

# WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

*School and Community Working Together*

VOLUME 27, No. 1

JULY 2021



*Congratulations Class of 2021!*





# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

BY DR. TAWEEPON FARRAR

Resiliency. Perseverance. Encouragement. These are just a few words that come to mind when I reflect back on the 2020-2021 school year and my short time here at West Valley. As a district we were able to keep our students in school throughout the year while many districts continued to struggle. West Valley's resiliency and perseverance to overcome the many obstacles we faced during this past year is a true testament to our students, staff, and families. I am more encouraged now as we move forward into this next year.

During my first few months as Superintendent, I met with many teachers, staff, students, and community members who taught me many things about West Valley's history and traditions. I am honored to be West Valley's Superintendent. I plan to always stay true to our history and traditions, but I also want to help move West Valley forward to be the best district we can be for years to come.

Together, we have an opportunity to grow academically and increase opportunities for students outside of the classroom. Athletically, this was seen firsthand by the return of sports to the district for the first time in six years with our Track & Field and Softball teams. Academically, we saw a 100% participation rate in our state standardized testing for grades 3-8; this was an amazing feat, and our students and teachers should be congratulated for this accomplishment. These are just two small things that we were able to accomplish in my first few months as Superintendent. Going forward I believe we will continue to see academic accomplishments from our students and faculty, while also continuing to reintroduce more extracurricular activities to the district this next year.

The commencement for our graduating senior class was a great day of celebration for our faculty, students and their families. Our guest speaker, Ms. Amy Butler, gave an amazing speech; she discussed the word "commencement" and described its meaning: "a new beginning." This was such a fitting message for our graduates on their special day as they now begin a new chapter in their lives. The future is extremely bright for each one of them.

As we move on to enjoy the summer we can all look back and reflect on the accomplishments we made both personally and as a school district this past year. West Valley's best days are ahead of us! I am grateful and excited to be a part of the future while also holding true to West Valley's traditions. I want to thank the students, faculty, and community for helping me through my first few months as your superintendent and I am looking forward to growing together for years to come.



## AWARD WINNERS 2021

Valedictorian.....	Chloe Chai
Salutatorian.....	Isabella Draine-Soto
Academic Excellence.....	Isabella Draine-Soto, Leah Seltzer
Bette Aldrow Medical Award.....	Alyssa Smith
Irwin Ahrens Memorial.....	Kaley McCracken
Alumni Association Award.....	Leah Seltzer
American Legion Award.....	Alex Fisher
American Red Cross Scholarship.....	Leah Seltzer
Ashford Snowmobile Club.....	Rodney Boberg, Leah Seltzer
Louis Armstrong Award.....	Isabella Draine-Soto
Leo Bernhoft Memorial Award.....	Rodney Boberg
Tim Brown Memorial Award.....	Yvonne Kneis
Business First Comm. All Star.....	Alex Fisher
CANY Scholastic Recognition.....	Chloe Chai
CCB Academic Scholarship.....	Isabella Draine-Soto
Catt. Co. Youth Citizenship.....	Chloe Chai, Leah Seltzer, Kaley McCracken
Community Service Award.....	Alex Fisher
Delta Kappa Gamma.....	Chloe Chai
Doug Ford Memorial.....	Kaley McCracken
English.....	Chloe Chai
God and Country.....	Alex Fisher
Heart and Hustle.....	Leah Seltzer
Kristen Hintz Memorial Track.....	Rodney Boberg, Zach Schoepflin
Theron Hotaling Memorial.....	Alex Fisher
Instrumental Music.....	Chloe Chai
JBC Academic Progress Award.....	Julianna Belz, Eli Heitman, Zach Schoepflin
JBC College Access Award.....	Fern Calkins
JCC College Connections Student.....	Kyle Hickey
Barb Nagel Memorial.....	Alyssa Smith
NHS Outstanding Member.....	Isabella Draine-Soto
NHS Distinguished Service.....	Chloe Chai
NHS Essay Scholarship.....	Isabella Draine-Soto
NHS Schoastic Excellence.....	Chloe Chai
ONO Women's Group Award.....	Leah Seltzer
Outstanding Vo-Tech Student.....	Leah Seltzer, Rodney Boberg
Rensselaer Medal.....	Chloe Chai
RIT Computing Medal.....	Isabella Draine-Soto
RIT Innovation and Creativity.....	Chloe Chai
Russell Sage College Award.....	Chloe Chai, Isabella Draine-Soto, Alex Fisher, Kaley McCracken, Alyssa Smith
Pete Scherer Memorial.....	Rodney Boberg
Anna Schroeder Memorial.....	Kaley McCracken
John Phillip Sousa.....	Chloe Chai
State of NY Comptroller.....	Alex Fisher, Isabella Draine-Soto
Supt. Award for Attendance.....	Rodney Boberg
Triple C Awards.....	Alex Fisher, Kaley McCracken
U of R Bausch & Lomb Science.....	Chloe Chai
U of R Fred Douglas, Susan B. Anthony.....	Alex Fisher

