



COMMUNITY REPORT

March/April 2014

Ellicott Elementary Students Write To Pen Pals

Students in Kristin Smolarek's fourth grade class have had an opportunity during this school year to write and correspond with students who are similar in age attending school in India. The students at Ellicott Elementary are writing to students who attend a school called Nirikshea. The name of the school means hope

in Sanskrit which is the oldest Indian language.

Nirikshea started about 6 years ago through the vision of one family, with five sisters, who were convinced that a good education should be available to all children in India. The school started with a preschool of only 20 children and now has grown to a school educating pre-kindergarten to fifth grade with approximately 175 students. All these children come from one neighboring slum.

The students in Miss Smolarek's class are learning a ton of

locally at the end of April. This is because of monsoon season. This learning experience is such a wonderful opportunity for these students to have an understanding of the world beyond what they have seen themselves.

Miss Smolarek's aide, Dorothea Shafer, had lived in Bangalore, India for approximately 18 months while her husband was working there on assignment through Moog. She had the opportunity to volunteer at the Nirikshea school. It was while she was living there that she arranged an opportunity for students at South Davis to be pen pals with the children attending Nirikshea. She would bring the letters back and forth with her as she traveled to and from India. She has continued the arrangement this year and brought the opportunity to Miss Smolarek's students at Ellicott.

Some others at Ellicott have also gotten involved with Nirikshea. Mrs. Vivian's fifth grade class raised money for school supplies for Nirkshea by making and

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information about differences and similarities in the Indian culture verses their own culture, by discussing things like family life, holidays and education in their letters. Some of the things students in Miss Smolarek's class have noticed are that many of the names of the students they are corresponding with are very different from the names of the children they go to school with in Orchard Park. They are realizing that they celebrate holidays similarly to how we celebrate holidays even though not all of our holidays are the same. They have also learned that Indian students have a very different school year. The children begin the school year at the end of June and are out for break similar to summer break



Pictured above: Miss Smolarek's class holds up letters from their pen pals in India.

selling rag dolls at the book store. They raised \$85 which is quite impressive because they sold the rag dolls for just 25 cents each. The staff at Ellicott has also raised funds for the school by holding a dress down day in which teachers could dress casually and contribute \$1.

So many different students are able to benefit from a connection between two very far away schools like this. Having a pen pal is a priceless connection to another culture and lifestyle.

Superintendent's Column

By Matt McGarrity, Superintendent of Schools



The Orchard Park Central School District budget for next year is coming together due in large part to a sorely needed state aid increase.

They say that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. During this school budget season, that saying certainly applies. I would like to personally thank all of the community members, staff members, Board of Education members and students who took the time to contact our local and state representatives to advocate for an increase in state aid over the governor's proposal of \$20,000.

This unprecedented unified voice certainly caught the attention of Albany. I truly believe that this advocacy not only will help the 2014-15 budget, but will have a long-lasting effect concerning adequate state aid to schools in the future.

The key to this sustained advocacy is that we continue this dialogue with representatives and stakeholders throughout the summer and fall so that we are better prepared to address future budgets in order to best support student achievement.

The Governor's proposal also contains a taxpayer saving initia-

tive that keeps the tax levy increase under the tax cap requirement, which will result in a tax freeze rebate from New York State for homeowners. The new bill will provide a rebate for the amount of the school tax increase to homeowners with the star exemption.

The current budget proposal to the Board of Education accomplishes the following:

- Supports a focus on student programming and academics
- Maintains a comprehensive program for our students
- Stays within the requirements of the tax cap which will result in a rebate in the amount of the tax increase for homeowners with the star exemption
- Keeps class sizes within the Board of Education recommended class size guidelines, and supports differentiated instruction to middle and elementary students

Although the increase in state aid has allowed us to preserve programs and services for students, we still made many reductions in an attempt to be more efficient and responsive to student needs.

Finally, the district is also very

pleased to announce that we do have a Board of Education approved contract for the purchase of the Baker building. The sale of the Baker building is good news.

