**November Dates to Remember**

**November 2** – Daylight Savings Times Ends

**November 8** – S.A.T. Test, Senior High School

**November 11** – Act 80 Day, No School for Students

**November 16-22** – American Education Week 2014

**November 26-December 1** – District Holiday, No School

* More dates can be found on our homepage at www.svsd.net.

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**Best Buddies**

The Seneca Valley Intermediate High School Cafeteria was full of laughter and chatter on Oct. 15, when students spent time meeting their new “buddy” and making new friends through the Best Buddies Program. Students engaged in the program recently completed an application process and were paired one-on-one with a student with a disability. Together, the duos look forward to participating in monthly activities and school-wide events.

Best Buddies is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships for people with and without intellectual disabilities. In addition to the life-changing friendships they support, the organization offers leadership training and opportunities for students with and without disabilities. Best Buddies serves over 800,000 individuals each year and has participants in every state in the US and in 52 countries worldwide.

Students in the Best Buddies chapter make a one school year commitment to contact their buddy once a week and do something with them in person twice a month. These in-person activities can take place on or off campus. While the Best Buddies leaders work to provide opportunities for socialization as a chapter, they encourage buddy pairs to spend time together on their own engaged in their typical activities, such as attending school sporting events or eating lunch together.

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You’ve heard about it, now see it here - SV Lip Dub 2014.

PROUD TO BE SV!

More information on how to vote for SV’s Lip Dub will be posted soon.

Click here to watch

Seneca Valley wishes you a safe and happy Halloween!
Seneca Valley celebrated a glamorous homecoming this year—“Old Hollywood” style. With the theme colors of black, red and gold, participants at this year’s festivities were guaranteed a multitude of events that included a carnival, parade and fireworks. The carnival, followed by the parade at was held on Thursday, Oct. 23.

Earlier this month, seniors chose 20 classmates to represent their homecoming court. The ladies of the 2014 Homecoming Court are Erin Brock, Jordan Harris, Alicia Hart, Allie Herrmann, Brooke Karasack, Claire Kocur, Madeline Kosinski, Teresa Leatherow, Sarah Richard and Julia Zezinka. The gentlemen of the court include Steven Amoroso, Lance Hahn, Stephen Jones, Brendan Kennelty, Alex Park, John Price, Matthew Prigg, Brennan Restelli, Zachary Snyder and Matt Wagner.

Seneca Valley’s homecoming king and queen were announced during Raider Football pregame festivities on Friday, Oct. 24 at NexTier Stadium. The king and queen who were crowned were Brendan Kennelty and Jordan Harris. Congratulations to Seneca Valley’s 2014 Homecoming Queen and King! Afterward, Seneca Valley played Shaler and won 41-12.

Seneca Valley Senior High School Principal Mark Korcinsky announced that 13 seniors have been named Commended Students in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. Those students are: Jonathan Asseff, Marcin Chrzanowski, Hayley Hoss, Adam Johancknecht, Brendan Kennelty, Kelvin Lalonde, Andrew Lingefelt, Gregory McKibbin, David Osorno, Lauren Ottaviani, Michael Palaski, Alexander Park and Amanda Spangler.

From the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation.

Officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced Eric McElhinny, a Seneca Valley senior, as one of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 60th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

This academically talented high school student will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth about $33 million that will be offered next spring. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and more than half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

About 1.4 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2013 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state.

“"The young men and women being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”
Rowan’s Olweus kick-off event was on Wednesday, Sept. 10 during a school assembly featuring The Pittsburgh Puppet Works and their show titled “Bye Bye Bully.” The students learned and were reminded of the definition of bullying as well as ways to respond to bullying situations. They learned the three S’s: Stand Tall, Steer Clear, and Seek Help and interacted in a fun beach ball game to practice “seeking help.”

During the course of the year, students will participate in weekly classroom Olweus meetings focusing upon the components of our district and school Olweus program.

CVE learns ‘in perfect harmony’

CVE held their annual Olweus kick-off event on Sept. 12 celebrating the theme – “CVE Rocks! Learning in Perfect Harmony.” The event celebrated cooperation, teamwork, and individuality while promoting a strong anti-bullying message. Teachers also got in on the fun and surprised students with original “rocker” looks.

Students completed a series of cooperative challenges with a reflection of their learning at the end of each challenge. The challenges allowed students to develop their problem solving skills and recognize the value of all students within their classroom community. Classrooms also created a beehive “coat of arms” representing the best of their grade level.

Lastly, students participated in an assembly featuring Josh and Gab. The Josh and Gab show uses music to promote self-worth and anti-bullying.

