



WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

*School and Community
Working Together*

VOLUME 32, No. 7

FEBRUARY 2026

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PTO MEETING • 2/2
KINDNESS WEEK 2/9 - 2/13
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING • 2/10
PRESIDENTS DAY - NO SCHOOL • 2/16
MID-WINTER BREAK - NO SCHOOL • 2/17 - 2/20
WINTER SPORTS AWARDS NIGHT • 2/26
ALLEGANY STATE PARK CAMPING TRIP 2/27 - 3/1
VOLLEYBALL CLINIC 2/28
FARM MARKET EVERY SATURDAY IN FEBRUARY

SCAN TO VIEW
EVENT CALENDAR



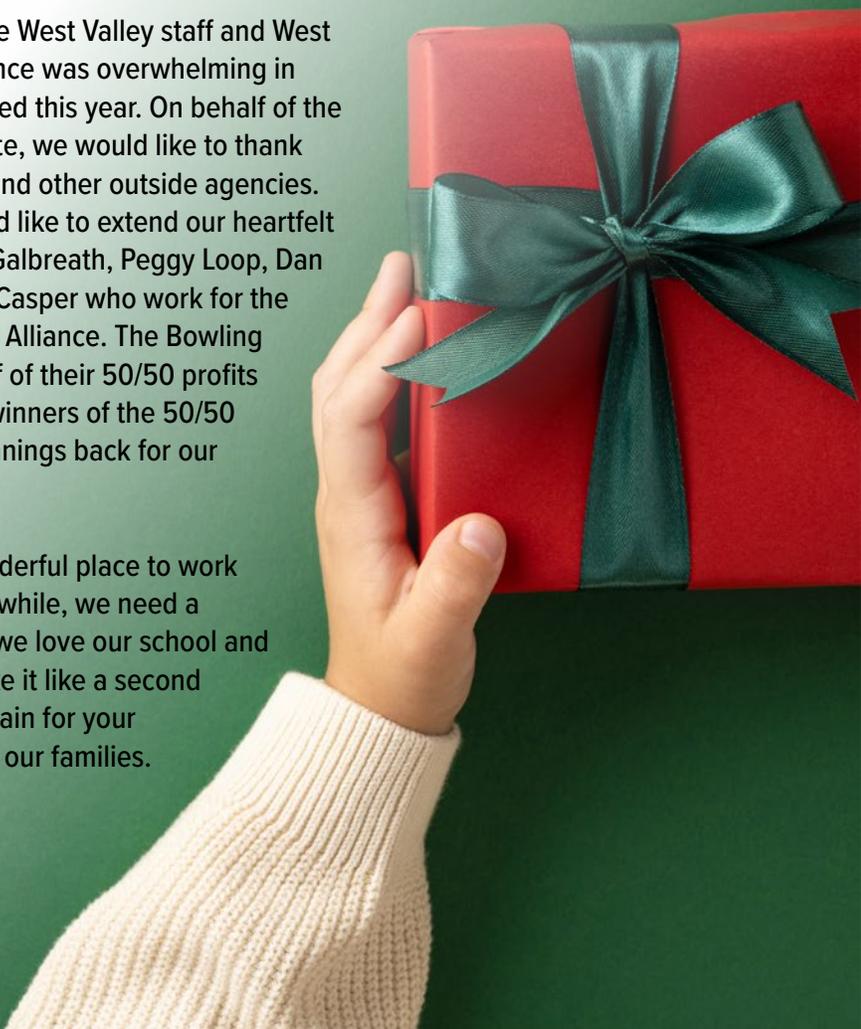
Seasonal Blessings

This year, the season of giving was in full swing for our West Valley students and it was all due to the generosity of our West Valley staff and the West Valley Cleanup Alliance (formerly known as West Valley Demonstration Project to most).

Through our “Giving Tree” program, families were encouraged to communicate their needs, and this year 68 children (newborn to 18 years) were provided Christmas gifts so that their holidays were made brighter.

