

BEAR FACTS

The bonfire is more like a “bond” fire

The bonfire is a night where students and staff can hangout, listen to music, eat amazing food and be warm right next to the fire. Football players and the cheerleaders also care about the bonfire due to it being a tradition in our community.



By: Katie Honadel and Areli Ramirez

Can a bonfire symbolize something much bigger than itself? Well, at Pleasant Valley High School, the bonfire before the annual Bucket Game is just as important as that game itself, and it has become a key event in the community.

Brian Boylan, co-principal states, “This tradition gives our students a sense of belonging. There is a reason why it is an annual event. It is a fun night where we all get together as a community/family and celebrate our PV culture!”

The community looks forward to the lighting of the bonfire, the performance of cheerleaders, the music, atmosphere, and celebration of the football team. This bonfire is a tradition that football players and the cheerleaders favor. As the bonfire was lit, the cheerleaders were cheering, and everyone took in the flames.

Senior football player, Aaron Rehrig explains, “I look forward to the ambience that is created by the community and all the fans and parents who come to support us. I especially enjoy bonding with my friends and getting ready for the bucket game”.

This year it was decided food trucks were going to be at the bonfire. The principals wanted to bring the community together with the bonfire.

“We wanted to create a positive atmosphere by including food and music. We want the community to be involved. We plan on adding more to this event the following year as well to make it even more enjoyable,” stated Mr. Boylan.

See Bonfire pg 3.



Meet some new faces of the high school! Page 2

New Faces in Pleasant Valley



Mr. Paul Nembhart
Art



Mr. Jordan Cook
Industrial Technology



Mr. Alexander Mountain
English

By: Duke Willhardt and Kyara Gomez

With the retirement of the art teacher George Boudman, promotion of English teacher Daisy Genovese, and an increase in student volume, Pleasant Valley was in need of some new teachers. This year we welcomed Alexander Mountain, Paul Nembhart, and Jordan Cook to the high school. We have spoken to and received a statement from each one about their past, new positions, experiences, and plans for the future.

Following the promotion of Ms. Genovese, the high school was in need of a new English teacher. This year we welcome Mr. Mountain as the new 9th and 11th grade English and journalism teacher. After previously working eight years at a small charter academy, Mr. Mountain stated

"I chose Pleasant Valley because of the inviting work culture as well as the personalities of principals Boylan and Ayre." He also stated that he chose Pleasant Valley because it allowed him to achieve his long term goal of teaching at the high school level. Mr. Mountain has stated he is excited for what's to come, along with the challenges a new job and bigger workload will bring.

This year to make room for the expanding number of students, Mr. Cook is our new industrial technologies teacher for architecture, wood I and wood II. He stated that as a smaller farming school it is exactly what he is looking for. "Quiet and away from the city".

When asked what he liked most about the school, he stated he loved students' willingness to express themselves and show their personality, and helping students make practical items for their daily lives. As well he enjoys the school traditions like spirit week and the bucket game, and is enjoying taking part in our schools culture.

Mr. Nembhart is the new teacher currently replacing past teacher Mr. Boudman. Mr. Nembhart currently teaches Introduction to Sculpture and Digital Photography at Pleasant Valley High School. This school year would be his third year teaching. Before PV, Mr. Nembhart worked at a charter school in Allentown as a graphic design teacher. After his last position Mr. Nembhart wanted to be challenged and wanted to better his teaching experience at a school that could provide the necessary resources.

See New Faces pg 3

A Good Change in the School Lunch

After years of students not liking the school lunch, this year the line is filled to the back of the cafeteria with hungry students waiting to get their lunch. With the new school lunch program students are eating at school and enjoying their lunches.

By: Abbey Dominick and Sienna Pearce

It was the warm morning of August 28th. Students in 4th period lunch walked into the cafeteria and were greeted by a pleasant surprise. After many complaints from students and a financial deficit, Dr. James Konrad, Pleasant Valley Superintendent, decided it was time for a change in the district's lunch plan.

There were many factors that went into choosing's the new lunch supplier, The Whitsons Culinary Group. "One of the major factors in choosing Whitsons over other culinary groups was the freshness. We wanted to focus on healthy meals that our students would devour," stated Konrad. Konrad himself has tried the new school lunches and found them nutritious and delicious. He was extremely proud of everyone that contributed.

