

Avenews

News from the Allegheny Valley School District

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Kindergarten students opened the dedication event for Acmetonia Elementary School on January 17, leading the Pledge of Allegiance and singing a parody for their new school. Full Story on Page 2.



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Superintendent's Message

With a cheerful smile, I write to our Allegheny Valley families to say thank you to our resilient students, supportive community and board of directors, and a staff focused on student success. Acmetonia Elementary School construction was completed, by working together we made it—Thank you so very much.

At times, a smile seemed far-fetched when unexpected obstacles surfaced such as the extended absence of our kitchen or loss of gymnasium access. On January 7, 2019, the stress created by a school construction project almost instantly blossomed into joy as we watched our kindergarten through sixth-grade students enter Acmetonia Elementary School for the first time. Our students' bright, smiling faces orchestrated the gentle hum of excitement that only children can generate. Instantly every obstacle, every setback was worth the journey to get where we are today - an elementary school that symbolizes a change in how students, spaces, and learning mesh at Allegheny Valley.

Having one kindergarten through sixth-grade building demonstrates a significant shift in how we as a District picture student learning. As a structure, the newly renovated Acmetonia Elementary School looks terrific. The School District enhanced building security measures so that students and staff can interact and learn. Our educational spaces emphasize



Dr. Patrick Graczyk reads 'Twas the Night Before Christmas to Kindergarten students.

the importance of technology and STEAM learning experiences by establishing welcoming environments for hands-on experimental learning and problem-solving. Our incredible choral and band rooms inspire artistic innovation. By constructing these educational spaces, we limited the number of transitions students must undergo when they switch school buildings by combining the entire elementary staff and students under one roof.

All of the previously mentioned qualities of the school building are important, yet one unmentioned factor rises above all others. It is the staff, and how we connect with students through thoughtful
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District Opens Renovated Acme...from page 1

and celebrated with a ribbon-cutting event in January. Staff and students joined together to help provide a grand opening for the building.

The project officially began the week of October 2, 2017, breaking ground on September 18. Sixteen months after construction began, the District celebrated the opening. Grade 4-6 students and staff merged to the building after the Holiday Break, bringing together the elementary in one building for the first time since the late 1980s. Final details and transfer of materials were completed over the holiday break.

In the months preceding the move, administrators and staff planned out details for the move. Class schedules, lunch periods, transportation, and numerous other specifics were developed for the new building. In addition, staff planned a way to celebrate the opening of the Acmetonia Elementary.

Events began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, that featured students and staff expressing their appreciation for the updates to the facility. Two Acme

students were chosen for the honor of cutting the ribbon to open the building. Speeches were made by the Superintendent, School Board President, and Acmetonia Principal. Entertainment was provided by Ms. DiPalma's Kindergarten class, with comments from Grade 6 student Camryn Kunz.

The evening turned to building tours, activities for all ages, and musical entertainment. Visitors were able to walk through the building to see first-hand the changes that were brought about through the project.

A dedication event for the new administrative office was held in honor of Ms. Julia Desmone. Some years ago, the Colfax library was dedicated to Desmone, a former teacher and administrator at Colfax School. Once the decision was made to close the building, the School Board and administration believed it only fitting to move the dedication. Family and those who knew Ms. Desmone were on hand to participate in the ceremony.
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District Highlights: A Round of Applause for...from page 1

semester, District students received a number of awards and honors. Congratulations are extended to:

- Sophomore Liam Dale, who auditioned for the Western Regional Orchestra Festival in January and earned a spot in this ensemble. He then had an opportunity to advance to the State Orchestra to qualify as one of the top nine best high school orchestral trumpet players in the entire Commonwealth...and he did just that...an amazing accomplishment for a sophomore! Dale will now perform with the PMEA State Orchestra at PMEA Convention held this year in Pittsburgh at the Convention Center April 3-6. "Liam is an outstanding young musician and just all around great student," commented instrumental music teacher Stephen Smietana. "It is truly a pleasure to have him in the program."

- In vocal music, Kelsey Armstrong represented Springdale Jr-Sr High School at the Pennsylvania Music Educators District 1 Choir Festival.

- SHS students Bre Cummings, Autumn Sprouse, Justin Dvorsak, Zack Conte, Wyatt Skaugen, and Ryan Pribulsky on winning a hard fought battle over St. Joseph High School in Pennsylvania Mock Trial at the City-County Building in Pittsburgh.

