

January School Building Reports

Pleasant Valley Elementary School

1. It's a very Happy New Year at PVE as we start off 2026 refreshed and full of energy!
2. We had our first fire drill of 2026 on January 6th. Students were on their best behavior as they dodged puddles and mud.
3. January 9th was National Law Enforcement Day and we would like to give a shout out to Officer Miller and Officer Frankie who work tirelessly to keep our students, faculty, staff, and visitors safe. They jump into action as soon as anyone needs anything and are there to help in all situations. PVE would not be the amazing safe place it is without them. All of the students love them just as much as we do and we are so lucky to have both of them.
4. Here at PVE, we are all about reading! We are so proud of all 272 of our students who completed the Kalahari Riptide readers who earned a certificate of completion for reading at least 20 books! The certificate entitles them to an all-day admission pass to the Kalahari water park. Great job readers!
5. PVE students and staff worked hard on their Board Appreciation posters, cards, and a song for all of the board members. We appreciate everything the board does for us all to make PVE the best district to be part of!
6. Hour of Code - On Friday, January 9th, the PVHS Computer Programming students visited our 1st and 2nd grade classrooms to celebrate the Hour of Code. They guided the younger students through a mini-lesson from Code.org called "Minecraft: Hero's Journey," making it a fun and rewarding experience for both the PVE and PVH students.
7. The Monthly PTO Meeting took place Wednesday, January 14th at PVI. As always, we appreciate everything the PTO does for our students and staff.
8. Our positive behavior support program and our Bear Paw Rewards are fully underway! Students are cashing in the Bear Paws they earned by demonstrating positive behavior for a variety of rewards. Popular choices this month include the VIP Lunch Table, recognition on the school televisions via personalized photo slides and lunch with Officer Miller! We are super proud of their efforts!!
9. We are getting ready for our 2nd grade Wax Museum which is one of the most exciting and popular projects of the school year! Students will be making posters with facts and dressing up like influential people both from history and current events.
10. NWEA testing has been taking place at PVE and we are proud of how hard our students are working. They are really putting in their all and the growth many of our students have made is truly amazing.
11. Since National School Counseling week is coming in the beginning of February, we want to give a special thanks to our School Counselors. We are so proud of our guidance department and their amazing work with our students and their families. They are continuing to work closely with the attendance department by reaching out to families of students that accrue unlawful absences to see how we can work together to increase student attendance. These calls have already helped to greatly decrease the number of SAIPs necessary. They also meet with every single class in their respective grade once every six day cycle to teach a lesson. All these efforts occur while they also work to support the needs of individual students.
12. Our tutoring program started up again on January 13th. We are excited for all of the new students and those who are continuing in the program as they further their academic growth.
13. The PVE Library will hold the second Scholastic Book Fair of the year from January 26th through February 2nd.
14. We will be holding our student of the month assemblies on January 27th, January 28th, and January 29th. We always enjoy any opportunity to recognize students who are working hard in class and being kind to their fellow students. We also recognize two

students from every class who put in extra effort with their reading by awarding them each with a gold coin to use at our book vending machine!

15. We are happy to announce that we are busy getting ready for our upcoming **Ready, Set, Learn!** Events which are specifically designed for all incoming kindergarten students and their families. This is a wonderful collaboration opportunity between childcare providers, parents and PVE staff to ensure a smooth, successful transition into elementary school for our newest learners.

