Groundhog Predicts 5 More Months of Education at “The Valley”

January was an action packed month at Sun Valley. We would like to thank the parents who attended scheduling night and financial aid night. The financial aid night power point information is posted on the web page. Please review the power point and/or call the guidance office if you need additional information on the financial aid process.

We are having another parent night on Tuesday, February 12, 2013. The night is called “Don’t Be An Ostrich.” The presentation centers around drug awareness for parents and is hosted by Debra Delp, Addiction Counselor, Certified Nurse and mother who has spoken to Congress, appeared on local and national TV shows including the Oprah Winfrey Show. The parent support of all Sun Valley events this year has been tremendous. I would like to also thank our booster club/association/PTL parents for all they do to make the students’ high school experiences even better.

The New Year brings with it final exams, 2nd semester, Keystone exams, graduation planning, end of winter sports and the beginning of spring activities. The seniors are beginning to make decisions about their future and in a little over four months will graduate. The Juniors and Sophomores who took the PSATs received their scores and had an assembly on how to utilize their individual online test tools in order to perform well on SATs. This tool is easy to navigate and a fast method to have an SAT score that meets your future goals. The remainder of the Sophomores and Juniors received their ASVAAB interest inventory scores in early December. We will continue to provide SAT preparation classes in the 2013-2014 school year to help bolster SAT scores.

Scheduling has begun and the guidance office and administration are working individually with students to have them get to the highest possible level of academics that they can handle. The students seem focused on choosing classes that will benefit them beyond high school.

February is also a month that does not take a break from education and activities. The students and teachers continue to do a great job in and out of the classroom to make The Valley The Gem of Delaware County. See dates in this letter and on our website for all the exciting events we have to offer.

Your Principal,

Pete Donaghy
BY ANNE DUDLEY AND ROSEMARY FOWLER, PENN-DELCO CURRICULUM SUPERVISORS

Integrating technology into the science curriculum enhances the instruction so that students have learning opportunities beyond the classroom. It brings meaning to a lesson which can build background or validate understandings. Technology provides support for individual learning styles as well as increased interest and a vehicle to motivate learning. The outside world can be brought into the classroom with a click of the mouse.

The elementary science program is an inquiry based, hands-on program. The students are introduced to the scientific method which provides them with an opportunity to develop scientific problem solving skills. The science lab kits include study in physical, biological, and earth and space science. The inquiry and process skills taught in the science curriculum help students learn to think and problem solve while questioning the world around them. Technology in our classrooms allows the teachers to show real world examples. Using sites such as Discovery Education, videos can be shown to support learning and help further develop students’ background knowledge. Teachers can access flip charts from Promethean Planet that can also support instruction. Students have access to lap tops to investigate on their own using the Internet and prepare presentations using the Power Point program. All of these skills which are being developed and mastered will help our students live in the scientific and technological world of today.

At the secondary level, teachers use Vernier LabQuest 2 probeware, with its built-in graphing and analysis applications, to collect, analyze, and combine data from experiments in science classes. Students can then share their results with the class on the interactive white-board, manipulating the images to further analyze their data.

In Astronomy and Sustainable Energy classes at SVHS, teachers use a new iPad cart to enhance lessons with visuals and interactive activities. Also, the new fully digital projection system in the planetarium makes lessons and planetarium visits a much more dynamic experience. The modules available provide exciting trips through the universe while viewing amazing graphics and incredible detail.

In Physics classes, students are viewing videos posted by their teacher on YouTube to preview directions for lab activities. Seeing a teacher set up the lab equipment before attempting the experiment in class has increased student understanding and success. In labs involving tracing the path of light reflected off mirrors or refracted through lenses, the videos serve as a “how to” guide.

Some chemistry classes have been “flipped” this year. A flipped classroom is when lecture videos are recorded for students to watch at home or in the library. Unlike a traditional classroom where students have to listen to a lecture live from the teacher, students can rewind or replay the lecture video at will. A flipped chemistry classroom allows students to spend more quality time at school, discussing and performing inquiry-based labs, while the teacher has more time to facilitate activities and provide the one-on-one individual attention that our students deserve.

