

April 4, 2008

# View from the Valley

Find out what's going on at Valley Middle School!

## Career Fair

### Valley Middle School 8<sup>TH</sup> Grade Career Fair

Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

Valley Middle School hosted our second annual Career Fair last Friday. Eighth grade students were exposed to a variety of occupations and career related experiences. By participating in the Career Fair, students had the opportunity to explore the possible occupational opportunities available, as well as identify the requirements needed to obtain employment or certification in these professions.

As part of this workshop, representatives from local businesses and organization shared their professional career by presenting information regarding job specifics, education needs, and job expectations. Students attended four different sessions, and also watched as two of their classmates participated in mock interview situations with one of the visiting professionals.

Some of the people and businesses represented include the following:

*Melinda Domer from Domer Chiropractic*

*Deanna Fisher from the American Red Cross*

*Jeff Lasko – Physical Therapist*

*Jim Beeghley – an IT Specialist from the PA Department of Education*

*John Skovran – Senior Army Instructor*

*Joe Cioletti, Mark Ellis and Jay Mehta from Westinghouse Electric*

*Justin Police representing a mortgage company*

*Mike Chambers – Civil Engineer*

*Patty Kaufmann – Bank Representative*

*Frank Link, Mayor of New Kensington*

*Chief Doult – Police Chief*

*Frank Ross, representing an auto body shop*

*Ashley Karcher – hair and nail stylist*

*Gary Duryea – Electrical Engineer*

*Tony Duryea – Restaurant General Manager*

*Benjamin Matthews – Air Traffic Controller and Pilot*

*Crystal Smichick from YMCA Childcare*

*Kim Brown, Costume Designer and owner of Spotlight Costumes*

*Melanie Evankovich, owner of Gypsy Café*

Also included were representatives from Comcast Cable, Family Services, the Penn State Talent Search program, the Westmoreland County VoTech program and UPMC.

# Operation R.E.A.D.E.R.

## Book Links Update

The Book Link update for this week is the following (as of April 3, 2008):

**Titans - 536**  
**Gladiators - 543**

*Knights - 640*  
*Monarchs - 668*

**Cougars - 616**  
**Jaguars - 600**

*Teachers - 25*  
*Students - 45*

## Book Reviews

### Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J.K. Rowling

*Reviewed by Samantha H.*

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows is the seventh book in a series about a boy, Harry Potter, who has to defeat a dark wizard named Voldemort. In the Deathly Hallows, Harry, along with his friends Ronald Weasley and Hermione Granger, have to find and destroy the magic Horcruxes. These Horcruxes have pieces of Voldemort's soul. Harry, Ron and Hermione go to many places to find the Horcruxes. The last Horcrux is found at Hogwarts Wizarding School. After the trio is discovered there, the people of Hogwarts and Voldemort's army go to war. Since this is the final book in the series, you will have to read it to find out the ending!

I liked this book because it had a bit of action, no real romance, and was a page-turner. It was hard to put down. Almost every chapter had something unexpected. It is a great book and I recommend it to anyone, mainly fantasy lovers.

### The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod by Heather Brewer

*Reviewed by Joe W.*

The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod: Eighth Grade Bites is written by Heather Brewer. This book is about an 8<sup>th</sup> grader named Vladimir Tod. He is relatively normal except for the fact that he is a vampire. Now Vladimir has to deal with his constant blood cravings, the bullies at his school, and having the girl that he likes prefer his best friend. Suddenly, Vladimir's teacher mysteriously disappears. He must dodge his new substitute teacher who is questioning him a bit too closely, and avoid the vampire hunter who is hot on his trail.

This book, though sometimes very funny, drags a lot during the beginning and middle. I would recommend it to people who enjoy macabre and horror stories.

## Survey Question of the Week

*By Tara Shemanski and Samantha Sweitzer*

### What do you like most about spring?

Mr. Walters - Steelhead fishing in Erie

Dani T.- I don't have to wear a coat

Ian W. - It's warmer outside

Loranzo W. - Vacations

Miss Smith – Waking up to birds chirping and the sun shining brightly outside

Aarika T. – The weather

Josh G. – Playing football because it's warmer

Ashely H. – My birthday is in the spring

## *View from the Valley* Staff

### Faculty Advisors

Ms. Gormly, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English

Ms. Smakosz, Librarian

### Student Editors

Katrina G.

Morgan S.

### Reporters

Shelby B.

Jesse James C.

Samantha H.

Richie H.

Sabrina H.

Aundre K.

Dale L.

Alexis P.

Ashley R.

Spenser S.

Tara S.

Katlyn S.

Cody S.

