

COMMUNITY REPORT

June/July 2014

Drama Club Receives Multiple Kenny Awards

The Orchard Park High School Drama Club won four Kenny Awards this year in addition to "The Kenny" for their production of Les Miserables. The Orchard Park Drama Club hadn't applied for a Kenny Award since 1997 with their production of Grease. Maria Szczepanik, director of Les Miserables felt that this was going to be a great show and was motivated to apply.

The application process is quite involved. The director fills out a long application detailing all the aspects of the production including audition process, size of the auditorium, size of the cast, money needed to produce the show and more. The director then interviews in October with members of the Kenny committee. The decision is based on the interview, application and how well the show is "sold" to the committee. Maria Szczepanik and Maria Marinaccio Co-Drama Club Advisors both went to the interview. Seven shows were chosen to move on to finals based on the interview including Orchard Park. There were approximately 25 shows that applied. Of the seven shows that were chosen a panel of Kenny judges went to all of the shows and viewed the productions. They based the winner on overall production value.

The production of Les Miserables took home multiple awards including Best Orchestra, Kayla Storto who played Fantine received Best Supporting Actress, Nate Feldman who played Marius received Best Supporting Actor, Ayden Herreid who played Gavroche received the Rising Star Award. This is a newly created award because of Avden's tremendous performance. It will be given to a younger student featured in a High School show.

As the application process was intensive so was the rehearsal schedule. The students and staff that were involved in this production were immensely dedicated. Rehearsals began for the cast on Jan 2nd and were held 5 days a week. In March all day Saturday rehearsals began. This was a



Pictured above are Kayla Storto, Nate Feldman and Ayden Herried who each received individual Kenny Awards for their performances.

huge time commitment for all of those involved but well worth it. Winning "The Kenny" means the Drama Club receives \$5,000. The money will be used to continue to replace all of the old wireless microphones which cost about \$350 each. The Orchard Park Central School District is extremely proud of the success of our Drama Department.



www.opschools.org www.facebook.com/OPCSD



The 2013-2014 School Year has come to a close. I would like our students, teachers and staff to take this time to enjoy the weather, especially after the winter we have had! Enjoy your families and friends and recuperate in preparation for the year ahead.

As the administrative staff is busily preparing for the upcoming year I would like to take a moment to look back on the end of the 2013-14 School Year.

The Orchard Park Senior Class of 2014 had 381 seniors who graduated at Kleinhan's Music Hall on Saturday, June 28, 2014. The Orchard Park Central School District is proud to see this group of students graduate. We look forward to seeing what impressive accomplishments that they achieve as they move forward in their lives.

The Senior Class is unfortunately not the only group who has left the District. At the end of this past school year there were 25 retirements. Recently we held the District Retirement and Tenure celebration and it struck me how fortunate we are. It was bittersweet to say goodbye to our retirees who have worked so long for our District. Their experience is invaluable. Yet as we were saying goodbye to the retirees we were also congratulating many new teachers in our District who were receiving tenure. It was refreshing to observe that many of the teachers receiving tenure have the same qualities as those that are retiring. It gives me great confidence that this District will continue to be strong and successful.

Superintendent's Column

By Matt McGarrity, Superintendent of Schools

Congratulations to the 2014 retirees. At District Office Joanne Scolese is retiring from the Special Education Department after 25.75 years of service. From the Transportation Department bus driver Salvatore Agnello is retiring after 5.5 years of service, bus driver Colleen Coakley is retiring after 16.25 years of service, bus driver Paula Fleming is retiring after 24 years of service, bus attendant Judith Martin is retiring after 24 years of service, bus attendant Diane Owens is retiring after 7.75 years of service, auto mechanic Thomas Roll is retiring after 24 years of service and bus driver Suellen Witzleben is retiring after 19.75 years of service. At Eggert Elementary teacher aide Patricia Abraham is retiring after 24.75 years of service, teacher Mary Jane Hunter is retiring after 24 years of service and teacher aide Patricia Leach is retiring after 28.75 years of service. At Ellicott Elementary Special Education teacher, Mary Ellen Ferguson is retiring after 29.7 years of service; and school psychologist Janet Orser is retiring after 35.6 years of service. At South Davis Elementary teacher aide Cheryl Larson is retiring after 13.75 years of service. At Windom Elementary head custodian Karl Held is retiring after 35 years of service. At the Orchard Park Middle School Marie Ference is retiring from the Guidance Office after 13.5 years of service, English teacher Kathleen Grabon is retiring after 21 years of service, Physical Education teacher Robert Rumschik Jr. is retiring after 39 years of service, English teacher, Joseph Swords is retiring after 34.9 years of service, teacher aide Kathleen Weller is retiring after 12.75 years of service, and Science teacher Cynthia Weis is retiring after 30

