

COMMUNITY REPORT

March/April 2013

Author Steve Swinburne Visits Ellicott and Eggert Elementary Schools



Steve Swinburne poses for a picture among artwork by students at Ellicott Elementary.

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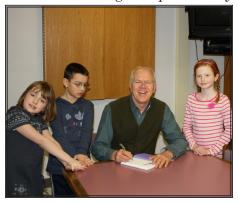
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Steve Swinburne visited Ellicott and Eggert Elementary Schools the week of March 4th – 8th. He is the author of non-fiction children's books and spoke to the Elementary school students about his work. He held assemblies at both schools and then met with smaller groups of students.

Swinburne is a nationally known children's author born in London. He currently resides in Vermont with his wife Heather and his daughters Hayley and Devon. He loves researching nature and wildlife and has found his passion in doing this. Swinburne left the corporate world to research different aspects of nature and write non-fiction children's books and he has never regretted his decision. His magnetic personality



Steven Swinburne signs books for Eggert Elementary students Maya Clinard, Jackson Martin, and Olivia Kirk.



Pictured above are Ellicott Elementary fourth graders Aidan Fotevski, Natasha Pai, Madisyn DeLozier, Eli Venning, Cole Schafer and Catie Coyle with author Steven Swinburne in front of artwork that the students created for Steve's arrival.

has a way of inspiring students. When he gets an idea or topic that interests him Swinburne engrosses himself in it and goes out of his way to learn about whatever has caught his interest to write. He has written books including "Moon in Bear's Eyes," "In Good Hands," "Unbeatable Beaks," "Bobcat," and many others.

Swinburne travels all over the world as a visiting author. Eggert and Ellicott were thrilled to have him inspire their students with his writing. More information about Steve Swinburne can be found on his website steveswinburne.com.



On opening day of school this year my theme was managing change. Little did I know just how accurate those words would be.

The Race to the Top has ushered in changes that are unprecedented in the field of education. The combined Core Curriculum and the new assessments are having us revamp our curriculum, but the State Education Department is still catching up with the resources and modules that are needed.

Superintendent's Column

By Matt McGarrity, Superintendent of Schools

The implementation of APPR has been one of the largest unfunded mandates, on a long list of unfunded mandates.

I know everyone has been working very hard to not only implement these changes, but to keep a positive learning environment for our students.

One thing we are facing is that no time has been added to our day, but the demands keep growing and growing. The combination of dramatically decreased funding for schools and a tax cap has jeopardized the comprehensive education that Orchard Park is know for. I implore our staff and community to raise our collective

voices to New York State and the NYS Education Department and deliver a clear message that our students deserve more. If you visit www.opschools.org/GovContacts the contact information for our local representatives including: Mark Grisanti, Michael P. Kearns, and Governor Cuomo is listed.

Our students, staff members, teachers and administrators are so much more than a test score. With parents, we work together to shape the futures and lives of our students. Now more than ever, we need to stay united and continue to do good things for our students every day.

Senior Helps Local Business Receive Grant



Academy of Finance Senior, Christina Docenko, helped the Cello-Pack Corporation receive a significant grant for a training program during her Academy of Finance internship.

Christina did her internship with the Cello-Pack Corporation during the summer of 2012. She worked 3 days a week for 4 weeks. She researched grants that the company would qualify for. She researched and found multiple grants that worked for Cello-Pack. Christina worked under Mary Lou Patterson and together they prepared a training grant. Christina organized and located records needed to apply for the grant. The research was successful and the company was awarded a \$22,425 Regional Economic Development Council Award by Governor Cuomo's NY Works for Business.

Christina feels that this was an awesome experience to see how a manufacturing plant works. She is looking forward to studying Chemical Engineering at the University of Buffalo. She is very interested in Math and Science and hopes to pursue these subjects with her degree in Chemical Engineering.

Academy of Finance Senior, Christina Docenko.

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.

Ellicott Students Get Involved in PARP or Parents as Reading Partners



Pictured above in the top row are Ellicott Elementary Principal Paul Pietrantone, Riley Bowersox, Sean Clifford, NFL Hall of Famer Thurman Thomas, Emily Leach and Katelyn Stranz. In the bottom row are Jake Hemingway, Tyler Rohauer, Katie Bogart, Gavin Rauh, and Avery Dommer.

