

# around the VALLEY

SUMMER 2019



929 lakeshore drive  
leesport PA 19533-8631

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

## SVHS Among Top Schools in Nation

US News and World Report has selected Schuylkill Valley High School as one of the nation's best high schools. SV was ranked number 4,274 out of 23,000 schools, placing the high school in the top 20% of all schools ranked. The criteria used to judge the schools included the following:

- College readiness, based on the proportion of 12th-grade students who took and passed Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) exams.
- College curriculum breadth, based on the proportion of 12th-grade students who took and passed AP and/or IB exams in multiple content areas.
- Math and reading proficiency, based on student performance on state-required tests.
- Math and reading performance, based on whether performance on state assessments exceeded expectations, given the school's proportion of underserved students.
- Underserved student performance, based on how African American, Hispanic and low-income students performed on state assessments, compared with those who are not underserved in the state.



Seniors **P. Thomas Becker III**, **Katelyn VanderSleen**, **Molly Weidner** and **Lily Whitmoyer** represent the high school student body.

- Graduation rates, based on the proportion of students who entered ninth grade in 2012 and graduated four years later.

**Mr. Michael Mitchell**, high school principal, offered his sincere gratitude to the high school staff. "Congratulations to all of you for your hard work, sacrifices and commitment to our students," he said, "We will continue our quest to become a better high school each and every day by simply doing what's best for kids."

### IN THIS ISSUE:

2

IMPACT Awards

3

Students of the Month / Year

4

FMPA and Riley Pontician

5

Band and Chorus Trip to Disney

6

Concert Season + RMF Scholars

8

High School Sports + Theatre News

10

Middle School News

14

Elementary School News

16

Special Track + Field Meet

18

District News

## 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

**Mrs. Courtney Maguire**

Assistant Middle School Principal

**Mr. Jeremy L. Crills**

Elementary School Principal

**Mrs. Melissa A. Rhoads**

Assistant Elementary School Principal

**Mrs. Dawn Harris**

Director, Special Education & Pupil Services

**Mrs. Melissa Kelchner**

Director of Teaching and Learning

**Mr. Michael Billman**

Director, Information Technology

**Mr. Brian Feick**

Business Manager

**Mrs. Changming Wang**

Assistant Business Manager

**Mr. Craig A. Strunk**

Director, Buildings & Grounds

**Miss Stephanie L. Deibler**

Athletic Director

**Ms. Robin Brightbill**

Director of Human Resources

**Mrs. Diane Kaag**

Food Service Director

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mr. Paul L. Bendigo

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Mrs. Nicoleen M. Kleffel

Dr. Jay R. Melvin

Mr. G. Dane Miller

Mr. Alfonso F. 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



## Panther IMPACT Awards

The district held its third Panther Impact Award program on May 29 at the high school. Graduating seniors were invited to nominate a staff member who had the biggest impact on his or her academic career. The recipients were:

**Mr. Jason Bagenstose**, English teacher, girls' soccer and basketball head coach; **Mrs. Heather Barrett**, English teacher and Pantherette advisor; **Mr. Michael Billman**, Director of Instructional and Informational Technology; **Mr. Brian Boyer**, assistant varsity cross country coach; **Mr. Kyle Campbell**, swimming and diving coach; **Miss Dana Carter**, special education teacher; **Mr. Jeffrey Chillot**, high school math teacher and head football coach; **Mrs. Lisa Chillot**, science teacher; **Mrs. Kate Costenbader**, life skills teacher; **Miss Stacy DeMott**, social studies teacher; **Ms. Paige Dezii**, third-grade teacher; **Ms. Jessica Harle**, high school art educator; **Miss Katie Heffner**, language arts teacher; **Mrs. Lisa Henry**, middle school guidance counselor; **Mrs. Angela Hohenadel**, cheerleading coach; **Mr. Phil Klahold**, transition teacher; **Mr. Carl Lash**, girls' volleyball head coach; **Mrs. Kim Makosch**, middle school director of vocal music; **Mr. Brian Miller**, boys' tennis coach; **Mr. Michael Mitchell**, high school principal; **Mr. Tim Mogford**, English teacher; **Mrs. Cathy Overman**, language arts teacher; **Mrs. Traci Pawling**, Spanish teacher; **Mr. John Shults**, retired substitute teacher; **Mrs. Adrienne Williamson**, business education teacher; **Mr. Matt Wisotsky**, math teacher; and **Mr. Phil Yoder**, fitness and first aid/CPR teacher.

