



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT
PAGES 4-9

WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

School and Community Working Together

VOLUME 29, No. 1

JULY 2022

STORY WALK AT WVCS

You may have heard of a buffalo, but have you ever heard of a gruffalo? Ask an elementary student who participated in a StoryWalk™ at the end of the year. Students walked along an outside story path as they engaged in the reading of the book, *The Gruffalo*, by Julia Donaldson. Key story elements were identified and discussed while predictions of upcoming events were speculated on the way to the next page. The event culminated with a “gruffalo crumble” snack in the Grove. Some comments heard along the path were “This is the best day ever!” and “This is so much fun!”



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

BY DR. TAWEEPON FARRAR

CELEBRATIONS

The 2021-2022 school year has successfully ended. Students, teachers, staff, and administrators have all worked very hard and deserve a big THANK YOU! On the last day of school it was wonderful to celebrate our retirees along with several staff members that hit significant milestone years of service.

In addition, we celebrated our graduates of the Class of 2022. We wish all our graduates and retirees the best of luck on their future endeavors!



STAFF

We have been very busy with the hiring process as we had several retirements and staff moving on to other chapters in their lives. We have hired a new Bus Mechanic/Driver, Special Education Teacher, Physical Education Teacher, Elementary (Kindergarten) Teacher, and School Nurse. We are still in the interview process for a science teacher, music teacher, social worker and school psychologist

as the newsletter went to print. We plan to start the year off with all hires completed. We will introduce you to everyone new in the next newsletter. We look forward to welcoming these newcomers to the West Valley family.

SUMMERTIME

While we do not have any student programs occurring on campus this summer, it will be busy on campus with facilities updates, upgrades, and additions. The basketball nets and playground area will not be accessible due to the construction trailers. As a result of the significant construction happening in district and around the campus, we do ask, for the safety of all, that you only come on campus for specific school-related needs. More information will be coming out during the summer as parent drop off and pick up will look different next school year due to the ongoing construction.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. Stay safe and healthy!

#WEAREWESTVALLEY

WVCS MILESTONES

Name	Years in District
Ashley Foster	<i>1 year</i>
Alexander Marino	<i>1 year</i>
Theodore Perger	<i>1 year</i>
Julia Ramsdell	<i>1 year</i>
Zach Schoepflin	<i>1 year</i>
Andrea Senseney	<i>1 year</i>
David Fisher	<i>5 years</i>
Colleen Fuller	<i>20 years</i>
Joseph Papp	<i>20 years</i>
Steven Kenworthy	<i>20 years</i>
Ilene Simon	<i>20 years</i>



BAND CONCERT

Mr. Venitelli and our West Valley student musicians did an excellent job at the Spring Band Concert. The 5th graders, who finished their FIRST year learning their instrument, showed tremendous growth. The concert band (grades 6-8) showed their talent with a variety of musical selections. The Chamber Band, along with the Symphonic Band, played more complex musical selections to a crowded auditorium. Finally, the Marching Band provided the grand finale for the night. West Valley CSD is the only school in Cattaraugus County that has a marching band!



PRE-K TRIP TO THE ZOO



LIBRARY DOORS

Thank you to CA BOCES for designing and installing custom graphics for our library doors!



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

*BY MR. DANIEL AMODEO,
PRINCIPAL-CURRICULUM COORDINATOR*

They did it! Congratulations to our new graduates and best of luck in all your future endeavors. They also did it! Our Pre-K students are officially Kindergartners. It has been a fantastic year full of successes and accomplishments. As we head into the summer, our work preparing the best opportunities for our students never stops.

Throughout the summer our teaching staff and administrative team will be engaged in many professional development opportunities. Teachers will focus their summer professional development in ELA, Math, Science, and Social Emotional Learning. In addition, we are planning professional development days with Woz ED, our STEM curriculum.

Although it is the beginning of summer, we have much planned to prepare ourselves for next school year. Students, please enjoy your time off, rest up, and recharge as the next school year will be here before you know it. I am already looking forward to seeing you back in the building and cannot wait for you to experience the benefits of all the positive changes that have been occurring over the last few years.