The week of March 11th, Ellicott Elementary participated in PARP (Parents as Reading Partners). Each night, students could read for 15 minutes with a parent, and turn in a "ticket," voting for their favorite Buffalo sports team (the Bills vs. Sabres).

Ellicott Elementary kicked off PARP with a Hill Brothers concert. There were many other special activities including "Wear a Team Hat Day," "Dress As Your Favorite Character Day," and a very special book drive.

Ellicott partnered with "Reach Out And Read," an organization that provides books to children from impoverished neighborhoods. Ellicott collected almost 700 books! Many of the students favorite activity was our Mystery Celebrity DEAR Time reader. NFL Hall of Famer Thurman Thomas came in to read the book, "Dyno-Football" to the entire school during DEAR Time.

Safe Routes To School Grant

At the end of the 2011-2012 school year the Village of Orchard Park reached out to the Orchard Park Central School District. They hoped to collaboratively apply for the Safe Routes to School grant to increase safety for our children and improve our community. The Orchard Park Central School District agreed and looked forward to working together to improve the village and school district.

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Commissioner Joan McDonald announced \$26.5 million in federal Safe Routes to School funding. This money would go towards implementing infrastructure improvements and public education campaigns across the State to encourage elementary and middle school children to safely walk and bike to school.

The intent of Safe Routes to School is to enable and encourage children to walk or bicycle to school. It will help children adopt a more healthy and active lifestyle by making bicycling and walking a safer and more appealing transportation alternative. This grant will facilitate the planning, development and implementation of transportation projects that will improve safety while reducing traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

The Orchard Park Central School District and the Village of Orchard Park are pleased to announce that they are the recipient of the Safe Routes to School Grant funds in the amount of \$391,867. The Village of Orchard Park will receive the \$391,867 for sidewalks, curb ramps and safety education mainly at South Davis Elementary and the Orchard Park Middle School. The project will have up to a five year duration, beginning in January of 2013. The project will include the construction and maintenance of village sidewalks near the two school buildings and educational programs to increase student knowledge of safe walking and bicycling habits.

Receiving this grant is an exceptional opportunity for the Village of Orchard Park and the Orchard Park Central School District. Together we look forward to children maintaining healthier lifestyles, safer walking routes and reducing emissions throughout our community. We hope to be able to collaborate on future initiatives to enhance our community.

If you have questions or would like more information about the Safe Routes to School Grant, please contact the Village Office at 662-9327.

Eggert Celebrates Wellness Week

Eggert Elementary celebrated Wellness Week from Monday, January 28, 2013 through Friday, February 1, 2013.

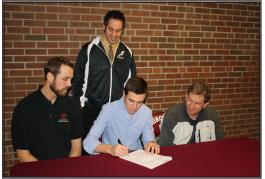


Pictured are Eggert Elementary students at the Wellness Dance: Grace Taggart, Melanie Mingle, Alyssa Mingle, Jennifer Luchowski, Ashley Kurtz.

The school kicked off Wellness Week with a school wide Cha Cha Slide. Faculty and students were asked to dress in fitness attire to promote healthy choices. Throughout the week, students participated in healthy snacks and listened to presentations from the Food Band of WNY. On Friday the school headed to the "Sock Hop" for the annual Family Wellness Dance. For the first time there were 18 wellness booths set up in the large cafeteria. It was a great opportunity to ask questions and get information about promoting wellness for students and their families.

The Wellness Committee is made up of members of our staff whose goal it is to promote wellness activities throughout the school year. There was a sub-committee for the dance and Wellness Week. The dance chairpersons were Brian Muffoletto, Kelly Kingston, Pat Leach and Donna Franz. Many other teachers, SRPs and volunteers also assisted during the dance.

News In Athletics



Orchard Park senior Jacob Eneix has signed his letter of intent to run Division II Cross Country and Track at Mercyhurst University at a signing ceremony at the Orchard Park High School.

