



STEEL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

District News • Stories • Events

March 2023



History came to life for Steel Valley students and community members as they toured the 2023 edition of the Barrett Elementary Black History Month Interactive Living Museum on Thursday, February 23.

Developed by the Barrett Special Events Committee and the passion project of second grade teacher Ms. Jonette Bost, the Interactive Living Museum is an annual celebration of history, heritage, culture and families. This year's theme was Black Resistance and reminded everyone, "You have the strength and courage to inspire others and change the world."

[For more information about this year's museum as well as photos from the celebration, check out the story on our website.](#)

Several local news outlets also stopped by to share information about the museum. Please check out the stories from the [Pittsburgh Union Progress](#) and from [KidsBurgh via KDKA-TV](#).



STEEL VALLEY SPOTLIGHT

STEEL VALLEY COMMUNITY MEETING



Wednesday, March 8

7 p.m. - Barrett Gym

Don't believe the groundhog -
spring is coming!

To help you prepare, our March
community meeting will feature
Christine Schott sharing her
gardening expertise. This is an
excellent opportunity to learn
how Steel Valley utilizes its own
garden as a teaching tool and
pick up valuable gardening tips.

Everyone will be able to plant
their own flower or vegetable to
take home with them.

Bring your students and turn
your thumbs green!



Board members and administrators
will be on hand to answer questions
and share additional district news.

STEEL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



Parents should bring proof of residency, immunization records and birth certificates for their children.

Enrollment packets will be available on site for parents to fill out.

Kindergarten staff will be present to meet with parents and new students.

Barrett Registration Days:

March 8 at Barrett Elementary, 3-5 p.m.

March 14 at Barrett Elementary, 3-5 p.m.

March 20 at Barrett Elementary, 5-7 p.m.

March 30 at Barrett Elementary, 5-7 p.m.

Park Registration Days:

March 23 at Park Elementary, 5-7 p.m.

Plus, join us Saturday, March 25 from 1-4 pm. in the Barrett Gymnasium for WQED Be My Neighbor Day. Parents will be able to register for either school as part of the event.



steelvalleysd.org

Barrett Elementary News



Read Across America Week begins every year on March 2 to celebrate the birthday of author Dr. Seuss. Barrett celebrated all week long with a variety of fun and educational activities. Retired teachers Roslyn Stulga and Kim Gennari teamed up with retired paraprofessional Lee Anne Doyle and students from the Middle School Student Government to run Dr. Seuss themed activities.

Later in the week was the Barrett Book Ball, which featured a twist on the national activity of "Drop Everything and Read!" The students stayed in their classrooms while the teachers read and dressed as their favorite picture book characters. The kids were excited to have Mr. Walsh share one of his favorite books and dress as Roberto Clemente. There were a lot of characters, including a ladybug, the Pigeon, The Cat and the Hat, a crayon, and more. Students also participated in a Barrett Bears Trivia Challenge.

Other Read Across America Week activities included a visit from the University of Pittsburgh Cheer and Dance team, and a visit by school board president Jim Bulger to read some classic children's books.

This month, Barrett students will be celebrating National Pi Day on March 14 and St. Patrick's Day on March 17. They will also take part in Junior Achievement Career Day on March 23. A reminder that there is an early dismissal at 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 9 and no school for students on Friday, March 24.



The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will be making a stop at Steel Valley High School from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 27. The Care Mobile offers medical care to children throughout the Pittsburgh area and will be available for families in the Steel Valley community with this visit to the high school. The Care Mobile can provide immunizations, routine physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses in children, adolescent and youth adult health care, referrals for specialty care, and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) form assistance.

All of the services are provided at no out-of-pocket cost to families. Anyone interested in stopping by the Care Mobile should make sure they arrive by 1:30 p.m. on March 27 in order to register in time. The Care Mobile is a collaboration between UPMC Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh and Morgantown. Anyone in need of more information before the visit can call 412-352-1059 or visit www.chp.edu/our-services/mobile-medical-clinic.



Fourth graders at Park recently welcomed artists from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, who will be stopping by over the next eight weeks to help incorporate the arts into math class. Recently the students learned to play the ukulele and discovered fractions in whole notes, half notes, and quarter notes. It was a unique way to make fractions a bit more fun.