The generosity of the West Valley staff and West Valley Cleanup Alliance was overwhelming in spite of the great need this year. On behalf of the Student Support Suite, we would like to thank our teachers, staff, and other outside agencies. Most of all, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Jaimie Galbreath, Peggy Loop, Dan Stevens, and Jason Casper who work for the West Valley Cleanup Alliance. The Bowling League donated half of their 50/50 profits and then the three winners of the 50/50 donated all their winnings back for our families.

West Valley is a wonderful place to work and every once in a while, we need a reminder as to why we love our school and the people who make it like a second home. Thank you again for your support and love for our families.





THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE BUDGET AND SCHOOL BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

BY MR. DANIEL AMODEO, SUPERINTENDENT

On January 20, Governor Kathy Hochul released a draft of New York State's executive budget. A preliminary review of the Governor's budget provides an overall 4.3% increase in education spending. However, approximately more than 300 districts across the state designated as "save-harmless" will only receive a 1% increase in Foundation Aid. West Valley Central school is a "save-harmless" district.

- Foundation Aid is New York State's funding to individual school districts.
- A "save-harmless" school district is one where the Foundation Aid formula is not used to calculate the amount of aid received. "Save-harmless" districts are guaranteed at least as much Foundation Aid as the prior year.

Governor Hochul proposed to eliminate "save-harmless" in the 2024 budget. However, rather than eliminating the designations, a review of the Foundation Aid Formula was undertaken and the 2024 Executive Budget kept Foundation Aid increases flat. In the 2025 budget West Valley and other "save-harmless" districts received a 2% increase in Foundation Aid. Prior to 2024, "save-harmless" school districts were typically receiving a 3% increase in Foundation Aid.

Although Governor's Hochul's Executive Budget is a key piece of information that we will use to begin developing this year's budget, there are other key priorities that school districts will be working on to ensure that equitable funding and resources are available. Below are just a few of these priorities.

- Lobbying our NYS representatives and senators to pass spending bills that restore recommended reductions in federal aid through the Title I, II, III, and IV programs.
- Revising the 100% zero-emission bus requirement and recommended quotas per district based on feasibility
- Exempting school districts when a utility company does not have the capacity or expertise to support a 100% electric bus fleet.
- Allowing our West Valley teachers to purchase retirement credit based on prior out-of-state teaching experience.
- Working with the State Education Department to explore teacher certification flexibility, providing easier pathways for multiple certifications, and pathways for out-of-state candidates.

As we continue developing our budget, we are hopeful that the Governor's final Executive Budget will provide our district with an increase in the amount of aid that at least keeps up with the rising costs (inflation). We are also hopeful for an increase in our PILOT for the West Valley Demonstration Project.



HERE COMES SPRING!

BY MRS. MYCHALUK, PRINCIPAL

Dear Wildcat Families,

February marks an important point in our school year as we close out the second quarter and officially reach the halfway point of the academic year. This is a great time for students and families to pause, reflect on progress so far, and reset goals for the months ahead. Report cards will be shared soon, and we encourage families to review them together and reach out to teachers or counselors with any questions or concerns.

We are also looking forward to **Mid-Winter Recess later this month (Feb 16-20)**. This break provides a much-needed opportunity for rest, family time, and recharging as we head into the second half of the year.

February 9-13 is Kindness Week, a time when we intentionally focus on empathy, respect, and positive relationships across our school community. Students will participate in activities and discussions that reinforce the importance of kindness, inclusion, and making positive choices.

As part of our ongoing social-emotional learning support, we are excited to welcome Duncan Kirkwood on **February 9**, who will be speaking to students in grades 5 through 9. Mr. Kirkwood will speak with students about resilience, perseverance, and navigating challenges, providing strategies that support both academic success and personal growth.

A fun milestone is right around the corner with the 100th Day of School on **February 13**. Elementary students will celebrate this achievement with a variety of engaging, age-appropriate activities that highlight learning, growth, and school spirit.

