



# STEEL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

District News • Stories • Events

## January 2024



The Steel Valley Music Department showcased the choirs and concert bands at the middle school and high school with a joint winter concert on Wednesday, December 20.

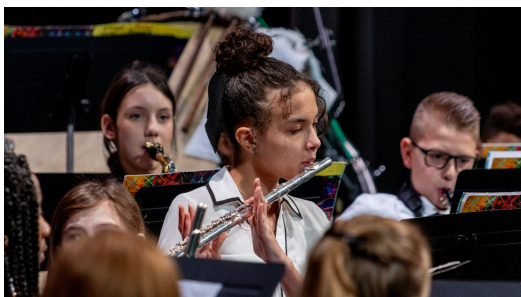
Under the direction of Mr. Andrew Roberts, the High School Concert Choir opened the show with "Christmas Bell Roundelay" and "Feliz Navidad" before performing "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" and "Jubilate Deo." The choir closed its performance with John Legend's "Bring Me Love."

The Middle School Forge Voices took the stage and opened with "Counting Stars" and "Gloria Deo!" They then performed "Calypso Noel" and "Jingle All the Way" before closing with Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling."

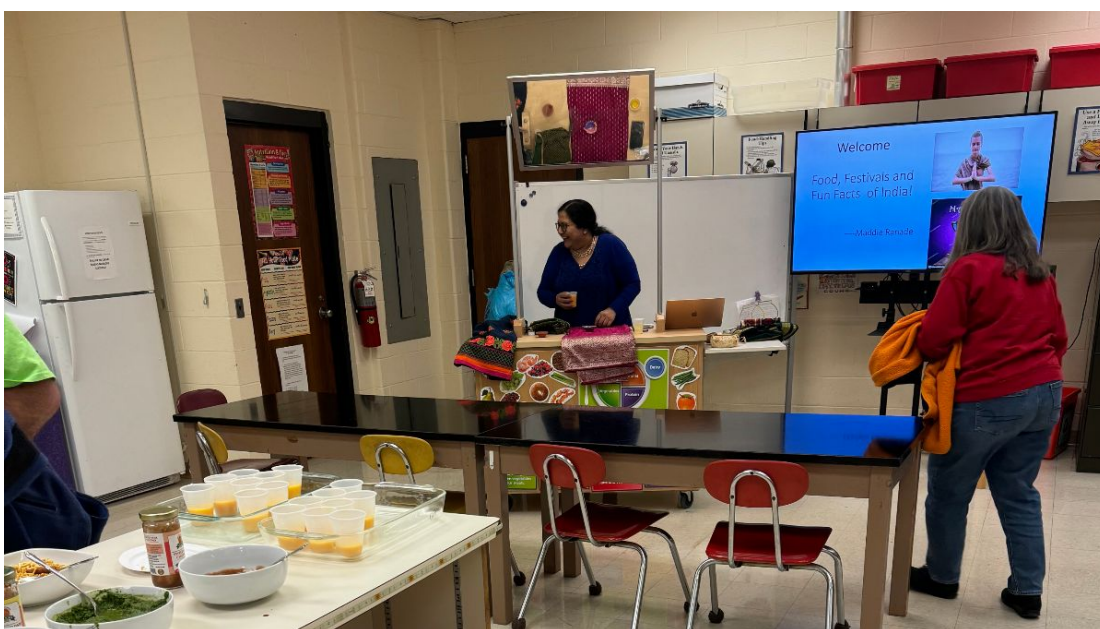
After a short intermission, it was time for the fifth and sixth grade concert band to perform. Under the direction of Ms. Malia Mueller, the fifth and sixth graders performed a trio of classics: "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas," "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" and "Jingle Bells."

The seventh through twelfth grade concert band closed out the show with "Christmas Fanfare," a medley of songs from the hit movie "The Polar Express," and the holiday classic "Sleigh Ride."

[For more photos from the evening's performance, check out the gallery on the district website.](#)



## STEEL VALLEY SPOTLIGHT



Steel Valley School District teachers, staff and administrators participated in an engaging Act 80 day just before the holiday break. The session was full of knowledge, fun and food. Breakout sessions were led by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Turtle Creek Valley Services, Steel Valley staff, and community members.

The topics and activities included: Self-Defense, Bocce, Yoga, Foods, Fun, and Festivals of India, Supporting Success of ELL, Building Relationships, Waggle, and Collaborative Problem Solving. Act 80 days are critical for our staff to continue their own professional development so that they can grow as educators.





Poster by Delaney Siegel

Written by Jason Pizzarello  
Directed by Mrs. Schott

The Steel Valley Middle School drama program is excited to present the play, "Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Your Teachers (But Were Afraid To Ask)." The show pulls back the curtain on why your teachers are just the way they are. This ensemble cast performance will answer some frequently asked questions and leave your sides sore from laughter. The show runs from Thursday, January 11 through Saturday, January 13, with each show starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$2.

