

# around the VALLEY

FALL 2021



929 lakeshore drive  
leesport PA 19533-8631

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME Meet our new staff members!



Front row left to right: **Miss Allison Schray**, 5/6th Grade Long Term Substitute School Counselor; **Ms. Jade Gery**, Kindergarten Teacher; **Miss Kirsten Noll**, 3rd Grade Long Term Substitute Teacher; **Mrs. Rachel Wade**, Middle School Digital Citizenship Teacher; **Mrs. Stephanie Erb**, Elementary School Nurse. Back row left to right: **Mr. Zane Bachert**, High School Emotional Support Teacher; **Mr. Shane Silas**, Elementary Autistic Support; **Mrs. Taylor Serafin**, Kindergarten Teacher; **Mr. Christopher Dean**, High School English Teacher; **Mrs. Stephanie Good**, 5/6th Grade Learning Support Teacher.

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## 2 SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

929 Lakeshore Drive  
Leesport PA 19533-8631

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**Dr. Cathy L. Taschner**

Superintendent

**Dr. Janet C. Heilman**

Assistant Superintendent

**Mrs. Jenny Rexrode**

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

**TBA**

Director of Pupil Services

**Mr. Michael Billman**

Director of Information Technology

**Mr. Ron Kabonick**

Interim Business Manager

**Mr. Casey Blankenbiller**

Director of Buildings and Grounds

**Miss Stephanie L. Deibler**

Athletic Director

**Ms. Robin Brightbill**

Director of Human Resources

**Mrs. Diane Kaag**

Food Service Director

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. G. Dane Miller, President

Mr. George H. Mertz III, Vice-President

Mrs. Linda R. Lash, Secretary

Mr. Paul L. Bendigo

Mr. Robert M. Dempsey

Mrs. Nicoleen M. Kleffel

Mr. David Moll

Mr. Kevin Raudenbush\*

Mr. Alfonso F. Rossi

Thank you, **Mr. Kevin Raudenbush**, for your many years of exemplary service as a Schuylkill Valley School Board Director, and for your dedication to the Schuylkill Valley community. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors!

### 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 Parents, Staff  
and Schuylkill Valley Community,

It is an amazing honor to be a part of the Schuylkill Valley School District and community. In the short time I have been here, it is abundantly clear that the parents, staff, administration and community all care very deeply about our students. This singular and compelling focus will continue to guide our path as we move forward together. It is my hope that this newsletter will highlight the work of students, administrators and staff and that it will



shine a light on how wonderful it is to be a Schuylkill Valley Panther! During this season of gratitude, please know how grateful we are for your continued support. I look forward to meeting each of you as the year progresses.

With Enthusiasm and Gratitude,

*Dr. Cathy Taschner*



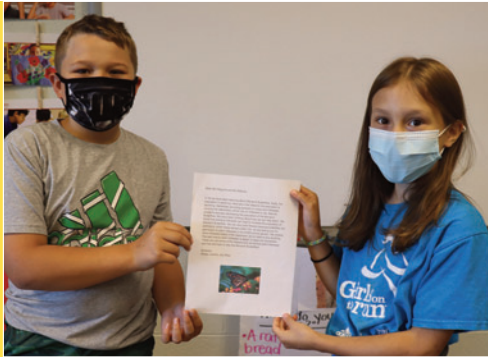
## First Day of School 2021



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



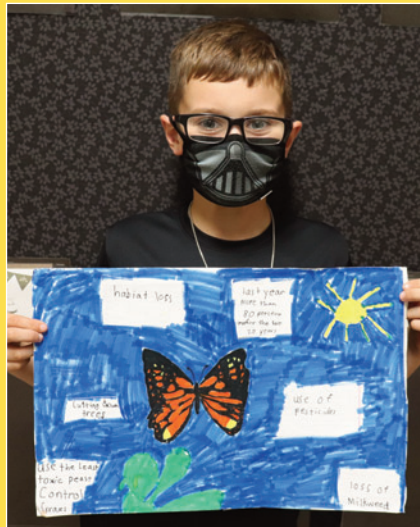
## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



### Saving the Monarch Butterflies

Over the past 10 years, the monarch butterfly population has been declining and is in danger of becoming extinct. In response, fourth grade students created projects about ways the public can start to help the monarch butterfly population thrive. As environmental scientists, the students asked questions and conducted research to become experts on the topic. Teachers used Project Based Learning to help the students create something that can be a public product to educate and motivate the community to also help solve the problem at hand.

