

around the **VALLEY**

DECEMBER 2017

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



929 lakeshore drive
leesport PA 19533-8631

WELCOME to our new teachers



We welcome our new teachers! Front row, left to right: **Miss Michelle Rowles**, Learning Support High School English; **Ms. Jess Harle**, High School Art Educator; **Miss Chelsey Valentine**, 3rd Grade Teacher; **Miss Jen Blessing**, 3rd Grade Learning Support; **Mrs. Janel Smith**, 5th and 6th grade School Counselor, **Dr. Cindy Mierzejewski**, Superintendent.

Back row, left to right: **Mr. Dennis Kurtz**, High School English; **Mr. Tim Kier**, High School Learning Support; **Ms. Jenn Holiday**, Middle School Autistic Support; **Miss Sarah Kreider**, Elementary School Music; **Mrs. Lisa Krock**, Middle School and High School Psychologist.

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**SCHUYLKILL VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

929 Lakeshore Drive
Leesport PA 19533-8631

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Dr. Cindy Mierzejewski

Superintendent

Mr. Michael T. Mitchell, Jr.

High School Principal

Mrs. Maggie E. Drake

High School Assistant Principal

Mr. Joshua Kuehner

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

Mrs. Becky Robinson

Director of Food Services

Ms. Robin Brightbill

Director of Human Resources

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dr. Jay R. Melvin, *Vice President*

Mrs. Linda R. Lash, *Secretary*

Mr. Paul L. Bendigo

Mr. Robert M. Dempsey

Mr. George H. Mertz III

Mr. G. Dane Miller

Mr. Geoffrey P. Miller

Mr. Alfonso Rossi

BOARD MEETINGS

Committees generally meet the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Board meetings are generally held the fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the high school's LeRoy K. Seip 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

Advancements in technology have led to the ability for all of us to be connected to others all over the world. Technology contributes to an increase in ease of communications and allows for accelerated idea sharing and beneficial innovations. On the other hand, these advancements also pose new problems in terms of information reliability, individual and global security, and legal issues. To help our students and families navigate these waters, last year, the Schuylkill Valley staff developed a Digital Citizenship Curriculum for integration in grades K-12 content areas.

The themes of the curriculum are:

- Digital citizens respect themselves and others.
- Digital citizens protect themselves when interacting on the internet.
- Digital citizens are responsible for using content and giving credit safely and ethically.

The curriculum lessons are designed with age-appropriate activities for each grade level and are taught in library, guidance and computer classes. They address the following

topics: relationships and communications; privacy and security, internet safety, digital footprint and reputation, self-image and identity, information literacy, cyber-bullying and creative credit/copyright. Anyone who is interested can view the curriculum and lessons on the Digital Citizenship page at <http://bit.ly/2gCpqTI>. A very valuable resource for parents and families is the Family Tip Sheet that can be found in a link next to most of the lessons on the website.

Most importantly, adults should keep in mind that we are the role models for all behaviors, including how we interact with others via electronic communications (emails and social media). As stated on the Digital Citizenship web page, before emailing or posting we should THINK!

T = Is it true?
H = Is it helpful?
I = Is it inspiring?
N = Is it necessary?
K = Is it kind?

We hope that our district curriculum and family resources will provide a solid foundation of digital awareness, knowledge and responsibility for all.

Dr. Cindy Mierzejewski
 Superintendent

This newsletter is the official publication of the Schuylkill Valley School District. Submit news of school or community interest to svdistrictnewsletter@gmail.com. Please include your name and phone number for verification. Timely articles will be used as space allows.

Pride of SV Awards 2017



Left to right: Mr. John Barbis, Mr. Dennis Werner, Mrs. Avalion Bossler accepting on behalf of her late brother, Mr. Mervin Moyer, Ms. Corielle Yarde, Colonel F. David Yoder, Mrs. Gwen (Tranquillo) Andrews and Mr. Shawn Gundrum.