National anti-bullying speaker visits SVMS

Seneca Valley Middle School hosted a nationally acclaimed speaker on Friday, Oct. 17, at the school.

Mark Brown spoke about “Words Count,” a national outreach program that educates students about bullying.

Mr. Brown encouraged them to be aware of how they treat others. He motivated students on the benefits of being kind to others. With his “tell it like it is” approach, he challenged some of the most serious problems in our schools today.

A native of Kingston, Jamaica, Mr. Brown immigrated to the United States at 18 – with $40 in his pocket and a dream of a better life. He never imagined he’d devote his life to helping others. During his brief career as a systems analyst at Reader’s Digest, he developed a love for public speaking. But it wasn’t until a life-threatening illness in 1993 that he began to focus on a career change. In 1995, Mr. Brown won the Toastmasters International’s World Championship of Public Speaking, emerging from a field of more than 20,000 entrants. The same year, the Harlem YMCA honored him with a Black Achievers in Industry Award.
Congratulations to Rowan Elementary School’s Leaders of the Month! Every month, school officials select two students from each grade level (one boy and one girl) who consistently demonstrate leadership. According to Lauren Smith, school counselor, they are “caught being a leader by always doing the right thing without being asked. We are very excited for these students and honored to say they are part of the Rowan family.”

In keeping with Evans City School’s theme for this year, members of the middle school band went “Beyond Our Walls” to perform in the Oktoberfest parade held in Evans City on Saturday, Sept. 20. The students performed on a float and held a concert following the parade. The band is under the direction of Mrs. Tracy Glass.

The Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company (CTVFC) brought their Fire Safety House (FiSH) to Haine Elementary School on Oct. 6. This mobile trailer contains a kitchen, living room and bedroom, and teaches children how to properly escape in the event of a fire. Students also received instruction in the proper use of 9-1-1.

Haine Elementary’s Literacy Kick-off event was held on Friday, Sept. 19. The theme this year was “Super Readers are Super Heroes.” Teachers and students dressed for the occasion and wore their favorite superhero attire. The day also included a play where young readers were inspired to make reading a part of their day every day.

October 13-17 was officially declared National School Lunch Week. The food services staff geared up for a week of fun in the cafeteria. During the week, the Pirates Parrot made a special visit to CVE, Evans City, Haine and Rowan cafeterias to help celebrate and encourage students to “Get in the Game with School Lunch!”

Connoquenessing Valley Elementary students can be seen here with a large “rubber” duck they made from duct tape last year for the school’s annual art show. Harmony Borough officials for the “Rise Above the Waters” Celebration borrowed the duck for the town’s parade at the end of September and asked a representative group of students to join in the celebration.
Seneca Valley had three teams that placed in an engineering/robotics challenge sponsored by Penn State Electro-Optics Center at Butler County Community College late last school year.

SV had two air and sea teams and one land team that participated, competing against each other as well as other local school districts.

The SV Air Team 2 took home first place in the Air Challenge and included students Luke Roman, John Harper, Chase Galis, Ryan Sargent, and Andrew Gagnon. They were the only team able to autonomously drop all four payloads on target. Second place in the Sea Challenge was awarded to SV Sea Team 1 which included Colin Cullpepper, Paul Sandherr, Sam Poloyac, Erin Kennedy, Cam Regester, Sean Bonham, Anthony Visco, and Brett Foster. And SV Land Team received third place in the Land Challenge which included students Paige Foley, Corey McCoy, Rich Buletko, Dylan Waltz, Rosanne Harrison, and Riley Dillon.

Academic Games equals success

The Seneca Valley Academic Games Team earned several top awards at the regional Equations Tournament on Oct. 1 at the Sailors and Soldiers Memorial. Equations is the Game of Creative Mathematics and involves authentic learning experiences and problem solving at the highest levels.

The Seneca Valley Junior team finished second and six students from both the junior and senior team earned qualifying scores to compete in the Academic Games Tournament which will be held in Orlando, Florida, this year. The junior team had the following students qualify for nationals: Kyle Cindrich, Alex García and Urvi Gupta. The senior team had the following students qualify for nationals: Rebecca Danek, Rhea Kudtarkar and Mark Livingstone.

Students from the Seneca Valley Middle School also earned qualifying scores at the Equations Tournament: Rachel Covell, Jarrett Johnston, Angelo Giannotta, Jonathan Simoes, Brian Vogel, Kevin Peter Karatassos, Kate Scanlan, Katie Yanez, Mike Beggy, Claire Matthews, Bailey Salameh, Tori Beck, Jose Ordenez, Dean Smith and Sam McCune.