As we move through February, we appreciate families continuing to support strong attendance and punctuality, especially during the winter months, open communication with teachers and counselors, and healthy routines that support student success.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we move into the second half of the school year.



WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL 2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2025

- Present budget development calendar for review and adoption by the Board of Education (12/9/25)
- Review budget development calendar with the administrative team and discuss budget guidelines and requests (12/11/25)
- Discuss staffing and department needs with administrators and supervisors

JANUARY 2026

- Meet with administrators and supervisors for budget requests and discussion
- Department budget requests due to the Business Office (1/23/26)

FEBRUARY 2026

- Present 2026-27 preliminary budget forecast and budget assumptions to the Board of Education (2/10/26)

MARCH 2026

- Submit 2026-27 calculation for tax levy limit to Office of State Comptroller (3/1/26)
- Present 2026-27 draft budget to the Board of Education (3/10/26)
- Adoption of Legal Notice by the Board of Education (3/10/26)

APRIL 2026

- Legal notice of school budget hearing and budget vote. Must advertise four times within 7 weeks of the vote with first publication at least 45 days before date of budget vote (3/31-4/4/26)
- Adoption of the 2026-27 budget by the Board of Education (4/21/26)
- Adoption of the Property Tax Report Card by the Board of Education (4/21/26)
- Deadline for school board nominating petitions to District Clerk (4/21/26)
- Property Tax Report Card due to NYS Education Department (4/22/26)
- Military ballots are to be mailed (no later than 4/24/26)
- Property Tax Report Card emailed to legal newspaper (no later than 4/27/26)
- Prepare absentee ballot applications, absentee ballot, related envelopes, and directions

MAY 2026

- Budget statement and required attachments available to public (no later than 5/5/26)
- Public Budget Hearing (5/12/26)
- Budget notice mailed to district residents (5/13/26)
- Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election (5/19/26)
- Board of Education meeting (5/19/26)

BOARD CORNER

The West Valley Board of Education discussed the development and use of Board Committees in our last meeting on January 13th. School Board committees can be valuable to our district. Committees can:

- Gather information and research.
- Be an opportunity to improve efficiency and effectiveness when addressing specific needs of the district.
- Provide increased communication and engagement with our community.
- Make recommendations to the Board of Education

Board Committee composition, membership, and terms of service are decided by the Board of Education. In addition, committees can be permanent or temporary. However, the Board Committees cannot take official action as the authority to accept or reject recommendations is with the Board of Education. Currently we are considering the development of three committees: **Facilities-Building Visitation Committee, Community-Government Relations Committee, and a Teaching and Learning Committee.** In our next meeting we look forward to further developing each committee's purpose and scope.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

West Valley Central School District uses Parent Square to send an automated message regarding school closings and cancellations of after school activities. The message is sent to your household phone number and to the emergency contacts that you listed at the beginning of this school year. If this information has changed or you would like to verify what is on file, please call Dana Westfall at 716-942-3100 extension 4111. The district also contacts the following radio and television stations:

Channel 2
WBEN 930 AM

Channel 4
WPIG 95.7 FM

Channel 7
Big Oly 107.1
& 105.5 FM

CHILD FIND NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all district residents with children between birth and age 21: **If your child is disabled or you suspect s/he may be disabled, you may be entitled to special education and related services, without cost to you.**

Please contact the Special Education office at 716-942-3100, extension 4149, to register your child or obtain further information.

Notice is in compliance with IDEA "Child Find" requirements Education Law 4402(l)(a).





Ski Club



Ski Club is up and running once again and enjoying a very successful season. With nearly 30 members, this year's club is one of the largest in decades. Thanks to the abundant snowfall across the region in December, the slopes have an exceptionally deep base, allowing members to explore all that

Holiday Valley has to offer. With conditions in the Northeast continuing to rival—and even surpass—those on the West Coast, this winter has already proven to be an especially fortunate and exciting one for our Ski Club members.

