



RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication

OCTOBER 2022

NATIONAL PROGRAMS RECOGNIZE STANDOUT STUDENTS

Officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) recently announced Seneca Valley seniors Haihan Xu, Eric Combs and Peter Ko as Semifinalist in the 68th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

As a Semifinalist, Mr. Xu, Mr. Combs and Mr. Ko will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,250 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring. From over 16,000 Semifinalists, more than 15,000 are expected to advance to the next level of the program where these students will have the opportunity to earn a National Merit Scholarship and, ultimately, the Merit Scholar® title.

In addition, Seneca Valley senior, Ava Stewart, has also been named a Commended Student in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program. Miss Stewart was recognized by the NMSC for her outstanding performance on the qualifying test used for program entry.

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Pictured (L to R): Seneca Valley Senior High School Principal, Mr. Bob Ceh and Seneca Valley seniors Haihan Xu, Eric Combs and Peter Ko



Pictured (L to R): Seneca Valley Senior High School Principal, Mr. Bob Ceh and Seneca Valley senior Ava Stewart

An elite and unique scholarship is paving the way for continued academic excellence for one deserving Seneca Valley student. Leila Wright, an eighth-grade student from Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS), has been selected as a Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholar, one of the most competitive scholarship programs in the country. More than 700 extremely talented students applied this year and Miss Wright is one of only 50 students selected.



Pictured (L to R): Leila Wright and Principal of Ryan Gloyer Middle School, Mr. Tony Babusci

The Cooke Young Scholars Program is a pre-college scholarship for high-performing students. Cooke Young Scholars receive comprehensive educational advising and financial support from eighth grade through high school in order to pursue their academic and talent goals. Educational advisers support Young Scholars to help maximize their high school experiences and provide students with resources that help them thrive at the nation's top-performing colleges. The scholarship provides Cooke-sponsored summer programs,

internships and other learning enrichment courses.

"This program changes lives. The Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholar award is going to open doors for Leila through high school and beyond. She will have the opportunity to attend academic programs at top colleges in the U.S. and travel to international programs as well. Knowing Leila, she will eagerly accept these adventures and opportunities to learn," said Ms. Meagan Loewy, gifted support teacher from Ryan Gloyer Middle School.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov. 5 SAT Testing, SHS, 7:30 a.m.
- Nov. 7 Release of Report Cards, Grades 7-12, School Board Meeting Work Session, IHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 11 Act-80 Day, No School for Students
- Nov. 14 School Board Meeting Regular Session, IHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 23-28 District Holiday, No School
- Nov. 30 Release of Report Cards, Grades K-6

For more dates, visit:
www.svsd.net/WebCalendar



GLITZ AND GLAM

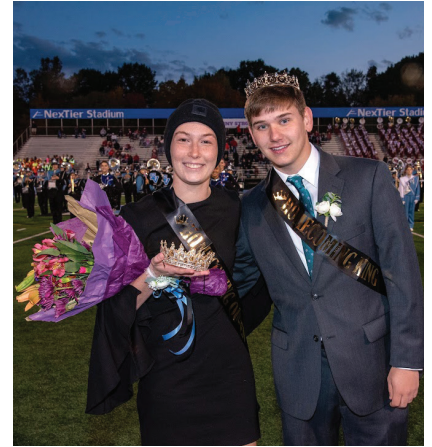
Seneca Valley students lived it up like movie stars with this year's homecoming theme "Night in Hollywood."

On Thursday, Oct. 13, hundreds of people attended and enjoyed the SV Homecoming Carnival, Homecoming Parade and fireworks display on the district's secondary campus in Jackson Township.

The carnival had a variety of food booths with soft pretzels, running tacos, apple turnovers and more available for purchase along with game booths and face painting. The parade featured the award-winning Seneca Valley "Roaring" Raider Marching Band, local fire trucks and floats created by student sports teams and organizations. The evening concluded with a fireworks display.

Ginny Fronk was crowned queen and Mark Evelsizer king during Seneca Valley's Homecoming pregame festivities at NexTier Stadium on Friday, Oct. 14. Miss Fronk is the daughter of Stuart and Victoria Fronk of Cranberry Township. Mr. Evelsizer is the son of Mark and the late Mary Evelsizer of Cranberry Township. The homecoming football game at NexTier Stadium ended with a win against North Hills, 53-14.

Earlier in October, seniors chose classmates to represent their homecoming court. Senior queen candidates included Leanne Abel, Avery Flood, Ginny Fronk, Abigail Garrity, Kate Glover, Elizabeth Hixon, Leta Hixon, Brynn Lefler, Chloe Leonard, Julia Lozowski, Mikayla Teasdale, and Dylann Volz. Senior king candidates were Joshua Berg, Gavin Blazer, Evan Bulvin, Jack D'Ambrosio, Nickolas Dillon, Mark Evelsizer, Ben Grewar, Luke Lawson, Colton Marley, Dante Runco, and Andrew Weisgerber. ■



NATIONAL PROGRAMS RECOGNIZE STANDOUT STUDENTS

Story continued from pg. 1

“We are very proud of the accomplishments of Eric, Peter, Haihan and Ava as it pertains to being named Semifinalist and Commended Student, respectively, for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

While the recognition came this fall, the preparation to receive these accomplishments has been years in the making and well deserved. We congratulate them and look forward to their future success,” said Seneca Valley Senior High School Principal, Mr. Bob Ceh.

About 1.5 million juniors in more than 21,000 high schools entered the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

For more information on National Merit Scholarship Program, visit www.nationalmerit.org. ■

Story continued from pg. 1

Through the Cooke Young Scholars Program, Miss Wright will have unique opportunities that may include four-year planning and goal setting; high-quality academic and extracurricular activities throughout the local community, on college campuses and around the globe; resources for career exploration and mentoring; networking with a community of Cooke Young Scholars; college counseling and more.

“I have taught for 22 years, and I can truthfully state that Leila is a once in a lifetime student. She is not only intelligent, but also exudes humility, kindness, compassion, determination and perseverance. I am a better teacher and a better person for having spent a year with Leila,” shared Mr. Mike Conlon, social studies teacher at Ryan Gloyer Middle School.

