



[THE ACME PROJECT](#)



[HONORING OUR VETERANS](#)



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[THE ACME PROJECT](#)

Allegheny Valley School District

# eNEWS



## Be Generous

Each year around the holidays, students and staff celebrate the spirit of the season and take the initiative to share and spread goodwill. Participating in a number of service projects, student activity groups, classrooms, and staff members find new and traditional ways to give back to the community. Projects ranged from collecting and distributing items to making blankets for senior citizens to entertaining throughout the local area.

This year, high school staff developed a National Honor Society service project that provided holiday cheer to the residents of Amber Woods. NHS students created ‘no sew blankets’ and delivered them to residents. All students were able to sign holiday cards, provided by the art department, in their homeroom classes that were sent with each blanket.

*Members of Springdale Jr-Sr High School's National Honor Society create "no sew blankets" to give to residents of Amber Woods.*

The school also participated in the Foster Love Project, which links love to foster children and families that care for them. Staff and students donated items and funds to fill several duffle bags, backpacks, and zippered diaper bags to the charity.

Allegheny Valley staff purchased “Secret Santa” gifts for the Lower Valley Food Bank and students in the elementary buildings. Presents included clothing, toys, beauty and hygiene products, and gift cards. In addition, Acmetonia staff and students gathered food items and gift cards and present packages to all local police departments as a thank you for their service.

Colfax students continued their tradition of performing at the Barnes & Noble in Fox Chapel to kick off the holidays. The school received a percentage of the cost of items purchased that evening. Funds gathered from this event and “special” days throughout the year are donated to various charities selected by the building’s Student Council.

What perhaps has come to be the most anticipated events of the season were the student vocal and instrumental music performances. The Senior Choir and High School Band provided a joint holiday concert in December. They filled the auditorium with wonderful sounds of the season. Students traveled throughout the area, performing at senior care facilities, local malls, and at community organization meetings. The groups not only put audience members in the holiday spirit, but the performances help students gain confidence and learn positive outcomes of community service.

Through all of these activities and the many more that occurred throughout the past months, students have given of themselves. They’ve learned the importance of community and that these lessons are not only for the holidays. Over the course of the school year, staff and students put in time and effort to show appreciation to their community for all that they have been given. For community members, it becomes an additional reason to be proud of Allegheny Valley. It truly supports December’s theme to “Be Generous.”



## SHS Soccer Tradition Continues

The Allegheny Valley School District has a tradition of greatness when it comes to the sport of soccer. From the Harmarville Hurricanes who brought national championship titles to

the area to more recent Springdale High School section and WPIAL champions, prominence in soccer goes back generations.

This year, the SHS Boys’ Soccer Team began their season with high hopes, and a belief that they could continue that tradition and bring another championship back to the District. “With the returning starters from last year, I thought for sure we would qualify for the playoffs as a first or second seed,” commented coach Cesareo Sanchez. “This season exceeded my expectations.” After ending the regular season with a 10-3-1 record, the team met the coach’s beliefs and entered the playoffs.

The group traveled to North Allegheny for their first playoff round and beat a skilled Serra Catholic group on a sunny Saturday afternoon. After defeating a tough Freedom team in the second round, the Dynamos prepared for Seton LaSalle. Wet and cold, the boys took the Rebels through two overtime periods

## Fall Sports Honors

### Boys’ Soccer:

#### All Section 3A

Jared Demore, Nick Taliani, and Mike Zolnierczyk

Honorable Mention: Matt Taliani

#### Valley News Dispatch

2017 Soccer Player of the Year:

Jared Demore

First Team: Matt Taliani, Nick Taliani, and Mike Zolnierczyk

Second Team: Zach Liberati and Justin McClafferty

#### All W.P.I.A.L.

Jared Demore, Nick Taliani, Mike Zolnierczyk

### Girls’ Soccer:

#### All Section 2AA

Jaden Domaratz, Sydni Henley, and Rylie Patterson

#### Valley News Dispatch

Second Team: Jaden Domaratz

### Football:

#### Eastern Football Conference

First Team Offense: Charlie Sprague

Second Team Offense: Josh Harmon

First Team Defense: Andrew

Berkoben and Parker Kline

Second Team Defense: Scott Landis and Josh Harmon

Second Team Kicker: Logan Panza

Honorable Mention: Joey Gedraitis, Dylan Hargenrader, Ryan Pahlman, Matt Schlessman, and Devin Wilks

#### Valley News Dispatch All-Stars

First Team: Josh Harmon and Charlie Sprague

Second Team: Andrew Berkoben, Ryan Corrigan, Parker Kline, and Scott Landis

before scoring the winning goal in penalty kicks to move on to the WPIAL Class A final. Springdale was an unexpected challenger in the championship game, facing powerhouse Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic. The team played a tough match, but ultimately coming up short and bringing home the runner-up trophy for their efforts.

