



Orchard Park Central School District Summer 2017 Community Report

Eggert & South Davis Elementary Schools Celebrate Over 10,000 Acts of Kindness

On Monday June 12th, Eggert and South Davis Elementary Schools celebrated completing over 10,000 acts of kindness. More than enough acts of kindness represented on a paper chain to span the 1.9 miles between the two Orchard Park Central School District Elementary Schools.

This year, Eggert Elementary and South Davis Elementary participated in a character education program called Rachel's Challenge. The goal of the character education program is to create a positive and respectful climate and culture within our schools. At the beginning of the school year, both schools held an assembly introducing the students to Rachel Scott and her challenge to reach out to others with deliberate acts of kindness. The program encourages each student and staff member to create a permanent, positive change in themselves, in their school and in their community by creating a "chain reaction" of kindness. The premise being when an individual completes an act of kindness, someone else will see this and decide to complete an act of kindness too, creating a chain reaction. Each time a student completes an act of kindness in the school, at home or in the community, they receive a link to be added to the paper chain the Elementary Schools hang in their hallways.

Eggert and South Davis decided to take it one step further! They decided to challenge themselves to complete enough acts of kindness so that the length of the chains when connected would span the 1.9 miles between the two schools. This required 8,976 acts of kindness to be completed this school year, which they have exceeded!

Representatives from Rachel's Challenge recognized the students at both Eggert and South Davis Elementary during the school day on Monday June 12th, at the HUB, 4999 McKinley Pkwy in Hamburg. The celebration was attended by students and staff at both elementary schools, the Sabre Tooth and Billy Buffalo!

The mission of Rachel's Challenge is to equip and empower adults and students to sustain a positive culture change in their organizations and communities by starting a chain reaction of kindness and compassion; based on the life and writings of Rachel Scott, the first person killed in the Columbine High School shootings on April 20, 1999. Since its inception, over 23 million people have heard Rachel's story in live settings worldwide.

Because of the exciting accomplishments of Eggert and South Davis Elementary, the Rachel's Challenge organization decided



Eggert and South Davis students and staff are pictured at the Wesleyan Church of Hamburg's HUB. Everyone held the chain representing over 10,000 acts of kindness while singing Bruno Mars "Count on Me".

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Orchard Park Middle School Students Hold Drug Awareness Week

Orchard Park Middle School students led the charge in planning a drug awareness week at the Middle School May 14th-20th. Sixth grade students Sydney Curtin & Shelby Provorse attended a field trip to a drug awareness conference hosted by Kids Escaping Drugs. There they heard someone share the story of their drug addiction. The girls were motivated by this to create more awareness within their own school about the risks of drugs. In preparation for the drug awareness week they created commercials on the morning announcements. They also had

students throughout the school complete an activity during their Olweus sessions. Students received factual information about drugs. They then wrote the fact they found most interesting on a sign in the shape of a hand. Sixth grade students wrote their facts on a thumbs up sign, Sydney Curtin & Shelby Provorse are pictured with members of seventh grade students art club and the drug free poster they designed and put together.



Sydney Curtin & Shelby Provorse are pictured with members of seventh grade students art club and the drug free poster they designed and put together.

wrote their facts on an okay sign and eighth

grade students wrote their facts on a peace sign. After all of the hand signs were created the girls with the help of some of the art teachers and members of art club put together a Drug Free poster. During the drug awareness week students wore red Monday through Thursday. On Friday they wore tie dye to tie down drugs. These sixth grade students did an impressive job creating more drug awareness at the Orchard Park Middle School.

Eggert Students Celebrate Earth Day

Mrs. Alicia Matesic's and Mrs. Dana Riddoch's classes joined together for a few Earth friendly activities throughout the year. In November as part of their science unit



Mrs. Matesic & Mrs. Riddoch's classes are pictured after digging up the jack-o-lantern they buried in the fall. They were able to see what kinds of items decomposed and what stayed in the ground.

the classes had packed a jack-o-lantern with both decomposable and non-decomposable materials, and then buried the pumpkin in the courtyard. Around Earth Day, they dug it back up. The students were able to see that what they put into the earth matters. The pumpkin, food and paper scraps had decomposed but the plastic, cans, and wrappers were still there. The students also cleaned up Eggert Elementary's courtyard to celebrate Earth Day. The students raked and bagged leaves, pulled weeds, placed mulch, and picked up any litter. This was a great way for the students to learn the importance of keeping the planet clean.