Miss Wright plans to study industrial psychology and world history and is looking forward to learning more about top academic colleges around the country.

“With the scholarship, I am most excited about the opportunities and possibilities that will unfold, such as international travel. Getting this scholarship fills me with a thrill that I cannot put into words,” said Miss Leila Wright. ■

PRESTIGIOUS AWARD RECOGNIZING STUDENT’S DEDICATION TO SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Chatham University has awarded Seneca Valley senior Gretchen Kellar with the Rachel Carson Healthy Planet Award. This award honors Chatham alumna and environmental icon Rachel Carson, ‘29, and is presented to one deserving student from each high school across the country who is passionate and committed to improving the environment and their community through sustainability.

This prestigious award offers Miss Kellar a \$5,000 per year renewable scholarship to Chatham University, a Certificate of Accomplishment and a special edition of Rachel Carson’s seminal work, *Silent Spring*. In addition, Miss Kellar will receive priority consideration for Chatham University’s Carson Scholarship, a full-tuition scholarship to attend Chatham University.

“I am honored to receive the Rachel Carson Healthy Planet award. I would like to thank Ms. Hadley and my parents Laura and Karl Kellar for inspiring my interest in the environment,” said Miss Kellar.

Miss Kellar was nominated for the Rachel Carson Healthy Planet Award last school year by her biology teacher, Ms. Dana Hadley.

“Gretchen came to mind when thinking about a deserving nominee for this award because she has a passion for biology and wildlife and is an example of a person with a unique perspective on the environment. She’s a member of the biology club where



Pictured (L to R): Gretchen Kellar and Seneca Valley Senior High School Biology Teacher, Ms. Dana Hadley

students study and prepare after school for Envirothon, a national environmental and wildlife competition for high school students. Gretchen is consistent in her attendance and participation in the club and is a leader by example,” stated Ms. Hadley. “She’s also been surrounded by a family business where horticulture and farming are integral to success. Gretchen understands the value we get from the land but also has a perspective and interest in ecology and conservation. Young people like Gretchen will be the keys to finding solutions to current environmental problems.” ■

FIRST GRADERS AT EHRMAN CREST HAVE A FRUITFUL DAY

On the official first day of fall (Sept. 22), all first-grade classrooms at Ehrman Crest Elementary School (ECES) spent the day exploring and investigating apples. Their day was filled with apple activities, experiments and crafts! Students learned about the parts of an apple, made applesauce and even visited a virtual apple farm and factory which supports the life cycle of an apple. After learning all about apples, first graders got creative by making three-dimensional structures with apples and toothpicks followed by apple playdough. Students wrapped up their day with taste testing a variety of apples then graphed their favorites. ■



AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR INSPIRES STUDENTS

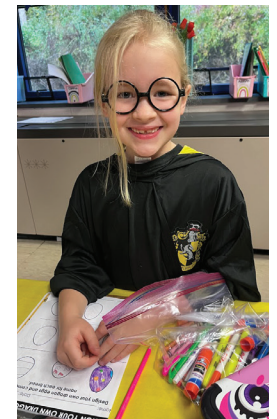
On Oct. 7, Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS) hosted Dr. Gary Schmidt, two-time Newbery award-winning author for a guest author visit. Dr. Schmidt has written many children's books, including *The Wednesday Wars*, *Okay for Now* and *Just Like That*.

During the author's visit, Dr. Schmidt captivated students with his storytelling, entertained questions during Q&A sessions and hosted a writer's workshop. School administrators said that Dr. Schmidt inspired students to remember that every good story should give the reader something to think about even when the story has finished. Two very lucky students even won autographed copies of his books through an in-school contest. ■



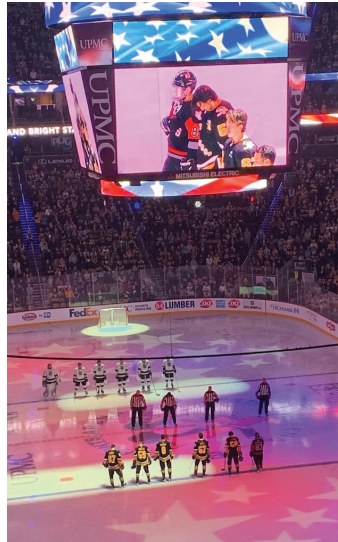
TAKING READING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Reading came to life in Ms. Amanda Bondi's second grade classroom at CVE! Ms. Bondi's students had been reading the first Harry Potter book, and they participated in Harry Potter Day where all their learning activities related to Hogwarts. After students were sorted into their Hogwarts houses, they worked in teams and built a puzzle, created a Mad Lib in Honeydukes candy store, read about Hogsmeade and worked on a STEM lesson to create their own magical wands. ■



SV STUDENT TAKES THE ICE WITH THE PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

The Pittsburgh Penguins recognized Hispanic Heritage Month at their game on Thursday, Oct. 20, when they played the LA Kings. Anthony Hernandez, a seventh-grade student from Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) was selected as the DICK'S Sporting Goods Junior Starter of the Game.



As a Junior Starter, Mr. Hernandez was recognized on ice and skated out to the blue line to stand with the Penguins during the singing of the National Anthem. He also received a DICK'S Sporting Goods prize bag and free tickets to the game.

"Being a Junior Starter for the Pittsburgh Penguins game was the best night of my life and I won't ever forget it. This experience made me feel special, and I'm honored to have been selected. I want to be involved with hockey for a long time, whether it's playing on the ice or some other way," said Mr. Hernandez. ■

INSIDE LOOK AT FBI

One Seneca Valley senior is getting a peek into the inner workings of the FBI. Gracen Heilman was recently accepted into the 2022 FBI Pittsburgh Teen Academy. As a selected participant, Miss Heilman will gain a better understanding of the FBI and what it takes to keep America safe, highlighting the various positions and career paths that work together to help them in their mission to uphold the U.S. Constitution.