Haine Middle School (HMS) also had an excellent performance. The teams placed in all of the top six places awarded. HMS also had six perfect scores, qualifying for nationals, and ten other individual national qualifiers. First Place Team: Megan Bablak, Brady McConnell, Emma Montgomery, Brenna Wrubel and Parker Logue. Second Place Team: Zachary Garcia, Cameron Ailes, Olivia Demetter, Anoop Savio and Jack Veverka. Third Place Teams (tie): Nate Trost, Jacklyn Ko, Claire Reynolds, Matt Murphy and Ananya Rao; Sarah McKinley, Jason Hartenstein, Renhan Xu, Kyra Martino and Ryan Jones. Fifth Place Team: Evan Prazenica, Jordan Henne, Emma Krebler, Kayla Moon and Maddy Rosenzweig. Sixth Place Team: Sammi Carter, Sebastian Wary, Maddalyn DiMichele, Simren Jayaraman and Roma Kesaran.


Congratulations to the entire Academic Games Team!

On Sept. 20, the Seneca Valley Raider Battalion participated in Evans City’s Season of Harvest Parade, marching as a unit and placing first in the Marching category. The Color Guard led the parade placing second.
A cultural perspective

Students in Mr. Gregory Hayward’s government and economics classes in the Seneca Valley Senior High School had the pleasure of listening to Mr. Kenneth D’Alessandro, a medical advisor to King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and also the lead emergency medical technician (EMT) of the kingdom’s ambulance service, speak on October 2. Mr. D’Alessandro has been living in Saudi Arabia for the past 11 years and spoke to the students about the culture of Saudi Arabia as well as the entire Middle East.

Prior to living in Saudi Arabia, Mr. D’Alessandro taught Emergency Management classes at the University of Pittsburgh. A student of his, who was from Saudi Arabia, invited him to go to there and write curriculum for Emergency Management classes for a university. Saudi Arabia, officially known as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is the largest Arab state in Western Asia by land area, constituting the bulk of the Arabian Peninsula and the second-largest in the Arab world after Algeria.

Seneca Valley School District is committed to providing diversity to students through global awareness and providing continuous education around the concept of diversity.

For the (health) record

The timing couldn’t have been more appropriate. There was standing room only on Friday, Oct. 17 when about 700 students attended this month’s Seneca Valley Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Lecture Series. The specialist was Amesh A. Adalja, MD, FACP, an associate for the Center for Biosecurity of UPMC. Dr. Adalja is also a clinical assistant professor for the Department of Critical Care Medicine, adjunct clinical assistant professor for the Department of Emergency Medicine, adjunct instructor for the Division of Infectious Diseases for the Department of Medicine University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Dr. Adalja is also a member of the Infectious Disease Society of America’s (IDSA) Public Health Committee, the American College of Emergency Physicians Pennsylvania Chapter’s EMS & Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness Committee, the Allegheny County Medical Reserve Corps, and the US Department of Health and Human Services’ National Disaster Medical System Disaster Medical Assistance Team (PA-1), with which he was deployed to Haiti after the earthquake in 2010. He previously was a member of Allegheny County’s Metropolitan Medical Response System. He has also served on U.S. government panels tasked with developing guidelines for the treatment of botulism and anthrax in mass casualty settings as well as a FEMA working group on nuclear disaster recovery.

He addressed many questions regarding the recent Ebola outbreak and helped to clarify much of what is happening here at home and abroad. Dr. Adalja has also appeared on CNN over the past few days sharing this medical expertise with the public as a whole, and having him here today was much appreciated. As one staff member put it, “It was clear the students were hanging on his every word. It was a fantastic lecture.”

Shark snack attack

Ms. Rebekah Grinnen’s economics classes in the senior high school recently participated in presenting a Healthy Snack business plan. Each group researched, created and presented to a panel of experts, just as budding entrepreneurs do on the popular television show “Shark Tank.” The panel consisted of local business owners, parents and teachers that provided knowledgeable insight and asked questions regarding the group’s small business ventures.

Winners will sell the product they presented, donating all proceeds to Change for Thanksgiving, a local charity that helps to provide families Thanksgiving dinner.

Ms. Grinnen stated, “The students are very receptive to any business/product advice they can get their hands-on. I cannot emphasize enough the value the “Shark’s” input has on the students’ authentic learning experience.”
Area banks provide SVF donations through EITC

Over the past month, five area banks have generously donated to Seneca Valley Foundation through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program grant.

