

around the VALLEY

SUMMER 2016



929 lakeshore drive
leesport, PA 19533-8631

SCHUYLKILL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SV Graduates: Class of 2016



HONOR STUDENTS

Row 1: (from left to right) Sydney Foster, Meghan Steffey, Kyle Dimovitz, Rhett Robinson, Daniel Tetreault, Daisy Grace, Olivia Bauer

Row 2: Catherine Boyle, Skye Douglas, Megan Jardine, Madeline Brzostek, Megan Murphy, Cailynn Chase, Sophie Goad, Adriana Popa, Lillian Boyle

Row 3: Brett Koch, Kevin Cook, Michael Rinehart, James Milanek, Aaron Schlegel, Brett Sigoda, Evan Whitmoyer, Joseph Sensenig, Bailey Boyer

Commencement exercises for the 146 members of the Schuylkill Valley Class of 2016 took place on Friday, June 10, at the high school stadium.

Valedictorian was **Daniel Tetreault**, son of David and Andrea Tetreault of Mohrsville. Salutatorian was **Daisy Grace**, daughter of Brent and Michele Grace of Leesport.

Monday, August 29, is the first day of school!

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**SCHUYLKILL VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**929 Lakeshore Drive
Leesport PA 19533-8631**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF****Warren F. Mata, Ed.D.**

Superintendent

Mr. Patrick Sasse

High School Principal

Mrs. Maggie E. Drake

High School Assistant Principal

Mr. Michael T. Mitchell, Jr.

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. Peggy Romanies

Human Resources Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Mr. Kevin Raudenbush, President****Dr. Jay R. Melvin, Vice President****Mrs. Linda R. Lash, Secretary****Mr. Paul L. Bendigo****Mr. Jeffrey B. King****Mr. George H. Mertz III****Mr. G. Dane Miller****Mr. Geoffrey P. Miller****BOARD MEETINGS**

Committees generally meet the third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Board meetings are generally held the fourth Monday of the month at 7 pm. in the High School Leroy 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**Schuylkill Valley Appreciates
All Its Students**

In the quiet of this summer morning, I have a moment to write to you about the accomplishments of our past school year. Just a few weeks ago, our district held a beautiful ceremony for our graduating senior class. We were blessed with wonderful weather and were so very proud of our seniors. During the ceremony, I was again reminded of the rich legacy of our district and the boundless potential of our graduates. My congratulations to our students and their families. This graduating class has distinguished itself in so many ways. We will have a special report of these accomplishments in the upcoming *Schuylkill Valley Annual Report*, which will be distributed to our community in early October.

In my eyes, the most notable accomplishment of the district is the recognition mentioned in the June 30 *Reading Eagle* Reporters' Notebook. The headline **Schuylkill Valley Appreciates All Its Students** speaks directly to the beauty and power of public education. It honors the rich legacy of our district and community.

The article describes what happened at our June Board of Directors meeting, where the Board publicly recognized the students who participated in our Special Olympics event, as well as our Track and Field student athletes for another successful season. To accurately capture the moment, let me quote *Reading Eagle* reporter **Matt Nojiri**: "The back-to-back ceremonies highlighted something that's been unmistakably clear in my four years covering Schuylkill Valley. The district makes a special effort to recognize the accomplishments of all its students."

Without a doubt, our district and our community have generously nurtured and supported a school setting that honors all students. It is a place of education where we strive to bring forth the very best in each and every child. For me, this is the time-honored value of public education. For Schuylkill Valley, this is an important part of our rich legacy and a vital piece of our continuing mission.

Dr. Warren F. Mata
Superintendent

Special thanks to the following sponsors of Panther Pride prizes for the Elementary School during the 2015-16 school year:

Blatt Construction, Inc.

Boyers Food Market

The Gigliotti Family

Kay Pool and Spa

PC Ninja

Stonewall Farms Produce

Sublime Cupcakes

Francis L. Werley, Inc.



Valedictorian Daniel Tetreault



Salutatorian Daisy Grace

SV Graduates: Class of 2016

continued from front cover

Summa cum laude honors (4-year GPA 4.000 or higher):

Daniel Tetreault	Skye Douglas
Daisy Grace	Catherine Boyle
Kevin Cook	Lillian Boyle
Evan Whitmoyer	Bailey Boyer
Rhett Robinson	Matthew Milanek

For a complete list of graduates and awards, please visit our website.

Future plans of the Class of 2016 will be included in the next district newsletter.