SENIOR TRIP TO SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

The senior trip started off with a gorgeous riverwalk where seniors took a riverboat cruise and explored the area surrounding the Alamo. Next, the seniors went to the Comal River to experience a lazy river tube float with some fun whitewater shoots. Another day was spent mini golfing, hitting the batting cages, arcades, and playing paintball as well visiting the Japanese Tea Gardens. The following day the boys went for a 6-mile hike in Government Canyon where they saw Acro-can-thosaurus and Sauro-po-sei-don dinosaur footprints left in some exposed rock while the girls had a nice spa day and got their nails done. The last day was spent exploring Natural Bridge Caverns where students saw various formations in the limestone caves.

Other activities during the trip included shopping at the mall, going out for ice cream, hitting up the local food trucks for barilla tacos, watching bats come out of an urban cave, swimming at Barton Springs, picnicking at Landa Park, getting donuts at Voodoo donuts, going out to the movies, and bowling.



SENIOR TRIP TO SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



TOP 5 SENIORS



#2



Lucas Proseus

Lucas Proseus, son of Jason and Heather Proseus, is the Salutatorian for 2022. Lucas has completed SUPA US History, SUPA Biology, SUPA Personal Finance, and JCC MATT Precalculus. He has participated in some extracurricular activities including Ski Club, Academic Challenge, Modified Soccer and Varsity Track. Lucas plans to attend Alfred University in the fall majoring in Computer Science.

#3



Thomas Snashell

Thomas Snashell, son of Edward and Bobbi Snashell, is third in the graduating class of 2022. Thomas was Vice President of his class in his senior year. He played Varsity Soccer for 3 years and was a member of the Ski Club. Thomas is planning to attend Hilbert College in the fall, majoring in Criminal Justice.

#1



Kayleann Kowalski

Kayleann Kowalski, daughter of Kristina and Thomas Kowalski, is the Valedictorian for 2022. In addition to her regular coursework at WVCS, Kayleann has completed the following college courses: Syracuse University HST 101 American History, Syracuse University HST 102, Syracuse University BIO 121/122 Biology, and Syracuse University ECN 305 Economics of Personal Finance. During her senior year, Kayleann served as Treasurer of her class. Kayleann has been on High Honor Roll in multiple quarters. Throughout her senior year, Kayleann has also held down two different part time jobs. After graduation, Kayleann is undecided about her future plans.

#4



Janette Calkins

Janette Calkins, daughter of Doris and Ron Calkins, finished 4th in the graduating class of 2022. She has participated in the Medical Assisting program at the Ellicottville BOCES Center. Janette will attend Jamestown Community College in the fall for general studies and will later major in the medical field.

#5



Macie Noel

Macie Noel, daughter of Kellie and Dwayne Noel, finished 5th in the senior class of 2022. Macie was on the varsity swim team and played basketball in her previous school and was also a member in FFA. Macie will attend Alfred State College in the fall majoring in Agriculture Technology.



Janette Calkins



Khari Fish



Kayleann Kowalski



Macie Noel



Lucas Proseus



Thomas Snashell



Kaylynn Williams



Congratulations!

GRADUATION CEREMONY



AWARD WINNERS

Valedictorian	Kayleann Kowalski
Salutatorian	Lucas Proseus
Academic Excellence	Kayleann Kowalski, Lucas Proseus
Irwin Ahrens Memorial	Thomas Snashell
Alumni Association Award	Lucas Proseus
George H. Ball Community Achievement Award	Kayleann Kowalski
CANY Scholastic Recognition	Kayleann Kowalski
CCB Academic Scholarship	Lucas Proseus
Catt. Co. Youth Citizenship	Lucas Proseus
Community Service Award	Lucas Proseus
Doug Ford Memorial	Kayleann Kowalski
English	Kayleann Kowalski
God and Country	Lucas Proseus
Kristen Hintz Memorial Track	Lucas Proseus
Theron Hotaling Memorial	Thomas Snashell
JBC Academic Progress Award	Khari Fish (11), Janette Calkins (11), Thomas Snashell (12), Macie Noel (12)
JCC Unified Student Assistance Scholarship	Kayleann Kowalski
Rensselaer Medal	Kayleann Kowalski
RIT Innovation and Creativity	Kayleann Kowalski
Russell Sage College Award	Kayleann Kowalski
Pete Scherer Memorial	Thomas Snashell
Anna Schroeder Memorial	Khari Fish
State of NY Comptroller	Kayleann Kowalski, Lucas Proseus
Supt Award for Attendance	Lucas Proseus
Triple C Awards	Kayleann Kowalski, Thomas Snashell
U or R. Fred Douglas/Susan B. Anthony	Kayleann Kowalski
USAF Math & Science Award	Lucas Proseus, Kayleann Kowalski
Wells College 21st Century Leadership	Kayleann Kowalski
Keith Young Memorial	Lucas Proseus