On a yearly basis, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, an initiative of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, enables businesses to give back to local educational organizations. Over the years, all of these area banks have donated millions of dollars to organizations committed to educating our youth. We thank them for their commitment to Seneca Valley:

- **NexTier** - $15,000 donation
- **Waste Management** - $8,000 donation
- **Northwest Savings Bank** - $5,000 donation
- **Farmers National Bank** - $3,500 donation
- **Mars National Bank** - $1,000 donation

Specifically, these EITC monies will benefit the following classes at Seneca Valley:

- **Women in Engineering** (a class just for high school girls that focuses on Engineering concepts)
- **Honors Engineering** (mixed class of high school boys & girls, engineering exploration & robotics technology)
- **Personal Finance** (a class for juniors & seniors to teach personal financial literacy)
- **Accounting** (college credit accounting class for high school students grades 10-12)

SV, police test crisis response

Seneca Valley School District (SVSD) hosted an active shooter drill at Haine Schools for police and district preparedness on Monday, Oct. 13. SVSD partnered with the Cranberry Township Police and Penn State Fayette’s Center for Community and Public Safety.

The Seneca Valley School District took a proactive stance to the potential of violence and worked with the Cranberry Township Police Department to provide the venue to move classroom training to a simulated environment. The ability for area emergency responders to participate in virtual emergency scenarios and to collaborate with colleagues was invaluable in our efforts to evaluate our policies and test our procedures to ensure the safety of our staff, teachers and students.

Law enforcement and emergency medical service providers responded to a fictitious 911 call at the school. The training involved three scenarios in which the first responders arrived and accessed the scene, established a command structure and called for additional units as needed. In total, 10 police agencies and emergency medical service providers responded and participated in the training.

At the end of the drill, law enforcement and school administrators reviewed their responses, and procedures were evaluated by Penn State Fayette’s Center for Community and Public Safety.
There’s a saying around the Athletic office that if you’re playing in October when it’s cold then you’re having a great season. With that being said our boys and girls soccer programs both won section titles and advanced to the WPIAL playoffs. Girls’ volleyball won their section title to advance to the WPIAL playoffs and cross country ran their WPIAL championships Oct. 23, 2014. Here’s a playoff season recap as of this publication date.

- **GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY** - If you live outside the Seneca Valley School District many are calling this an “upset” but if you’re a Raider this comes as no surprise that our girls cross country team defeated the top two favorites – North Allegheny and Mt. Lebanon – to take home the 2014 WPIAL Girls Cross Country team championship! On the strength of three top-10 finishes by Rachel Hensler (5th), Julia Kooser (6th) and Mariah Mack (7th) and Isabelle Biase and Lauren Sauer rounding out our top-five, SV defeated Mt. Lebanon by five points and North Allegheny by 20. As a result the entire team qualifies for the PIAA state championship meet on Nov. 1, 2014 in Hershey, PA. Joining these five will be Maty Zeckzer, Emma Sledge and Emily Keir. Good luck girls!

- **BOYS CROSS COUNTRY** - The Raiders had a strong fifth place showing in the WPIAL championships and qualified Michael Kolor and Tanner Quiggle for the PIAA Championships. Kolor finished fifth overall and Quiggle placed 18th.

- **BOYS SOCCER** - The boys’ team also captured a second straight section title and advanced to the second round of the WPIAL playoffs. It was there that SV met a determined Butler squad and fell 2-1 in overtime. Nonetheless, this team should be very proud of its accomplishments this season!

- **GIRLS VOLLEYBALL** - Yes, another section title for Seneca Valley athletics as their girls’ volleyball program captured their section crown and is currently in the midst of the WPIAL playoff bracket. It’s been a great season to this point and we look forward to advancement through the WPIAL and PIAA brackets. November will provide a final recap on this season as well.

### Winter Sport Testing Dates – Physicals, Concussion and Drug Testing

**Date:** Thursday, November 6, 2014 immediately after school in the Senior High School

Any student-athlete interested in competing in a winter sport must have a physical, an ImPACT baseline concussion test and a drug test. In addition, the student-athlete must be registered in the parent portal system under their respective sport. For full details, visit the Athletics homepage at www.svsd.net and click on the link for Drug Tests, Physicals & Concussion Testing. The 2014-15 Sport Participation Checklist will provide parents with all necessary information.
Diana Gibbon Callope, a 1985 SV graduate was recently named Wisconsin’s Teacher of the Year.

“I’ve always wanted to be a teacher. I can remember as early as even 2nd grade stating that that’s what I wanted to be when I grew up,” Callope explained.