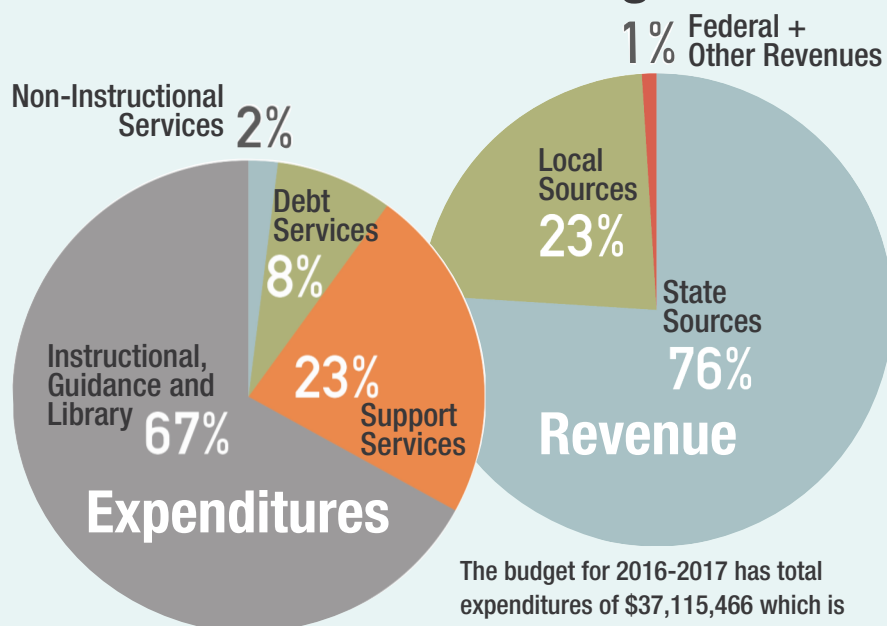
Cum laude (4-year GPA 3.500-3.749):

Kevin McGinley
Samantha Burkert
Erin Mahoney
Elizabeth Calancea
Chelsea Brennan
Kortney McEwen
Jacob Bashore
Riley Horning
Kevin Reichart
Andrea Bruchez
Alyssa Engel-Swift

Magna cum laude honors (4-year GPA 3.750-3.999):

Megan Jardine	Meghan Steffey
Michael Rinehart	Joseph Sensenig
Sophie Goad	Madeline Brzostek
Megan Murphy	Brett Koch
Aaron Schlegel	Brett Sigoda
Sydney Foster	Adriana Popa
Cailynn Chase	Kyle Dimovitz
Olivia Bauer	

2016-2017 District Budget



The budget for 2016-2017 has total expenditures of \$37,115,466 which is an increase of \$1,106,479, or 3.07%, over 2015-2016 expenditures.

In June, the Schuylkill Valley Board of Directors, citing the need to reverse a growing gap between revenues and expenditures, approved a budget of \$37.1 million, which includes an increase of 0.28 mills for the 2016-2017 school year. The annual tax bill for a property assessed at \$100,000 will be about \$2,707. The additional revenue will fund new positions due to enrollment growth and projects to upgrade aging athletic facilities.

As a result of the distribution of state gaming funds through Act 1 of 2006, school property taxes were reduced by \$153.46 this year for all property owners who qualified as homesteads and/or farmsteads.

For more information about the Schuylkill Valley School District budget, please visit www.schuylkillvalley.org and click on Administration > Business Office.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Dodgeball Tournament Nets Dollars for Children with Cancer



One of the fifth grade teams, The Nerd Squad, had a blast participating in the middle school's fundraising dodge ball tournament for CHOP.

This spring, Schuylkill Valley Middle School students raised \$3,436.78 to help children in the Cancer Center at Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania (CHOP). The school held a fundraising dodge ball tournament involving 200 students from fifth through eighth grade. Students were encouraged to create T-shirts and team names for the competition. They also raised money by buying Daisy Days paper daisies to decorate the school lobby and hallways. Teachers participated in a Jeans Day for CHOP and donated snacks and baked goods to sell at the tournament. SV alumni generously donated funds to pay for pizza and drinks for the tournament. We are proud of our students, who worked together with the staff and community to give hope to children with cancer.

Inaugural Genius Festival

Pursuing one's passion is a hallmark of the learning process. On May 24, seventh graders at the middle school displayed the culmination of their year-long special interest projects at the inaugural Genius Festival. Throughout the year, students were given the opportunity to pitch their

MIDDLESCHOOL

ideas for a project they wanted to learn about, outside of the standard curriculum, and then spend forty minutes a week diving into the topic. Because the focus is on learning, no parts of Genius Hour were graded. Students were able to take advantage of a time geared to their abilities and interests, whatever they might be. At the Genius Festival, students presented Technology, Engineering and Design (TED) talks, costumes and products demonstrating what they accomplished. The topics varied according to each student's curiosity. They made skateboards, field hockey sticks, created posters, raised money for charities, built rockets, performed magic, created anime items and even built a boat. Language Arts teacher



Samuel Arentz performed magic tricks at Genius Festival.

