



Dynamo
Education
Foundation



**NHS VIRTUAL
TUTORING**

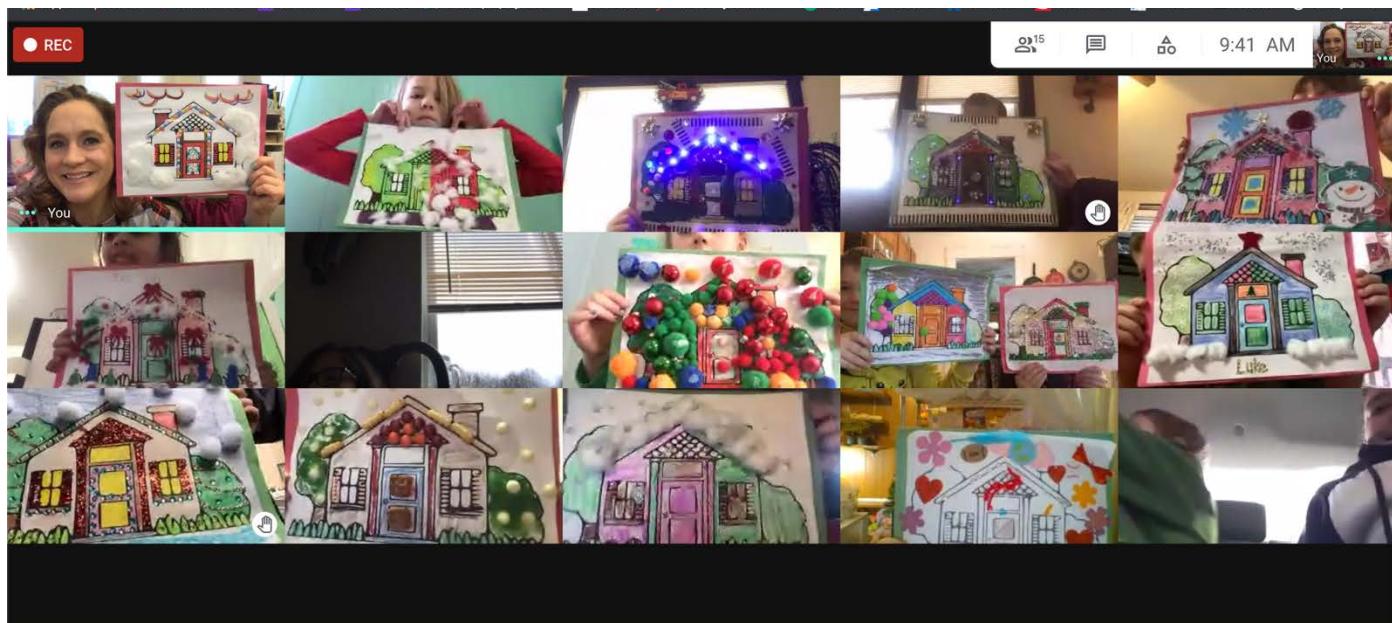
**STAFF MEMBER
GRANTS**

**HONORING OUR
VETERANS**

**MAINTAINING
TRADITIONS**

Allegheny Valley School District

eNEWS



Together We Can

Each year in November and December, classrooms across the District find ways to study aspects of the holiday season. Whether it's learning about the Pilgrims and Indians, practicing and performing holiday music, or discovering the history of traditions around the world, District curriculum is filled with customs, current events, and cultural practices. That aspect of the school year didn't change despite not being in the schools full time.

Students at Acmetonia Elementary enjoyed projects with the Elf on A Shelf. Other grade levels used snow and winter as topics. Pre-Kindergarten students made Santa and Rudolph drawings, and first grade students in Ms. Clark's room made life size elves. Kindergarten continued their traditional reading of '*'Twas the Night Before Christmas*', while Mrs. Taliana's first grade worked on a December in My Home project. In this lesson, students were asked to decorate the drawing of a house like their home. In addition, students shared what their family does during this time of the year in December, since families have different traditions and celebrate different religions.

Acmetonia Elementary students participated in a number of holiday activities. Pictured is First Grade's December In My Home projects

tudents at Springdale Jr-Sr High School also explored different traditions through religion, culture, and era. Activity groups found ways to support the community by volunteering at the Lower Valley Food Bank, collecting items for homeless shelters, and holding a food drive. The District also continued its tradition of giving trees in the elementary and secondary buildings, which staff looks forward to each year, and helping the Shop With A Cop Program.

The holiday months have always been a time for students to celebrate, observe, and learn the importance of giving, family, and community. No matter where staff and students are located or how courses are being taught, those lessons don't change. Staff and students continue to put in time and effort to learn and show appreciation to their community for all that they have been given. For community members, it becomes an additional reason to be proud of Allegheny Valley.

NHS Tutoring Continues

Student tutoring has been an important program with Springdale Jr-Sr High School's National Honor Society (NHS). Even through Remote Learning, Allegheny Valley students continue to support each other. Students meet virtually over Google Classroom, usually after school 2:30-3pm to work on math problems, review for a test, play *Kahoot* for practice or share their presentations with their high school tutor.