- Sixth grade students Patrick Wylly, Caleb Leahy, Clare Schneider, and Carissa Walsh on their Third Award at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Wild Investigation competition at the Pittsburgh Zoo. The students earned the award by completing a challenging scavenger hunt activity covering the entire zoo complex.

- Springdale High School's Duncan Caltagarone, August Tabacheck, Isabella Walsh, Wyatt Skaugen, and Elena McCutcheon for their great presentations at the Pennsylvania Jr. Academy of Science competition. An extra congratulations to Elena McCutcheon, who qualified for the state competition.

- Simon Jaronski, Matt Scott, and Brennan Moody represented Springdale Jr-Sr High School at the KDKA Hometown High Q. The team beat Gateway and East Allegheny in their televised match. The team will move on to the playoffs. Stay tuned!

- SHS Visual Art students, Megan Rzeszotarski, Jaden Domaratz, and Tylar Rafail who won First, Second, and Third Place, respectfully, in the Waldman International Arts & Writing competition. This year's topic was "Women in the Holocaust." Congratulations also go to 8th grader, Grace Gent on winning First Place for junior high in the competition.

Sophomore Liam Dale represented Springdale Jr-Sr High School in the PMEA State Orchestra as one of the top nine best trumpet players in Pennsylvania.



Empty Dish

Springdale Jr-Sr High School students presented their sixth annual Empty Dish event in March. Empty Bowls is an international project to fight hunger, personalized by community artists and art organizations. The idea is for participating artists and groups to create and donate bowls, then serve a simple meal. Guests contribute a donation in exchange for the meal and the bowl. They are able to choose a bowl to use that day and to keep as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world.

With the students producing more than just bowls in their ceramics classes, the Springdale event became Empty Dish. Guests were able to choose from bowls, mugs, and dishes for their meal, and consumer science students prepared a soup and salad lunch. Staff members donated \$8.00 to participate, with all proceeds going to the Lower Valley Food Bank. The event raised more than \$300.



Springdale Jr-Sr High School consumer science and art students held the annual Empty Dish event to raise funds for the Lower Valley Food Bank.

Elementary Technology

Allegheny Valley believes that elementary education should coordinate learning through play and exploration. Taking that statement another step further, helps understand the integration of technology into the elementary levels. According to the *EdTech Review*, “technology helps educators engage students with many fun learning approaches.”

The District has integrated a number of areas where technology supports this philosophy. Mrs. Wasilak’s Kindergarten class was awarded a grant by the Dynamo Education Foundation for a KIWI program. The project introduces STEM learning to Kindergarten students, allowing them to create robots with everyday materials. The projects teach programming and engineering skills and encourage open-ended play that allows the integration of technical skills with expressive arts, math, literacy, and cultural exploration.

In addition, the Acmetonia STEAM classroom was added as part of the renovation project. Funded in part by a AIU Catalyst STEAM grant, the classroom program is firing on all cylinders. Throughout the year students have worked with Merge Cubes, Bloxels, Makey-Makies, and a litany of other STEAM actives to develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills necessary for students to be successful in a 21st century economy.

The STEAM program continues to grow at both the elementary and secondary levels. Students now



have a solid foundation to learn science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics as well as soft skills necessary to succeed in whatever their chosen path.

Financial Update

The Allegheny Valley School District 2018-19 Budget planning and preparation is well underway. The School District grapples with three budgets in any given year – completing the Audit of Financial Statements with Budget versus Actuals of the 2016-17 school year, managing the current 2017-18 Budget, and planning for the 2018-19 Budget.

The District’s budget is comprised of revenues and expenditures. The budget revenues include local revenues based on assessments received from Allegheny County in January, state revenue allocations determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education after the Governor’s budget address in February, and federal revenues which have remained flat over the years. The expenditures for the next school year will be impacted by debt service, increases in retirement and healthcare contributions with the contractual upward movement in salaries.