The Baker Road property opened in 1976 as an elementary building, but for approximately the last 30 years half of the building has been used as district office space and the other half has been leased to Erie 2 BOCES. In May of 2011, a viable long-term plan to relocate the transportation department and district offices to the same location, 2240 Southwestern Blvd., West Seneca, was approved by voters. During the summer of 2013 the transportation department and the district offices moved to this new location. As part of the plan presented to voters in 2011, the revenue generated from the sale of the Baker building will help to offset the local cost from the purchase of 2240 Southwestern Blvd.

We are optimistic with regard to the future of the Baker Road property and the purchaser has expressed an interest to continue, for the foreseeable future, the lease of the building to Erie 2 BOCES. We are confident the purchaser is reliable and the transaction will come to closure.

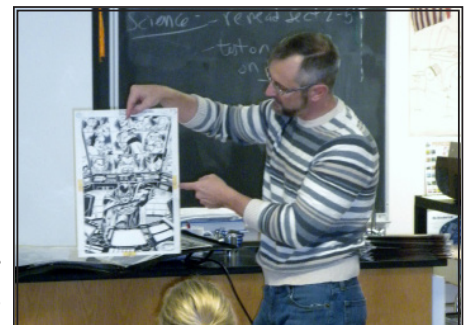
For more information on the 2014-15 school budget, please check our website www.opschools.org. I appreciate your continued support of the Orchard Park Central School District.

Local Cartoonist Visits OPMS

Greg Goggins' reading class at the Orchard Park Middle School was visited by local cartoonist Graham Nolan.

Graham visited Mr. Goggins class on Friday, February 7th. The students enjoyed the presentation in which Graham shared some of his artwork and spoke to the students about his career.

Graham Nolan has written numerous comics strips and graphic novels. He attended the Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art before his career began. Graham currently works on the comic strip Rex Morgan M.D. and his humor strip Sunshine State. For more information about Graham Nolan visit www.grahamnolan.com.



Eggert Students Raise Money for Make-A-Wish Western New York

Eggert Elementary's Student Council held a Pajama Day fundraiser to raise money for Make-A-Wish Western New York. The students raised nearly \$600 to be donated.

The money that was raised went toward granting three-year-old John Millen's wish to go on a Disney Fantasy Cruise™ to meet Mickey. John has been diagnosed with a brain stem tumor. This cruise offered a wonderful opportunity for John and his family to enjoy each other and have a little break from the difficulties that they have been faced with.

The idea for this fundraiser came from Student Council President Kylie McPoland. Kylie came up with a date for the Pajama Day and suggested some charities to donate to. Kylie got approval from Principal Terry Tryon and then brought it up to the Student Council at their February meeting.

The students unanimously supported doing a Pajama day. They voted on the charities and Make-A-Wish Western New York was selected. Student Council representatives spoke to each class to spread the word and Kylie created a flyer to send

home to advertise. The PTO was also able to put some information in their monthly newsletter to assist in advertising.



Pictured above is Eggert Elementary Principal, Terry Tryon, Student Council President Kylie McPoland, Tracy Gray of Make-A-Wish Western New York, Student Council Vice-President, Steven Fertel and Student Council Advisor Tim Reukauf.

With all of that happening in just four days, Eggert Elementary raised \$590.48. The following week, Kylie and Student Council Vice President Steven Fertel helped count the funds that were raised.

Amy Krouse Rosenthal Visits Windom

On March 5th and 6th students at Windom Elementary School in Orchard Park were treated to a presentation by New York Times best selling author Amy Krouse Rosenthal. In addition to being a prolific writer of books for both children and adults, she is also a filmmaker, radio show host, and blogger. Her optimistic, whimsical outlook on life is creatively depicted in her many diverse projects.

The New York Times called all of Amy's books "terrific" and also quoted, "Her books radiate fun the way tulips radiate spring: they are elegant and spirit lifting." In 2010 her book, *Duck! Rabbit!* was read during the White House Easter Egg Roll. Amy Krouse Rosenthal has published over 20 children's books including *I Scream Ice Cream*, *Spoon*, *Little Pea*, *Exclamation Mark*, and *Wumbers*. One of her adult books, *Encyclopedia of an Ordinary Life*, was named by Amazon as one of the top 10 memoirs of the decade.