### IMPORTANT REMINDER

Per the Board of Directors, the following rules apply to all areas of the campus of Schuylkill Valley School District:

*Nicotine products, in any form (cigarettes, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapes, cigars and pipes), are prohibited. This includes coaches, teachers, staff, students and visitors. The use of tobacco/nicotine and nicotine delivery products is prohibited on school property at all times. This policy does not prohibit the use of a nicotine patch, gum or lozenge as a smoking cessation product by adults using the school facilities. (Board Policy 707: [1][9])*

This newsletter is the official publication of the Schuylkill Valley School District. Submit news of school or community interest to editor Mrs. Anne Ostrowski at [svdistrictnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:svdistrictnewsletter@gmail.com). Please include your name and phone number for verification.



**SENIOR STUDENTS OF THE MONTH****JUNIOR STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

## High School Students of the Month and Year

On May 14, the Central Berks Lions Club and Bern Township Lions Club presented their annual student of the month and year awards to juniors and seniors at a dinner in the high school cafeteria. Each student received a \$50 gift card to Barnes and Noble bookstore, and the two students of the year received an additional B&N gift card for \$100. **Mr. Michael Mitchell**, high school principal, handed out the awards, saying “these students are excellent examples of character, service and loyalty to their school community.” Junior students of the month were **Jesulayomi Adejo, Declan Murphy, Hannah Phillips, Skylar Renninger, Marlee Rickert, Hope Rozycki, Julia Stricker, Savanna Stricker**, and **Austin Witinski**.

The junior student of the year was **Jesulayomi Adejo**, daughter of Sade and Nurudeen Adejo of Leesport. Layomi, who earned the highest GPA award in 9th grade, is the editor of the *Pantherette*, copy editor and editorial assistant for the literary magazine, and served as student

council parliamentarian in 10th grade. She is a member of the National Honor Society, marching band, Valley Voices chorus, basketball team, fall play, Panthers-On-Parade, yearbook club, Leo club and world affairs club.

The senior students of the month were: **Mikayla Davis, Rosaly Diaz De La Rosa, Elizabeth Heffner, Scott Horning, Zachary Myers, Riley Pontician, William Stevenson, Katelyn VanderSleen**, and **Lily Whitmoyer**.

The senior student of the year was **Scott Horning**, son of Sandra and Joseph Horning of Leesport. Scott is president of the audio-visual club, tech advisor for the TV studio at school, a member of the executive committee of the National Honor Society, marching band, jazz band, fall play, Panthers-On-Parade, talent show and awards assembly, Tech Advisory Council, Tech Gurus, robotics club, baccalaureate committee, and also volunteers at his church. After graduation, he plans to attend Penn State University to major in physics.

## HIGH SCHOOL



## Future Medical Professionals of America Club

The Future Medical Professionals of America (FMPA) is a community service club at Schuylkill Valley High School in its second year. Officers of the club include seniors **Charanya Birabaharan**, founder and president, and **Megan Torok**, vice-president. The club holds fundraisers to buy clothing, books and materials for patients in the Reading Hospital system, and attends events to learn more about healthcare professions.

Advised by **Mrs. Kelly Musket**, physical education teacher, club members have volunteered at The Reading Hospital Road Run, contributed money to The Red Corner Benefit, which helps families with children fighting cancer, developed and held the "Strides for Shomo" fundraiser, in which they raised \$1,542 for senior **Jessie Shomo's** Neurofibromatosis Team Walk in June, and sponsored a nurse as a guest speaker to talk to the club. In addition, the club has held five blood

drives at the high school over the past two years, collecting nearly 100 pints of blood from students and staff.

Because of this accomplishment, the Miller-Keystone Blood Center awarded Schuylkill Valley High School a \$250 scholarship for the club's efforts in coordinating the blood drives. The winners of the scholarship, Charanya Birabaharan and **Dorothy Davidheiser**, were announced on May 15 at the Miller-Keystone Recognition Breakfast at the Doubletree Hotel in Reading, which was also attended by Megan Torok and five-pint-plus donor, Scott Horning, a senior. In addition, the high school was awarded the Angela Hohl Memorial Award for having the highest increase, by 116%, in pints of blood donated. At graduation, several seniors received a red cord in their graduation packet for donating blood at least four times in their high school career.



## Commended Scholar Riley Pontician

**Senior Riley Pontician**, daughter of John and Linda Pontician of Leesport, has been named a commended scholar in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended scholars are among a group of the 50,000 top scorers in the nation on the PSAT test. At Schuylkill Valley, Riley participates in the student council, is an executive committee member of the Pennsylvania Youth Education Association, and a captain in the Science Olympiad. Last fall, Riley was Schuylkill Valley's representative in the

Berks County Outstanding Young Woman competition and is a member of the National Honor Society, the girls' soccer and lacrosse teams, Leo club, *Pantherette*, Schuylkill Valley ambassadors, mock trial and fall play. She volunteers at the local food bank, helped to plan the high school's mini-THON for the Four Diamonds Fund, and assists with Special Olympics. After graduation, Riley plans to attend West Chester University as a nursing major.