years if service to the District. At the High School Foreign Language teacher Nancy Burns is retiring after 22 years of service, Art teacher Frani Evedon is retiring after 27 years of service and custodian Mark Murphy is retiring after 12 years of service to the District. Congratulations retirees I hope that you truly enjoy retirement. We are very happy for you but sad to see you go. All together the retirees have been serving our district for 564.2 years. That experience will be missed.

I would also like to congratulate those who received tenure during the 2013-2014 school year. At the District Office: Technology Director, Deby Eppolito and Assistant Director of Special Education John D'Angelo. At Eggert Elementary: Special Education teacher Lindsev Fial. At Ellicott Elementary: teacher Elaine Hackford. At South Davis Elementary: teacher Shannon Schaub. At Windom Elementary, social worker, Ashley Chadwell. At the Orchard Park Middle School: Health teacher, Molly Dehlinger, Special Education teacher, Jamie Masters, English teacher Amanda Wagner and Home & Careers teacher. Jennifer Waterman. At the Orchard Park High School Science teacher Danielle Chopra, House III Principal, Ruth Kartalis, Library Media Specialist, Beth Steinbruckner and Industrial Arts teacher, Thomas Zinteck. I am looking forward to your continued success here at Orchard Park.

With summer going by quickly, remember it is important to check the District website for information about upcoming events, school supply lists and other important information. Enjoy your summer!

Lance Corporal Patrick Gehen Visits Students at South Davis

Students in Mrs. Gemma Hanson's first grade class at South Davis have corresponded with LCpl Patrick Gehen of the Marine Corps throughout the 2013-2014 school year. On Monday June $23^{\rm rd}$ Patrick was

able to come visit the students and share information about what he does while serving the United States of America.

Mrs. Hanson's first grade class welcomes LCpl Patrick Gehen as he arrives.

things throughout their correspondence with him and they prepared a basket for him to take with him. It contained a few food related reminders of home including guite a few bottles of hot sauce and gift cards to Mighty Taco and Teds along with a few other items. As the students had a chance to talk to LCpl Gehen they enjoyed patriotic ice cream sundaes. They had vanilla ice cream with cherries, whip cream and red, white and blue sprinkles on top.

The students had a chance communicate with LCpl Gehen several times throughout the year. They sent him letters at Christmas time and a Buffalo Bills jersey

LCpl Gehen was able to show the children pictures of the different trucks that he drives which is one of the jobs that he does when deployed. He explained to the students how he had to go to school to learn how to drive the trucks and study to pass his tests very much like the students in Mrs. Hanson's class have to study and work hard to do well. The students were very interested to see the different places LCpl Gehen had been as geography has been one of their favorite subjects this year. He showed them where he was trained and all of the different places that he has gone. The students have learned some of LCpl Gehen's favorite



Mrs. Hanson's class poses with LCpl Gehen in their most patriotic outfits!

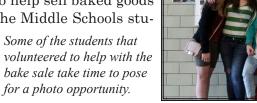
autographed by Kyle Williams as LCpl Gehen is a big Buffalo Bills fan. The students also sent letters near St. Patrick's Day. The students thought he might like that because his first name is Patrick. LCpl Gehen told the students that it took the letters approximately six weeks to reach him and approximately 4 weeks for the letters he sent back to the students to arrive. LCpl Gehen was deployed for 8 months. Much of that time he spent on board the USS Harpers Ferry. The correspondence between LCpl Gehen and Mrs. Hanson's students has been an excellent learning experience for Mrs. Hanson's students at South Davis.