Pleasant Valley Intermediate School

1. During School Board Appreciation Month, the administration and staff of Pleasant Valley Intermediate School wish to express our profound appreciation to the Pleasant Valley School District School Board Members.
Your unwavering commitment and dedication are paramount to the education of our students and significantly enhance our school community. We sincerely value your diligent efforts and judicious decisions, which are fundamental in cultivating an environment where all our students are afforded the opportunity to flourish. Thank you for your continued service.
2. We would like to thank our PTO for hosting a wonderful winter themed event, "Winter Village." The event took place on December 19th and included food, games and vendors. It was a free event for our families and we received a lot of positive feedback.
3. In December, faculty and staff helped contribute gifts for our Families in Need. Additionally, tremendous support was provided by the SRP Memorial Group and the Ricky Finelli Memorial Fund. We would like to thank all who contributed to this endeavor, ensuring that our students and their families had a wonderful holiday.
4. In December and January, PVI students participated in the Winter NWEA assessment. Additionally, from January 6th to February 17th, ESL students engaged in WIDA Access Testing to evaluate their language proficiency.
5. As part of our PBIS programming, students were encouraged to show their best BEAR behavior. Students who did not have any behavior referrals during the designated time frame were able to contribute to the Duct Tape Challenge - taping Mr. Dudley and Mrs. Bencker to the wall! It was a great time for students and staff alike and we are so happy to celebrate our students who showed consistent good behavior. [Duct Tape Challenge.MOV](#) Stay tuned to hear news about our next school-wide behavior challenge!
6. The December Students of the Month were honored at a breakfast held on Friday, January 9th. The event celebrated 3rd grader Sophia Gigliotti, 4th grader Rajeev Paul, and 5th grader Fawn Fratrik. The honored students, along with their parents, guardians, and their entire teaching teams, attended the celebration.
7. Twenty-two fifth-grade students recently competed in the first oral round of the Russell C. Hughes Spelling Bee at PVI on January 13th, with the top five students advancing. The next competition, featuring grades 6th – 8th, is scheduled for mid-February at Pleasant Valley Middle School. The final, county-wide event will take place against competitors from all of Monroe County on March 23rd at JT Lambert Intermediate School, with a snow date of March 24th. We commend all participants for their efforts and accomplishments.
8. After school tutoring's second semester started on Tuesday, January 13th. These tutoring sessions will take place every Tuesday and Thursday, continuing through April 16th.
9. On Thursday, January 15th, the 4th Grade Chorus presented their winter concert to families and friends. The performance took place in the PVI cafeteria, beginning at 6:00 PM. Special thanks to Ms. Yeager, the PVI Choral Director.
10. We are delighted to celebrate our January Students of the Month! These students will be recognized at their respective grade-level assemblies on January 21st, January 22nd, and January 26th, where they will receive an award certificate from the administration to acknowledge their accomplishments. Furthermore, staff will nominate one exceptional

student from each grade to be honored at a special Student of the Month breakfast hosted here at PVI. The nominating team of teachers, along with the student's parents and guardians, are invited to attend this celebratory event. We take pride in the achievements of all these deserving students!

11. The Staff Employees of the Month for January are Reading Specialist Kathy Gray and Paraprofessional Brielle Colonese. Congratulations to both!
12. All PVI families and staff are encouraged to attend the monthly PTO meeting. It will be held at PVI on Wednesday, January 14th at 4:00 PM.
13. The 2nd marking period will conclude on Tuesday, January 20th. Parents and guardians are reminded to regularly check the PowerSchool Parent Portal.
14. PVI is excited to announce the return of the Scholastic Book Fair! Running from January 26th to February 6th, this event is a highlight for both students and staff, providing an excellent opportunity to explore and purchase favorite books, thus promoting a strong love for reading throughout the school community.
15. On January 28th, fifty 4th grade students will participate in the NAEP assessment. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an integral measure of academic progress across the nation and over time. It is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in various subjects, such as civics, mathematics, reading, science, and U.S. history. The program also provides valuable insights into students' educational experiences and opportunities to learn in and outside of the classroom. Elected officials, policymakers, and educators use NAEP results to develop ways to improve education. NAEP is a congressionally mandated program administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences.
16. Celebrate positive behavior with the Bear Den! As part of our PBIS initiative, students can redeem their earned Bear Bucks for fantastic prizes every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. We highly encourage all students to participate and take advantage of this exciting opportunity.
17. PVI administration has been carefully monitoring our behavior data as part of our PBIS program. We share the data monthly with staff and students and use it to set behavior goals for the building. We are very proud of our progress and wanted to give a midyear update. In September, the building had 105 referrals for discipline. By December, we are proud to announce that our students have brought the number of referrals down to only 32! We will continue to discuss data, set goals, and recognize our "Be a Bear" students with school-wide celebrations.
18. PVI administration has also been carefully monitoring our attendance data. We discuss attendance during our monthly student assemblies. We recognize the class with the best attendance rate each month for each grade level. For the first half of the year, we are proud to recognize the following homerooms who achieved the highest attendance per month. September: Ms. Mulder's 3rd grade, Ms. Siptroth's 4th grade, and Ms. Rundle/Ms. Secara for 5th grade. October: Ms. Smith's 3rd grade, Ms. Statts' 4th grade, and Ms. Cogan's 5th grade. November: Ms. Mulder's 3rd grade, Ms. DiPipi's 4th grade, and Ms. Douglas's 5th grade. December: Ms. Liddy's 3rd grade, Ms. Balchune/Ms. Saffioti for 4th grade, and Ms. Douglas's 5th grade. Overall, Ms. Smith's homeroom was the 1st Quarter Attendance Winner. Her class earned a pizza party! Congratulations to all of our homerooms, keep up the great work!

