



RAIDER PRIDE

A State and National Award-Winning Publication

FEBRUARY 2024



TRANSFORMING SPACES

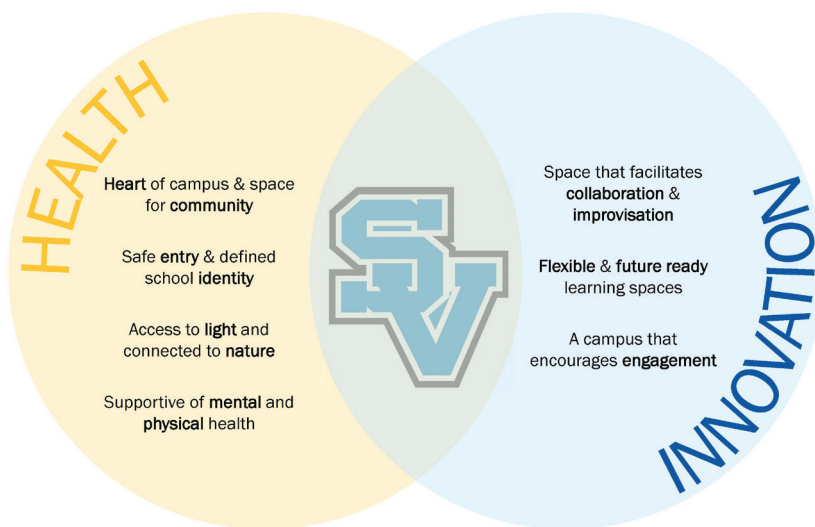
Your feedback fuels our process

It's an enormous challenge, a puzzle even, but Seneca Valley and CannonDesign are up to the task.

What's the challenge? Create and construct a redesign project of the Seneca Valley Intermediate High School (SVIHS) on the Secondary Campus, grades 7-12, in Jackson Township. But, it's no simple task. The redesign must produce a facility that is safe, yet comfortable; modern, but cost effective; and sustainable but adaptable to accommodate future growth. And all of this must be done within an architectural footprint that has fixed boundaries.

SV and CannonDesign are working with great purpose and diligence to accomplish these goals. The project is in the very early stages of process and design. Building concepts with various iterations are currently being reviewed with the intent to "right-size" the scope based on programming and the locations of those programs.

As part of this, CannonDesign is in the process of studying square footage, instructional space sizes and tracking data points. One such data point was a recent survey in which our secondary school community shared their vision for the project. The overwhelming consensus was a desire for a safe, modern and technologically advanced learning environment that is welcoming and inclusive (see page 2 for more survey insights).



Respondents made clear the need for safe outdoor spaces and improved lighting in classrooms and hallways and better connectivity between buildings, resulting in easier movement for students. They also envision a school that is not just functional, but also innovative – a school that is ready for the future, equipped with up-to-date technology in all classrooms and the need to balance improvements with fiscal responsibility.

According to CannonDesign, the high-level lens of the project is to build academic spaces and then attach the front lobby of the senior high school to the intermediate high school so it will architecturally feel like one school and create a safer way for students in grades 9-12 to travel between the two. Once connected, there will be new uses and updated circulation of the current SVIHS spaces and the addition of a theater. They also intend to preserve open green

Continued on page 2

TONIGHT! SV ALL-SCHOOL MUSICAL TAKES THE STAGE

There are only a few seats left for the SV All-School Musical, "Something Rotten!" Don't miss your chance to watch this hilarious musical at the Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Auditorium. Visit the website for more information, [Tickets for SV "Something Rotten!" in Harmony from ShowClix](#). Get ready for something rotten in the best way possible, and, just remember, there might be a few cheeky moments!

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DATES TO REMEMBER

March 4	School Board Meeting, Work Session, IHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
March 11	School Board Meeting, Regular Session, IHS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
March 15	Act-80 Day, No School for Students
March 18	Snow Makeup Day #2, School in Session
March 29-	
April 5	Spring Break, No School for Students
For more dates, visit: www.svsd.net/WebCalendar	

IT'S AN HONOR!

Click here to view the [2023-24 Second Nine Weeks Honor Rolls for grades 7-12](#).



EAGLE EYE ON LEARNING

How many feathers does an American bald eagle have? Do eagles mate for life? You may not know these details about our national bird, but students at Rowan Elementary School could tell you!

Students recently made some new (feathered) friends after a special visit from Mr. Don German, U.S. Steel Mon Valley Works' Irvin Plant Manager and local eagle expert!

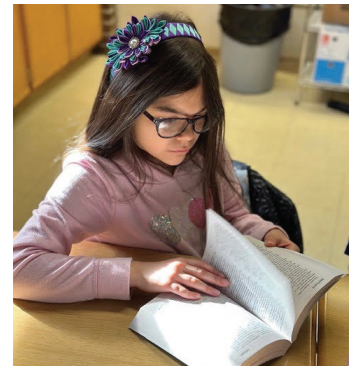
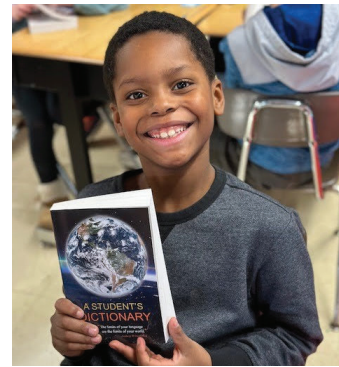
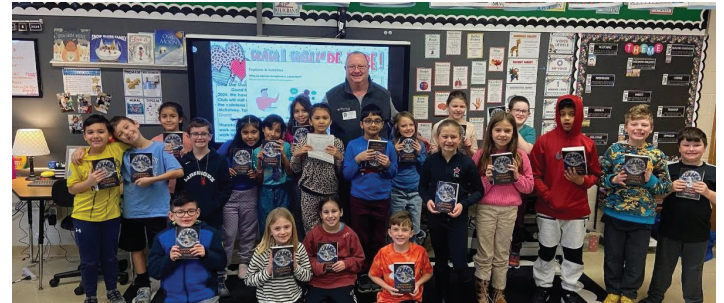
Mr. German shared the story of two bald eagles, Claire and Irvin, that took up residence on the plant grounds in 2019. Students learned fun facts, viewed live footage of the eagles and received entertaining takeaways to share Claire and Irvin's journey with others.

Nesting season is soon approaching! Take a look at the live eagle cams at <https://www.ussteel.com/media/video-image-library>. ■



SPECIAL DELIVERY

The Cranberry Rotary Sunrise Club recently delivered dictionaries to Haine Elementary third graders. Thank you, Rotary! ■



FEELING THE LOVE AT CVE

Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) recently held their PTO-sponsored "I Love CVE" event on Feb. 10. Students and their families participated in teacher and community sponsored activities, enjoyed food and had fun striking a pose at the photo booth.

Students enjoyed carnival games, face painting, temporary tattoos, dance parties and making Valentine's Day cards for senior citizens in the community. "It was an amazing day," said CVE Principal, Ms. DeeAnn Graham.

Plus, over \$12,000 was raised through basket raffles, ensuring unforgettable field trips, appreciation days for our wonderful teachers and staff, and continued storybook adventures at the library! ■

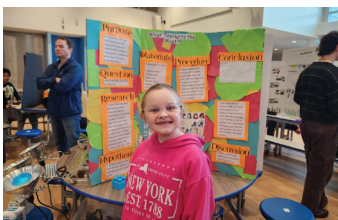
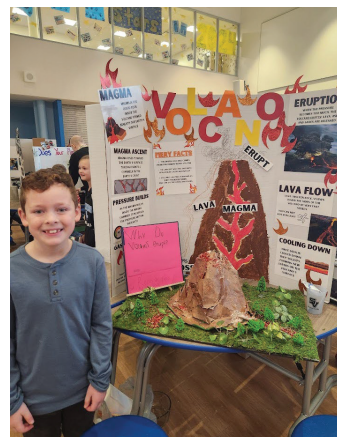
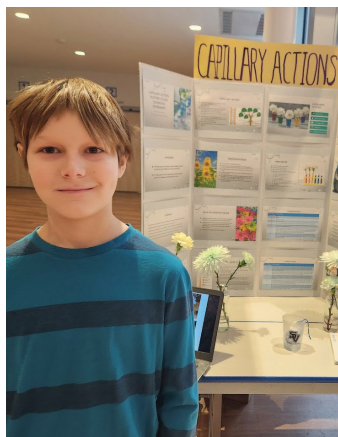
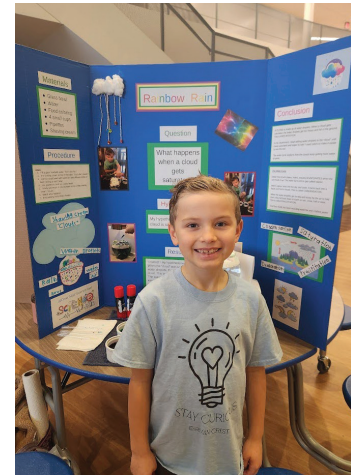
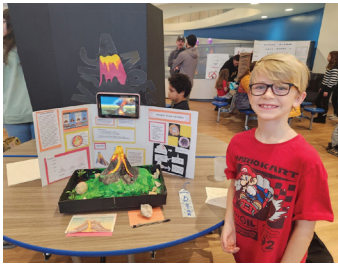


ELEMENTARY EXPLORERS

From stellar systems to erupting enthusiasm, our Ehrman Crest scientists explored and celebrated their own scientific discoveries at the Ehrman Crest Science Fair. This inaugural event encouraged students, grades K-6, to ask questions, design experiments and present their findings.

"We had so many amazing creations," stated Ehrman Crest PTO President Jean Elwell. "From Dancing Raisins to Erupting Volcanoes; Baking Adventures to Germ Studies, and even Levitating Magnets!"