Staff members and administrators commenced a needs assessment beginning in the summer and con-

tinuing through the first semester of the school year. Building administrators then review these preliminary requests from staff. Additions and reductions to these lists are made accordingly. Administrators then submit the budget requests to the Business Manager. Meetings ensue between the administrators, Business Manager, and Superintendent. Resource allocations are reviewed and evaluated with prior year’s requests and balanced with the priorities, District goals and objectives, existing programs and course offerings, and the academic needs of the students to ensure all students achieve their maximum potential.

The District is also required to align its timeline of events related to 2018-19 budget process to the timeline prescribed by Act 1 of 2006. At their January regular voting meeting, the Board of School Directors approved a resolution not to raise taxes beyond the Act 1 Index set by the Department

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Emergency Management Update

These updates include items supported by state grants. Awarded by the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Office of Safe Schools, this year’s grant totals approximately \$40,000, providing for a second school police officer in the District. Allegheny Valley staff wrote the grant to add another individual to help with safety in the school buildings. Officer Kevin Gourley was hired and will be based at Acmetonia Elementary School.

Officer Gourley is a retired Harrison Township police officer. He is very excited to begin his tenure at Allegheny Valley and looks forward to building relationships with students, staff, and parents. Plans have been made for Gourley to meet parents and members of the community. He has already begun working with staff and students.

The District also received an Act 44 Grant for \$25,000. The grant will fund a portion of the salary for a District social worker. With a focus on emotional needs, the District wrote the grant to secure the services of a social worker as part of the counseling team at Allegheny Valley.

Along with the grants, the District continues with ALICE training, designing a large-scale drill, and implementing Act 44. Various drills are held in every building to help instill and better develop protocols. ALICE procedures have been taught, and are reviewed on a regular basis, to all students. Trainings for staff members continue, with an emphasis placed on training for support staff. In addition, the District will hold its large-scale drill at Acmetonia Elementary School this year. In conjunction with local EMAs, the District is working to coordinate an evacuation that tests procedures not only for the District but also for the community groups. A scenario is being developed that outlines goals, actions, and other specifics.

Other areas of Act 44 are being reviewed and implemented. The Safe2Say Something program, an anonymous tip line, has been explained to all students in grades 5-12. The program, run through the Attorney General’s Office, allows individuals to leave anonymous tips about safety matters in their schools. The committee is also looking into scheduling the School Safety and Security Assessments for its buildings.

By state law, all school districts are required to have an Emergency Plan approved by their School Board. Every crisis incident that occurs in the District, around the state, and across the nation provides lessons to learn and implement these updates into the plan.



Community Emergency Agencies, staff, and students participate in the Acmetonia Primary School Safety Fair.



Parents Be A Part

- Follow all District safety and emergency procedures.
- Bring identification to the main office any time you are picking up your child.
- Keep all student emergency information forms up-to-date in the building office.
- Notify your child’s school with any changes in custody arrangements and bring proper legal documentation to the school when necessary. The school needs to keep this information on file.
- Talk with the building nurse when specific health concerns or special needs arise with your child; this matter includes allergies.
- Notify the school if you notice any unsafe conditions around the facilities and/or building grounds.
- Know that in the event of a lockdown, NO ONE will be allowed to enter or leave District buildings. Parents are asked NOT to go to the schools, but to wait for information and/or directions from the District.
- Report any behavior that would constitute a threat to your child, other children, or adults to District administration.
- Contact a building or District administrator to ask questions or voice concerns about safety matters or procedures in the District.

In Our Schools...

Springdale Jr-Sr High School

Zolnierczyk Hits 1,000 points; Receives Extra Effort Award

Senior Michael Zolnierczyk contributed to Allegheny Valley history this year when he scored his 1,000 point on the basketball court. On January 22, Zolnierczyk scored his milestone basket in a game against Sto-Rox. The team congratulated him as they ended the game with a 65-56 win, leading to a trip to the WPIAL Playoffs for the team.



For his efforts on the court and field, in the classroom and community, Zolnierczyk was

honored with the Extra Effort Award by KDKA television and the Allegheny Health network. Sports anchor Bob Pompeani visited the school to make the presentation.

Pompeani commented that Zolnierczyk “sets a good example and makes good decisions.” He noted that Zolnierczyk’s nomination was selected out of 175 received at the station. Zolnierczyk stood out for all of his accomplishments.



Reddy Is Back!