The boys then entered the PIAA Championships and moved on to the second round before being defeated by a quality Brockway team at Slippery Rock High School. The team overcame injuries and higher-seeded opponents to provide an amazing season for fans. There were many memorable moments according to Coach Sanchez, “but being the seventh seed in the playoffs, then beating Freedom (number two) and Seton LaSalle (number three) and seeing the players celebrating after the games were the best moments for me.” It seemed throughout the season that the players had a goal in mind that nothing was going to deter them from reaching. This team did not give up.

“I want to offer my sincere gratitude to the players, especially the seniors for their hard work and dedication,” commented Sanchez. “I know they tried their best to play as a team. I want everyone to know that they represented Springdale High School on and off the field with high standards.” It should be noted that this season’s team went the farthest (to the Quarterfinal round) in the PIAA playoffs since the playoffs were established in 1975.

This team surely played with spirit and sportsmanship, and most of all heart. These are the qualities of a great team and great champions, no matter what the scoreboard says at the end.



### **Dynamo Education Foundation Provides Grants To Staff Members**

The Dynamo Education Foundation continues to focus on its goal to raise funds for classroom projects. Each year, staff members are able to apply for competitive grants that provide funding for innovative educational projects, enrichment programs, and other educational initiatives. For the 2017-18 school year, the Foundation awarded four grants to Allegheny Valley staff members. The winners and projects are listed at [http://www.avsdweb.org/foundation/grant-](http://www.avsdweb.org/foundation/grant-program)

[program](http://www.avsdweb.org/foundation/grant-program)

The Foundation’s Board of Directors plan to continue their fundraising efforts. To date, a series of events and activities are coordinated to help raise money for the Grant Program. The Foundation has also instituted a Grant Partner Program, where businesses and individuals can support these grants. For additional information on the Dynamo Education Foundation, please go to <http://www.avsdweb.org/foundation/index.html>



### **Honoring Our Veterans**

The annual Veterans’ Day Celebration was held on November 10. As in past years, local veterans were invited to the high school for breakfast and a program held in recognition of their service to the community and our country. Over the years, word has spread throughout the community, and an increasing number of residents now join the audience to honor these men and women. Students from all three buildings participate in the program, serving as the Masters

of Ceremony, playing instruments, and singing patriotic songs.

This year’s keynote speaker was Mr. John Robbins, a U.S. Army veteran who served our country from 1976-1989. He is a familiar face to many, working in all of the buildings throughout the Allegheny Valley School District. He shared his message that veterans aren’t always individuals dressed in uniforms, they are people who students see and interact with on a daily basis.

Allegheny Valley continues to sponsor the event to express its thanks and to help students understand the importance of veterans to the community. Students and staff spent many hours developing the program to make the veterans feel welcome and know how much they are appreciated. The event serves as a time for students to gain a greater respect for those who have given so much.



### **Acme Celebrates Safety**

Every fall, the District dedicates various weeks to issues of safety. This time is designated to learn about safety topics. In addition, October is recognized as a month to focus on cyber security and anti-bullying. Bringing all of the topics together under the umbrella of safety allows the District to touch on many subject areas for students.

Three years ago, Acmetonia Primary School began a Safety Fair to celebrate the month. The program brings local police, fire, and emergency services agencies along with W.L. Roenigk and other community organizations to the building to help educate students in areas of safety. Kindergarten through grade three students



traveled to stations around the school to learn about fire prevention, bus safety, drug and alcohol awareness, and ALICE training, along with information on the local police, fire, and ambulance services. Students were able to interact with representatives, see emergency vehicles, and ask questions.



**The Acme Project**

Construction continues at the Acmetonia Primary School. New areas include a classroom wing to house grades 4-6, an addition to the gymnasium, instrumental and vocal music classrooms, and two technology classrooms. Information on the project, along with monthly newsletters, are available on the District's web site <http://www.avsdweb.org/acmetonia/acme-project>

**Highlighting the Quarter...**

**Acmetonia Primary School**



*Students at Acme celebrated Pancakes with the Principal in November. An annual event, the program helps the school recognize National Education Week.*



*Third grade welcomed a program about air quality. Part of a focus on the environment, the presentation discussed what's in the air that students should be aware.*

**Colfax Upper Elementary School**



*Colfax students learned how to create their own video games with Bloxels. The program allows students to design, create, and play a video game all their own.*



*Students at Colfax work on a project that explores statistical trends, developing a way to advise a hypothetical track coach on how to distribute scholarships.*

**Springdale Jr-Sr High School**



*SHS National Honor Society members volunteered at this year's Senior Citizen Brunch. The group acted as greeters and servers throughout the morning activity.*



*SHS grade 12 students traveled to the nation's capital to visit the Holocaust Museum. The trip supports the social studies curriculum.*

*eNEWS is a publication of the Allegheny Valley School District. Questions or comments should be sent to [jzastawniak@avsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:jzastawniak@avsd.k12.pa.us).*

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