## Band & Chorus Trip to Florida

Every four years, the Schuylkill Valley High School band and chorus travel to Florida to perform at Disney World. This year, the band performed in Magic Kingdom and the chorus performed in Disney Springs. Students stayed



in the All-Star Movies Resort, which featured posters and huge displays from all kinds of movies. Everyone had the chance to explore Epcot, Blizzard Beach, Disney Springs, Magic Kingdom, Hollywood Studios and Animal Kingdom, and each received a special Mickey Mouse cap, which is only given to those who perform in Disney World. In addition, each group was awarded a commemorative Mickey Mouse trophy, which will be displayed in



the high school. The trip was led by high school music educators **Mr. Anthony Deininger** and **Mr. Scott Piergrossi**. Other chaperones included **Miss Sarah Kreider** and **Mr. Andrew Smith**, elementary music educators, **Mrs. Kim Makosch** and **Dr. Mark Yingling**, middle school music educators, **Ms. Jess Harley**, high school art educator, **Mrs. Kelly Musket**, high school physical education teacher, **Mrs. Traci Pawling**, Spanish teacher, and **Mrs. Adrienne Williamson**, business education teacher.





# Concert Season

## Students Win RMF Scholarships

Congratulations to the following SV students, who were awarded merit scholarships from the Reading Musical Foundation, based on auditions.

**Brian Gambler**, 9th grade

The Willis M. Rapp Percussion Fund, second place tie.

**Annie Gao**, 7th grade

The Robert R. Kreitz-Mark A. Hornberger Piano Scholarship, third place.

**Emily Gao**, 8th grade

Runyeon Piano Fund, first place.

**Nathan Raver**, 9th grade

Ann W. Souders Piano Scholarship Fund, honorable mention.

**Ryan Szymczyk**, 10th grade

Henry A. and Elizabeth S. Gass Scholarship Fund, first place.

The month of May featured a musical panorama at all three schools in the district. On May 9, the high school chorus, Valley Voices, band and jazz band performed their spring concert. Chorus selections included songs from Tony Award-winning musicals “*Dear Evan Hansen*,” and “*Rent*,” and the movie “*The Greatest Showman*.” The jazz band played “*Bridge Over Troubled Water*,” by Paul Simon, and “*Jump*,” by Wynton Marsalis. The band performed the delightful “*Fantasia 2000*” and challenging “*Lightning Field*.” On May 23, the 7th and 8th grade band and chorus took the stage in the high school auditorium. The band performed “*The Phantom of the Opera*” and “*John Williams – Movie Adventures*,” while the jazz band presented “*You Are The Sunshine Of My Life*” and “*Sunny*.” The chorus sang a medley from “*Little Shop of Horrors*” and “*Inscription of Hope*,” with lyrics from a poem found written on the wall of a WWII concentration camp. On May 16, the 5th and 6th grade band and chorus presented their musical selections, including choral versions of “*Bohemian Rhapsody*” by the legendary band Queen, “*Africa*” by Toto, and “*Give Us Hope*,” a children’s song written in the aftermath of 9/11. The band rocked “*The Final Countdown*” by the ‘80s band Europe, and selections from the movie “*The Black Panther*.” The fourth grade band and chorus performed after the art show at the elementary school on May 15, featuring “*A Million Dreams*,” “*Music Alone Shall Live*,” “*Fanfare Heroica*,” and “*Dragon Dance*.”

Special thanks to the district’s music educators and interns – **Mr. Tony Deininger, Mr. Scott Piergrossi, Dr. Mark Yingling, Mrs. Kim Makosch, Mr. Andrew Smith, Miss Sarah Kreider**, and senior **Bailey Ammons** - who spent so many hours working with students to develop their talent and bring out their best.



