

**Steel Valley School District  
220 East Oliver Rd.  
Munhall, PA 15120**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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Secretary to the Superintendent

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Barrett Elementary Partners with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Offering Students a “Creative Movement Program”**

*Munhall, PA* – Steel Valley Barrett Elementary students in grades K-2 have been enjoying participation in a “Creative Movement Program” held in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (PBT) coordinated by Barrett Teacher LuAnne Szczypinski.

“The Creative Movement residency, as part of the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, began in the 2014-15 school year with grades 1 & 2,” said Szczypinski. “I initially made contact with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre at a community outreach event at the Hazelwood Carnegie Library and asked if they work in the schools. From that conversation, we partnered for the first year of our Creative Movement Residency for grades 1 & 2.”

The residency is a 9-week session for each grade level including students in kindergarten, first and second grade centering on a curriculum provided by the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.

“When kindergarten was moved to Barrett, the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre was able to honor our request to include those students in our residency,” said Szczypinski. “The Residency is present throughout the entire school year, beginning around September/October.”

The Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre also provides an ‘InStep’ assembly each year where they bring a few students from their academic program at PBT to share their work and costumes. They bring in mats and a barre for their students to showcase their work and, during this time, the Steel Valley students get an opportunity to interact with some of the movements and stretches.

Each year, the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre also promotes a scholarship audition for students aged 5-8. Flyers are sent home for families to explore the opportunity.

“It has been a wonderful outlet for our students! The personnel from Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre have been happy to return each year and work with our students,” said Szczypinski.

