



STEEL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

District News • Stories • Events

April 2024



The Steel Valley High School Drama Club presented an exciting production of Roald Dahl's "Matilda: The Musical" as its spring musical. The show ran from Thursday, March 14 through Sunday, March 17 and thrilled audiences.

The show starred Shaterra Meadows as Matilda Wormwood, a little girl unloved by cruel, dismissive parents who fail to recognize her precocious intelligence and burgeoning powers. Mr. Wormwood (Ryan Packer) and Mrs. Wormwood (Alaina Hanley) are wrapped up in selfish endeavors, but Matilda finds a kind hearted soul in teacher Miss Honey (Rebekah Kleiber). Can the two of them help the rest of their school overcome the wickedness of headmaster Trunchull (Theo Coyne)? Or will this be a story without a happy ending?

The cast also included Stephen Guyer as Michael Wormwood, Paige Perhac as librarian Mrs. Phelps, Andy Diep as Bruce, Shatyra Parker as Lavendar, William Coyne as Rudolpho and the doctor, Cianna Shakle as Sergei, Layla Rager as Hortensia, Emma Conard as Alice, Peter Bos as Nigel, Kylie Kern as Erica, Ashley Bulger as Amanda, and Janine Clark as Tommy. Josie Strom, Mars Hale, Paige Yura, Kayte McNeely, Pe'Shince McCarrell, Zakiyya Berts, Hailey Rager, Morgan Schempp, and Skylar Fitzgerald performed as the ensemble.

For more photos from the show, [check out the full gallery on the district website.](#)



STEEL VALLEY SPOTLIGHT



STEEL VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Vision For Steel Valley For 2024-25 And Beyond

Bryan Macuga, Superintendent



New Steel Valley School District Superintendent of Schools Bryan M. Macuga presented his entry plan for the district during the March legislative board meeting.

Mr. Macuga's presentation touched on his points of emphasis for the 2024-25 school year and beyond. He highlighted several key areas that his administration will address in order to ensure every Steel Valley student has the resources and support to thrive.

[A copy of his presentation can be viewed on the district website.](#)



New Elementary School

Steel Valley School District

March 21, 2024

Board Update



The Steel Valley School District administration and school board have been working diligently with the architects from DRAW Collective on plans for a new elementary school. In June 2023, the district held an Act 34 hearing to present the initial plans for the project and solicit feedback from the community. Since then, the district has established a Community Advisory Board and worked with key stakeholders – including K-5 elementary school teachers in the district – to incorporate their feedback.

DRAW Collective presented updates on the current plan for the new elementary school on January 25. It visited the school board again on Thursday, March 21 to provide additional updates for administrators, board members, and the general public.

For those who were unable to attend the meetings, the slides from both of DRAW Collective’s presentations are available to [view on the district website along with a summary of their presentation](#). The summary includes a timeline of the project, including what comes next.



Nearly two dozen high school students joined Mr. Olando Dulin, Steel Valley's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator, and Mr. Kevin Clarke, the district's community liaison, at the fifth annual Woodland Hills Student Summit on March 8. The summit features discussions on hand-picked topics like mental health, racial and social equity, gun violence, and much more. This year's Student Summit featured 18 school districts from five counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania and was hosted by Penn State Greater Allegheny.

This was the first year Steel Valley students participated in the summit. Students Michayla Rager, Daniel Baldwin, and Jillian Brugman [shared their perspective on what they learned during the summit in a story that's available to read on the district website.](#)



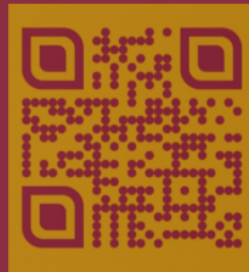
STEEL VALLEY NOW OFFERS PRE-K!

Enrollment now open for 2024-25

- Families must reside within the Steel Valley School District
- Student must be 4-years-old on or before Sept. 1, 2024



Scan the QR code
to meet our
registrar and start
enrollment



**Steel Valley Pre-K is located at Barrett Elementary
221 East 12th Avenue, Homestead, PA 15120**

steelvalleysd.org

The Steel Valley School District is excited to offer Pre-Kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year. Families must reside in the Steel Valley School District (Homestead, Munhall, and West Homestead) and the student must be 4-years-old on or before September 1, 2024.

