

around the VALLEY

SPRING 2020



929 lakeshore drive
leesport PA 19533-8631

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Virtual Spirit Week May 4-8

Show your SV pride! The Pennsylvania Youth Education Association (PYEA) at Schuylkill Valley will hold a Virtual Spirit Week on Instagram the week of May 4 – 8. ALL students in the district, from elementary through high school, are invited to participate! To join in the fun, follow the PYEA using its Mini-THON Instagram page, [@svhsmini_thon](https://www.instagram.com/svhsmini_thon)

Just post your picture with the theme for each day:

Monday, May 4

Star Wars Day

Tuesday, May 5

Pajama Day

Wednesday, May 6

Gold Out and/or Mini-THON shirt day

Thursday, May 7

Throwback Thursday

Friday, May 8

Panther Pride (Red and Black) Day

A winner will be chosen each day via an Instagram vote from a group of semifinalists chosen by PYEA officers. All semifinalists will win a "For The Kids" swag bag and the finalists for each day will also get a gift card.

Each year, PYEA holds a mini-THON event to raise money for the Four Diamonds Fund. Four Diamonds supports cancer research and ensures that any family who has a child battling pediatric cancer at Penn State Children's Hospital in Hershey never sees a medical bill. This year, the mini-THON has been cancelled due to Covid-19, but the need still exists. If you would like to contribute to Four Diamonds on behalf of the SV PYEA, please use our direct donation link:

fourdiamonds.donordrive.com/event/schuylkillvalleyhsminithon



| IN THIS ISSUE: | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | Superintendent's Message | SVHS Best in U.S. New Asst. Principal MS | NHS Skills USA Gold Medals | Panther Robotics | Make A Wish | Good Works Cheerleading News | High School Fall & Winter Sports |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | |
| Youth Activities | MS Spelling Bee Jr. NHS | Geography Bee Winners | ES Building Strong STEMs | ES Readers Pie in the Face Author Visit | Enviroscape Rainbow Trout Update | Proud Panthers | Faculty Award Alumni News | |

**SCHUYLKILL VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**929 Lakeshore Drive
Leesport PA 19533-8631**Dr. Cindy Mierzejewski**
Superintendent**Mr. Michael T. Mitchell, Jr.**
High School Principal**Mrs. Melissa Kelchner**
High School Assistant Principal**Mr. Joshua Kuehner**
Middle School Principal**Mrs. Courtney Maguire**
Assistant Middle School Principal**Mr. Jeremy L. Crills**
Elementary School Principal**Mr. Jason Williams**
Assistant Elementary School Principal**Mrs. Dawn Harris**
Director, Special Education & Pupil Services**Dr. Janet Heilman**
Director of Teaching and Learning**Mr. Michael Billman**
Director, Information Technology**Mr. Brian D. Feick**
Business Manager**Mrs. Changming Wang**
Assistant Business Manager**Mr. Casey Blankenbiller**
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**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**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 NUMBERSAdministration 610-916-0957
High School 610-926-1706
Middle School 610-926-7111
Elementary School 610-926-4165**superintendent's
MESSAGE****Greetings SV Community –**

These are very interesting times. There have been, at a minimum, great disruptions to our lives. Some have suffered through illnesses and losses. Many mental health experts advocate for identifying things for which we are grateful in these trying times. Here are some things for which I am grateful.

I am grateful for our administrative team and teachers. In many aspects of our lives, including the education of our children, we are sailing in new waters. These waters are not completely uncharted. Schuylkill Valley has been well on the way to a full one-to-one device initiative, but the rapid transition to online learning with no ramp-up opportunity has been challenging.

Within the first several weeks of building closure, Schuylkill Valley was able to develop a continuity of education plan that began as enrichment/review activities, and then progressed to a fuller attempt to replicate to some degree what would be happening in our physical classrooms. Our SV team has stepped up to the task and they will continue to evaluate what this means when we return to school buildings and our “normal” structure. We will look to address the needs of all of our students and move them forward.

I am grateful to our food service department for the hard work that they are putting forth in making sure that our students in need are receiving meals even though our buildings are closed. I am grateful for our business office, human resources and operations staff because they are all continuing to work at a fast pace that is always changing.

I am grateful for our students and SV families who were thrown into a new and challenging situation and have stepped up to do the best that they can. It is not easy to make daily lessons a priority in homes where there are a lot of other disruptions to life. We appreciate everyone's efforts to help our students.

As I write this message to you, we are still traveling down a road on which we cannot see around the next curve. Although we have many unanswered questions, we will continue to seek the answers as we take the next steps in our global, national and statewide society. The Schuylkill Valley School District, staff and Board of directors will need to evaluate and plan for each new and interesting step along the way. We are all grateful for the SV community's support and we assure you that we will continue to get through all of this together.

