



ORCHARD PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY REPORT

Spring 2016

Two OPHS Seniors Selected to Perform with US Navy Band

In This Issue....

- Page 1..... OPHS Seniors
Perform with US
Navy Band
- Page 2..... Superintendent's
Column
- Page 3..... M.S. Teacher Wins
Award
- Page 5..... Horizons Visits
M.S. Health Classes
- Page 5..... Eggert Donates
To Journey's End
Refugee Services
- Page 6..... Teacher from Brazil
Visits South Davis
- Page 7..... A Word From The
Board President
- Page 7.... Petitions for BOE
Candidates
- Page 8..... Recent
Performances
- Page 9..... Images from
Around the District
- Page 10.. Increase in AP
Performance



*Pictured is Kirsten Dean
with her French horn*



*Pictured is Tyler Tanevski
with his trombone*

Two Orchard Park High School band students, Kirsten Dean and Tyler Tanevski, were invited to play with the US Navy Band at their performance at Shea's Theater on Tuesday, March 1st. They played alongside the Navy band members in their rendition of John Philip Sousa's "The Washington Post March." Kirsten and Tyler were two of only ten students in Western, NY selected for this honor.

The United States Navy Concert Band, the premier wind ensemble of the U.S. Navy, presents a wide array of marches, patriotic selections, orchestral transcriptions and modern wind ensemble repertoire. As the original ensemble of the Navy Band, the Concert Band has been performing public concerts and participating in high-profile events for over 85 years.

In addition to national concert

tours and an extensive local concert season, the Concert Band has been featured internationally at military tattoos (concerts) and festivals in Oslo, Stockholm and Quebec City. In 1996, the band was honored to participate in the 300th Anniversary of the Russian Fleet in St. Petersburg and in

The Baltic International Festival of the Fleets in Kaliningrad, Russia. Recognized as one of the finest wind ensembles in the world, the Concert Band is in constant demand by the nation's foremost musical education organizations, such as the American Bandmasters Association and The Midwest Clinic.

Both of these students are seniors in the Orchard Park High School Wind Ensemble. They were selected based on their high level of musical proficiency and their four year musical contributions to the school's band program.

Kirsten is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Sam Dean. She will be studying Biomedical Sciences in the Honors College at the University at Buffalo in the fall. Tyler is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Tanevski. He will be studying Biology in the fall.

2015-2016 Elementary School Calendar Changes

Elementary students will now be in attendance for a full-day on Monday, June 20, 2016. The last elementary day will be Tuesday, June 21, 2016 and it will be a half-day with dismissal at 11:30 a.m.



Superintendent's Column

*By Matthew McGarrity
Superintendent of Schools*

As we return from the spring recess, we are continuing to work on the budget for the 2016-17 school year. We did receive an on time budget from New York State on April 1st. This will aid us in our planning and will help us to finalize our proposed budget for the 2016-2017 school year.

Public voting on the budget is held the third Tuesday in May which is Tuesday, May 17, 2016, from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Orchard Park High School. For easy access to the gymnasium, voters are asked to use the Freeman Road entrance.

I would also like to note that the Capital Improvement Project accepted by voters on December 1, 2014 has been approved by the New York State Education Department. Originally the State informed the district it would take 28 weeks for approval but with the State's backlog of projects and engineering shortage, it took more than 40 weeks. Work is anticipated to begin this spring.

The Board of Education recently adopted the 2016-17 District Calendar at the meeting on held on March 29th. The calendar is available on the District website www.opschools.org. The first day of school for the 2016-17 school year will be Tuesday, September 6th.

I know that at this time of year, especially with the Spring Recess being a little bit early, it feels like we have a long stretch ahead of us. I look forward to all of the great things we have coming up in the months ahead. We have many concerts and excellent musical performances. ArtSplash, the district-wide art show will be held at a new location this year, the Orchard Park Library, on Friday, May 13th. Elementary field days are always fun and exciting at the Elementary level. I personally always look forward to the graduation ceremony and talking to our graduating seniors about their plans as they move on to the next step in their lives.

As always, thank you for your support of our District.