Upcoming Kindergarten Bus Rides



Jocelyn Vasquez an Eggert Elementary student looks both ways before getting off the bus during her kindergarten bus ride last summer!

Incoming Kindergarten students will have an opportunity to experience riding on a school bus prior to the first day of school. Orchard Park bus drivers will take students on a short ride and talk to them about safely riding the school bus.

The bus rides will be held at the Orchard Park Central School District Transportation Department, 2240 Southwestern Blvd. They will be held Monday August 7th through Friday August 11th. The rides will start at 10 a.m. each day and continue every half hour until 12 p.m.

This will be the only opportunity for your child to experience the bus ride prior to the school year beginning. No need to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact the Transportation Department at 209-6237.



Isabella Vaccaro is all smiles during her kindergarten bus ride.

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to send representative Chris Mowry back to Orchard Park both to celebrate with Eggert and South Davis Elementary Schools and to provide the Orchard Park Community with a Rachel's Challenge Community Event free of charge.

The community event was held at the Orchard Park High School Auditorium the evening of Monday June 12th. There Mowry spoke to the community about what really happened at the Columbine High School shooting and how Rachel's Challenge began. He spoke about the inspiring life that Rachel Scott led. It was an extremely moving presentation that made the audience members really think about how you live your life and the way you treat others.

The Orchard Park Central School District was thrilled that Rachel's Challenge was able to come to Orchard Park to continue to spread the chain reaction of kindness.



The Sabre Tooth is pictured hi-fiving South Davis Elementary students as they entered the HUB for the Rachel's Challenge Celebration on Monday June 12th.

Congratulations Tenure Recipients and Retirees!

Annually the District hosts a retirement and tenure reception. This year it was held at the District Office on June 13th. Superintendent McGarrity and Assistant Superintendent Lilleck both spoke about the experience of the District's retirees and the significance of receiving tenure. Administrators each had an opportunity to speak about the retirees from their school buildings or departments. Each spoke about the significant impact they have made and how much they will be missed. The 2017 retirees had over 539 years of experience within the Orchard Park Central School District.

Pictured to the right are the tenure recipients who were able to attend the ceremony on Tuesday, June 13th.



Pictured to the left are the 2017 retirees who were able to attend the ceremony on Tuesday, June 13th. The retirees had over 539 years of experience within the Orchard Park Central School District.

News In Athletics



On June 13th three Orchard Park High School seniors signed their letters of intent to play their sports at the college level. Brittany Dycha will be running Cross Country at Seton Hall, Paul Hackford will be playing Volleyball at St. John Fisher and Leah Wardner will be running Track and Field and Cross Country at Canisius College.

Brittany began running Cross Country during her senior year of high school. She ran track throughout high school and tried Cross Country her senior year. She loves that it gives her the opportunity to always compete with herself and continuously work toward new personal records. She chose to attend Seton Hall University because the school meets all of her needs and has a great Occupational Therapy program. Brittany hopes to make a difference in peoples lives with a degree in Occupational Therapy.

Paul has been playing Volleyball for 6 years. He plays for both Orchard Park Volleyball and Southtowns Volleyball Club. He loves the teamwork involved in the game. He is looking forward to attending St. John Fisher College where they are starting a new Division 3 Volleyball Team. He selected St. John Fisher College because of the high academic standards, the Christian environment and the opportunity to continue playing Volleyball. Paul plans to major in Chemistry and possibly become a pharmacist or a chemical engineer in the future.

Leah will be on both the Cross Country and Track and Field teams at Canisius College. Leah began running competitively on the Orchard Park Middle School Modified Cross Country and Track & Field teams. While in high school Leah swam in the fall but participated in Track and Field in the spring. She was honored to be named overall Team MVP in her senior year for Track and Field. Leah plans to study Accounting at Canisius and she has been accepted into the All-College Honors Program. Leah hopes to make Western NewYork her home in the future, and plans to leverage her academic experience at one of the region's top-rated accounting programs in her professional career.

Images From Around the District



The 2017 girls Varsity Softball team is pictured before their first game on the new Varsity Softball Diamond.



Ellicott fifth grade students raise the flag at the beginning of Ellicott's Flag Day Assembly.