Home/School Connection –
Discovery Education (applies to multiple subjects): http://www.discoveryeducation.com/

MATH DEPARTMENT

Math and Special Education Teachers are involved in a Lesson Study Academy for Algebra this year, which is sponsored by paTTAN (Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network). Goals of the Lesson Study are to understand the process, explore lesson study as a professional development strategy to improve student achievement, experience lesson study as a learner and a leader, and continue to enhance pedagogical content knowledge as a result of involvement. Lesson Study is a journey teachers take in order to improve student learning; providing a focus on student thinking while building professional learning communities and creating an awareness of lesson study are the main focus points of the academy. This month (February), students will work on a task involving Linear Functions, while incorporating multiple strategies for problem solving, and the standards for mathematical practice.

Members include: Anne Dudley, Supervisor of Secondary Curriculum and Rachelle Carstensen, Valerie Carr and Amy Caputo.
NEWS FROM THE MIC  Ms. Kerry Smith, Media Specialist

Want Better Results?
Use databases to research information for your projects, assignments, and papers!
They provide citations!
The information is credible!
These databases provide better results than Google searches!

Databases for Student Use:
EBSCOhost, Gale, Literature Resource Center, Newsstand, JSTOR, and Power Library

To access the databases:
Go to Sun Valley’s website
Click Media Information Center (bottom left side of page)
Select Databases (tab on left side of page)
Or go to Mrs. Smith’s teacher page

Access Databases from School and HOME!
Students can access these databases from non-school internet sources, too, e.g., home, mobile phone, public library, etc. Simply follow the same procedure and log in with the usernames and passwords. See Mrs. Smith for the usernames and passwords. You will be automatically logged in to each database at school.

See Mrs. Smith with any questions or issues.

The 2013 ALA Award Winning Books were announced on January 28th, 2013, and we already have many of them!

Newbery Medal
Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon, Honor
Three Times Lucky, Honor

Robert F. Sibert Medal
Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon, Winner
Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95, Honor

Mildred L. Batchelder Award
A Game for Swallows: To Die, To Leave, To Return, Honor

Pura Belpré Award
Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe, Winner, Text

Michael L. Printz Award
In Darkness, Winner
Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe, Honor

YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction
Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon, Winner
Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different, Finalist
Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95, Finalist
We’ve Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children’s March, Finalist

William C. Morris Award
After the Snow, Finalist

Stonewall Award
Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe, Winner

We also have many New York Times Best Sellers! Stop in and check them out!

2013 Sun Valley Science Fair

The 2nd Annual Sun Valley Science Fair took place on January 29 in the SV cafeteria. Sophomore biology students presented their research projects to judges in the science and engineering fields.

Four projects received commendation from the judges for their scientific research and data analysis.

They were:
“How Food Influences a Guinea Pig’s Memory”—Priscilla Pierdomenico, Melody Campbell and Sarah Wright
“Rock Salt”—Rachel Foster
“Measuring the Growth of Rock Candy”—Collen Baksi, Kayla Czemik and Nicole Johnson
“How Quickly Different Milk Boils”—Jodie Bohlander and Julia Poluch

Congratulations to the students and science department!
To visit our Guidance Department on the Web

Sun Valley Guidance Department

SAT Preparation Warm Up
March Monday 4th, Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th
2:30-4:00
For all students taking the March 9th SATs

Using Naviance to Research Colleges
• Once on the Naviance log-in screen, enter your username (email address) and password (self selected)
  If you forget your password, click on “forgot your password” on the sign-in page.
  To change your username, stop by guidance or email your counselor.
• Click the Colleges tab
• Click on “college search” under the college research heading
• Go through each category—type, location, students, admission, athletics, majors, costs, and special programs—and identify the criteria you want to use to narrow the vast database of colleges to a manageable list
• Click “view results” at any time to see the list of schools fitting your criteria
• Click on any college on your list to view its profile. Click on “SCHOOL STATS” and “GRAPH” to view application history for SVHS students.
• Create a list of prospective colleges by clicking “pick” next to the college name and “Add to My Colleges” at the top of the page to save this information in your Colleges I’m Thinking About list.
• You can also search for specific colleges at any time by typing a school’s name in the search for colleges field on the top left side of the screen

College acceptances are rolling in and the wall of stars is filling up outside the office.