"I am so impressed by our hard-working and dedicated culinary staff who take pride in preparing such wonderful meals. We have such an amazing team," exclaimed Konrad. The lunch staff is adapting to this new routine. Previous years they only served 8 entrees, but with this new program that number has jumped up to 20. These new entrees require more staff to operate the lunch line. As a result, it reduces the amount of cashiers from 3 to 2 and shortens the amount of time that the ala-carte is open.

"It's a lot to get used to," stated Judy Bertsch, Culinary Worker. Many students enjoy the lunch that Whitsons Culinary Group provided. More entree options create a variety of fresh meals for students to enjoy. As a result, students are more satisfied with the school lunches. School lunch has never been better!



The bonfire is more like a "bond" fire Cont'd pg 1

The atmosphere that is created at the bonfire is very important, and the community strives to make it as uplifting and exciting as possible.

"I love performing at the bonfire, because it's usually cold and then being near the fire is nice and toasty and just having the band close by so the music is extra loud is great too! Also having all the fans that usually sit in the stands a little bit closer to us is nice too" senior cheerleader, Nemani Moon explains.

The bonfire is an event the community, students, staff, football players, and cheerleaders all look forward to. Sadly for some cheerleaders and football players, this is the last one they will ever perform at.

Senior football player, Dakota Lucas states, "At some point I am sad, but at the same time I am happy looking at the memories I've made over the past few years". This tradition has given the community lasting memories and will continue to be a tradition that lives on.

New Faces in High School Cont'd pg 2

What Mr. Nembhard likes most about his new job is seeing students create something from nothing. He finds joy in seeing his students happy. He loves seeing them be proud of the creation they have made. Mr. Nembhard wishes he had more time to plan better activities for his students. He is passionate about his job and his students. He wants what is best for the students and their education regarding art.

"Always something to do." is how Mr. Nembhard describes Pleasant Valley High School.

On average, Mr. Nembhard starts his day with prepping for photography, helping students with projects and their sculptures. He instructs kids how to use plaster and to create something from complete scratch.



Homecoming Dance deemed success

The homecoming dance was usual and fun. It was garden-themed with a nice HOCO 23 decorated wall with green veins for picture taking. Everyone had a good time with music, snacks, drinks and dancing with their friends.

By: Faith Santa and Julian Dempster

The Homecoming dance was held on October 28, beginning at 6:00pm and finishing at 9:00pm. This is yet another dance to generate funds for homecoming and to welcome back students as the football season comes to a conclusion.

All students attending the homecoming dance, which was held in the new gym, had to be present for the entire day of school on Friday, October 27. Students were not authorized to attend the dance if they did not attend school the day before. They were also required to carry their ID and a QR code ticket or they would not be allowed inside the building.

Ms. Suzanne Hunsicker, math teacher and head of the homecoming dance, who works in room B-1, was in charge of the homecoming dance. She stated that the setup was difficult, with good design but inconsistent execution. The homecoming theme was a garden gala.

When asked what inspired the theme this year Ms. Hunsicker and her team replied, "The team just thought the garden theme would be very pretty and it went well with the prom theme".

There were two blow up photo booths, one black and one white. Students who attended homecoming last year remembered seeing them. They also were able to take as many pictures as they wanted. There were also decorated spots on the walls to take pictures with friends. Besides that the dance was as usual.

See Homecoming pg. 6.



PVTV makes a comeback

PVTV is coming back with production for morning announcements. Around 8:05 a.m. teachers will get a email with a link for PVTV while students watch and hear Onias Richardson and Gavin Krock explain the announcements for the day.

By: Dakari Fleming and Alexis Murphy

Mr. Craig Morris, communications teacher, has high hopes for the return of PVTV this year. He hopes to see more people gain interest in the class and see more positive feedback in the near future.

The last time Pleasant Valley saw a PVTV production was in 2018. It ended because of the lack of a platform to play it on. The school had removed the old TVs. As a result, there were no platforms to play PVTV so there were no platforms to play the show on. However, with a grant that the school received they were able to buy new equipment and produce the show again.

"PVTV is produced by the Video Production II class for the purpose of delivering the daily announcements to the school. It also provides a weather report, sport scores and a feature story," stated Mr. Morris.