The Buffalo Bills came to Windom Elementary's 5th grade field day. This was possible because students at Windom Elementary participated in the Play60 program and with the help of physical education teacher, Mrs. Lewandowski, logged their exercise. Windom had one of the highest participation levels from all the schools that were involved!



Mrs. Giza's third grade students at South Davis Elementary posed for a picture while they were performing their play The Rumpus in the Rain Forest.



Photo courtesy of Maria Marinaccio

Seniors at Orchard Park High School experienced a simulation of a tragic car accident and witness the consequences of driving while impaired the day before the prom. Pictured are drama club students that participated in the simulation.

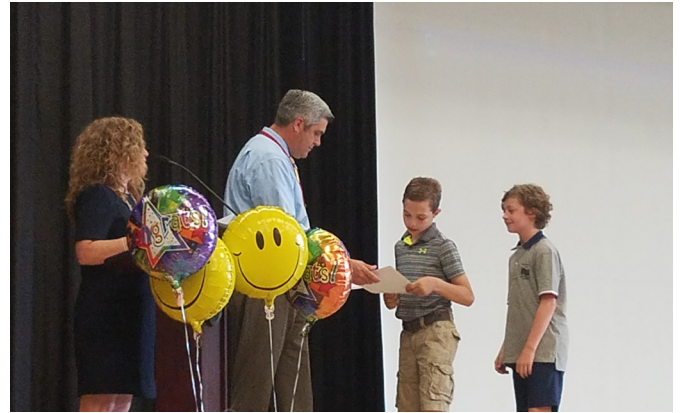


First graders at Ellicott Elementary are pictured picking out some summer reading material at Ellicott's 3rd annual book swap.

Images From Around the District



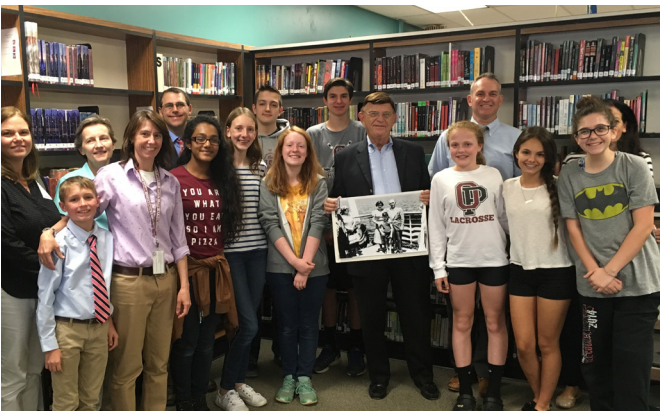
Mrs. Hanlon's class at Windom Elementary had a Career Day in June. Pictured to the left is Molly Lynch and her father Kevin Lynch, who is a Buffalo Firefighter. Mrs. Hanlon's class was also visited by a mental health counselor, a plumber, a chiropractor and several other local professionals.



Mr. Pietrantone and Mrs. Vivian passed out certificates to Dennis Choroser and Owen Conley at Ellicott's fifth grade moving up day ceremony.



Eighth grade students posed for a picture outside of the Orchard Park Middle School on Friday June 2nd during the 2nd annual Eighth Grade Daybreak celebration.



Dr. Sol Messigner visited eighth grade students at the Orchard Park Middle School this spring. He spoke to students about his perspective as a child during the Holocaust and the experience that his family faced. A few eighth grade students had the opportunity to meet with him at a reception in the Middle School library after he spoke. This visit was made possible by the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.

Ellicott Elementary music teacher, Patricia Singer Miller was presented with a plaque from the music department for her years of service at Ellicott Elementary School she is pictured with Mr. Alan Reed and Mrs. Tami Feldman.



Orchard Park Central Schools Board of Education

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ArtSplash 2017



Artwork by: Ava Bruce
South Davis Elementary



Artwork by: Emily Andruczyk
Orchard Park High School



Artwork by: Estelle Azurin
Ellicott Elementary



Artwork by: Mara Gregorie
Orchard Park Middle School



Artwork by: Meghan Mock
Eggert Elementary



Artwork by: Joy Leckel
Windom Elementary

This year ArtSplash the district-wide art exhibit, was held from May 19th to May 30th at the Orchard Park Public Library. ArtSplash provides an opportunity for our students in elementary, middle and high school to showcase their talents and passion for creativity. It is a true collaboration between the school district and the community. Displayed above are some of the impressive pieces of artwork shown at ArtSplash.

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