Dr. Cindy Mierzejewski
Superintendent

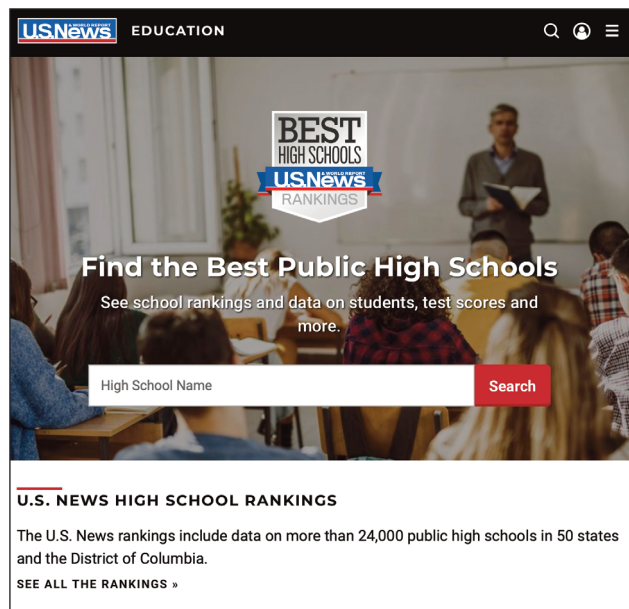
This newsletter is the official publication of the Schuylkill Valley School District. Submit news of school or community interest to editor Mrs. Anne Ostrowski at svdistrictnewsletter@gmail.com. Please include your name and phone number for verification.

SVHS

Again Named One of the Best Schools in the U.S.

It's official! For the second year in a row, Schuylkill Valley High School has been named a Best High School, based on rankings published by *U.S. News & World Report*. The school achieved this status by earning a national ranking in the top 40% of nearly 18,000 schools nationwide. Locally, we ranked fourth out of 22 high schools in Berks County (moving up two places from last year), behind Wyomissing, Wilson and Boyertown. SV is in the top fifteen percent of all Pennsylvania high schools, ranking 115 out of 754 in the state. And nationally, we ranked in the top seventeen percent of all high schools, at 2,990 out of 17,792. Schools are ranked on their students' performance on state-required tests, graduation rates and how well they prepare their students for college. To view the *U.S. News & World Report*'s profile page on Schuylkill Valley, please go to this site: <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/pennsylvania/districts/schuylkill-valley-sd/schuylkill-valley-high-school-17315>

Congratulations to the leadership, staff, students and families for this well-deserved honor!



Meet our new Elementary School Assistant Principal Mr. Jason Williams

The Schuylkill Valley community warmly welcomes **Mr. Jason Williams**, the new assistant principal at the elementary school. Hired to replace **Mrs. Melissa Rhoads**, who accepted a position as principal at Conrad Weiser Elementary East, Mr. Williams is originally from Palmerton in Carbon County, PA. He and his family, wife Katie, an instructional coach in the Reading School District, and four children, Braden, Colin, Maeri Kate, and Adalynn, reside in Blandon. They have two dogs and a cat.

Mr. Williams earned his bachelor's degree from Kutztown University and his master's degree

from Cabrini University. He has an English as a Second Language specialist certification from Penn State and spent fifteen years employed in the Reading School District as a second-grade teacher, fifth-grade math teacher and sixth-grade English/Language Arts teacher. An avid baseball fan, Mr. Williams volunteers for any sport in which his children are playing, loves to read and fish, and enjoys visiting the beach and Knoebels Amusement Park with his family.

As the new elementary assistant principal, Mr. Williams plans to get to know the faculty, students and families in the district while assisting **Mr. Jeremy Crills**, principal, during this new journey of online learning. "My long-term goals include maintaining academic excellence while promoting a safe and nurturing learning environment," he said. "I feel blessed to be joining such an amazing school community and I look forward to meeting everyone!"



HIGH SCHOOL



National Honor Society Induction

On February 13, twenty-one students were inducted into the National Honor Society in a ceremony held in the high school auditorium. Senior Julia Stricker was the master of ceremonies, and retired science chair and teacher **Mr. David Smith** gave the main address. Also giving speeches on the four pillars – character, leadership, scholarship and service – were students **Hannah Phillips, Cassidy Rittenhouse, Byron Searle, and Jenna Stoudt.**

The newest inductees are:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Addison Angstadt | Timothy Horrell |
| Steel Boyer | Ella Jenkins |
| Jennifer Brown | Vanessa Jones |
| Lily Dang | Jillian Phillips |
| Tanner Davis | Skylar Renninger |
| Brice Dornblaser | Isabella Romig |
| Tessa Dracha | Nathan Schaeffer |
| Kara Faulk | Emily Starr |
| Aiden Gensure | Samantha Stewart |
| Zachary Heffner | Emily Zaharia |
| Michael Herman | |

Skills USA Gold Medals

SV students **Alex Milanek** and **Reese Nowotarski** scored gold in the SkillsUSA district competition held in February. Alex earned first place in CNC Milling Technology and Reese was awarded first place in Welding Fabrication. They were two of sixty-three students from Berks Career and Technology Center and Reading-Muhlenberg Career and Technology Center who participated in the annual event, which showcases the skills of students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations. Congratulations!

