



# Orchard Park Central School District Spring 2017 Community Report

## Community Members Visit South Davis Students

Second grade students at South Davis Elementary recently had some visitors from the community. In Mrs. Melissa Vuich's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class the students have been learning about nonfiction. Mrs. Vuich invited several community members to speak to her students about how they use nonfiction in their jobs.

The class had three different presentations where the students were able to learn about a community job and how each visitor uses nonfiction reading within their daily lives. The students were very interested and it aided them in their own nonfiction research which they presented as part of an end to the unit "Nonfiction Celebration." Lt. Patrick Fitzgerald from the Orchard Park Police Department, Ms. Heather Waldman a Channel 2 Meteorologist and Ms. Kathryn Gordon owner of "Homegrown Bistro" in the village of Orchard Park were able to come in and speak to the students.

Officer Fitzgerald read his favorite nonfiction book, talked about the various signs, accident reports, community reports, and instructions for safety that he reads daily. He answered many questions and explained his uniform. He appointed Mrs. Vuich's class Junior Police Officers and the students were very excited about that!

Ms. Waldman answered questions about what nonfiction she reads, she demonstrated a science experiment by showing the students how to make a cloud and she even showed the class how the green screen works!

Ms. Kathryn Gordon brought in menus, recipes, and different food labels to read. She explained the different parts of her business and how nonfiction helps her run her restaurant. She brought in freshly baked muffins for each child and the recipe to take home.

Each presentation was unique and very informative. This was an excellent opportunity for the Orchard Park Central School District and our community to collaborate to enhance curriculum and learning for Orchard Park students.



*Ms. Kathryn Gordon is pictured with Mrs. Vuich's class. She brought in menus, recipes, and different food labels to read. She explained the different parts of the business and how nonfiction helps her run her restaurant.*

## Safety Event To Be Held June 2<sup>nd</sup>

The morning of June 2<sup>nd</sup> Orchard Park High School seniors will attend a Safety Assembly and they will experience a simulation of a tragic car accident and witness firsthand the consequences both physical and emotional of driving while impaired. Student actors from the senior class will be used for the re-enactment.

This is truly a community event. It involves the Orchard Park Police, volunteers from the Orchard Park Fire Halls, and Emergency Medical Service personnel. It is a full scale re-enactment and is utilized as a major drill for the local police and fire department, including Mercy Flight. There will be a lot of noise associated with the simulation please be aware that it is just part of the simulation.

The event is in keeping with the mission of the Orchard Park Community to keep kids safe.

# Cancer Awareness Club Officers Prepare Meal for Residents of Kevin Guest House

In January officers of the Cancer Awareness Club went to the Kevin Guest House in Buffalo to provide dinner for the patients and their families staying at the residence while receiving treatment at Roswell and other area hospitals.



*Gina Metauro, Leah Egloff, Delanie Suto and Mandy McDonough are pictured waiting for guests to arrive for dinner at the Kevin Guest House.*

The students did the cooking, serving and cleaning up of the meal. They planned the menu and supplied all of the food for the meal of meatball subs and salad, with the exception of the meatballs that were generously donated by Rosina Food Products. The students were able to sit down and eat dinner with the residents and talk to them about their cancer journeys, treatment and life in general. Club advisor, Amanda Quinn stated, "It was a truly emotional and meaningful experience for all."

The Kevin Guest House was America's first healthcare hospitality house. Its mission is providing a comfortable and supportive home away from home for patients and their families. To date the Kevin Guest House has had over 53,000 guests including guests from 49 states, Canada and eleven other countries.

## Ellicott Student Wins Chess Competition!



*Ellicott Elementary student and chess champion Ryan Pearl, proudly receives his trophy from Mr. McDuffie, who officiated the tournament.*

The U.S. Chess Federation held a sanctioned tournament in the Main Place Mall in downtown Buffalo in December. There were both adult and scholastic categories. Ellicott Elementary third grade student Ryan Pearl competed in five matches that day, and won the championship in his category; grades 1 to 4. The U.S. Chess Federation representative for Western NY, Mr. McDuffie, was officiating and presented Ryan with the first place trophy. Ryan began playing chess in kindergarten and continues to study chess intensively. He gets true enjoyment out of the game.