Shoutout to the members of the Seneca Valley High School (SVHS) Science Honor Society who volunteered their morning to act as judges! Winners from each grade level were chosen and awarded a medal and gift card. Congratulations to all who participated! 📌



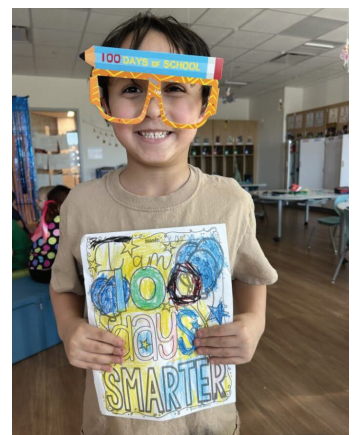
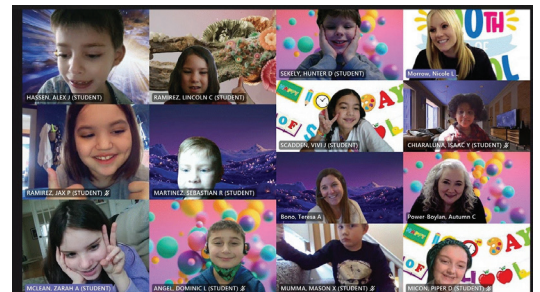
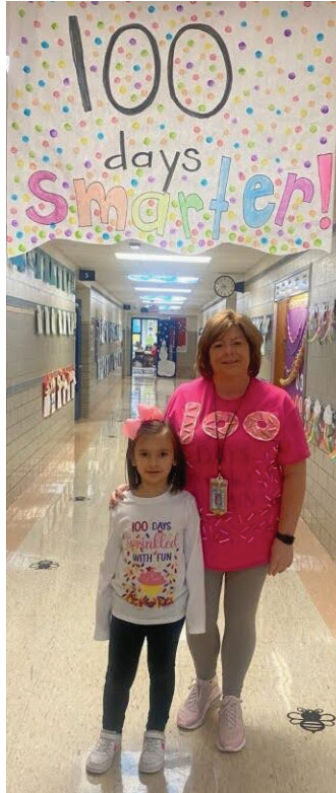
100 DAYS OF...

... Lessons, laughs and learning!

SV elementary students recently celebrated the 100th Day of School with hands-on projects and fun activities.

Activities included transforming the number 100 into new creations, stacking 100 cups, creating marshmallow towers and crafting crowns. Everyone had a blast!

Many students took the opportunity to recognize the milestone by dressing as 100-year-olds. Others rocked their best "100 Days" shirts. One Hundred never looked so good! ■





2024-2025 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

**We are pleased to welcome incoming kindergarten students
as they prepare for the 2024-25 school year!**

Kindergarten at SV is an engaging, half-day program with transportation that is provided one way. In order to enroll, **children must be five (5) years old on or before September 1 of the enrollment year.**

**Online registration is now open.
To register, visit www.svsd.net/24-25KRegistration**

Registration at this time is intended to collect pertinent preliminary information, including parent/guardian contact and student records.

Documents that are REQUIRED for registration are:

- Two documents as proof of residency (lease/mortgage documents, utility bill, etc.)
- Child's birth certificate, passport, baptismal certificate or other certified birth record
- Immunization records to date



RGMS STUDENTS HONOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

Saturday, Jan. 27, is recognized as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Last month, seventh grade students on the Panther Team at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) observed this day with a guest speaker and activities related to Holocaust education. They began their morning with a dynamic presentation by Lynne Ravas, Generations Speaker from the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh. Generations Speakers are the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, and they share presentations about their survivor relative's story.

Ms. Ravas spoke to the students about the adoption and refugee immigration of her father from a German Jewish orphanage to a family in Bronx, New York.

After the presentation, students continued their day with lessons on empathy and tolerance then concluded by painting ceramic butterflies as part of a grant from the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

According to their website, the Butterfly Project began as an initiative to create and display a total of 1.5 million butterflies in cities around the world, one for every child murdered in the Holocaust and to honor the survivors. Through education and



hands-on artistic programming, students are empowered to remember the past, act responsibly in the present and create a more peaceful future.

"The students were able to hear a personal story from our speaker about her father's immigration to the United States from a German Jewish orphanage," said Ms. Victoria Hinchee, seventh grade history teacher at Ryan Gloyer Middle School. "The students were able to make personal connections and relate empathetically to her story, wondering how it would feel to be 7 years old moving to a foreign country, unaccompanied by anyone else you knew or trusted, and without being able

to understand the language. Painting the butterflies, which represented the hope of the children lost in the Holocaust, gave the students a message of perseverance for the day's heavy topic."

The painted butterflies will be placed on permanent display at RGMS. ■

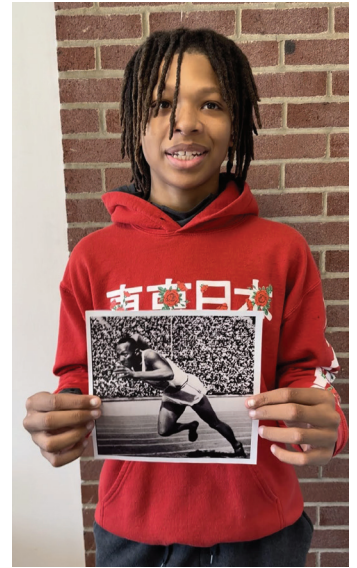


HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History is woven into the curriculum at Seneca Valley, but teachers and students take additional time throughout February for deeper explorations of impactful historical figures and events. Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) students in the Social Handprints Overcoming Unjust Treatment (SHOUT) club delved into the lives and legacies of influential African American figures. Throughout the month, members of the SHOUT Club engaged in research to spotlight prominent individuals who have made significant contributions

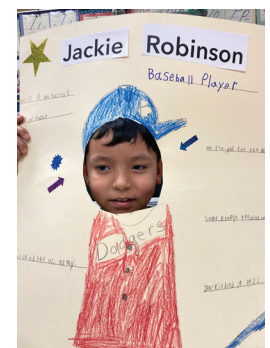
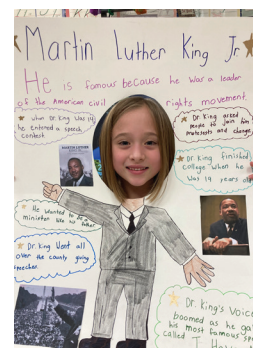
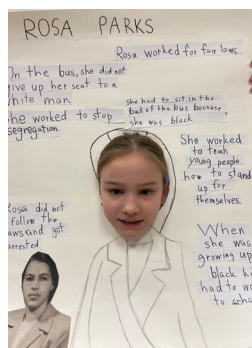
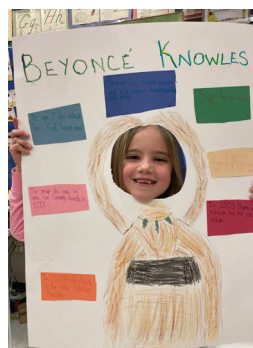
to history, culture and social justice. From civil rights leaders to innovators in the arts, students are learning about the impact of these remarkable individuals on society.

In addition to their research efforts, the SHOUT Club shared their discoveries with the school community. Each week, the club created special Instagram highlight videos which can be viewed on their page (@RGMS_SHOUT) at [Seneca Valley RGMS SHOUT \(@rgms_shout\) • Instagram photos and videos.](#)



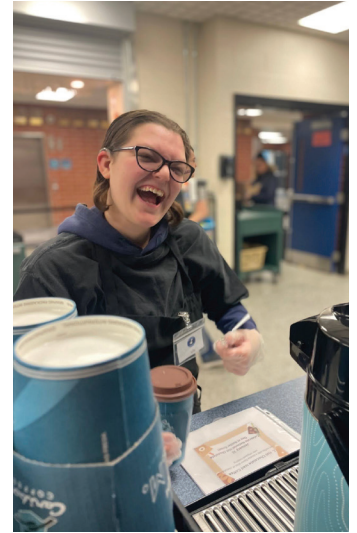
Additionally, second graders in Ms. Angela Cardillo's class at Rowan Elementary School chose their own influential African Americans to research and portray in posters highlighting their figures' traits

and key contributions. Students in Ms. Carolyn Abbott's ECMS fifth grade class completed a three week unit on Martin Luther King Jr., and even created a character trait mural!



SERVICE WITH A SMILE

On Wednesday, Jan. 31, our SV Raider Roast workers were busy serving their peers with a smile for National Hot Chocolate Day! ■



HOPE SQUAD HOLDS FIRST FROSTBITE OPEN

Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) students in the Seneca Valley Hope Squad recently took part in the first Frostbite Open, a community event hosted by the Rotary Club of Cranberry Township. The Sunrise and Noon Rotary Clubs made a generous donation to the SV Hope Squad in support of the event's focus on mental health and raising awareness. Students and community members enjoyed miniature golf, helpful resources and fun takeaways. Thank you to all involved for supporting students and this initiative! ■



ADVICE FROM BROADWAY

Rehearsals for “Something Rotten!” took a thrilling turn on Thursday, Feb. 15, when the All-School Musical director Michael Marra invited Broadway veterans Libby Servais and Stephan Stubbins to surprise the student cast with a visit. The couple, known for their captivating performances and engaging personalities, took time to share their inspiring Broadway journeys.

Following the stories of their individual experiences, Ms. Servais and Mr. Stubbins opened the floor to a Q&A session. Students eagerly dove into the world of Broadway, asking about the highs and lows of the profession, and what initially sparked their passion for performing.

The duo emphasized the diverse paths to success in New York, offering invaluable advice and personal stories. Ms. Servais offered a powerful message, reminding the students that “compare leads to despair.” Both visitors encouraged students to believe in themselves, even when self-doubt creeps in. Mr. Stubbins’



advice resonated deeply, reminding the students to “shut out the noise and follow their North Star,” emphasizing that this North Star represents finding their unique purpose in life.

The visit wasn’t just about words of wisdom. The SV cast treated the Broadway veterans to a vibrant performance of “It’s a Musical.” To return the favor, Ms. Servais and Mr. Stubbins then performed a number from their touring production of “Broadway in Love.”

Mr. Stubbins left the students with a final thought, a piece of advice that transcends



the world of theater: “One of the best things about living this life as a performer is who you become by it – especially when you give your all.” This sentiment beautifully summarized the positive impact of pursuing passions with dedication and perseverance.

The cast and crew of the SV All-School Musical excitingly invite you to watch their production of “Something Rotten!” The show opens Thursday, Feb. 29, at 7 p.m. and runs through Sunday, March 3. Tickets can be purchased at www.showclix.com/event/sv-something-rotten! ■

WRITING RHYTHMS, RECORDER COMPOSITIONS

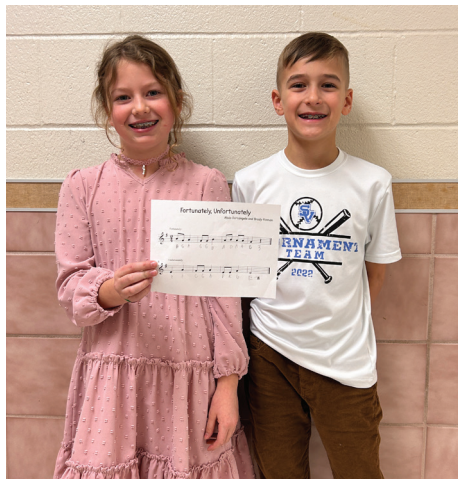
Beginning in October, Rowan Elementary School third graders have been learning how to read music and play their recorders. With the recent introduction of the E note, which requires two-handed playing, students took a few weeks to work on a project that would help strengthen their fingers and familiarize them with playing the new note. Using Keetman’s Rhythmic Building Bricks, each student got to compose their own song with unique rhythms and lyrics. Rowan Elementary music teacher Ms. Phoebe Winey then took these rhythms and added the notes B, A and G to create a major-key melody, and the notes A, G and E to create a minor-key melody. This way, there were two songs, one that had a cheerful sound to it and one that had a darker tone.