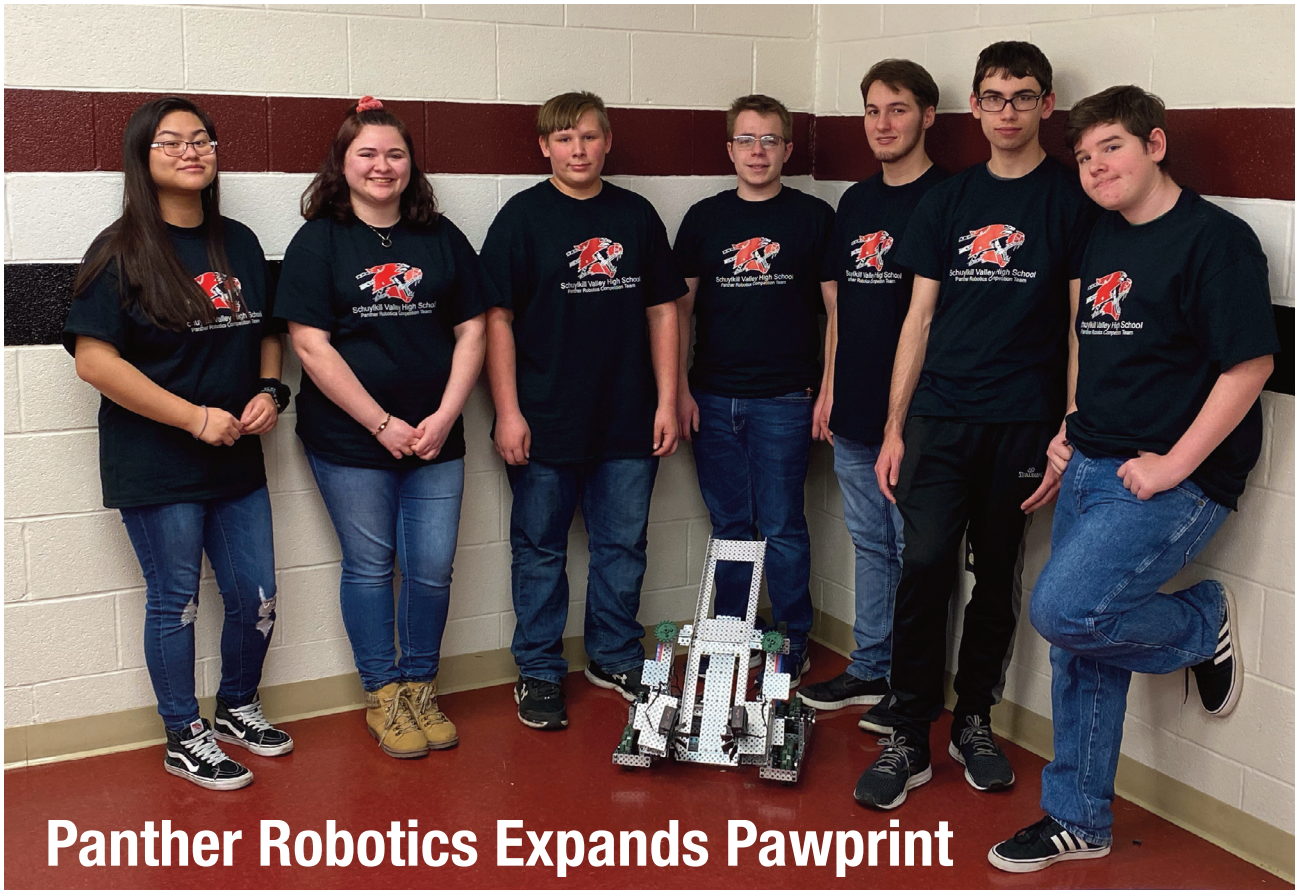


Alex Milanek



Reese Nowotarski

HIGH SCHOOL



Panther Robotics Expands Pawprint

The Schuylkill Valley Panther Robotics team continues to develop and grow as an extra-curricular academic STEM team open to all SVHS students in grades 9 – 12. Started in the 2017-2018 school year by **Mr. Matt Cullen**, technology and engineering education teacher, the team provides STEM opportunities for high school students to participate in robotics competition. Reinforcing technology and engineering education curriculum while focusing on 21st century skills, STEM concepts and teamwork, the team has grown by more than 200% with new female members participating and competing. Sponsored by local corporations Reading Precast, Ashley Furniture Manufacturing and Cambridge-Lee Industries, the team has completed three successful years in the international VEX Robotics Competition at regional and state level competitions. These competitions bring STEM skills to life by tasking students with designing and building a robot to play against other teams in a game-based engineering challenge. This year's team placed 17th overall and made it to 9th place in the final tournament round at the Central

Pennsylvania Regional VEX Competition held in Camp Hill.