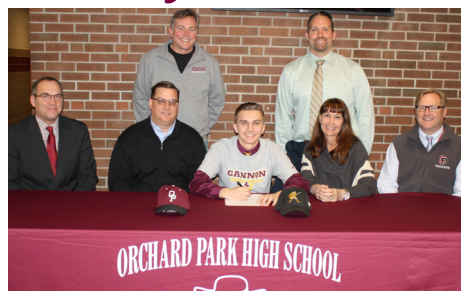
DECA Update



Board of Education Member Dr. Christine Gray-Tinnesz acts as a practice judge for Emily Piscitelli and Allison Dolce as they rehearse for the DECA competition in Rochester.

Thirty-nine students from Orchard Park High School DECA attended the New York DECA state competition in Rochester, NY from March 9-11. They competed in various business-related contests, including marketing, finance, entrepreneurship, accounting, hospitality and human resources. Thirteen of these outstanding students qualified to represent Orchard Park DECA at the National Competition in Nashville, Tennessee next month.

Senior, Brandon Weber, Signs National Letter of Intent



Pictured, Brandon Weber, signs his letter of intent with his parents by his side. Baseball Coach, Jim Gibson, and several Orchard Park Administrators also attended.

Orchard Park senior, Brandon Weber has signed his letter of intent to play baseball at Gannon University. He signed his letter of intent on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at a signing ceremony at the Orchard Park High School.

Brandon has been playing baseball for 14 years. He began playing in a program called Smart Start through the Hamburg Recreation Center and since has played for Orchard Park Little League, many different travel teams, Orchard Park High School JV and Varsity baseball teams and for Full Circuit Powerhouse.

Brandon enjoys the competitiveness of baseball. He loves pitching. When he is on the mound, nothing else matters. He believes he is successful in baseball because of his ability to stay focused and to mentally stay in the game. He chose to continue to play in college because of his love and passion for the sport.

Brandon chose to continue his baseball career at Gannon University next year. He felt that Gannon had a great balance between academics and baseball and that it would be the right place for him. While there, Brandon plans to major in Sports Management. He hopes to have a career in baseball and someday own his own facility and teach the sport he loves to others.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten Deadline Quickly Approaching

Applications for Universal Pre-Kindergarten are currently being accepted for the 2016-2017 school year. In order to participate in the UPK program children must reside in the Orchard Park Central School District attendance area, and be four years old by December 1st of the year they start the program. The Orchard Park Central School District is able to offer the Universal Pre-Kindergarten program through a grant provided by the New York State Education Department. This grant covers the cost of the program, but does not cover transportation. It is the responsibility of each family to transport their child to the Universal Pre-Kindergarten site.

There are a designated number of Universal Pre-Kindergarten spots available. If more apply than there are openings, there will be a "lottery" to determine who will be able to attend. Children are randomly selected for the program. Selection is not based on academic or economic need. All children are equally eligible for participation.

The Orchard Park UPK program is not housed in the Orchard Park Elementary School buildings. The Orchard Park Central School District partners with local preschools as community-based preschool UPK sites.

Families who apply for Orchard Park's UPK program will be asked to provide their preschool site preference. We attempt to accommodate families' first or second choice whenever possible.

UPK applications are due by April 1, 2016. The following documents are required when submitting your UPK application: completed Registration Form, completed Home Language Questionnaire, NYS Medical Statement of Child in Childcare, proof of residency (two recent, valid forms are necessary), Parent/Guardian driver's license, birth certificate, and vaccination records for your child. These forms may be downloaded from the district's website (www.opschools.org), picked up at the UPK office at South Davis Elementary School, 51 South Davis Street, Orchard Park, or mailed to you upon request. Please call (716) 209-6460 to request a UPK packet.

Contact the Universal Pre-Kindergarten office at 209-6460 between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. or visit www.opschools.org for more information about the Universal Pre-Kindergarten program.

Orchard Park Takes Third Place at 20th NCCC Techwars!



Orchard Park High School STEM students pose for a picture at the 20th NCCC Techwars.