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

An energetic musical revue featuring favorite songs from popular movies, performed by students in grades 3, 4, and 5.

March 13 & 14 | at 7:00 p.m.

At WVCS

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

Serving buffet style from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

United Methodist Church
9372 Rt. 240, West Valley

Everyone is welcome!

The community is invited to free community dinners on the 4th Wednesday of each month January through October. Donations are appreciated, but not necessary. Come enjoy a hot meal and the fellowship of members of the West Valley community.



THE KENTE TRADITION

By-Aspen, Kendra, Jackson K., Brooke, Mackenzie, and Levi

One of the third grade reading groups read a short story called “The Kente Tradition,” which explains how wearing the colorful woven cloth came to be a tradition for the Ashanti people in Africa.

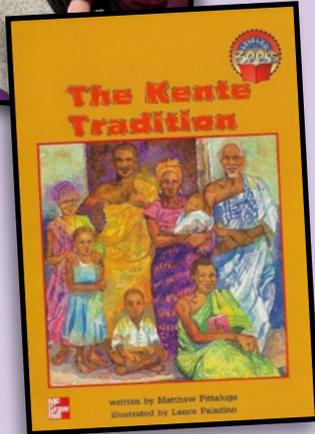
Legends say that the idea for weaving the cloth came from watching a spider weave its web. The cloth was made from silk and meant for royalty at first. Today it is made from cotton. Weavers made the cloth on a loom one strip at a time. Then they sewed the strips together to make one big piece of cloth. The cloth is worn by both men and women. Men wear it like a toga and women wrap it around their body and sometimes wear a blouse underneath it.

The colors stand for different things. Maroon or purple stand for Earth and silver is for the moon. Blue stands for the sky, good fortune and peace.

There are over 300 Kente designs each with a meaningful name. We named our cloth which represents our school, “Abusay Bo Laylay” which means ‘the force is strong.’

Kente clothing is still worn today all over the world. People are drawn to the beautiful colors and patterns of Kente.

“The creativity of the Kente cloth was beautiful!” said Aspen.



WEST VALLEY PTO
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

WEST VALLEY PTO
PRESENTS

Winter FUN NIGHT

Grades: 3- 6
February 27th
Time: 2:45-4:45/6:00

A DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN
PLAYING GAMES, MAKING SOME CRAFTS,
AND MORE

FOR GRADES 7-12

VOLLEYBALL CLINIC

FEBRUARY 28TH-9-11AM
MARCH 21ST-9-11AM
APRIL 25TH-9-11AM
JUNE 6TH- 9-11AM

CLINIC IS FOR ANY ATHLETE
WHO PLAYS VOLLEYBALL OR
IS INTERESTED IN PLAYING
VOLLEYBALL

COME JOIN
COACH KAZ,
COACH S AND
COACH FOX AND
WORK ON YOUR
VOLLEYBALL
SKILLS WHILE
PLAYING SOME
FUN GAMES.



2025 - 2026 ADHD/LEARNING DIFFERENCES SUPPORT GROUP



3rd Tuesday Every Month
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

February 17, March 17, April 21,
May 19, June 16

Are you a parent of a child with learning disabilities or do you *suspect* they have a learning disability?

DISCUSSIONS AND INSIGHTS

RECEIVE SUPPORT

Get information that's practical, constructive, and helpful.

CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Learn more about coping with your problems through shared experiences.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

A safe place to share your experiences and challenges.

HOSTS

Erin Reisdorf

Parent of child with special needs.



Nicole Sweeney

Parent of of 2 children with Dyslexia and Dysgraphia



SPONSORS



Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:



Registration is required to receive Zoom link

www.parentnetworkwny.org/events

716-332-4170 or info@parentnetworkwny.org



West Valley Central School District
Community Education



Spring 2026

We're excited to offer a diverse range of classes and activities designed to enrich your personal and professional life. From practical workshops on Rubber Stamp Making, Stained Glass, Valentine Decorations and Events by Jess—there is truly something for everyone. We look forward to your participation in one or more classes this spring!

