

SPENCER-VAN ETTEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

(November Newsletter) 

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A Message from Dr. Morgan, Superintendent

S-VE Community,

So far, we have had a great start to the school year. All our merged athletic teams with Candor have had great seasons and many new friendships have developed between our schools. One of the coaches took a picture of the athletes, after an out of town game, as the players ate dinner at a fast food restaurant. There was not one table with exclusively S-VE or Candor students; all the students sat together as a team, as friends, as athletes. This is a testimony to the character of our students and the dedication of our coaching staff. For me, this was proof positive that the merger of our athletic teams was a success. Winning is great, but the comradery and friendships formed through the combining of our athletic teams makes me proud and reassures me that the efforts of our students, parents, coaches, athletic directors and administrators were all worthwhile.

Our Building Project is progressing, but not without occasional unforeseen delays. We anticipate the majority of the work to be finished by the end of the month. The most significant improvements include the new music rooms at the middle school, the updated science labs and art room at the high school and the improved fitness/wrestling room at the high school. The cafeteria at the high school has undergone a significant redesign and upgrade. This space was in desperate need for an upgrade and repair as all of the kitchen equipment was original to the building and failing on a regular basis. When the Building Project is completed we will have an Open House that will give the community an opportunity to see the updated facilities.

I would like to extend an invitation for the community to attend the upcoming musical performances listed below:

December 7th - Band Concert for grades 6-12 at the S-VE High School at 7pm

December 14th - Choral Concert for grades 5-12 at the S-VE High School at 7pm

December 21st - Elementary Concert for grades Pre-K - 2 at the S-VE Elementary School at 9am and 1:45pm

January 18th - Elementary Musical for grades 3 & 4 at the S-VE Elementary School at 7pm

Respectfully,

Dr. Joseph Morgan, Superintendent



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Our recently added **Agriculture Program at S-VE**, led by Kaylie Ackerley, has created numerous opportunities for our students, from field experience, to attending conferences and conventions, to future opportunities exposure. S-VE student, Isabella Smith, shown in the middle above, submitted the following article regarding one of the many FFA opportunities she has taken advantage of, specifically, attending the National FFA Convention and Expo in Iowa.

"The FFA (formerly known as the Future Farmers of America) at Spencer-Van Etten has grown so rapidly giving the students, like me, so many new and fun opportunities. The latest trip we have had was the opportunity to go to National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. This convention was held in downtown Indianapolis and used the local stadiums (home of the Indianapolis Colts and the Indiana Pacers), the National FFA center, and filled the sidewalks and closed streets with blue jackets and smiling faces! Students from all fifty states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands represented their states. Some students come to compete in their competitions and some come for the experience of attending leadership workshops, listening to motivational speakers and interacting with potential colleges and employers at the College and Career Expo.

On the way to Indiana, we took a charter bus with five other FFA chapters. We went on tours of a 1,200 milking cow dairy farm in western New York and visited the Cargill feed mill where we learned what ingredients went into livestock feed. We also stopped at an international market store called Jungle Jim's that encompasses 6.5 acres with over 180,000 products being sold each year! The bus ride was great and really forced us to make new friends with students from the other schools as we took turns singing karaoke. When we got to Indianapolis, we visited the convention center where there was a variety of workshops for students and teachers, the biggest college and business expo I have ever seen and sessions where there were always amazing keynote speakers. In between the convention center visits, we had a day of service where we helped clean a local community center and served as tutors for their after school program. Our final two tour stops took us to "Indy Grows", a non-profit urban garden where they reach out to families in need and Conner Prairie-an interactive historical park that showed how our ancestors once lived.

This trip has helped me understand what FFA is all about and how friendly everyone is. It has also influenced my career path and what colleges I am considering attending; I visited with colleges from New York to Utah and found that many of the colleges that were at the National FFA Convention have some great scholarship opportunities and programs. If it was up to me, I would want all of my other classmates to go even if they are not in FFA because it is a fabulous learning opportunity for everyone."