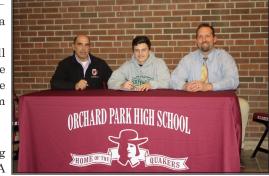
Jake began running track in 7th grade. He continued playing other sports including soccer and hockey into his freshman year of high school. When Jake broke the five minute mile, his coach Ted Washburn had a discussion with him about what a talented runner he is and that he should maybe make running his focus. From that point on, Jake fully engulfed himself in running. He participated in Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track each year. He has had impressive times including a 10:16 for the 2 mile and 15:33 for the three mile. He had ups and downs in his running career including injuries and illness but he persevered through the difficulty to come back and have a strong senior year. Jake is excited about the opportunity

to go to States again this year and looks forward to continue running in college.

Next year Jake will be attending Mercyhurst University and he plans to study Criminal Justice with a minor in Political Science. He will be participating in both Cross Country and Track for Mercyhurst. Jake is the son of David and Linda Eneix.

Orchard Park senior Ben Holmes signed his National Letter of Intent at a signing ceremony at the Orchard Park High School.

Ben is a quarterback and a punter for the Orchard Park Varsity Football Team. His senior season he passed for 1,588 yards with 18 touchdown passes while leading Quakers to Class AA State Finals. He finished with 988 rushing yards. He was an all around contributor and a good punter. Last year he was a second team All WNY wide receiver. Ben is considereing a career in Journalism.





The Orchard Park bowling team finished 2nd place in Class A behind Frontier and 2nd place over-

all in the tournament (50 teams participated). This was the highest finish by an OP Quakers Boys Bowling team since 1969. The 1986-87 team finished second in Class A but finished 8th over-all. In order for a team to qualify for the state tournament they must finish 1st over-all. The boys team was 43 pins away from going to the state tournament for the first time in school history. Erich Nahrebeski had the high game for the whole tournament with a 276. Pictured to the left is the bowling team at sectional. From left to right are Colin Herr, Brandon Williams, Hayden Brock Jr., Erich Nahrebeski, Salvatore Rizzo, Sr. Captain Doug Gawel and Coach Joe Biondo.

OPFAE Holds Dinner

The Orchard Park Foundation for Academic Excellence will be holding their 6th Annual Excellence Dinner and Awards Celebration on Sunday, May 5th at 6 p.m. at Mangia Restaurant and Cafe. Mangia is located at 4264 North Buffalo Street in Orchard Park.

The recipients of the PTO Volunteer of the Year Awards, the Lifetime Achievement Honorees and the Student Volunteer Award will be recognized. For more information on the dinner please visit www.opschools.org/community.cfm?subpage=15979

Alumni Update

The class of 1973 will be holding its 40th High School Reunion the weekend of August 9th and 10th, 2013. The afternoon of Friday, August 9th, there will be a golf outing followed by a mixer at the Byrd House in the Village of Orchard Park. Saturday, August 10th, will be the main event of the weekend at the Buffalo Ski Club in West Falls. It will include dinner, drinks and music. The dress is casual. For more information please visit the community page of www.opschools.org.

Business Student of the Month



For the month of February, the Business Department at Orchard Park High School has named Nicholas Burkhart-Mangas Student of the Month. Nicholas, currently a sophomore, started his course work in business education with Banking and Credit and is continuing his business course of study this year by taking Personal Finance and Accounting I. He enjoys taking business classes because he wants to be "business savvy." Nicholas' role model is Mr. Agnew and he hopes to be an Accountant someday.

Nicholas Burkhart-Mangas February Business Student of the Month

AED/CPR Training



The Orchard Park Central School Bus Drivers and Attendants have volunteered their time to take an AED/CPR Training Class that was made available to them through the efforts of Ken Machemer, one of Orchard Park's School Bus Drivers. They have volunteered their time for this class because they care for the safety and wellbeing of the children of Orchard Park. Special thanks to the Orchard Park EMS and Paramedics for all their efforts and time.

Pictured to the left is Jacqui Petersen from Orchard Park. She is the EMS Trainer/Paramedic and Suellen Witzleben, Orchard Park Bus Driver.