Mr. Codie Bender, who, along with the entire seventh grade teaching team, introduced Genius Hour to Schuylkill Valley last summer, credits the unwavering support of Principal **Mr. Michael Mitchell** and Assistant Principal **Mr. Jeremy Crills** for the success of the program. Students find themselves excited to learn because of the creative format. "We strive to spark interests in hopes of nurturing a love of learning," Mr. Bender said.



Congratulations, State Track and Field Champs!

The boys Track and Field Team won the PIAA Class AA State Track and Field Meet at Shippensburg in May. Seniors **Joe Mundell** (shot put), **Joe Jardine** (pole vault) and sophomore **Brendan Sparr** (long jump) brought home gold medals. An outstanding team effort, led by our dedicated coaches, was the key to victory. Congratulations to all the participants!

From left to right: Junior High Head Coach **Mr. Kenny Grauer**, Varsity Co-Head Coach **Mrs. Allyson McKechnie**, Varsity Co-Head Coach **Mr. Terry McKechnie**, Varsity Assistant Coach **Mr. Brian Boyer**, Varsity Assistant Coach **Mr. Dan Shuman**, students **Kyle Livinghouse**, **Dustin Brown**, **Brendan Sparr**, **Joe Mundell**, **Joe Jardine**, **Delanie Heck-Hoppes**, **Ben Reisenweaver**, **Brett Koch**, **Colby Stitcher**, **David Goad**, **Kevin Reichart**, Varsity Assistant Coach **Mrs. Crystal Cammauf**, Varsity Assistant Coach **Mr. Todd Reinert**.

Family Reading Night at SV Elementary School



Retired kindergarten teacher **Mrs. Melney Reich** was a guest reader at Family Reading Night.

More than 300 people attended Family Reading Night at the elementary school on the evening of May 12. Teachers and staff volunteered their time for the Dr. Seuss-themed event, which included Bingo for Books, in which every child won a brand-new book, a scavenger hunt, photo booth, arts and crafts, guest readers and snacks. Held in conjunction with the PTO-sponsored Spring Book Fair, Family Reading Night was initiated by **Ms. Lori Messner**, Title I Reading Specialist and Literacy Coach. Many thanks to all of the volunteers from the faculty and PTO who made the event possible. Reading is FUNdamental at Schuylkill Valley!

SV Honored With All-Berks Spring 2016 Athletes of the Year

Several Schuylkill Valley student athletes were named in the Reading Eagle's annual All-Berks spring selection of athletes. Congratulations to

Bailey Boyer, senior, tennis

Dustin Brown, junior, track & field

Kasey Bubel, track & field

Brynna Haupt, junior, track & field

Joe Mundell, senior, track & field

Brendan Sparr, sophomore, track & field



Meet the Teacher Nights

High School:

Wednesday, September 7
6:30 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Middle School: Grade 5 Only

Tuesday, August 23
7:00 p.m.

Grades 6 – 8

Thursday, September 1
7:00 p.m.

Elementary School: Kindergarten Bus Ride/ Meet The Teacher:

Monday, August 22
6:00 p.m.

Grades 1 – 4 Meet the Teacher

Wednesday, August 24
from 6 – 7:00 p.m.

Middle School Locker Orientation for 5th Graders

11 a.m. to 12 noon

Students with last names
from Adams to Hine,
Tuesday, August 16

Students with last names
from Hluchy to Rider,
Wednesday, August 17

Students with last names
from Riegel to Zimmerman,
Thursday, August 18

A Special (Olympics) Day at SV

Each year, student athletes from around the county look forward to participating in the annual Berks County Special Olympics Track and Field meet, traditionally held at Kutztown University. In February, upon learning that the event was cancelled for this year, Schuylkill Valley Middle School Special Education teacher **Miss Dana Carter** jumped into action. “We didn’t want our students, both athletes and volunteers, to be upset since the meet was cancelled,” said Miss Carter. “We wanted SV special needs athletes, and athletes from around the county, to be able to compete against each other.” Working together with the administration, Board of Directors and staff and students from all three schools, Carter created a Special Track and Field Invitational. On May 18, more than 75 student athletes from schools throughout the

county met at Schuylkill Valley High School’s track to participate in throwing, jumping, meter races and wheelchair activities. Nearly fifty middle school and high school students volunteered and served as buddies to support and encourage the student athletes. “It was awesome to see and hear so many students and teachers cheering on their peers,” said Miss Carter. Special thanks to **Mr. Chris Gallo** for behind-the-scenes assistance, **Mr. Jeremy Donmoyer**, **Mr. Jason Gustafson**, and **Ms. Crystal Cammauf** for organizing the buddies and student volunteers, **Ms. Sherry Faust** for reaching out to the media and providing balloons, a flag bearer and our mascot, the SV Panther, and **Mr. Brian Lacey** for organizing all the wheelchair activities.