After each student finished their composition they had the option to submit it in a composition competition. One major-key and minor-key composition from the submissions was chosen as the winning song. The rest of the students learned

and practiced their classmates’ winning compositions and cheered them on! It was a fun and melodic day!

As the final part of their project, the class went on a “wonderfully wild adventure with Ned” in the book “Fortunately” by Remy Charlip. In the story, Ned’s luck turns from good to bad, to good and bad again as he takes on the adventure of traveling from New

York to Florida for a surprise party. During the “fortunate” parts of the story, students played their classmate’s composition in G major. On the “unfortunate” parts of the story, they played together in E minor. Students practiced composing, transposing, reading music, and two-handed playing, cheering on the creativity of their friends in the process. ■



STAGE PRESENCE

The Seneca Valley Thespians Troupe and Advanced Theater classes were recently given an opportunity to work with theater professionals at a workshop presented by the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. SV students traveled to the Byham Theater in downtown Pittsburgh where they were presented workshops on various topics related to the field of theater. This year, the group worked on stage combat, improv and acting, choreography and directing. The Theater Arts Workshop provides insight into the theater profession, a field full of creative and exciting careers. Students and educators alike learn skills that can be applied to life inside and outside of theater during their experiences.



Theater teacher Ms. Amber Hugus stated, "The workshops presented by the Cultural Trust are both fun and engaging for the students. The most important takeaway for me is that my students are presented with people who are earning a living working in the arts. Many students feel that they have to be an actor to be a theater professional, but there is more to theater than just acting!"

Junior Hannah Hwang agreed, "The workshop gave me an opportunity to not only learn,



but also experience different areas of theater."

Sophomore Morgan Roithner said, "I really enjoyed learning about directing and how the same scene can be interpreted many ways by multiple people. I also really enjoyed the improv and acting section because I learned new acting games, and I got to have fun with my friends!" ■



FILM FUN AROUND-THE-CLOCK

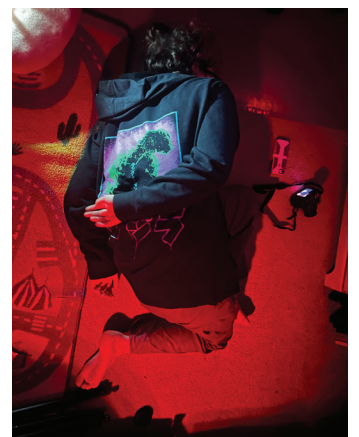
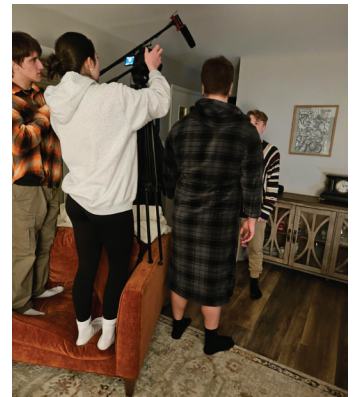
On Saturday, Feb. 10, SVTV kicked off its annual 24-Hour Film Contest with eight student teams participating. This fun and challenging contest requires filmmakers to write, shoot, edit and upload a completed film in just 24 hours—drawing on collaboration, creativity, compromise and quick work. The catch is that teams do not know the required elements until the start of the contest, which began at 10 a.m., limiting the time available to plan. Each film had to include a required prop, required line of dialogue and a required character, with each team randomly drawing a unique genre.

This year's contest requirements were: Frida

or Frederick Carson, easily confused friend; headphones; and the line: "Why do you care so much about that?" Genres ranged from horror to fantasy to western. Over thirty students participated in writing, shooting, acting or editing, and nearly all teams finished their films on time.

Senior Sophia Barlow, who made her film with only the help of her two younger sisters, shared her experience, "I loved the adrenaline that I got from trying to make a short film in 24 hours, and I had so much fun doing it with my family."

The films are currently being judged by professionals working in the film and video industries and will be screened in the coming weeks. ■



BAND COLLABORATION DAY RETURNS AT FULL CAPACITY

On Feb. 9, the SV secondary band department welcomed nearly 170 fifth grade band students from Haine Middle School (HMS) and Ehrman Crest Middle School (ECMS) to the intermediate high school for a collaborative day of making music with members of the Wind Ensemble, grades 9-12. After a brief morning greeting, the students broke into sectional groups where they met high schoolers from the wind ensemble as well as fellow fifth grade band students from a different building.

ECMS flute player Paige Chesler mentioned that, "It was so amazing to get to work with familiar and unfamiliar faces." Fellow flute player Ariel Shamshoum from HMS said, "The high schoolers were so awesome and inspirational!" Haine saxophonist Akshaye Pallikkattil added, "It was really fun to play with the high schoolers." These sectionals then came together in the high school band room to rehearse as a full group of nearly 220 musicians!

All of the students worked incredibly well together to bring their music to life that fifth graders will perform at upcoming spring concerts. The event ended with a group lunch where students continued to make new friends while sharing stories about the day and their experiences in band. Haine tuba player Taylor Harsche said, "It was great to play with other tubas!" ECMS clarinet player Grace Maloney added, "It was really fun. It made me a better clarinetist."

The fifth grade band students worked diligently in preparation for the successful collaboration day. Their diligence in preparation was thanks to the fifth grade band directors, Mrs. Kelly Levere (HMS) and Mrs. Tracy Glass (ECMS). Thank you to these fantastic directors for their hard work in addition to the hard work of the elementary band students.

Caitlin Emlet, ECMS Clarinetist, said, "I learned that if you work hard and practice a lot, you'll get great at what you're trying to accomplish!" HMS Trumpet player Peyton Burke agreed, "If you practice really hard at something, you can be great at it!"

Throughout the day, the fifth grade students were able to meet and work with SV secondary band directors as well as one of our SV Academy of Choice (SVAOC) artists in residence. Noah Ezzolo,



ECMS French Horn player noted, "I loved how I got to meet my seventh grade band directors." All directors were impressed with the students and really enjoyed working with them throughout the day. Secondary Band Directors include Mr. Varden Armstrong, Director of Bands 9-12 and Performing Arts Coordinator; Mr. Robert Babick, Director of Bands 9-12; Mrs. Sara Snyder, Director of Bands 7-8; Mr. Brian Croach, Director of Bands 7-12; and Percussion Artist in Residence Mr. PJ Gatch. ■



OUTSTANDING ORCHESTRA

Congratulations to our 11 Seneca Valley music students who participated in PMEA District 2, 3 and 5 Orchestra held Feb. 7-9, at Hickory High School. Students worked under esteemed conductor Jungho Kim from the University of North Carolina Greensboro, culminating in a beautiful performance Friday evening. Based on auditions at this event, seven SV students are eligible to move on to Western Region Orchestra to be held at Butler High School in March. Those advancing include Elizabeth Browne, Tristan Conrad, Isaac Hixon, Isabella Muthler, Jake Pieszak, Ava Platt and Morgan Roithner.

Participants:

Elizabeth Browne - violin, Tristan Conrad - cello, Issac Hixon - French horn, Isabella Muthler - viola, Dylan Neal - violin, Jake Pieszak - violin, Ava Platt - viola, Grace Riggie - violin, Morgan Roithner - viola,



Madelyn Tresky - violin, Charlotte Davis - violin (not pictured)

Students are led by Sarah Miller, secondary orchestra instructor. ■

SV JAZZ ENSEMBLE ATTENDS PMEA DISTRICT FESTIVAL

Recently, 25 Seneca Valley band students were selected by solo audition to perform in the PMEA Jazz Festival held Feb. 16-17, at Slippery Rock University (SRU). The festival consisted of three auditioned jazz ensembles comprised of students from Beaver, Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties, and Seneca Valley had the most student representatives of any participating district!

Guest conductors included Mike Kamuf, a Maryland-based arranger, trumpeter, and educator; Dr. David Glover, Associate Professor of Percussion at SRU; and Rob Traugh, Pittsburgh-based freelance music creator/composer and the Area Coordinator of the Composition for Media Degree at Duquesne University. The event concluded with a public concert at Slippery Rock University's Miller Auditorium.

Participants:

Maya Anglero, Camden Armstrong, Paityn Armstrong, Noah Bracht, Ivan Chen, Jordan Courtney, Elora Dabravalskas, Quinn Gallagher, Isaac Hixon, Autumn



Holmes, Maddy Karns, Graham Logue, Peter McHenry, Braedon McNally, Avery Rape, Riley Relich, John Rieger, Eli Scanlan, Jack Schaar, Bridget Scott, Brandon Suski, Zachary Tollerton, Kami Topf, Mackenzie

Tunstall and Adrian Wrubel.

Students are led by Varden Armstrong and Robert Babick, secondary instrumental instructors. ■

REPRESENTING THE REGION

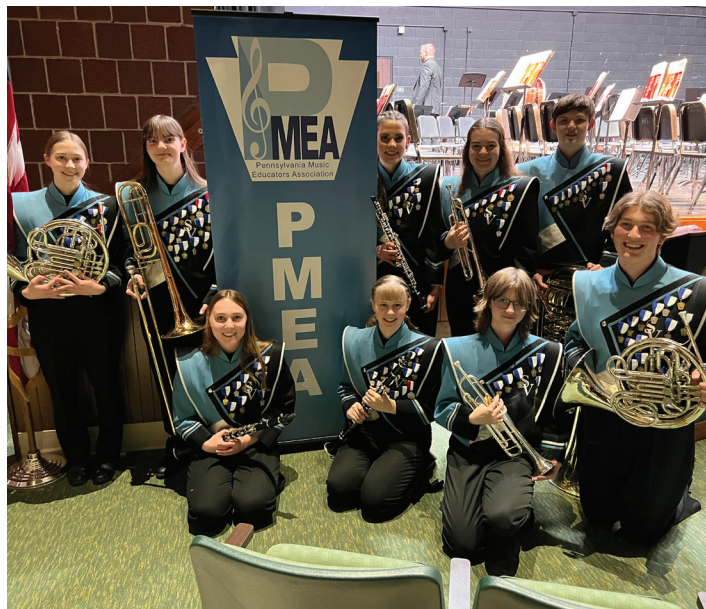
Nine SV Band students were selected to participate in the PMEA Region 1 Band Festival held at Deer Lakes High School Feb. 22-24. Region Band is a select group of students who have advanced through audition to the regional level of the state festival process. Region 1 comprises eight counties from three PMEA district level bands. The guest conductor for the festival was Dr. Patrica Cornett, Director of Bands at Temple University. Based on audition results at this festival, the following students will be advancing to the All-State Festival held in Erie, PA in April:

Paityn Armstrong, Kami Topf, and Mackenzie Tunstall.