In addition, the team's schedule has expanded to include a new event

sponsored by the United States Navy and Penn State University's Engineering and Applied Research Laboratory. The Sea, Air and Land Challenge is an Office of Naval Research Sponsored program, in which teams of high school students learn the engineering process through the design of a system relevant to the Department of Defense. The systems are then used to compete in challenges that mimic missions encountered by the military, national security agencies and first responders. The Sea, Air and Land Challenge provides the opportunity for high school students and youth organizations to work together with educators and industry mentors. Teams have twelve to sixteen weeks to design unmanned vehicles and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) payloads to compete in predefined sets of challenges. The challenges are designed by Penn State Applied Research Laboratory engineers and some of the country's finest Navy SEALs and Green Berets. In participating, students learn lifelong skills in teamwork, leadership, communications and more. For more information on the Panther Robotics Program, corporate sponsorships, donations and volunteer opportunities, please contact Mr. Matt Cullen at mcullen@schuylkillvalley.org.



HIGH SCHOOL



Making Wishes Come True

The Shorter family, with Isaiah in the center in maroon sweatshirt.

In an example of “kids helping kids,” SVHS tenth grader **Jonathon Werley** has once again helped to make a dream come true. Every year starting in 2017, Jonathon has supported the Make-A-Wish Foundation with a significant donation from the sale of a farm animal he has raised. His donation forms the foundation for additional contributions to Make-A-Wish from friends and family, and companies that support his 4-H efforts, so that his total donation may help a child in need. Last year, Jonathon’s donation was used to make a dream come true for a Lancaster County boy fighting cancer. **Isaiah Shorter**, a talented high school football player, was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor in 2017. To keep Isaiah focused on his healing, his parents and family put his dream of having a treehouse oasis at the forefront of his recovery. Last spring, Isaiah, then cancer-free, was granted his wish. In June, work started on the project, but a challenge arose when the treehouse’s support posts, donated by a company in Albany, NY needed to be transported to Lancaster. Make-

A-Wish reached out to the Mother’s Day convoy truck drivers and Make-A-Wish supporters looking for a volunteer to trek to Albany to pick up the posts. Jonathon and his father, Travis, signed up to make the trip. When the day came, Jonathon found that he could not take the day off from school, but his Dad went and picked up the posts and delivered them, along with Jonathon and his mother, Lisa, to the Shorters’ home for the groundbreaking ceremony. There they got to meet the family and, returning on October 3, participated in the completed treehouse’s moving “Proclamation.” On that day, Jonathon quietly presented his 2019 donation to **Cathy Haynes** of the Make-A-Wish Foundation’s Lancaster regional office, laying the framework for the next wish to come true. Sadly, due to Covid-19, the 2020 Mother’s Day Truck Convoy has been postponed. But Jonathon’s family, wanting him to remember that what he is doing is making a difference in the life of a young person, hung a Make-A-Wish sign in their barn near his animals this year. This is a daily reminder to Jonathon that all of his hard work gives life and hope to a child who will suffer from a life-threatening illness long after Covid-19 is over.

10th grader **Jonathon Werley** presented his annual donation in October to **Cathy Haynes**, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Lancaster.



HIGH SCHOOL**GOOD WORKS****Feeding Our Families**

Thank you to the **Conner A. Kleffel** Memorial Foundation, which began serving free meals to our community in the immediate days after school was suspended due to the Covid-19 crisis. In memory of their son and brother, Conner, a Schuylkill Valley eighth-grader who passed away in 2017, School Board member **Mrs. Nici Kleffel**, her husband, Brad, and their daughter Brynley, along with a host of volunteers, have been preparing and delivering meals to anyone in need in the district. "I know that Conner would have been

right there in this pandemic, doing everything he could to help," Mrs. Kleffel said. "We love providing for our community. It's what we are called to do."

If anyone in the Schuylkill Valley community, regardless of age, is in need of meals due to the Covid-19 crisis, please contact Mrs. Kleffel at 610-223-7116, by email at bnckleffel@gmail.com, or go to the Fly Conner Fly Facebook page. The Foundation is funded through annual events and community donations.



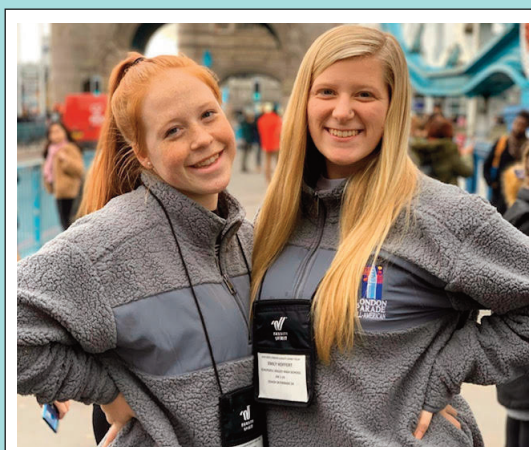
The Conner A. Kleffel Memorial Foundation provides meals to our community every week in the Covid-19 crisis.

Contributions to the Conner A. Kleffel Memorial Scholarship fund, which benefits graduating seniors, may be made out to Schuylkill Valley School District, "Conner Kleffel Scholarship" in the memo line, and sent to:

Schuylkill Valley School District
Attn: Mr. Brian Feick
929 Lakeshore Drive
Leesport, PA 19533

cheerleading news**Reach the Beach**

The Varsity Cheer Competition Team won first place in the Intermediate Co-Ed Varsity division of the "Reach The Beach" Nationals Cheer Competition in Ocean City, Maryland in February. The team was awarded a surfboard trophy and jackets for their accomplishment.

