



STEEL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

District News • Stories • Events

December 2022



Steel Valley didn't even need to complete a pass to win its sixth WPIAL football championship. The Ironmen defeated Beaver Falls 34-14 behind a powerful running game and a stout defense. Senior Cruce Brookins ran for 170 yards and scored three touchdowns. The Ironmen ran for 274 total yards as a team, with sophomore Donald Barksdale chipping in 84 yards and a touchdown. The championship was the first since 2018 for Steel Valley. The Ironmen also won WPIAL championships in 2016, 1989, 1988 and 1982.

The win set up a date with Westinghouse in the PIAA Class 2A semifinals for a spot in the state championship game. The game was a defensive duel early on as Westinghouse led 6-0 at the half. Steel Valley took the lead early in the third quarter on a touchdown by Brookins, but Westinghouse pulled away to win 26-7. Steel Valley finished the season with an impressive 12-1 record.

Photos from the WPIAL championship game are courtesy of yearbook coordinator Jen Vinay.



STEEL VALLEY SPOTLIGHT

You're invited to our 2022 Christmas

10TH ANNUAL FOOD BASKET OF LOVE GIVEAWAY

Distribution at Barrett Elementary School
will be as follows:

Friday, December 16, 2022 @ 10:00 am - 6:00pm
Saturday, December 17, 2022 10:00am - 5:00pm
Location: 221 E 12th Ave, Homestead, PA 15120



Park Place has once again been blessed to participate with Joseph McCain's Christmas Food Basket Distribution. The baskets will include most of the "fixings" needed to make a meal for a family with the exception of perishable meat.

JOIN US
Everyone is Welcome

Please bring an empty box to fill with all the meal fixings available If
you have questions please contact:

PARK PLACE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
"The Friendly Church Across From the Park"
215 E. Tenth Avenue Homestead PA, 15120
<https://www.facebook.com/parkplace.amechurch>

Over the course of a couple of days in mid-December, the Barrett Elementary gymnasium will start to fill with pallets of fresh fruit, vegetables, canned goods, dried goods and more.

It's all for the 10th Annual Food Basket of Love Giveaway, which will take place Friday, December 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and again on Saturday, December 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Barrett Elementary. Organized by Homestead native Joe McCain through Homestead's Park Place African Methodist Church, the annual donation drive provides area families with seven days worth of food.

"It's not just for whoever we consider needy. It's for everyone," McCain insists. "Just come and get something that will bring a connection and some type of fellowship. I encourage people when they come for a box and they have a few neighbors around, get something for them. Drop it off and it'll give you an opportunity to connect."

For more, including how to volunteer or how to receive a basket, [check out the story on the website.](#)



Steel Valley hosted its monthly Community Meeting on Wednesday, November 16 at Park Elementary. This session also incorporated an Educational Leadership meeting. Assistant Superintendent Bryan Macuga provided a district-wide update on academics and curriculum matters. The discussion then shifted to community matters, facilitated by school board members and school district staff. Board member Bill McLaughlin, who has organized these meetings along with fellow Communications Committee members JaQuay Carter and Maya Adams, said that the goal in 2023 is to increase attendance and interaction at the community meetings, including by specifically inviting civic leaders.

[For more from the community meeting, check out the recap on the district website.](#)



To celebrate their duty, service and sacrifice, the Steel Valley School District hosted its 40th Annual Veterans Day Program on Friday, November 11, 2022 at the high school auditorium.

The program honored area veterans, thanking them for their service. Some were in

[A full story can be read on the district website along with photos from the event.](#)

BARRETT ELEMENTARY NEWS



When his hearing loss support teacher told him that there was a Barrett student who also had hearing loss, Tim Eads decided to pitch in. A Steel Valley Cyber Academy student and volunteer firefighter, Tim used Barrett's fire prevention assembly to connect with Derrick Arrington and lend a hand.

For more about the connection between Tim and Derrick, [check out the story on the district website.](#)

Barrett held a Veterans Day assembly to honor all of those who have served their country. Each grade put on a presentation to honor America and veterans. A screen with veterans related to Barrett Elementary, information about the various branches of the Armed Forces, and much more was included in each of the presentations.

In December, Santa's Workshop will be held from Dec. 7 through Dec. 9. There will be a Gingerbread House Family Night on Thursday, Dec. 8 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Barrett will perform its Holiday Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 1 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Preparations are underway for the next edition of Barrett's Black History Month Interactive Living Museum. While the event is not until February, the T-Shirt fundraiser is underway. [Order forms and more information is available on the district website.](#) Ms. Bost is busy putting together another phenomenal event. If you have ideas or suggestions, be sure to reach out to her with your thoughts.

Fresh Ideas



your eyes. The planning has begun to make Barrett's Black History Month Interactive Living Museum a memorable learning experience for everyone! We love to come together to celebrate our history, heritage, cultures and families. The t-shirt sale is underway. We are working to get more wax figures and memorabilia to celebrate Black Joy. However, we need your help...if you would like to be involved in the planning or know of a wonderful learning opportunity...please let your voice be heard. Contact Ms. Bost with your ideas or suggestions. This year's theme is Black Resistance! Together we can make a difference.

Fresh Ideas For BJHM

February will be here before you blink your eyes. We love to come together to celebrate our history, heritage, cultures and families.

The planning has begun to make Barrett's Black History Month Interactive Living Museum a memorable learning experience for everyone!

This year's t-shirt reminds us, "You have the strength and courage to inspire others and change the world." Place your orders.