Steel Valley Pre-K will be located at Barrett Elementary.

Registration is now open. You can begin the registration process by scanning the QR code on the attached flyer or by visiting <https://qrco.de/benLn2>. The link will connect you to our registrar, Tiffany Vranick, to begin the registration process.



The students in Ms. Emilee Bedillion's third grade English Language Arts classes are now published authors! Their books are titled "Winter Olympics" and "Summer Olympics." They worked for two weeks doing research, writing, and illustrating their pages. The books include the different sports performed during the Olympics, as well as the dates and locations of every winter and summer Olympics held across the world. Thanks to generous donations, every student has received a book of their own to take home and a book will also be placed in the Barrett Elementary Library.

Ms. Rachel Dindak's first grade students recently filled up their "class compliment" wall and earned a camp out party. They completed work in their tents, used flashlights to see in the dark, and made some s'mores. The Queen of Hearts visited kindergarten for story time in March. Her lesson was designed around responsibility. Students dressed up as she told her story and they practiced skills of caring and taking responsibility.

To begin March, Barrett Elementary celebrated Read Across America Week with its Storybook Ball, where teachers donned their favorite book character costumes. They swapped rooms, sharing cherished stories with different classes, igniting imaginations across the school. Wrapping up the week, the gymnasium overflowed with laughter and joy as the kindergarten, first grade and second grades took turns at various fun-filled stations. Retired teacher, Mrs. Gennari, and Mrs. Barron have been doing some form of this event for over ten years. Multiple retired teachers returned, and ten eighth-graders from the Middle School Student Government helped orchestrate fun stations like noodle stacking and Grinch-themed games.

Third and fourth graders will be taking the PSSAs later in April. The English Language Arts PSSA will take place from April 22 through April 24, the Math PSSA will take place April 29 and 30, and fourth grade will take the Science PSSA on May 1 and May 2.

Barrett will have a Special Person and Me Dance on Friday, April 26 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will be a Title I Family Night and Kindergarten Registration Event on Thursday, May 2 at 5:30 p.m.



Park Elementary News



Students in first grade studied a mini-unit on chickens in late March. They learned that chickens sleep with one eye open, do not take baths, have great memories, and are related to dinosaurs. They also learned that the color of a chicken's egg is determined by the color of their earlobe, sequenced the life cycle of a chicken, and even did the Chicken Dance. First graders even met a real chicken, as Officer Valiska brought in his rooster, aptly named, Rooster. The students enjoyed talking to him and learning more from him about chickens.

As a culminating activity on Women's History Month, third graders in Mrs. Jill Callahan's English Language Arts classes learned about some famous women, and collaborated to make portrait puzzles of them. The students also chose a woman, conducted research, designed a keynote presentation showcasing her life, and presented in front of the class. Meanwhile, kindergarten students spent time working on learning their shapes with Ms. Joanna, a visiting artist from the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. Students had a great time using movement to learn about curved and straight lines,

The Queen of Hearts will be back Wednesday, April 10 to work with the kindergarteners, and the entire school is looking forward to the Wild World of Animals Assembly on Thursday, April 11. Third graders will be taking a trip to Urban Air on Friday, April 12. Fourth graders will head to the Laurel Caverns on Friday, April 19.

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THE RONALD MCDONALD CARE MOBILE

As a collaboration between UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh and Morgantown, Inc., the Care Mobile offers medical care to children throughout the Pittsburgh region for no out-of-pocket costs.

Have any questions or need more information?

Call 412-352-1059 or visit us at www.chp.edu/our-services/mobile-medical-clinic

Follow and like the Care Mobile on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/CHPCareMobile

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- ▶ Immunizations
- ▶ Routine physical exams
- ▶ Sick child visits
- ▶ Adolescent and young adult health care
- ▶ Referrals for specialty care
- ▶ WIC (Women, Infants & Children) form assistance

THERE ARE NO OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS FOR CARE MOBILE SERVICES.