OPMS Students Raise Money for Camp Good Days

OPMS sixth grade student Savannah Harvey brought in photos of the damage from a flood to Camp Good Days. She wanted to have a bake sale to raise money to help Camp Good Days. Savannah has gone to the camp for many years. Savannah's classmates came in early and stayed after school to help sell baked goods for this cause, in just two days the Middle Schools stu-

dents had raised over \$500.00 for Camp Good Days.

bake sale take time to pose



DECA Student Wins International Competition



International DECA winner Sydney Wawrzyniak and DECA advisor Mrs. Kristen Casto.



OPHS DECA students attending the International Career Development Conference: Hannah Rauch, Kyle Turton and Sydney Wawrzyniak.



Sydney Wawrzyniak's First Place Trophy!

Three students, Sydney Wawrzyniak, Hannah Rauch and Kyle Turton from the Orchard Park High School chapter of DECA were among the 17,000 students and advisors from across the globe that attended the International Career Development Conference and Competition in Atlanta, Georgia this month. They competed in various business-related contests, including restaurant management and human resources.

It is an exciting opportunity for students to be able to participate in the International Career Development Conference and Competition. They have come a long way from Regionals in January and the State Competition in March. Only around 200 students are chosen to compete in each category at the international level. Sydney, a senior at Orchard Park and Hannah and Kyle, both juniors at Orchard Park were all chosen to participate and compete. Hannah Rauch and Sydney Wawrzyniak both placed in the top 20 for their contests in the human resources category, which qualified them to compete in finals. Sydney excelled and brought home a first place win in the human resources category for the Orchard Park Quakers! It is an amazing accomplishment for her to bring home first place at the international level.

Sydney has been a member of the DECA

organization for three years. This is the third time she attended the International Conference (ICDC). She has competed in the Human Resources Management event for the past two years. She has learned a lot from her experience with DECA; most importantly, she has learned how to communicate efficiently and effectively.

Sydney plans to become an accountant, with a focus in forensic accounting. She is going to major in Business Administration in Accounting at Georgetown University this fall. She is confident that the many lessons she has learned through DECA will be something she uses continuously in both her daily and professional lives.

Orchard Park DECA would like to thank the following individuals, businesses, and organizations for sponsoring a portion of the cost for these students to attend this competition: OPHS Academy of Finance, Merry Maids Southtowns, Tim Horton's, Jake Bertsch of Polymer Conversions, John Mills Distributing, Repp Construction, Cappelli's Pizza, Southtowns Financial Group, Urban Valet, Harmony Expositions, Anthony Brown Pharmacy, and Quaker Country Home Furnishings.

South Davis Celebrates Earth Day

Students at South Davis Elementary helped local grocery store Orchard Fresh celebrate Earth Day by decorating paper bags for the store to distribute to customers on April 22, 2014 which was Earth Day.

Orchard Fresh provided South Davis Elementary with brown paper grocery bags. Each student at South Davis Elementary participated by decorating the paper bags with Earth Day images or Earth Day sayings.

Orchard Fresh is donating 1% of the proceeds from sales on Earth Day to South Davis Elementary for their participation. South Davis Elementary was thrilled for the opportunity to be a part of this program and create additional Earth Day awareness within our community.



South Davis Elementary Students proudly display the Earth Day bags they decorated for Orchard Fresh.

OPHS Students Paint a Mural at SPoT Coffee



Pictured above is the mural that will be permanantly displayed at SPoT Coffee created by Orchard Park High School Art Students.

Orchard Park High School art students were asked to paint the mural for the new SPoT Coffee on East Quaker Street in the town of Orchard Park.

The students worked together as a group to decide what aspects would positively represent Orchard Park while highlighting SPoT Coffee. They decided to incorporate the natural beauty of the area as well as important buildings and places around Orchard Park.

The 4 x 8 ft. mural will be permanently displayed in SPoT Coffee. The talented high school art students that painted and contributed to the mural are Gina Benevento, Liza Tretyakov, Katie Perchaluk, Bradley Jensen, Darianna Borowiec, Abbie Probst, Liza Koman, Rachel Eye, Emma Stepniak, Julia Volo, Lucy LaPlaca, Elise Miller, Kelly Rosenfeld, Kayla Paolini and Tori Miller with art teacher Danielle Perla as their advisor.

