

WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

School and Community Working Together

VOLUME 33, NO. 4

NOVEMBER 2026

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- PTO Meeting • 11/4
- Fall Sports Awards • 11/9
- Veterans Breakfast • 11/10
- Veterans Day-School/Office Closed • 11/11
- Scholastic Book Fair 11/16-11/24
- Picture Retakes • 11/16
- Winter Sports Meeting 11/16
- Half Day Early Dismissal 11/23
- Parent/Teacher Conferences 11/23
- Half Day Early Dismissal 11/24
- Parent/Teacher Conferences 11/24
- Thanksgiving Break - No School • 11/25-11/27

SCAN TO VIEW EVENT CALENDAR

PAWS FOR A CAUSE



Our 4th annual Paws for a Cause raised $4,297! Through its Schools Against Cancer initiative, Roswell Park donates $20 for every $1 raised, bringing our total donation to $85,940. Thank you to our community for helping make this event such a success!



OFF TO A GREAT START

By Mr. Daniel Amodeo, Superintendent

It's hard to believe that we are a quarter of the way through the school year. Our students and staff continue with the same passion and energy that they started the year with. We are all fully engaged in classroom learning, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, athletics, and extended learning opportunities outside of the classroom. We look to carry this momentum throughout the school year.

VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day on November 11 is approaching fast. West Valley will continue our tradition of honoring our Veterans as we invite them to breakfast. Please join us on Tuesday, November 10 from 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. in the school cafeteria. Every year we look forward to this opportunity to thank our community members for their service, protecting our freedom, and keeping America safe. Please spread the word. Please call the office at 716-942-3100, extension 4102 to let us know if you will be attending. As a sibling and family member of veterans, I look forward to spending the morning with you.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Our annual Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on November 23 and 24. On these days students will have a half-day, dismissing at 11:17 a.m. These conferences are an opportunity to meet with teachers to learn about the academic progress and growth of your student. During conferences we will also evaluate strengths and needs that will allow us to modify instruction to improve student achievement. Please contact the main office if you have not scheduled a conference with your children's teachers.

GIVING THANKS

Most importantly, November reminds us all to give thanks and to be grateful. I am truly thankful for all our students, staff, and the support from our community. In our school community's time of need we have truly been there for each other. My hope is that this unity remains constant and is coupled with an eagerness to continue to do better for each other, our students, and our community. We have much to appreciate now and so much to look forward to.

SAVE THE DATE • WVCS Alumni Banquet | July 10, 2027

Calling all former Wildcats! If you attended or graduated from West Valley, you're a member of the WVCS Alumni Association, and we'd love to see you again.

Details

- Visiting starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and a short meeting.
- $5 per alum, $3 per guest.
- Bring a dish to pass, and the rest is supplied.
- We'll honor the class that graduated 50 years ago, and prizes will be awarded.

Did you know?

- The Alumni Association began in 1925.
- There are over 2,600 West Valley alumni.
- The Scholarship Fund, established in 1931, is still awarded each year to a graduate continuing their education.

We hope to see you there!



FINISHING Q1 STRONG

BY MRS. MYCHAJLUK, PRINCIPAL

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of the first quarter! Our first marking period officially closes on Friday, November 13. Following the five-week progress reports, I had the opportunity to meet with students in grades 7–12 to review their academic progress, discuss areas for improvement, and assign Extended Learning opportunities when needed. Our goal is to ensure that every student has the support and resources necessary to be successful. I encourage families to continue monitoring grades through the Parent Portal and maintaining open communication with teachers.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place on November 23 and 24. These conferences are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate student successes, address concerns, and strengthen the partnership between home and school. We know that students are most successful when families and educators work together, and we appreciate your continued involvement in your child's education.

November also provides us with an opportunity to recognize and celebrate those who have served our country. A heartfelt thank you to our veterans for their service and sacrifice, as well as to our district office staff and classroom teachers who are helping to organize a welcoming Veterans Day breakfast for our local veterans and their families. It is always a privilege to bring our community together to honor those who have given so much.