Thanks to Springdale’s Art Club Reddy Kilowatt has returned to the high school. In an effort to brighten up the halls, members of the Art Club have painted various scenes and characters on the walls. Reddy has a prominent spot at the top of A-wing, where everyone can visit him on a daily basis.

Students Awarded for Art

The SHS Art Department has been busy accepting awards for their projects. Congratulations to:

- Cayly Mizak for winning a Silver Key in the Regional Scholastic Art Contest, where over 1700 pieces were submitted.

- Grace Gent for winning First Place, junior high in the Waldman International Arts & Writing competition.

- Tylar Rafail, Third Place, Jaden Domaratz, Second Place, and Megan Rzeszotarski, First Place winners in the Waldman International Arts & Writing competition. This year marks the second consecutive year in which Springdale students swept the awards, receiving First, Second, and Third Place honors. This year’s topic was “Women in the Holocaust.”

Springdale Jr-Sr High School’s Art Department has a history of bringing awards back to the District. In past years, students have won honors in local, regional, and national contests. These awards show not only the detailed skills they are learning, but the dedication of our students to the arts.



PPG Industry employees talked with Springdale High School students as part of the Junior Achievement program.

Junior Achievement

In February, junior high students had the chance to participate in JA (Junior Achievement) Day, a time when presenters come to the building to discuss workforce experiences with students and teach economic principals that enforce the school’s curriculum. Eighteen volunteers from PPG Industries in Springdale visited the school and taught lessons for 7th grade (It’s My Business) and 8th Grade (It’s My Future). Junior Achievement is an organization that has been promoting business education since 1919.

Acmetonia Elementary School

Students Raise Money for Leukemia

Acmetonia Elementary held its *Pasta for Pennies* event in March and raised more than \$2,400 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

For over 20 years, Olive Garden has sponsored its *Pasta for Pennies* program - a unique service-learning, philanthropic and character-building initiative in the LLS Student Series, where students collect donations to support efforts to find cures for blood cancers and ensure that patients have access to treatments. The top fundraising classroom in each school receives a pasta party courtesy of Olive Garden.

Springdale Jr-Sr High School also offers the program in their building.

All students at Acmetonia Elementary were able to participate in the *Pasta for Pennies* program.



Night Before Christmas

In December, Kindergarten students once again participated in one of their most traditional events. The reading of ‘Twas *The Night Before Christmas* was held featuring Superintendent Patrick Graczyk as the guest reader. Graczyk took on the spotlighted position and enjoyed interacting with the students and their teachers.

Held just prior to the Holiday Break, students are able to come to school dressed in their pajamas so they can relax and enjoy the event. An event to end the Kindergarten’s seasonal activities, the event has been held in the building for over 15 years.

Grade 1 students thought of 100 ways to be kind as their project for the 100th day of school.



Celebrating 100 Days of School

Students and teachers celebrated the 100th day of school with various classroom activities. Project displays filled the hallways, and students could be seen and heard completing a multitude of ways to highlight 100.

First grade students in Mrs. Taliana’s room took their celebration in different way, highlighting 100 different acts of kindness. Students wrote ways they could be kind to others. The statements did not have to be complete sentences or thoughts, but answered the questions: How can we be kind to others? How can our kind actions make a positive difference in someone else’s life? What does kindness look like if someone else is watching? The responses were posted outside of the classroom. “The acts of kindness were not to be done to receive acknowledgment,” commented Taliana, “but to be done knowing it’s the right thing to do and it makes us feel good to see others smile.”

Acmetonia Holds Annual Book Fair

The Acmetonia Title I and library staff hosted their annual Family Reading Night in March. Scheduled as a culminating event to their Book Fair, the family event is anticipated as an evening filled with activities for students and their families.

The theme of Dr. Seuss permeates the building as rooms are open for activities encompassing reading, math, technology, and other subject areas. The focus remains on the Book Fair, which provides the opportunity for appropriate books to be available to all students for reading activities at home and at school.

With the completed renovation, Acmetonia was able to bring back their annual Family Night.



Students Begin SeeSaw

When students can find meaning in the work they do at school, learning becomes a tremendously deep and personal experience. One of the ways to help students find their meaning and voice is to help build an audience for the tremendously important work they do on a daily basis. In Kindergarten through grade 6, teachers are working to build that audience for students' work by using the digital portfolio application called SeeSaw.