In addition, community sponsors supported the event. Our gratitude to the following businesses: Appeeling Fruit, Inc., Bachman’s Pretzels, Boscov’s, Dieffenbach’s Potato Chips, Enjoy Life Foods, Herr’s Snacks, Pamela’s Gourmet, Pepsi, Redner’s Warehouse Markets, Tom Sturgis Pretzels, Unique Pretzels, Sheetz and the Schuylkill Valley Board of Directors.

[Click here to view a list of Special Olympics student athletes, buddies and volunteers.](#)

BCTC Students Receive High NOCTI Scores

Seventy-six percent of the Berks Career and Technology Center students from the class of 2016 received the highest rating in their field on the NOCTI (National Occupational Competency Testing Institute) exam this spring. The exams are based on a job and task analysis process specific to a student’s area of study at BCTC. The NOCTI is the largest provider of industry-based credentials and partner industry certifications for career and technology education programs in the United States.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



SVES Fourth Grade Chorus at Fightin' Phils on SV Night

SVES music teacher **Ms. Alexandra Kozak** led the fourth grade chorus in singing the National Anthem at SV Night at the Fightin' Phils on June 6.

Senior Crowned PA Outstanding Teen 2016



Alysa Bainbridge, daughter of **Jeffrey and Michele Bainbridge**, of Leesport, was crowned Miss Pennsylvania's Outstanding Teen 2016 at the state pageant, held in Pittsburgh in June. Alysa competed in lifestyle and fitness, evening gown presentation, on-stage question and interview with the judges. She performed a lyrical dance for her talent and advocates "Coming Out Of The Darkness – Raising Awareness of Bipolar Disorder" as her personal platform. "I've always

had a love for pageantry because my mother ran the Pennsylvania Outstanding Young Woman pageant for years," Alysa said. "I started competing at age 13 for the first time, and last year, I set a goal to compete in the national pageant. This is very exciting, almost surreal, for me!" Alysa will represent Pennsylvania and compete against 52 other teenagers at the Miss America's Outstanding Teen competition in Orlando, Florida in August.

Senior Banquet Awards

This year's Co-Curricular Awards were presented at the Senior Banquet on June 7 to students for outstanding performance and/or participation in athletics and co-curriculars including music, drama, student council, yearbook, Academic Challenge, Science Olympiad and various clubs.

HIGH SCHOOL

Major award winners were:

District III Female and Male Sportsmanship Award – **Kortney McEwen & Rhett Robinson**

District III Academic Award – **Daisy Grace, Rhett Robinson, Evan Whitmoyer, Aaron Schlegel, Megan Murphy, Megan Jardine & Sophie Goad**

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Music) Award – **Kevin Cook**

Outstanding Musician Award – **Evan Whitmoyer**

Outstanding Male Athlete – **Dalton Mohring**

Outstanding Female Athlete – **Sophie Goad**

Commitment Award – **Evan Whitmoyer**



schuylkill valley
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pride of SV Preview

We are proud to announce the inductee class for the Pride of Schuylkill Valley Awards, to be presented at a luncheon on Saturday, October 8: **Mrs. Janelle (Tranquillo) Blankenship, Mr. Elias Esposito, Mr. Craig Housenick, Mr. Tim Lash, Ms. Jessie Rowe, Mrs. Stella Strause**

The 2016-2017 Athletic Pass Order Form is now available to print from our website. Please visit www.schuylkillvalley.org to print a copy.

The Schuylkill Valley School District winter and spring issues of the district newsletter are available online 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. The summer and fall issues are printed and mailed to our residents.

congratulations on your

RETIREMENT

Our best wishes to the following faculty members who are retiring this year. Thank you for your dedication to the Schuylkill Valley School District. You made a huge difference in the lives of our students and our community.

Mrs. Beth Ann Cygan
Elementary School
Teacher, 24.5 years

Mr. Gerry Heckler
Middle School Teacher,
35 years

Mrs. Robin Morganti
Elementary School Teacher
22 years

Ms. Peggy Romanies
Human Resources Coordinator
8.33 years

Mr. Kurt Schneiderhan
High School Instrumental
Music Teacher 35 years