We are also looking forward to celebrating our fall student-athletes at the Fall Sports Awards Ceremony on Monday, November 9, at 6:30 p.m. We will recognize our football, volleyball, and cross country athletes for their dedication, teamwork, and accomplishments throughout the season. Congratulations to all of our athletes and coaches!

As Thanksgiving approaches, I encourage everyone to take time to relax, rejuvenate, and enjoy the company of family and friends. The holiday season is also a wonderful reminder of the importance of giving back. Whether through food drives, visiting residents at local nursing homes, volunteering at community events, or simply helping a neighbor in need, even the smallest acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference. Volunteerism is an incredibly valuable part of building a strong community, and I hope our students continue to recognize the impact they can have on the lives of others.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the West Valley community for the overwhelming love, kindness, and support shared with our school following the tragic loss of our student, Dominic Fuller. The days following Dominic's passing were among the most difficult our school community has experienced. The compassion shown by our families, neighboring school districts, local organizations, first responders, and countless community members helped carry us through an incredibly heartbreaking time. We truly could not have navigated those days without your support.

As we continue through the school year, particularly as the holiday season approaches, we recognize that grief does not follow a timeline. The holidays can be especially difficult for those who are missing someone they love. Please know that our school counseling team remains available to support students and families who may be struggling. Do not hesitate to reach out if you or someone you know needs additional support. We will continue to remember Dominic and support one another as we move forward together.

This season, I am especially grateful to be part of a community that consistently demonstrates what it means to care for one another. Thank you for your continued partnership, generosity, and commitment to our students.

From our West Valley family to yours, I wish you a safe, restful, and wonderful Thanksgiving!

#WeAreWestValley









EXPLORING LOCAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES





West Valley Central School students in grades 9-12 recently toured Cutco Corporation, Sol Epoxy Inc., and Eaton Cooper Power Systems to learn about careers in advanced manufacturing. The field trip was sponsored by Cattaraugus-Allegany Dream It Do It, coordinated by Evelyn Sabina.

At Cutco, students met in the company's conference area and were given a tour by Chris Otto. They learned how Cutco knives are made in Olean, where tradition and state-of-the-art technology come together to make knives built to last and backed by The Forever Guarantee.



Students then visited Sol Epoxy, Inc., where Phil Farris led the tour. Founded in 2010 by Western New York investors who admired the area's legacy of innovation and entrepreneurship, Sol Epoxy provides specialty epoxy-based materials for customers who rely on them to make their own products perform well.

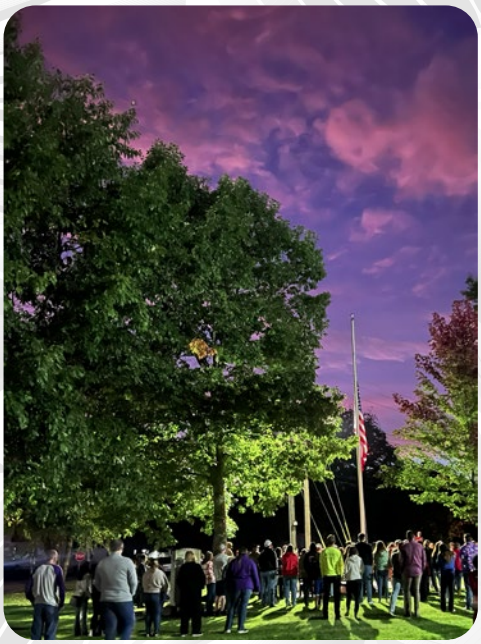
Lastly, students visited Eaton Cooper Power Systems, a manufacturing company founded in 1985 that makes medium- and high-voltage electrical equipment, components, and systems. Its products deliver electric power to homes, industries, businesses, and institutions worldwide.

These experiences gave students a firsthand look at the many opportunities available in local manufacturing and helped them connect classroom learning with real-world careers. Thank you to these organizations for an amazing day! And a big shout out to Danny Hoopes, Phil Farris, Chris Otto, and Miles Davis for awesome tours to our students.