Sign Up To Stay Informed Ed Alert

In an effort to keep the school community informed, the Orchard Park Central School District uses Ed Alert on our website. Ed Alert is a service that provides parents, students, faculty/staff and community members the opportunity to receive emails and/or text messages on school-related information. The District uses the system to keep subscribers informed of school closings, early dismissals, event cancellations and other important information. If you would like to receive announcements and communications, you can opt-in by doing the following:

- 1. Visit the District's website: www.opschools.org.
- 2. Click "Ed Alert" under "Quick Links" on the main page.
- 3. Fill in your information using all lowercase letters for your email address.
- 4. Subscribe to the email list appropriate for you.
- 5. Be sure to click the "sign me up" button.

OPHS Presents Once on This Island

Orchard Park High School proudly presented *Once on This Island* a musical with a book and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens and music by Stephen Flaherty.



Taking place on a socially divided island in the French Antilles, Once on This Island was a calypsoflavored re-telling of the traditional "Little Mermaid" tale. It began as the Storytellers attempted to calm a little girl's fears during a violent storm. They told the story of Ti Moune, a poor peasant girl who fell in love with Daniel, an upper class boy whose life she saved after a car crash. The gods manipulated the story by sending Ti Moune on a journey that tested her will. The story was about innocence, dreams, the human condition, racial and class struggles and most importantly, how the power of love conquers the fear of death.

The performances were held March 14, 15, 16, and 17.

Pictured above are the leads of **Once on This Island**. In the back row are Laurie Beth Koller who played Asaka, Joseph Kren who played Papa Ge, Kayla Storto who played Erzulie, and Brandon Mellerski who played Agwe. In the front row are Emily Miecarek as Mama Euralie, Leah Berst who played TiMoune, Nathaniel Feldman who played Daniel, Emma Freedenberg who played Andrea, and Andrew Welch who played Ton Ton Julian.

Middle School Students Send Treats to Soldiers in Kandahar

The Andromeda base at the Middle School has donated boxes of treats to soldiers currently serving in Kandahar. The students sent the soldiers six huge boxes of Pringles and Snickers candy bars.

Mrs. Pat Rumschik's son, Captain Michael Rumschik, is currently serving as a chaplain on a base of 30,000 soldiers in Kandahar. Mrs. Rumschik's son had mentioned to her that the soldiers don't often get any treats or junk food so the Andromeda base decided they wanted to change that.

They did a little research and found that Snickers bars and packages of Pringles travel well so they decided to gather and send those to the soldiers. The Andromeda students'



generosity was overwhelming. They collected Snickers and Pringles to fill six large boxes to be sent. The soldiers have enjoyed the treats and



six large boxes Pictured above are Andromeda students showcasing a few of to be sent. the Pringles and Snickers before they were sent to the soldiers. The soldiers From left to right are students Jack Thomas, Matt Shaver, Kyle have enjoyed Strycharz, Declan Watson, Jacob Schaffer and Corbin Sikes.

especially enjoyed the cards that the students made for them as a little taste of home. The soldiers had said it felt like Christmas.

The Andromeda base was thrilled to be able to do something

Pictured above are the soldiers after they had received one of to help the soldiers when they do so much for our country. the boxes holding up some of their treats.

Elementary Schools Perform Impressive Productions



Pictured to the right are Ellicott Elementary 5th graders Rachael Major as Belle and Dylan Ambrosio as the Beast rehearsing before the Beauty and the Beast Jr. performance.



Pictured above are Eggert 5th graders Rose Quinlan as Mrs. Gloop, Austin Connell as Augustus Gloop, Jack Masman as Mike TeeVee, Taylor Bukowski as Mrs. TeeVee, Zack Plecas as Granpa Joe, Robert Maccioni as Charlie Bucket, Thomas Callaghan as Willy Wonka, Ian Bonafede as Mr. Salt, and Gabrielle Kent as Veruca Salt during the dress rehearsal of their production of Willy Wonka Kids.





Pictured to the left are Windom Elementary students Eric Deitz, Matthew Baksa, Connor Phalon as the King and Heather Campobello as the Queen in their production of the Princess and the Pea.

Pictured are Jack Fischer, Grace Scott, Sean MacDonald, Olivia Larson and Sara Puskar rehearsing for the South Davis production of School House Rock that took place at the Orchard Park Middle School in February.