**London Calling**

Emily Hoffert and **Chloe Peters**, members of the SV cheer team, welcomed 2020 in London, England's New Year's Day parade. Having achieved All-American status at the National Cheerleaders Association camp last summer, the students were two of eight cheerleaders from Schuylkill Valley who were eligible to take the trip. In between practices for the parade, which was broadcast on PBS, Emily and Chloe had the chance to tour the city and ring in the new year.

HIGH SCHOOL



Boys' Basketball

Malachi Kauffman – Congratulations to Malachi Kauffman, who scored his 1000th point at the home game against Antietam on December 30, 2019. Malachi, a son of David and Lisa Kauffman of Leesport, joins SV boys' basketball alumni **Darin Walls** (1,695), **Manny Yarde** (1,464), **Danny Dunkelberger** (1,049) and **Mark Bachman** (1,022) in reaching this milestone. A four-year starter, Malachi averaged 21.7 points and 9 rebounds per game, with a career total of 1,293 points. He scored a school-record 44 points in the game against Tulpehocken this year. Malachi, who also participated in Leo Club and baseball, was also named to the 2019-2020 All-Berks team.

Nathan Schaeffer – All-Division III

Tyrus Kauffman – All-Division III Honorable Mention

Football

The following students were recognized by the Reading Eagle as All-Academic Football Players in 2019:

Luke Ammarell, Defensive End/Tight End

Vladimir Caba, Special Teams

Drew Campbell, Linebacker

Zach Heffner, Kicker/Punter

Nicco Iaccarino, Quarterback/Defensive End

Michael Knowles, Wide Receiver/Defensive Back

Michael Krishock, Special Teams

Tanner Mountz, Wide Receiver/Linebacker

Kyle Rautzhan, Offensive Line

Nate Schaeffer, Wide Receiver

James Stelluti, Guard

In addition, Luke Ammarell, Alex Gonzalez, Nicco Iaccarino and Michael Knowles were selected to the Berks County All-Star Football Team. This year, the format of the All-Star game, which, in the absence of Covid-19, would have been played against the Chester County All-Star team in the Valor Bowl in May, was different than in years past. As a result, selection to the team was very competitive, having been determined by all the head football coaches in the county. Congratulations to these players for this honor!

FALL & WINTER SPORTS



Senior **Cassidy Rittenhouse**, recipient of the county's Jean Frey Award

Girls' Basketball

Abby Rea – 2019-2020 All-Berks team selection. Abby averaged 12.6 points per game and helped the team finish tied for first in Berks division II.

Cassidy Rittenhouse – All-Division II. Cassidy was also awarded the prestigious 2019-2020 Jean Frey Award, which recognizes one senior Berks County basketball player for exceptional character and leadership qualities. A daughter of Keith and Sharon Rittenhouse of Centre Township, Cassidy is the girls' basketball team co-captain, plays on the softball team, is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Honor Society, president of the Leo Club, Literary Magazine Art Editor, SV

Ambassador (Treasurer) and serves on the Yearbook Club, Debate Club and Rotary Youth Leadership Camp. She will attend Shippensburg University on an academic scholarship to study Civil Engineering in the fall.

Abbey White – All-Division II

Lekaiah Solomon – All-Division II Honorable Mention

Madison Ziska – All-Division II Honorable Mention

Girls' Coach **Mr. Jason Bagenstose** – All-Division II

Wyomissing Girls' Coach **Mr. Michael Mitchell, Jr.** (SVHS Principal) – All-Division III

Girls' Bowling

Eleventh-grader **Aubree Hoster**, daughter of Matt and Suzanne Hoster of Centre Township, was awarded the first ever "Coaches' Inspiration Award" from the Berks County Bowling Coaches' Association. Aubree, a varsity player who is legally blind, has been bowling throughout her high school career, and increased her average by 13 pins this year over last. Aubree shows her devotion to the team and her own game by going out and practicing on the weekends with her parents. Coach **Miss Amanda Wilson** said that Aubree's hard work has been noticed by her teammates and others around the county. "Although at times bowling can be a very frustrating sport, Aubree never gave up and was always a good teammate to the other varsity girls and opposing teams," Miss Wilson said. "As a coach, bowlers/ athletes like Aubree make coaching enjoyable." Congratulations, Aubree!



Wrestling

Gary Deyarmin – All-Division II

Carlens Lapaix – All-Division II Honorable Mention

Colby Ernst – All-Division II Honorable Mention

Gabe Kolasa – All-Division II Honorable Mention

Christian Davila – All-Division II Honorable Mention

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



Swimming

Girls' Swimming, coached by **Mr. Kyle Campbell**, won the District III Championship for the fourth consecutive year.