SCHOLARSHIPS

Leo Bernhoft Memorial	Kaylynn Williams
Al Engels Memorial	Thomas Snashell
Elisa B. Hughey Arts	Kayleann Kowalski
Janda Lee Hunt Memorial	Thomas Snashell
Jack Nuthall Memorial	Lucas Proseus
CH2MHill WXT West Valley, LLC Science	Lucas Proseus, Macie Noel

BUBBLE SCIENCE IN KINDERGARTEN

To celebrate the final days of kindergarten, students participated in a Bubble Challenge. The goal was to create three different shaped bubble wands. They shaped their wands and decorated them to add some pizzazz. Students then tested their wands to see which one blew the best bubbles. All of the wands blew amazing bubbles and the students enjoyed their final STEAM activity of the year!



PRE-K GRADUATION (FUTURE WVCS CLASS OF 2035!)



WATER FUN DAY



SPRING SPORTS UPDATE

We wrapped up the 2021-22 school year with a spring sports award night on June 13. Thirty-three student-athletes were recognized for their participation in track and field and softball. In addition, we honored four athletes as 3D Letter Winners. These students participated in a varsity sport in all three seasons (fall, winter, spring) during the school year: Victoria Parish, Nicholas Peters, Jack Tharnish, and Lauren Frascella. Finally, we named our WVCS male and female athletes of the year: Lauren Frascella and Jack Tharnish.

Thank you to our students, coaches, staff, parents, and fans for a great year of Wildcat Athletics!

FALL ATHLETICS UPDATE

Fall athletes: please look for information in the coming weeks regarding forms and online signups for fall sports. We are moving to an online platform to simplify sports sign-ups, health paperwork, etc.

Fall practices begin on August 22. Practice details will be shared by individual coaches as the season approaches.

RIT | Rochester Institute of Technology



A virtual career exploration and college search event
Wednesday, July 20 and Thursday, July 21
Daily Workshops: 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. ET

How can I find my best fit major and career while still in high school?

Whether you have a specific career in mind or you're simply curious about different majors, College & Careers is a great place to start. This summer's program is **fully virtual** and **free**.

Similar to a conference, students can choose up to four interactive workshops that showcase future-focused careers. Here's just a sampling of the 60+ topics offered last year:

- > Biomedical Engineering
- > Business Analytics and Management Information Systems
- > Communications: How to Make a Living on Social Media
- > Game Design: Understanding Level Design in Video Games
- > Graphic Design
- > How Genomics Uses DNA for Medical Treatments, Crop Production & Much More
- > Interior Design
- > Math: Is There Enough Water? Mathematical Modeling for Real Life
- > Mechanical Engineering Technology: Vehicle Design
- > Photography: Calling All Photographers
- > Ransomware
- > Science of a Selfie: Understanding the Tech You Hold in Your Hand

College Planning Sessions

4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. ET

Students, parents, and families can take advantage of optional college planning presentations – get all the information you need for a successful college search.

Topics include:

- > Kick-start your College Search Process
- > How to Pay for College
- > Best Advice Student Panel
- > Co-op and Internships that Set You Apart



Learn more and register at
rit.edu/college-and-careers.

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WILDCAT BITES

CREATIVE WRITING

St. John the Baptist Church has a Free Community Clothes Closet located behind the church in Bingham Hall every Wednesday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

Accepting seasonal clothing and shoes, bedding, kitchen and household items and books for Cattaraugus County residents.

Donations of gently worn undamaged, clean, and seasonal items are welcome.

Upon request, we have access to fulfill a need of furniture items.

If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment, please call Jacque Conrad at 942-3836.

Thank you very much for the continued support and a successful year.

The West Valley Food Pantry will be open by appointment only until further notice. If you are in need of food, please call Kris Aldrow 716-942-6690 or Amy Frank 942-6657 and a time will be set up. All orders will be filled on normal Food Bank days. If you need emergency food please call and arrangements will be made for a pickup or delivery time.