"I'm very grateful for the opportunity to participate in the 2022 FBI Pittsburgh Teen Academy. The program appealed to me because it offers insight into many different specialties within the FBI," said Miss Heilman. "I've always known that I want to work in law enforcement, and this opportunity will give

me a taste of many different career paths that I could take to land a job that I love and that helps others."

Miss Heilman will be offered insight into a number of topics including the importance of making good choices when using online communication platforms, understanding which federal law violations the FBI investigates, requirements of all FBI applicants and the FBI's domestic and international roles. Additionally, she'll also learn about concepts that are designed to enhance student awareness of issues such as cybercrime and cyber bullying as well as have the opportunity for various hands-on experiences involving specialized areas of the FBI, such as their Evidence Response Team.

"Gracen is the perfect fit for this program. Not only is she responsible and reliable, but she's also shown a consistent dedication to public service. She's been interested in the FBI Teen Academy for a couple of years now, but since the program can only take high school seniors, she's had to wait. I'm excited for Gracen to learn about different career opportunities in the FBI and what she should be doing now to best prepare to become an agent of tomorrow," stated Seneca Valley Senior High School Gifted Support Teacher Dean Walker. "Every student we've had do this program in years past raves about it. I can't wait to hear about Gracen's experience!"

"I hope to learn as much as possible about what the FBI can offer and how it functions. My



ultimate career goal is to work as a criminal behavioral analyst for the FBI," said Miss Heilman. "It is crucial to understand why people behave the way that they do. Being able to analyze situations is an important skill when it comes to problem-solving. I love psychology, and the thought of helping people using something I am passionate about is exciting." ■

STUDENTS COLLECT FOOD SCRAPS FOR COMPOSTING

Room eight, along with second and fourth-grade classrooms at Rowan Elementary, are beginning to collect food scraps that can be composted for their garden boxes! The many compost ambassadors at Rowan are excited about their new project and are looking forward to collecting more food scraps. ■



PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE, MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

On Oct. 7, students at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) celebrated World Smile Day® as a Learn, Explore, Act, Develop (LEAD) activity.

Harvey Ball, commercial artist from Worcester, Massachusetts created the smiley face in 1963. This image went on to become the most recognizable symbol of goodwill and good cheer, and Mr. Ball thought that one day each year should be devoted to smiles and kind acts throughout the world.

Ms. Tabatha Karman, art teacher at RGMS, had her students create smiley faces then shared them throughout the building to help make students smile. ■



A POSITIVE IMPACT

Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS) students participated in schoolwide lessons and activities that promoted being responsible, respectful and ready (also known as the SV3). The lessons were taught by our SV3 squad students, SV3 teachers, and ECMS principals to help model what it looks like to be respectful, responsible, and ready at ECMS. Students also worked on team-building activities, as well as contributing to an all-school mural. ECMS Principals outlined the Principals 200 Club that will

GOAL MET DURING FUN RUN AT EHRMAN CREST, PRINCIPALS SLIMED

With over two weeks of fundraising, the Ehrman Crest PTO was able to exceed their goal of \$50,000 which will be used to create a new nature/fitness trail at Ehrman Crest. The bonus? Since their goal was achieved, all four principals got slimed!

“Our main goal for this entire fundraiser, other than to start the funds for a nature trail, was to make sure that everyone at Ehrman Crest felt included. That’s why we were looking for things during the school day so it wasn’t something people had to come back for. Everyone could register and get a prize with or without a donation. We wanted everyone to feel a sense of community at the new school,” said Jean Elwell, Ehrman Crest PTO President.

The Fun Run was held on a beautiful day on a field at Ehrman Crest. Most students completed several laps and were given challenges per lap, such as flying like an airplane,



hopping like a bunny, running with friends, showing off dance moves and finishing with a cool down lap.

The District is currently seeking bids and developing a timeline for future trail installation. ■



continue throughout the school year, and they look forward to everyone following the SV3 Way! ■

Looking for a way to serve the community?



Join the Seneca Valley Team and become a bus driver!



Drivers are needed for school, field trips and sporting events.

Go to
www.svsd.net/DriveForSV
to learn more and apply.



MARCHING BAND – BEYOND SV!

Many students leave SV with tools to take them to the next level. For SV marching band students, many times that means participating in their college marching band, utilizing the skills they obtained while being a part of our very own SV Roaring “Raider” Marching Band! College marching band provides an opportunity to meet students from other high school bands, develop an initial college friend base, continue their love of music and the arts, and many times a great opportunity to travel! We put out the call for SV graduates currently participating in their college marching band. Congratulations SV Alumni!!

“It has always been my dream to be in The Pride of West Virginia Marching band. I have been watching them since I was little. Once I got in, it was a very different experience compared to high school marching band. Learning a new field show for every game has been a challenge but when you get to perform it, people love it. It’s a lot more work but the end result really pays off. I get to perform in front of crowds of about 50,000 people every week. It’s crazy,” said Madison DeVault, SV Class of 2022.

“My experience has only been positive with the blue band. The band is held to a very high standard in all aspects from music to marching, but we have lots of fun throughout. This leads to a perfect balance of the product we put out for pregame and halftime but still making it something I look forward to everyday. We practice about 11 hours per week not including game day, so balancing work can be tough but is well worth it. For me it as an escape from my other college classes as a place to do something I love,” said Ryan Sims SV Class of 2020. ■



Madison DeVault SV '22 – West Virginia University



Abby Kress SV '22 - Kent State University



Pictured L to R: Paul Amado SV '22, Dean Smith SV '20, - Purdue “All-American” Marching Band



Pictured L to R: Eden Geis SV '20, Bekah Heltzell SV '22, Trey Hixon SV '22, Aaron Miller SV '22 - Slippery Rock University



Pictured L to R: Jackson Scherzer SV '22, Ryan Sims SV '20, Bronte Chitu SV '22 - Penn State Blue Band