Students are led by Varden Armstrong, Robert Babick, Brian Croach and Sara Snyder, secondary instrumental instructors.

Participants:

Paityn Armstrong – clarinet, Noah Bracht – tuba, Isaac Hixon – French horn, Katie Mack – oboe, Camyn Meanor – French horn, Bridget Scott – trombone, Kami Topf – trumpet, Mackenzie Tunstall – clarinet, Adrian Wrubel – trumpet. ■



SV ORCHESTRA “SWEETHEART” CONCERT

Love is in the air! On Feb. 22, students from the Seneca Valley Chamber Orchestra celebrated love by performing in their second annual Valentine's Day Concert at The Strand Theater. The SV Chamber Orchestra performed 14 selections ranging from pop music to classical compositions. Concerts from the Seneca Valley Orchestra happen twice yearly in October and February and are a part of a collaboration between the Strand Theater and SV orchestra program. Check out the [Strand website](#) and the SVSD Orchestra Instagram (@SVSDorchestra) for more information on upcoming concerts. ■





WINTER SPORT UPDATES

Boys Basketball

Raider boys basketball lost in a tiebreaker between SV, New Castle and Pine-Richland and now find themselves on the outside looking in at post-season play. A team with only three seniors and one junior was fun to watch and they wore the Raiders jersey with pride – playing hard night in, night out. We thank graduating seniors Jake Manson, Esheza Okponobi and Kai West, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. We look forward to 2024-25 with a returning team deep in experience and talent and led by rising senior and All-Conference Big 56 performer Tyler Pepin.

Girls Basketball – Playoff Bound

Raider girls basketball had a complete turnaround this season, finishing 12-10 overall and third place in WPIAL 6A Section 1 play – a marked improvement from last year's 5-17 and last-place finish in section play. The team was rewarded with a spot in the WPIAL girls basketball championship bracket and faced Norwin on Feb. 22, in the quarterfinal round of the WPIAL championships. A final season recap will be provided in March.



Competitive Cheer

Raider competitive cheer had an outstanding year, having qualified for both the WPIAL and PIAA championships. The squad capped off their season by competing recently at the National High School Cheerleading Championships (NHSCC) at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Despite “throwing zeroes,” (cheer terminology for having a clean routine) the Raiders were unable to advance to the semifinal round. Overall, it was a wonderful year for our competitive cheer squad. Congratulations!



Ice Hockey

At the time of this writing, Raider Ice Hockey had one game remaining in their regular season and was currently atop the PIHL 3A standings with an overall record of 15-4-0. The team will close out its regular season with a game against Peters Township and then will set their sights on capturing the 2024 Penguins Cup! Good luck, Raiders!



Swimming & Diving

Raider Swimming and Diving is in the final preparations for their WPIAL and PIAA championships. The regular season has ended, and the girls team finished section runner-up with an overall record of 12-1 and 5-1 in section meets. The boys were tied for third in the section finishing 6-7 overall and 3-3 in section competition. With eyes focused on the postseason, Raider boys diving holds three of the top five scores entering championships and the girls hold three of the top ten scores. In swimming, boys and girls will have all replays represented at the WPIAL championships and a lengthy list of individual qualifiers. We will recap postseason performances in March. Good luck to our swimmers and divers!

Wrestling

It is that time of year again when our boys and girls wrestlers are singularly focused on the upcoming individual championship season.

Girls wrestling competed at the first-ever WPIAL championships held on Feb. 17, and came away with four medalists and qualifiers for the PIAA West Regional. Hannah Hornick finished runner-up at 148 lbs, Kenley Alexander at 170 lbs secured a third-place medal, Natalie Tofanelli brought home a fifth-place medal at 124 lbs, and Haley Hunter secured her spot with a sixth-place finish at 190 lbs. Good luck to our Raiders as they look to advance to the PIAA Individual Championships in Hershey, PA in early March.



On the boys' side, the Raiders recently competed in sectional championships with a WPIAL berth on the line. For the AAA Northern Sectionals, the top four seeds include Connor Smith (first, 121 lbs) and Zach Hill (third, 139 lbs). They, too, are competing for a spot at the PIAA championships in early March in Hershey, PA. Good luck boys! A final season recap will be provided in March. ■

ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED IN BASKETBALL

The Big 56 Conference recently announced its basketball honorees and the Raiders were well represented. The following Seneca Valley student-athletes were recognized for their excellence on the court this season.

Boys Basketball

1st Team

Tyler Pepin

Honorable Mention

Owen Congdon

Kai West

Girls Basketball

1st Team

Natalie Hambly

2nd Team

Emerson Pepper

Honorable Mention

Gracie Cato

Allison Sevin ■



COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2024

Many Raider student-athletes made their college commitment official with the early signing period starting in mid-November. We congratulate these seniors on achieving their goals of continuing their athletic and academic careers at the next level. Each of you are tremendous representatives of Raider Athletics and we are very proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community. ■



Name	Sport	College/University	Major
Brennan Hrycko	Soccer	Westminster College	Broadcasting & Sports Communications

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, JANUARY 2024

The Female Athlete of the Month for January was girls swimmer **Morgan Baker**. The sophomore has been a key part in another winning season for the Raider girls swimming and diving program. With seven total first-place finishes in multiple distances, Morgan helped her team to an 8-1 record over the course of nine meets in the last month. She placed first in the 100-meter freestyle against North Allegheny with a time of 54.69; had four first-place finishes in the 200-meter freestyle with a best time of 1:58.45; and also had wins in the 500-meter freestyle (5:35.32) and 200-meter individual medley (2:23.65). Her times in three events have met the qualifying standards for the 2023-24 WPIAL Swimming and Diving Championships. We recognize Morgan as the January Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Morgan!



The Male Athlete of the Month for January was senior boys ice hockey goalie **Cenzo DiTullio**. Cenzo's incredible play in the net has paced the Raiders all season as they sit atop the Class 3A Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) standings. The Raiders went 5-0 over the last month with Cenzo in goal, including a big 6-4 win over second-place Pine Richland. Over the five games, he faced 111 shots with 92 saved, good enough for an 83% save rate and a 3.8 goals per game average. Cenzo was also one of three Raiders to represent Seneca Valley at the 2023-24 PIHL All-Star game. For an impressive month, we recognize Cenzo as the January Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Cenzo! ■



THE HARLEM WIZARDS ARE COMING TO SV!

The Seneca Valley Foundation (SVF) is thrilled to announce an upcoming Harlem Wizards event that will not only bring joy and entertainment to our community but also contribute to an important cause - the high school's Learn, Explore, Act and Develop (LEAD) program.

LEAD is the district's goal to support students' social and emotional needs and help them thrive. At the SV Intermediate and Senior High Schools, the LEAD group of students and staff are driving a "SV Norms" movement that highlights positive behavior and attitudes to shape students into productive members of society. All proceeds from this exciting event will benefit this initiative.

The Harlem Wizards are renowned for their dazzling basketball skills, incredible athleticism and, of course, their unmatched ability to entertain audiences of all ages. This event promises to be a spectacular experience for everyone involved, especially our elite team of SV All-Stars who will confidently take on the Wizards and showcase their own athletic

abilities on the court.

Event Details: Harlem Wizards vs. SV All-Stars

Date: Wednesday, April 17

Time: 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6 p.m.)

Venue: Senior High School Gymnasium

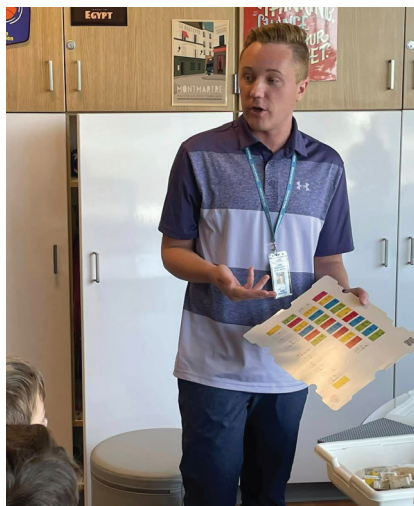
Tickets are on sale now! We encourage you to grab yours early, as this promises to be a sell-out event. Click here to purchase: <https://harlemwizards.com/schedule-tickets/>

Be sure to check out the Seneca Valley Foundation event page on Facebook for the most up-to-date info, and spread the news with your friends and family.

Let's come together to make a positive impact on our community while enjoying a night of incredible athleticism and entertainment. Your support means the world to us, and we look forward to seeing you there! ■

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE

Thanks to a grant to the SV Foundation from the LEGO Foundation, Mr. Josh Sektnan recently received LEGO Braille Brick toolkits for his classroom at Ehrman Crest Elementary School and SV summer camps. The kits were created to introduce the unique tactile writing system of raised dots that blind and partially sighted people use to read by touch. Students were excited to learn more about the braille language and to get building! ■



SVF'S SEMI-ANNUAL SWAG SALE

The SV Foundation is excited to launch its semi-annual SV Swag Sale! We have partnered again with local style curator, Venezie Sporting Goods, to bring you the coolest SV looks to freshen up your wardrobe - including some new camo options!

Check out the options here:
<https://svfoundation2024.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Our online store is open through Thursday, February 29 (today!). Orders will be fulfilled by March 20, and can be shipped directly to your home; delivered to an SV School Building; or you can choose to grab your order from the Ellwood City location. If opting to have your order shipped to a building, it will be delivered during the week of March 25.

Proceeds from this sale benefit the SV Foundation and will help us continue our mission of empowering teachers and inspiring students of Seneca Valley School District. ■



HELP STOCK THE SHOP!

The No Cost to Shop (NCTS) located in SV's Senior High School is in need of your help to stock its shelves.