Using this app, students are able to collect "learning artifacts" of their work by taking pictures, recording videos, annotating documents, and capturing audio. With teacher approval, those artifacts can then be sent to the important people at home who are connected through the SeeSaw family app,



Through the SeeSaw program, students can show off what they are doing in the classroom.

where people can securely "like" and comment on their student's work and get a snap shot of the learning that students are working on everyday. The idea is to help start a conversation between the student and the important adults in his or her life. For every adult who has ever asked, "What did you do at school today?" and got the dreaded "nothing" response, SeeSaw is a chance to ask new questions and start a new conversation.

From September through December, students had posted 2,420 learning artifacts, their work had been liked more than 2,908 times, and the District had over 6,849 parent visits to SeeSaw. The program is making a difference in what parents see and how students can present their work for their families to see.

To connect with a student's work, family members need to download the "SeeSaw Family" app on any device and scan the QR code their student's teacher sent home earlier this year.

School Retool Experiences



Dr. Patrick Graczyk shadowed Sophomore Ashton Tyree for a day at the high school.

Over the past few months, several administrators have participated in School Retool's program called *Shadow a Student* (www.shadowastudent.org). For the program, an administrator, teacher or important adult in the District spends the entire day with one student, living out his/her entire school experience from start to finish. The goal of the activity is to help educators or leaders in the schools develop empathy for and humility about the students they serve. Adults, then, can begin to understand school happenings from the students' perspective so they can design programs with and for them.

The individuals at School Retool have been guiding Allegheny Valley administrators in good practices to follow when participating in *Shadow a Student*. The first priority to emphasize is that this activity is meant to build empathy for students and their perspectives. The purpose is not to evaluate or observe teachers, which can be a difficult mentality for administrators to get past. The purpose is to take notes and understand student culture to redesign school with thoughtful intention. The second priority is the importance for the adult to be fully present the day of the Shadow. In other words, the adult must spend the entire day with that student, including lunch and other activity time.

School Retool, which is a Design-Thinking program out of Stanford's d.School, is a way for educators to look critically at the systems in place in schools and develop small "hacks" (a clever tip or technique for doing or improving something) that can be implemented to change school cultures for the better.

If you are interested in learning more about School Retool, additional information can be found at: <http://schoolretool.org/>.

Career Fair Held

As part of the career-ready initiative, Allegheny Valley hosted its Fourth Annual Career Fair in March for students in grades 5, 6, 7, and 8. Coordinated through the Guidance Department, the event invited professionals from various careers to the high school to discuss their jobs, background, and responsibilities with students.

Sponsored by the Dynamo Education Foundation, the day featured careers in: engineering, law, technology, business & finance, military service, drone services, carpentry, probation officers, and several others. Of the twenty areas participating, thirteen were represented by District alumni. The participants were set up at tables throughout Springdale Jr-Sr High School's multi-purpose room. Students were able to move among the tables and interact with the professionals.

Counselors utilized information from the PA Standards' career clusters to select areas that should be represented. The idea is to have at least one vocation per cluster participating. The event was introduced by the counselors, who met with students in their classrooms to discuss the program, student responsibilities, and expectations. The counselors also distributed workbooks to all students. The books allow students to prepare for the event by helping to formulate questions, define priorities, and identify interests.

A written evaluation is given to all career participants. In addition, comments from the participants, teachers, and students are welcome to improve the event. The feedback in all areas was very positive. Changes will continue to be made to make the program as educational as possible for students. The event remains a positive addition for career exploration in the District.



The Career Fair included grades 5-6 visiting with professionals to provide details on their specific job skills and duties.

State Enacts Act 44

On June 22, 2018, Governor Tom Wolf signed Act 44 of 2018 into law, creating a School Safety and Security Committee within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). This Committee is tasked with developing the criteria school entities are to use in performing school safety and security assessments, issuing a survey to school entities to measure school safety and security preparedness, and administering grants.

Allegheny Valley began implementing Act 44 in July 2018. Its first act was to name Mr. Gregory Heavner, Acmetonia Elementary Principal, as the District's School Safety and Security Coordinator. Heavner has acted as the chairman of the Emergency Management Committee for over 15 years, so the appointment was a natural fit. In addition, the District completed the mandated survey and applied for grant funding.