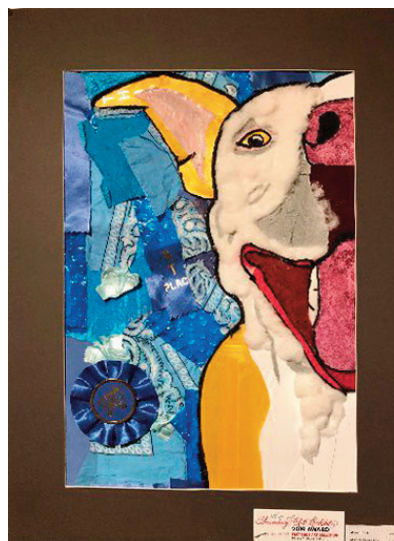
## ALUMNI | COMMUNITY



*Photo courtesy of Reading Eagle.*

**Ms. Kirsten Dimovitz**, SV class of 2013, volunteered last fall with the Boat Refugee Foundation as a member of a psycho-support team assisting refugees on the island of Lesbos in Greece. Stationed in the town of Moria from September through December, 2018, Ms. Dimovitz conducted psychosocial education and stress-relief classes for women fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries. A graduate of George Washington University with a degree in international affairs, Ms. Dimovitz plans to volunteer again this summer followed by graduate studies in human rights and humanitarian action at the London School of Economics or Sciences Po in Paris this fall.

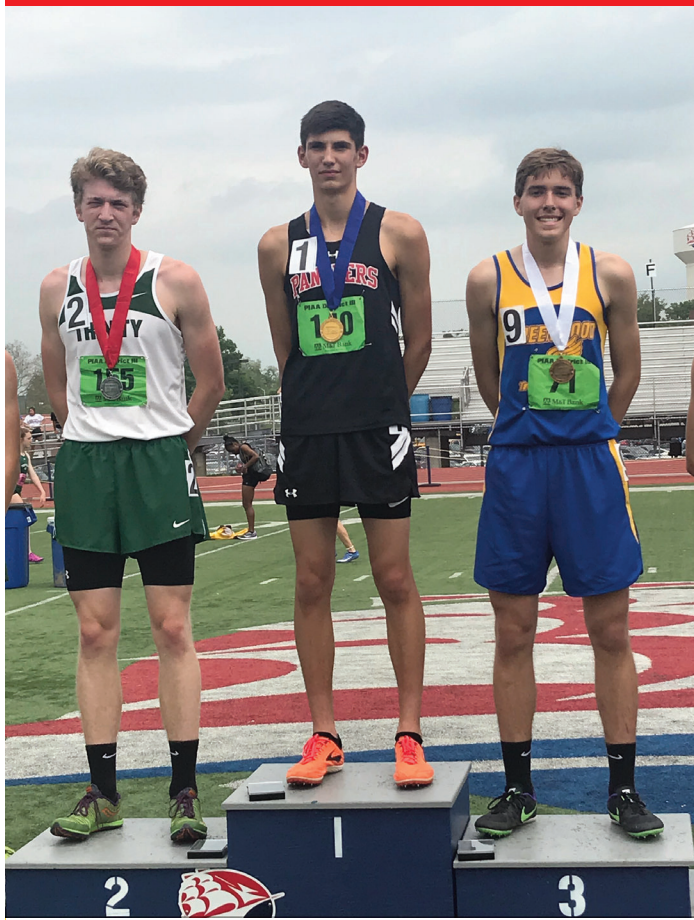
**Mr. Jacob Horst**, SV class of 2016, won his second USA Weightlifting Senior National title in the 67kg weight class in Memphis, Tennessee in May. In this Olympic weightlifting competition, Mr. Horst snatched 126kg (277.2 lbs) and lifted 152kg (334.4 lbs) in the clean and jerk. He won his first senior national title in 2016 while he was still competing in the junior division, and won the junior national title in 2017.



**Senior Megan Torok** was awarded second place for her painting "Happy Pitbull" in the Berks Arts Council's 2019 Fast Lane art competition on May 15. Her artwork was chosen from over 1,500 pieces submitted by 885 students from 22 school districts.

**Mrs. Lauren Ferreri**, SVHS head softball coach, biologist and Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area Manager for Lancaster and Lebanon, received the Woman of Environmental Education Award from the Pennsylvania Game Commission in March. The award honors Mrs. Ferreri's dedication to educating the community about sustainability and environmental policy. A graduate of Schuylkill Valley High School, Mrs. Ferreri earned her degree in Conservation and Wildlife Management from Delaware Valley College in 2010.

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Freshman **Luke Seymour** placed first in the District meet and sixth in the state in the 800m run.



Congratulations to the following students, who placed in the PIAA Class 2A state track and field championship, held at Shippensburg University, May 23-26. The girls' team placed 5th overall. The track and field head coaches are **Mr. Terry McKechnie** and **Mrs. Allison McKechnie**.

**Ashlyn Giles**, 10th grade – 4th in the shot put, 40–05.50.

**Luke Seymour**, 9th grade – 6th in the 800m run with a time of 1:57, a new personal record.

**Alex Milanek**, 11th grade – 11th in the pole vault, 13–0.

In the District III, Class 2A meet held at Shippensburg University, May 17 – 18, the girls' team came in tenth place. Individual achievements were:

**Madison Ziska**, 9th grade – Gold medals in the 400m run, with a time of 59.41, and in the long jump with a leap of 16' 7.75".