The Capital Improvement Project is on-going and site work is nearly complete. The high school kitchen tile is being installed, as well as the mechanical equipment. The multi-purpose physical education room is nearly completion, with only minimal electric work left along with window installation. The middle school choral and band music suite is progressing with the practice rooms reaching the final stages of completion.

The elementary school boiler has been installed, as well as the high school back up generator. The new maintenance barn is awaiting doors and lighting. Bathroom renovations in all three buildings are finished.

Many other areas have continuing work taking place. To view more pictures of the progress, visit our website at www.svecsd.org/CapitalImprovementProjectProposition.cfm.



Our District Website is continuously updated with the most recent news, pictures, important dates and daily announcements for students and their families. You can also access athletic schedules, community resources, curriculum links and much more! Our newly designed High School Guidance page contains scholarship opportunities, college credit offerings and other resources.

You can also find important announcements on our District Facebook page by liking "Spencer-Van Etten Central School District".

Below are pictures found on our website of the **Middle School Pumpkin Carving and Painting Contest**. Thank you to Walmart in Sayre for donating pumpkins to our MS Art Department.



S-VE Graduates of Distinction originated in 2012 to recognize former graduates for their outstanding lifetime achievements. Each year, the inductees inspire our high school students and guests during our National Honor Society Induction Ceremony.

Our 2016 Inductees, Mr. Bob Fontana, Ms. Eva Koehler, Colonel William Mackie and Mr. Bradley VanRiper, are exemplary citizens who have distinguished themselves in their communities and professions. To read their complete biographies, as well as those of past Graduates of Distinction, go to our website www.svecsd.org/GraduateofDistinction.cfm.

As always, we encourage the community to nominate former graduates! To access the criteria and nomination form, go to our website or stop at the high school for a form.

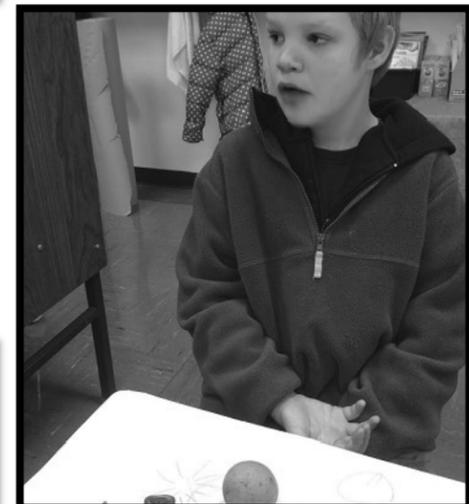
Thank you to Inspire for financially supporting S-VE Graduates of Distinction!



Local artist and retired art teacher, Robert Gillespie, taught a lesson about shapes in nature to a classroom in the elementary school. Students enjoyed a scavenger hunt on the playground, where they found cones (pinecones), spheres (acorns) and cylinders (sticks) which inspired them for their drawings based upon their findings.

Our fall athletic season has ended. Our SVEC Varsity Football season culminated as Class C Sectional runner-up. The SVEC Girls' Cross Country team placed 3rd at the Sectional Championships. The SVEC Varsity Boy and Girls Soccer Teams both achieved the IAC Small School South Division Championship title. S-VE Varsity Volleyball competed in Sectional play as well. The SVEC Boys' Cross Country and S-VE Varsity Field Hockey teams had hard fought seasons.

For the winter season, Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball and Cheerleading will compete under the S-VE Banner. Our Varsity Wrestling team will combine with Candor to compete as SVEC. Full competition schedules are found on our website at www.svecsd.org/sportsschedules.cfm.



The Elementary School houses a **Family Room** program on Tuesdays from 9am-11am when school is in session. The first hour is open play where children birth-school age interact with their friends while parents engage in conversation. The second hour includes story time in the school library, snack and a craft or activity.

This year several new friends have come to the Family Room and we look forward to meeting even more new faces! For more information go to www.svecsd.org/famroom.cfm

