

Avenews

News from the Allegheny Valley School District

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Lessons Learned

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District Highlights

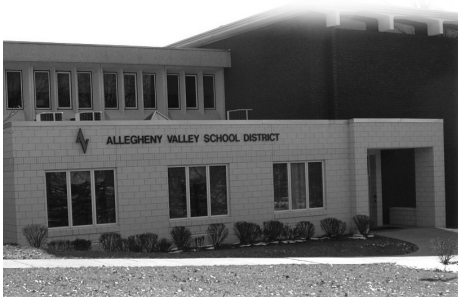
Pg. 3 A round of applause is given to a number of Allegheny Valley students. Over the course of the first...*continued on page 3*

Foundation Update

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Helen Keller once said, “Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.” Shadows seem to have taken over this past year. . *Full Story on Page 2.*



In the District... Allegheny Valley’s Emergency Management (EM) team continued with a number of updates to its plan...*Story on page 5*



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Superintendent's Message

In August, Allegheny Valley established a goal “to bring all students that are able, back to school.” To achieve our goal, we created deadlines, formed committees, and drafted numerous health and safety plans. Then, we strayed far from what we knew as “normal” educational practices to provide students/families options for learning; keep in mind that many of those options didn’t exist in the District a few months back. Despite the logistical hurdles in providing instruction in a virtual setting, hybrid setting, and then a virtual setting, and now a traditional setting, our staff connected with our students in new creative ways.

While there were moments of uncertainty and trepidation, Allegheny Valley persevered, continuously employing meaningful ways to connect with families. We see a renewed purpose in serving our community and do not take our role for granted. It is a humbling realization about how important our schools became by providing food security for students and families. I believe that schools extend outwardly beyond the school walls and into our communities and homes. Since the start of the pandemic, an electrifying Dynamo staff answered the call to help our families adjust to frustrating and uncertain circumstances that were out of anyone’s control. This is not to suggest that our students and



Superintendent Patrick Graczyk stops in the pre-K classroom to visit with students.

families do not positively impact the school or reach outwardly to Allegheny Valley. Rather, I am more cognizant of the depth to which Allegheny Valley connects with our families and community during this most challenging period in our lives.

As the pandemic wore on, the District expanded from 1:1 technology in grades 7-12 to provide devices for all PK-12 students. We exchanged, repaired, and reset countless laptops so that our students could quickly connect with their classmates and teachers. Thanks to an aggressive search for grant money, we provided internet for families that did not have adequate access.

I admire the resiliency and unrelenting drive of
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Positives from COVID...from page 1

From the pandemic, to changes around the community, to altered school days, everyone has had to deal with uncertainty and adjustments to everyday life. However, there was still sunshine, you just had to look for it.

Allegheny Valley’s Food Service Department provided over 5,850 drive-thru pick up meals to families from March through June 2020 when the school buildings were closed. They provided more throughout the 2020-21 school year and developed a way to get meals to families who could not pick up at the buildings.

Students appreciated being with their friends. The social aspect of life cannot be understated. There’s a lot to be said for talking with others, sharing opinions, and laughing. Friends and peers became much more important after a time of isolation decreased.

Individuals were forced to change. Although difficult for most, change became one of the most common things throughout the past year. People

had to change their routines, change the way they did things, and change the way the thought about things. We’ve found that change is not always a bad thing.



Kindness became the thing to do. Over the months students were in the buildings, they helped each other, spread kind words and deeds throughout the District and community, and showed the importance of generosity, compassion, and consideration.

The District improved its technology. Allegheny Valley is now 1:1 with devices PK-12; the District is part of T-Mobile’s project 10 Million for HotSpot Access for students. The entire wi-fi network is being updated; and remote support now

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District Highlights: A Round of Applause for...from page 1

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

- Forbes Road Career and Technical School inducted 33 students into the National Technical Honor Society; Springdale senior Ethan Sanders, who attends the school for HVAC, was among that group.
- Fifth grade student Caleb Fancella captured Third Place in the AIU 5th/6th CalcuSolve. He was one of approximately 120 students from area school districts to compete. Ten students earned a perfect score for First Place; four students received a score of 33 for Second Place; and 15 students secured a score of 30.
- Molly Hurley, grade 8, won First Place in the Eastern Suburbs Special Program Association (ESSPA, a gifted consortium) Middle School Public Speaking Competition. For the competition, students had to conduct research on a topic and record themselves giving a four-minute informational speech. Molly's topic was the importance of good sleeping habits.
- Sophomore Addison Schussman was accepted into the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Apprenticeship for Zoo Animal Care. She is part of a small group of high school students participating in the reopening of the AIU's Career Connections Program. Addison will learn about zoo animal care, the responsibilities of a zoo veterinarian, and the role of keepers.

