



STEEL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

District News • Stories • Events

December 2023



Steel Valley returned to Acrisure Stadium on Friday, November 24, 2023 for a rematch against Beaver Falls in the WPIAL Class 2A Championship. One year prior, Steel Valley defeated the Tigers to capture their sixth WPIAL championship.

Eying a repeat, Steel Valley took a 6-0 lead on Donald Barksdale's 13-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. That lead held through halftime until Beaver Falls tied it at 6 with 3:12 left in the third quarter.

Rashaun Hough gave the Ironmen a 12-6 lead with just over minutes left in the fourth quarter when he recovered a fumble and ran 78 yards for a touchdown. But Beaver Falls rallied to tie the game with 44 seconds left and ultimately won 14-12 thanks to the two-point conversion.

Congratulations to the Ironmen on a fantastic season on the football field. Special thanks to the Steel Valley Marching Band and Steel Valley Cheerleaders for providing support every step of the way.

[Check out more photos from the WPIAL Championship on the district website.](#)



STEEL VALLEY SPOTLIGHT



Have you ever wondered what it's like to deliver packages for a living? Steel Valley Drama's production of "Knock, Knock" took us on the road with Logan and Sam. Logan is the cynical veteran delivery person who thinks she's seen it all, while Sam is the energetic newcomer with a lot to learn. They have no idea who might answer the door on their routes - it could be their elementary school teacher, an ex, or someone - or something! - truly bizarre.

Theo Coyne starred as Logan and Ryan Packer starred as Sam. The cast also included Rebekah Kleiber, Shatterra Meadows, Alexis Palucis, William Coyne, Mars Hale, Emma Conard, Alaina Hanley, Paige Yura, Cianna Shankle, and Stephen Guyer taking on multiple roles as the various people answering the door.

The stage crew included Elaina Fedoris as stage manager and lights operator, Max Holby, Corise Fry, Casey Rogers and Diego Moura as stage crew, and Pe'Shince McCarrell as stage crew and sound operator. The show was directed by Austin Riley, with a special thanks to Betsy Novotny for coaching the young actors.

[See more photos from the show on the district website.](#)



Steel Valley Student Council Service Project

GAVIN'S MEMORY MITTENS



Please help us decorate Gavin's tree in the SV High School lobby with donations of NEW mittens, hats, gloves, & socks for **KIDS & TEENS**. We will collect items during the months of November & December. All items will then be donated to children in the community who need them for the winter.

This operation is in honor and memory of Baby Gavin Thomas who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on 12/28/2007 at almost 3 months of age. Gavin is "forever in our hearts."





The Steel Valley Veterans Day Program has become an integral part of the community over the past four decades, serving as an opportunity for the school district and the community to stand together and recognize those who have served their country as members of the armed forces.

On Friday, November 10, the 41st edition of the annual program honored all of those who have answered the call - some of whom never returned home.

Two veterans were recognized by students Ava Caiarelli and Duane Carter. Officer Daniel Boehme, a Munhall police officer and resource officer for Steel Valley High School, was recognized alongside Mr. Don Dudas. Both served with distinction in the armed forces.

Eight Steel Valley students received flags donate by local dignitaries, while students across multiple grade levels received awards for essays they wrote and posters they created. [A full list of flag and award recipients is available on the district website along with additional photos.](#)



November was full of Thanksgiving themed fun and educational moments at Barrett. The kindergarteners turned into turkeys after they created vests. They also created keepsake placements, enjoyed a trail mix feast while watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and shared what they were thankful for.

Mrs. Akins' class joined in on the Thanksgiving Day Parade with their own balloon floats. You can see the video the class put together [on the Barrett Facebook page](#). First graders in Mrs. Catterall's class were busy with lots of Thanksgiving festivities. They churned their own butter to top their cornbread muffins. Also, after reading *Balloons Over Broadway*, students were able to create their own balloon design.

Ms. Dindak's first graders wrapped up their addition facts review week with a game of "Capture the Cone." They worked in teams to solve addition problems. They had to correctly solve five math problems as a team before they could capture a cone.

Barrett also spent November celebrating its annual 12 Days of Giving Project. Leading up to Thanksgiving, Barrett students, staff and families led donation drives that benefited the KDKA Turkey Fund, the Ronald McDonald House Charities, White Oak Animal Shelter, The Rainbow Kitchen, Steel Valley Softball's Fastpitch for the Cure, the Steel Valley Caring Closet, the Batch-A-Toys program, our school resource officers, the local homeless population, and more.