Since 2021, the NCTS store, with the help of the SV Foundation, has been providing clothes and personal hygiene products to SV students at no cost. The shop has proven beneficial to many, and demand is at an all-time high. Please help stock the shop by purchasing an item or two from their Amazon Wish List found here:
<https://a.co/cGCJJh9>

(For your convenience, all purchased items will be shipped directly to the senior high school.) ■



HELP STOCK THE SHOP!

Imagine the smiles you'll create by providing in-demand items to the Senior High School's No Cost to Shop Store - the place where SV students go for costless clothes and hygiene products!

SHOP OUR AMAZON WISHLIST HERE!



[HTTPS://A.CO/CGCJJH9](https://a.co/cgcjjh9)

CONQUERING THE COURSE

Kylee Inman, an eighth grader at Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) is soaring to new heights as she is quickly becoming one of the top female motocross racers not only in the state but also across the country. A standout student in the classroom, Miss Inman excels both on and off the track and is chasing her dreams one thrilling lap at a time.

Last year, Miss Inman competed in several state championships throughout Pennsylvania where she placed 1st overall in her age division, girls 9-16 within the Spring Series; 2nd overall in her division within the Fasthouse Series; and 4th overall in another Fasthouse Series where she was the only female racer in the group.

Additionally, Miss Inman competed in The Thor Mini O's, one of the biggest races in the country, where she placed 13th in Supercross within the girls 11-16 class.

Miss Inman started competing in Motocross in 2020 after her dad built a small track in their yard. She receives professional training and travels nationwide to practice and compete in various races.

"Motocross racing is my whole life," said Miss Inman. "Being able to travel all over



the country racing is the coolest thing ever and competing in National events is so much fun, I couldn't imagine doing anything else. My greatest accomplishment thus far was getting 13th place at the Mini O's Amateur National Championship this past November."

Miss Inman is trying to qualify for a spot at The Monster Energy AMA Amateur National Motocross Championship at the Loretta Lynn Ranch in Hurricane Mills, TN, with hopes of being ranked one of the top 40 fastest girls in the country. ■



VALENTINE'S DAY FUN

What do we love about SV? Our caring students at staff!

In celebration of Valentine's Day, many classrooms districtwide created fun valentine boxes (like the inventive Rowan Mars Rover box pictured here!) and exchanged cards during class parties earlier this month.

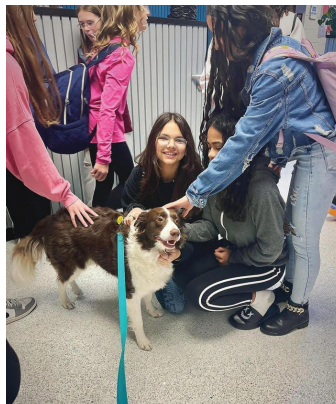
Additionally, students at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE) made special valentine cards for residents at Passavant Community. They were able to deliver dozens of handmade cards and treats, spreading kindness throughout the community! ■



POOCHES AND SMOOCHES

Therapy dogs made a special visit to Ryan Gloyer Middle School (RGMS) to bring smiles (and smooches!) to students and staff. In the spirit of Valentine's Day, the RGMS Hope Squad hosted a therapy dog "kissing booth," welcoming Ellie, a collie mix, and Gracie, a golden retriever. The Hope Squad also delivered over 500 heartfelt Candygram messages to classmates and staff.

Thank you, Hope Squad, for spreading kindness and paws-itivity throughout the school! ■



SPORTS FOR ALL...IT'S HOW WE ROLL

Unified Bocce is more than just a game; it's a symbol of unity and inclusivity. It's not just about competition, but about creating a supportive environment where everyone feels valued and welcomed; a space where individuals with and without disabilities can play alongside each other, united in the joy of the game.

Seneca Valley's Unified Bocce team has been established for the past seven years, where unique talents of every player are celebrated, and friendships are formed on and off the court. This year's team consists of 25 members and is led by Bocce head coach, Ms. Katie Smolter and Intermediate High School Learning Support teachers, Ms. Andrea Platt and Ms. Katie Wolford.

The goal of Unified Bocce is to promote social inclusion through intentionally planned and implemented activities throughout schools. With sports as the foundation, Unified Sports offers opportunities to equip partners and athletes with tools and training to create sports, classrooms and school climates of acceptance. Unified Bocce allows students with and without disabilities to engage in Bocce and their school community to lead to socially inclusive schools that support and engage all learners.

"I have been a coach for many years, but the impact of Unified Bocce for me extends far beyond the realm of athletics," said Ms. Smolter. "This team inspires me and our entire school community through their actions of acceptance and inclusion. Watching our student athletes fall in love with the game, embrace challenges and work together as a team is something that I believe is unmatched in any other sport. The celebrations and excitement for each and every moment, big or small, is a perspective that never gets old."

The SV Unified Bocce team wrapped up their exciting season at the end of the month with a playoff game along with an SV Teachers vs. Students match in which all Special Education staff, K-12, were invited to participate in hopes of allowing former teachers to reconnect with their students. ■



SPECIAL EDUCATION TEAM EFFORT

Kudos to Seneca Valley's Special Education Department for recently concluding their Pennsylvania Department of Education Audit with no findings. It should also be noted that the executive summary specifically commended the district for its "foresight in establishing a school-based mental health program, positive behavior support programs and participation in multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS)." Seneca Valley was also lauded for its participation in Unified Bocce, an opportunity for general education and special education students to compete in sports with other schools. We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to everyone in our special education department, K-12, for their unwavering dedication, passion and professionalism. It is through their collective efforts that we offer an inclusive, supportive and nurturing environment where every student thrives!

SHOWCASING SKILLS

Seven Seneca Valley Vo-Tech students placed at this year's SkillsUSA District 10 Competition, a program offered through the Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School. Students throughout the region traveled to the New Castle School of Trades and Lawrence County Career and Technical Center to participate in a variety of skills and leadership contests.

Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School SkillsUSA competitors from Seneca Valley who placed include:

MLR Auto Repair - Ayden Wood - Gold

Job Skill Demo Open - Ben Frenchak - Silver

Entrepreneurship - Gabriella Intrieri - Bye

Bulletin Board - Kailey Craven - Bye

Cake Decorating - Ronald Royhab - Gold

Photography - Karley Schaefer - Bronze

Advertising Design - Viktoriya Semenenko - Gold

The SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA helps each student to excel. This national organization serves teachers and high school and college students who are preparing



for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations and for further education.

Seniors, Mr. Wood, Miss Craven, Mr. Royhab, Miss Semenenko and junior Miss Intrieri will be advancing to the state conference that will be held in Hershey, PA, April 3-5, 2024. ■

THE CYBER SCENE

Cybersecurity is vital for protecting sensitive information, and four young women at Seneca Valley have proven themselves as future leaders in safeguarding digital frontiers. Seneca Valley's Women in Computer Science CyberPatriot Team won second place in the state within the Silver division during the CyberPatriot National Youth Cyber Defense Competition.

This competition took place online and students worked together as a team for four hours during each round. The first round began in October of 2023 followed by additional rounds each month where Seneca Valley ultimately advanced to the semi-finals at the end of January. As part of the competition, students were challenged to find and fix cybersecurity vulnerabilities in virtual operating systems.

Seneca Valley's team includes seniors Lihini Ranaweera and Lydia Miller and juniors Heather Schwartz and Isabella Muthler. CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program created by the Air Force Association to inspire K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to the nation's future.

"It was always a lot of fun competing," said Miss Ranaweera. "The machines had their own intricate challenges, which always forced us to think on our feet. I'm really proud of how we did this year, and hopefully next year the team can do even better!" ■



DEFT DECATHLETES

The Seneca Valley Academic Decathlon Team clinched first place at the Western Pennsylvania Regional Competition that was held Feb. 2-3, at the Seneca Valley Senior High School. The team had a remarkable score of 40,422 points and earned numerous medals across a range of subjects.

The following students medaled in the events below:

Essay: Roshini Umesh (Gold), Rohin Jayaraman (Gold), Ashley Kemp (Gold), Ophelia Crano (Silver), Kaia Satory (Silver), Heath Lyon (Silver), Shivani Umesh (Bronze) and Zachary DeVault (Bronze)

Music: Ophelia Crano (Gold), Heath Lyon (Gold), Zachary DeVault (Gold), Kaia Satory (Silver), Rohin Jayaraman (Bronze) and Gavin Cress (Bronze)

Art: Ophelia Crano (Gold), Zachary DeVault (Gold), Rohin Jayaraman (Silver), Gavin Cress (Silver) and Kaia Satory (Bronze)

Literature: Ophelia Crano (Gold), Heath Lyon (Gold), Zachary DeVault (Gold), Gavin Cress (Silver) and Ashley Kemp (Bronze)

Economics: Zachary DeVault (Gold), Kaia Satory (Silver), Rohin Jayaraman (Silver), Gavin Cress (Silver), Heath Lyon (Bronze) and Ashley Kemp (Bronze)

Science: Heath Lyon (Gold), Ashley Kemp (Gold), Rohin Jayaraman (Silver), Gavin Cress (Silver), Kaia Satory (Bronze) and Zachary DeVault (Bronze)

Interview: Shivani Umesh (Gold), Kaia Satory (Gold), Gavin Cress (Gold) and Rohin Jayaraman (Bronze)

Speech: Shivani Umesh (Gold), Rohin Jayaraman (Silver), Zachary DeVault (Silver), Kaia Satory (Bronze) and Gavin Cress (Bronze)

Mathematics: Heath Lyon (Gold), Ashley Kemp (Gold), Rohin Jayaraman (Silver) and Zachary DeVault (Silver)



Social Science: Rohin Jayaraman (Gold), Zachary DeVault (Gold), Kaia Satory (Silver), Gavin Cress (Silver), Ophelia Crano (Bronze), Heath Lyon (Bronze) and Ashley Kemp (Bronze)

Individual overall medalists include: Rohin Jayaraman (Gold), Zachary DeVault (Gold), Gavin Cress (Silver), Heath Lyon (Silver), Ashley Kemp (Bronze) and Kaia Satory (Bronze).

"The team has a rigorous preparation routine that includes thrice-weekly after-school practices, engaging study sessions through PowerPoints, Kahoots and flashcard quizzes aimed at making

learning enjoyable and effective," said Seneca Valley Senior High School Teacher and Academic Decathlon coach David Reichard. "This preparation strategy not only bolstered their knowledge in written events and subject areas but also significantly enhanced their skills in Speech and Interview segments."

Seneca Valley's Academic Decathlon Team is advancing to the Pennsylvania State Competition scheduled for March 8-9 at Carlisle High School, with aspirations of advancing to the National United States Academic Decathlon Competition in Pittsburgh. ■

BIG THINKERS

Petteri Elo traveled over 4,000 miles to spend some quality time with Ehrman Crest students and staff recently.