Hats for Cats

Eggert Elementary's Student Council held a Hat Day fundraiser to raise money for Pet Connection. They called the fundraiser "Hats for Cats." The students raised \$350 to be donated.

set up the event. She loves animals and has her own charity called "Go Green and Go Kitties" to help animals in need. Grace contacted the organization and worked with Student Council to set up a Crazy Hat Day on May 9th. Students who brought in \$1 were allowed to wear a hat for the day. Some students also brought in pet supplies. All of the donations went to assist Pet Connection in operating their check for \$370 to be donated to Pet Con-

*See Article about Grace's sister on Page 3.

animal shelter.

Grace Harvey, a fifth grade student in Mr. Washburn's class,

Pictured to the right is fifth grade student Grace Harvey with Student Council Advisor Tim Reukauf. Grace is holding the nection after the Crazy Hat Day fundraiser.



Donuts With Dads



Pictured above is Mrs. Duffek's first grade student Grace Foley and her father Kevin celebrating Donuts with Dads.

Mrs. Jennifer Duffek's class at Windom Elementary recently celebrated Donuts with Dads. Father's Day is often

too close to the end of the school year to celebrate properly so in an effort to not leave the Dads out, they celebrated a little early. The students sang songs for their fathers including All the Way Around the World by Katherine Dines and Put Your Happy Face on by The Coles. The students each draw a portrait of their dad which gets hung in a gallery and then the Dads guess which portrait their child drew of them. The students also read their Dads books that they wrote for them called All About My Dad. This year they celebrated Donuts with Dads on National Donut Day!



Pictured above is Mrs. Duffek's first grade student Hudson Giancaterino and his father Mark Giancaterino. Hudson is holding the picture that he drew of his father Mark.

Images From Around the District



Pictured above is the Girls Varsity Lacrosse team wearing cancer t-shirts. Section 6 raised over \$5,000 for Roswell. This year the shirts were blue in support of Ben Sauer who recently lost his battle with cancer.



Eggert Elementary Principal Terry Tryon serenaded students as they entered Eggert Elementary on Monday May 12th. The students raised \$1,125.93 to donate in books to Women & Children's Hospital. Mr. Tryon volunteered to perform if the students raised over \$500 and they sure did!



Pictured are sixth grade students at the Orchard Park Middle School asking questions to visiting author, speaker and pop culture educator Tim O'Shei.



Pictured above are Mrs. Clader's Kindergarten students performing at the Ellicott Elementary Kindergarten Graduation
Ceremony. The Kindergarten students were extremely proud to be celebrating their graduation and performing for their parents.



The Board of Directors of the Bar Association of Erie County awarded Mr. Gary Janas with the 2014 Liberty Bell Award. The Liberty Bell Award is the highest award that is given at the Bar Association's Annual Law Day Luncheon. The award recognizes community service that has strengthened the American System of freedom under the law and acknowledges outstanding contribution to the effective functioning of our institutions of government. The award was presented at the Annual Law Day Luncheon on Tuesday April 29, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo.



The Spanish National Honor Society has successfully collected \$500.00 for Orchard Park's Educational Outreach Club to help them buy food and cleaning supplies for an immigrant family's apartment. They collected an additional \$500.00 for Roswell Park Alliance Foundation through their charity drive this year.

Images From Around the District



Pictured above: Ellicott Elementary holds their Flag Day Celebration in the gymnasium.



Pictured above: Windom Elementary students are visited by author David Kirk. David is most well known for his work on the series of books about Miss Spider.



The Orchard Park Central School District's Technology Director Debra Eppolito received tenure at the May 6th Board of Education meeting. Debra and thirteen other staff members received tenure during 2013-2014 school year because of their hard work and dedication to the Orchard Park Central School District.