The Orchard Park High School STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) students took part in the annual Niagara County Community College on January 13th. After entering in 6 events and placing in four Orchard Park was awarded 3rd overall Outstanding Technology Education Program in the High School Division. Tech Wars is a competition that brings together students in grades 6 through 12 to face off in a variety of technological and engineering based events. This year was the 20th anniversary of Tech Wars and there were more than 700 students from 26 school districts that participated. Jessica Visco won 1st place in the T-shirt design. In the photography event Amanda Renaldo won 2nd while Delacie Neaverth brought home 3rd for Orchard Park. The cardboard chair event was also one that gave Orchard Park points by taking 3rd place. Tim Mahany, Matt Sokolowski, and Conner Moran built a chair that was able to hold a 250 lb man for more than 5 minutes. Finally in the video contest, Jessica Visco, Madelyn Rominger, and Grace Wiest placed second by creating an excellent music video.

Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Board of Education meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the District Offices, 2240 Southwestern Blvd., unless otherwise indicated. Additional work sessions may be scheduled, as needed, throughout the year. Meetings are open to the public.

*April 12, 2016, April 19, 2016, May 3, 2016,
May 17, 2016- District , Budget Vote, High School,
June 14, 2016*

Horizons Treatment Centers Visit Eighth Grade Health Classes

Mrs. Molly Dehlinger's eighth grade health class was recently visited by several guests from Horizons Treatment Centers. Both Colleen Babcock, who works at Horizons Treatment Centers as a Parent and Family Support Coordinator, and Elliot Repka, a recovering addict, were welcomed and spoke to the students about drug abuse.

Elliot Repka shared his story of addiction with the students. It was truly moving and showed the students a real



Pictured above Colleen Babcock from Horizon Treatment Centers speaks to eighth grade students at the Orchard Park Middle School about addiction.

life example of how easy it is to make a few wrong decisions. These decisions make it difficult to "turn back" because, rather than him being in control the drugs controlled him. Elliot began using drugs around the same age as the eighth graders are now.

As Colleen spoke to the students she shared how much drug abuse has changed in recent years. She mentioned that twenty years ago if you walked into a rehabilitation facility, you would see 30 to 50 year old alcoholics. If you were to walk into a rehabilitation facility now you see 12-25 year olds that are often battling heroin addiction. It is crucial that students have an understanding about what is happening around them so they have the knowledge to make the best decisions possible for themselves. It is obvious that things are changing quickly especially in our area. There has been a 200% increase in drug related deaths in Erie County alone in the past year.

According to Molly Dehlinger, the eighth grade Health Education teacher, "The middle school health department

is committed to allowing our students to hear personal stories of drug addiction. Mark Hanes and I have been working with Horizon treatment centers to allow for community members that have struggled with addiction to come to our classrooms to share their personal stories. Time and time again, we hear these young adults share that they wish that they understood addiction on a deeper level before they started to make risky choices. There are so many myths, such as, prescription drugs are safer than illicit drugs, that we need to dispel. It is this age group that will need to make a change in their choices, otherwise the heroin epidemic that we are seeing now will continue on to future generations. I believe that meaningful education is a critical component in achieving this change."

The middle school health department will continue to work to ensure that Orchard Park students are educated and have an understanding of what addiction truly entails so they will be able to make the best decisions for themselves when that time comes.

D.A.R.E. Graduation

Eggert and Ellicott Elementary fifth grade students graduated from the D.A.R.E. program in January. The students spent the 13 weeks of the program meeting with Orchard Park Police Officers Kristen Mazur and Brian Lukowski learning and discussing ways to appropriately make decisions that could affect their lives.

Throughout this character building program students learn the D.A.R.E. decision making model which helps them think through the decision making process. In the D.A.R.E. decision making model D stands for Define, A stands for Assess, R stands for Respond and E stands for Evaluate. This process gives students an opportunity to fully

process and understand the choice they are making before they respond. The final step is to evaluate their choice which lets them see the decision they made and determine if it was the right decision.

The program benefits students in so many ways. It is not just about saying "no" to drugs and alcohol. The program emphasizes empathy. Learning why others act as they do. The students learn to treat others as they want to be treated and how to become and continue to be good friends and good citizens.

Students at both Eggert and Ellicott graduated the D.A.R.E. program along with students at Nativity and St. John Vianney. The Orchard Park D.A.R.E. program has graduated more

than 14,000 students since its inception.