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U of R George Eastman Young Leader .....	Leah Seltzer
U of R Xerox Award for Innovation .....	Isabella Draine-Soto
US Air Force Math & Science Award .....	Chloe Chai,
	Isabella Draine-Soto
US Air Force Scholar Athlete .....	Leah Seltzer, Alyssa Smith
Wells College 21st Century Leadership .....	Alex Fisher,
	Isabella Draine-Soto
Liz Wiley Memorial .....	Alex Fisher
Keith Young Memorial .....	Zach Schoepflin

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Al Engels Scholarship .....	Kaley McCracken
Elisa B. Hughey Arts .....	Chloe Chai
Janda Lee Hunt Memorial .....	Kyle Hickey
Jack Nuthall Memorial .....	Leah Seltzer
Delmont K. Pfeffer Memorial .....	Isabella Draine-Soto,
	Leah Seltzer
Gilbert Snyder Memorial .....	Alex Fisher
WVTA Scholarship .....	Chloe Chai
CH2M Hill WXT West Valley, LLC Science .....	Isabella Draine-Soto,
	Kyle Hickey, Yvonne Kneis

## MEMORIAL DAY 2021

The community gathered at the West Valley circle to commemorate Memorial Day in honor of our fallen heroes.

The ceremony began with a prayer led by Pastor Candy Scarem from St. Paul's UMC. West Valley Superintendent Dr. Farrar was the featured speaker and John E. Pfeffer, the Commander of Ashford Legion Post 1576, was the Master of Ceremonies. Leanna Pfeffer sang the national anthem and the WVCS band, led by Mr. Venitelli, accompanied the ceremony. The Frank family had the honor of raising the flag and laid a wreath at the monument.

Mrs. Mazzuto's art students, from sixth to twelfth grade, participated in the ceremony through the creation of 200 ceramic poppies which were placed around the lawn. The community was invited to come and "pick a poppy" to take with them after the service. The art department received a grant from the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation which paid for the materials. Inigo DeOrbe, owner of Aardvark in Ellicottville, provided the wooden dowels for the poppies.





## PEP ASSEMBLY

The West Valley Student Council organized a Pep Assembly on Tuesday June 15. Students in grades 6-12 participated in a variety of outdoor water games, with Chris Amodeo leading the fun as our MC!

The Student Council organized a Go Fund Me and community donation for Mike Ahrens, a West Valley alum who was recently diagnosed with ALS. The West Valley community raised over \$800 for the ALS Association. Due to meeting and exceeding our goal, Principal Daniel Amodeo and Guidance Counselor Matthew LaBrake agreed to partake in an ice bucket challenge. The Softball and Track & Field teams also met their goal of raising over \$100. As a result, Softball Coach Bryan Hansen and Track & Field Coach Chris Schiumo also participated in the ice bucket challenge. Mr. Ahrens' sister Angie Downey was in attendance to accept our donation and watch all the activities.

### Great job Wildcats!!



## SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

*MRS. SHAWNA GUGINO, CSE DIRECTOR*

Happy Summer, West Valley Families!

I hope you are enjoying your time off. Congratulations to our graduates! We are so proud of your determination and perseverance throughout this challenging year! We wish you good luck in your future endeavors.

I want to welcome Ashley Foster to the WVCS family. Mrs. Foster will be providing clerical support as Mrs. Brown has retired. Mrs. Foster can be reached by phone at extension 4150 or email at [afoster@wvalley.org](mailto:afoster@wvalley.org). She is a longtime resident of the community and is excited to be working in our school.

We are working on getting everything ready for a fantastic fall. Please reach out if you have any questions regarding services for your child. All children should have services in place for the first day of school. If your child is attending the summer school program at BOCES, he/she will receive support services within the program through August 13. Staff are in the office throughout the summer to provide copies of records/reports as you schedule fall physicals and immunizations. If your child has any changes in their medical needs, please contact our office so we can update our records.

Finally, summer is a great time for overall enrichment. Enjoy the beautiful weather and outdoor activities available this time of year. We will see you soon!



# BIO WAX MUSEUM

Ms. Westfall's third grade students presented a "Wax Museum" for families on Monday, June 21st in the evening. With some creative thinking they were able to host the museum on the school's front sidewalk, making it a COVID-friendly event, enjoyed by all.

First, the students selected and learned about the famous people they would portray. Their subjects were a diverse collection including athletes, political figures, authors, historical figures, and more. The students read from a variety of sources and collected notes about their person's childhood, education, life, and accomplishments. It was a collaborative project worked on in class, library, and computers.

For the museum, they dressed as their subjects and stood as still as wax figures. Guests touring the museum were

encouraged to "pretend" 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!



Abraham Lincoln



Beyoncé



Bindi Irwin



Donald Trump



Harriet Tubman



Jane Goodall



Jeff Kinney



John Deere



Serena Williams



Simone Biles



Stan Lee



Taylor Swift



Theodore Roosevelt



Tom Brady



## WEST VALLEY WILDCAT SOFTBALL

A successful season concluded on June 21st, as the Wildcats finished up their first season in six years. Finishing the season at 1-14, our record did not show the growth and determination the girls had in growing as a team. From the first game to the last game, there was a huge growth in understanding and fundamentals.