## Windom Celebrates Law Enforcement Appreciation Day



*Officer Kristen Mazur "high fives" Kindergarten students at Windom Elementary.*

Students at Windom Elementary celebrated Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in January.

Officers from all of the stations who service Windom families and neighborhoods were invited, as were students' family members who work in law enforcement so they could be thanked and honored.

The officers were presented with songs and letters from all of the students at Windom Elementary. Student council hosted the event and prepared coffee and treats for the officers.

### Follow Us On Facebook and Twitter!

Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/OPCSD](http://www.facebook.com/OPCSD) or follow us on Twitter @OPSchools.

### Over 60 Call For Your Gold Card Today!

Gold Cards entitle district residents age 60 and over to half-price admission to district-sponsored events such as plays, musicals, operettas and home games. If you or someone you know is 60 or older and is interested in obtaining a Gold Card, please call 209-6222.



# Authors Visit Schools Throughout the District

This spring all four Orchard Park elementary schools had the wonderful experience of having visiting authors come in and talk to the elementary students. Author Jerry Pallotta visited Eggert Elementary on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Author and poet Amy Ludwig VanDerwater visited South Davis Elementary on Monday and Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Author Kelly DiPuccio visited students at Windom Elementary on Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday April 19<sup>th</sup>. Both authors Heather Harris and Matt Chandler visited Ellicott Elementary the week of April 24-28<sup>th</sup>. The author visits were sponsored by each buildings PTO and the Orchard Park Foundation for Academic Excellence.



*Above Kelly DiPuccio is pictured reading one of her books to kindergarten students at Windom Elementary during her visit.*



*Matt Chandler collaborates with Ellicott Elementary third grade students in Miss Stegemann's classroom to come up with a story-line.*



*Above Amy Ludwig VanDerwater presents to students at South Davis Elementary on Monday and Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.*



*Author Jerry Pallotta poses with Mrs. Clothier's Kindergarten students during his visit to Eggert Elementary on April 4<sup>th</sup>.*

## Model United Nations Success

This year's Model United Nations team has had amazing success. In October, the team participated in the 38<sup>th</sup> annual high school MUN conference hosted at Canisius College. The Orchard Park team was honored to win the best overall performance by a school as well as earning the best delegation award in the Security Council 1, 2 and 3, and in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Human Rights Council.

In March the team competed at the University of Buffalo, International Institute MUN. The team received individual awards for best delegation in four out of the seven committees with many students earning individual awards of distinction. Emily Zhang was also awarded Best Resolution of the conference for her resolution on the South China Sea Territorial Dispute. The team also earned an award for most resolutions of quality submitted to the conference. Last but certainly not least the Somalia team won 5<sup>th</sup> place and our Japan team won best delegation of the conference.



*Pictured above is the Japan team who won the best delegation at the University of Buffalo, International Institute MUN.*

# News In Athletics

Six Orchard Park High School seniors recently signed their national letters of intent to play their sports at the college level. The seniors signed their letters at several signing ceremonies this spring.

Zach Blodgett signed his letter of intent on Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> at a signing ceremony at the Orchard Park Central School District Offices. Zach will be playing soccer at St. Francis College next year. He has been playing soccer since he was four-years old. Zach loves how competitive the sport is and how continuously active each player is during practice and games. He chose to go to Saint Francis College because he felt he could thrive academically and his soccer skill set fit perfectly there.



*Zach Blodgett signed his letter of intent to play Soccer at St. Francis College on April 4<sup>th</sup> at a signing ceremony at the Orchard Park Central*

*softball at Nazareth.*

On Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Josh Blake, Alec Hoch, Colden Hollins and Dan Kubik signed their letters of intent at a signing ceremony at the Orchard Park Central School District Offices.

Josh Blake plans to swim at Canisius College next year. He has been swimming for about nine years. Josh love the competitive nature of the sport. He chose to attend Canisius College first for the schooling and great education programs and second because they have a great swim team with a very positive mentality.

Alec Hoch plans to swim at Eastern Michigan University next year. Alec has been swimming for 15 years and is hoping to continue to improve his speed while attending Eastern Michigan University. Alec enjoys the competitive atmosphere of the sport. He chose Eastern Michigan because the swim team is very successful and the school had the great atmosphere that Alec was looking for. Alec plans to major in Physical Education with a Minor in Coaching.