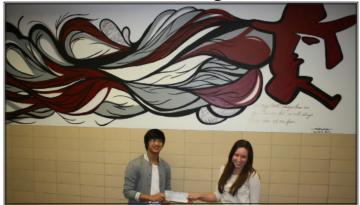
South Davis Science Night



South Davis Elementary students Lexi Arriens, a fourth grader, and Rachel Norvilitis, a fifth grader, study quicksand at South Davis' Science Night.

Quicksand was not the only thing students could learn about. They had opportunities to see a live show called "Tiny Talons" presented by Hawk Creek, they could check out Usborne books, see live experiments by Alpha Chi Sigma, a professional Fraternity at the University of Buffalo, or have hands-on fun with the color mixing lab, learning about sink/float density, or color chromatography.

Images From Around the District



Last spring STAP Comm sponsored a mural contest. Jon Santiano was the winner and has finished the mural. Pictured above, Sydney Metger, STAP Comm president, presents Jon with a check for winning the mural contest.



Author Maria Divencenzo spoke to Windom Elementary kindergarten, first, and second grade students. Maria is an author and publisher. On this visit she read **The Scariest Dream Ever** to the students.



Students from the OPHS chapter of DECA attended the Region 12 competition on Jan. 6. They competed in various business-related contests and returned to Orchard Park with a total of twenty-three students qualifying to compete at the State Career Conference in March. Congratulations to these outstanding competitors! Pictured above are the DECA students in the front row are Tommy Baldinger, Liam Hoover, Laurie Beth Koller, Hannah Rauch, Sydney Wawryzyniak, Garret Brown, Maxime Legros, Giselle Gerace, Sarah Weber, and Kiersten Putnam. In the back row are Jessica Skwara, Skylar Woods, Kristen Saskowski, Emily Collins, Amy Olejniczak, Karina Kuchumov, Sarah Hosking, Shaan Legros, Mark Fasolino, Cassandra Kaczmarek, Emily Hahn, Stephanie Fasolino, Sam Gura, Katelin Selby, Sierra Erie, Nick Lozanovski Amanda Sixt and Noelle Dowling.



Three students were selected to represent Orchard Park High School for the 2012 Conference All-State Ensembles in Rochester, New York. They are from left to right: Christina Docenko, violin, Corbin Dzimian, tuba and Nicole Kulakowski, voice. The students spent three days in December working under guest conductors culminating with a performance at Kodak Hall in the Eastman Theatre.



Victoria Lopex, a fourth grade student at Windom Elementary, was thrilled when her father Sgt. William Taylor surprised her with his return during her lunch period. Sgt. William Taylor has been deployed with the Army National Guard since January 2012. Pictured above is Sgt. William Taylor, his daughter Victoria Lopez and Kristy Taylor, Sgt Taylor's wife.



South Davis students went snowshoeing with Earth Spirit. Pictured above is Scott Lembitz of Earth Spirit observing animal tracks with 4th graders Emily Penn, Ryan Nelson, and Jack Raymond.

Destination ImagiNation Teams Did Well at Regional Competition

There were 12 Orchard Park teams performing at the Regional Competition at ECC South on Saturday, March 16th. Ten competition teams and two Rising Stars teams performed.

Teams were able to choose from one of six challenges to solve: Structural Engineering, Technical, Scientific, Fine Arts, Community Service or Improvisational. In addition they were required to do an Instant Challenge in which they had approximately five minutes to complete a challenge they had never seen before.

Two Rising Stars teams from South Davis and Ellicott also presented their solutions. Rising Stars is open to third graders and is non-competitive. More information about the competition can be found at nydi.org.

Nine Orchard Park teams will move on to the State Competition at Endicott in April. Congratulations to all of the teams!

- Two High School teams participated and both came in 1st place.
- Four Middle School teams participated and two came in 1st and one came in 2nd place.
- Three Eggert teams participated and they all came in 1st place.
- One Ellicott team participated and came in 1st place.
- Two Rising Stars teams participated from South Davis and Ellicott.