Pictured is Nicholas Henderer, a fifth grader at Eggert Elementary, after graduating from the D.A.R.E. program. Nicholas is pictured with D.A.R.E. officer Kristen Mazur.

Eggert Elementary Donates To Journey's End Refugee Services

In fifth grade students study the Universal Declaration of Human Rights also known as the UDHR as part of their curriculum.

Fifth grade teachers at Eggert Elementary thought giving students a real life connection to human rights was important for the students' understanding. The teachers wanted to connect students with the Journey's End Refugee Services. Journey's End Refugee Services is an organization with the mission of welcoming refugees and assisting them to become healthy, independent, contributing members of the community.

Liz Ward from Journey's End



Fifth graders in Mrs. Musterait's class pose for a picture by all of the donations filling Eggert's foyer before they were picked up by Journey's End Refugee Services.

Refugee Services came in and spoke to the fifth graders discussing the organization and gave the students information about the types of situations many of the refugees are in and why they are fleeing their home countries.

The students were motivated to act and decided to start collecting supplies to be donated to Journey's End. The 5th grade classes took turns making commercials to go on the morning announcements. They also created flyers to be posted throughout the school to remind students to bring in different supplies. The students requested clothing and toiletries to be donated to Journey's End which they collected the entire month of October.

Eggert Elementary was extremely generous and they filled Eggert's foyer with donations. When Journey's End Refugee Services came to pick up the donations, they filled the truck and had to return the next day. They even filled the truck to the top on the second day. Mrs. Musterait's class of 23 students assisted in loading the van and filling it completely both days.

Middle School Teacher Wins Award

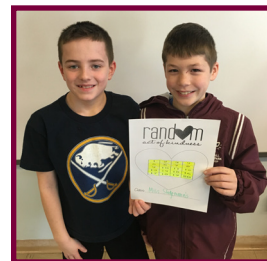


Pictured above is M.S. Principal, Mr. Aaron Grupka, Social Studies teacher, Mr. Peter Herman, Social Studies teacher, Mr. Daryl Helfman, and Superintendent Matthew McGarrity pictured at the New York Council for the Social Studies Awards Banquet.

Congratulations goes to Mr. Peter Herman, a Social Studies teacher at the Middle School. He was selected as the award winner for the 2015-16 New York State Outstanding Elementary Classroom Teacher of the New York State Council for the Social Studies. The award was presented to Mr. Herman at the annual New York Council for the Social Studies Awards Banquet held in Albany on April 1st. Mr Herman was nominated by his mentor Mr. Daryl Helfman, another social studies teacher at the Middle School. Mr. Helfman has worked in Orchard Park for 25 years. During that time he has come across individuals who have had a passion for teaching, but mentoring Peter he knew his passion, motivation drive and creativity set him apart from others. In his time at Orchard Park, Peter has become a leader at the Middle School. His passion and drive push him to continue learning in order to work to become an even better teacher as time goes by.

Ellicott Completes Over 500 Random Acts of Kindness

Ellicott Elementary has been diligently working to complete random acts of kindness. Their goal was to reach 500 random acts of kindness or RAK by the 100th day of school. Each classroom tried to complete 20 random acts of kindness. The classes held class meetings about random acts of kindness, sometimes watching inspiring videos. The meetings were followed by activities that helped students bridge the lesson with how students were going to complete random acts of kindness. On February 25, Ellicott had a school-wide celebration. The celebration was because Ellicott had reached 500 RAK as a school. These were the RAK that were recorded but Ellicott acknowledged that the school completed considerably more that just weren't recorded! During the celebration, the students got to watch a video put together by principal Paul Pietrantone and Matt Kordrupel, Ellicott Elementary's technology aide. In this video, a few students from each grade level reflected on some RAK they did or received along with staff from our school. The celebration ended with bookmarks passed out about Random Acts of Kindness. Ellicott is showcasing their random acts of kindness by displaying all of the classes recording sheets on a banner across the main office. Even though the students have reached their goal, they are encouraged to continue doing random acts of kindness for one another.



Pictured are Devon Scutt and Adam Johnson from Miss Stegemann's class at Ellicott. They are holding their class chart of Random Acts of Kindness.