On October 21, Schuylkill Valley celebrated the accomplishments of seven individuals by presenting them with the Pride of SV Award. The Class of 2017 inductees are:

Mrs. Gwen (Tranquillo) Andrews – Mrs. Andrews was the salutatorian and vice-president of the SV Class of 1994. She was a four-year varsity starter in field hockey and basketball with selection to All-County and All-Division teams. After earning a full academic scholarship to Ball State University, Mrs. Andrews was awarded the President's Citation for Academic Excellence and named the College of Business Outstanding Senior. She was a four-year starter in field hockey, helping the team to win four conference championships. Mrs. Andrews is an executive at The Hershey Company.

Mr. John Barbis – Mr. Barbis was an honors graduate of the SV Class of 1966. He was the Berks Sectional wrestling champion and a District III

semifinalist. He completed his BS in Biology at Haverford College and earned his MA in Physical Therapy at Stanford University Medical School. Mr. Barbis was a clinical assistant professor and founding member of the physical therapy program at Thomas Jefferson University. He has practiced physical therapy for nearly forty years and has authored more than fifteen book chapters and papers.

Mr. Shawn Gundrum – Class of 1994 student council president, Mr. Gundrum enlisted in the United States Army and attended the Defense Language Institute, where he graduated first in his class. He was selected to attend the United States Military Academy Preparatory School, earned his B.S. from West Point and an MBA from William and Mary. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Armor Branch, served as a Tank Platoon Leader in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor Device. Mr. Gundrum is executive vice-president and chief operations officer at CALIBRE Systems, Inc.

Mr. Mervin Moyer – A graduate of the Ontelaunee Vocational School, Mr. Moyer was a butcher in West Leesport for ten years and custodian for the SV school district for twenty years. Considered by many to be the unofficial historian of Leesport, Mr. Moyer was an avid collector of antiques and an exuberant storyteller. He was a member of the Leesport Hunting Lodge, Leesport Area Historical Society and the Shartlesville Fire Company.

Mr. Dennis Werner – A graduate of Penn State University, Mr. Werner taught health and physical education at Schuylkill Valley High School for thirty-one years and served as department chair for twenty years. He started the soccer and volleyball programs at SV and coached the school's first winning boys' basketball season in SV history. He served as head varsity coach for baseball, boys' and girls' basketball, volleyball, cross country and tennis. As a baseball coach, he won the 1976 and 1986 division championships, was

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Fall Donation Drive

We love animals! Students at the elementary school contributed more than three hundred items for the Humane Society of Berks County and the Animal Rescue League in the Fall Donation Drive. The drive was enthusiastically led by fourth graders with the help of School Counselor **Mrs. Lauren Matthews.**

Fourth-graders Tara Hirschtritt, Mazzie Dean, Asher Clery, Owen Eisenhofer, Ben Ostrowski, Lukas James, Ryleigh Johnson and Morgan Siglin led the elementary school's Fall Donation Drive.



Middle School Student Makes Wishes Come True

Eighth-grader **Jonathon Werley**, son of Travis and Lisa Werley of Ontelaunee Township, was the 2017 Dairy Beef Grand Champion at both the Kutztown and Reading Fairs this past summer. Jonathon, a member of 4-H, also earned the Reserve Champion Fitter award at the Reading Fair, the Reserve Champion Showman award at the Kutztown Fair, and the Best of Show photography prize at the Reading Fair.

Jonathon's participation in 4-H is a year-round commitment which includes feeding, training and taking care of his animals, maintaining detailed records and the successful completion of an extensive project book, culminating in the sale of his animal at the Berks County 4-H Round-Up. For a

successful sale, Jonathon had to reach out to local businesses for sponsorships, which required writing letters, marketing his animal and making personal follow-up visits to the businesses. Upon the completion of this year's fair season, Jonathon sold his animals and donated 10% of the proceeds, or \$1,300, to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

On October 26, he visited the Foundation and presented his check to **Ben Lee**, regional director. In an ongoing partnership, Jonathon and his family will participate in the organization's 2018 Mother's Day Truck Convoy. In addition to 4-H, Jonathon also participates in the middle school soccer and basketball programs, plays for FC Revolution Soccer and is a member of the SVMS band.



Jonathon Werley presents a check for \$1,300 to Make-A-Wish Regional Director **Ben Lee**.



The Main Idea Minions competed in the Reading Olympics in May.