The students prepared for Amy's visit by familiarizing themselves with her books, completing classroom activities and art projects, and visiting



Pictured above Amy Krouse Rosenthal reads one of her newest books, *Uni the Unicorn* to Windom third grade students.

her entertaining website at www.whoisamy.com.

Amy was very impressed when she got to Windom and found that the library and hallways were decked out in artwork inspired by her books that all of the students worked to create. She was happy to share her writing process and ideas with the students.

This presentation was made possible for students through the combined efforts of principal Wendy Gloss, librarian Jim Clark, and the faculty, staff and PTO of Windom Elementary.

News In Athletics

Shane Stewart Signs Letter of Intent

Orchard Park Senior Shane Stewart has signed his letter of intent to play baseball at Medaille College. He signed his letter of intent on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at a signing ceremony at the Orchard Park High School.

Shane began playing baseball when he was five years old. He has always loved the game and worked hard to improve his skills. As he was growing up he played on several travel teams and was considered a key player. His freshman year of high school he was the starting right fielder for the Pennridge High School freshman team and was never taken out of the game. He moved to Orchard Park during his sophomore year. That year he made the Orchard Park Varsity baseball team. Shane also played for Orchard Park Legion, Orchard Park Thunder, and New Era Showcase teams. He was also selected to play for the Baseball Factory Under Armour National Team in Bradenton Florida with kids from all over the nation.

Due to the great reputation of the Orchard Park Baseball program, Shane's affiliation with Baseball Factory, and all of the experience playing at a high level he received several college offers. Medaille College offered him the Deans Scholarship. Medaille offers a young aggressive coaching staff

that is building a strong program to compete for the AMCC, (Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference), title over the next few years. Shane works very hard and plans to

continue this both on and off the field all year long. In the off season he works out at STA performance with professional trainers, and hits in the cages as much as possible. He really can see himself being a key player on the Medaille baseball team even as a freshman. Baseball has always been his number one priority.

Shane is planning to major in Business Management with a focus in Business Law at Medaille College. He is considering getting a law degree in the future. He is unsure of exactly what career path he will pursue but is excited for the opportunities ahead.



Shane Stewart signs his letter of intent to play baseball at Medaille College with Orchard Park Varsity Baseball Coach Jim Gibson at his side.

Boys Swim Team Raises Money

The Orchard Park Boys Varsity swim team participated in the Carly's Crossing "Sign a Cap" fundraiser. They raised money by getting \$1 signatures on their "Carly's" bathing caps and then wore them at a swim meet during the season.

Orchard Park boys Varsity was the top fundraiser ECIC large school team and received a banner to hang in the pool. The Sign a Cap portion of Carly's Crossing raised \$12,000 of the over \$100,000 that was raised in Carly's Crossing 2013. The proceeds go to pediatric cancer research and year-round patient care programs through Carly's Club at Roswell Park! For the last 8 years Assistant Coach Tom Lengel has been on the Carly's event planning committee and over 11 years the committee has raised over \$1.1 million dollars for pediatric cancer research at Roswell.

The top three fundraisers on the Varsity team were Brendan Biggane, Nolan McArdle, and Zach Healy. The Orchard Park Varsity Swim team raised \$1000.00 for this great cause.



The Orchard Park Boys Varsity Swim Team proudly displays the Carly's Crossing banner they received for being the top ECIC fundraisers.

News In Athletics

Winter Scholar Athletes

In order to be a scholar athlete, students must receive over a 90 average for six semesters and be a starter or an important member of the team. This year's winter scholar athletes are Morgan Bachert, Connor Jenson, Charles Kritkauskys, Megan McKendry, Steve Perchaluk, Noelle Poloncarz, Bradley Roman, Emilee Welton and Taylor Zicarelli. Several students also received honorable mention. They are Tyler Heath, Dawson Hillis, Connor Maloney, Brian Manley, Cameron Murray, Joseph Payne, Jon Wardner and Jacob Youngman. Congratulations winter athletes!