The Finnish educator has an extensive career in teaching, training and presenting hands-on pedagogical and curriculum development. His trip west meant Mr. Elo spent three days at Ehrman Crest Elementary and Middle School working with teachers and students on Phenomenon Based Learning (PhenBL) Projects. Mr. Elo's academic talents take him all over the world, teaching students and educators his innovative and experimental practices that are engaging and thought provoking. In fact, his way of combining theory and practice brings life to the key goals of 21st Century education.

PhenBL refers to project-based learning where students tackle phenomena and/or solve problems that feel relevant and

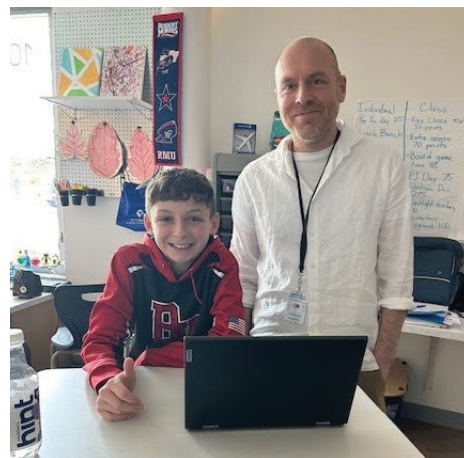
authentic to them. PhenBL promotes critical thinking, problem solving skills and collaboration.

"During the learning process, students practice, acquire and use a variety of skills as they dig into the phenomenon from the viewpoints that intrigue them," explained Mr. Elo. "As a cohort of learners, they share their findings along the way, build a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon and ultimately share the results with an authentic audience that benefits from their findings or solutions."

As a result of the PhenBL process, the school might have a new recycling system in place or a local health center might have a well-designed and informative pamphlet with guidelines for healthy living. According to Mr. Elo, the goal of this coaching program is to build a thorough understanding of the essential elements of PhenBL, to equip the participating teachers with skills to design such learning processes and ultimately to provide them with pedagogical tools to scaffold and facilitate these amazing learning experiences for their students.

We can't wait to see what ideas Ehrman Crest students produced for future events and projects!

Safe travels, Mr. Elo! ■



EXPLORING PERSPECTIVES

Brieana Nassan's gifted support students recently spent a part of their day listening to Mr. Avi Ben-Hur from Classrooms without Borders (CWB). Mr. Ben-Hur is an Israeli scholar, historian and guide who immigrated to Israel in 1983 at the age of 18. He has been teaching about Israel, the Arab - Israeli conflict, Jewish Heritage and the Holocaust for the past 28 years. Ms. Nassan asked him to speak with her students to discuss the ongoing Israel - Gaza conflict from the Israeli perspective. His visit was part of the classroom's ongoing discussion of the conflict since last year. Just a few months ago, the group hosted Ms. Martina Beggy, a Seneca Valley graduate who now lives



in Ahmon, Jordan, as a Fulbright Scholar, to present the Palestinian perspective through her experiences living and working within the Middle East. As Ms. Nassan explained, she has "sought to provide



my students both sides of the conflict, while striving to promote open dialogue, valuable research through media outlets and perspectives." ■

WITNESSING A WIN

Seneca Valley's Mock Trial team continues to raise the bar with a first-place finish at their recent District competition. A total of 11 teams from across the area competed at the Butler County Court House earlier this month in a series of mock trials. Seneca Valley went undefeated, ultimately advancing them to regionals which will be held at the Beaver County Courthouse.

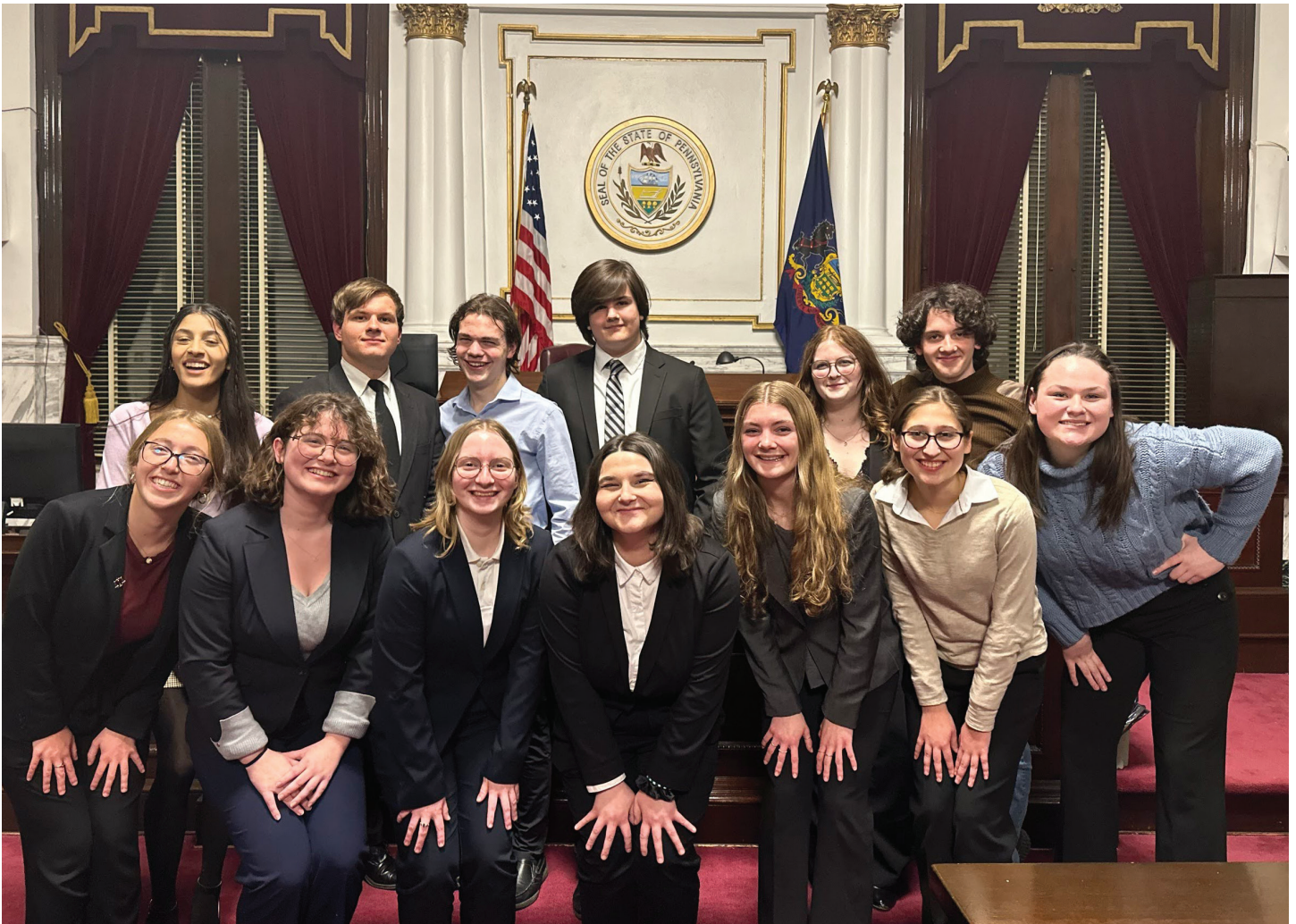
The SV Mock Trial Team is comprised of students in grades 9-12 in the gifted program and is advised by Ms. Brieana Nassan, Senior High School gifted support teacher.

"It is exciting to watch this group of students continue to exceed any and all expectations," said Ms. Nassan. "Their thirst for learning and academic growth is inspiring. Beyond mere victories, our journey highlights the dedication to mastering legal skills, fostering camaraderie, and embracing the challenges of the courtroom. I am immensely proud of this team's achievement and their passion as potential aspiring legal enthusiasts."

Members of the SV Mock Trial Team

include Kacy Christensen, Sydney Kratsas, Leo Slacker, Julia Acker, Lilly Hudac, Julia Gibilisco, Calleigh Foulkrod, Friyana Sepai, Dimitri Matusiak, Jacob Hensler, Nick Porter, Elle Barnes, Ben Carnino, Parker Spence, Annika Batavia, Natalia Verdi and Isabelle Patinski.

This is the second time in school history (last year being the first) that the Seneca Valley Mock Trial team has won Districts. If they win their trial at regionals, it will advance them to the state competition. ■



Pictured front row L-R: Kacy Christensen, Sydney Kratsas, Leo Slacker, Julia Acker, Lilly Hudac, Julia Gibilisco and Calleigh Foulkrod

Pictured back row L-R: Friyana Sepai, Dimitri Matusiak, Jacob Hensler, Nick Porter, Elle Barnes and Ben Carnino

Not pictured: Parker Spence, Annika Batavia, Natalia Verdi and Isabelle Patinski

SV TEACHERS AND STAFF TAKE PART IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

On Friday, Feb. 2, teachers and staff across the District participated in wellness events, mindfulness programs and physical activities as part of a Staff In-Service Day. Stations included yoga, Pilates, kitchen and cooking prep, mindfulness trainings and even a special visit from therapy dog Boone!

At Connoquenessing Valley Elementary School (CVE), paraprofessionals received their own “Para Paradise,” a morning dedicated to showing appreciation for their service. Paraprofessionals received special snacks, treats and chair massages. ■



BEHIND THE BADGE

February 15 is recognized as National School Resource Officer (SRO) Appreciation Day! We are very thankful and proud of our school SROs and their dedication to our students, staff and community. Daily, they foster positive connections with students and provide invaluable service to our district's safety and security.

This month, we honor Officers James Cipriani, Tiffani Shaffer, and Mark Shields, serving Cranberry Township; Officer Logan Brink, serving Zelienople; and Officers Chris Miller, Chris Pipkin, and Corporal Chris McGee, serving Jackson Township. They often serve as mentors, inspiring SV students and nurturing a strong bond between law enforcement and our school community. ■



THANK YOU, COUNSELORS

National School Counseling Week was recognized Feb. 5-9. Our school counselors help students in more ways than one by supporting the academic, social, emotional and personal development of students. We thank them for their impact on student success and making a positive difference in our schools! ■



SV ALL-STAR

For the month of February, we are pleased to announce the newest member inducted into the SV All-Star Club, Ms. Diane Taylor, 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 (administrative assistants, paraprofessionals, maintenance, cafeteria), bus drivers and security guards who are often the unsung heroes of our schools. We 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 joined with Ms. Heather Lewis, Athletics & Activities Director, in nominating Ms. Diane Taylor for the SV All-Star Club Award winner for February."