Teacher from Brazil Visits South Davis Classroom

Ms. Rebecca Hagelburg visited Mrs. Vuich's class at South Davis Elementary. She teaches English as a second language at a private school in Brazil. When Mrs. Vuich's class learned of Ms. Hagelburg's visit they took time to use google maps on the smart-board to locate Brazil. This correlates with the second grade social studies curriculum to learn the continents and discover new communities and compare and contrast them with our community. The class viewed actual street views of towns in Brazil and talked about the different landscape, culture, architecture and weather. From the pictures they viewed, many of the students generated

interesting questions to ask Ms. Hagelburg, for example "Does it snow?" The answer surprised the students. Where she lives, which is very south - it does snow! Mrs. Vuich's students also wrote friendly letters to initiate a pen-pal relationship with one of Ms. Hagelburg's classes. The students are excited to learn more about what school is like in Brazil.

When she arrived, Ms. Hagelburg was able to answer the students' prepared questions and accept their letters for their pen-pals. She was a wealth of information for the students. She talked about the difference of culture and communities and explained to the students that learning English was a privilege that only students who could afford to go to a private school could obtain. The conversation led to the summer Olympics being held in Rio. This correlated with what the students are learning about in the second grade Ancient Greece Reading Domain. Mrs. Vuich's students were able to link past civilizations to current day. The visit was an excellent opportunity for Mrs. Vuich's students to connect what they are learning in the classroom to a real life experience.



Mrs. Vuich's class at South Davis is pictured with Ms. Rebecca Hagelburg, a teacher at a private school in Brazil.

Orchard Park High School Student Travels to China

Oliver Derrah, a junior at OPHS, had the opportunity of a lifetime last summer. He was selected to participate in the Chinese Bridge Summer Camp for U.S. High School Students. It is an opportunity for students, grade nine through twelve and beyond, to take a trip to China in order to experience both the language and the culture. This program is sponsored by the Confucius Institute. The Confucius Institute itself is run by Hanban (an organization dedicated to sharing the Chinese language and developing standardized proficiency tests for it) and operates in Universities throughout the United States and all over the world.

Oliver and the other high school students were immersed in Chinese culture on their trip. After they flew into Beijing they stayed at the Beijing Royal School and were able to see attractions including a Confucian temple and the Hanban Headquarters. The group then traveled on to the Northeastern city of Harbin, Heilongjiang, where they stayed at Harbin Engineering University.

There, they visited the largest Confucian temple, in the world. Other activities in Harbin included a traditional dance performance, calligraphy, paper-cutting, and Chinese harp workshops, a fish skin painting workshop, and the students had an opportunity to spend a day with a local family. The family Oliver was with was extremely friendly, especially their son, Wang Kaidi, who spoke excellent English. Wang Kaidi and his family took Oliver to a museum, a school, and a local mall. They returned to their apartment to make dumplings, a food usually reserved for holidays and special occasions.

The students saw extravagant Russian inspired architecture, as well as elegant hedge sculptures which Harbin has an abundance of. When the students returned to Beijing, they were able to experience what Oliver considered to be the interest peak of the trip: going to Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Great Wall. They visited the National Museum and drove by the Bird's Nest also known as Beijing National Stadium and the Water Cube which was

the National Aquatics Center from the Beijing 2008 Olympics.

Each night when the students returned to the dormitory, there were evening culture classes offered, like knot-tying, paper-cutting, and calligraphy,

Oliver felt the trip was an amazing experience and he enjoyed being able to interact directly with the students and faculty of Beijing Royal School.



Oliver Derrah, a junior at Orchard Park High School, was pictured with the family he was able to spend time with on his Chinese Bridge Summer Camp to China. They are pictured making dumplings together.



A Word From the President

*By: Natalie Schaffer,
Board of Education President*

Each year early in the school district “budget season,” the Board meets with the Superintendent, District Administrators, and Building Administrators in a public work session in order to set the priorities for the upcoming year. This provides the Board an excellent opportunity to exercise its oversight responsibility by articulating priorities. At the same time, it permits the administrative team to exercise its responsibility by creating a detailed budget that adheres to those priorities.