Pictured above are the Winter Scholar Athletes, the students who received honorable mention, coaches, Richard Ortlepp, Tom Lengel, Justin Abel, Greg Lardo, Gene Tundo along with Director of Physical Education and Athletics David Hack and High School Principal Jon Wolf.

OPHS Basketball Player Breaks Record



Congratulations goes to Noelle Poloncarz an Orchard Park High School Senior who has broken the record for career points in Girls Varsity Basketball. She broke Taylor Swiatek's (class of 2011) record of 1131 points. Noelle is a 5 year starter on Girls Varsity Basketball and a 2 year captain. She is also the co-record holder for 3 pointers in a season and free throw shooting percentage record holder in season.

Tia Saunders Signs Letter of Intent

Orchard Park senior Tia Saunders has signed her letter of intent to play soccer at Canisius College. She signed her letter of intent on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at a signing ceremony at the Orchard Park High School.

Tia began playing soccer in fourth grade. She plays defense, midfield and forward. Tia has played in many different leagues including Alliance FC Travel Soccer, Buffalo Soccer Academy and AFC Legends. She has also won several awards including the MVP in modified soccer when she was in 8th grade. She was chosen to be the captain of the Buffalo Soccer Academy team in 11th grade. Since she went to high school she has been a member of the Orchard Park Girls Varsity Soccer team.

Tia looks forward to playing at Canisius. She was recruited by Canisius Coach Wendling. She hopes to be able to bring a National Championship to

her home town. Ideally, Tia would like to play on the U.S. Women's National Team someday or be in the Olympics. She feels she will be receiving an excellent education at Canisius and is looking forward to a career in Criminal Justice. Tia attributes much of her success to her parents and her coaches.



Tia Saunders signs her letter of intent to play soccer at Canisius College with her family, coach and several Orchard Park Administrators there to support her.

Elementary Schools Perform Impressive Productions



Pictured is Ellicott Elementary's performance of *The Jungle Book Kids*. Photo courtesy of Mr. Steven Desmond. Pictured are Elena deRosas as Shanti, Peter Sovinski as Mogli, Henry Kamis as Colonel Hathi, Christopher Smith as Baloo, Lauren Hrusa as King Louie, Dunavan Braga and Toby Bell as Vultures, Andrew Sovinski as Bagheera and Danny Laudico as Shere Khan.



Pictured are South Davis students, fifth grader Clare Nielsen who played Annie and fourth grader Jack Kidney who played Oliver Warbucks during their performance of *Annie Jr* on Tuesday and Wednesday February 11th and 12th.



Pictured above are fifth graders at Eggert Elementary performing *101 Dalmations Kids*. Eggert Elementary makes sure that all of the fifth grade students have participated in the play in order to make sure all students have an opportunity to see how they feel about the performing arts.

District Character Education Council Sponsors Film Viewing

The Orchard Park Central School District Character Education Committee is sponsoring a showing of the film *Finding Kind*. The film sheds light on the topic of social-relational aggression amongst girls.

The showing will be held on Thursday, May 1st at 7 p.m. in the High School Auditorium located at 4040 Baker Road. After the viewing, there will be a follow up discussion with Dr. Lisa Krueger, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Pupil Services at the Orchard Park Central School District and Dr. Amanda Nickerson, Director of the Alberti Center

for Bullying Abuse Prevention at the University at Buffalo. Refreshments will be provided by the Orchard Park PTO.

The idea for the film came from two young college students who were discussing some of the cruel things that had been done to them when they were younger by other girls. The girls Lauren Parsekian and Molly Thompson decided to create a traveling documentary in order to shed light on the subject and develop a positive dialogue to change the culture. The movie showcases different stories that the girls found in their travels throughout the country. Their experience led them to the realization that this

is a nation-wide issue that people need to recognize and respond to.

By showing this film, the District Character Education Committee hopes to engage young women in producing social change for the benefit of themselves and our community. Girls in fifth grade through twelfth grade are invited to attend along with family members and or any community members that are interested.

The cost of entrance will be a \$1 ticket. Tickets will be available at the door on the evening of the event. The proceeds will be donated to the Orchard Park Family Justice Center.

Over 60? Call For Your Gold Card!

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

Congratulations Eggert & Ellicott D.A.R.E. Graduates!