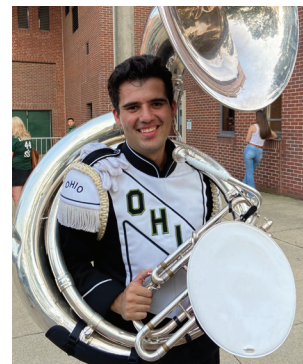
Glen Schum SV '18 - Indiana University of PA



Tressa McPherson SV '19 - Robert Morris University



Charles Lisella SV '17 - Westminister College



Luke Choban SV'21 - Ohio University

SV ORCHESTRA PERFORMS AT STRAND THEATER

On Oct. 27, SV High School orchestra students performed their first community concert at The Strand Theater in Zelienople. This Halloween themed concert included spooky classics with newly composed Halloween pieces. Students and audience members dressed in costume to help celebrate the upcoming holiday. "This was an exceptionally fun concert, and great way to start the school year," said Orchestra Director,



Sarah Miller. "It was awesome to see students connecting with the community through music and we hope to continue community concerts and our partnership with The Strand," Ms. Miller added. ■



RGMS MUSICAL "NEWSIES" SET TO RAISE THE CURTAIN!

Extra! Extra! Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) is ready to raise the curtain on their production of the hit Disney musical "Newsies Jr."

The musical is based on the 1992 film "Newsies" and the 2012 Broadway musical of the same name. The RGMS performance will feature a cast of 44 students in seventh and eighth grade with an additional supporting cast of 40 elementary students. The show is based on actual events that happened during the newsboys' strike of 1899 in New York City, when a group of young newspaper sellers got organized to get better wages from newspaper magnates Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph.

"We always have a lot of talent," Amanda Armor said as to the reason for this year's musical selection. "It was important to choose a show that highlighted the talent that we have in RGMS. This show selection gave us many opportunities to give many students featured moments." Jessica Kavanagh, co-producer also noted that this was a fantastic show for the middle school crew to learn about the various needs for a performance from set design, costumes, and sourcing props.



With a very quick schedule, auditions were held the first two weeks of school and rehearsals began immediately following. Chessa Crum is the Vocal Director and Susana Garcia is the choreographer helping to provide the singing and dancing in this high energy show.



Tickets for "Newsies Jr." are now on sale at svmsmusical.ticketleap.com/rgms-disneys-newsies-jr/. ■



PIAA COACH OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations Head Boys Swimming & Diving Coach, Brian Blackwell who was honored by the PIAA as the 2021-22 PIAA/NFHS Coach of the Year for Boys Swimming & Diving. Blackwell helped lead the 2021-22 Raider Boys Swimming & Diving team to its first-ever PIAA 3A State Title, defeating La Salle College 188-174. In addition, the Raiders captured their second WPIAL title with a resounding 333.5 points – the runner-up finished with 266 points. A well-deserved honor for Coach Blackwell! ■

	SPORT	COACH	SCHOOL
BOYS	Football (11-Player)	Joe Tout	Northern Lehigh HS
	Basketball	Keith Heinerichs	Haverford HS
	Soccer	Matt McAuley	Hampton HS
	Wrestling	Chad Shirk	Saucon Valley HS
	Cross Country	Joshua Gavitt	Hughesville HS
	Tennis	Tracy Tooke	Masterman HS
	Golf	Greg Wilson	State College HS
	Swimming & Diving	Brian Blackwell	Seneca Valley HS
	Track & Field	Jim Delp	Wyomissing HS
	Baseball	Travis Klahre	Everett HS
GIRLS	Volleyball	Dan Schall	North Allegheny HS
	Lacrosse	Bob Marcoux	Mars Area HS
	Basketball	Luann Grybowsk	Neshannock HS
	Volleyball	Elizabeth Zeigler	Spring Grove HS
	Soccer	Bill Pfeifer	Moon Area HS
	Cross Country	Rob Naylor	Montour HS
	Tennis	Brittany Almone	Conestoga HS
	Swimming & Diving	Kyle Campbell	Schuylkill Valley HS
	Golf	Craig Antush	Hickory HS
	Track & Field	Kyle Burgess	Moon Area HS
ALL	Softball	Chris Glenn	Montgomery HS
	Lacrosse	Army Orcutt	Conestoga HS
	Field Hockey	Casey Eck	Easton HS
	Competitive Spirit	Suzannah Mayer	Hempfield Area HS


2021-2022
Coaches of the Year
 #PIAACOACHES



FALL SPORTS UPDATES

Following successful regular seasons, many Raider fall sport teams begin post-season competition in late October and early November. A recap of all fall seasons, including post-season results, will be shared in the November issue of Raider Pride.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT DATES for RAIDER ATHLETICS

Winter Sport Information

- **Oct. 26, 2022:** Drug & Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals in Senior High School – this testing is for Winter Sports and any Club participants
 - 30 physicals offered 2:45 – 5:15 p.m.
- **Nov. 9, 2022:** Drug & Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals in Senior High School – this testing is for Winter Sports and any Club participant
 - 30 physicals offered 2:45 – 5:15 p.m.
- **Nov. 10, 2022:** **Deadline** for winter sport paperwork; all papers due in athletic office.
- **Nov. 18, 2022:** First official day of winter sports – mandatory tryouts begin this day.
 - For tryout schedule, please contact the coach directly. Coaches contact information is located on athletics website under Participation Information tab.

REMINDERS for 2022-23:

- ALL paperwork for winter sports due in the athletic office no later than **Thursday, November 10, 2022 by 3:00 p.m.** Coaches will not accept paperwork at the first day of tryouts.
- The PIAA mandates the CIPPE Section 7 form as the only permissible form for doctor’s signature.
- All required paperwork for 2022-23 athletic participation is available on Parent Portal or Athletics website. Paperwork includes: PIAA CIPPE Sections 1, 2, 5, 6 & 7 and Drug Test Consent Form.
- If a student played in a fall sport, the only paperwork needed is PIAA CIPPE Section 8 and, if applicable, PIAA CIPPE Section 9 – these forms can be dated no earlier than Oct. 7, 2022.
- All student-athletes must register in the Parent Portal under “Sports Registration” before the start of each season.
- Tryouts are mandatory. Student-athletes are expected to attend every tryout session. ■

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, OCTOBER 2022

The Female Athlete of the Month for October is girls' volleyball setter Bria Stepp. The junior team captain has led her team to a 7 and 3 section record during the last month. She has compiled 262 assists, 70 digs, 18 kills, 12 aces and 6 blocks. Her stand out play has helped the #8 state-ranked Raiders to a 10 and 3 overall record and two 1st place tournament finishes at the Westminster and Canon-McMillian Invitationals. For a stellar month, we recognize Bria as the October Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations Bria!