**Ashlyn Giles**, 10th grade – Silver medal in the shot put with a throw of 36'–00.75".

**Abigail Searfoss**, 10th grade – Tied for 6th place in the pole vault with a vault of 9.00'.

The boys' team placed third in the District meet, with individual and relay accomplishments as follows:

**Luke Seymour**, 9th grade – Gold medal in the 800m run, with a time of 1:58.74, and silver medal in the 3200m run, with a time of 9:54.85.

**Alex Milanek**, 11th grade – Bronze medal in the pole vault with a vault of 13'06".

3200 Relay Team: **Aiden Gensure**, 10th grade, **Brenden Livinghouse**, 12th grade, **Graham Haupt**, 11th grade, **Luke Seymour**, 9th grade – Bronze medal with a time of 8:17.48.

1600 Relay Team: **Wolf Arnold**, 10th grade, **Aiden Gensure**, 10th grade, **Graham Haupt**, 11th grade, **Luke Seymour**, 9th grade – 4th place with a time of 3:37.46.

**Leonard Bastien-Vilbrun**, 12th grade – 4th place in the triple jump with a jump of 41'–6".25 and 8th place in the long jump with a jump of 19'.5".

**Tanner Mountz**, 10th grade – 4th place in the shot put with a throw of 47'–06".5.

**Alex Gonzalez**, 11th grade – 5th place in the 100m dash with a time of 11.53.

**Allen Reitnouer**, 10th grade – 5th place in the 110m hurdles with a time of 15.94 and 6th place in the 300m hurdles with a time of 43.67.

**Brian Porter**, 11th grade – 6th place in the pole vault with a vault of 13'00".





Freshman **Madison Ziska** won gold at the District Track and Field meet at Shippensburg University in May.

The following senior student-athletes are planning to further their athletic career at the college level.

**Ashley DeAcosta** – Soccer at Marywood University

**Emily Griesemer** – Swimming at Messiah College

**Sydney Himmelberger** – Volleyball at Penn State Berks

**Jack Lynam** – Golf at Alvernia University

**Shane Newell** – Football at Delaware Valley University

**Ivey Rost** – Soccer at Penn State Altoona

**Emily Sellers** – Soccer at Albright College

**Tyler Siglin** – Lacrosse at Hood College

**Cheyenne Strunk** – Soccer at Delaware Valley University

**Emily VanderSleen** – Swimming at Ithaca College

**Katelyn VanderSleen** – Swimming at Franklin & Marshall College

**Boys' Volleyball** – advanced to county and district playoffs.

## THEATRE



The chorus line in Xanadu.

## Xanadu

Panthers-On-Parade presented the musical, “Xanadu,” directed by **Miss Katie Heffner**, language arts teacher, on April 4 and 5. The musical comedy, with a book written by Wyomissing native Douglas Carter Beane, is based on the 1980 film of the same name. It featured Greek mythology, students on roller skates and exciting musical numbers. Senior **Bridgette Bennett** played the female lead, Greek muse Clio/Kira, sophomore **Dan Koch** played the male lead, street artist Sonny Malone, and junior **Michael Hall** played real estate mogul Danny Maguire.



**Michael Hall**, 11th grade, **Bridgette Bennett**, 12th grade and **Dan Koch**, 10th grade.

*Photos courtesy of Brad Drey of Purdon Photography.*



TED-style talk presenters at the Genius Festival: L to R, **West Carlin**, **Jenna Kirby**, **Alexis Seymour**, **Kayley Weidner**, **Julia Yobb**, and **Brooke Shellhammer**.  
Missing: **Lance Gribbins**.



## Fourth Grade Chorus Sings National Anthem

The fourth grade chorus, led by **Miss Sarah Kreider**, elementary school music educator, sang the National Anthem to start the Fightin' Phils baseball game at Met-Ed Stadium on Schuylkill Valley night, April 30, 2019.

The 7th grade participated in the middle school's annual Genius Festival on March 27. The culmination of a year-long process, the Genius Festival gave attendees the chance to view students' projects in both recorded and live "TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design)-style Talks" held throughout the school. Interesting, entertaining and even bittersweet, the presentations showcased the amazing creativity of our middle school students.