This year, Superintendent McGarrity recommended that several items be deemed Board priorities for the upcoming school year. The first and foremost is District Safety and Security. Under Superintendent McGarrity’s leadership over the past couple of years, the District has been engaged in a review of many of its practices and policies relating to safety and security. He is currently in the process of creating a safety and security plan that will likely have budget implications for the next few years. The Board is wholeheartedly in agreement that safety and security should be a top priority and believes that this is something that the community will appreciate and support.

Another budgetary priority discussed at the meeting is the coaching teaching model that is currently in its second year in the District. The model operates by having teachers assist and support (“coach”) other teachers by providing (and often demonstrating)

effective strategies that can be used to instruct students. This is particularly important because of the many recent curriculum changes facing teachers across the State. The District currently has one Technology coach, two elementary Literacy coaches, and two elementary Math coaches on staff. This in-house, instantly available professional development opportunity for District teachers has been a great success, and the Board is pleased to advocate for additional support for the District’s outstanding teaching staff.

Superintendent McGarrity also recommended that the Board continue to prioritize the District’s focus on literacy. This focus is central to the District’s Comprehensive District Educational Plan and impacts many areas of the District’s educational program. The Board agreed that this is an appropriate focus and that it is an integral part of student achievement.

Finally, the Board and administrative team discussed the importance of maintaining the District’s comprehensive educational program. This has been a goal of the budget process for several years, many of which have been extremely challenging as a result of decreased revenue and increased expenses. The Board is proud to continue to prioritize a comprehensive educational program and believes that it is an aspect of the District that truly sets it apart from other districts.

Superintendent McGarrity will provide the Board with the next draft budget at our meeting on April 12th. That

Petitions for Candidacy on the Board of Education Available

Petitions for qualified candidates seeking election to the Orchard Park Central School District Board of Education are now available in the office of the District Clerk, 2240 Southwestern Blvd, West Seneca, NY.

To be a qualified candidate for the Board of Education you must be a resident of the district for at least one year prior to the election, a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age, able to read and write, and cannot be an employee of the district.

The terms of two trustees on the seven-member school board are up for election, Mrs. Natalie Schaffer and Mr. Anthony Agnello. Each term is for three years, July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019. Candidates must obtain at least 38 valid signatures, which represents two percent of last year’s total vote count. Petitions are due in the office of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 18, 2016.

Public voting on the budget is Tuesday, May 17, 2016, from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Orchard Park High School. For easy access to the gymnasium use the Freeman Road entrance.

For more information, please contact the District Clerk at 209-6280.

meeting will be held at the District Offices at 7 p.m. Please stay informed about the budget by attending Board meetings, or by visiting the District website and Facebook page.

Recent Student Performances



Windom Elementary performed "The Sense'able Scientist" on January 21st and 22nd. Students Mikayla Perry, Kaia Morejon, Carson Page, Jordan Eloff, Jacob Bemis, Jake Griffin, Nadia Hering and AJ Beck are pictured above. Windom Elementary's operetta was written by Windom's own Mrs. Amy Powell.



Pictured above are the leads of Ellicott Elementary's operetta Willy Wonka Kids before one of their dress rehearsals. In front is Peter SantaLucia who played Willy Wonka. Behind him from left to right is Julian Tranquilli, Lillian Gottstein, Jillian O'Rourke, Hannah Venning and Zoe Hallett.



South Davis Elementary students performed Disney's "The Jungle Book Kids" on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 9th and 10th at the Orchard Park Middle School. Pictured is Baloo played by Sam Herle, Bagheera played by Julia Peters, Mowgli played by Ava Stablewski and Shanti played by Abby Campion.



The fifth graders at Eggert Road Elementary performed "The Lion King KIDS" on February 8th and 9th. The entire fifth grade class performed in this musical. Pictured above; Eggert fifth grade students rehearse their production of "The Lion King KIDS"



Pictured above are the leads of "The Addams Family" taking a break from rehearsal for a quick picture. Pictured are Cameron Farrell, Dominique Detwiler, Gracie Mulville, Jack Rosen, Phoebe Herreid, Ayden Herreid, Ryan Storto, Paul Hackford, Dan Kubik and Brianna Austin. These students along with the rest of the cast performed "The Addams Family," from March 10th through the 13th. Audiences raved about the production.