Colden Hollins will be playing baseball at Canisius College. Colden has been playing baseball for 14 years and next year he



*On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 Alec Hoch, Josh Blake, Dan Kubik and Colden Hollins signed their letters of intent at a signing ceremony at the Orchard Park Central School District Offices.*

looks forward to playing at Canisius. He elected to attend Canisius College because it is a great school and has a great baseball program.



*Marissa Drees signed her letter of intent to play softball at Nazareth College on Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup> at a signing ceremony held at the Orchard Park High School.*

Dan Kubik plans to play football at the University at Buffalo next year. Dan began playing modified football in seventh grade and loves being a part of the game of football. He always encourages his teammates to do their best. Dan's love of the game made it easy to choose a college where he could continue to play football. Dan felt that The University at Buffalo was the best choice for him. The UB Bulls Football program and coaches are top notch, treating players with respect and encouraging



# Freshman Boost Classes Kick off the “Heads Up” Program

During the 2016-17 school year a program called “Heads Up” was introduced to freshmen at Orchard Park High School. The program is a collaboration between the Orchard Park Foundation for Academic Excellence, Bryant & Stratton College, Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce and the Great Erie Federal Credit Union.



*Ninth grade students in Mrs. Julie Bastedo's Freshman Boost class practice shaking hands as part of the “Heads Up” program.*

The “Heads Up” title comes from the desire to get people, specifically students, out of their devices and into the present. The programs' training focuses on soft skills. The first session, which occurred during Freshman Boost classes in December, focused on how to introduce yourself to someone, including a handshake, eye contact and saying your name as well as repeating the other person's name. Then time was spent on how to ask someone you just met an open ended question in order to stimulate conversation. Practice was provided in each session.

Eleven volunteers facilitated the sessions. They were local young professionals which were recruited from Leadership

Buffalo and UB's Young Entrepreneur's program. They held 30 sessions with the freshmen.

This program will continue in the sophomore, junior and senior years for Orchard Park High School students. The next sessions will focus on Inclusion and Verbal and Non-verbal Communication.

## 2016-2017 Calendar Changes

The Board of Education has approved the following changes to the 2016-17 school calendar in order to account for the four snow/emergency closing days district-wide and one additional day for South Davis Elementary (September 16, 2016).

- Friday, May 26 - will be a half-day for K-8 students (MS dismissal at 10:30 a.m. and Elementary dismissal at 11:30 a.m.).
- Friday, May 26 - will be an early dismissal for high school students (dismissal at 12:45 p.m.)
- Friday, June 16 - will be a half-day for all elementary students (dismissal at 11:30 a.m.).
- Tuesday, June 20 - will be a full day of attendance for all elementary students. This will be the last day of attendance for Eggert, Ellicott and Windom students.
- Wednesday, June 21 - will be a full day of attendance for South Davis students and this will be the last day of attendance for South Davis students.

## Images From Around the District



*Kayleigh Patterson & Kaitlyn Graesser, fifth grade students at Windom Elementary are pictured above doing a “Cocoa for Kids” fundraiser in January. The students made hot chocolate and served them with marshmallows and whipped cream to students during their lunch for \$1 each. The proceeds went to the Salvation Army.*



*February was Heart Health Awareness Month and the week of February 7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> was specifically designated Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week. South Davis faculty and staff, coordinated by the South Davis Wellness Committee, collected numerous household and food donations, along with \$250 of Target gift cards, for the Ronald McDonald House at Strong Memorial Hospital in memory of Baby Grace Tundo. Ronald McDonald House provides a “home away from home” allowing families to stay close to their children, providing love and support, while focusing on their medical care. The South Davis family is grateful for their work in making a difference in the lives of so many families.*



# Performances Throughout the District



Orchard Park High School students performed *Into The Woods* on March 16<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>. The show was a modern day retelling of some well-known fairy tale characters seeking fulfillment in their lives. They are sent into the woods where their characters and stories intersect.



Fifth grade students at Eggert Elementary performed *Annie Kids* on Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup>.



Students at Windom Elementary performed *Dr. Dolittle* on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.



South Davis students performed *The Magic Tree House Kids The Knight at Dawn* on Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup>.



Ellicott Elementary students performed *Cinderella Kids* on Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Pictured to the right the leads in *Shrek the Musical Junior*, take a break from rehearsal to pose for a picture. On the far right Matt Baksa and Breanna Tottaro are pictured rehearsing their roles as Shrek and Princess Fiona. *Shrek the Musical Junior* was performed at OPMS at the end of March.





