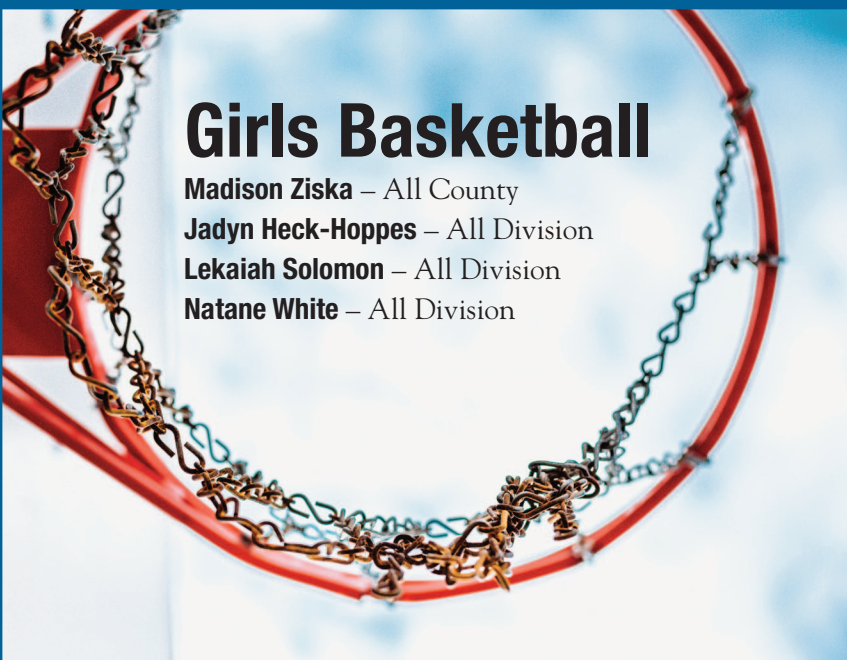


Wrestling

Ian Vitalo – All Division

Ethan Yoh – All Division

David Rhein – All Division Honorable Mention



Girls Basketball

Madison Ziska – All County

Jadyn Heck-Hoppes – All Division

Lekaiah Solomon – All Division

Natane White – All Division



Girls' Bowling

Kimberly Heck – All Division

Caitlin Reichert – All Division

Boys' Bowling

Braiden Lash – All Division



SV Track & Field

Track & Field competed in the BCIAA County Championship Firing Meet on May 12 and May 14. Senior **Luke Seymour** became a double BCIAA County Champion in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:54.8 and the 1,600-meter run with a time of 4:16.95. Senior **Madison Ziska** is the BCIAA County Champion in the Long Jump with an entry mark of 18-01.75. At the end of May, the team will head to the District III Championship Meet at Shippensburg University, as well as the PIAA Championship Meet at Shippensburg University. Results will be published in the Summer newsletter.

Congratulations to seniors Madison Ziska and Luke Seymour on breaking school records this track & field season! Madison broke the school record in the Long Jump at the SV Panther Invitational Track & Field Meet on April 30, and Luke broke the school record in the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:16.95 at the BCIAA Championship Meet. Madison will continue her track & field career at Mansfield University in the Fall where she will major in secondary education. Luke will continue his cross country and track & field career at Penn State University this Fall. We wish you both the best of luck in your future endeavors!



MADISON ZISKA



LUKE SEYMOUR

HIGH SCHOOL | SPRINGSPORTS

Boys' Lacrosse

The Boys' Lacrosse team finished fifth in the BCIAA, the highest in school history, and ended their regular season with a 9-5 record. The Panthers played in the first round of the PIAA District III Tournament as the #9 seed in a 12-team field and lost against Berks Catholic. This is the first time the boys' lacrosse team has qualified for the post-season since the inception of the program.




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schuylkill valley
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Around the Valley, Schuylkill Valley School District's newsletter (spring and summer) 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.

I want to learn more about...

 Athletics

 Title IX

 **HR/Careers**

Join our team!

Check out all job openings online at www.schuylkillvalley.org by clicking on the "HR/Careers" link on the left side of the page. Current openings include positions in Food Services, Teaching, and more.

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