Images From Around the District



Windom Elementary teachers participated in National Wear Red Day® on February 5th by wearing red and doing laps around the building before students arrived to support the Go Red Campaign for Women.



Students on the Modified Swim team raised over \$600 for Carly's Club with their swim cap campaign. The swimmers collected signatures on their swim caps. Each signature was worth a dollar raised.



First graders at Ellicott celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday and did Dr. Seuss related activities in each of the first grade classrooms to celebrate. Pictured above are Charlotte Stoltz and Tessa Niewczyk dressed as the Lorax.



Senator Panepinto recognized 2nd and 4th graders at Eggert Elementary for their participation in the most recent Senate Artwork contest. Pictured above; Senator Panepinto speaks to Eggert students in the gymnasium.



Fifth graders at Eggert Elementary are pictured above creating Valentine's for area veterans. Six classes at Eggert and Student Council students participated in the Valentine's for Veterans program.



David Brock of the Buffalo Bandits gives Windom fifth grader Brooke McDonald some lacrosse tips. The Bandits visited Windom Elementary to teach the Elementary students basic lacrosse skills in March.

Exceptional Increase in AP Participation

Over the last five years the Orchard Park Central School District has seen a positive shift in the number of students participating in Advanced Placement or AP Exams.

In 2010 the number of Orchard Park High School students who participated in AP exams was 295. In 2015, 394 students participated in AP exams which is a 34% increase within five years.

Not only has Orchard Park had increased participation in Advanced Placement courses and exams, the District has also had very positive results compared to others within the state and across the globe. In 2015 Orchard Park High School had 79% of students that participated in AP exams receive a score of three or higher. Statewide 66% of students participating in AP's received a score of three or higher and globally 61% of students participating received scores of 3 or higher.

The District is also continuing to work to make advanced placement classes available to more students by offering advanced or honors courses at the Middle School level. This allows students the opportunity to be further ahead within a course sequence, having more opportunities to take Advanced Placement classes. Currently at the Middle School, students have an opportunity to participate in Accelerated Technology Education, Career and Financial Management, Combined Studio in Art and Drawing & Painting I, Algebra I, Latin I, Regents Earth Science or English 8 Honors.

The Orchard Park Central School District is looking forward to continuing the positive trend of increasing student participation in Advanced Placement classes, especially with the increase in advanced course offerings at the Middle School level.

Senator Marc Panepinto Visits Orchard Park Middle School



Pictured above is Senator Marc Panepinto with sixth grade social studies teacher Wendy Daniszewski and Special Education teacher Mr. Travis Puspaff along with sixth grade student Victoria Ziccardi.

In January Senator Marc Panepinto visited the Orchard Park Middle School. The Senator has been visiting many of his constituent districts and wanted to learn more about the Orchard Park Middle School's use of chromebooks as 1:1 devices. Mr. Panepinto observed a lesson on vocabulary using the chromebooks, where the students were able to draw the meanings of the words, display the drawings on the smartboard and then have other classmates guess the vocabulary word that went with the drawing. He also visited a seventh grade science class that was reviewing material by playing the game Kahoot on the chromebooks.

Valentine Cookies for Seniors

On Thursday, February 12 the Orchard Park Teachers Association and the Orchard Park School Related Professionals combined their efforts to provide their annual Valentine Cookies for Seniors. Over 100 OPTA and OPSRP members participated in this event baking over 250 dozen cookies that they delivered to Eggert Elementary School. Volunteers then arranged and wrapped 25 trays of cookies that were delivered to 7 different senior facilities throughout Orchard Park.

Boys Modified Basketball Team pays tribute to Randy Shaw with an outstanding season

This past season, the team paid special tribute to Mr. Shaw, father of co-captain, Aidan Shaw, who passed away suddenly in November. The team wore a special logo with Mr. Shaw's initials attached to the uniform. Mr. Shaw will be deeply missed by his family and friends. He was an integral part of the community.

Among many other things, Mr. Shaw took special interest in youth sports. Many of the boys on the team were fortunate to have been coached by Mr. Shaw. The admiration that the boys had for Mr. Shaw is truly evident. His spirit will live on in the memories of all the people who were fortunate enough to have known him.



The modified basketball team takes a break from practice to pose for a picture.