High School Students...Who Influences You...

Celebrate Black Joy by portraying someone as a Wax Figure in our Black History Month Museum. It is a great opportunity to let your voice be heard and to teach future generations. Contact Ms. Bost or Ms. Kampe if you are interested. This year's theme is **Black Resistance!** Together we can make a difference!

from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Monday, December 19. 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 December 19 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.

PARK ELEMENTARY NEWS



Third and fourth grade students at Park opened November learning about elections in honor of the midterm elections. Mrs. O'Shell's fourth grade social studies students were busy learning about democracy and the importance of voting. The students held a mock election, which included the students filling out ballots. Third graders in Mrs. Callahan's language arts classes also learned about the midterm elections and held their own election to vote on their next classroom pet. Hamster won in a landslide!

Just before Thanksgiving, Park said goodbye to visiting artist Miss Delana from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. Miss Delana worked with the second graders for the previous eight weeks. They presented her with cards and a Team Park T-Shirt, and thanked her for teaching them about kindness, teamwork, and the arts.

To start December, Park welcomed Mrs. Brandi Brown, who is working in one of the Life Skills/Autistic Support classrooms. Mrs. Brown came to Park from the McKeesport Area School District, where she was an elementary emotional support teacher. Prior to her time with McKeesport, Brandi was an emotional support teacher at PACE.

Everyone at Park Elementary is excited to get into the holiday spirit throughout December. On Dec. 8, the Middle School Student Government will be working

21 at 9 a.m. and at 1 p.m. Parents and the public are welcome to attend.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



The Middle School Student Government made their annual appearance in the Steel Valley holiday parade on Saturday, Dec. 3. Students dressed up in costume, passed out candy, and helped spread Christmas cheer to the Steel Valley community. A special thanks to Katie Whitney and committee for making this parade happen.

In November, Ms. Noblet and the student government held the first Turkey Bowl. With a donation of a canned good/non-perishable item, student leaders could enjoy a cold afternoon of football, friends, laughter, and fun. All food donations were given to the local non-profit Rainbow Kitchen. Mr. Tozzi put his arm to work as the quarterback, Mr. Bulger served as the referee, Mr. Polk served as the line judge and student motivator, and Mrs. Pederson was on snack duty.

Students participated in themed activities to recognize loved ones they've lost as part of Children's Grief Awareness Day. Student government and secondary counselors sponsored an art table at lunches where students could decorate butterflies in honor of their loved ones. Then, those butterflies were hung in our butterfly garden, beautifully made by our middle school art club.

Recently in October, the district student councils sponsored a t-shirt sale for students and staff to wear today during the school day. In addition to the donation to the Caring Place, the district also collected over \$370 in honor of a district staff member and her family who lost their young son this summer. A donation was made in honor of this family to the following organizations: Pittsburgh Bereavement Doulas and the Tears Foundation. Grief work is important and we stand with our entire Ironmen family who are facing heartache at this time.

To close out December, students will be able to participate in Holiday Spirit Week. On Monday, Dec. 19, students will be able to dress up as their favorite holiday characters (Santa, Mrs. Claus, reindeer, elf, etc.). On Tuesday, Dec. 20 students can wear their favorite flannel. On Wednesday, Dec. 21 students can dress up in their best ugly holiday sweater. And on Thursday, Dec. 22, holiday themed pajamas will help keep students warm and cozy to start the winter.

The Steel Valley School District is hiring for several positions for the 2022-23 school year. Qualified substitute nurses, substitute teachers, substitute secretaries, substitute paraprofessionals, substitute cafeteria workers, and more are all needed. A full list of openings [is available on the web site.](#)

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



On November 14th, Steel Valley SADD students attended the PA SADD State Conference at the Seven Springs Resort. As part of the conference, SADD members had the opportunity to see presentations by several guest speakers. Steel Valley SADD seniors Breanne Francis and Brenna Kern worked with the State Leadership Council to help plan the conference and ran their own workshop. While at the conference students also participated in a dance competition where SV junior, Duane Carter was named the "Dance Competition King."

The Steel Valley Senior Class of 2023 had the opportunity to go on a Senior Class Field Trip to Altitude Trampoline Park on November 16. The seniors had a great time bouncing, playing dodgeball, and making memories. The winning dodgeball team was made up of Kayla Bish, Randy Keller, Krystal Phouthavong, Luke Vinay, TJ Dunlevy, and Ryan Fisher.

Sounds of the Season featuring the Steel Valley Middle School Chorus and the Steel Valley High School Concert Choir will take place on December 13, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the auditorium. Admission is free. Long stem red roses will be available to purchase for your special performer.

Connor Brady was recognized as a December Student of the Month in the field of Veterinary Assistant at Steel Center for Career and Technical Education.

Steel Valley Student Council is continuing to collect donations for Gavin's Memory Mittens. The annual service project collects new hats, gloves, mittens and socks for kids and teens. Donations can be dropped off at the high school through December.

The Tuesday before Thanksgiving was a milestone moment for Chelsea Bulger and Roman Donis, as the two Steel Valley seniors signed their National Letters of Intent to pursue intercollegiate athletics opportunities. Chelsea inked her

senior signed his National Letter of Intent to play collegiate baseball at the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, where he'll reunite with older brother Noah.

For more about Roman and Chelsea, [check out the story on the district website.](#)

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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Our mailing address is:

Steel Valley School District
220 E. Oliver Rd. Homestead, PA 15120

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