Lessons Learned



environment, students ended up taking away the more important lesson that they - no matter how young - can make a difference. Through the Ecostudent Challenge, students were tasked to study 100 facts about the ecosystem and take

a test. They registered sponsors, who pledged a monetary amount for every fact the student answered correctly on his/her test, and collected an amazing amount of \$5,881.81.

The funds were donated to the Cape Clasp organization, which helps save the marine life. "Often times we feel so small because we're only one person," commented teacher Elizabeth Newill. "But through this project, they are one student, in a group of 80, who have discussed the project with others, and now have affected hundreds of people. That will make a difference."

Caleb Fancella won Third Place in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's CalcuSolve for students in grades 5 and 6.

Kindness Matters

No act of kindness no matter how small is ever wasted. - Aesop

Throughout the week of January 25-29, 2021 students in Ms. Tinker's high school classroom completed kind acts. The previous week, the class had learned about the Challenge through the New-2-You newspaper, a resource used in her social studies class. One of the weekly articles talked about the Great Kindness Challenge. Utilizing their web site, the class began brainstorming ideas, developed a Kind Act Checklist, and got to work.

Students completed some of the activities independently, while others were accomplished as a group. Some examples of the projects: Mr. Tsnagaris' independent study course members helped students to create *Be the Nice Kid* t-shirts;



Competitive Rivals

If you're from Springdale, you understand the rivalry with Riverview. It's been ongoing for more years than most remember. Two schools, close in size and proximity; rivals in athletics, but this year coming together to make a difference in their communities.

In January, a community outreach program titled the "Souper Bowl," was organized by two student leaders, one from Springdale Jr-Sr High School and one from Riverview High School. The goal of the project was to collect non-perishable food items for the food banks in each school district's community. Junior Isabella Walsh took the lead for Springdale and was sponsored by the school's The Future Is Mine (TFIM) club. This student club was developed through The Education Consortium, which connects districts around our area to college and career readiness opportunities.

The members of TFIS, along with the Riverview Student Council members, decided that the initial project (held in November and December, where the groups collaborated on a holiday stocking drive for homeless shelters in Pittsburgh) was such a success that they wanted to partner again to complete a community outreach program in their own communities. The students began organizing this project toward the end of January. The project managers planned to hold the kick-off at the same time as the real Super Bowl, in early February. The food drive competition lasted for about a month.



Primarily, the Super Bowl is a community service project that represents and upholds the ideals of The Future is Mine group. By working on team projects that connect students with employers in the community, the group also develops skills needed in a successful workplace. Classroom learning was also supported through this project because students were expected to work collaboratively to organize a successful project to solve a community need. In addition, the students had to market this community outreach program by making posters and commer-

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Financial Update

The uncertainty with COVID-19 has placed immense strain on the financial health of public school districts. School district budgets are comprised of revenues and expenditures. To generate revenues, there are three funding streams available to public school districts in Pennsylvania – revenues from Local, State, and Federal sources. School districts have no control over the first two sources of and frequently have to rely on local effort to raise revenue.

The financial challenges with revenues and expenditures are a major concern for school business leaders, and this is particularly pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Operationally, the School District has pivoted from closures to a hybrid model to plans for re-opening the schools. The District also has to comply with safety mandates from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Allegheny County Health Department guidelines. Juggling staffing shortages and coverage during quarantines, ensuring students and staff have devices they need for

online instruction, procuring cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment for staff and students has impacted the current year's budget during this challenging year.

