



# STEEL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

District News • Stories • Events

## February 2023

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You don't have to have a diagnosed mental illness to care about your mental health. That was the message from Jordan Corcoran, the founder of mental health organization Listen, Lucy, during her visit with Steel Valley middle school and high school students in late January.

Mental health awareness continues to improve and the stigma around mental illness is slowly dissipating, but there is still much progress to be made. Ms. Corcoran shared her own personal struggles with mental health with the students and addressed the stigmas that surround mental health, including some of the off-hand terminology used to describe someone. She shared coping techniques that she has found to be useful, as well as a range of resources students can access right from their phone.

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

Ms. Corcoran's visit was made possible thanks to a grant through Healthy

Schools and she was invited in by the Middle School Stand Together club and advisor Ryan Dunmire as well as district counselor Casey Walker.



## STEEL VALLEY SPOTLIGHT



Steel Valley students kicked off Black History Month with a trip to the Byham Theater in Downtown Pittsburgh to see "Step Afrika!" The show was part of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust School Day Matinee. Barrett Elementary students in kindergarten through fourth grade as well as middle school and high school students who are helping out with Barrett's


Black History Month Living Museum were able to take in the highly energetic performance.

Step Afrika! has deep roots in traditionally African American fraternities and sororities, but it also incorporates elements of dance, percussion, and call-and-response sequences found in a variety of African dances and music.

The Barrett Black History Month Living Museum will be on display on Thursday, February 23 from 12:30 to 2:45 p.m. This year's theme is Black Resistance with the mantra, "You have the strength and courage to inspire others and change the world." The annual celebration of history, heritage and culture will feature informational displays, delicious food, student performances, and portrayals of historical and culturally significant figures by Steel Valley students and alumni.



**The Steel Valley School District  
& Barrett Elementary Present**



# **Black History Month**

**Living Interactive Museum**

**23 FEB 221 EAST 12TH AVENUE 12:30  
HOMESTEAD, PA 15120 -2:45**



## **EXHIBITS & ACTIVITIES**



**AUTHENTIC  
FOOD & RECIPES**



**ARTWORK &  
ARTIFACTS**



**MUSIC &  
STORIES**



**LIVING  
WAX FIGURES**



[www.steelvalleysd.org](http://www.steelvalleysd.org)



## Barrett Elementary News



Students at Barrett Elementary celebrated the 100th day of school and the kindergarten classes really got into the spirit of showcasing how they are 100 days brighter. The kindergartners had a glow party where they rotated through various centers where they made sight words with glow sticks, glow painting, glow bowling, writing the room and writing 1-100! They had a blast and so did the teachers! Students and teachers each had the opportunity to dress up like they were 100 years old.

It was all part of a busy couple of weeks for the kindergarten classes. The Queen of Hearts visited back in January to share a message of responsibility and to tell some stories. Ms. Aykul's kindergarten class celebrated Global School Play Day on February 1. Students brought in a toy from home that they could share with their peers and they spent an hour of the day playing together.

The yearbook hoagie sale began Monday, February 6. Students who sell 10 hoagies will get a free yearbook. The sale runs until noon on Friday, February 24. Wednesday, February 8 will feature a Title I Parent/Child Event called "XOXO I Love My Family." There are two times for the event - one at 8:30 a.m. and one at 1:15 p.m. The kindergarten students will head to the Children's Museum on Thursday, February 16. The adults will take on Friday, February 24 when Barrett hosts a BINGO fundraiser from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Barrett gymnasium.

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, February 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 February 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](http://www.chp.edu/our-services/mobile-medical-clinic).

## Park Elementary News



First graders are working with visiting artists from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. As part of their Balance and Motion Unit, they learned how to balance themselves using yoga moves, made a classroom mobile, and practiced their balancing skills by doing a circus trick with a paper flower.

Park has completed its mid-year assessments and principal Dr. Tom Shaughnessy reports that the results look great and reflect the students' hard work. The Scholastic Book Fair comes to Park from February 13 to February 16, while a pair of field trips have everyone excited

Kindergartners will be heading to the Children's Museum on February 16, and on February 24 the third and fourth graders will be attending Danny Carmo's Mathematical Mysteries - a spectacular show where math, theatre and digital technology collide to create a fun and interactive performance that proves how understanding math can be fun.



Students will be working on a wide variety of projects and activities throughout February to celebrate Black History Month.

### Middle School News



Students in the Middle School Stand Together club are trying to create a positive school environment, work with other organizations to provide interventions for students, provide resources for mental health support to students and staff, adopt a school-wide approach to mental health awareness, help students to express themselves, develop strategies to help support others and educate students about mental health issues and the stigma around them.

In January, they used the lunch periods and went around asking their fellow students questions about mental health. Students spun a prize wheel or played Plinko to answer the questions. Correct answers earned students a bracelet with the phrase "You Are Enough." The day also featured a photo booth and other positive messaging, all as part of the group's campaign to advocate for mental health awareness.

Seventh and eighth graders enjoyed a Glow Party dance on February 3. As part of their ticket, they received snacks and drinks to go along with LED glasses and a bracelet and other glow items.

The middle school is collecting donations as part of the Beverley's Birthdays project being conducted by Steel Valley Student Council. Students should bring their designated items to homeroom for donation. Donations can be brought in through February 15. Fifth grade can bring in baby wipes, sixth grade can bring in coloring books, seventh grade can bring in crayons, and eighth grade can bring in colored pencils.

## High School News



Makhai Valentine is putting together a phenomenal senior season on the basketball court. Valentine is among the top scorers in the WPIAL by averaging 37 points per game, and he recently etched his name in the WPIAL record books. Valentine scored an eye-popping 63 points in a win over Brentwood in late January, the third most single-game total by an individual player in WPIAL history. He also came within one three-pointer of the WPIAL single-game record by knocking down 12 shots from beyond the arc.

Valentine and the Ironmen are 11-9 on the season, including a 9-2 record in Section 2-3A. They wrap up section play on Friday, February 10 at home against South Park, where they could potentially clinch at least a share of the section title.

The Steel Valley Marching Band has been excited to offer Winter Guard this year and it will take part in the McKeesport Indoor Show on at McKeesport Area High School on Saturday, February 11. Showtime is at 2 p.m. and will feature several schools from around the region. Tickets are available at the door. Winter Guard is an exciting opportunity for band and color guard members to continue performing throughout the winter months as well as a chance to introduce new members to the program.

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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