Food Bank days and hours:

2nd and 4th Wednesday from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

The fourth Wednesday of each month produce boxes will be available for anyone in the Town of Ashford or in the West Valley Central School District from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at Ashford Town Barn Located on Fox Valley Rd.

The Food Pantry is in need of the following items:

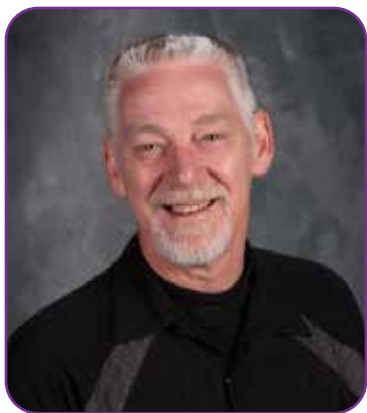
Canned fruit
Macaroni (no spaghetti)
Noodles
Canned Vegetables
Soup
Salad Dressing
Paper Towels
Toilet Paper

We would also like to thank the community for their continued support.

On Wednesday, May 25th and Thursday, May 26th, students in Mrs. Isaacs' Creative Writing class read books of their own creation to Mrs. Green's kindergarten class. The Creative Writing students had been studying the design of children's books and creating a children's book of their own. They worked in small groups to follow the publication process, which included conducting research, writing a draft, completing a storyboard, and creating a final product.



WEST VALLEY RETIREES



**Bob Harrington
(29 years)**

Head Mechanic & Bus Driver

Bob Harrington is retiring from West Valley Central School after nearly 30 years! Bob also served as Bus Driver, Transportation Supervisor, and Dispatcher. In addition to driving bus across Western New York, Bob has driven for senior trips to Ohio, Massachusetts, and Virginia Beach to name a few.

"It has been such a fantastic stay here at West Valley," Bob shared. "I have made many, many friends at the school and the community. To be honest, many have become like family to me. But most of all I'll miss the kids."

In retirement Bob is looking forward to spending time with his wife, kids and grandkids, and working in his shop.



**Rae Ann Lindberg
(30 years)**

Physical Education Teacher

Rae Ann Lindberg is retiring from WVCS after 30 years! In addition to teaching physical education, Rae also served as Elementary School Counselor for a time. She also coached girls' volleyball, girls' basketball, and boys' and girls' track. She also served as a class advisor.

A favorite memory from West Valley was watching her own children and other West Valley students having fun at the PARP carnival, Fall Fest, and Spring Fling.

Rae said she'll miss the colleagues she's had the privilege of working with—as well as getting up at 5:45 to get ready for school. (Not!)



**Pat Rinko
(28 years)**

Elementary Teacher

Congratulations to Patricia Rinko on her retirement! While at WVCS, Pat has taught first grade, fifth grade, Pre-K and in the Resource Room. Over the years, she has coached softball, modified basketball, and Odyssey of the Mind.

Some of Pat's favorite memories from WVCS involve putting together the Christmas shows for the kids. "We had so many laughs," she said. "The staff really bonded preparing and performing in the teacher acts."

"I will miss the joy on kids' faces as they arrive in the morning," Pat commented. "I will miss snow days and the 8:10 call to remind me to take attendance. I will miss watching kids play on the playground and lunch with my friends. But most of all I will miss my co-workers. We are a family here. West Valley is a special place."



**Kyle Woodin
(32 years)**

Health & Special Education Teacher

Kyle Woodin is retiring after 32 years at West Valley. She has taught health, parenting education, physical education, and driver's ed. She has also served as a Resource Room teacher and a Consultant Teacher. She was also the SADD Coordinator and the Healthy Schools Coordinator for a number of years.

"I loved working in the classroom to teach kiddos about Health," she commented. "Our Healthy Schools Team worked so hard to achieve the National Bronze Award from President Bill Clinton's Healthy Schools Foundation. We were recognized at his Presidential Library in Little Rock Arkansas and I was presented the award by him personally!"

Kyle shared, "I have made some great friends at WV and I will miss seeing them on a daily basis; I wish them the best of luck in their classes as they continue to try and make a difference in what they do."

Red Cross Blood Drives at WVCS

This school year we were credited with collecting a total of 35 units, which will potentially help save up to 105 lives!