See Opinions pg. 6.



Opinions mixed on new policies

By: Dylan Heckman and Joseph Winder

Rules and policies are essential in any environment and especially in a school. The district previously went by strict formal policies. However, in recent years many of these policies have loosened up. Despite this, some policies are still questioned by students and staff alike. A number of these policies are universal for all schools and may involve federal and/or state law. Other policies could be specific to the school, with both staff and students having thoughts on them.

Some of the debated policies include students needing to wear ID's in the building and backpacks being required to be kept in lockers during the day. The dress code was previously a controversial policy in the school, but in recent years the school has transitioned to a more casual dress code. We interviewed students and staff to learn their opinions on these policies.

Steve Distasio, science teacher at Pleasant Valley and has witnessed the various rule and policy changes over the years. Our first question for him was, "How often do you need to tell your students to put their phones away?" He replied, "For my juniors and seniors, quite often, it's hardly worth the effort/disruption any more. At this point in their lives/academic careers, if they can't make the right choices about the appropriate use of their cell phones, then it's their problem". For my freshmen and sophomores, not nearly as often. The use of cell phones and earbuds is a major problem in the high school," stated Mr. Distasio.

The no phone policy in the school is ignored by many students and some staff view it as a problem. We followed up by asking if he agreed that students shouldn't have backpacks with them during the day and he had an interesting response. "They shouldn't need them unless they are carrying clothes and shoes for Phys Ed. I do, however, understand that when you give students four minutes to get from class to class (which are often very far apart), there is not enough time to go to their lockers to get the materials needed for their next few classes. My solution would be to give the students six minutes between classes and lock the doors at the bell. Anyone who comes in after the bell should be marked late." The hallways are almost always crowded in between periods and many classes are very far away so many students would likely approve of Mr. Distasio's solution. Finally, we asked him whether he agreed with the school's decision to keep clothing such as hoods and hats banned. Distasio answered, "Hoods, hats, and any other headwear should not be allowed. For safety reasons it's not a problem, until it is".

See Opinions pg. 7.





Homecoming Dance deemed success, cont. pg. 4

Ticket sales were also reopened October 23 until 10pm so that students who missed the deadline had a chance to buy them quickly. The event itself had “Cha-cha Slide”, “Thrift Shop”, and “Gangnam Style” playing in the background and had snacks available such as a variety of chips, Rice Crispy treats, water, Yoo-Hoo chocolate drink, and Capri Suns.

The dance was Dj’d by Mark Rehrig, science teacher, as he has done every year. He had students put together a digital list for him to use. Although he did not play every song requested, he played songs a lot of students liked and danced to.

Gavin Krock was the homecoming prince, and Emily Butler was the homecoming princess. Onias Richardson was crowned homecoming king, and Hailey Krock was crowned queen. The homecoming king and queen dance took place about 8:00 p.m. It lasted around 5-6 minutes, starting with a slow song and finishing with “Deli” by Ice Spice.

Rehrig dedicated the night's final song to his students in order to give a positive message to them. The dance ended with Journey's song “Don't Stop Believin”.

PVTV makes a comeback, cont. pg. 4

Each show is recorded first thing in the morning, posted to YouTube, and then the crew utilizes the remainder of the period to work on future feature stories.

With the increasing popularity of the show, Mr. Morris is hoping it brings more interest towards the video production class. PVTV is produced from the Video Production II class. Anyone that has taken the Video Production I class is eligible to possibly help produce PVTV in the future.