STAINED GLASS FOR BEGINNERS

Instructor: Melissa Pearl

Stained glass is a hands-on course in which participants will learn the fundamental techniques of stained glass, including assembling glass pieces to create beautiful designs. You will explore the basics of foiling, soldering, and the proper use of tools. By the end of the course, you will have crafted your own stained-glass project to take home and will have the skills to continue the exploration of this timeless art form. No prior experience is necessary — just a passion for creativity and learning! Choose one (1) of the offered designs.



Multi-Purpose Conference Room, West Valley Central School

Date: February 12, February 28, March 12, March 26

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35 per class and all materials included

Maximum number of participants per class: 4

Registration deadline: One week prior to scheduled class.

RUBBER STAMP CARD MAKING

Instructor: Jody Enser

How would you like to impress your friends and family with handmade cards? Each class you will make 8 cards, 2 each of 4 different designs.

Multi-Purpose Conference Room, West Valley Central School

Date: February 23, March 23, April 20, May 11

Time: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15 per class and all supplies are included.

Minimum number of participants per class: 2

Registration deadline: One week prior to scheduled class.

EVENTS BY JESS

Instructor: Jessi Dash

An experienced florist will instruct participants in a series of workshops. The workshops are for you to make and take home your project.



Multi-Purpose Conference Room, West Valley Central School

Date: Classes Will Start in March

Time: 6-7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 per class and all supplies are included.

Minimum number of participants per class: 4

Registration deadline: One week prior to scheduled class

VALENTINE DECORATION

Instructor: Loreen Butcher

Loreen works at West Valley as a teaching assistant; I'm a mixed media artist and an avid crafter. I love to share ideas and supplies!



Elementary Art Room

Date: February 11

Choose to make a pink or red decoration.

Time: 6-7:30 p.m.

Maximum number of participants per class: 10

Cost: \$15 per class and all materials included.

Registration deadline: One week prior to scheduled class

FREE Community Clothes Closet



Location: Behind St. John the Baptist Church in Bingham Hall

The Community Clothes Closet will be open Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 1-4:00 p.m. (or by appointment).

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

Besides clothing and shoes, we accept donations of bedding, kitchen and household items for Cattaraugus County residents. Upon request, we can fulfill a need of furniture items.

For questions or to make an appointment, please contact Jacque Conrad at 716-942-3836 or Elise at 716-942-3291.

FEEDMORE WNY WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

If any family wishes to participate in our **Weekend Backpack Program**, please contact Mr. LaBrake anytime during the school year. The goal of the Weekend Backpack Program is to provide nutritious and easy-to-prepare meals for children to take home on weekends. This program is provided to you **completely free of charge!**

Each week your child will be provided with a bag of nutritious, non-perishable food to be eaten over the weekend. The food will be placed in your child's backpack at the end of the school day and is intended to be opened once your child is home. The program will continue throughout the 2025-26 school year. Participation in the Weekend Backpack Program **will not affect your family's eligibility for other food assistance programs (such as SNAP, WIC, or food pantry access).**

To enroll your child/children in the program, contact Mr. LaBrake. Please call with any questions at 716-942-3100, ext. 4148 or send an email to mlabrake@wvalley.org.



WEST VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

FOOD PANTRY HOURS:

1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays
Open from 3-7:00 p.m.

2nd and 4th Wednesdays
Open from 12 -4:00 p.m.

If you need emergency food, please call
Amy Frank - 716-942-6657 or
Kristine Aldrow - 716-942-6690
and they will set up a day and time.

LOCATED AT A NEW ADDRESS!
9348 Route 240, West Valley

THE FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

CANNED FRUIT
SIDE RICE/NOODLE DISHES
SPAGHETTI SAUCE

CANNED VEGETABLES
SALAD DRESSING

PAPER TOWELS
TOILET PAPER

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



ACCESS WEST VALLEY'S FOOD SERVICE MENUS ANYWHERE!