Thanks to everyone who contributed during the 12 Days of Giving!

Don't forget - the annual Barrett holiday concert is Thursday, December 14 at 1 p.m. in the gymnasium. Each grade will perform, so you won't want to miss it!

Park Elementary News



Park families had a lot of fun getting into the holiday spirit with Family Night on November 16. Families put their arts and crafts skills to the test by creating festive snowmen. Thanks to everyone who came out and to all of those who helped make the evening possible.

Kindergarteners got creative as part of their Kindergarten Feast to celebrate Thanksgiving. They created turkey headbands complete with colorful feathers, and they enjoyed a delicious snack while sharing what they are thankful for this year.

Just before Thanksgiving break, first graders showed they were thankful for math. Yes, really! They worked together in small groups at four math stations related to Thanksgiving. They rotated through the Feather and Facts Station, Plymouth Place Value Station, Thankful for Subtraction Station, and Native American Number Station. Students did a great job of working together, and everyone learned a lot.

Don't forget - the annual Park holiday concert is Thursday, December 7 in the gymnasium. There are two shows - one at 9 a.m. and one at 1 p.m. In order to accommodate everyone, Park asks that no more than two guests attend per family and that they attend only one show.

Students will also get into the holiday spirit with Santa's Workshop from December 11th-15th and the Polar Express / PJ Day and Sing-a-long on December 20th.



The middle school student government participated in a special service project prior to Thanksgiving in honor of the medical staff at West Penn Hospital's Cancer Institute. The student government and entire Steel Valley community is thankful for all medical staff in all hospitals, but the students wanted to do something special for the hematology and T-7 cell therapy unit, which has been alongside Mr. Jim Fitzgerald and his family during the last two years of his cancer treatment.

Students prepared slider sandwiches, pasta salad, and rice krispies to show their appreciation for the staff during Thanksgiving week. A special thank you to district chef extraordinaire, Mrs. Holli Bobick, for guiding the students through the cooking steps and Dana Grimm for helping to shop for groceries to prepare the meal. The students also appreciated Ms. Dolton for letting them use her room and supplies. It would not have been possible without your support.

Giving back was a big part of the middle school throughout November, as Steel Valley students also collected 1,129 donations for the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank.

The middle school student government entered the City of Pittsburgh Gingerbread Contest and finished in second place in the middle school category. They are now in the running for the 2023 People's Choice Award, and as of this publication, [you can still submit your vote for their display of SVMS Presents Homestead Works.](#)



Members of the Steel Valley Class of 2024 had some team building and memory-making time at Urban Air Adventure Park at the Waterfront. Senior year can sometimes be a stressful time and this was a way to let the seniors let loose for a little while.

Congratulations to the numerous Steel Valley football players who earned postseason honors for their play this year. Donald Barksdale was named conference offensive MVP, while Mike Crist was named conference defensive MVP. Ray Braszo was named conference coach of the year. Barksdale, Crist and Carlos Scott were named all-conference first team, while Del Shields was named to the second team and John Heddleston was tabbed as an honorable mention. On defense, Crist, Scott, Shields and Rashaun Hough were named all-conference first team, while Barksdale and Smoot were selected to the second team, and Quaron Pierce and Cayson Simpkins received honorable mention honors. A.J. Karstetter and Barksdale were named all-conference first team on special teams, while Scott received second team honors and Smoot received honorable mention honors.

Three Steel Valley students were named Steel Center Students of the Month for November. Tristian Banks earned the honor in Collision Repair and Refinishing, Tiera Menefee was chosen for Cosmetology, and Nate Yuhas was selected for HVACR.

Any students interested in participating in this year's musical should attend a meeting in the auditorium on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 3 p.m.

Semi-Formal tickets will go on sale from Wednesday, Dec. 6 through Friday, Dec. 8 in Room 248 before and after school. No tickets will be sold after 2:35 p.m. on Dec. 8. All signed paperwork must be submitted at the time of ticket purchase. Tickets may be purchased with cash or a check made out to SV Semi Formal. Paperwork has been available since the beginning of November and can be found outside of the Athletic Office, outside of Room 248, or [on the Steel Valley website under the Semi-Formal tab](#).

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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