During this past January, fifth grade students from Eggert Road Elementary and Ellicott Elementary graduated from the D.A.R.E. program. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. The students completed the 13 week program in which officers, Patrick Fitzgerald and Leonard Govenettio came into the fifth grade classrooms and spoke to students about how to make smart decisions regarding important issues they will face including drugs, peer pressure and friendships.

It was obvious throughout the graduation ceremony that students had taken the message the D.A.R.E. officers had given them to heart. One student from each of the fifth grade classes read an essay that they had written about what they had

learned during the D.A.R.E. program. Students spoke about the negative effects of doing drugs along with other important life lessons like choosing a good group of friends.

Lynn Keane, Orchard Park Judge, was the guest speaker at the D.A.R.E. graduation at Eggert. She spoke about the importance of making good friends and good decisions throughout

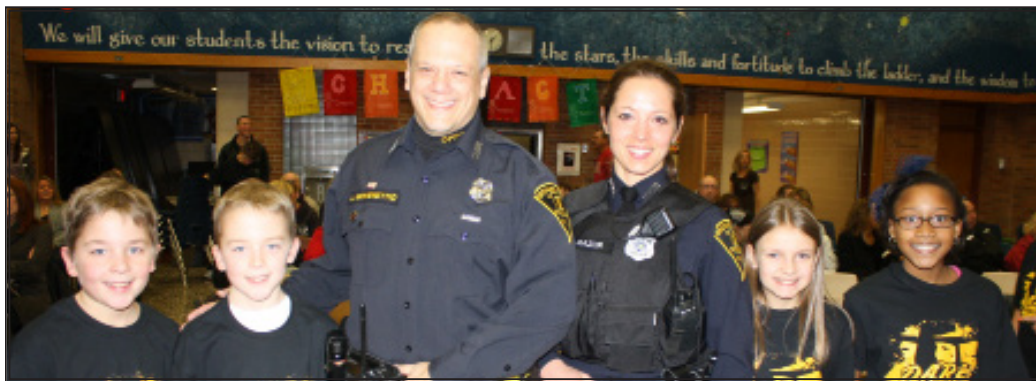
should stand up to that pressure. She encouraged students to stay focused and to not let drugs get in their way in order to succeed.

Heather Ly of WGRZ Channel 2 was the guest speaker at Ellicott's D.A.R.E. graduation. She spoke to students about her life story which started with her D.A.R.E. experience and continued into adulthood. Her message was that her story didn't include drugs

but if it had she wouldn't have achieved the good things that she has in her life currently like a career, a husband and good friends.

Windom Elementary and South Davis

Elementary fifth grade students will graduate from the D.A.R.E. program at the end of the 2013-2014 school year.



Pictured above are Eggert Road Elementary fifth grade students Spencer Schroeder, William Schroeder, Sydney Vigneron and Tiana Wheatley with D.A.R.E. officer Leonard Govenettio and future D.A.R.E. officer Kristen Mazur.

middle school and high school. She gave the students some entertaining examples of how they may be pressured into making a bad decision and how they

Educational Outreach Supplies Delivered

In years past, Educational Outreach has donated supplies to schools in Afghanistan. During the 2012-2013 school year the biggest shipment of supplies was planned. There were over 80 active volunteers and 20 schools within four districts that were involved in shipping the 2,560 lbs of school supplies. The supplies were sent to the School of Leadership Afghanistan also known as SOLA. The supplies were shipped by National Air Cargo for no charge during the summer of 2013. After many delays because of things like administrative clearances, they have finally arrived at the School of Leadership Afghanistan.



Students who attend SOLA have finally received the 2,560 lbs of supplies. They are pictured standing next to some of the boxes that arrived.

This year Educational Outreach is also working on many different projects. The club has held two Spaghetti Dinners to benefit Crossroad Springs School and Tsunami Relief in the Philippines. They are working with Habitat for Humanity and Vive La Casa which assists refugees. The club is planning a Climb for a Cause trip which will benefit Cystic Fibrosis, and they are working with the Home Again project to help an incoming refugee family. As always, they are keeping busy and doing a great service for our local and global community.