Blood Drive

11/2/21

1/12/22

4/8/22

6/8/22

Units Collected

11 units + 1 (10% Bonus)

10 units + 1 (10% Bonus)

7 units + 1 (10% Bonus)

4

Total Units



3RD GRADE BIO WAX MUSEUM

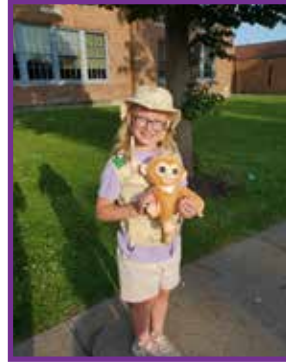
Ms. Westfall's third grade students presented a "Wax Museum" for families on Wednesday, June 15th in the evening. The museum was displayed on the school's front sidewalk, making it a family friendly event, enjoyed by all.

First, the students selected and learned about the famous people they would portray.

Their subjects included a diverse collection of famous athletes, political figures, historical figures, and more. The students read from a variety of sources and collected notes about their person's childhood, education, life, and accomplishments. Next, the students wrote and typed a research report. Then students created note cards to use for their oral presentations at the Wax Museum.

For the museum, the students dressed as their subjects and stood as still as wax figures. Guests touring the museum were encouraged to "push" buttons created by each child, at which time the "wax" figure would become animated, sharing a summary describing their famous person.

The students did a great job with their research and presentations!





SEPTEMBER <i>Days 17</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
OCTOBER <i>Days 20</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
NOVEMBER <i>Days 17</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
DECEMBER <i>Days 16</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
JANUARY <i>Days 20</i>						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sept. 5 Labor Day
Sept. 6&7 Supt. Days
Sept. 8 PreK - 12 first day/
PreK orientation
Sept. 21 Open House
Oct. 10 Columbus Day
Nov. 1 Supt. day-no students
Nov. 10 - end of 1st quarter
Nov. 11 Veterans Day
Nov. 21&22 1/2 day for
students/parent conf.
Nov. 23-25 Thanksgiving break
Dec. 22 1/2 day for students
Dec. 23-30 early winter break
Jan. 16 Martin Luther King day
Jan. 27 1/2 day for students/
rating day/ end of 2nd quarter
Feb. 20-24 Pres. Day;
Mid-Winter Break
Mar. 17 Supt. Day- no students
Apr. 3-10 Spring Break; Good Fri.
April 14 3rd quarter ends
May 29 Memorial Day
Jun. 13 last reg. classes 7-12
Jun. 14-22 regents
Jun. 19 Juneteenth Day
Jun. 20-22 1/2 day elem students
Jun. 22 last reg. classes PreK-6/
4th quarter ends
Jun. 23 rating day
Jun. 24 Graduation

FEBRUARY <i>Days 15</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				
MARCH <i>Days 22</i>						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
APRIL <i>Days 15</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
MAY <i>Days 22</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
JUNE <i>Days 16</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Key:
 school not in session
 School and offices closed
 Superintendent day - no students
 last day of reg. classes
 Open House

1/2 day for elem only
 PreK orientation
 1/2 day for students



WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

5359 School St.
West Valley, NY 14171
(716) 942-3100

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Permit No. 5
West Valley, NY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Heather Klahn, President
Charlie Davis, Vice President
Jonathan Boberg
Tracy Chai
Michael Harmony
Carla Heitman
Gary Niesyty

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Taweepon Farrar, Superintendent
Ann O'Brien, Business Administrator
Daniel Amodio, Pre-K-12 Principal
Danielle Behringer, Assistant Principal, CSE/CPSE Chairperson

SUMMER "READO"



Summer READO

Reading is so much fun!

Read until a row is won!

Mark your board until it's full!

When summer ends bring it back to school!

Surprises will grow!

When you play Reado!

Students in Kindergarten - 5th grade can participate.

Mark your boards and bring them back in the fall!

Happy Reading!



Mrs. Roland & Mrs. Thiel



Summer Reading READO



Read in your swimsuit	Read to a pet	Read your favorite book	Read in bed	Read by the pool, lake, or ocean
Read for 20 minutes	Read outside	Read a book about animals	Read in your pajamas	Read for 30 minutes
Read a nonfiction book	Read to a stuffed animal	Free Space 	Read in your favorite spot	Read with a flashlight
Read to a family member	Read under a table	Read out loud	Read in a blanket fort	Read in the car
Read while swinging	Read in the grass	Read road signs all day	Read a recipe and make it	Read with a snack