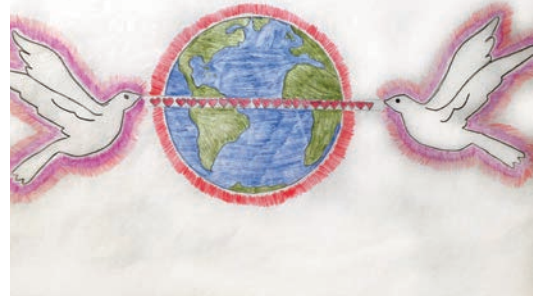
SV Reads to Lead

In May, the district hosted the 2017 Berks County Elementary Reading Olympics at the high school. Thirty-six teams competed by answering questions from a selection of books read throughout the school year. Four of Schuylkill Valley's 4th and 5th grade teams – *The Book Detectives*, *The Reading Emojis*, *The Reading Savages* and *The Main Idea Minions* – earned second place ribbons in the competition. Special thanks to our Reading Olympics coaches, **Mrs. Emily Calaman**, Middle School Librarian, **Mrs. Stephanie Jacobs**, Elementary School Librarian, **Mrs. Elizabeth Schucker**, 4th grade teacher, and **Mrs. Marsha Townsend**, 4th grade teacher.



Ms. Lori Messner, Reading Specialist, with Joshua Searfoss, Tara Hirschtritt, Brayden Moyer and Simón Faust, who participated in the Summer Reads program.

A group of elementary students made reading an important part of their summer activities through the elementary school's Summer Reads program. The program, led by Reading Specialist **Ms. Lori Messner**, provided new and engaging texts for at-risk readers in 3rd through 5th grade. All participating students were recognized at the first Panther Pride Assembly of the school year and attended a special luncheon celebrating their accomplishments.



Eighth-grader **Alexis Wolcott**'s peace poster entry, titled "We are united in peace."

Middle School Artists Celebrate Peace

Two middle school students, **Alexis Wolcott** and **Isaiah Martinez**, guided by Art Specialist **Mrs. Ronda Lee Seymour**, illustrated a world of peace with their entries in the Central Berks and Bern Township Lions Clubs' annual Peace Poster contest. Both entries were selected to move on to the district-level competition.



Eighth-grader **Isaiah Martinez**'s peace poster entry, titled "Peace is a world without war and a place where everyone can harmonize together."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to the Varsity Field Hockey team, which qualified for the BCIAA and District III play-offs. The team is coached by **Mrs. Jessica Dowd**, assisted by **Miss Lauren Capoferri** and **Miss Kate Dunlap**.

FALL SPORTS



Photos courtesy of Purdon Photography.



2017 HOMECOMING

The district held Homecoming festivities on Friday, October 20, during halftime at the football game between Schuylkill Valley and Berks Catholic. Senior **Kasey Bubel** was crowned Homecoming Queen. Senior **Jacob Jerdan** was named Spirit King and donated all contributions from his winning Penny Wars competition to the Autism Society of Berks County. Prior to the game, the newly renovated stadium was officially opened to the public with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



▲ Left to right:
Morgan Fox, Haley George, Carissa Trievel, Chloe Dracha, Mackenzie Homan, Kasey Bubel, Autumn Schell and Alyssa Lash.

◀ Left to right:
Donald Ballou, Luke Williams, 2017 Spirit King Jacob Jerdan, Logan Grauer, David Goad and Colby Stichter.

Photos courtesy of Purdon Photography.

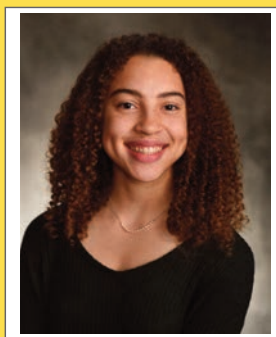


▲ Left to right: 2017 Homecoming Runner-Up Mackenzie Homan, 2016 Homecoming Queen Olivia Roth and 2017 Homecoming Queen Kasey Bubel.



Congratulations to the SV Girls' Varsity Soccer team, which qualified for the BCIAA, District III and PIAA play-offs. The team was the District III runner-up. The team is coached by **Mr. Jason Bagenstose**, assisted by **Mr. Jud Ackelson** and **Miss Danielle Koller**.