Pictured above is newly re-elected Board of Education member David Nielsen taking his oath of office to serve on the Board of Education for a three-year term. Also pictured above are new Board of Education members Dwight Mateer and Christine Gray-Tinnesz, Ed.D who each also took their oath of office following Mr. Nielsen along with District Clerk, Cheryl Connors.



Adam Patronik pictured to the left with coach Nate Leary was named the WKBW Super-7 Athlete of the week the week of May 19th. He was named the Buffalo News Prep Talk Boy's Golf Player of the Year. Adam is also the 2014 Section VI Individual Golf Champion. It is an incredible accomplishment for, senior Adam Patronik to be named the unanimous top Public High School Golfer in Western New York in 2014.

Congratulations Adam!



At the May 6th Board of Education meeting the Board recognized the top 10 student fundraisers who participated in Bald for Bucks at the Orchard Park High School this year. Twenty-seven students and faculty members at the high school had their heads shaved or did Locks of Love. Together they raised \$7,237.98 for Roswell. Pictured are six of the top 10 fundraisers before the Board of Education meeting.

News In Athletics

Orchard Park Seniors Sign Letters of Intent

This spring many of Orchard Park's senior athletes signed their letters of intent to continue playing their



sports at the college level. The students, along with principal Jon Wolf, are pictured to the left. Pictured from left to right are: Brian Manley who will be playing volleyball at Vassar, Dawson Hillis who will be competing in track & field at West Point, Ed Losardo who will be playing football at Buffalo State College, Kyle Brewer who will be playing football

at St. Lawrence College, Zach Healy who will be swimming at Cortland, Nolan McArdle who will be swimming at Messiah, Jake Cullen who will be playing football at Washington & Jefferson and High School Principal Jonathan Wolf. Pictured from left to right in the bottom row are: Jason Dolce who will be playing football at Brockport, Evan Stallone who will be playing football at Buffalo State College, Ryan Falsone who will be playing football at Hobart, Amanda Ernst who will be swimming at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, Elliot Moore who will be playing football at St. John Fisher and John Becker who will be playing football at Washington & Jefferson.

Orchard Park Girls Varsity Lacrosse Celebrates 20 Years



Pictured above are members of the original Orchard Park Girls Varsity Lacrosse Team. From left to right are former Varsity Coach Sandy Trampert and Assistant Coach Nancy Hare Hartung and former players Amy Nyitrai, Becky Burke, Laura Ridge, Erin Bradley, Lauren Braun, Molly Flanagan, Jessica Nowak, Heather Nowicky and Ann Chelus. Sandy honored each of the women above for their participation.

The 2014 varsity lacrosse season was the 20th year of Varsity Lacrosse at the Orchard Park High School. On Thursday May 8th the original members of the first varsity lacrosse team from 1994 were invited to return and be honored by their coach Sandra Trampert who currently coaches modified lacrosse in Orchard Park.

This team helped get Varsity Lacrosse off the ground in Orchard Park. Originally, Orchard Park was one of six public school teams in Western New York to have a Varsity Girls Lacrosse team. Doug Kohler of Clarence and Sandy Trampert worked diligently along with the assistance of Jim Trampert, the Orchard Park Athletic Director at that time to receive approval by the New York State athletic governing bodies to receive varsity status. Clarence and Orchard Park both received varsity status from the New York State Athletic Association and have had programs ever since, along with the Williamsville schools and Niagara Wheatfield.

In 1995, both Clarence and Orchard Park were the first two teams from WNY earning the privilege to compete in the first ever NYS Girls Lacrosse Championships held at Cortland State college.

Congratulations Spring Athletes!

INDIVIDUAL STATE QUALIFIERS:

Boys Tennis (Doubles) Thomas Baldinger & Kevin Zablonski Coach Terry McMahon

Asst Coach Stephan Sayoc

Boys Track and Field Dawson Hillis Coach Josh Koszuta

Assistant Coach Gary Janas

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Boys Track and Field (discus)

Boys Lacrosse Section VI Class A Champions Coach Gene Tundo

Asst Coach Larry Catalano

ECIC Division I Champions Boys Tennis Coach Terry McMahon

Asst Coach Stephan Sayoc

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Boys Golf Section VI Champion – Adam Patronik