The rise in students attending outside cyber charter schools is a major challenge and expenditure driver as well. When a student enrolls in a charter school, the home school district loses its subsidy from the state for that student, further constraining revenues. The problem is not just declining state funding, but the district has to now pay a tuition for that enrolled student to the charter school. However, the tuition to the charter school is calculated based on the budgeted expenditures of the school district. The District budget is built based on the academic needs of our students to ensure all students achieve their maximum potential. But, the District has to use these same budgeted expenditures to pay unanticipated tuition to outside cyber charter schools.

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Emergency Management Update

Despite the changes brought on by the COVID pandemic, these updates include items supported by state grants. Awarded by the School Safety and Security division of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the District received grant funding for approximately \$25,058, providing for COVID equipment and supplies for both buildings. In addition, the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Safe Schools Division awarded the District \$24,620 for radios and door locks/swipes. This school year, the District has received \$49,678 to support safety measures.

Along with the grants, the District completed training for their Risk Assessment Team. This team serves as a valuable resource to help prevent or manage incidents. They can assess the nature and reality of the threats, provide valuable information, and offer a realistic view of potential solutions. The team will meet throughout the school year.

In addition, the District has completed its Safety and Security Assessment. A review of facilities, emotional/behavioral health support, and policy is included in this evaluation. This Assessment was interrupted due to the pandemic, but was completed in March. The District awaits the final report. To complete directives from Acts 44 and 19, the District will finalize its formal Trauma-Informed Approach Plan by the end of the year.

Allegheny Valley's Emergency Management program also continues with coordinating annual drills, scheduling trainings, and implementing Act 44. Various drills are held in every building to help instill and better develop protocols. Large-scale drills have been interrupted due to pandemic restrictions, however, security, fire, bus, and other drills continue throughout the year. Reviews on ALICE and other response protocols also continue in preK-grade 12 classrooms. Finally, the District has installed a turnstyle at the entrance to Veterans' Field and is completing the integration of Navigate Prepared software to manage the components of the District's Emergency Plan. These items are led by the District's School Police Officers.

Allegheny Valley continues to update its Emergency Plan on a regular basis, by adding or reviewing sub plans that oversee elements of the Plan. By state law, all school districts are required to have an Emergency Plan approved by their School Board. In addition, every crisis incident that occurs in the District, around the state, and across the nation provides lessons to learn and implement to improve safety.



Above: Staff members complete tests to receive their NIMS certifications; Right, Officer Kevin Gourley directs traffic at dismissal at Acmetonia Elementary.



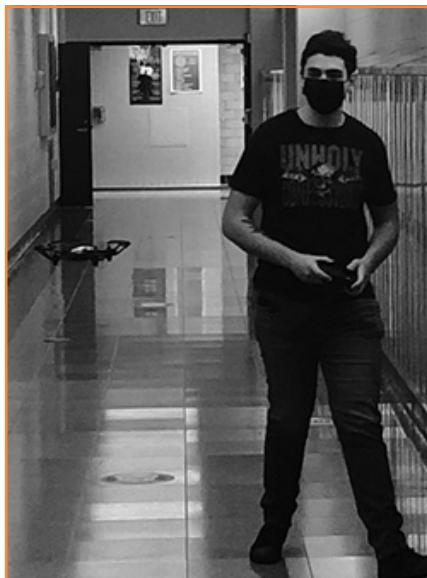
Parents Be A Part

- 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

Engineering Technology



Engineering Technology students at Springdale Jr-Sr High worked on multi-rotor drones this year.

They learned a number of uses for the drones such as photogrammetry, visual inspections, crop dusting, etc. Students also discovered how a drone works, how to fly a drone, recording still and video imagery, navigating an obstacle

course, and programming a drone to fly a flight path or grid. The students learned and wrote programs on their virtual days.

“The students are flying their drones indoors with the use of a phone and an app connecting with wifi,” commented John McDermott who teaches the Engineering Technology class. Students also use a bluetooth controller.

“The kids are enjoying coming [back] to school as they do hands-on projects,” McDermott said.

Girls’ Basketball on the Rebound

For several years, Springdale Jr-Sr High School didn’t know if it would have a Girls’ Varsity Basketball team. Numbers were down; students weren’t coming out for the team. But it seems as if the team is over that bump and on the rebound, if you will.