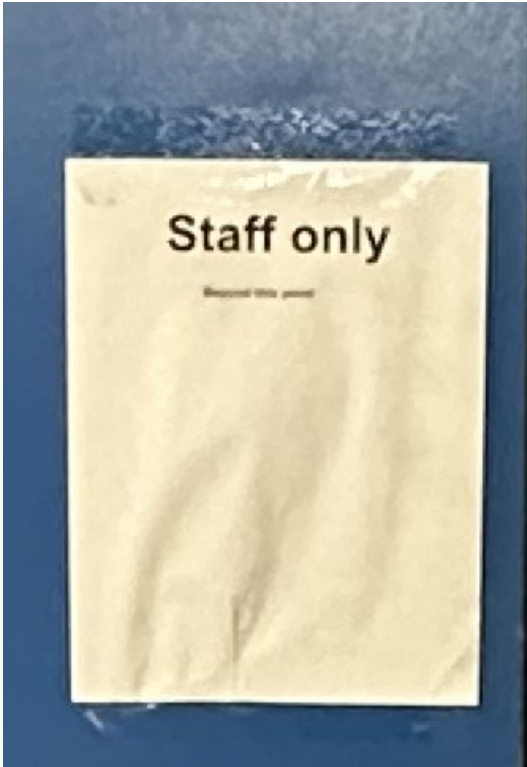


Opinions mixed on new policies, cont. pg. 5

The first student we interviewed was senior Isaac Snyder. We started by asking him if he agreed that students should keep their backpacks in their locker during the day. He answered, “I agree because it is a safety hazard. The safest way to prevent a weapon being brought into a classroom is by prohibiting students from carrying backpacks with them.”.

The next question that we asked Isaac was “do you agree that everyone in the building should have to wear an ID?” He replied, “Yeah, I don’t see why you wouldn’t need them, it is simple and easy to wear.” This is a great point because it isn’t a big inconvenience to wear an ID so it is definitely worth it to improve security within the school. Our final question for Isaac was whether or not he believed students should be allowed to have phones with them during school hours. He responded, “yes, just in case something comes up, for emergencies. If some kind of emergency were to occur, it would be ideal if anyone could dial 911. This ensures that help could arrive in a timely manner.”.

Through our interviews we found both students’ and staff’s thoughts on policies in the school. Many people in the school agree with policies such as the I.D policy. However they also believe some policies could be changed for the better, such as the phone policy. Our interviews helped us better understand the thoughts and opinions of different people on various school policies.



JCM Finished in 2027

JCM has been closed off since the beginning of the school year of 2023. The JCM side is currently being worked on and it be approximately finished by 2027.

By: Lana Krause and Chris Weber

The lower half of the John C. Mills building is being renovated and is closed off to students. Renovating the high school had occurred a few years ago, but plans to move forward with the renovation of the high school fell through.

“In the past two years, we have developed a strategic plan, outlined a timeline for this project and ensured that we had the finances to make this high school renovation come to fruition,” Dr. James Konrad, the superintendent of schools, explains the process of renovation, stressing the importance of infrastructure and safety.

“We are renovating the high school to improve safety and efficiency and modernize the building to support education,” stated Dr. Konrad.

Even though the lower half is closed, the upper half of JCM still has functioning offices and classrooms.

“Even though my office is located in the JCM wing of the high school, I am able to work where and when needed. As issues arise, I travel throughout the building as needed,” stated Ms. Rockwell.

Dr. Konrad states project is due to be completed by 2027.



Keep traditions alive

Pleasant Valley has many traditions, that the students love to participate. Majority of the community celebrates the traditions like The Bucket Game, and especially the bonfire and fun events for our seniors.

By: Ciara Lisboa

With school dances, football games, school spirit we are walking into this school year experiencing so many school spirited events with a lot of emotion. One of the most important events is the homecoming game and dance.

“Homecoming is important to the community because it gives students a reason to be happy and come together outside the regular educational hours and have some fun,” said by math teacher, Ms. Susanne Hunsicker who organizes the dance every year.

Spirit week includes hallway decorating, pep rally, and themes each day for the week of our bucket game. Igniting joy into all the students as it is one of the most exciting weeks throughout the year.

Traditions are important in this school. The bonfire following the bucket game is one of our main traditions that we have had for many years. This year the bonfire was such a hit, we had multiple food trucks.

“I think that these two weeks were extremely important to this community and school because it gives students a way to interact with the school environment and it brings together the community, not just the high school but also the kids and parents in this community,” said by PVTV Anchor and homecoming king, Onias Richardson.

People around this community seem to show tremendous care about these traditions shown above. These traditions will follow for many years with the support of the people behind them here at the school.

Volleyball Coach of 30 years, Leaving the Team

John Gesiskie is leaving the volleyball team after 30 years of coaching. He is finishing this year with an amazing team with a score of 19-1. He is grateful for what he was able to do in his time of coaching, and the amazing teams he had from previous years and the last team he will be coaching this final year.