SERVICES ARE COMING YOUR WAY! LOOK FOR THE CARE MOBILE:

LOCATION: Steel Valley High School and Barrett Elementary School

DATE: High School - March 11, May 1, June 14
Barrett Elementary - May 24, June 17

TIME: 9:30am - 2:00pm

Registration will close at 1:30pm.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS:

Armada
Aldi Giving
Allegheny County Medical Society Foundation
Andersen Corporate Foundation
Bank of America

G.C. Murphy Co Foundation
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
The Pittsburgh Foundation
Richard Donchian Foundation
Walmart Community Grants



UPMC CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL OF PITTSBURGH

Middle School News



The middle and high school art clubs went on a field trip to the Museum of Illusions on March 15. Students were able to experience a variety of the illusions, including 2-D and 3-D mind-bending tricks, and also become part of the exhibits.

Fifth graders in Ms. Nicole States' science classes spent portions of March preparing for the April 8 solar eclipse. The students learned how the moon appears to cover the sun despite being smaller in size, as well as key terms about the eclipse and the sun. [Ms. States and a few students were interviewed by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) as part of news coverage about the eclipse.

Middle school students will take the PSSA tests in late April and early May. All middle school students are required to take the English Language Arts and Math tests, while only eighth graders will take the Science tests. Middle school students will have an early release on testing days. Students will still be provided breakfast and lunch on those days.

All middle school students will take the English Language Arts PSSA on April 22, 23, and 24. There will be an early release for middle school students at 12:23 p.m. on those days. All middle school students will take the Math PSSA on April 29 and 30. There will be an early release for middle school students at 12:23 p.m. on those two days. Eighth graders will take the Science PSSA on May 1 and May 2. Those days will have a normal release at 3:19 p.m.

The middle school PTO is seeking snack donations for PSSA testing treats. Please use [this SignUpGenius link](#) to sign up if you are able to contribute. Donations can be sent to school on Monday, April 15th and Tuesday, April 16th. If you have any questions, please text Meghan at 412-849-6068.

Life Skills celebrated Pi Day on March 14 by making no-bake pies. The students worked together to make their delicious desserts!



High School News



On Thursday, February 22, 13 students participated in the 59th Annual Academy of Trial Lawyers Mock Trial Competition at the Federal Courthouse. After an introduction and welcome by the organizers, the students took on the role of jurors in a competition between law students from local colleges. After listening to testimony from witnesses and experts, they were charged with determining liability in a personal injury case. Following much deliberation (mostly over how much to award in damages), they presented their verdict to the judge and had an opportunity to ask questions of the students, professors and observers about the process. Students enjoyed the inside look at the inner workings of the legal system, and underclassmen hope to return next year.

English teacher Ms. Jodi Geyer and her students paid it forward to honor Black History Month. The students of room 217 donated more than 70 hours of time and service by baking, cooking, recycling, helping others, performing acts of service, and promoting love and kindness. The students helped more than 100

people throughout the month of February.

Once their acts of service were performed, students documented their efforts through pictures, paragraphs explaining their good deeds, and selecting inspirational quotes that exemplified the ideals of their project. Those items were turned into a collage, completed by student volunteers, who decorated the door of 217 in the theme of "Black Panther" with the film's quote "more connects us than divides us" highlighting the students' efforts. [Learn more about their project and their reflections in a story on the district website from Ms. Geyer.](#)

The High School Student Council would like to remind students, staff, and the community that it's important to take care of yourself physically and mentally. They will be sharing ways to help handle the stresses of everyday life during the month of April, which is Stress Awareness month. One way to help manage stress is to use "coloring therapy", so the Student Council [has provided therapeutic coloring pages](#) and colored pencils that students may take during their lunch periods.

Congratulations to senior A.J. Karstetter, who will continue his academic and athletic career at the University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg. [A.J. made it official on March 12](#) during a signing ceremony in the high school auditorium with his family, friends, and teammates in attendance. A.J. is a multi-sport athlete at Steel Valley, including serving as the placekicker for the football team the last few years, but will focus on soccer at Pitt-Greensburg.



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

To submit information for the newsletter, please email: communications@steelvalleysd.org

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