Twenty athletes came out for the team this year

“To me, this season was a success,” commented

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NHS Continues Tutoring

SHS National Honor Society continued its Tutoring Program throughout the pandemic.



Over the years, student tutoring has been an important program for Springdale Jr-Sr High School’s National Honor Society (NHS). Even through Remote Learning, Allegheny Valley students continued to support each other. Students met virtually over Google Classroom, usually after school, to work on math problems, review for a test, or share presentations.

Students who would like help, request a high school tutor and are paired with a NHS member who is able to assist them in their specific subject areas. A parent or teacher can also inquire about setting up tutoring for a student. Students are able to follow-up with the tutor on homework or review classwork.

NHS has been offering tutoring services for many years. Traditionally, the tutor would work with his/her student after school with a designated teacher in various classrooms. Arrangements were then made for the teams to meet after school each week, but the pandemic put a glitch in these arrangements. NHS worked to find a solution and came up with a plan to offer the tutoring virtually. The Honor Society tutors enjoy working with the other students; while those who need assistance liked asking questions to and talking with someone in their peer group.

“I think the tutoring program is a great opportunity for students to work together, whether it be working in-person or virtually,” commented NHS sponsor Andrea Sadowski. “It teaches all involved responsibility to keep up with their work and keep their tutoring appointments.” Not surprisingly, the tutors who diligently work each week helping others after school are also the students balancing other commitments such as sports, clubs, activities, and jobs.

“It makes me smile to see younger students excited to work with their high school tutor,” said Sadowski. Our student tutors are mentors and role models; they are setting the example.”

Acmetonia Elementary School

Dr. Seuss Goes Virtual

One of the most anticipated and attended activities at Acmetonia Primary School is its annual Dr. Seuss Family Night. With the disruptions for the normal routine due to the pandemic extending into the spring months, Acme staff made changes to enable Dr. Seuss to go virtual. Families were able to access activities online and complete projects and games. The school also held its annual Book Fair, with many of the students taking advantage of the program to purchase books in support of their love of reading.



Acmetonia Elementary School continued its Dr. Seuss Night tradition virtually, with online activities and games for families. The event supports the annual Book Fair at the 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 participating in a multitude of ways to highlight 100.

Students also participated virtually in several classrooms around the District. The recognition of the day goes beyond the number 100. It provides a special opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the major milestones in the students' academic achievement. That note was especially important to recognize this year.

Kindergarten students at Acmetonia Elementary School learn about various instruments in their music classes. Students study many aspects, including what the instrument looks like and sounds like.



Kindergarten Registration 21-22

The Allegheny Valley School District continues to register Kindergarten students for the 2021-2022 school year. In order to register for Kindergarten, a student must be 5 years old by September 1, 2021. If you have a student who is eligible to begin Kindergarten, and would like to register that child, please see the Kindergarten Registration page on the District's web site. For additional information, please contact Ms. Judy Pribulsky, at 724-274-6500 ext. 6121.

Robotics

Sixth grade students have completed a National Science Foundation sponsored research project in partnership with TERC - a non-profit organization that believes math and science builds futures - and Tufts University.

Their teacher, Ms. Emerick, worked with a team of researchers and other teachers from the state of Indiana to develop physical science units integrating robotics. Emerick designed hers around the concepts of speed and acceleration, which ties in 6th grade math and science concepts.

The students designed vehicles that traveled at a constant speed. They were given a robotics kit and the option of extra materials such as Legos, Dominoes, and cardboard. The students programmed microbites, the "brains" of their vehicles, and utilized a program called Make Code, a block-based coding program, to complete their projects.