2017 National Merit Scholarship Program Awards



Olivia Jenkins



Lucas Horrell



Seniors **Olivia Jenkins** and **Lucas Horrell** are among only 16,000 students nationwide to achieve the rank of National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist based on their outstanding PSAT scores.

Olivia, daughter of **Darryl and Amy Jenkins** of Bern Township, is a member of the National Honor Society, participates in the Science Olympiad, Academic Challenge, track and field team, marching band, jazz band, pit orchestra, Zen Club, World Affairs Club and

serves as a Schuylkill Valley Ambassador. In May, she was named junior student of the year.

Lucas, son of **Mark and Julie Horrell** of Centre Township, is a member of the National Honor Society, president of the Leo Club, a Boy Scout, team captain of Academic Challenge, and participates in Science Olympiad, World Quest, World Affairs Club, track and field team, jazz band, concert band and pit orchestra. In May, Lucas was named student of the month.

Winter Wellness Corner

Becky Robinson, RD/LDN,
SV Food Services Director

TRUE or FALSE

- You cannot get sunburned in the winter – FALSE
- Proper handwashing is the best way to prevent from getting sick - TRUE
- You can catch a cold from being cold and/or wet - FALSE
- You can catch the flu from the flu shot- FALSE
- Allergies can still occur in the winter - TRUE
- You should not exercise in the cold – FALSE
- You lose most of your body heat through your head – FALSE

FOR GOOD HEALTH, BE SURE TO:

- Consume a variety of fruits and vegetables all year round.
- Stay active all year round.
- Bundle up in the cold weather.
- Wash your hands often.

Try these healthy winter recipes!
www.eatingwell.com/recipes/22220/seasonal/winter/best/slideshow/our-best-healthy-recipes-for-winter/



schuylkill valley
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community News

The Leesport Area Historical Society is a group dedicated to preserving and sharing the history in our local area, including the Schuylkill Valley School District.

We meet on the fourth Monday of most months at Bethany EC Church, 308 Main Street, Leesport, at 7:30 pm. The society presents historical programs of local interest and sponsors community events, like the Harvest Moon Festival and Leesport Community Days.

We welcome new members! For more information, please call 610-926-6600 and leave a message or check our website,
www.leesporthisory.org

The next two issues of the Schuylkill Valley School District Newsletter (March and June) 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.

Pride of SV Awards 2017 continued

named Coach of the Year for girls' basketball in 1987, and was elected to the Berks County Sports Hall of Fame in 2003.

Ms. Corielle Yarde – A third-grade teacher at Schuylkill Valley Elementary School, Ms. Yarde was an honors graduate of the SV Class of 2008. She holds the record as the second highest scorer in Berks County girls' basketball history with 2,283 career points. In 2005, Ms. Yarde led her team to the BCIAA County Championship. She was a three-time County Player of the Year and three-time All-State selection. During her career at Marist College, Ms. Yarde was named the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Student-Athlete of the year, the MAAC Women's Basketball Player of the Year, MAAC Tournament MVP and three-time All-MAAC Academic Team member. She was a Marist College National Honor Society member and was inducted into the MAAC Hall of Fame in 2015.

Colonel David Yoder – After graduating from SV in 1957, Colonel Yoder earned his BS in Aeronautical Engineering from Penn State University and an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. He entered the Air Force, where he attained the rank of Colonel and was on active duty service for forty years as a command fighter pilot and in leadership of international organizations. He is a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, receiving the U.S. Legion of Merit Award, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Medal, Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, VNAF Air Service Medal and Air Force Commendation Medal.



The Schuylkill Valley family mourns the loss of Conner Kleffel, age 13, the son of Bradley and Nicoleen Kleffel, and brother of Brynley, of Centre Township. Conner was an eighth-grade student at the Schuylkill Valley Middle School, a member of the football, basketball and baseball teams, the chorus, and in September 2017, was named student and athlete of the month. He was a volunteer with the Schuylkill Valley youth baseball and football programs, helped to maintain the baseball fields at the Leesport Playground, and was loved by his many friends and mentors in the community. Our deepest sympathy to his family, teachers, coaches, classmates and friends.