The Male Athlete of the Month for October is senior boy's golfer, Lucas Bruns. A co-captain for the team, Lucas led by example with stellar play on the golf course. He was a team medalist in seven of eleven matches and had a team high scoring average of 37 over the regular season. His play led him to a sixth-place finish at WPIAL sectionals and a berth in the WPIAL 3A Boy's Golf Semifinals where he scored an 89. We recognize Lucas as the October Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations Lucas!



Download the new and improved **SV MOBILE APP**



Seneca Valley's updated app is more personalized, more customized and has greater mobile content!



SV Portal
Once you log in, you'll stay logged into your account. Now you're just a tap away from viewing grades, homework, school information and more.

SV Customization
Click on the settings wheel to customize the app on your device.

SV Calendar
Stay informed with access to one or more calendars all in one place. Add personal calendar notes.

NEIGHBORS FOR NEIGHBORS – FIVE DAYS TO \$5K

In the coming weeks, the Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) will again host a fundraising campaign for our friends at the Neighbors for Neighbors (N4N) organization. N4N is a local charity committed to fulfilling holiday wish lists of Seneca Valley students in need. Through their generosity, approximately 200 students will have a brighter holiday season.

Wish lists typically consist of five to six items and often contain basic necessities like jackets, shoes and toiletries. Our goal is to raise **\$5,000** in just five days – Nov. 1-5. We quickly surpassed this goal last year and hope to do so once again! Please consider donating to N4N to help our SV students. Early donations can be made by clicking here: [Five Days to \\$5K for Neighbors for Neighbors 2022 | Mightycause](#). Checks can be made payable to the SV Foundation and sent to the District Administration Center located at 124 Seneca School Rd., Harmony, PA 16037. To learn more about N4N, click here: <http://www.n4npgh.org>. ■

THE SV FOUNDATION PROUDLY SUPPORTS
NEIGHBORS FOR NEIGHBORS (N4N) AS THEY FULFILL
HOLIDAY WISH LISTS FOR SV STUDENTS

JOIN US IN RAISING \$5,000 IN JUST FIVE DAYS!

FIVE DAYS TO \$5K



NOV. 1 - NOV. 5

Donations can be made here:
www.mightycause.com/SVforN4N
or by check made payable to the SV Foundation &
sent to Central Office.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO ABOUT N4N, VISIT THEIR WEBSITE:
WWW.N4NPGH.ORG

CVE AND THE LEADER IN ME

The Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF), in collaboration with the Highmark Foundation, is proud to again support professional development at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE). Staff will continue training utilizing the Seven Habits of Happy Kids – Leader In Me program. This whole-school improvement model empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century. The framework also empowers educators with effective practices and

tools to teach leadership to every student, creating a culture of student empowerment and aligning systems to drive results in academics. This is accomplished by incorporating the content based off Steven Covey's, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People." Students are introduced to the "7 habits" through in-class lessons and integrating principles through a school-wide culture. ■



LOCAL BUSINESS PROVIDES GENEROUS DONATION TO TEACHERS

The SVF would like to send a huge 'thank you' to Drakes Car Wash in Cranberry Township. They donated complimentary car washes to our newly hired teachers within the District, and their continued generosity is truly appreciated! ■



SV SENIOR SETS FUTURE PLANS IN MOTION, BRINGS AWARENESS TO WHITE CANE DAY

Brandon Wingard, a Seneca Valley Senior who is preparing for college next year, celebrated White Cane Awareness Day (Oct. 15) with MIU IV Teacher of the Visually Impaired, Mrs. Jessica Sloan. Ms. Sloan arranged a tour of Slippery Rock University on Friday, Oct. 14, where Mr. Wingard was able to use his white cane to navigate the campus, ride the happy bus and maneuver

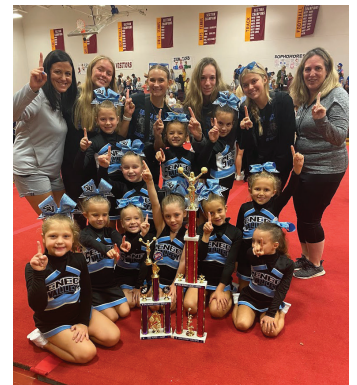


his way around the cafeteria. He also received a private tour as well as the group admission presentation. Mr. Wingard was able to use his monocular to locate items in the distance and was able to use the folded money system to make a purchase at Starbucks while on campus. To read more details about Mr. Wingard's visit and future plans, please click and read the "Cranberry Eagle" story: ["Seneca senior won't let blindness stand in the way of college dreams" – Cranberry Eagle.](#)

WINNING SEASON FOR SENECA CHEER

The SVJFAC Competition Cheer teams had a winning season this fall. The three teams competed in four competitions across the western PA region. The first and second grade squad took home three first place finishes and one Grand Champions title. The third and fourth grade squad took home one first place and one Grand Champions title. The fifth and sixth grade squad took home two first places and two Grand Champions titles. All three squads never placed lower than second place in any

competition. The teams are made up of students from all the elementary and middle schools in Seneca Valley. The 1/2 Team is led by Kristen Kaye and Rachel Darcangel, the 3/4 Team is led by Jenn Edwards and Bekah Lattea, the 5/6 Team is led by Lindsay Turcovsky and Jackie Loeffler and the Cheer Coordinator is Ali Irvin.