Ms. Taylor has been with the District since January of 2020, where she began as a sub-custodian. In March of 2020, she was hired to a full-time position with the District.

"Diane is such a reliable, hard-working member of our staff that always maintains a positive attitude and willingness to help others at any time and always with a smile," said Mr. Miller. "Diane can often be heard beautifully singing while she works her way through the senior high school."

Ms. Taylor currently works in the senior high school where she is an integral part of the buildings & grounds staff but also is invaluable in assisting the Athletics & Activities Department by supporting the many events that occur in the evenings. Ms. Taylor sets up equipment for various athletics events in the gym as well as meetings occurring throughout the high school.

"There's absolutely no way the Athletics & Activities Department could do what we do, particularly in the SHS building, without having a great team and Diane is an invaluable and, in my mind, irreplaceable team member to assist myself, Mr. Sowa-Doku and Mr. Kurtz," said Ms. Lewis. "The best thing about it is that Diane does

it with a smile and a sense of humor that I truly appreciate; it helps us get through the nights and I just want to say thank you for that."

Ms. Lewis added, "She is a tremendous artist with crafts and baking, which I've truly enjoyed getting to know and sharing the pictures of what you do for your kids and grandkids. In all seriousness, we can't do what we do without you. I appreciate that all we have to do is ask, and I know we work all as a team together. It goes without saying that you are an invaluable team member and an absolute wonderful teammate to have and, I speak for all of us in Athletics & Activities, that we appreciate you and we value you." ■



Pictured top row from L - R: Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President and Mr. Randy Miller, SV Buildings and Grounds Director

Bottom row from L - R: Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Diane Taylor and Ms. Heather Lewis, Athletics Director

'I LED THE PLEDGE'

For the fifth year, elementary students from Seneca Valley's K-4 schools are appearing at School Board meetings, leading the members of the School Board and public in saying "The Pledge of Allegiance." Students are nominated by their building and those who appear receive an "I Led the Pledge" T-shirt along with a Seneca Valley gift.

For the February work session meeting, we were joined by Ehrman Crest third grader, Drew Rudoff. Drew's favorite subject in school is math, art and music. She has been playing the violin for the past two years and is currently a red belt with a black stripe in Karate.

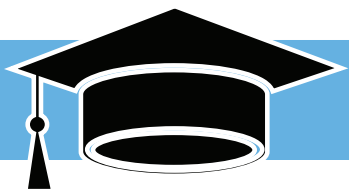


Drew pictured with Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President.

For the February regular meeting, we were joined by Dre Prugar, third grader at Connoquenessing Valley Elementary (CVE) School. Dre loves spending time with his family and playing baseball, football and video games. He also loves attending AWANA children's ministry and tells us his favorite subject in school is math. When Dre grows up, he hopes to be a baseball player. ■



Dre pictured with, from left, Ms. Christine McCormick, Dre's teacher, Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Eric DiTullio, Board President, Rev. Reid Moon, retired School Board Member and family friend, and Mrs. DeeAnn Graham, CVE Principal.



In December 2023, **Noah Reynolds (SV '19)**, was awarded the “Bright Beginner” Award during the 2024 CIO Awards Program. Mr. Reynolds, a Digital Technology Project Manager for Collins Aerospace, was chosen for the award as he embodies the five RTX values of trust, respect, accountability, collaboration and innovation. He was also chosen for demonstrating a significant impact to DT and Collins within their work and has, according to the award information, “hit the ground running and generated positive change in the delivery of an initiative and continually strives for improvement.” We congratulate Mr. Reynolds on this achievement and recently asked him to share more about his time at SV and how it has prepared him for what has been a very successful start to his life and career:

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

A: I am now a Digital Technology Project Manager for Collins Aerospace, a subsidiary of RTX (formerly Raytheon Technologies). I work with the SAP team, which is an enterprise resource planning tool that helps us to manage anything from manufacturing materials to financials. Specifically, I have worked on divestitures, alignments and infrastructure upgrades to the system over the last year since I started in January 2023, after graduating from Penn State the previous month.

Q: Please share with us some information about your family.

A: My parents, Steve and Colleen, both live in Cranberry where I grew up with my siblings Collin, Alexa and Claire.

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

A: People may not know that I really enjoy cooking!

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

A: Personally, SV gave me some incredible people who helped me learn who I wanted to be. Professionally, I was given the



resources to learn about tech throughout my education.

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

A: I think the opportunities set Seneca Valley's students up for success.

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

A: I can't choose just one! Mrs. Mihalik was a huge mentor for me while I was in the intermediate high school; Mr. Tom Magill helped me understand the balance between working hard and playing hard; and Mrs. Krauland (Koegler) played a huge role in what I wanted to do after high school.

Q: What is one of your favorite memories from your time at Seneca Valley? We'd encourage you to recall a

moment or event that had a particularly strong influence on your life.

A: My favorite memory of SV was winning the D2 PUHL Championship with the ultimate frisbee team. Being just the second year of the program at Seneca Valley, it was a huge accomplishment to have such a dominant team. I am still friends with several of the guys from the team, as well as Coach Dane!

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

A: I would tell teachers to continue encouraging students to find what they love. Without their guidance and support, I am not sure I would be in the field I am.

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

A: I wish people knew how awesome the students, faculty and staff are! ■



CHAMPIONING RESPONSIBLE AI FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

These new ratings and reviews of AI products will surface both opportunities and harms in the industry.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is predicted to be one of the largest disruptive changes we will experience in our lifetimes. While these powerful technologies are not new, AI is evolving at an unprecedented pace, and without sufficient guardrails to protect human rights or democracy.

At the same time, the public lacks understanding about the different types of AI, how they work, their benefits, and their pitfalls—particularly for kids and families. AI's "view" of the world can shape impressionable minds and their sense of what is "good" or "normal," and with little accountability. What happens to children when they are exposed to the worldview of a biased algorithm repeatedly and over time? What view of the world will they assume is correct, and how will this inform their interactions with real people and society?

One of the best ways for parents and educators to help is to increase their own understanding of how AI tools work. Common Sense Media shares the first 10 reviews using their new [AI ratings and reviews system](#).

Their reviews are designed to distill extremely complex concepts and data into a straightforward "nutrition" label for each AI product, and measure them against a set of [AI principles](#) that highlight opportunities and identify potential harm.

Evaluated by a [team of experts](#), these first 10 reviews represent a range of the most popular apps for learning, information, and creativity. There are lots of different types of AI products out there, so they've organized reviews into three categories:

- **Multi-Use:** Designed for use in many different ways, this category covers products like generative AI, including chatbots and products that create images from text inputs, translation tools, or computer vision models. Generative AI chatbots [ChatGPT](#) and [Bard](#) and



text-to-image tools [DALL-E](#) and [Stable Diffusion](#) are in this category.

- **Applied Use:** These products are built for a specific purpose, but they aren't specifically designed for kids or education. Examples include the automated recommendations in your favorite streaming app, or the way an app sorts the faces in a group of photos so you can find pictures of your niece at a wedding. Generative AI tutor [Loora](#) and Snapchat chatbot [My AI](#) are in this category.
- **Designed for Kids:** This category is a subset of the applied use category, and includes learning tools for kids as well as teaching tools for educators that ultimately benefit students in some way. Khan Academy's chatbot [Khanmigo](#), teaching tool [Toddle AI](#), and educational tutors [Kyron Learning](#) and [Ello](#) are in this category.

While each of these products has its own benefits and risks, we've uncovered a few overall trends:

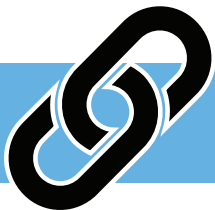
- **More data doesn't mean better AI:** The more data that an AI tool scrapes from the internet, the riskier it can be for users. In fact, the most successful AI

tools that we reviewed are powered by limited, thoughtfully curated data sets and are designed for specific audiences or contexts.

- **Responsible AI practices aren't always obvious:** Just because a developer has a process for transparency reporting or risk mitigation doesn't mean that the product is safe. Often this information is hidden from your average user in deeply technical and obtuse writing.
- **Generative AI is best for fiction, not fact:** Consumers—and kids especially—must understand that generative AI tools are best used for creative exploration and are not designed to consistently give factual, truthful responses to questions.

Generative AI, by virtue of the fact that it is trained on massive amounts of internet data, presents a unique set of risks for reinforcing harmful stereotypes, unfair biases, and false information in the content it generates. But no product is without its risks and limitations—even the highest-rated products we reviewed, both of which use speech recognition, face the daunting challenge of being able to accurately recognize the wide variety of ways every language is spoken.

Article provided by [Common Sense Media](#) ■



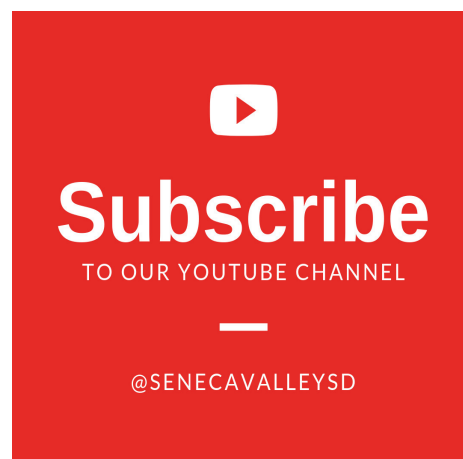
- The Seneca Valley Academy of Choice (SVAOC) summer camps registration is now open! This program offers a variety of exciting experiences for every interest – from artistic masterpieces to culinary delights, LEGO adventures to sports thrills. Register **today** for a summer filled with creativity, fun and confidence-building!
- Butler Buzz Host Tricia Pritchard recently sat down with our own Dr. Jeff Roberts, SV Student Services Director, to discuss Hope Squad, a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program that is working to reduce youth suicide through education, training and peer intervention. Watch the episode and learn more about this program, [here](#).
- Teacher Nominations - WTAE-TV is launching a Teacher of the Month recognition program for the 2023-24 school year. Each month, from September through May, a teacher will be selected from the many deserving submissions that they receive. The selected Teacher of the Month will receive a \$1000 credit to donorschoose.org, a crowd-sourcing page for classroom project/program funding. In addition, Pittsburgh's Action News 4 will feature that teacher and their story (and possibly a surprise school visit) during a news broadcast, as well as social media. Nomination information can be found at [WTAE Teacher of the Month](#).
- All students in Pennsylvania public schools, including Seneca Valley, have access to **free breakfast for the 2023-24** school year, regardless of family income. Encourage your student(s) to stop for a full breakfast or various grab-and-go items. And new for the 2023-24 school year, families who qualify for reduced meals will now be able to receive

lunch for free. If you think you qualify, please apply to receive this benefit and return it to the Seneca Valley Administration Office with attention to Faye Nelson. We encourage you to fill out a Free & Reduced-Price School Meals Application as many programs are connected to your child(ren)'s eligibility. Applications can be found at www.svsd.net/FreeandReduced.

