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# STEEL VALLEY NEWSLETTER

District News • Stories • Events

## November 2021



A little bit of rain wasn't enough to dampen anyone's spirits at the annual Funder Under the Bridge on October 3. The district fundraising event featured fantastic student performances, games and activities hosted by various Steel Valley student organizations and athletics teams, opportunities to win prizes and much more.

But the highlight was the grand finale - the opportunity to see some notable faces from the Steel Valley community take a pie to the face! Organizer Bill McLaughlin reported to the school board at the October meeting that the event raised an even \$6,000 for the district, with each participating student organization receiving approximately \$425 apiece.

Thanks to everyone who participated, donated and gave their time to make this event happen once again.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

In his November message to the Steel Valley community, Superintendent Edward Wehrer highlights achievement amidst adversity. Steel Valley students are reaching new heights in athletics and in academics, and they deserve recognition. [Click here to read the full message from Mr. Wehrer.](#)

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Facemasks are required in all Steel Valley School District buildings as mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health on August 31, 2021. The Steel Valley School District also has a board-approved health and safety plan that is available [on the district web site.](#)



For Lamar Fullard and his teammates, every play the reserve defensive back makes on the football field carries a little extra weight. Football has opened doors and helped Fullard succeed in multiple ways, and his presence on the football team has had an impact on his teammates, as well. [To read Lamar's story, click here.](#)

Students in Mr. Austin Riley's Life Skills English classes published the first edition of what they hope to be a new tradition: A regular newsletter! The entire newsletter was written and edited by the students with help from Mr. Riley. The newsletter enables the students to share what's going in the school, write creative stories and share their artwork, and showcase what's going in their community. If you have a story that you would like the students to report on, email Mr. Riley at [ariley@steelvalleysd.org](mailto:ariley@steelvalleysd.org).

## BARRETT ELEMENTARY NEWS



Thanks to the work of the kindergarten teachers and reading specialists, Barrett is hard at work closing the reading gap for our students. The Connections Reading Program and training from the Allegheny Intermediate Unit has helped make a difference, and Barrett students are getting exposed to a wide variety of books.

There is also a new face around the halls at Barrett. Larry Storch, an officer with the Homestead Police Department, is the new school resource officer. Officer Storch will help with building safety and will lend his experience to various programs that are offered at Barrett.

On Tuesday, November 2 the annual Pepperoni Sale will begin. The sale will last through November 19. It's one of several fun programs coming up in November, including the return of Barrett's partnership with Vision to Learn. The

organization provides eye exams for kids and will be bringing in glasses for 60 to 70 students.



The Steel Valley School District is hiring for several important positions! The district is in need of paraeducators and substitute teachers, as well as substitute secretaries, paraprofessionals, custodians, and cafeteria workers. A full list of openings [is available on the web site.](#)

## PARK ELEMENTARY NEWS



October was a busy month at Park Elementary! Fourth grade students on the Principal Advisory Council met with their fellow students to find out what recess equipment they would like. The students requested bases, bouncy balls, chalk and other items, which have all been ordered.

The Principal Advisory Council also learned that Park needed an upgrade for its public address system. They met with Ken Boswell from Horizon Information Services, who listened to what the students had to say, took some notes and will provide an estimate of what an upgrade might cost.

School board member Maya Adams also stopped by Park to serve as a guest reader. Ms. Adams read *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle to the kindergartners. The book relays a powerful message about overcoming obstacles. Kindergartners also had an alphabet boot camp, where they learned all 26 letters over the course of 26 days.



What's for lunch? We've got the answer! Check out the menus for the high school, middle school and both elementary schools on the district web site. The menus [are updated before each month.](#)



The Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania School Board Association has recognized Steel Valley School Director Colette Youngblood with its Honor Roll of Service award. The certificate honors school board members for their, "ongoing school board service and the long-term contributions of individuals who bring their energy, talent and values to the guidance of youth and public education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Youngblood's tenure on the Steel Valley School Board is coming to an end after 12 years of service. She was recognized as a "Friend of Steel Valley" at the October board meeting. Two other outgoing board members were similarly recognized as "Friends of Steel Valley." Mr. William Blick and Ms. Kathy Ligeros, who each spent four years on the board, were also nominated and presented with a special commemoration of their service.

For more about Ms. Youngblood, Mr. Blick and Mr. Ligeros, [read the full story here.](#)

## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



Halloween may be a holiday of tricks and treats, but it can also provide some outstanding educational opportunities. Eighth grade math students tackled the concept of linear functions while getting into the Halloween spirit. They used their knowledge of the graphs along with their problem solving skills to break out of some escape rooms.

In art class, students spent some time working on their renditions of characters from the classic holiday crossover movie *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. There were a few Jack Skellingtons, a handful of Sallys and plenty of other outstanding pieces of art.

Extracurricular programs are in full swing at the middle school, too. There is still time to join. Check out one of the programs below:

- Fearlessly Girl (5th/6th grade) meets on Wednesdays after school.
- Strong Women, Strong Girls (5th grade) meets on Mondays at the Batch Center.
- Girl Talk (6th-8th grade) meets Wednesdays after school at the Batch Center.
- Student government (5th-8th grade) meets on Tuesdays in the middle school cafeteria.
- The Art Club (5th to 8th grade) meets on Thursdays after school in the art room.
- Stand Together (5th-8th grade) will have a training session on November 3 with more information to come about regular meeting days.



Remember, there is a dress code in effect this year! It's similar to ones the district has used in the past, but if parents and students need a reminder, the dress code is available in the student handbooks for each school. All of the handbooks [are available on the district web site.](#)

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



As the college search process heats up, students can take advantage of a dedicated space in the library to help with the application process. The space



includes brochures and information on numerous regional colleges, information on the SATs and ACTs, details about scholarships and financial aid, as well as a set-up for virtual visits and presentations. There is also a dedicated room for college visits.

Congratulations to the Steel Valley Varsity Marching Band and Color Guard for placing fourth at the Tournament of Bands Region 8 Championship. The event was held October 23 at Penn-Trafford High School and the band put on an incredible performance.

Over in the science department, Mr. Jeffrey Deabner has the new planetarium operational. Did you know that Steel Valley is one of the only schools in the area with an astronomy program and classroom planetarium? It is also are one of the only schools with astronomy honors classes.

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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