Barrett Elementary News



This year's theme for the annual Barrett Winter Holiday Concert was "Oh, Christmas Tree," thanks to music teacher Ms. Kerry Melega's enduring love for Christmas trees! Each class performed at least one song that was all about Christmas trees. Parents and family members were treated to a number of performances by each class. Thanks to the Barrett Elementary staff and Special Events Committee for helping put the show together, Ms. Betty Lyons for doing the costumes, Ms. Amy Konesky for helping choreograph the show, and Mr. Matt Janov for serving as stage manager.

Barrett will be hosting a Bingo Night on Friday, February 2 at the Whitaker Fire Hall at 239 Church Street in Whitaker. Bingo Night is for adults only and proceeds will support Barrett Elementary School. Tickets are \$20, which includes Bingo cards for ten games, four numbers for a drawing to win \$400, snacks and water. Tickets will be on sale at the school office beginning January 15.

Just before the holiday break, kindergarten students packed their suitcases and grabbed their passports on a trip around the world. They experienced how other countries celebrate the holiday season. A holiday journal and craft was completed at each stop.

Report cards and academic awards will be distributed on January 19.

**Park Elementary News**





The holiday spirit was in abundance at Park Elementary prior to winter break, thanks to the students' performances in their annual holiday concert. The kindergarteners began the show with "Up On the Housetop," "The Tree Looks Nice," "Dancing Christmas Tree," and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." Two Park students even brought a pair of Christmas trees to life with a little help from their decorating friends.

First graders sang "Jolly Old St. Nicholas," "Jingle Bells," and "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree," which featured a bunch of really talented dancers. Second grade took the stage to sing "Oh, Christmas Tree," "Suzy Snowflake," and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." All of Santa's reindeer made it to the show, including a very energetic Rudolph.

Third graders performed "I'm the Happiest Christmas Tree," "Must Be Santa," and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." Fourth graders wrapped up the show with "The Tree," "Jingle Bell Rock," "Somewhere in My Memory," and one last round of "Jingle Bell Rock." Families and friends truly enjoyed the performance!

Park would like to welcome Ms. Jamie Richardson and Ms. Kylie Murphy to the staff. Ms. Richardson is a building substitute teacher who is currently enrolled at Point Park University as part of their alternative certification program, which is designed for professionals transitioning to a career in education. Ms. Richardson spent 20 years in Human Resource Management. Ms. Murphy is a Trauma Based Intervention Specialist who will help Park students in need. She was previously a developmental therapist.

Keep an eye out for the start of intramurals, which run from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. Fourth graders run the week of January 8, followed by third grade the week of January 22 and second grade the week of January 29.



The Ironmen Cafe is fully stocked and making stops around the secondary campus every Wednesday. Ms. Noblet and Ms. Furrick began the project in 2019 as a way for students to gain some important life and transitional skills. Now, Ms. Bell and Ms. Furrick work with the middle school students every Wednesday to make sure the cart is stocked with drinks and snacks. Then they help guide two teams of students as they take the carts around the building, stopping at each classroom to see if teachers and staff would like to make a purchase.

Thanks to the incredible support of the Steel Valley staff, the entire project is self-sufficient. Supplies are restocked with the money the students bring in, and the funds also enable the students to enjoy a field trip at the end of the school year. Middle school students are able to learn multiple aspects of running the cart, picking up important life skills that will help them as they advance to high school and beyond.

Thanks to Tickets for Kids, 30 middle school families attended the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium on December 7 for their Holiday Zoo Lights. Students were chosen for their academic achievements in Math per grade level by their classroom teacher. Each grade level received six to seven passes to send students and their families to view the beautiful light display.

Students in Ms. Noblet's social studies classes are working on a writing project to end their unit on the North American regions. Students have a choice of an era: persuasive, narrative, descriptive, imaginative, or postcard. Once they decide, they follow a writing prompt to apply the skills and content they've learned in this unit. Parents are encouraged to check Google Classroom for more details on the project and can follow @room31commUNITY on Instagram for student work samples at the end of the project.





Congratulations to the quiz bowl team, which competed with other schools in a TV quiz show run by KDKA. Steel Valley earned second place. The team coach is Mrs. Ranade, who teaches AP chemistry and honors chemistry at the high school. The quiz team will next prepare for a national competition in March.

Mrs. Ranade also brought some flavors of India to the Steel Valley Transition Program recently. She guided the students as they prepared three Indian dishes. The group prepared two savory plant-based entrees. For dessert, the group hand rolled Indian Donuts. Mrs. Ranade explained the science behind the cooking, while sharing cultural insights. She encouraged all students to try the dishes but not to waste any food. The Steel Valley Transition Program had an educational and delicious cross-cultural experience.

Senior offensive lineman Mike Crist and junior running back Donald Barksdale were named to the Pennsylvania Football Writers Class 2A all-state team. Mike and Donald helped lead Steel Valley back to the WPIAL Class 2A championship and have received numerous accolades for their performances this season. Mike was previously named a finalist for the Bill Fralic Memorial Award, which recognizes the top senior lineman in the WPIAL. Donald was named the Post-Gazette's WPIAL Class 2A Player of the Year.

Congratulations to Tyler Pagano, who earned recognition from the Steel Center for Careers and Technical Education as the December Student of the Month for Advertising and Design.

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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