Remembering Dominic Fuller

On September 30, we lost one of our 11th grade students, Dominic Fuller, in a tragic accident.

In the days that followed, we saw what it means to be a small community.

Students, families, staff, and neighbors gathered at a candlelight vigil to share memories and just be together. On the morning of the funeral, people lined the School Street Circle as Dominic's procession made its way to the Fire Hall.

Our neighboring districts and colleagues across Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES showed up in a big way. Counselors came to our buildings. Donuts and coffee arrived when we needed them. Colleagues checked in on our staff and our students.

We are deeply grateful for all the ways we have been supported and drawn closer together over the past month. Dominic's passing left a hole in our school and in our community that will never be filled, but we carry him with us. He will forever be part of West Valley.

If you or someone in your family needs support, please reach out to our school counselors anytime. We are here for one another. #WeAreWestValley

WEST VALLEY STUDENTS JOIN NIAGARA FALLS CLEAN UP



The Seen Enough Tobacco Day Clean Up at Niagara Falls State Park on October 12 was sponsored by Reality Check and Tobacco-Free Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany (TF-CCA).

Along with youth from other schools, five of our students took part: Noah Klahn, Karly Otto, Bella McCarty, Nia Schoepflin, and Delia Shoup. They picked up litter around the park and kept tobacco waste separate from regular trash. Cigarette filters contain plastic and toxic residue that can wash into Lake Ontario waterways, and displaying the collected waste helped educate the community on the harm tobacco waste presents to our environment.

Fall Fest













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).

For questions or to make an appointment, please contact Jacque Conrad at 716-244-7059 or Elise at 716-942-3291.



WEST VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

FOOD PANTRY HOURS:

Nov. 4 ..... 3-7:00 p.m.
Nov. 11 ..... 12:00- 4 p.m.
Thanksgiving Handout | Nov. 18 ..... 4-6:00 p.m.
Thanksgiving Handout | Nov. 21 ..... 10:30-12:30 p.m.
Saturday | Nov. 25 ..... Closed

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.

LOCATION
9348 Route 240, West Valley

FEEDMORE WNY WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

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 2026-27 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**



SAT & ACT Information 2026-27

https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration/dates-deadlines

SAT Test Date*	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration**
Dec. 5, 2026	Nov. 20, 2026	Nov. 24, 2026
March 6, 2027	Feb. 19, 2027	Feb. 23, 2027
May 1, 2027	Apr. 16, 2027	April 20, 2027
June 5, 2027	May 21, 2027	May 25, 2027

*Students who need to borrow a device from College Board will need to register and request their device earlier than the registration deadline—at least 30 days before test day.

**Late registration is available worldwide. Additional fees apply.

Join the West Valley Ski Club

Scan the QR Code to purchase a **Wednesday Night Pass**
Username: MWWESTVA **Password**: ski
Or go to https://www.wvalley.org/skiclub

- **8 WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WITH BUS RIDES**
- **PASS IS GOOD FOR ANY WEDNESDAY**
- **8 LESSONS INCLUDED**
- **SEE MR. LEMBKE (ADVISOR) FOR HELP**



Ski Dates:

- 1/6
- 1/13
- 1/20
- 1/27
- 2/3
- 2/10
- 2/24
- 3/3

Price Increase November 1st
$177 Pass or $312 with Ski/Snowboard Rental Included.
Student Night Season Pass $386 or Regular Season pass $518.
Community members can also use the link to purchase any discounted pass.