Park students also took part in a behavior refresh in mid-February, practicing the Park Rules of being prepared, accountable, respectful and kind. Along with a review of the rules and expectations at Park, they participated in a Zumba Kids class where they practiced listening and following directions. To practice the Park Expectations even more, the students spent time in the "Glow Room."

Read Across America Week was a ton of fun, as Park hosted a bunch of guest readers who came and read to the students. Principal Dr. Tom Shaughnessy even dressed up like The Cat in the Hat while he read to the kids, and then appeared in costume again for Park's Seuss Night.

Don't forget about the Special Person and Me Dance at the high school from 6:30 to 8:30 on Friday, March 10. Park third graders will also be taking a field trip on March 31. There is an early dismissal at 12:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 9 and no school for students on March 24.



The fourth annual International SEL Day is Friday, March 10. SEL stands for social emotional learning, which is the development of social and emotional skills alongside traditional curriculum of math, science, reading and more.

SEL Day is an opportunity to highlight the value of social emotional learning and the importance of helping our students develop those skills.

According to SELDay.org, research demonstrates that social emotional learning can help improve academic performance and the overall mental and emotional health of students. It also builds positivity within schools and prepares students for life after formal education.

[Check out the Steel Valley website for more information about SEL Day.](#)

Middle School News



Students from the Expect Respect Program and volunteers from The Pittsburgh Study stopped by kindergarten, first grade and second grade classrooms at Barrett in late February. The middle school students read a selection of books with the elementary classes and then helped them do some crafts. The Expect Respect program works with students to identify the characteristics of healthy relationships and to develop the skills to foster those positive relationships. [For more about the visit, read the story on the district website.](#)

Members of the student government volunteered to read at Barrett and Park Elementary as part of their Read Across America Week activities. The volunteers read stories, played games, made crafts and more.

Club photos will be taken on Monday, March 13 starting at 8:30 a.m. Students who want to appear in the yearbook photos of the clubs they participate in must be in school on time and wear appropriate attire. The yearbook is also looking for photo submissions from this school year. Photos must be appropriate, taken at school or at a school event, and must not have any filters or edits on them. Photos can be submitted to SVMSyearbook@steelvalleysd.org.

Steel Valley hosted the PMEA Jr. High Band Festival on March 2 and March 3. The event featured 125 student musicians in grades 7-9 from 30 local school districts, including 13 from Steel Valley. The band was directed by Dr. Christopher Marra from Seton Hill University. The Steel Valley students who participated were Lucas Barefoot, Austin Blick, Peter Bos, Ashley Bulger, Loki Brown, Andy Diep, Hannah Lesser, Rhiannon McConnell, Josie Strom, Sophia Wedig, Alex Wehrer, Ana Wehrer and Jacob Wright.



High School News



A group of high school students gathered recently for the first session of Creating Peace. Over a 12-week period, the students will work together to learn what makes a healthy relationship - whether it's a friendship, connection to a family member, a romantic relationship, or even relationships with teachers and other adults.

Creating Peace is a program made possible through Steel Valley's participation in The Pittsburgh Study with the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Pediatric and UPMC Children's Hospital. Steel Valley has held several previous sessions of Creating Peace and has continuously offered feedback to the organizers to help refine the curriculum so that it can provide the greatest benefit possible to the student participants. The sessions are organized through the office of Mr. Orlando Dulin, the district's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator. [For more about Creating Peace and their plans for this session, check out the story on the website.](#)

One of the district's newest programs this winter is the Steel Valley Winter Guard. The program continues the choreography and techniques learned as part of the color guard with the Steel Valley Marching Band. The group competed in its second event on March 4 at Hempfield High School and will have several other events in the coming weeks.

Nate Yuhas and Mekayla Scalice have been named Students of the Month for March at the Steel Center for Career and Technical Education. Nate was recognized in the field of HVACR while Mekayla was recognized in the field of Medical Professions. Jennifer Nguyen was honored with a Top of the Shop Award for the first semester in the field of Health Assistant.

The Steel Valley boys basketball team has made it to the state playoffs. The Ironmen are seeded third out of the WPIAL and will travel to Bedford for the first round of the tournament on Saturday, March 11.



Stay up to date with what's happening on our social media accounts! The district has a Twitter account and Instagram account, as well as individual Facebook pages for each of our four schools. Click the respective icons at the bottom of the newsletter to make sure you're following us!



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