



**TEACHERS WIN GRANTS**



**HONORING OUR VETERANS**



**SHS WELCOMES EXCHANGE STUDENT**



**PROGRAM TEACHES STUDENTS SKILLS**

Allegheny Valley School District

# eNEWS



*Superintendent Patrick Graczyk reads 'Twas The Night Before Christmas to Kindergarten students prior to the holiday break. The event has become a tradition for the grade level to share the holiday spirit.*

## The Importance of Tradition

In her motivational talks, Rita Barrett Craig says “traditions touch us, they connect us, and they expand us.” We see the truth in that statement as Allegheny Valley students look forward to various long-standing activities during the school year. Around the holidays, the comment becomes more meaningful as a number of these projects are held throughout the District. In many, students and staff celebrate the spirit of the season and take the initiative to share and spread goodwill.

A glimpse at the District calendar gives students an idea of what they can look forward to – Homecoming, Senior Nights, Dr. Seuss Night, and the Veterans’ Day program to name a few. Even through the pandemic, District staff found ways to continue these practices, adding new components at times to help students anticipate the programs each year. Through these traditions, students find ways to connect to the past, to other students, and to the extended Allegheny Valley family.

Many of the programs are celebrations and a number of them have elements that allow for students to give back to the community. From collecting food items at concerts and performances, to making cards and banners for veterans, students begin to understand the importance of benevolence and giving to others. The programs also put students in touch with other aspects of their community. For example, at the Senior Citizen Brunch, students are introduced to the District's senior residents. Students are able to talk with the residents and share aspects of their lives, a chance that students may not have had outside of this program.

The activities are also ones that students look forward to, and ones they can look back on with fondness. Students anticipate being a part of the high school's musical, and many can't wait to try out for the annual production. Just as they remember reading *'Twas The Night Before Christmas* in Kindergarten with the Superintendent. The excitement of things to come and happy memories of their experiences form a successful path through their school days.

New traditions have also come about as the District continues to make its way through the pandemic. The Senior Parade, rival programs between SHS and Riverview, the funding drive in fourth grade prove that staff continues to adapt to make the students' time in school positive and filled with happy memories.

Allegheny Valley does understand the importance of tradition, for the schools and the community. Students continue to be affected, connected to the extended community, and have their views expanded by what they learn. Tradition becomes an additional reason to be Dynamo Proud.

## Inspire...



Acmetonia Elementary School's grade 6 students spent the beginning of the school year getting to know one another and discussing growth mindset - how to change the way they approach a challenging topic. Using the book "Dream" by Susan V. Bosak - an inspiring book for young and old, that teaches everyone to set goals and follow their dreams - students examined their own thoughts and beliefs.

The book led students on a life journey, thinking about many points in their lives. Beginning with when they were born, to current time, and progressing through later life. They are asked to think about milestones and what they would like to do as they mature. What are their hopes...their dreams?

Under the direction of Ms. Kelly Slomka, language arts teacher, the classes created dream chests. A box was purchased for each student and Slomka asked that each one bring in magazines, stickers, ribbons, glitter, and anything else they would like to use to decorate and personalize their "Dream Chest." The students will be able to fill the chests with inspiration and goals as they go through the school year.

"[We] revisited the program for the New Years, set new goals, and added them to our dream chest," stated Ms. Slomka. "I encouraged students to look at some of their past goals to see if they accomplished them or to make a new plan to reach their original goal."

## Fall Sports Honors

### Boys' Soccer:

#### All Section 3A

William Lawrence, Chris Mitchell  
*Valley News Dispatch*

First Team: Chris Mitchell

Second Team: William Lawrence

#### All W.P.I.A.L.

William Lawrence, Chris Mitchell

### Girls' Soccer:

#### All Section 1A

Grace Gent, Lilly Iadicicco, Briana Ross, Addison Schussman, Isabella Walsh

#### Valley News Dispatch

First Team: Grace Gent, Briana Ross

Second Team: Lilly Iadicicco, Isabella Walsh

#### All WPIAL Class A All-Stars

Grace Gent, Lilly Iadicicco, Isabella Walsh

### Football:

#### Eastern Football Conference

First Team Offense: Logan Dexter

First Team Defense: Logan Dexter, Gio Savko, Andrew Haus

#### Valley News Dispatch All-Stars

First Team: Logan Dexter, Gage Howard

Second Team: Andrew Harmon, Andrew Haus, Gio Savko

### Registration for 2022-2023 Pre-K and Kindergarten Programs

Pre-Kindergarten (Age 4 by 9-1-22) will be held in February 2022

Kindergarten (Age 5 by 9-1-22) will be held in March 2022

For additional information, please visit the District website at [www.avsdweb.org](http://www.avsdweb.org)

### Dynamo Education Foundation Provides Grants To Staff Members



The Dynamo Education Foundation continues to focus on its goal to raise funds for classroom projects. Each year, staff members apply for competitive grants that fund innovative educational projects, enrichment programs, and other educational initiatives. For the 2021-22 school year, the Foundation awarded three grants to Allegheny Valley staff members. The winners and projects are listed at <http://www.avsdweb.org/foundation/grant-program>

In the eight years the Foundation has been awarding grants, the group has given over \$18,000 to the District. The Foundation's Board of Directors plan to continue their fundraising efforts. To date, a series of events and activities are coordinated to help raise money for the Grant Program. The Foundation has also instituted a Grant Partner Program, where businesses and individuals can support these grants. For additional information on the Dynamo Education Foundation, please go to <http://www.avsdweb.org/foundation/index.html>

### District Celebrates Our Veterans



Due to the pandemic, the annual Veterans' Day Celebration was not able to be held again this year. However, students and staff found creative ways to recognize the service of men and women to the community and our country. Students created videos playing instruments and singing patriotic songs, made banners and cards, and wrote poems to show their appreciation. All of the items were shown on the District's social media accounts, web site, or taken to the Springdale Veterans' Association and Harmar Village/Amber Woods to distribute to our veterans.

### SHS Welcomes Exchange Student



Allegheny Valley celebrated International Education Week with presentations from Springdale High School's Zainub Waqas, an exchange student from Pakistan. Z, as she is known, talked about the geography and people of Pakistan, shared history of her home county, and brought in food to sample. International Education Week (IEW) is scheduled each year to provide an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. A joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, the week is part of the efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences.

### Program Teaches Students Skills



Springdale Jr-Sr High School welcomed Ms. Ashley Mullen, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's (OVR) Early Reach Coordinator, to run groups with 9th and 10th grades every other week. [OVR](#) is an organization that offers various supports to help people with disabilities prepare for, obtain, or maintain employment.

Prior to the holidays, Mullen taught the students about the importance of teamwork and had them complete an activity that required them to work together. The students struggled with the activity at first, but learned to work together to complete it successfully. These types of skills, soft skills - abilities that relate to how individuals work and interact with others, are very important to help students work well with other people and develop career aspirations.

---

*eNEWS is a publication of the Allegheny Valley School District. Questions or comments should be sent to [jzastawniak@avsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:jzastawniak@avsd.k12.pa.us).*

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