You can view the projects here.



### Run for Riley 5k

Members from the Schuylkill Valley community gathered on the SVSD campus on Sunday, November 14 for the second Run for Riley 5K race. This race was held to honor a Schuylkill Valley third grade student, **Riley Rejniak**, who is fighting neuroblastoma for the third time. All the proceeds from this race will support Riley and his family.

The day started off with a kid fun run and was followed by a 5k race. Participants received race t-shirts, and enjoyed refreshments and basket raffles in the stadium. Special thanks to the SVES Service Committee and SVES school counselors, **Mrs. Lauren Matthews** and **Mrs. Joanna Schlottman**, for organizing this event, to the local businesses that sponsored this event, and to all of the community members that came out to support.



### Celebrating Fall at SVES

On October 29, elementary students dressed up and enjoyed Fall parties and activities! Activities included Halloween trivia, Bingo, fall crafts, making candy corn catapults, creating Play-Doh monsters, and much more. Thank you to the elementary staff and parent volunteers for organizing these activities for our students!





## HIGH SCHOOL



**2021 HOMECOMING COURT** L-R: Homecoming Court candidates and escorts **Michael Orth, Sharon Borkey, Benjamin Eddinger, Lekaiah Solomon, Luke Seymour, Sarah Gilbert, Evan Duda, Mara Nagle, Katie Eisenhofer, Drew Campbell, Anna Kate Gwiazdowski, Ethan Goetz, Gabby DeMarco, Caleb Miller, Madison Ziska, and Aiden Gehret.**

Homecoming festivities were held the week of October 4. **Lekaiah Solomon** was crowned homecoming queen and **Mara Nagle** was the runner-up. The court was comprised of **Sharon Borkey, Gabby DeMarco, Katie Eisenhofer, Sarah Gilbert, Anna Kate Gwiazdowski, Mara Nagle, Lekaiah Solomon, and Madison Ziska.** The Homecoming court asked the community to participate in a Cereal Drive by donating boxes of cereal that went directly to the local food bank. **Aiden Gehret** was voted the Spirit King based on Penny Wars donations of \$211 to Shriners Children's Hospital. The SV community showed up in their pink attire for the "Pink Out" football game on October 8 in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Homecoming Queen  
**Lekaiah Solomon,**  
2020 Homecoming  
Queen **Isabella Romig,**  
and Homecoming  
Runner-Up **Mara Nagle**

Far right:  
Spirit King  
**Aiden Gehret**



# 2021 HOMECOMING



## HIGH SCHOOL

### PYEA Gold Out Weekend



Students, staff and the SV community were invited to Panther Stadium for a Gold Out Weekend hosted by the Pennsylvania Youth Education Association. PYEA held this event in honor of September being Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and to bring awareness to the Four Diamonds charity. The SV community showed their support at the football game on Friday night and boys' soccer game on Saturday by wearing their gold/yellow. In addition to canning at the football game, PYEA had a stand with a selection of gold items available for purchase. Gold Out Weekend wrapped up on Sunday with Parking Spot Decorating. PYEA was able to raise \$1,011 for Four Diamonds! Special thanks to PYEA advisors, **Mrs. Lisa Chillot** and **Mr. Jeffrey Chillot**, and the PYEA members, for their work on this event.



## ALUMNISPOTLIGHT



**Justin Eisenhofer**, class of 1994, has been serving the SV community as a physical therapist for over 12 years. Justin recently became co-owner of South Mountain Physical Therapy in Leesport where he provides physical therapy services to individuals of all ages and all injuries, aches and pains. Justin described that the most rewarding aspect of being an owner in a physical therapy practice is doing it the right way with "100% focus on patient care, a fun therapy environment, and giving local high school and college students the opportunity to volunteer and learn."

Justin shared that he appreciates the community trust and support that he has received to this point and hopes to continue to serve his hometown for many years.

You can find South Mountain Physical Therapy on Facebook at "South Mountain Physical Therapy – Leesport Clinic," visit their website [www.southmountainpt.com](http://www.southmountainpt.com), or call at 484-671-2065.

**ALUMNI** – If you know a former student who would like to receive emailed copies of the SV District newsletter, please send their email address to [dsabulsky@schuylkillvalley.org](mailto:dsabulsky@schuylkillvalley.org).



## MIDDLESCHOOL

### Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony

The Schuylkill Valley Junior Honor Society inducted 57 new members in November. Advised by **Mrs. Dana Heins**, middle school social studies teacher, and **Mrs. Jennifer Wise**, middle school math teacher, these seventh and eighth grade students pledged to uphold the pillars of character, citizenship, leadership, scholarship and service.