View daily breakfast and lunch menus, check nutrition information, download a printable version, or save to your phone.

Scan the QR code or visit:

www.wvalley.org/departments/food-service



From Colds to Compassion: How Rural Communities and Schools Can Slow the Spread of Illness-Without Panic

Winter in a rural community comes with a familiar rhythm. Someone starts with a cough. A classroom thins out. Families juggle work, school, childcare, and the quiet guilt of wondering, “Should I send them today or keep them home?”

For parents and schools alike, illness season can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be chaotic. Protecting community health isn't about fear or perfection. It's about practical habits, shared responsibility, and compassion for one another.

THE REALITY OF ILLNESS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

In rural areas, illness hits differently. Families often have fewer childcare options, longer drives to healthcare, and limited sick time. Schools are the heartbeat of the community, which means germs spread quickly, and decisions feel heavier.

Parents aren't careless when they send a child to school sick. Most are doing the best they can with limited choices. That's why the solution isn't judgement; it's understanding and cooperation.

WHAT ACTUALLY SLOWS THE SPREAD

We don't need extreme measures to protect one another. The most effective steps are simple and proven:

- **Staying Home When It Matters:** Children don't need to stay home for every sniffle, but fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or a significant cough are signals to pause. Staying home when illness is contagious protects classmates, teachers, and families who may be more vulnerable.
- **Handwashing Still Works:** It sounds basic because it is, and it works. Teaching kids to wash hands well (not just fast) remains one of the strongest defenses against spreading illness.
- **Fresh Air and Ventilation:** Cracking windows, spending time outdoors when possible, and allowing fresh air into classrooms can significantly reduce the spread of respiratory illness; no fancy equipment required.

WVCS HEALTH CORNER

- **Modeling Good Habits:** Kids learn more from what adults do than what we say. Covering coughs, washing hands, and taking rest seriously sends a powerful message.

COMPASSION IS A PUBLIC HEALTH TOOL

Here's what doesn't help: blame, panic, or shame. Parents already carry enough worry. Educators are already stretched thin. Communities thrive when we lead with compassion and not blame.

Compassion looks like:

- Trusting that families are making thoughtful decisions.
- Schools communicating clearly and calmly about illness expectations.
- Neighbors offering help instead of criticism.
- Remembering that health decisions are rarely simple.

A SHARED EFFORT, NOT A SOLO BURDEN

Healthy communities don't rely on one perfect decision, they rely on many reasonable ones made with care.

When parents, schools, and neighbors work together:

- Fewer illness spreads
- Kids miss less learning overall
- Stress levels drop
- Trust grows

That's real community health.

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Colds will come. Germs will spread. That's part of life, especially in winter. But when we respond with calm, clarity, and compassion, we protect more than physical health. We protect relationships, trust, and the sense of community that rural towns depend on. Sometimes the healthiest thing we can offer each other isn't a mask or a policy, it's understanding.



WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

George Kazmierczak, President
Heather Klahn, Vice President
Jonathan Boberg
Tracy Chai
Charlie Davis
Adam Fisher
Melissa Pearl
Noah Klahn, Student Ex Officio

ADMINISTRATION

Daniel Amodeo, Superintendent
Jennifer Schultz, Business Administrator
Rachel Mychajluk, Principal/Curriculum Coordinator
John Collins, Assistant Principal, CSE/CPSE/504 Chairperson

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 5
West Valley, NY

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL



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& 105.5 FM



Love fresh fruits and veggies?

Stop by to purchase fresh, healthy, affordable
and locally grown produce!



West Valley Central School

5359 School St.

West Valley, NY 14171



EVERY SATURDAY

10:30am-11:30am



The Farm Market accepts credit, debit, cash, SNAP, and Apple Pay!