Girls' District III Medals

200 Medley Relay – 1st place:

Marlee Rickert, Aryanna Kulp, Megan Ehrnfelddt, Katie Eisenhofer

200 Free Relay – 1st place:

Marlee Rickert, Megan Ehrnfelddt, Emily Gao, Katie Eisenhofer

400 Free Relay – 1st place:

Emily Gao, Megan Raifsnider, Aryanna Kulp, Katie Eisenhofer

200 Free – **Marlee Rickert**, 1st place

100 Backstroke – **Marlee Rickert**, 1st Place

100 Butterfly – **Megan Ehrnfelddt**, 1st place

500 Free – **Megan Ehrnfelddt**, 1st place

100 Breaststroke – **Katie Eisenhofer**, 6th Place

200 Free – **Megan Raifsnider**, 7th place

200 IM – **Emily Gao**, 7th place

500 Free – **Megan Raifsnider**, 7th Place

Boys' District III Medals

200 Free – **Brock Dalton**, 3rd place

500 Free – **Brock Dalton**, 4th place

100 Butterfly – **Chris Zeiner**, 4th place

100 Free – **Chris Zeiner**, 6th place

500 Free – **Jayden Seymour**, 6th place

200 Free – **Kory Sander**, 8th place

200 Free Relay – 8th place: **Jayden Seymour, Aiden Moyer, Michael Hall, Brock Dalton**

Swimmers selected for Central Penn Interscholastic Swimming League (CPL) Teams

Marlee Rickert – 2nd team, 200 Free

Megan Ehrnfelddt – 2nd team, 100 Butterfly

Megan Ehrnfelddt – 3rd team, 500 Free

Katie Eisenhofer – 3rd team, 100 Breast

Jayden Seymour – 3rd team, 200 IM

200 Medley Relay Team – **Marlee Rickert, Aryanna Kulp, Megan Ehrnfelddt, Katie Eisenhofer** – 3rd team

Mr. Kyle Campbell was selected as the CPL Girls' Swimming Coach of the Year.

PIAA State Championship Seeds

The SV swim team arrived at Bucknell University on Thursday, March 12, for check-in and practice for the PIAA state championship, which was scheduled to be contested that Friday and Saturday. As the coaches registered the swimmers, Bucknell and the PIAA postponed the event due to the Covid-19 crisis. Eventually, the swimming state championship was cancelled along with the remainder of the sport season. However, our students achieved remarkable seeds for this meet and we want to honor their accomplishments.

PIAA Girls' Seeds

200 Medley Relay - 1:46.83, 2nd Overall Seed

200 Free Relay – 1:38.24, 2nd Overall Seed

200 Free – **Marlee Rickert**, 1:50.89, 1st Overall Seed

100 Backstroke – **Marlee Rickert**, 56.00, 1st Overall Seed

200 IM – **Emily Gao**, 2:13.14

100 Butterfly – **Emily Gao**, 1:00.13

100 Butterfly – **Megan Ehrnfelddt**, 56.71

500 Free – **Megan Ehrnfelddt**, 5:07.52

100 Breaststroke – **Katie Eisenhofer**, 1:07.71

400 Free Relay - 3:46.41

PIAA Boys' Seeds

200 Free – **Brock Dalton**, 1:46.88

100 Butterfly – **Chris Zeiner**, 54.49

100 Free – **Chris Zeiner**, 49.08

500 Free – **Jayden Seymour**, 4:59.63

500 Free – **Brock Dalton**, 4:55.23



Middle school ice hockey players won gold this year

Hot Shots Basketball Tournament



Tanner Staus

Elyssa Sellers

Ice Hockey

Congratulations to the following students, who play ice hockey for the Schuylkill Valley-Fleetwood-Conrad Weiser team:

Ty Loftus – 2019-2020 First Team, All-East Penn Scholastic Hockey League (EPSHL)

Luke Jozwiak – 2019-2020 Second Team, All EPSHL

Cody Rotkiske – 2019-2020 Second Team, All EPSHL

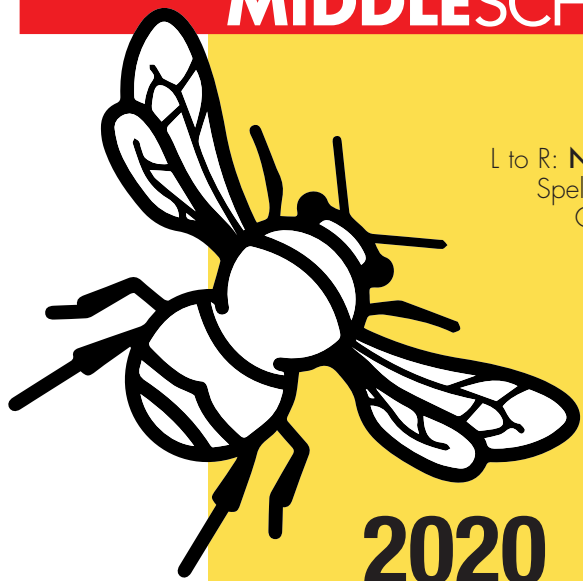
Tucker Jozwiak – 2019-2020 Honorable Mention

Devin Unger – 2019 2020 Honorable Mention

The varsity, junior varsity and middle school ice hockey teams all made the playoffs this year. Middle school players, who merged with Exeter and Governor Mifflin, earned first place gold medals while varsity and junior varsity ended their season with second place silver medals.