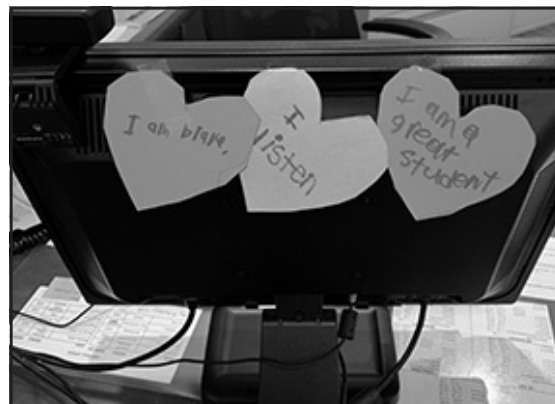


Kindness Matters...continued from page 3

students wrote positive affirmations on hearts and handed them to students and staff; students created a thank you note for all the teachers and included 3 tootsie rolls (1 for each of the students that made the thank you note); students learned a Tiktok dance and asked others to join in. They then performed the dance in front of the office and guidance staff; Students learned jokes and shared them with people throughout the building.

Staff and students throughout the high school love the project and appreciate the efforts of the students. These Acts will continue throughout the entire school year.

The program has helped promote positive social interactions among the students. Collaboration, communication, and other skills are also enhanced with some of the acts being completed with other students. The students loved it! They were really excited with the checklist and began to do the kind acts independently. In fact, one student began giving compliments to his peers and teachers throughout the school, while another student who typically walks through a door and does not hold it for anyone, started to hold the door for everyone. These kind acts help students become more aware of the people around them.



“Having more kindness in the world is a great thing,” commented Mrs. Tinker. “I believe that kindness is contagious - the more kind acts my students do, the more it will catch on with the rest of the school.” In addition, Tinker added that kindness is good for the body. It has been shown to increase self-esteem, empathy and compassion, and improve mood.

There are already plans to move forward with the program, having students complete kind acts throughout the entire school year. “Due to my students participating, we are now considered a Kindness Certified School District,” Tinker explained. Something of which we are very proud!

Rebound...continued from page 6

Coach Jerry Clark. “It’s the girls that made it happen. Their dedication, their desire to learn and get better, the fact they bought in 100 percent and they gave 100 percent.” The team stuck together, supported each other, played unselfishly and it showed. “When I see that kind of effort,” he continued, “it is so motivating for me.” A new assistant - Meredith Cooper – made a difference this season as well. “She brought a lot to the program from playing experience and her personal drive to help the girls.”

The team won five games this season, which might not seem like a lot, but the program only won three games from 2016-2020. They reached several milestones as well, snapping a long home-losing streak, breaking a section losing streak that dated back five seasons, and returning to the playoffs. Clark believes the team would have added to the win total, but several games were cancelled. It is also worth noting that the team was competitive more often than not. In the past, it wasn’t uncommon for the score to be lopsided after one quarter of play. This season, the girls often went into the

half or the fourth quarter with a reasonable belief that they could hold on to win or make a comeback. The girls played like they had a chance to win every minute of every game.

“What makes me the most proud is the atmosphere that this team created,” said Clark. “They had fun, they learned basketball (and life lessons), they earned the respect of their opponents, and I am proud to be their coach.”

Clark fully expects the numbers to stay up. The way to build a program, he says, is to make it fun, steadily improve, and treat the girls with care and respect. Other students see that and want to be a part of it. He wants the program to be the standard for every other program in the school.

The coach is excited because he will have the core of the team back next season. “I will have my best players from the past six seasons all together,” he stated. “The senior class of 2022 was my first group of seventh grade players back in 2016. I want to send them off with a season to remember while setting a new standard for the rest of the program.”

Student Teachers

Every year there is an overwhelming number of student teachers who complete apprenticeships in K-12 public schools. These apprenticeships occur in the classrooms alongside tenured supervising teachers. The pandemic has had a direct impact on student teachers securing placements as they prepare to teach in brick and mortar schools. Since the Allegheny Valley has been in hybrid learning format for the most of the school year, the District received numerous requests for student teaching placements. For the spring semester, Allegheny Valley is hosting ten K-12 student teachers.

Staff members who work with the student teachers, also known as cooperating teachers, are accountable for training the student teachers not only for content, but for teaching responsibilities and effective instructional practices. District staff members must model teaching competencies and provide key supervisory skills to guide their student teachers. It is the role of staff members to lead the student teachers in professional decision making and becoming a reflective practitioner, which includes providing feedback on performance and professional attributes.