The Ellicott Elementary Rising Stars team received a very special Renaissance Award. This award is given to teams which demonstrate extraordinary amounts of effort and preparation in their solutions or outstanding skill in engineering, design or performance.



Pictured above is the Ellicott team Girls on Fire preparing for the Regional Competition.

Petitions for Candidacy on the Board of Education Are Available

Petitions for qualified candidates seeking election to the Orchard Park Central School District Board of Education are currently available in the office of the District Clerk, 3330 Baker Road, Orchard Park.

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 trustess, Mrs. Natalie Schaffer and Mrs. Donna Omar are up for election. Each term is for three years, July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2016. The unexpired term of Mr. Alfred McClymonds is also up for election. That term is for the remainder of Mr. McClymonds unfinished term and will begin May 21, 2013 and end June 30, 2015. Candidates must obtain at least 44 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 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2013.

Public voting on the budget is Tuesday, May 21, 2013, from 7 a.m. - 9 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.

Board of Education Meeting Schedule

Board of Education meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the District Offices, 3330 Baker Road, unless otherwise indicated. Additional work sessions may be scheduled, as needed, throughout the year. Meetings are open to the public.

April 16, 2013, May 7, 2013 May 21, 2013 - District , Budget Vote, High School, June 11, 2013

Orchard Park Central Schools Board of Education

3330 Baker Road • Orchard Park, New York 14127 Editor: Julianne Heinen www.opschools.org (716)209-6222

Calendar Information

\overline{March}

- 25...5th & 6th Grade Choral Festival, 2:30 p.m.
- 25...HS PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **26...**Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., High School
- 27...HS AP Information Night
- 29...Superintendent's Conference Day – No students

April

- 1-5...Spring Break No School
- 8...CCPTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 10...EG PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- **10...**MS PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 11...MS Spring Choral Concert, 7 p.m.
- 11...SD PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 15...HS STAP-Comm Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 15...Spring Community
 Education
 Classes Begin
- 16...Board of EducationMeeting, 7 p.m., DistrictOffice Baker Building
- 16...EL PTO Meeting
- 16-18...Grades 3-8 ELA Assessments
- 18...HS Foreign Language

- Honor Societies'
 Induction
- 18...EL Science Night, 6 p.m. 8 p.m.
- 23...SD Kindergarten Orientation, 9:30 a.m.
- 24...HS OP Pride
- 24-25...NYSSMA

Instrumental Majors

- **24-26...**Grades 3-8 Math Assessments
- **25...**SD Kindergarten Orientation, 2 p.m.
- **26...**HS Early Dismissal at 12:45 p.m.
- **26...**EG Spring Clean-Up, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- **29...**EG Kindergarten Orientation, 1:30 p.m.
- 29...HS PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **30...**SD Spring Clean Up, 8 a.m. 9 a.m.
- **30...**EG Kindergarten Orientation, 9:30 a.m.

May

- 1...EG PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 1...Grade 6 Parent Orientation, 6:30 p.m.
- **2-3...**NYSSMA Instrumental Major Evaluations, 9 a.m.
- 2...WE PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 4...SAT at HS
- 6...WE Kindergarten

- Orientation, 1:45 p.m.
- 7...WE Kindergarten Orientation, 9:30 a.m.
- 7...Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., District Office – Baker Building
- 7...WE Choral Music in May, 7 p.m.
- 8...MS PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 8...SD PTO Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
- 8...MS Music In May I, 7 p.m.
- 9...EL Vocal & Orchestra Music In May, 7 p.m.
- 9...SD & WE Cadet Concert at MS, 7 p.m.
- **9-10...**EG Mother's Day Plant Sale
- **9-10...**WE PTO Mothers Day Plant Sale
- 10...EL School Spirit Day
- 10...SD Staff Appreciation Lunch, 11 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
- 13...HS STAP-Comm, 7 p.m.
- 14...EL PTO Meeting, 2 p.m.
- 14...HS Music in May I, 7 p.m.
- 15...EG Vocal & Orchestra Music In May, 7 p.m.
- 16...MS Music In May II, 7 p.m.
- 17...ArtSplash
- **17-20...**WE Book Fair
- 18...Summer DriverEducation Registration,8 a.m., CommunityEducation Office