The schools also researched Risk and Vulnerability studies, the Safe2Say Something program, and additional safety mandates included in the law. The Emergency Management Committee reviewed its program to identify areas in the District's plan that need to be updated due to the new law. The Committee also met with community Emergency Management Agencies to update them on Act 44, what it means for the District, and how it could impact the communities.

Allegheny Valley's Emergency Management Committee will make its report to the School Board at an Executive Session in the spring. The report is an annual mandate from Act 44.

For additional information on Act 44, please see <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/schoolsafety/Pages/default.aspx>

For More Information...

on Allegheny Valley's Pre-K program, please contact Dr. Janice Nuzzo at jnuzzo@avsd.k12.pa.us or 724-274-5300

Acmetonia Opening... *continued from page 2*

The event closed with the opening of a time capsule found in the courtyard during the renovation. Buried in the 1970s, the capsule was put together with student work, newspapers, and other memorabilia from 1974. Principal Greg Heavner explained that the District knew about the capsule, but couldn't find it after years of searching. The recovery of the container in the courtyard was a wonderful finding during construction.

Hundreds of people participated in the evening's events. Whether it was to walk through the new constructed areas, look at the renovations, read the history of the project, take a picture with Reddy Kilowatt, listen to the Jazz Band practice, or eat some of the snacks in the cafeteria, smiles and laughter could be seen and heard in every part of the facility.

Many thanks are extended to those individuals who played a key role in planning and organization of the opening event. Special appreciation is given to the Allegheny Valley PTA for their support throughout the project and during the evening's program.

Over the first months of the new semester, students and staff have gotten familiar with their new classrooms. The options provided in the new building are numerous, from technology to music to physical education, students are enjoying their new surroundings. Staff members also appreciate the facility and the ways it enhances education. The brightly lit rooms and areas, infrastructure upgrades, and technological additions all work to help students learn and enjoy their days in school.



Financial Update... *continued from page 3*

of Education at 2.4% for 2018-19. For next year's budget, the School District cannot exceed an increase of .4883 mills. Allegheny Valley does not anticipate any increase in federal revenue and a marginal, if not minimal increase, in state revenue. Retirement (employer rate increases from 32.57% to 34.18%) and healthcare through the Allegheny County School Health Consortium (3% increase) contributions, wages, and debt service payments will comprise the bulk of the projected increase in expenditures.

The 2018-19 Budget will be reviewed over the next few months. Staffing, capital expenditures with technology and equipment, facility needs, and supplies will be balanced with the District's plan and examined for additional cuts. The Business Manager and Superintendent will continue to be fiscally prudent and given the different entities, variables, and timing involved, the 2018-19 budget will continue to be updated through May 2018. Monthly updates will be shared with the Finance Committee and School Board. The preliminary budget will be presented to the Board of School Directors in May. The 2018-19 Final Budget will be approved and adopted at the June Regular Meeting. Community members are encouraged to attend monthly School Board meetings

Superintendent's Message...*continued from page 2*

relationships that generate the most significant opportunity for student success. Visionary changes at the elementary level include the realignment of staff and a strengthened instructional core by the vertical alignment of our Math, STEAM, Science, and English Language Arts curriculum for all students. The teachers, secretaries, principals, custodians, classroom and personal aides, cafeteria staff, and most importantly the students create an environment that makes one feel that all are welcome in our place of learning, Acmetonia Elementary School.

It is our hope that you will see the changes come to fruition through our students. You will see more innovation, more creativity, and more joy in learning. Our students show us what success should be. Having each child learn, to the best of his or her ability, in academics, social and emotional development, and extra-curricular activity programs is the best return we could get on this large investment. Building the future is not just a theme, but a reality.

Dynamo Education Foundation

Foundation Update

Supporting Allegheny Valley School District students and staff, the Dynamo Education Foundation awards grants for programs and activities that can not be funded in the District's annual budget. The Foundation continues to organize various activities throughout the community to raise funds and highlight its mission.

This year the organization attempted something a little different, hosting a dinner evening. Securing the The Fabulous Gemtones and the Harmar House, the Foundation held an amazing evening of entertainment that it hopes to continue as an annual event. Hundreds of alumni, residents, and friends filled the venue. All proceeds went to the Foundation's grant program.