Pleasant Valley Middle School

1. PVMS Library hosted the Scholastic Book Fair on the week of January 12th - January 16th. Every student will have the opportunity to access the fair by visiting the library during their ELA classes or during WIN class.

2. Literacy pays off! Thanks to our Librarian, Roxanne Scott, coordination with Kalahari's Riptide Reading Program, fifty of our middle schoolers have earned a day of fun through hard work. Each participant logged 10 hours of reading to qualify for this exclusive reward. We are incredibly proud of these students for prioritizing their reading growth.
3. We are pleased to announce the successful launch of the PVMS E-Sports Club, a program dedicated to fostering teamwork and strategic communication in the digital age. The club meets every Thursday from 2:30 pm to 3:45 pm. This club will provide a structured environment for students to hone their skills in a competitive collegiate-style format. This spring, our student-athletes will represent PVMS in Regional Circuit Matches, competing against neighboring districts in high-stakes titles including Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Mario Kart 8 Deluxe, Rocket League, and Splatoon.
4. The 2025 PVMS Holiday Drive concluded with record-breaking participation, and showcased the incredible heart of PVMS. We successfully adopted 12 families and 26 children through a total of 130 Giving Tree Ornaments. The response was overwhelmingly positive with our staff and PTO who exceeded expectations. We were able to fulfill 100% of 'Giving Tree' requests, including winter essentials (coats, hats, gloves, blankets) and toys. Our PTO provided organizational support and \$75 gift cards per family to address food and household needs. A comprehensive community effort that directly impacts student well-being and strengthens home-school connections heading into 2026.
5. A huge thank you to all of our talented band and chorus students for their incredible hard work and beautiful performances during our winter concerts. We also want to extend our sincere gratitude to Ms. Michaels, Mr. Moulton, Mr. Gardzalla, and the entire music department for their tireless dedication to our students' success.
6. Our Middle School band students, under the direction of Ms. Jill Kersteen Michaels, journeyed to Scranton, PA, to participate in the 2025 Junior Wind Band Celebration at Marywood University. Students were nominated by their band director, and those accepted into the festival prepared an audition for placement into one of three distinct Bands. Two of our students auditioned and were placed in the honors band, which is the top ranked ensemble. Lila Triolo, flute and Lily Sullivan, baritone horn.
7. The PVMS band is collecting grocery receipts from the Brodheadsville Shoprite and Weis for their fundraiser. This is a nice FREE way to help out the band program. Just bring in your grocery receipts from Shoprite and Weis.
8. Our final week of school before the holidays was ignited by the incredible energy of the Reindeer Game Rewards! This wasn't just a regular rewards assembly; it was a high-stakes, festive experience that brought students and staff together through friendly competition. From the 'Pizza Box and Noodle Knock-off', Candy Cane Twirl, Snowball Toss to the 'Basketball Clap (freeze game),' the gymnasium was filled with laughter and school pride. The excitement peaked during the special Staff Edition of the Whitney Houston Challenge. Congratulations to 7th-grade teacher Mr. Marc Fleming for his winning performance! Events like these are vital for morale, and we couldn't have asked for a better send-off into the New Year.
9. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Deb Hartley, our Prevention Specialist from Carbon-Monroe-Pike Counties. Over the past two marking periods, Deb has been instrumental in supporting our student body, facilitating nine specialized counseling groups focused on grief, loss, and school adjustment. By providing a safe and supportive environment, Deb has helped our students develop a significantly higher sense of self-worth. This vital social-emotional support directly translates to improved school life and student engagement, and we are deeply appreciative of her partnership.
10. To kick off the holiday season, the PTO treated our entire staff to a festive 'Cookies, Charcuterie, and Cocoa' celebration. The quality and presentation of the spread were truly spectacular, but more importantly, it provided a much-needed moment of fellowship for

our team. We are deeply grateful to the PTO for consistently going above and beyond to ensure our staff feels valued and celebrated.