Business Students of the Quarter



Ashley Sperrey

Ashely Sperrey is a senior at Orchard Park High School, and is currently taking Leadership Skills and Principles of Marketing. She also took Personal Finance as a junior. Although she has not decided on a career, she desires to help and serve people, and

will find a career that fulfills this passion. She is looking into areas of administration, athletics, and also missions work. She has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, Orchard Park Educational Outreach, traveled to India on a Missions trip, and volunteered with her church in the city of Buffalo. She chose to take business classes because she felt that they would teach her how to be a leader, use her money wisely, and also educate her on what goes on in the business world. Although she is not currently playing a sport, she was on the Junior Varsity Volleyball team in both ninth and tenth grade. A quote that speaks to her is, "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way" by John C. Maxwell. To her this statement means that in order to be a leader you must know how to deal with a situation and lead others by example. You can only lead those around you to victory if you know what you are doing, and then do it.



Caleb Johnson

Caleb Johnson is a junior at OPHS. He has taken Personal Law, Advertising, iComp, and Career and Financial Management in the past, and is currently taking College Success Skills and Leadership. Next semester he is enrolled in Sports

Management and Personal Finance. He has taken so many business classes because not only are the teachers great but the things you learn can be applied to the real world, not just an exam. Outside of school he is the captain of the Varsity Cross Country team and runs Varsity Track and Varsity Indoor Track. He also volunteers as a children's church teacher, as well as a yearly VBS leader. In the future he may pursue physical therapy, a career he studied in CFM. The quote "To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift" by Steve Prefontaine best describes his mindset.

South Davis Works Towards a Peaceful School Bus

Recently, the student body at South Davis Elementary participated in a school-wide Peaceful School Bus meeting. The program, developed by a certified Olweus trainer, brings together administrators, teachers, bus drivers, parents and students to discuss the dynamics of bullying on the school bus. A sense of responsibility for appropriate behavior is fostered and supported with guidance from adults. The meeting was held on March 26th. Students were grouped by buses and were involved in several activities that focused on building a sense of community, positive social skills, as well as, problem solving scenarios.



Pictured to the right Lisa Tryon works with a group of students to discuss bullying on the school bus and what the appropriate behaviors and responses would be.



Orchard Park High School Festival Band Takes Top Honors in Chicago

Members of the combined Orchard Park High School Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band traveled to Chicago to participate in the Dixie Classic Music Festival held at Harper College on April 5th where they were awarded top honors from a panel of adjudicators. The judges were Tom Dvorak, Director Emeritus, University of Wisconsin and Dr. Ronald Fischer, Director of Bands at Concordia University.

Under the direction of Donald Carducci and Christopher Revett, the band performed two selections from a required list of music as well as a standard march. In addition to the festival overall "Honor Award" presented to a single group in recognition of exceptional achievement, the band received a "Division Award" for it's "Superior" rating in Division 4. The band was also awarded two "Judges Awards" recognizing exceptional performances by the clarinet and percussion sections.

The four-day trip was filled with many events and activities that enhanced the overall experience for the 75 member ensemble. Included in the itinerary was a tour of the Conn-Selmer musical instru-

ment factory where the students watched as craftsmen made brass instruments from raw materials to the shiny finished instruments played by students and professionals around the world. The following day found the students at the school of music at Northwestern University where they spent the morning in rehearsal with the Associate Director of Bands, Mr. Daniel Farris. Mr. Farris listened to the group perform it's contest selections and then took the podium to help them refine their performance. Later that evening, the band and parent chaperones took in a performance by the improvisational ensemble, "Blue Man Group."

This three-man mime ensemble used a variety of conventional and unconventional percussion instruments throughout their comedy routine. Student members Teale Armknecht and Martin Pietruszewski were selected from the audience to assist in two of the skits.

After their performance at the festival on Saturday, the band

members visited the Navy Pier before attending a concert by the world famous Chicago Symphony Orchestra in the legendary Symphony Hall. The students attended a pre-concert talk that previewed the evening's performance. As a special treat, the composer of one



Pictured above are students from both the High School Wind Ensemble and the Symphonic Band who traveled to Chicago to participate in the Dixie Classic Music Festival.

of that evening's selections addressed the audience to enlighten them on what they were about to hear. The weekend's events concluded with a trip to the John H. Shedd Aquarium before the long bus journey back to Orchard Park.