## OPHS Student Wins Global Citizen Scholarship

Karlin Klass, a junior at Orchard Park High School, has gained much deserved recognition with her essay, "The F.O.O.D. Initiative." This essay proposes a unique and creative solution to both food waste and world hunger. Klass was among 17 recipients out of hundreds of contestants awarded the Global Citizen Scholarship, which includes a 12-day trip to Europe that ends in Milan, Italy.



*Pictured is Karlin Klass, a junior at Orchard Park High School.*

The main ideas behind Klass's initiative come from her personal experience on a cruise ship, where she was disgusted by the amount of unnecessary food waste. She provides startling food waste statistics in her essay, including the fact that "Roughly one third of the food produced in the world... every year-approximately 1.3 billion tons- gets lost or wasted." Klass also points out that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations claims that "even if just one-fourth of the food currently lost or wasted globally could be saved, it would be enough to feed 870 million hungry people in the world." This being said, Klass recognizes the irony that the same organization found that 795 million people don't get

enough food to be healthy- a lesser number than the amount that could potentially be fed by our wasted food.

The main crux of Klass's paper is her solution. She acknowledges that we cannot feed human beings on food waste, so it is necessary to utilize this food waste to make edible food. Klass proposes that food waste from cruise ships, hotels, universities, and food manufacturers be transported to a place to be made into compost. This compost would then be given, free of charge, to organic farmers around the world. These farmers would be required to have just one acre dedicated to using this compost to grow food for the hungry. In this way, everyone benefits- food waste is not simply thrown out, farmers receive much needed fertile soil, and most importantly, those who are hungry receive food. "I'm not saying that this is the end-all-be-all of food waste and eventually hunger," Klass states, "but I'm saying it's a step in the right direction; and if I believe that, why couldn't anyone else?"

## Professional Development In Action



*Pictured above are teachers learning about and making math tools for hands on learning at the March Superintendent's Conference Day.*



*Eileen Ryan, math coach from Williamsville is pictured working with Orchard Park Kindergarten teachers on numeracy as part of the District's Professional Development for the year.*

## Wrestlers Hold "TakeDown" Cancer Event

The Orchard Park wrestling teams partnered with Williamsville South wrestlers to hold a 'takedown' cancer wrestling match to benefit Carly's Club.

Orchard Park Varsity Wrestling Coach Jared Teal coordinated the event with the Williamsville South Billies. The match was held on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. The modified wrestlers competed at 5 p.m. and Varsity competed at 6 p.m. At the event donations were taken at the door, there was a 50/50 raffle and t-shirts were sold. Donations were also accepted online. All proceeds went to Carly's Club in order to benefit children battling cancer and support pediatric cancer research.

The teams raised over \$1,000 and hope to make the event even bigger next year.



*The modified wrestling team is pictured above at the "TakeDown" Cancer Event.*



## Images From Around the District



*Eggert's second grade performed the "Three Piggy Opera: on Monday, April 3rd. Mrs. Russo's, Mrs. Ast's and Mrs. Noe's class all participated in singing and learning about the parts of an opera -- from overture to finale. The mini-musical was led by music teacher, Mrs. Rachelle Francis.*



*On Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> the Orchard Park Teachers Association and the Orchard Park School Related Professionals combined their efforts to provide their annual Valentine Cookies for senior citizens & public servants.*

*Over 90 OPTA and OPSRP members participated in this event baking over 2,600 cookies that they delivered to Eggert Elementary School. Volunteers then arranged and wrapped 31 trays of cookies that were delivered to 10 different senior and public service facilities throughout Orchard Park.*

## DECA Competes In Anaheim



*The thirteen students who traveled to Anaheim California to compete at the International Career Development Conference and Competition are pictured above. In the top row are Alex Hellert, Karlin Klass, Jenna Probst, Joe Ables, Emily Henrich Tim Allaire and Tanner Probst. In the front row are Carly Spitz, Emily Zhang, Elizabeth Conforti, Emily Piscitelli, Megan Filipiski, and Jordan O'Brien.*

Thirteen students from the Orchard Park High School chapter of DECA were among 19,000 students and advisors from across the globe that attended the International Career Development Conference and Competition in Anaheim, California April 25<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>. They competed in various business-related contests, including Travel & Tourism, Human Resources, Accounting, Marketing, Hospitality Services, Sports Promotion and Professional Selling. Three of these outstanding students brought home awards for the Quakers; Tanner Probst and Emily Zhang earned Top 10 honors for their comprehensive exams, and teammates Emily Henrich and Tanner Probst won Second Place in their event Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making.