ASHFORD COMMUNITY
"Making Spirits Bright"
HOME DECORATING CONTEST
HOMES
BRIGHTER
NEIGHBORS
CLOSER
A STRONGER
ASHFORD
Celebrate Our Community!
The Town of Ashford invites you to participate in our first-ever "Making Spirits Bright" Home Decorating Contest.
Help brighten this year's holiday season by decorating your home for your community to see and enjoy! It's also a great way to beautify our community and bring joy to those who live here.
The contest will run from December 6 through December 20.
Winners will be announced on December 23.
Contest Rules:
Decorate your home using your imagination and creativity (no restriction or rules for how you decorate your home)
Ballots will be handed out at the December 5 Tree Lighting Ceremony and will be available at the community center. You could also Email them to ashfordyouthrec@yahoo.com
Voting will take place from December 6 through December 20.
Ballots must be returned by December 20 to the collection box at the Ashford Community Center.
Trophies will be awarded for First, Second, and Third Place.
Let's Make Ashford Brighter Together!


Community Spirit Shines Brighter Together!
The Annual
TOWN OF ASHFORD
Tree Lighting
CEREMONY
When:
December 4 at 6:00 PM
Where:
Town of Ashford
Community Center
Please bring a donation of a non-perishable food item to donate to the Town of Ashford Food Pantry.
KIND
PEOPLE
STRONG
COMMUNITY
BRIGHTER
TOMORROWS
All Are Welcome!
LET'S MAKE THE SEASON BRIGHTER TOGETHER!

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



WVCS HEALTH CORNER

BE ANTIBIOTIC AWARE: HELPING OUR FAMILIES STAY HEALTHY

U.S. ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS WEEK: NOVEMBER 18-24

As colder weather arrives, families often find themselves dealing with coughs, runny noses, and sore throats. When children feel miserable, it is natural to want a treatment that will help quickly. U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week is a reminder that choosing the right treatment matters, and an antibiotic is not always the answer.

WHEN DO ANTIBIOTICS HELP?

Antibiotics treat certain infections caused by bacteria, including strep throat and urinary tract infections. They do not work against viruses that cause colds, influenza, and most sore throats. Taking an antibiotic for a viral illness will not speed up recovery.

A common misconception is that yellow or green nasal mucus means a child needs an antibiotic. Mucus color alone does not tell us whether an infection is bacterial. Some ear and sinus infections can also improve without antibiotics. A healthcare provider can determine the appropriate treatment.

WHY DOES CAREFUL ANTIBIOTIC USE MATTER?

Antibiotics can save lives, but they can also cause side effects, including nausea, diarrhea, rashes, and serious allergic reactions. Antibiotic use also contributes to antibiotic resistance. This happens when bacteria develop ways to survive medicines intended to kill them. The bacteria become resistant, not the person's body. Resistant infections can be harder to treat and may require additional medical care. Using antibiotics appropriately helps preserve their effectiveness for everyone.

HOW CAN FAMILIES HELP?

- ***Ask questions.*** "Does my child need an antibiotic?" and "What can help my child feel better?" are useful questions for your healthcare provider.
- ***Follow prescription directions.*** Give antibiotics exactly as prescribed as prescribed and contact the provider or pharmacist with questions or concerns.
- ***Keep prescriptions personal.*** Never share antibiotics or give a child medication prescribed for someone else.
- ***Avoid saving antibiotics for another illness.*** The wrong medicine can delay proper treatment
- ***Prevent the spread of germs.*** Encourage handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and keeping recommended vaccinations current.

COMFORT AND CARE STILL COUNT

When a child has a common cold rest, fluids, and saline nasal spray or drops may ease symptoms. Ask a healthcare provider or pharmacist about age-appropriate medicines; over-the-counter cough and cold medicines are not recommended for children younger than six.

Seek medical care for difficulty breathing, dehydration, a fever lasting longer than four days, symptoms lasting more than ten days without improvement, or symptoms that improve and then return or worsen. Contact your provider whenever symptoms are severe or concerning.

As a school community, we can support one another by making informed choices and practicing healthy habits. Sometimes the best care includes an antibiotic, and sometimes it means giving the body time and support to recover.

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

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Jennifer Schultz, Business Administrator
Rachel Mychajluk, Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL



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 4170. The district also contacts the following radio and television stations:

Channel 2	Channel 4	Channel 7
WBEN 930 AM	WPIG 95.7 FM	Big Oly 107.1 & 105.5 FM





CABOCES Design & Print Publication