Petitions For Candidacy on the Board of Education are Available

Petitions for school board candidates in the Orchard Park Central School District are now available in the office of the District Clerk, 2240 Southwestern Blvd, West Seneca, between the hours of 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To be a qualified candidate for the Board of Education you must be a resident of the district for a 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 three trustees on the seven-member school board are up for election, Mrs. Rachel Baksa, Mr. David Nielsen and Mr. Sean Wittmann. Each term is for three years, July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017. Candidates must obtain at least 49 valid signatures, which represent 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 21, 2014.

Public voting on the budget is Tuesday, May 20 from 7 a.m - 9 p.m. in the Orchard Park High School Gymnasium. Please use the Freeman Road entrance.

Images From Around the District



Pictured are Windom Elementary Kindergarten students from Mrs. Fabbro's class: Bella Dunmais, Mareotis McFadden, Jacob Clayback, Michael Sahlem and Isaac Brooks pictured with the shirts they decorated for the 100th day of school.

On Wednesday, February 12th the Orchard Park Teachers Association and the Orchard Park School Related Professionals combined their efforts to provide their annual Valentine Cookies for Seniors. Over 250 cookies were baked, arranged and delivered to 7 different senior facilities throughout Orchard Park. It was a sweet treat for our older citizens. Susan Stott is pictured arranging cookies on trays to be delivered.



Mrs. Petrie's fifth grade class at Eggert Elementary won the Play 60 Challenge and got to go to the Fieldhouse. Madigan Robertson was picked to get tickets to attend the Bills Game in December. She went with her teacher Mrs. Petrie. They had an opportunity to actually go out on the field and high five the Bills players at the beginning of the game.



Thirty-four students from OPHS DECA attended the New York DECA State Career Conference in Rochester from March 5-7. They competed in various business-related contests, including marketing, finance and human resources. Six of these outstanding students qualified to represent Orchard Park DECA at the National Competition in Atlanta, Georgia this May.



Orchard Park High School students pictured rehearsing for their production of Les Miserables. Pictured are Adam Ziccardi, Brandon Mellerski, Ian Evans and Andrew Welch. They performed Les Miserables the 13th-16th of March.



Each February, Windom staff walks around the building before the students begin to arrive in honor of Healthy Heart Month. Pictured are some of the Windom staff members during their annual walk.

Images From Around the District



South Davis fourth grade student Mackenzie Scupien tries to throw pancakes into the mouth of a "black bear" during the fourth grade field trip to Green Lake. Fourth grade students went to Green Lake to learn about making maple sugar today and how it was made by the Iroquois.



Third grade students at Windom Elementary celebrated the Olympics. They created flags from around the world and paraded throughout the school with them and then held some outdoor olympic activities including a sledding race, luge pull and a winter toss. Pictured above is the sledding race.



Pictured are the talented fifth and sixth grade students chosen to be All-County musicians. Pictured in Row 1: Jenna Agro, Jessica Breth, Thomas Callaghan, Elena DeRosas, Grace Harvery and CJ Henrich. In Row 2: Lauren Hrusa, Brady Imiola, Paige Kent, Elizabeth Klosko, Ryan Knavel and Ali Miller. Pictured in Row 3: Morgan Mitskovski, Amandy Newbury, Erika Nichols, Clare Nielsen, Leah Pasqualetti and Caprise Privetera. Pictured in Row 4: Rose Quinlan, Bret Rokitka, Ava Savarino, Riley Swanson, Abby Vendura, Matt Wagner and Madeline Whitmore.



Fifth grade students Robbie Kipler, Jackson Whitmore, Kaleb Ronan and Claire Holmes are pictured attempting to build The Great Wall of China outside in the snow after third grade students at Eggert had completed a Close Read on The Great Wall of China. After about 45 minutes students realized why it took so long to build and why it took so many people to build it.