Allegheny Valley staff have accepted a great responsibility for they are not only mentors, but also coaches of these future teaching professionals. During this process, the cooperating teachers are also growing professionally as leaders and supervisors. It is important to recognize the staff members who have accepted this transformative role as a cooperating teacher. It is also important to note the positive impact the student teacher has on his/her classroom teacher, causing them to dissect their classroom practices and reflect on their own practices in ways that lead to self-improvement and refined classroom environment and instruction.

The Allegheny Valley School District appreciates the opportunity to serve as a cooperating partner with the following higher education institutions: Carlow University, Duquesne University, Edinboro University, and LaRoche University.



Learning Doesn't Stop

Jaden Domaratz, SHS 2019 graduate, completes observations for her degree in education at Acmetonia Elementary School.

Schools and learning go hand-in-hand. Whether it's in the classroom, at an event, or on a field, students gain knowledge in a variety of ways. Despite what some may think, education in the District doesn't stop with high school graduation. A number of Allegheny Valley alumni return every year to learn and teach, as guest speakers, program judges, or as part of their college courses. Most often, graduates return to observe teachers or complete their student teaching.

Jaden Domaratz is one of those graduates who returned this year. Domaratz, a Sophomore at Westminster College, is majoring in elementary education. She chose to return to Acme because she had several amazing teachers when she was in elementary school. Some are still working at the school. "I knew that observing here would open me up to a lot of valuable lessons that I could take back with me and use in future classrooms," she commented.

There is something special about completing observations in the district from which you graduated. In fact, there are many. "I really cherish the moments I had here and I remember how much fun this school was for me," Domaratz said. "It's great to come back and see that these teachers are still working hard for their students during these troubling times."

She learned much - technology programs, how to utilize on-line learning, the importance of planning. Observing the class, and being able to teach a lesson was an incredible experience. "[The] students treated me with such kindness and taught me how I can correct some of my mistakes in the classroom." Most of all, Domaratz discovered how special it is to see a teacher work so hard for her students. "I will continue to use what I learned from her in my studies," Domaratz commented, "Mrs. Z has shown me how amazing being a teacher can be and how truly rewarding it is."

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

our board of directors, staff, and school leaders. Unclear direction from State agencies positioned health and safety decisions squarely on the Allegheny Valley School District's shoulders. Naturally, we invented and reinvented our approach to education and what it means to support students and families beyond instruction. At times this meant delivering food and technology directly to homes or accepting that we made a mistake and needed to learn from it. Errors are inevitable in human-centered organizations like schools. What sets us apart is our ability to acknowledge when missteps are made; we learn from them and look to improve or change our course.

There is little doubt that countless children and families across the commonwealth have suffered during the pandemic. Here at Allegheny Valley, we must confront our students' inevitable learning loss while addressing their social and emotional needs. To my dismay, school districts recently learned that students would take state assessments.

For all they have done over the past days, weeks, and months, a large Thank You must be extended to our students and families, School Board, and staff. You are Dynamic. We appreciate how you adjust with little warning to every change or event cancellation, every new state mandate, school closure, and now state assessments. Without question, you keep us motivated by your resolve through this turbulent time.

Rivals... *continued from page 2*

cial. They also had to make sure that students, staff members, and community members were aware of the competition. Elements of English/language arts, mathematics, videography, and even community service were involved in the project. The project upholds the ideals of The Future is Mine by working on team projects that connect students with community employers, while also developing skills needed in a successful workplace. Students found the Souper Bowl to be engaging and fun. "It was exciting to have an opportunity to compete with our rival school, especially since Covid has interfered with so much of the students' "normal" school year," they said.

The group is planning to partner with the Riverview students again next year for a Souper Bowl 2. They are also planning to hold another stocking drive during next year's holiday season and hoping to develop more ideas to collaborate between the two communities.

Financial Update... *continued from page 3*

This convoluted tuition cost calculation for outside cyber charters has already strained the current year's budget expenditures.

In the midst of a pandemic driven uncertainty, the Allegheny Valley School District's 2021-22 budget process is underway. It aligns with the timelines as 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 of Education at 3% for 2021-22. In this stage of the budget process, the 2021-22 budget is strained as estimated expenditures outpace estimated revenues. Retirement (employer rate increases from 34.51% to 34.94%) and healthcare through the Allegheny County School Health Insurance Consortium (current projection of 5% increase) contributions, upward movement in wages because of contractual obligations, and debt service payments will comprise the bulk of the projected increase in budget expenditures.