With inspiration derived from the Albert Einstein quote, "Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid," the Genius Hour program was initiated a few years ago by **Mr. Codie Bender**, language arts teacher. At the start of the school year, all seventh-graders began their journey to discover a subject that sparked passion, something they could dedicate a Genius Hour per week, in class, to learning about or creating. Students collaborated to listen to each other's ideas, suggest improvements, challenges and potential pitfalls, all while supporting each other's choices. Once deliberating, researching and, in some cases, completely discarding their first idea in favor of another, every student worked diligently to bring their project to life. Some of their innovations were highlighted at the Genius Festival TED Talks, including Alexis Seymour's illustrations for a book entitled "Mommy Not Maid," Lance Gribbins' design for an under-skateboard first aid kit, and Jenna Kirby's Winnie-The-Pooh mural painted in memory of her grandmother. Special thanks to the entire 7th grade staff for supporting the students in the creative process of their Genius Hour projects.



**THE GOATZ****THE SKITTEZ**

## Charity Dodgeball Tournament

On May 22, two hundred SV middle school students had a ton of fun playing in their annual Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Dodgeball Tournament at the high school. In its sixth year, the tournament is held in memory of middle school language arts teacher **Mrs. Cathy Overman's** daughter, Nikki, who died at CHOP in 2004. Thirty-two six-person teams (three girls and three boys each) brought their best games and a spirited display of originally-designed t-shirts sporting the name of each team. Together, the students raised more than \$4,500 for CHOP. The results of the tournament were as follows:

### 5th/6th Grade Division

1st place: Dip and Dodge

2nd place: The Oof Squad

3rd Place: The Dangerous Dodgers

### 7th/8th Grade Division

1st Place: Balls of Fury

2nd Place: Swag Daddies

3rd Place: The Skittlez

Most Creative Team Name: Game of Throws

Best T-Shirt Design: The Goatz

Most School Spirit: The Terminators

**THE DANGEROUS DODGERS****CONCESSION STAND VOLUNTEERS****THE TERMINATORS****THE OOF SQUAD**



**MIDDLESCHOOL**

## Reading Olympics

On May 9 and 16, teams of readers from the elementary and middle school competed in the Reading Olympics at Governor Mifflin Intermediate School. Students answered questions from an assigned list of books, which they read throughout the school year. Camaraderie and competition were the words of the day as teams worked together in the spirit of reading for enjoyment.

Thanks to **Mrs. Emily Calaman**, middle school librarian, **Mrs. Stephanie Jacobs**, elementary school librarian, **Mrs. Elizabeth Schucker** and **Mrs. Marsha Townsend**, fourth grade teachers, for facilitating the teams, and **Mrs. Kathy Batson**, **Mr. Joel Kleinspehn**, **Mrs. Dena Krause**, **Mrs. Courtney Maguire**, **Miss Amy Schneiderhan** and **Ms. Helaine Young** for serving as moderators and scorers.

**ALL STAR READERS****REBEL READERS**

## Comic Relief

On May 20, renowned Marvel and DC graphic artist, **Mr. Bob McLeod**, presented his work to the sixth and seventh graders in conjunction with their language arts unit on graphic novels.

Mr. McLeod displayed many of his comic book strips, including Spiderman and Superman, and instructed students in how to create their own comic characters and scenes.

**BOOK BUSTERS**



## Middle School Art Show



On May 16, **Mrs. Ronda Seymour**, art educator at the middle school, presented the work of students in grades five through eight in the tenth annual Arts Festival. The art theme of this past school year was Africa, and students represented the culture and history of the continent in work ranging from drum design to mud cloth figures, to masks, beetles and baskets. The evening event included art gallery tours and make-and-take crafts in the art room, with face-painting, felt masks, hieroglyphics and jewelry-making led by student volunteers. Artwork was displayed throughout the school and attendees were invited to share their personal favorites. Many thanks to Mrs. Seymour and her assistants for gracing the halls of the middle school with meaningful and inspiring artwork.

## Middle School Pacer Test



8th grader Erin Livinghouse

7th grader Annie Gao

In **Mr. Nick Pirroco**'s physical education class, students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades participated in the PACER (Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run) fitness test. The objective of the PACER is to run as long as possible while keeping a specified pace. Students run back and forth across a 15-meter space at a pace that gets faster each minute. A point is scored for each 15-meter distance covered. The test is easier in the beginning but progressively gets more difficult. This year, **Annie Gao** set a new record for 7th grade with 76 laps, and **Erin Livinghouse** set a new record for 8th grade with 69 laps.



Mrs. Seymour



**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL****Elementary Read-A-Thon Assembly**

On May 10, the elementary school once again celebrated their first-in-county status in the annual Literacy Council of Reading-Berks' "Readers Win" fundraising campaign. For six out of the past seven years, SVES has brought in the highest amount of donations of all elementary schools in Berks County to support programs at the Literacy Council. **Mr. Ryan Breisch**, executive director of the Council, greeted students and presented a video that illustrated how the donations help individuals learn to read. Then it was time for fun!