The SV Youth Basketball association held its annual Hot Shots Tournament in February. Students in grades two through six had the opportunity to make shots from several locations around the key, followed by a fundraising three-point contest for anyone in attendance. **Derek Grim**, 6th grade, son of boys' basketball coach, **Mr. Taylor Grim**, won the three-point contest and sixth-graders **Elyssa Sellers** and **Tanner Staus** won first place in their grade in the tournament. Their names will be engraved on the Hot Shots trophy, which is displayed in the sixth-grade hall at the middle school.

MIDDLESCHOOL



L to R: **Noah Herman**,
Spelling Bee 2020
Champion, and
Ava Ramirez,
runner-up

2020 Spelling Bee



“Lettuce” congratulate the winner of the 2020 Schuylkill Valley Middle School Spelling Bee! Sixth-grader **Noah Herman**, the son of Steve and Meg Herman of Centre Township, was crowned the champion upon correctly spelling the word “arugula,” after a grueling twenty-nine round bee on February 14. Fifth-grader **Ava Ramirez** was the runner-up and went head to head with Noah for nineteen rounds. These students were two of approximately 120 students from fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades who participated in the preliminary spelling bee to try and secure a spot in the finals.

After elimination rounds, the twenty-three students who earned a berth in this exciting competition were:

8th Grade: **Jett Gyomber, Adrianna Madden, Tayson Merkel, Delenny Rosario, Laura Schlappich**

7th Grade: **Calvin Arndt, Landon Hueske, Madison Miller**

6th Grade: **Ian Christman, Isabel Consugar, Scarlet Grosselfinger, Noah Herman, Conner Quesenberry, Aaron Raver, Tristan Waruszewski**

5th Grade: **Rhilynn Ciesla, Greyson Dennis, Kaitlyn Flowers, Alyson Horning, Gabrielle Leone, Ava Ramirez, Ruby Rochotte, Angelina Yasin**

SV Junior Honor Society

The Schuylkill Valley Junior Honor Society, formerly known as the National Junior Honor Society, inducted twenty-seven new members in the month of March. Due to the coronavirus state-mandated school shutdown, the students were not able to participate in a formal induction ceremony. Advised by **Mrs. Dana Heins**, middle school social studies teacher, these seventh-grade students uphold the pillars of character, citizenship, leadership, scholarship and service. They are:

Brooke Andrews
Mackenzie Bachman
Benjamin Bitting
Makayla Bowers
Isabella Burch
Paige Chase
Kowen Gerner
Gabriel Gigliotti
Morgan Greiser
Kylie Gunter

Landon Hueske
Mason Leh
Dominic Leone
Adilene LeRoy
Jacob Lockard
Ashleigh Mask
Madison Miller
Logan Nawrocki
Katelyn Raymond
Caitlyn Real

Taryn Rittenhouse
Abigail Ruth
Kayla Shaw
Nico Solvino
Justin Weidner
Meghan Wickersham
Javed Yasin

MIDDLESCHOOL



2020 Geography Bee participants

L to R: **Madison Miller**,
2020 Champion **Calvin Arndt**,
Emmitt Mackes, Mr. **Tod Witman**

Mining a Win in the Geography Bee

Seventh-grader **Calvin Arndt**, the son of Sherry and Jeff Arndt of Mohrsville, won the 28th annual Schuylkill Valley Middle School Geography Bee held on January 10, 2020. The school-level Bee was sponsored by the National Geographic Society and Schuylkill Valley Middle School PTO.

Mr. Tod Witman, district technology coach, served as the moderator at the very intense competition. **Madison Miller**, a seventh-grader, came in second place and third place went to eighth-grader **Emmitt Mackes**. The competition came down to Calvin and Madison competing in many tiebreaker questions in the Championship Round. In the final round, the student who correctly answered a question that the other missed became the school champion. The winning question was "Serra dos Carajás is an important area for mining in a country that is one of the world's leading producers of iron ore. Name this South American country." Calvin knew that the answer was Brazil. Congratulations!



The contestants were:

8th Grade: **Ethan Jenkins, James Kale, Emmitt Mackes**

7th Grade: **Calvin Arndt, Ty Leshner, Madison Miller**

6th Grade: **Tyler Davis, Conner Quesenberry, Corinthia Searle**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Building Strong “STEMs” For Our Newest Panthers

Sixty-five future students and families joined staff at the elementary school for the first annual Pre-Kindergarten STEM Night. The goal of the program was to familiarize students with the building, and for families to meet the teachers prior to Kindergarten registration. The students were able to rotate through three different STEM activities where they worked in small groups with two staff members. Children built animal homes at a “hibernation station,” using paper plates, cotton balls, plastic bears, tape and index cards; constructed a maze with blocks and marbles; and created a sledding ramp

out of cardstock, tape, cubes and bottle caps.