*Pictured above are Emily Henrich, Tanner Probst and Emily Zhang. Tanner Probst and Emily Zhang earned Top 10 Honors for their comprehensive exams. Teammates Emily Henrich and Tanner Probst won second place in their event.*

While the group was in Anaheim they competed and attended leadership workshops at the conference. They also had the opportunity to visit the Santa Monica Pier and Disneyland.

In addition to outstanding competition results in Anaheim, earlier this year two Orchard Park students were elected to serve as New York DECA State Officers for the upcoming school year. Karlin Klass, was elected Executive Vice-President and Jordan O'Brien was elected Vice-President of Communications.



## Spanish NHS Raises Funds for Tabby Town



*Spanish National Honor Society officers and advisor Cynthia Zdjelar presented Cheryl Ludwig at Tabby Town with a check for \$300.*

The Spanish National Honor Society from Orchard Park High School raised \$300.00 for Tabby Town by selling cat cut outs to students during lunch periods for \$1 each. Tabby Town, a division of Friends for Felines, Inc., was formed specifically to increase successful cat and kitten adoptions throughout WNY while bringing rescued cats closer to the public through the creation of its adoption center. Tabby Town is located in the McKinley Mall in Hamburg near Sears and is always appreciative of any donations for these lovable cats. Tabby Town supports local animal shelters by accepting cats and kittens from them whenever they are at capacity, so every cat you adopt helps save a life and helps our community rescue partners directly.

The officers of Spanish National Honor Society along with advisor Cynthia Zdjelar brought the donation to Tabby Town's co-founder Cheryl Ludwig at Tabby Town to help pay for some of the costs to care for a new litters of kittens and their moms being fostered by Tabby Town.

## Upcoming Events

### May

- 23...MS Spring Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.
- 25...HS Underclass Awards Night
- 26...K-8 Half-Day, MS students dismiss at 10:30 a.m. Elementary students dismiss at 11:30 a.m.
- 26...HS Early Dismissal, HS students dismiss at 12:45 p.m.
- 29...Memorial Day – No School

### June

- 1...District Showcase Concert, 6:45 p.m.
- 1...SD PTO Meeting, 10 a.m.
- 1...WE PTO Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 2...HS Senior Picnic
- 2...MS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- 2...MS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Daybreak
- 3...HS Senior Prom
- 5...NYS Science Written Test
- 7...HS Last Day of Classes
- 7...EG PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 8-12...HS Local Exams
- 9...CCPTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- 10...ACT at OPHS
- 13...Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13-22...HS Regents Exams
- 14-20...MS Exams
- 16... Elementary Half-Day, 11:30 a.m.
- 16...HS Senior Banquet
- 20...Last Middle School Student Day
- 19 & 20...Elementary Full-Days
- 20...Last Elementary Student Day for Eggert, Ellicott and Windom students
- 21...Last Elementary Student Day for South Davis students
- 22...Baccalaureate Service
- 24...HS Graduation at Kleinhans, 2 p.m.
- 26...Summer Community Education Classes Begin

### Orchard Park Central Schools

#### Board of Education

Orchard Park, New York 14127

Editor: Julianne Becker

[www.opschools.org](http://www.opschools.org)

## Fourth Grade Students At Eggert Participate in “Escape Room” Style Lesson



*Pictured Top: Students in Mrs. Croft's class at Eggert pose for a picture after successfully breaking out.*

*Pictured Bottom: Technology Coach Nicole Holler works with the fourth graders to help them solve the puzzles.*

Eggert Elementary librarian Kerra Trivieri worked with literacy coach Brian Sepe and technology coach Nicole Holler to implement a Breakout EDU “Escape Room” style lesson with a Star Wars theme for fourth graders in Mrs. Kelly Croft's class. The students were in two separate groups and had to work together with their team to think critically and solve multiple puzzles. The students had to figure out the combination of six different locks and then find a key to open the final box and break out! The students did a fantastic job using teamwork and collaboration during this activity.