**Mr. Mike Robinson**, executive director of community and fan development with the Fightin' Phils, **Mr. Aaron Brown**, Fightin' Phils pitcher, and Fightins' mascot Screwball arrived to enliven the crowd with silly antics, a trivia baseball game and heartfelt thanks for the school's support of reading. The visitors were met with Panther spirit and glee. Special thanks to **Mrs. Deborah Werstler**, Reading Specialist and Title I teacher, for overseeing the annual campaign and arranging the celebratory assembly.





**ELEMENTARY**SCHOOL

## Wishing for Peace

Exploring themes of acceptance, compassion and friendship illustrated in the book “*wishtree*,” the fourth grade recently participated in a special event to symbolize the story’s message.

The fable, written by Newbury Prize winning author Katherine Applegate, is told in first-person narrative by a 200-year-old tree named Red. In the story, every year on May 1st, people write their wishes on scraps of fabric and paper and tie them onto Red. One new neighbor, a 10-year-old Muslim girl, ties a “wish for a friend,” on the tree. When her family experiences racism and intolerance, and

the tree is vandalized, a menagerie of animals and humans work together to help bring peace and harmony back to the neighborhood.

After the fourth-grade teachers read the book aloud to their classes, students wrote their wishes on scraps of fabric and, on May 1st, in a celebration of friendship and caring, the wishes were tied onto a tree in the elementary school playground. Special thanks to **Mr. Jeremy Crills**, principal, and **Mr. James Blatt**, custodian, who set up the ladders and climbed them to place the ribbons in the tree.







## Special Track and Field Invitational Meet

On May 7, 155 students from **Antietam School District**, **Brandywine Heights Area School District**, **Conrad Weiser School District**, the **Berks County Intermediate Unit PAL program** and **Oley Valley Area School District** joined **Schuylkill Valley School District** to compete in the Schuylkill Valley Special Track and Field Invitational. Sporting the motto, "Believe in us, because we can achieve, too," each student-athlete participated in a jumping event, a throwing event and a foot race, and received a first through sixth place ribbon for their accomplishments.

The event was filled with smiles and high-fives between athletes, their families and supporters. Students were able to participate with their same-ability peers, compete at their level and put aside some of their everyday challenges. All students were treated to lunch, which was donated by SV businesses and community. Special thanks to **Miss Dana Carter**, middle school special education teacher, for being the heart and soul of this event each year. Please see the next page for a list of all the SV students who participated and their student buddies/helpers.

We are grateful to the following business and organizations for making the day possible through their donations:

Angels on Wheels Ice Cream Truck  
 Appeeling Fruit Holdings  
 CHICCO-ARTSANA  
 Conner Kleffel Memorial Fund  
 Dieffenbach's Potato Chips  
 Herr's Foods  
 Redner's Warehouse Market  
 Schuylkill Valley High School Art Program  
 Schuylkill Valley High School National Honor Society  
 Schuylkill Valley Middle School PTO  
 Schuylkill Valley Middle School Select Chorus  
 Schuylkill Valley Middle School Student Council  
 Schuylkill Valley Elementary PTO  
 Schuylkill Valley Community  
 Sheetz  
 Tom Sturgis Pretzels  
 Unique Pretzels







## Schuylkill Valley Invitational Special Track and Field Meet Athletes

### KINDERGARTEN

**Takota Arceo, Serenity Laub, Ryder Legsretta, Alexa Stevenson, Alex Zahariadis**

### 1ST GRADE

**Mason Shupp**

### 2ND GRADE

**Levi Roland, Hamid Sheriff, Rashid Sheriff**

### 3RD GRADE

**Raymond Burch, Bodi Hess, Lyla Stoltz, Tyler Trate, Zack Zahariadis**

### 4TH GRADE

**Eric Delcamp, Elijah Kulp**

### 5TH GRADE

**Cameron Alvarez, Aliah Fox, Kiara Jeter, Aubrey Kriebel, Shane Pyne, Shiloh Stevenson, Cory Thomas**

### 6TH GRADE

**Alex DiFatta, Jacob Lockard, Yajamaris Mateo**

### 7TH GRADE

**Sebastian Alvarez, Dylan Ehrnfeldt, TJ MacDougal, Derrick Palamar, Ethan Strause**

### 8TH GRADE

**Bailey Berger, Caden Hummel, Mathyas Jones**

### 9TH GRADE

**Alex Arredondolopez, Hoxquelin Gomez-Contrares**

### 10TH GRADE

**Harley Watts**

### 12TH GRADE

**Brian Hamm, Ceaira Hunsicker, Tanner Jerdan,**

### 12TH +

**Carly Eckenroth, Jacob Jerdan**

## SPECIAL TRACK AND FIELD INVITATIONAL

### SV BUDDIES AND HELPERS

#### 8TH GRADE

**Aaron Bruchez, Brock Dejesus, Michael Goad, Peyton James, Mark Rajnath, Jaden Swain, Nia Wagner, Logan Weller, Gary Wenzel, Helene Yerger**