Jan Reynolds, author, photographer and adventurer visited Ellicott Elementary the week of March 11-14th. She is pictured speaking to Mrs. Matthews' and Mrs. Westin's class.

Scott Lembitz of Earth Spirit shows South Davis fourth grader Miles Haak how maple syrup was made by the Iroquois. Earth Spirit provides educational services to schools, community groups and the general public in or to reconnect others to the natural world through enhanced awareness.



Calendar Information

April

- 11...High School Early Dismissal, 12:45 p.m.
- 14-18...Spring Recess
- 22...SD Kindergarten Orientation, 9:30 a.m.
- 22...Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m. District Office - 2240 Southwestern Blvd.
- 24...SD Kindergarten Orientation, 2 p.m.
- 25...SD Spring Clean Up, 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.
- 25...EG Spring Clean Up, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- 28...EG Kindergarten Orientation, 1:30 p.m.
- 28...HS PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 29...EG Kindergarten Orientation, 9:30 a.m.
- 30...Orchard Park Pride, 6 p.m.
- 30-May 2nd...K-8 Math Assessments

May

- 1...EL Science Night, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 1...WE PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 2...WE Kindergarten Orientation, 1:45 p.m.
- 3...SAT at Orchard Park
- 5...WE Kindergarten Orientation, 9:45 a.m.
- 5...6th Grade Parent Orientation, 6:30 p.m.
- 5-16...AP Exams

- 6... Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m. District Office – 2240 Southwestern Blvd.
- 6...WE Choral Music in May, 7 p.m.
- 7...MS 8th Grade Music In May, 7 p.m.
- 7-9...MS BOGO Book Fair
- 7...EG PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 7...SD PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 8...EL Vocal/Orchestra Music in May, 7 p.m.
- 8...SD/WE Cadet Concert, 7 p.m. at the MS
- 8-9...EG PTO Mother's Day Plant Sale
- 8-9...WE Mother's Day Plant Sale
- 12-16...EG Scholastic BOGO Book Fair
- 12...HS Music In May I, 7 p.m.
- 12...STAP Comm Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13...MS 7th Grade Music in May, 7 p.m.
- 13...EL PTO Meeting, 2 p.m.
- 14...EG Vocal/Orchestra Music In May, 7 p.m.
- 14...SD/WE Music in May, 7 p.m. at the HS
- 14...MS PTO Meeting, 9:15 a.m.
- 15...MS 6th Grade Music In May, 7 p.m.
- 16...HS NHS Induction, 7 p.m.
- 16...HS Early Dismissal, 12:45 p.m.

- 17...Summer Driver Education Registration, 8 a.m.
 - 19...EG/EL Band Music in May, 7 p.m. at the HS
 - 19...SD Art Show & Ice Cream Social, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
 - 19...WE Ice Cream Social/Art Show/Book Fair, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 - 19...HS PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
 - 20...HS Music in May II
 - 20...Board of Education Annual Meeting & Budget Vote, 7 a.m. – 9 p.m., HS
 - 21...SD/WE NYSSMA Solo Night, 6 p.m. at WE
 - 21-22...NYSSMA Instrumental Evaluations
 - 26...Memorial Day Holiday
 - 26...Memorial Day Parade, 9 a.m.
 - 27...SD/WE Band/Orchestra Recruitment Night, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
 - 27-29...Grade 8 Science Assessment
 - 28...HS Music in May III, 7 p.m.
 - 28-June 2nd...Grade 4 & 8 Science Assessment
 - 29...EG Science Fair
 - 30...Underclass Awards Night
- ## June
- 3...HS New 2014 QMB Meeting, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
 - 3...EL PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

2013-2014 Calendar Changes

To date, the district has used 8 snow closing days. In order to meet the required NYSED 180 days of student attendance, the district has made the following changes to the 2013-14 school calendar:

Monday, April 21 will be a FULL DAY of student attendance K-12.

Friday, May 23 will be a FULL Day – of student attendance K-12.

Elementary Students WILL BE in attendance on Monday, June 23 and Tuesday, June 24 but will be DISMISSED at 2:30 p.m. on both days. Tuesday June 24 will be the last elementary attendance day.