Throughout the year, the team stuck together and really grew into a competitive force in the county. We were honored by the CCAA East Division League with the Sportsmanship award. Leah Seltzer was recognized as a team leader in sportsmanship.

Also receiving All-Star recognition were Sophomore Lauren Frascella who was selected to the 1st team and Sophomore Colleen Keller who was selected to the 2nd team. Senior Leah Seltzer received honorable mention recognition.

The team would like to thank everyone who came out to support them this season. We're looking forward to the same support next year as we continue to grow our program!

## WEST VALLEY TRACK & FIELD

The West Valley Track & Field team finished the season with a record of 4-2. "We were so happy with how the team came together and surprised with how well we did," said one member of the team. "I couldn't be prouder of these boys and girls," said Coach Schiumo. "They showed up every day and worked hard. They were part of something amazing this year and they battled their hearts out." The team had wins against Cattaraugus Little Valley, Salamanca, Forestville, and Gowanda.



The team was able to send 10 of its 13 athletes to Randolph for the Division III meets in which the boys' team placed in 9 out of 12 events they were entered in and the girls placed in 3 of 5, winning 2.

The girls were led again by sophomore Janay Ghani who won the 100-meter dash and the 200-meter dash. Eighth grader Onnalee Caswell placed 6th in the 400-intermediate hurdles and seventh grader Olivia Harmony ran a personal best in the 1500-meter run with a time of 5:47.

The boys were led by sophomore Chris Amodeo who won the 400-meter dash with a time of 52.6 and placed 2nd in the 100-meter dash. He finished 3rd in the 200-meter dash and the long jump with a jump of 18'2". Eighth grader Jack Tharnish finished 4th in the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:11 and 5th in the 3200-meter run with a time of 11:50.9. Senior Rodney Boberg placed 3rd in the intermediate hurdles with a time of 1:06.8. Sophomore Nolan Spencer finished 3rd with a personal best discus throw of 95'10". Freshman Jadon Schoepflin finished 6th with a personal best shot put of 36'7.5".

We are so excited for the future of our program and cannot wait to see what our athletes are able to accomplish in years to come. These athletes have been role models in the school and the community. This is only the beginning!

## WEST VALLEY ATHLETICS

This wraps-up another year of West Valley Athletics! We made some big strides this year in the athletic department and it couldn't have been done without the support of everyone. In the Fall we had 5 athletes competing in Swim and Soccer. In the Spring we were able to create a Varsity Softball team for the first time in six years as well as a Varsity Track & Field team. We had over 30 athletes participating in interscholastic athletics in the Spring. We continue to look for avenues to grow the athletic program. With supporting programs such as the summer sports camp, intramurals, Boys on the Right Track, and Girls on the Run, we are very excited with the potential of creating more athletic teams in the future.

In the fall, West Valley will have its own Cross-Country team. We will also be combining with Springville Griffith Institute for Girls' Swimming and Girls' Volleyball. We are excited to combine with Holland for Boys' and Girls' Soccer. The start date for ALL fall athletic programs is August 23. Please make sure all appropriate paperwork is turned in prior to the start date.

A special congratulations to our award winners this year. Seniors Rodney Boberg and Zach Schoepflin were recipients of the Kristen Hintz Memorial Track & Field Award. Senior Leah Seltzer and Sophomore Nolan Spencer were recipients of the Roger Crandall Heart & Hustle Award. These awards provide scholarship money for the recipients to further their education.

Thank you to all who have supported West Valley Athletics this year. Our community is a special place that supports our student athletes beyond the classroom and we're so excited to expand and provide opportunities for our student-athletes. We hope to come back bigger and better than ever for 2021-2022. Watch out, because "We're Back!"





## ROGER CRANDALL MEMORIAL HEART AND HUSTLE AWARD



*Leah Seltzer and Nolan Spencer*

## ALEX FISHER GROVE RESTORATION PROJECT

Alex Fisher, a graduate of the West Valley Class of 2021 and member of Scout Troop 643 in Springville, recently completed an Eagle Scout project he called "The Grove Restoration Project."

The project included clearing debris and repairing picnic tables in The Grove, as well as improving a 500-foot section of trail.

The trail, originally created by a previous Eagle Scout, had become overgrown and in need of repair.

Alex's work included laying gravel and landscape timbers, digging a drainage ditch, and rerouting a section of the trail.

Gernatt Gravel donated and delivered the gravel, and local businesses and community members donated toward the cost of the landscape timbers. Alex was joined by a team of fellow Scouts, family, and friends who worked over the course of three days this spring to complete the project. It was a true community effort.

Thank you, Alex, for planning, organizing, and working to improve The Grove and this section of trail for our community to enjoy!



## PROM 2021





## WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

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

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ORGANIZATION

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West Valley, NY

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## ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. Taweepon Farrar**, District Superintendent  
**Daniel Amodeo**, Pre-K–12 Principal  
**Ann O'Brien**, Business Official  
**Shawna Gugino**, Director of Special Education

## PRE-K GRADUATION



## DRIVE YOUR TRACTOR TO SCHOOL DAY



Congrats!