The 2021-22 Budget will be reviewed over the coming months. Gov. Wolf announced the state's budget proposal of increased funding for public school districts and charter school tuition reform. This proposal is a welcome relief. However, this is just the beginning of the state budget process, as the state legislature does not pass their final budget until June. The 2021-22 budget will continue to be updated through May 2021. 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 2021-22 Final Budget will be approved and adopted at the June Regular Meeting. It will be a challenging and long road ahead until the final balanced budget is passed for 2021-22.

SHS and Riverview High School students sort food donations for their local Food Banks.



with its Grant Program and sponsorship of several events. The group remains committed to the Allegheny Valley School District, its students, and its staff, awarding grants for programs and activities that cannot be incorporated into the District's annual budget.

With the pandemic closing many options and limiting others, the Foundation has not had the opportunity to continue with its fundraising efforts. However, February 2020 witnessed the largest fundraiser held by the Dynamo Education Foundation. Hosting its second event at the Harmar House, the Foundation's Board organized an event for over 300 individuals - a dinner dance that included a basket auction and a silent auction of art work by Springdale Jr-Sr High School students. Headlined by the Fabulous Gemtones, the event was an amazing evening of entertainment for alumni, residents, and friends. The Foundation raised over \$7,400 with the event.

The group will continue to organize various activities throughout the community to raise funds and highlight its mission once restrictions from COVID have lifted.

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

2020-2021 Grants...

The Dynamo Education Foundation is proud to announce the awarding of three grants to Allegheny Valley staff members for the 2020-21 school year:

- **Project 1: Remediation & Mastery in Middle School Math.** Through the use IXL students master essential skills at their own pace through fun and interactive questions, built in support and motivating awards.

Staff recipient: Kelly McGee, SHS Math Teacher.

- **Project 2: Kitchen Center.** The project introduces a kitchen play area for the PreK classroom. Students will utilize the kitchen as part of one of the leaning centers in the room. *Staff recipient: Rayna Wasilak, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher.*

Additionally, in collaboration with the SHSAA:

- **Senior Signs.** Yard signs were posted and delivered to each 2020 senior student.

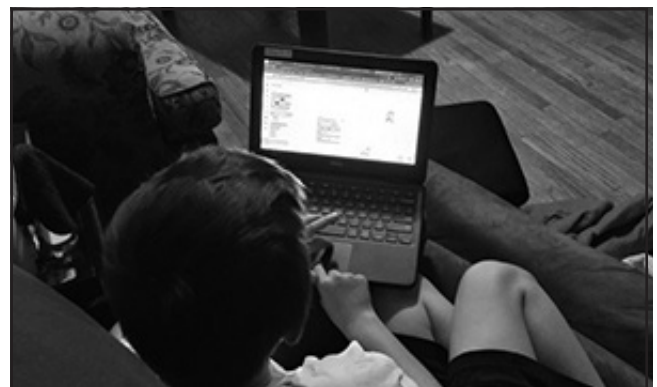
- **Senior Parade.** A community "reverse" parade was coordinated to recognize all 2020 seniors.



Positives... continued from page 2

exists for students and parents. Most of all teachers, students, and parents have grown their tech fluency in leaps and bounds.

Most of all, Allegheny Valley has proved Together We Can. Students, families, staff, and community came together to help each other get through the shadows. The District can't show enough appreciation for all of the support it has received, in so many ways. We have truly seen the sunshine become brighter every day.





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
300 Pearl Avenue, Cheswick, PA 15024
Phone: 724/274-5300 Fax: 724/274-8040
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 Tuesday of each month. Both meetings are held in the Acmetonia Elementary 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
Andrew Leviski
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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Vice President	Kathleen Haas
Treasurer	Stephen P. Puskar
	David Buchman, James Gaschler, Jr., Joelle McFarland, Paula Jean Moretti, Antonio Pollino, Shawn Whelan
Secretary	Hamsini Rajgopal
Solicitor	Matt Hoffman, Esq.