#### 9TH GRADE

**Autumn Border, Gabbie DeMarco, Ben Eddinger, Megan Ehrnfeldt, Sarah Gilbert, Anna Gwiazdowski, Maddie Hess, Bryce Hill, Eli Hoffman, Jessica Hummel, Julia Kowalski, Rob Leh, Reagan Rittenhouse, Abigail Sisco, Riley Slifer, Lekaiah Solomon, Julissa Sonon, Kyle Spotts, Madison Ziska**

#### 10TH GRADE

**Allison Ammarell, Wolf Arnold, Jacob Braucher, Luke Braucher, Kara Faulk, Ashlyn Giles, Hannah Kolasa, Tanner Mountz, Harlee Neuin, Jillian Phillips, Nate Schaeffer, Jenna Weidenhammer, Abby White**

#### 11TH GRADE

**Luke Ammarell, Tessa Dracha, Sam Eddinger, Aaron Geisinger, Sadie Goad, Malachi Kauffman, Michael Knowles, Hannah Phillips, Abi Rea, Danielle Readinger, Cassidy Rittenhouse, Jordan Shekalus**

#### 12TH GRADE

**Alayna Cerankowski, Ashleigh DeAcosta, Cody Eckenroth, Angie Guydik, Liz Heffner, Amanda Hoover, Alexis Kowalski, Jack Lynam, Emily Orth, Riley Pontician, Andre Rivera, Molly Weidner, Molly Wenzel**

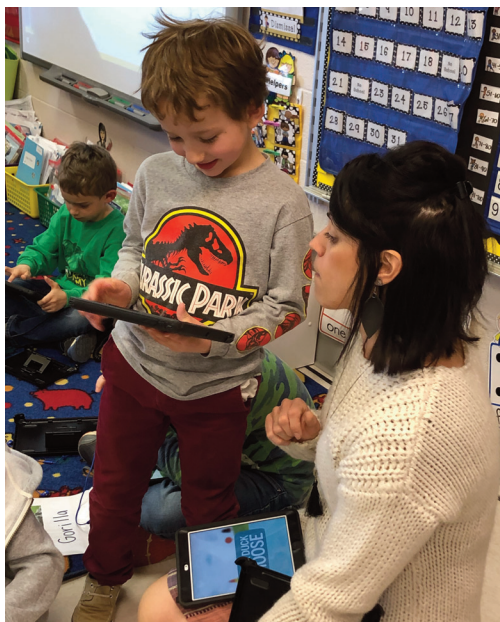




## DISTRICTNEWS



Mr. Joe Murphy, Ashley Furniture Industries, presents a check to Mr. Howard Emerson, middle school STEAM teacher, and Dr. Cindy Mierzejewski, district superintendent.



## District Technology Day

During the district's annual Technology Day on April 3, **Mr. Joe Murphy**, Senior Director of Operations at Ashley Furniture Industries, presented the middle school STEAM program with a check for \$1,500. The money will be used to purchase CNC router and engraver kits, which will be built by members of the STEAM club for students to utilize. We are grateful for the support and partnership of this generous business neighbor.

Participants in Technology Day visited the district's three schools and observed high school students in the photography and music labs, middle school students working in teams to assemble scissor lifts out of paper and popsicle sticks, and kindergarteners using iPads to create reports on animals, among many other demonstrations of technology being used in the classroom. Special thanks to **Mr. Michael Billman**, Director of Instructional and Information Technology, for showcasing the district's innovative technological curriculum.







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SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Special Dates to Remember

The first day of school is August 26!

**August 13–15**, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., 5th Grade Locker Orientation

**August 19**, 5:30 p.m., Kindergarten ONLY  
Bus Ride and Meet The Teacher Night

**August 21**, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Grades 1 through 4  
Meet The Teacher Night

**August 21**, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., 5th Grade  
Scavenger Hunt and Meet The Teacher Night

**August 22**, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., 6th - 8th Grade  
Meet The Teacher Night

**September 11**, 6:30 p.m., 9th - 12th Grade  
Meet The Teacher Night



Our special student-athletes were recognized at the Board of Directors' meeting on May 27 in the Leroy G. Seip Room at the high school.