In addition, a Soccer Reunion 2019 will return on June 22 for another year of competition. The event will host a game for current students and highlight the alumni match. The Foundation Committee is looking to coordinate some additional activities for the event. Registration for the Soccer Reunion was available in early April.

As the Dynamo Education Foundation continues to focus on securing partners - businesses and individuals - who would like to show their support for the Allegheny Valley School District. The Partnership Program has been very successful for the group and is available on an annual basis. The group continues to research and write a planned giving program that would enable interested individuals to remember the Foundation with charitable gifts. Additional information will be made available once the final program has been completed.

This year, the Foundation supported the opening of the Acmetonia Elementary School and continued its sponsorship of the Career Fair at the high school. Coming soon, the group will begin a campaign to fund a new component for the elementary building's STEAM program. The Dynamo Education Foundation remains committed to the Allegheny Valley School District, its students, and its staff. They continue to believe that one small contribution can have a lasting impact.

To learn more about the Dynamo Education Foundation or to make a donation, please see the Foundation's web page at: www.avsdweb.org.



The Dynamo Education Foundation sponsored a photo booth at the closing event for Colfax (left) and awarded a grant to Kindergarten for the Pee Wee KIWI Program.

2018-2019 Grants...

The Dynamo Education Foundation is proud to announce the awarding of three grants to Allegheny Valley staff members for the 2018-19 school year:

- **Project 1: Life Saving Movement Program.** Through a UNICEF program, students use activity-tracking wrist bands to record the number of steps they take during activities. The steps are added together to earn food packets for malnourished children in underdeveloped countries. Students, then, begin to understand the impact their actions can have on others around the world. *Staff recipient: Rachel Rhodes, Grade 4 Teacher.*
- **Project 2: Pee Wee KIWI Program.** The project will introduce STEM learning to Kindergarten students, allowing them to create robots with everyday materials. The project teaches programming and engineering skills and encourages open-ended play to allow the integration of technical skills with expressive arts, math, literacy, and cultural exploration. *Staff recipients: Rayna Wasilak, Kindergarten Teacher, & Tina Kaczor, Technology Systems Coordinator.*
- **Project 3: Transition Independent Living/Apartment Program.** The high school special education department will create an apartment-style room, where students can develop and practice everyday skills. The program creates an authentic environment where students can prepare for independent living. *Staff recipient: Meredith Cooper, Special Education Teacher.*



Allegheny Valley School District

300 Pearl Avenue
Cheswick, PA 15024

***Our Mission:** The mission of the Allegheny Valley School District, a group of small traditional communities, is to educate all students to achieve their maximum potential. A dedicated staff, in partnership with school, home, and community, will empower students to become responsible and contributing citizens able to meet challenges in an international society.*

Allegheny Valley School District
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www.avsdweb.org

And Finally...

Unless otherwise noted, the Allegheny Valley Board of School Directors conducts its agenda planning session on the second Tuesday of the month. Regular meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. Both meetings are held in the Acmetonia Primary School Forum beginning at 7:00 p.m. (A complete list of the meetings is located on the District's web site: www.avsdweb.org.)

The newsletter is published through the Public Relations Department of the Allegheny Valley School District. Comments and inquiries pertaining to the newsletter should be sent to Ms. Janice Zastawniak, Public Relations Director, 300 Pearl Avenue, Cheswick, PA 15024.

The Allegheny Valley School District will not discriminate in its education programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, ancestry, disability, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Employees and others involved with the District who have a complaint of discrimination or harassment or require information about accommodations for disabled individuals, should contact the superintendent of schools by calling 724-274-5300 or writing and mailing a letter addressed to 300 Pearl Avenue, Cheswick, PA 15024.

Administration...

Patrick M. Graczyk, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Janice E. Nuzzo, Ed.D.
Director of Student Achievement
Michele A. Welter, Ed.D.
Springdale Jr-Sr High School Principal
Peter Simpson
Springdale Jr-Sr High School Assistant Principal
Gregory J. Heavner
Elementary Supervisor/Transportation Director
Jennifer L. Vecchio
Grades 4-6 Principal
Melissa Holler
Special Education Supervisor
Brett Slezak
Supervisor of Technology
Janice Zastawniak
Public Relations Director/Newsletter Editor

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Solicitor	Matt Hoffman, Esq.