- SV Backpack Flyers - Flyers are updated frequently and feature information on student and community events/activities. Learn more at [Backpack Flyers / Backpack Flyers \(svsd.net\)](#).
- Healthy habits - SV's Health Services Department would like to remind everyone to eat well, sleep well, stay hydrated and wash hands frequently. Additionally, they ask that you please stay home or keep your child home when sick, and for 24 hours after fever is gone without medication or 24 hours without vomiting/diarrhea. Thank you!
- 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

FYI

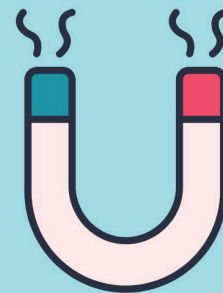
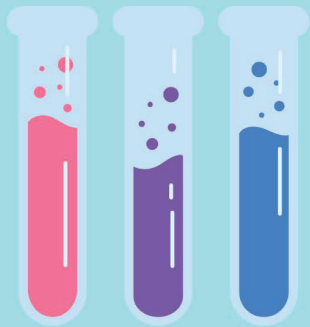
The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the national Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of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



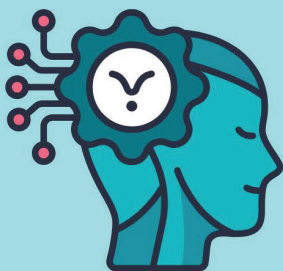
productions. To apply for a gold card, please visit [Parents/Community / Gold Card Club \(svsd.net\)](#).

- Reality Tour is an accessible substance prevention program that delivers information to get parent and child on the same page.
- [Substance Abuse Prevention for Parents - CANDLE, Inc. \(candleinc.org\)](#)
- [Subscribe to our YouTube Channel!](#)
- [Drive for SV! Driver incentives are now being offered.](#)
- Join the SV Team! Visit www.svsd.net/HumanResources to learn more and apply.
- Visit [Niche](#) to view SV rankings. ■

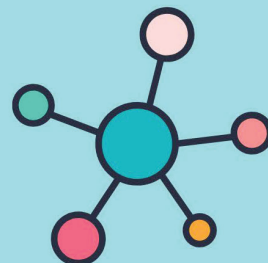




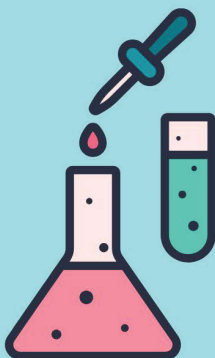
EXPLORE THE MAGIC OF SCIENCE!



STEM WIZARDS ACADEMY: A MAGICAL JOURNEY INTO SCIENCE



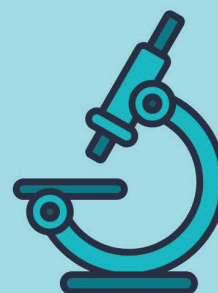
Seneca Valley Science Honor Society



March 2nd 2024

9:30AM-Noon

Seneca Valley Senior High
School



SVSD – Drug Prevention is for *Every* Family



I will be my child's most
most **POWERFUL**
PREVENTION tool.

Register Now || RealityTour.org



MOST POPULAR **PARENT/CHILD** PREVENTION PROGRAM.
PARENTS RATE IT AS "PRICELESS"

"One parent emailed me after attending Reality Tour to express gratitude for SVSD support calling it a 'great resource for the fight against substance abuse'.

We believe our partnership with Reality Tour serves as a deterrent in this never-ending battle."

Dr. Tracy Vitale, Superintendent

Reality Tour, the only **parent/child drug prevention program** in Butler County, has educated over 14,000 residents. Parent/Child prevention education is the key to protecting families. It is recommended by that all SVSD Area students (especially those in 6th grade) attend a Reality Tour with a parent or guardian.

Reality Tour is held from 6-8 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church, 8070 Rowan Road. All registration is online at www.RealityTour.org. The fee is \$6 per person. (Families on free & reduced lunch register at no charge.)

Reality Tour 2024 Dates

Feb. 15	6-8pm
Mar. 21	6-8pm
Apr. 18	6-8pm
May 16	6-8pm

No homework due day after you attend Reality Tour.

Dates may fill quickly. Register now! Youth aged 10-18 must attend with their own parent or guardian.

Parents: DEA issued a national alert on Xylazine, an animal tranquilizer in the illegal drug supply. It is present in our county. Vaping has caused a heightened concern for prevention. Reality Tour puts special emphasis on teen vaping and the associated risks.

"These could have been the most important hours I ever spend with my son." – From a father who attended with his son.





1974 SAGA

1974

SAVE THE DATE!

Seneca Valley School District

50 Year
REUNION

GLEN EDEN BARN

Dufford Road, Evans City

Saturday, July 6

*** Possible Golf Outing Friday, July 5, based on interest*

Please share with parents, grandparents, neighbors and
friends from the **SV class of '74!**

Contact

Dawn Jamieson Wagner at ridawag2@sbcglobal.net or
Marcia Guth at mguth@djdc.com

BE A PIONEER

BC3 @ Cranberry

OPEN HOUSE

March 21 | 6 PM – 8 PM

BC3 Main Campus

PIONEER NIGHT

April 16 | 5 PM – 8 PM

Apply for **FREE** at these events.

RSVP at **bc3.edu/open-house**

BC3 9X **No. 1 RANKED**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
IN PENNSYLVANIA



What if our collective efforts could be the key to unlocking a cure for Leukemia and Lymphoma?

Dear SV families,

Our names are Lilly Hudac and Lilly Sperry and together we are eager to announce that we have been given the opportunity to continue the legacy for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Student Visionaries Campaign for the 2024 school year. As this fundraising campaign may sound familiar, last year, Kacy Christensen and Sarah Vescio advocated on behalf of Team Ginny Strong, which has been graciously passed down to us to continue their legacy. To continue their mission within our community, we have created **Lilly's Against Leukemia**. We are both juniors within the Seneca Valley school district, together it is our goal through this seven-week fundraising competition to raise funds in support of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) starting on February 2nd – March 22nd, 2024.



This is where we need your help! We are asking you, the community of Seneca Valley to help assist us and the efforts of LLS to find the cure for blood cancer. As a team, Lilly's Against Leukemia prioritizes empathy and giving back. Both of us having close family and friends effected by the hardships of blood cancer have taught us the importance of those priorities and fueled our motivation to

join the fight for a cure. Together, our collective efforts to donate and raise awareness can be the key to the cure for cancer!

Each charitable dollar you contribute to our campaign makes an impacting difference. One hundred percent of these funds go directly to LLS in support of its longstanding mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and myeloma and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Not only is LLS helping patients with blood cancers, but they go beyond blood cancer by funding more than 60% of the blood cancer therapies being used to treat other cancers. It is crucial that we support organizations like the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to continue to fight for a cure of all cancers!

Please join us in supporting the efforts of The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society by donating any monetary amount that you can give. In just seven-short weeks we strive to raise our goal of **\$40,000!**

You can help us in meeting our goal by making a tax-deductible contribution on or before March 22, 2024. Payments can be accepted in two-ways.

Check: Please make all payable checks to "The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society" and print "**Lilly's Against Leukemia – NAME**" in the Memo section. Please mail all checks to:
208 Boardwalk Drive Cranberry Township, PA 16066.

Online: Visit our fundraising page using this link and click "Donate Now" or use QR code below!

<https://events.lls.org/wpa/svoypitt24/lhudac>

Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,

Lilly Hudac and Lilly Sperry

lillyhudac@icloud.com





Academy of Choice

SUMMER CAMPS

Camp Offerings

June 10-13

week 1

SV Summer Band Camp (HMS)
Band students with at least 1 year
of experience | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Haine Middle School

Culinary Arts I
Grades 5-12 | 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Senior High School Kitchen

Pastry Arts Camp
Grades 5-12 | 12:30 pm – 4 p.m.
Intermediate High School Kitchen

Building Up Your Imagination LEGO® 1
Grades 1-2 | 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Ehrman Crest Elementary School

Building Up Your Imagination LEGO® 2
Grades 3-4 | 12:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Ehrman Crest Elementary School

Dream It, Build It! 3D Printing and Gaming
Grades 4-8 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Intermediate High School

Sign up for
both!

June 17-20

week 2

Sports Camp
Grades 4-8 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. or
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Haine Middle School

FIRST Robotics & Programming
Grades 7-12 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Senior High School

SVAOC Dance
Grades 5-12 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
RGMS Dance Studio

The Art of Photography
Grades 7-12 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Intermediate High School

June 24-27

week 3

Camp Confidence
Grades 1-5 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
CVE School

SV Summer Orchestra Camp
Orchestra students in grades 4-8
with at least 1 year of experience
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Ehrman Crest Middle School

July 8-11

week 4

Camp Chill: Session 1
Grades 1-5 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Rowan Elementary School

July 15-18

week 5

Fitness Fun!
Grades 1-6 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Ehrman Crest Elementary School

Art
Grades 5-12 | 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Intermediate High School

Camp Chill: Session 2
Grades 1-5 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
CVE School

July 22-August 1

week 6

SV Summer Band Camp (ECMS)
Band students with at least 1 year
of experience | 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Ehrman Crest Middle School

July 30-August 1

week 7

Kinder Kids
Students entering kindergarten
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Haine Elementary School



CTCC PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Every year, CTCC collaborates with residents and the Township to identify a community project for all to enjoy. CTCC assists with funding campaigns, project coordination, promotion, and more.



The possibilities of the Great Lawn are endless, and we're incredibly excited to work with the community to make this great dream a grand reality.

~ Jerry Andree
President, CTCC Board
of Directors



2022 Kids Castle Refresh



2016 Miracle League Resurfacing
& Playground

2024 ARMSTRONG GREAT LAWN

YourCTCC.org/greatlawn



FIND OUT
MORE!

HELP US BRING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER!

Connect, Gather, and Grow Together

The Armstrong Great Lawn Project will tie the Municipal Center to the rest of the community by creating a pedestrian-friendly shared space.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

- Public Fountain Sponsor
- Playground Sponsor
- Amenity Sponsor

GIVING LEVELS

- Leader
- Partner
- Supporter
- Friend



Donate Now!



Information & Donations: YourCTCC.org/greatlawn