By: Sienna Pearce and Areli Ramirez

After 30 years coaching, John Gesiskie, head Volleyball Coach of Pleasant Valley high school, will be retiring.

Mr. Gesiskie started as a club team coach in 1993, then became varsity team coach in 1994 until present day. He has had many accomplishments in his coaching career including winning nine Mountain Valley Conference titles, winning eight Eastern Pa. Conference (EPC) Divisional titles, qualifying for District XI playoffs 26 of the 30 years, and his 559 wins to date.

Mr. Gesiskie's favorite part of coaching is watching when a player is able to become more outstanding with his advice.

"One of the most rewarding parts of coaching is watching when a player is able to take the guidance and instruction given to them and become successful," stated Mr. Gesiskie. "It comes back tenfold when I receive notes, cards, and emails from past players telling me some life lessons they are using that they learned while playing on the team."

Mr. Gesiskie is also very proud of his team as the volleyball team has been undefeated until the recent game. They are now 19-1, one of their best seasons yet. They also beat Emmaus for the first time since the EPC started.

"Knowing this team would have been undefeated in the regular season, is an understatement. There have been undefeated seasons in the past but this is the first one since the formation of the Eastern Pa. Conference (EPC) in 2014. Post season the team won their first ever EPC quarterfinal match, another great accomplishment, " stated Mr. Gesiskie.

Mr. Gesiskie has had a very successful long coaching career that will be coming to an end. One last piece of advice he wanted his players to hear as they continue next year without him.

"You can do anything. You can be anything you want to be. As long as you believe in yourself and work hard," stated Mr. Gesiskie.

Hannah Akob, volleyball team captain, has been playing volleyball for six years. Four of those six years she has had Mr. Gesiskie as her coach. She expressed how his coaching has helped her as a player.

"I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to play for Coach G. Other than volleyball skills, he has helped me develop confidence and taught me how to overcome the self doubt I experienced in my early years of high school, " stated Akob.



Bears win the Bucket Game

Since the 1960's the traditional bucket game is still ongoing in the Pleasant Valley school district. On Friday night, October 20, the Bears won the bucket against The Cardinals, making the crowd roar with excitement. Congratulations to the football team, cheerleaders and all fans for supporting and playing in the bucket game.



By: Tristan Lomax

The Bucket Game is an annual rivalry game played by Pleasant Valley High School and Pocono Mountain East High School. The game has been played since the 1960's leaving a lasting impact on the community with each game.

The annual bonfire took place on Friday October 19th on the front lawn. Hundreds of people gathered on the front lawn to watch the bonfire and celebrate the upcoming victory.

Both The Bucket Game and the bonfire are responsible for uniting the small community of Brodheadsville. Pleasant Valley's football team is responsible for bringing school spirit to the student body. They travel to all four schools and bring school spirit and PV pride to the students.

"Considering it's a rival game, there is a lot of pressure to win the Old Oaken Bucket. As a result, this brings the team together and makes us work harder than we ever have," PV quarterback Valentino Byers-Robinson said.

On Friday October 20th, the Bears took on the Cardinals at their home stadium, winning the Bucket for the fifth year in a row. The stands were littered with people, most people didn't even have a place to sit. The ending score was 21-0 and the stands erupted with screams and cheering. The student section flooded the field with their excitement for the football team.

What's been happening at the

National Art Honor Society took it upon themselves to Paint the Plow for Penn Dot this year!