PRINCIPAL RECOGNITION

October is National Principals Month – a month to celebrate our Principals and remember how important their work is in every school! Principals set the academic tone for their schools and work collaboratively with teachers to develop and maintain high curriculum standards, develop mission statements, and set performance goals and objectives. Through their vision, dedication and determination, Principals provide the mobilizing force for achieving student success. We encourage you to join us in this celebration by sharing your appreciation with our Principals. ■



SV SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES TECHNOLOGY RESOLUTION

On Oct. 10, 2022, members of the Seneca Valley School Board approved a resolution supporting additional safeguards for internet and technology applications to protect our children. The resolution, approved unanimously by the board, will now serve as a guide for the District moving forward. Additional plans include engaging in discussions with students, staff and parents on the topic and determining if additional boundaries for student technology are needed in the interest of student safety. To read the resolution, [please click here.](#) ■

ON TOUR

We were honored to have a number of retired and current educators join us recently for a tour of the beautiful new Ehrman Crest. We thank them for visiting! ■



Pictured from left: Kwaku Aning, California educational leader; Louka Parry, Australian educational leader; Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent; Gregg Behr, Grable Foundation Director; Dr. Bille Rondinelli, Grable Fellow and retired Superintendent; Dr. Bart Rocco, Grable Fellow and retired Superintendent; and Dr. Sean McCarty, Assistant Superintendent for K-6 Instruction.



SV ALL-STAR: DISTRICT MAINTENANCE TEAM MEMBER RECOGNIZED FOR HARD WORK AND DEDICATED SERVICE

For the month of October, we are pleased to announce the newest member inducted into the SV All-Star Club, Mr. David Bopp, District Maintenance Team Member.

The SV All-Star Club is an awards program developed by the District to express our gratitude to Seneca Valley classified employees (secretaries, paraprofessionals, maintenance, cafeteria) and bus drivers who are often the unsung heroes of our schools. We intend to recognize a new member of this elite all-star club each month.

Mr. Randy Miller, Director of Buildings and Grounds shared, "I am very proud and honored to have nominated Mr. Bopp for the SV-Allstar Club award. Mr. Bopp began his tenure as a sub-custodian in 1999 after he was encouraged by a former SV custodian, Warren Mitchell, to apply for a position at Seneca Valley – and now 23 years later, I think it's safe to say he's glad that he did."

"I can speak for the Buildings & Grounds Department by saying that we are very glad that Mr. Bopp joined our staff. He's a 'jack of all trades.' I think Mr. Bopp truly enjoys some of the challenging tasks that he encounters, and he has yet to meet a clogged drain that he can't clear," said Mr. Miller.

Mr. Bopp graduated from Butler High School in 1978. Shortly after graduating he began working at Pullman Standard in Butler. In his spare time, Mr. Bopp enjoys spending time with his stepson, stepdaughter and step-grandchildren as well as fishing and slot car racing.

Mr. Miller added, "My Supervisor's and I wish we could have



Pictured from L-R: Director of Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Randy Miller, Seneca Valley Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Tracy Vitale, District Maintenance Team Member, Mr. David Bopp and Seneca Valley School Board President, Mr. Jim Nickel.

30 more 'David Bopps' on our staff. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. Congratulations on this much deserved award."

October 2, was National Custodial Workers Recognition Day. We want to give special thanks to all custodial workers and maintenance personnel who do such a wonderful job with the upkeep of our buildings throughout the District. ■

'I LED THE PLEDGE'

We were pleased to continue the tradition of inviting elementary students from Seneca Valley's K-4 schools to lead the members of the School Board and public in saying "The Pledge of Allegiance." For the Oct. 3, meeting, we were joined by Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) first grader, Viviana Scadden. Vivi, who is an avid reader, aspires to be a clothing designer, gaming developer or astronaut when she grows up. We can't wait to see what she will do! Until then, we can tell you she did a fantastic job leading the pledge. ■



Viviana Scadden with, from L-R, Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent and Mr. Jim Nickel, Board President.



VOICES

A podcast from the Seneca Valley School District

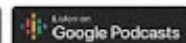
Want to hear directly from the voices at Seneca Valley on the most current topics and updates? Join us in listening to Voices, a podcast brought to you by the Seneca Valley School District. This podcast interviews guests who share an inside look at what is happening at SV. Be sure to subscribe to SV Voices and listen online [here](#) or anywhere you listen to podcasts.

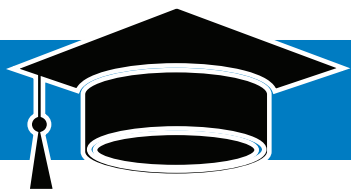
will be recognized during the graduation ceremony. ■



Voices, a Podcast from the Seneca Valley School District

Want to hear directly from the voices at Seneca Valley on the most current topics and updates? Join us in listening to Voices, a podcast brought to you by the Seneca Valley School District. This podcast interviews guests who share an inside look at what is happening at SV.





ALUMNI Q&A

Shonya (Gilchrist) McClure, SV of 1989, is currently serving in the United States Navy. In addition, she also owns two restaurants and a catering company. Thank you for your service.

Q: Catch us up. Tell us what you're doing today:

A: I currently reside in Atlanta, GA, and I'm serving my 33rd year of service, in the United States Navy. I own two successful restaurants and a catering company, and I also launched my very own clothing line "Sister Boss" which includes my signature "Shonya Brooke" athletic apparel.

Q: What might (someone) be surprised to know about you?

A: I am a professional chef, and I published my first cookbook in March, "Seafood Differently." I also know how to fly aircrafts.

Q: How did Seneca Valley help you become the person you are today, both personally and professionally?

A: The staff at Seneca Valley planted seeds of accountability, honor, respect, integrity, loyalty, kindness, generosity, pride, leadership and courage in me at an early age. As I traveled down the many paths of life, these seeds were watered which enabled me to bloom into the person that I am today both personally and professionally.