Special thanks to the following Kindergarten teachers and staff members who made the evening possible: **Mrs. Karen Degler, Mrs. Colleen Hodnik, Mrs. MaryEllen Kummerer, Mrs. Tara LeClair, Miss Meghan Riley, Miss Caitlin Robinson, Mr. Micah Storms,** and **Mr. Jeremy Crills**, elementary principal, **Mrs. Melissa Rhoads**, elementary assistant principal, **Miss Kelsey Amidon, Mrs. Kathleen Deren, Mrs. Melissa Hottenstein, Mrs. Charlotte Lupia, Mrs. Lauren Matthews, Mrs. Joanna Schlottman, Mrs. Lori Shuart,** and **Mr. Dan Shuman.**



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Readers Win Again in the Reading-Berks Literacy Council's Readers' WIN Campaign



Mr. Crills gets pied!

In our eighth year in the Reading-Berks Literacy Council's Readers' WIN Campaign, held in January, students at SVES excelled over fifteen other elementary schools in the county to raise \$9,576.32 and win their seventh first place trophy! In the last eight years, the elementary school has raised over \$65,000.00 to help adults in Berks County learn how to read. As a celebration, a "Pie The Principals" assembly was held in the cafeteria in February where students who raised the most money got to throw cream pies at **Mr. Crills**

and **Mrs. Rhoads**. In March, pizza parties, sponsored by the Central Berks Lions Club, were held for three of the five classrooms with 100% campaign participation before school closed for the academic year on March 13. We are so proud of all of our students and families who participated. When readers win, everybody wins!



Mrs. Rhoads is all smiles after getting pied.

Author Visit

Award-winning children's author **Lisa Wheeler** was a recent guest at Schuylkill Valley Elementary School. Mrs. Wheeler spoke to two groups of students in grades Kindergarten through fourth grade. Her presentation brought smiles, giggles and outright belly laughs as she used clever voices and antics to illustrate her stories.

Mrs. Wheeler introduced younger students to several aspects of the writing life and her invisible writer's toolbox. For older students, she shared her passion for woolly mammoths and the research involved in writing her non-fiction book, *Mammoths On The Move*. "My favorite thing about school visits is getting to meet and engage with my readers," she said. "The kids are so awesome and they make me feel terrific!"

Several fourth-grade students had the opportunity to eat lunch with Mrs. Wheeler and discuss the ups and downs of being an author. Later in the evening, she presented her life as an author to parents and students at the annual Family Reading Night. Special thanks to **Mrs. Stephanie Jacobs**, elementary librarian, who arranged the visit.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Enviroscape 3D Learning



Fourth-grade teachers **Mrs. Elizabeth Schucker** and **Mrs. Amy Shuman** used an Enviroscape from the Berks Agriculture Center with their students this year. The 3D model combined a social studies focus on taking care of Pennsylvania's watersheds with a science focus on weather systems and keeping the state clean. Students were able to "pollute" the water in the Enviroscape to truly understand the negative effects of how land pollution can impact the quality of streams, lakes and oceans.



Rainbow Trout Update

Several healthy juvenile-adult rainbow trout thriving in the Global Classroom were released early in mid-April due to the shutdown. Originally the fourth-grade teachers planned to have students release the trout in May, but the Covid-19 pandemic thwarted the plans. Congratulations on raising healthy trout that were strong enough to be released to our rivers and streams!



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Proud Panthers

Our SV fourth-grade student assembly leaders did a wonderful job as “Panther Pride Players” this year, leading the monthly Panther Pride assemblies for the elementary school. These students were empowered to participate in co-creating iMovies based on our school’s theme of kindness. They also gained leadership experience and public speaking skills while they let their personalities shine as they demonstrated their panther pride! At the assemblies, readers and writers from all grade levels shared their talents, while positive behavior was rewarded through Panther Paw drawings offering lunch with the principals and two big prize giveaway assemblies during the academic year. We are always grateful for our “Panther Partners” who donate all the prizes for these giveaways. Even though we aren’t in school right now, there are lots of ways to keep showing your Panther Pride! Complete your school assignments the best that you can, proudly wear your spirit wear, and never forget that you are surrounded by a school community that loves you.





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SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kindergarten Registration

We welcome our Class of 2033 students! Kindergarten registration packets for all children who will be age five (5) by September 1, 2020 are being distributed now. If you have not received a packet and you have an eligible child, please contact **Mrs. Amanda (Mandee) Miller**, elementary school secretary, at amiller@schuylkillvalley.org. You will be sent a packet to complete. The packets can be returned by mail or dropped off at the elementary school (curbside by the school office entrance) on May 11 from 12:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. The orientation days that are usually held in May will be postponed until the summer. Information will be sent to those families who have returned registration packets by that time. Please stay in touch with our district website, www.schuylkillvalley.org, and our Facebook page, Schuylkill Valley School District, for additional information. Roar, little Panthers!

New School Age Requirements

As of October 28, 2019, the Schuylkill Valley School Board of Directors, in compliance with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, has established the following age requirements for admission into kindergarten and first grade:

Kindergarten – Student must be age five (5) by September 1

First Grade – Student must be age six (6) by September 1

The Board will not consider the early admission of a child to school. Children entering the kindergarten or first grade programs must attain the chronological age, as stated. Please contact Pupil Services at 610-916-5646 if you have any questions.