Pleasant Valley High School

1. The induction ceremony for the National English Honor Society took place on Wednesday, December 3rd, in the HS auditorium.
2. The teachers and students did a fantastic job at our fire drills on December 4th and January 14th.
3. The high school concert band had their winter concert on December 11th and the choral concert was on December 16th.
4. The third annual holiday door decorating contest was December 3rd through December 12th. The winner at the high school was Ms. Lisa Kandl.
5. We had several fundraisers and charitable opportunities this past month including:
 - The faculty and staff were given the opportunity to help families in need in our district for Christmas by selecting a gift tag from the Christmas tree in the guidance office and purchasing a gift for a child.
 - Toys for Tots Drive
 - The Student Council and Gifter Seminar raised funds for The West End Food Pantry via "Money Wars" jars placed in classrooms. The 7th period class that raised the most money won a pizza party.
 - Econ Club had a food drive for the month of December. The class that accumulated the most points won a Bagel Experience party.
 - FBLA is collecting warm winter clothing through the end of January for families in need in our area.
6. The students participated in NWEA testing for science on December 8th-9th, English on December 10th-11th, and math on December 12th-15th.
7. The 9th graders had an opportunity to tour MCTI on December 12th.
8. The Art Honor Society participated in the annual Monroe County Paint the Plow contest and won Fan Favorite again this year! The theme was "Leave Some Space".
9. We had our annual Holiday Spirit Week December 15th-19th. Monday was Winter Wonderland; Tuesday was Ugly Sweater Day; Wednesday was Holiday Lights Day; Thursday was Holiday Hat Day; and Friday was Candy Cane Stripes Day.
10. The guidance department hosted a very successful Pleasant Valley Alumni Homecoming Assembly on December 17th, in which former PV students discussed their lives now and how PV prepared them for life beyond high school. The juniors and seniors attended this assembly in the auditorium, and were able to ask questions to the panel. It was live streamed to all of the classrooms for the freshman and sophomores.
11. Spirit Week continued with our holiday assembly and the annual Slime the Teacher festivities on December 18th. Students voted for the teachers that they wanted to see get slimed in front of the whole school. The "winning" teachers were Elizabeth Negron, Phil Masiello, Alex Mountain, and Jim Korcienski.
12. Our December teacher of the month was Jody Berube and the support staff of the month was Betty Vanhorn.
13. Our January students of the month are Angelina Skurteska (9th grade), Christopher Godshall (10th grade), Chloe Safin (11th grade), and Abigail Nelson (12th grade).
14. The FBLA chapter attended their Regional Conference at Mt. Airy on December 17th. We had 21 students qualify for the state competition that will be held in April. The keynote speaker was former PV graduate (Class of 2022) Antonio Meli!
15. The capital improvement is moving along, and the entire science wing is renovated and is now open.
16. Winter Keystone exams were administered to students January 6th-9th.

17. The Varsity Cheer team won second place at the Regional competition on January 3rd. They advanced to the State Competition on January 9th - January 11th.
18. Students have the opportunity to enter the next Young Writer's Competition, this time a maximum 100 word story featuring a mystery theme. The deadline is February 11th.
19. The National English Honor Society is having a toiletries drive for the West End Food Pantry from January 12th-30th.
20. The students were invited to enter a Pennsylvania History writing competition. As there were no 11th grade submissions, the three winners are as follows: 9th grade - Arina Nazarova; 10th grade - Brielle Halamar; 12th grade - Paulina Restea
21. The guidance department announced that over 75 scholarships at the local, state, and national levels are available to seniors this year.
22. There have been over 200 applications for MCTI for the upcoming school year. The formal review process for these applications will begin in February.
23. The department remains highly active in direct student support. This quarter, counselors are completing individual check-ins with all 9th-grade students to monitor their transition to high school.
24. In addition to scheduled meetings with seniors during quarter one and freshman during quarter two, counselors managed nearly 500 student appointment requests this quarter alone, bringing the year-to-date total to over 1,000 student-initiated requests.
25. Through the generosity of partner institutions providing reimbursements, we are pleased to offer specialized off-campus experiences: February 11th: "Women in STEM Day" at Arcadia University for interested sophomore and junior female students; and March 10th: Campus tour of Kutztown University for interested juniors.
26. The Essay Portion of the scholarship process of the Singer Family C&E Scholarship Foundation is scheduled for Thursday, January 22nd.

Pleasant Valley Bears Academy

1. Our students and staff have had a fantastic winter break and are returning with big smiles and high energy, truly eager to dive back in and finish the second semester strong! It was wonderful to have that time to relax and celebrate, and there is a great sense of excitement in the air as we gear up for a successful and spirited finish to the school year.
2. To celebrate our students' hard work, we are thrilled to host our first PVBA Midpoint Rewards Breakfast on February 6th! This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize their hard work and achievements, and we are delighted to invite our honored students and their immediate families to join us.
3. Our guidance counselor, Ms. L., continues prioritizing the completion of state-required graduation artifacts for 11th and 12th grade students. She continues to work closely with individuals to clarify expectations and set manageable deadlines, ensuring all requirements are met for graduation.
4. The entire PVBA staff remains deeply committed to delivering excellence in education while ensuring our students stay connected with the wider PV community. Our PVBA family stays informed on exciting district events, school activities, and critical upcoming deadlines through the *Bears Academy Weekly Growl*, which serves as our essential guide for staying connected and prepared.