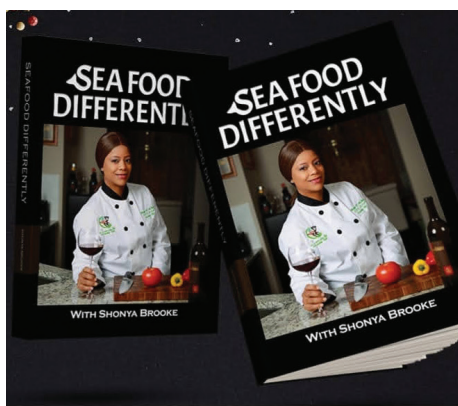
Q: What do you think makes Seneca Valley such a special place to learn and grow?

A: The faculty at Seneca Valley all harbour a genuine passion for teaching as well as the desire to construct an atmosphere that promotes learning in a healthy environment.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher/coach/SV staff member?

A: Mr. Allen, Mr. Sample, Mr. Robert Matchett, Mr. Goehring, Mr. Wigand, Mr. Kapan, Mr. Depaulo, Mr. Beckman, Mr. Depaschal, Ms. Semet, Ms. Leo, Mrs. Marshall, Ms. Ennis, Ms. Slack, Ms. Blain and Ms. Bookbinder.

Q: What is one of your favorite memories from your time at Seneca Valley?



A: Marching Band Camp was my favorite memory from my time at Seneca Valley. Band Camp started very early in the morning. It was long, hard, hot, challenging and sometimes frustrating. Mr. Matchett had one goal and one goal only and that was to be the best marching band out there; through pride, professionalism and performance. He was tough, but in his toughness, he was fair, honest, constructive and he loved the Seneca Valley Instrumental Department. He molded many of us into leaders. Not only did he teach us what a leader was, he showed us what a true leader actually looked like by the way he carried and presented himself! Being a member of the marching band set the bar high for my life goals and is a tremendous asset to my success and the leader that I am today.

Q: If you had one message for teachers or staff, what would it be?



A: My message would actually be more of a "thank you" vs a "message."

I would like to personally thank the faculty and staff at Seneca Valley for believing and investing in me. Thank you for all of the sacrifices that you made in order to ensure that all students were not only balanced educationally, but mentally and emotionally as well. Thank you all for loving me enough to hold me accountable when I made a bad decision and offering me a hug when I had a bad day. Thank you all for being leaders and the gatekeepers of the student body's education and success. Words will never be able to define the great impact that Seneca has over my life or what it means to my heart. My alma mater; the captivator of a big piece of my heart; as written in the second paragraph of our alma mater song:

*"Thanks to thee, our alma mater for the future and the past
All the happiness you give us
And our glorious blue and black
Hold us firm and guide us surely
As you have in years before
Loyalty we pledge undying
Seneca Valley evermore,"*

Q: What do you wish other people knew about Seneca Valley?

A: The entire Seneca Valley organization is committed to building bridges that lead to healthy and successful roads to your future. A place where kindness over everything is the standard. ■



SAFE ONLINE SECURITY

As soon as your kids **start going online**, it's important to explain your expectations for their behavior. With some guidance from you, they can enjoy their time online and mostly avoid things like **cyberbullying** and inappropriate content. Here are some basics to share with your child:

Communicate with care. Use the right language for your audience. You might write or speak differently to a teacher, compared with a friend.

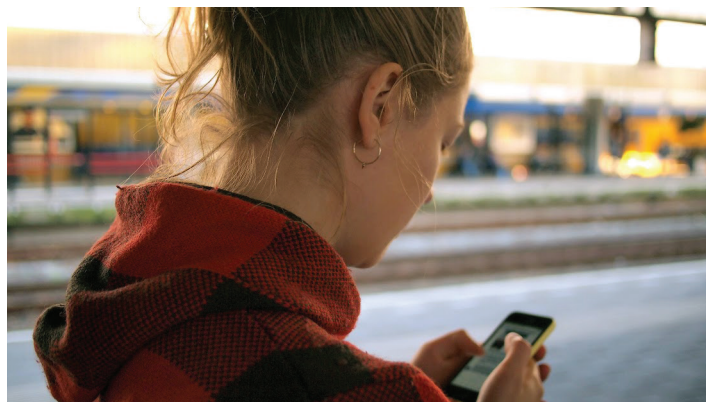
Keep private things private. Don't share private information, including passwords, your home address, date of birth, your location, or revealing photos.

Respect others and avoid drama. Be courteous and practice disagreeing politely. Try not to interact with trolls or share gossip.

Don't lie, steal, or cheat. Don't try to deceive others. Remember to give credit where credit is due. And, although it's easy to copy others' work, download things without permission, or cheat in online games, don't do it.

Be an "upstander." If someone you know is being bullied, find a way to show your support. If you feel safe confronting the one doing the bullying, you should. If not, a private message to the target of the bullying can be enough to help someone through a tough time. Speaking up against hate speech is important, too.

Report misbehavior. The internet is a giant community, and you can help it be a nicer place.



Follow your family's rules. If your parent or caregiver tells you to avoid certain websites or to stop texting after a certain time, do your best to respect their wishes. The more you act responsibly, the more privileges you'll get.

Think before you post, text, or share. Consider how you and others might feel after you've posted something. It's not always easy to take back what you've said online, and your online behavior can create a lasting footprint.

Check in with your feelings. Some online experiences can have a negative effect on our mental and emotional well-being. If you ever feel uncomfortable, worried, sad, or anxious, try taking a break and reach out to a friend or adult for help. ■

Article provided by Common Sense Media

'MY TOP 3 BACK-TO-SCHOOL ESSENTIALS'

By Delaney Ruston, MD

We all know that computer time will be ever-present at home and at most schools. And it will continue to pull at our kids' attention.

The start of this academic year gives us an opportunity to get clarity on our key reasons for wanting to work with our kids to ensure that they have time off screens.

What would your three top reasons be? Today, I share mine. But before I do, I offer you this 60-second activity (something you could do at dinner with your family or in class with your students):

Take a piece of paper and write down all the words that begin with the letter "C," representing things you want for your child. Here are some examples: compassion, connection, competency, courage, challenge, commitment, curiosity,

closeness, credibility, cleverness, cleanliness, camaraderie, caring, and cooperation.