> Section VI Champion- Dawson Hillis Coach Josh Koszuta

Coach Gary Janas

Coach Nate Leary

NYSPHSAA SCHOLAR ATHLETE TEAMS:

Baseball, Girls Lacrosse, Boys Tennis, Boys Track & Field, Girls Track & Field and Softball

SECTION VI ALL WESTERN NEW YORK SCHOLAR ATHLETES:

Todd Stebbins

3X Girls Lacrosse Margaux Ruh 2XGirls Track & Field Emilee Welton 2XGirls Track & Field Taylor Ziccarelli Winner Girls Track & Field Samantha Crowley Winner Boys Track & Field Benjamin Goodman Winner Baseball Tyler Heath Winner Baseball Dave Hollins Winner Baseball Ryan Patridge Winner Boys Tennis Kevin Zablonski

HM**Boys Tennis** Thomas Baldinger НМ **Boys Lacrosse** Ryan Falsone HMBoys Track & Field Aydan Hanlon HM Boys Track & Field Dawson Hillis HM Softball Kelly Huebert

Connor Jenson HM Boys Track & Field HM Girls Lacrosse Ellie Markarian HM Girls Lacrosse **Emily Markarian** HM Softball Megan McKendry HM Boys Track & Field Steven Perchaluk Alexander Rand HM Boys Track & Field

MAROON KEY: (Varsity MVP)

David Hollins Baseball

Adam Belica and Christopher Murphy Boys Lacrosse Girls Lacrosse Emily Markarian and Madison Potenza Softball Shaye Swiatek and Rachel Johnson Boys Tennis Thomas Baldinger and Kevin Zablonski

Boys Track & Field Robert Zwirecki (track) and Dawson Hillis (field) Girls Track & Field Taylor Ziccarelli (track) and Alexa Hillis (field)

ALL ACADEMIC ATHLETIC TEAM:

Joseph Payne Rebecca Higgins Steven Perchaluk Amanda Ernst Matt Roder Kaitlin Dragonette Brian Manley Emily Balisteri Charles Kritkowski Megan McKendry Thomas Baldinger Kelly Huebert Kevin Zablonski Christine Zizzi

SENIOR AWARDS:

Boys Golf

HM

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR QABC MALE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS QABC FEMALE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS MALE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FEMALE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

ATHLETIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

MAYOR'S AWARD SUPERVISOR'S AWARD U.S. ARMY SCHOLAR ATHLETES David Hollins Noelle Poloncarz

Nolan McArdle Emily Markarian Bradley Roman

Tayor Ziccarelli

Christopher Murphy and Emily Gart John Wellington and Margaux Ruh Nolan McArdle and Emily Markarian Dawson Hillis and Ellie Markarian

SCHOOL RECORDS:

Dawson Hillis Discus- 184'3" and Shot

57'9"

Alexa Hillis Girls Discus- 112'1"

David Hollins, OP Baseball, drafted in the

> 35th round of the Major League Baseball draft by

the Detroit Tigers

QUAKER ATHLETICS MVP: (JV & Modified MVP)

JV BASEBALL Troy Banks Boys JV Lacrosse Griffin Loughran Girls JV Lacrosse Colby Fritsch JV Softball Lauren Miller Modified B Basebal Evan Kraus Cayden Collins Boys Modified B Lacrosse Girls Modified B Lacrosse Regan Shanahan Modified B Softball Elizabeth Nicometo

Bryce Shively (track) and Cal Puskar (field) Boys Modified B Track & Field Girls Modified B Track & Field Emma Salmon (track) and Clara Mulville (field) 9

ArtSplash This year ArtSplash, the all-district art exhibit, was held from Friday, May 16th until Friday, May 30th. It was held at Orchard Fresh at 4050 North Buffalo Road in Orchard Park.

ArtSplash provides an opportunity for our students in elementary, middle and high school to showcase their talents and passion for creativity in an authentic presentation. It is a true collaboration between the school district and the community. We are very proud of our students and our outstanding art teachers who help and guide students to realize their creative potential regardless of their career aspirations. Displayed on this page are some of the impressive pieces of artwork shown at ArtSplash.