“She’s compassionate, she’s caring, she’s relational. She’s everything somebody wants in a teacher for their student. She goes the extra mile whether it’s staying late at night to support students in her classroom, or going out into the community advocating on behalf of the profession,” says Whitewater Middle School Principal, Tanya Wojciechowicz. Callope says the experience has been humbling, especially because the title of “Teacher of the Year” is something she never set out for. “I just care about students. I really think it’s important to try to motivate them to make them want to be here, to make them want to be successful in whatever realm that might be. If that makes me exceptional, then I’m proud of that. This is just what I do, and how I do it, and I’ll probably keep going.” Callope will now go on to represent Wisconsin at the National Teacher of the Year conference, where she could be awarded the title of National Teacher of the Year.

Lauren Hassen, a 2004 SV graduate recently graduated with honors with a doctor of medicine degree from Ohio State University College of Medicine.

Hassen graduated with honors in 2008 from Case Western Reserve University with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and psychology and from the University of Pittsburgh in 2010 with a master’s degree in public health in epidemiology. Hassen is a 2004 Seneca Valley High School graduate and is the daughter of Jeff and Jodi Hassen of Cranberry Township. One of Ms. Hassen’s former teachers said: “The sky’s the limit for this Seneca Valley graduate and if ever there was a female STEM role model, Lauren is one for sure. I am proud to say I taught this outstanding lady.”

Mark Cottington, 2006 SV graduate, is part of the Pittsburgh Penguins video staff who won two Emmy awards at the 32nd Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards Gala on September 21. The Penguins won the “Sports Program Series” category for In The Room -- the team-produced monthly show that offers fans a unique behind-the-scenes look at Penguins hockey throughout the season. Those involved in the production were Leo McCafferty, Jon Otte, Bruce Meyers, Stephen Finerty, Zach Tyke, Michael Davenport, Meghan McManimon and Mark Cottington.

After graduating from SV, Cottington, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Robert Morris University with a BFA in Media Arts. He has been working for the Pittsburgh Penguins since 2009. Currently, he is the new media video producer where he is the lead producer for PensTV and travels with the Pittsburgh Penguins Hockey Team to document the season on video.

To read more about the Penguins Emmy win, click here.

Nick Marzock, a 2008 SV Graduate and talented New York City musician, spoke with senior high school students on Sept. 19 about following their hearts and how to best reach their future goals and dreams. In addition to sharing his words of wisdom and writing tips, Nick also entertained students as he sang and played guitar. He completed his master class by saying, “If you enjoy what you’re doing, you will not work a single day in your life.”

Fire Safety Day at Rowan Elementary School turned into a fun reunion a few weeks ago when members of the Cranberry Township Volunteer Fire Company visited Lucy Balzer’s kindergarten classroom at the school. Andrew Bell (on right), a member of Seneca Valley’s Class of 2012, and Ben Ross, SV Class of 2006, were two of the fireman teaching fire safety that day. The duo also happens to be Mrs. Balzer’s former kindergarten students from the 1990s. We thank Mr. Ross and Mr. Bell – and all the members of our local volunteer fire companies - for your service to our community.
After reading about Seneca Valley’s Stem Fem programs, originally started by Ms. Julie Smith, SVMS teacher and Ms. Andrea Peck, SVMS principal; BASF Corporation—the world’s largest chemical company, wanted to get involved. Earlier this month, BASF offered to sponsor the Seneca Valley STEM Fems and provided a donation in the amount of $1,250. This reoccurring sponsorship will continue to support the SV STEM Fems in the future. Seneca Valley School District has identified the expansion of STEM-related opportunities for our students as a significant priority and we appreciate companies like BASF Corporation for helping Seneca Valley reach their STEM goals!

BASF is the largest chemical company in the world and is headquartered in Ludwigshafen, Germany and has a branch location in Evans City. Products from the Evans City site are used mainly in the pharmaceutical industry, and are also used in applications like agrochemicals, surfactants, adhesives, polymers, electronics, flavors, fragrances and automobiles.

SVSD STEM Fems is a series of after school events held for girls in grades 5-8 that allow unique opportunities for middle school age girls to explore STEM related opportunities including hands-on, minds-on activities and collaboration with high school/college young ladies who are currently pursuing STEM careers, as well as with women who are currently working in STEM careers.

**PSATs, SAT updates**

The new redesigned PSAT will be administered in Fall 2015. The new redesigned SAT will be administered in Spring 2016 (March date next year). The redesign sample questions from College Board will be available starting this December 2014 and January 2015 with a complete practice test available this March 2015. For more information, please visit links below:

- SAT Overview Comparison: Current and New
  https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat/redesign/compare-tests

- PSAT Overview Comparison: Current and New
  https://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/redesigned-psat-nmsqt/compare-tests