SAT TEST:
MARCH 9, 2013
Registration Deadline is:
FEBRUARY 8, 2013

ACT TEST:
APRIL 13, 2013
Registration Deadline is:
MARCH 8, 2013

Seniors
Individual conferences with seniors continue with over 200 meetings with counselors to order transcripts, complete applications and discuss post high school plans.

Visit the guidance office for scholarship information and deadline dates.
Sun Valley Cheerleaders did a great job in Hershey this Saturday at the State Championship. The girls hit their routine and gave 100% against some tough competition.

The Hersheypark Arena crowd enjoyed a tremendous performance it was definitely a learning experience for the girls to challenge themselves for next year!

We are proud of the squad and coach Scholwinski for qualifying in this their first year of Competitive Spirit.

Our students did a fantastic job at the Delco Debate Tournament, hosted by Sun Valley. Josh Miller and Nick Garvey won both of their rounds. Joelle Previty won one round in her first debating contest.

A special thanks to all NHS members and Mr. Page. The visiting schools were very impressed with the warm welcome they received at Sun Valley (and many made a point of telling us). NHS stepped up the hospitality a notch by incorporating a big screen TV showing historical debates and by offering pizza (for the first time in the history of any debate tournament).

In short, when students from other schools hear the name “Sun Valley” they will think back to this tournament and what a great experience they had.
Marine JROTC Winter Camping Training

Clockwise: Unpacking gear and ready for the march; marching to camp site; afternoon rations; setting up shelter and stowing away gear; keeping warm as the snow falls; reveille; chow hall; Never cold in Sun Valley
Aston, PA - Sun Valley announced today a new partnership with SchoolInfo App for the 2012-2013 school year to bring Sun Valley families and fans the Sun Valley SchoolInfoApp for iPhone®, iPad® and Android™ devices.

The app is free and can be found in the Apple App Store℠ and Google Play.

It allows users to:

- Get notifications of schedule changes and when new calendars are available
- Send any of the Sun Valley schedules to friends and family
- Quickly access Sun Valley’s website
- Get calendars for school events, sports schedules & more

And it’s just cool, too.
GIA DeANGELO SURPASSES 1,000 POINTS FOR HER CAREER

Gia DeAngelo knocked down a corner jump shot in the first quarter against Great Valley to become the 8th player in girls’ basketball history to score 1,000 career points. Needing only four points entering the game, DeAngelo nailed a three pointer to pull within one. The student section broke into “WE LOVE GIA” chants as she was joined at half court by her parents and grandmother. Coach Frank Ridpath presented her the game ball.

SILVER MEDALS FOR ANDREW ANTHONY AND ZACH BUSH

Andrew Anthony’s 39’10” effort in the triple jump competition was good for his first career silver medal at the Delaware County Indoor Track Championships. Zach Bush earned his first medal in the championships by running a 4:56.5 in the 1600m Freshman/Sophomore race.

ALEX ELLIOTT AND VAUGHN FULTON MEDAL AT THE VANGUARD INVITATIONAL

Alex Elliott’s silver medal performance capped off an impressive showing by the Sun Valley wrestlers at the annual Vanguard Invitational. Vaughn Fulton rebounded from a 1-0 loss in the semi-finals to pin his opponent in 10 seconds to earn a bronze medal. The eight team tourney featured perennial national powerhouse Robinson Academy (Va) and St. Mark’s (De). David Irby and Joey Walker were also semi-finalists for the Vanguards.

COMPETITIVE SPIRIT TEAM EARNS TRIP TO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN HERSHEY

The Sun Valley Competitive Spirit team earned a spot in the First P.I.A.A. Competitive Spirit Team Championships by virtue of their performance at the District 1 Championships. First year coach Lauren Scholwinski and the Lady Vanguards traveled to Hersheypark Arena on February 2nd. The ladies drew the first time slot on Saturday, making them the first team in Pennsylvania History to perform in a P.I.A.A. sponsored competition! Go Valley!!

IAN O’CONNOR AND ZACH MALORGIO AMONG LEAGUE LEADERS IN ICE HOCKEY

Ian O’Connor’s 11 goals ranks him 5th in the ICSHL Independent League goal scoring leaders. Teammate Zach Malorgio’s 9 assists has him tied for 5th in the league. The Sun Valley Ice Hockey Club is in 4th place in the league and getting ready for the ICSHL playoffs.