They are: **8th grade:** Kameron Boyer, Logan Cammauf, Asher Clery, Isabel Consugar, Lillian Emerson, Amelia Falsone, Michael Gauby, Derek Grim, Tara Hirschtritt, Mackenna Holben, David Johnson, Giana Kaylor, Addison Kehres, Kaitlin Kier, Nicholas Leshner, Grant Miller, Benjamin Ostrowski, Gabriel Perry, Aaron Raver, Brady Ruth, Ian Schlappich, Corinthia Searle, Keira Stork, and Abigayle Witinski

**7th grade:** Alexander Aletras, Brooke Angstadt, Mackenzie Cronrath, Haliegh Eisenhower, Genevieve Fitzgerald, Kaitlyn Flowers, Lilah Gilmore, Emma Houser, Connor Huggard, Salinger Kehs-Rossi, Kayla Konetsky, Logan Kunkle, Charleigh Lawson, Aiden Lawson, Gabrielle Leone, Ella Martin, Kyla Medina, Spencer Mountz, Brayden Moyer, Riley Nolt, Bailey Pekuri, Taryn Ripple, Owen Rose, Chase Rose, Madison Sensenig, Cailyn Smith, Autumn Tenney, Mandy Torok, Mabel Walborn, Erin Walsh, Trent Wargo, Samuel Weidner, and Hannah Yobb.



**Rock Your School Day**

The middle school celebrated "Rock Your School" Day on October 21. The English language arts department came together to plan and organize language arts activities surrounding rock & roll to provide an outside of the box educational experience for students in grades 5-8. Students and staff dressed up in their favorite band t-shirts and got to see a live Elvis impersonator performance by SV graduate, **Jeff Krick, Jr.**





## FALLSPORTS



**Field Hockey**

### Field Hockey

Anna Kate Gwiazdowski – All Division

Rayven Muller – All Division

Lila Smaglinski – All Division Honorable Mention

Natane White – All Division Honorable Mention

### Golf

Madison Ziska – All County

Brock DeJesus – All Division

Tucker Jozwiak – All Division Honorable Mention

### Boys Soccer

Landen Jamison – All Division Honorable Mention

### Girls Soccer

Addison Becht – All Division

Ava Kichline – All Division

Alexis Seymour – All Division

Destiny Gianotti – All Division Honorable Mention

Camryn Miller – All Division Honorable Mention



**Golf**

### Girls Volleyball

Mara Nagle – All Division

Delaney Yeakle – All Division

Reese Johns – All Division Honorable Mention



**Volleyball**

### Football

Drew Campbell – All Division First Team Offense All-Purpose Back, All Division First Team Defense Linebacker

Colby Crills – All Division Second Team Wide Receiver, All Division Second Team Defensive Back

Kyle Spotts – All Division Second Team Tight End

*Not all post-season awards for Fall sports were released before this newsletter was published. Post-season awards for cross country and the remaining football awards will be listed in the Winter newsletter.*



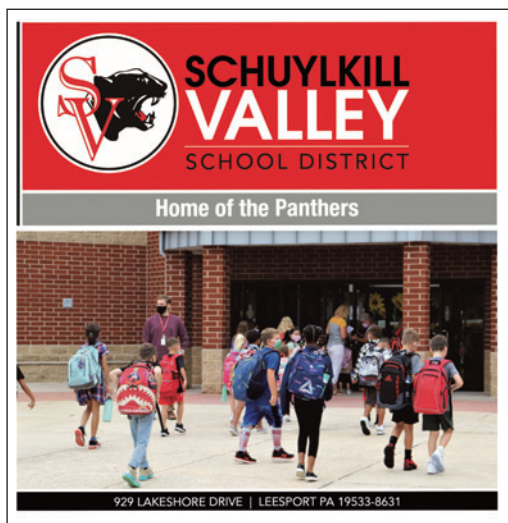
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**schuylkill valley**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SVSD Annual Report

The district released a new annual report that shares many of the accomplishments of our students and staff from the last year and a half. We invite you to view it at the following link <https://bit.ly/2ZqKRjR> and on the SVSD website under District Information. Special thanks to **Ms. Danielle Sabulsky**, Digital Content and Marketing Specialist, and **Mrs. Julie A. Bunnick**, Lead Creative, Office of the Executive Director, Berks County Intermediate Unit, for their work on this report.



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