Now put on a timer and see which three you pick as the top candidates — things you want to make sure your child has time to do off screens this academic year. (And yes, these things can and do happen via devices, but today we are thinking about why having time off screens is key.)

My top picks are 1. Creativity 2. Connection 3. Challenge. In my book, *Parenting In The Screen Age*, I address these themes in greater depth.

Read the rest of Dr. Ruston's blog at [Screenagers Blog](#) | [My top 3 back-to-school essentials \(screenagersmovie.com\)](#) ■

School Based Mental Health

Frequently Asked Questions for Seneca Valley Parents



About Glade Run

Glade Run currently contracts and provides outpatient counseling services in several school districts located in Allegheny, Butler and Beaver counties, including Seneca Valley School District.

Glade Run operates three school-based outpatient program models: Mental Health Partnership (MHP); Therapeutic Classroom; and Modified Therapeutic Classroom. The school-based therapists conduct initial psycho-social assessments and then provide individual, family and group therapy as determined by the individual student's treatment plan.

What is School Based Mental Health (SBMH)?

SBMH refers to mental health services for school age youth addressing social, emotional and behavioral health along with the ability to cope with life's challenges. Services are delivered in the school setting during the school day and, if needed, can continue during the summer months.

Why is Seneca Valley partnering with Glade Run Lutheran Services to provide school based mental health services?

Seneca Valley cares about its students and recognizes the need to provide access to services that will support mental wellness within the classroom. Research demonstrates that students who receive mental health support achieve better academically. In addition, classroom behavior, on-task learning, and students' sense of connectedness and well-being all improve as well.

Who will be providing mental health services to my child?

School based mental health services will be provided by licensed therapists through Glade Run Lutheran Services.

As a parent, do I have any financial obligation?

Payment is based on individual insurance similar to your medical insurance. After completing the referral and during the initial phone call from the therapist, parents will be informed of any financial obligation prior to the start of any services.

Where will my child's services take place?

Services are delivered in approved spaces within the school. These spaces have been approved by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (OMHSAS).

Will my child miss class or need to stay after regular school hours?

Appointment times are determined by the student, parent and school counselor and are typically during the school day unless the therapist, student and parent make other arrangements.

Can I participate in my child's therapy?

Therapy is confidential but Glade Run offers Family Therapy as well if the team determines it necessary and/or with a parent/guardian request.

How do I get started?

- » Referrals may be completed by parents/guardians, teachers, nurses, counselors/social workers or the student him/herself.
- » This referral is forwarded to Glade Run's outpatient referral coordinator, who verifies student insurance and forwards to the program supervisor for staffing.
- » At that time, the assigned therapist will contact the student's family to set up intake, which will take place at your child's school. This process is typically completed within 24-48 hours.

For more information about school based mental health services, contact us at 412-661-1827, ext. 113.



www.gladerun.org



- SV offers voluntary student accident insurance. To learn more and apply, visit: [Backpack Fliers / Education/Resources \(svsd.net\)](https://svsd.net/BackpackFliers/Education/Resources)
- Breakfast is now **FREE** for all students. Click to learn more: [Food Services / General Information \(svsd.net\)](https://svsd.net/FoodServices/GeneralInformation)
- Effective Oct. 1, Pennsylvania increased the income threshold for all applicants to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG). With this change, more than 420,000 additional Pennsylvanians in more than 174,000 households will be newly eligible for SNAP and will receive, on average, \$63 a month. To learn more, visit [Wolf Administration Marks Hunger Action Month by Expanding Eligibility for SNAP Benefits, Securing Food Assistance for More Pennsylvanians](https://svsd.net/WolfAdministrationMarksHungerActionMonth)
- The FBI has an awareness campaign to educate the public about the consequences of making hoax threats of violence to schools, events and other public places. The [Think Before You Post campaign](https://svsd.net/ThinkBeforeYouPost) serves to remind everyone that any threat is taken with the utmost seriousness and will be quickly and thoroughly addressed by law enforcement. Hoax threats are not a joke; they are a crime.
- Seneca Valley residents 62 years of age or older are invited to apply to become a member of the Seneca Valley School District Gold Card Club. Membership entitles card holders to attend home athletic events, music, dramatic and other school productions. To apply for a gold card, please visit [Parents/Community / Gold Card Club \(svsd.net\)](https://svsd.net/Parents/Community/GoldCardClub).



- Join the SV Team! [Watch here](https://svsd.net/HumanResources) or visit www.svsd.net/HumanResources to learn more and apply.
- Visit [Niche](https://svsd.net/Niche) to view SV rankings ■

FYI

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. ■

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

No matter where you live in the U.S., you can easily access 24/7 emotional support.

Call or text 988 or visit 988lifeline.org/chat to chat with a caring counselor.

We're here for you.

IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP



Care Solace connects students, staff, and their families to care. At no cost to you, Care Solace will quickly and confidentially find available mental health and substance use providers matched to your needs.

Find the right help at the right time.

24/7/365 MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT

A multilingual team is available 24/7/365 to help you understand options, call providers on your behalf, and schedule an appointment.

CARE REGARDLESS OF INSURANCE

Connect to care with any coverage including Medicaid, Medicare, and sliding scale options for those without insurance.

EASY ACCESS TO CARE

Use Care Match, the self-serve website, to find a provider on your own.

GET CONNECTED TO CARE TODAY

888-515-0595

caresolace.com/



Please note: Care Solace is not an emergency response service or mental health services provider. In the event of a life threatening emergency, call 9-1-1 or the National Suicide Hotline 1-800-273-8255.

Come Check Out Our School!

Open House & Program Showcase

Welcome Interested
Butler County Students & Parents

November 17, 2022
6PM - 8PM

www.butlertec.us
724-282-0735



Calling all Leaf Angels

Help minimize the difficulties of raking leaves for your neighbors, and volunteer to be a Leaf Angel!

The Township is urgently seeking volunteers who are matched with elderly or disabled residents in need of assistance raking and removing leaves from their properties.

Register online and fall in love with volunteering!

Volunteer hours available for youth, sports, businesses, or nonprofit groups!



www.cranberrytownship.org/leafangels