Students who want help usually request a high school tutor and are paired with a National Honor Society Student who is able to help them in their specific subject areas. Students are able to follow-up with the tutor on homework, have the tutor review their classwork or class projects.

NHS tutoring has been offering tutoring services for many years. The NHS tutor would work with his/her student after school with a designated teacher in various classrooms. Arrangements were made for the teams to meet after school each week, but the pandemic put the glitch in the program. NHS worked to find a solution and decided to offer the tutoring virtually. Students enjoy working with other students; they like asking questions to and talking with someone in their peer group. Students themselves can ask for a tutor, a parent or teacher can also ask about setting up tutoring for a student.

"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. Setting a schedule to meet weekly also enforces time management." 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, jobs and home responsibilities.



2020 Fall Sports Honors

Football - Eastern Conference

First Team Offense - Demitri Fritch and Matt Haus

First Team Defense - Logan Dexter and Matt Haus

Second Team Offense - Cavin Kindler

Second Team Defense - Demitri Fritch and Cavin Kindler

Honorable Mention – Nate Folmer, Gage Howard, Ashton Krebs, Gio Savko, and John Utiss

Valley News Dispatch Defensive Player of the Year – Logan Dexter

Valley News Dispatch First Team All-Stars - Demitri Fritch, Matt Haus, and Cavin Kindler

Valley News Dispatch Second Team All-Stars - Gage Howard

Boys Soccer

All-Section - Bryson Andrews, Liam Dale, Andrew Haus, William Lawrence, Chris Mitchell, and Roman Liberati

Honorable Mention – August Tabaccheck

Coach of the Year – Cesareo Sanchez

All WPIAL Class A All-Stars - Bryson Andrews and Chris Mitchell

Valley News Dispatch First Team All-Stars - Bryson Andrews and William Lawrence

Valley News Dispatch Second Team All-Stars - Chris Mitchell

Girls Soccer

All-Section - Haley Bonidie, Lilly Iadicicco, Julia Parfitt, Miranda Shock, and Isabella Walsh

All WPIAL Class A All-Stars - Lilly Iadicicco

Valley News Dispatch First Team All-Stars - Lilly Iadicicco

Valley News Dispatch Second Team All-Stars - Miranda Shock

Girls Volleyball

Second Team All-Section - Kylie DiLeo

Third Team All-Section – Julie Hitlan and Brianna Thompson

Class A Section Player of the Week - Kylie DiLeo

The program is moving forward to create more opportunities for virtual tutoring sessions for students at both Acmetonia Elementary and Springdale Jr-Sr High. "I am very grateful to work with our NHS students. It makes me smile to see younger students excited to work with their high school tutor. Our student tutors are mentors and role models to all students. They are setting examples for them, letting them know their work is worth the effort," said Sadowski.



Providing 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 2020-2021 school year, the Foundation awarded

two grants to Allegheny Valley staff members: Ms. Kelly McGee and Ms. Rayna Wasilak.

In the seven years the Foundation has been awarding grants, the group has given over \$13,000 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. Although it is not possible to host fundraising events at this time, the Foundation continues to support its efforts for the District. For additional information on the Dynamo Education Foundation, please go to <http://www.avsdweb.org/foundation/index.html>



Honoring Our Veterans

Due to the pandemic, the annual Veterans' Day Celebration was not able to be held. Local veterans could not come to the high school for the breakfast and program usually held to recognize their service to the community and our country. Elementary and secondary students from both buildings participated in the program, serving in many capacities to show their appreciation to our veterans.

Although Allegheny Valley staff and students knew they couldn't produce a traditional program this year, they wanted to do something to recognize the importance of veterans to the community. They were able to create art work, posters, cards, and videos to express their thanks. These items were delivered to the Springdale Veterans' Association and to Amber Woods/Harmar Village to share with veterans who are residents. Honoring the meaning of the day continued to serve as a time for students to gain a greater respect for those who have given so much. The District hopes it will be able to bring back the traditional event next year.



Maintaining Traditions

The 2020-2021 school year has by no means been conventional. Students and staff alike have had to modify and, at times, re-invent how classrooms work and learning takes place. But one thing that individuals agreed on was to hold traditional activities as much as possible. The Veterans' Day program may not have been held, but students honored area veterans; sports teams may not have played a regular season, but athletics continued; and regular Open House activities could not be held, but parents/guardians were able to meet with teachers virtually.

The same can be said for classroom programs that have become traditions in the District. Staff has placed a priority on maintaining activities that students look forward to as they move from grade to grade. One such program is the annual reading of '*Twas The Night Before Christmas*'. Kindergarten students eagerly await attending school in their pajamas and hearing the Superintendent share the story with them. This year, that tradition also continued, as Dr. Graczyk joined the classes online to read the story and spread some holiday cheer.

eNEWS is a publication of the Allegheny Valley School District. Questions or comments should be sent to jzastawniak@avsd.k12.pa.us.

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