Samantha S.

Joe W.

# Sports & Games

## Girls Volleyball

By Richie H.

The JV squad lost to Seneca Valley last Tuesday. Outstanding players were Marissa DiCarolis, who served 8 points in a row, and Alexis Strawoet, for being a leader on the court. The varsity team beat Seneca in both matches. The team played very well together. Jorden Suprano stepped up to lead the girls on the court.

## Girls Softball

By Alexis P.

The softball team is currently on hold because of weather issues. There will be more information about when practices will resume in the next issue of *View from the Valley*.

## Movie Review - "Horton Hears a Who"

Reviewed by Ashley R.

The new movie, "Horton Hears a Who" is based on an original children's book written by Dr. Seuss. The main character, Horton, is an elephant who is walking in the woods and hears voices coming from a floating speck of dust. Horton talks to one of the voices, the Mayor of Whoville, and discovers that he has to help save Whoville before it is destroyed. A foul tempered Nudnik kangaroo, played by Carol Burnett, won't stand for Horton and the silliness that he is trying to tell her. So she rounds up some of the nastiest creatures in the jungle to teach Horton a lesson. This genre of this movie is family comedy, and is rated G. It is suitable for all ages. Horton the elephant is voiced by Jim Carrey, and they Mayor of Whoville is voiced by Steve Carell.

I give this movie: ★★★★★

## Music Review

Reviewed by Cody S.

For the music review this week I reviewed the song "Raining Blood". This song is in the rock category for songs. The song has appeared in Guitar Hero 3.

I give this song: ★★★★★

## Upcoming Events

By Jesse C.

**March 31<sup>st</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup>** – PSSA testing

**April 4<sup>th</sup> - May 13<sup>th</sup>** - PSSA Make-Up Testing

**April 21<sup>st</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>** – Scholastic Book Fair  
in the Library

**May 13<sup>th</sup>** – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Concert

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dinner Dance

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** – 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Concert

# Team News

## Monarchs

During PSSA testing, the Monarchs set a goal of 95% student attendance. The team meet their attendance goal, and were rewarded by being able to participate in multiple activities on Wednesday afternoon. Activities included:

Mr. Ellis - Movie

Mr. Lang - Board games

Mr. DeAntonio - Computer time

Mrs. Monaco & Mrs. Mintz - Arts & Crafts

The Monarch teachers are instituted a morale-building program during PSSA testing. Mottos and themes of each testing day were the following:

**Monday - "Rising to the Challenge of the PSSAs"**  
Monarchs wore bright colors

**Tuesday - "Working Our Way Through the PSSA"**  
Monarchs wore workout clothes

**Wednesday - "Do Your Best and Beat Out the Rest"**  
Monarchs wore black & gold

## Gladiators

Gladiators will be raffling off a football with Ben Roethlisberger's signature. The raffle tickets will cost \$1 per ticket. Mr. Walters will be selling the tickets every morning before school in the cafeteria.



# Student News & Interest

## Interview with Mr. Brautigam, Jaguar's Science Teacher

By Aundre K.

Mr. Brautigam has worked in public schools and three years at the University of Pittsburgh. He grew up in central Pennsylvania. He loves learning and hopes that he inspires the love of learning in his students.

Teaching was not his first career choice; he originally studied how plants evolve at the genetic level. He believes that it was a good idea to switch careers and go into teaching. He decided that he wanted to teach science because he loves science and all three of his degrees are in science. His favorite part about teaching is interacting with his students and having a good time. The funniest thing that has happened so far while teaching was when a student fell asleep in class, Mr. Brautigam called his name. The startled student flipped his desk and fell out of his chair.



## Student Council

By Sabrina H.

Tarashae Butler was the winner of the Knockout game that was held during the assembly on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. The team that won the 3 on 3 Hoops for Hearts Tournament was The Bandits, made up of 8<sup>th</sup> graders Dom L., Thomas W., and Zarley Z. Student Council raised about \$300 to donate to the American Heart Association.

After volleyball season, Student Council is going to host a 3 on 3 Hoops for Hearts Tournament for any girls interested in playing. The money raised will also go to the American Heart Association.

## Gift Update

By Joe W.

On Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, the Gift Program took five students to the Greater Latrobe High School Planetarium to participate in an Astronomy competition. Students were asked specific astronomy questions that directly related to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum. In addition, there was a presentation on Astronomy. The students who attended were Ja'von T., Natalie S., Courtney B., Carly B. and Anna H.

## A-Maze-Ing

By Spenser S.

To walk safely through the maze of human life, one needs the light of wisdom and the guidance of virtue."

-Buddha