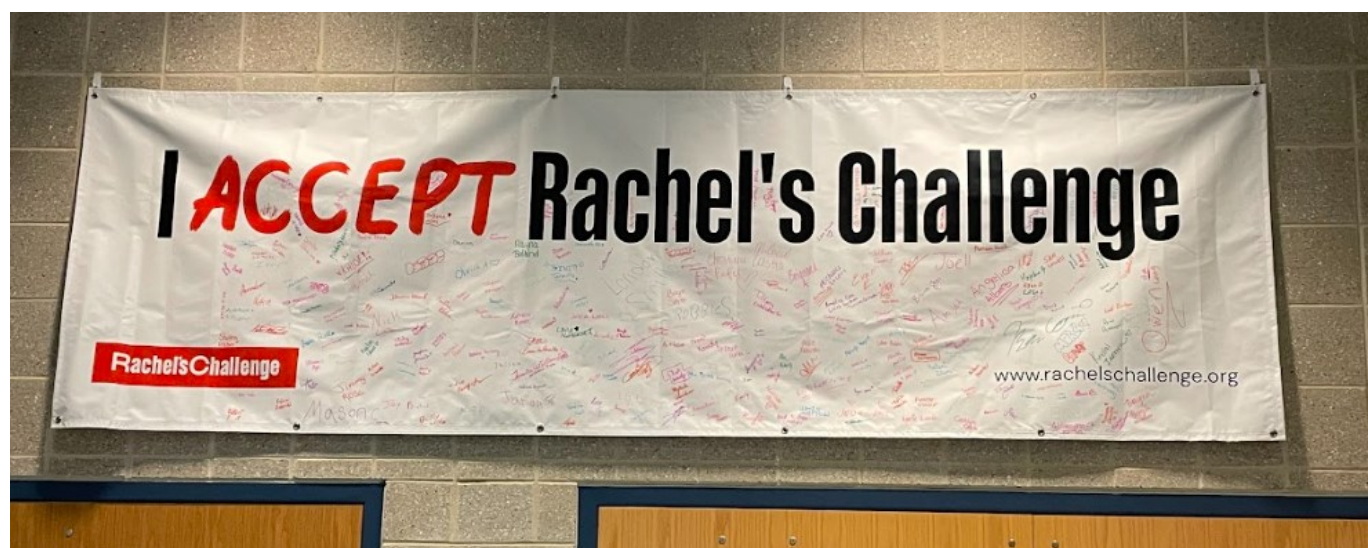
Paint the Plows theme this school year was “Seatbelts Are Always in Season”. Make sure you keep your eye out for ours on the road this winter!

Congratulations!
Homecoming Queen: Hailey Krock (middle right)
Homecoming King: Onais Richardson (middle left)
Homecoming Princess: Brianna Shupp (Far right)
Homecoming Prince: Gavin Krock (far left)



Make sure you check out our new bear statue in the front of the High School! Go Bears!

Our High School Band participated in the annual West End Fair Concert. We are PV Proud of everything they do!



Our High School Students pledged to the Rachel's Challenge this school year! This is located outside the New Auditorium!



What's been happening at the High School?



The Blue Crew is up and running! Students have been supporting our bears all fall season! Look for us in the student section!

Spirit week was a success! Some students even drove their tractor to school on farmer day!



Our seniors won this year's Powder Puff Football Game! Congratulations Seniors!

Universal Technical Institute came to the high school and did a presentation to our students!



Every Month our teachers nominate students who go above and beyond in the classroom! Congratulations to our October Bear Pride Students! GO BEARS!

9TH GRADE



10TH GRADE



Every Month our teachers nominate students who go above and beyond in the classroom! Congratulations to our October Bear Pride Students! GO BEARS!

11TH GRADE

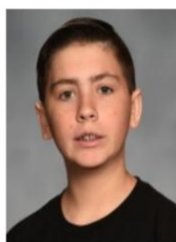


12TH GRADE





PLEASANT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



9TH GRADE
WILLIAM CORBO



10TH GRADE
TAYLOR FILIPPO



11TH GRADE
MALLORY GARRITY



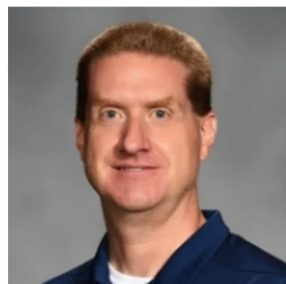
12TH GRADE
TREVER BURNS



Teacher of the Month



Mr. Craig Morris



Congratulations to our
October students of the
month. Keep up the great
work!

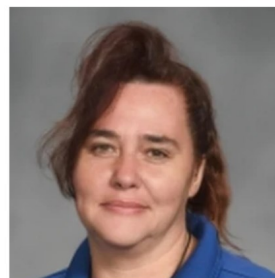
Congratulations to Mr.
Morris and Ms. Reph
for your hard work and
dedication!



Support Staff of the Month



Ms. Crystal Reph





Advisor: *Alexander Mountain*

Editor of chief: *Kaylee Ocasio*

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