



ORCHARD PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY REPORT

June 2012

The Class of 2012 Top Ten



Pictured to the left are the Orchard Park High School's Top Ten Students in the class of 2012. Shown from left to right in the bottom row are; Emma Hayes, Jillian Zablonksi, Kristen Klemmer, Justine Brennan, and Nicole Wawrzyniak. Shown from left to right in the top row are; Anna Bystran, Jillian Zhang, Kendall Franz, Emily Frost and Kyle Lambert.

Congratulations to the Top Ten Students. The Orchard Park School District wishes you all the best as you move forward in your lives!



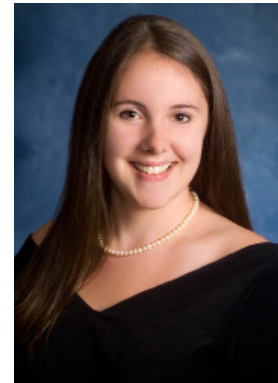
Justine Brennan is the daughter of June and John Brennan. She is planning to attend Cornell University in the fall to study Industrial Labor Relations.



Anna Bystran is the daughter of Andrea and Stephen Bystran. She plans to attend UB Honors College, Columbia or Cornell to study Chemical/Environmental Engineering.



Kendall Franz is the daughter of Donna and Karl Franz. She plans to attend Canisius College to study Pre-Medicine and Management.



Emily Frost, Vale-dictorian, is the daughter of Christine Weckerle and Jeffrey Frost. She plans to attend Yale University to study History or American Studies.



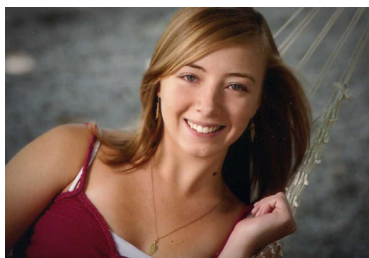
Emma Hayes is the daughter of Christine Allen-Hayes and Glen Hayes. She plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh to study Pharmacy.



Kristen Klemmer, Salutatorian, is the daughter of Karen and John Klemmer. She plans to attend Case Western Reserve University to study Biochemistry/Pre-med.



Kyle Lambert is the son of Nolene and Thomas Lambert. Kyle plans to attend either Case Western Reserve University, Canisius College or the University of Rochester to study Biomedical Engineering.



Nicole Wawrzyniak is the daughter of Lori and Joseph Wawrzyniak. Nicole plans to attend either SUNY Geneseo, SUNY at Buffalo, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Rochester, Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute, Cornell University, John Hopkins University, or the University of Pennsylvania to study Biomedical Engineering.



Jillian Zablonksi is the daughter of Paula and Gregory Zablonksi. She plans to attend Northeastern University to study Pharmacy.



Jillian Zhang is the daughter of Wai Zhen Ma and Tian Cai Zhang. She plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh or the University of Buffalo for Biomedical Engineering.

Superintendent's Column

By: Matthew McGarrity

Superintendent of Schools



Matthew McGarrity

This month is a month of many congratulations. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2012. We will miss you but we look forward to seeing all of your future accomplishments.

39 of the Orchard Park School District staff members are retiring this year. Together they have served this District for 941.5 years. I would especially like to congratulate Dennis Fitscher

the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Pupil Services as he recently announced his retirement. Dennis has held a variety of positions within the District over the last 36 years, including teacher and principal. No matter the position, Dennis has been a role model and a leader for students, staff and parents. He has been a motivating force behind district advancements in curriculum, special projects and goal setting. While Dennis will be missed, he has certainly left a positive mark on our District. We wish him the best in his retirement.

Congratulations to: Anthony Agnello, Douglas Barry, Sandra Beers, Michael Behm, Louise Breen, Colleen Butera, Suzanne Craik, Angelo Daluisio,

Denise Doherty, Denise Drumsta, Jeanne Dryja, Thomas Dryja, Kathryn Eschbach, Donna Faulhaber, Robert Ferrentino, Carol Fitscher, Theresa Gerken, Denise Gimlin, Melvin Hamann, Janet Jahnke, , Susan Ketzer, Noreen Kulczyk, Donald Lorentz, Lucille Mahoney, Joan McAllister, Karen Meyer, Diane Norman, John Paladino, Kevin Schott, Cynthia Schwab, Suzanne Shults, Richard Shults, Terry Spicola, Walter Stefani, Kathryn Stillwell, Sandra Stone, Mary Vesneske, and Kathleen Walter. We hope you enjoy this next phase of you lives.

I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and relaxing summer vacation. Students, teachers and staff have worked hard all year long. This will be a well-deserved break.

Middle School Students Are Suckers for Two Little Boys

The Mariner base at the Orchard Park Middle School ran a campaign in order to raise money for the Swansons, a local family with two young sons, Ryan and Dylan, that were diagnosed with autism in 2009. Their parents, Daryl and Jamie, are working hard to help their two sons. The financial burden of caring for these two boys is significant.

The fundraiser was held from Monday, May 14th through Friday, May 18th. Mariner students sold paper suckers for \$1 each. If you bought one, you could put your name on the paper sucker and let everyone know that you are a “sucker for two little boys.” When you bought a paper sucker you also received a real sucker. The paper suckers were hung in the Middle School foyer. The Mariner students invited the Swanson family to the Middle School so they could see all the “suckers for their little boys.”

The Mariner students raised \$1200 on the sucker sale. Coach Bruce DeHaven, of the Buffalo Bills, donated a Fred Jackson jersey which raised another \$300. In total, a little over \$1,500 was raised for this amazing family. Students from the Orchard Park Middle School



Students from the Mariner base selling suckers to raise funds.



Middle School students after purchasing some suckers.

were proud to be able to help support this family and be “suckers for two little boys”.

Please visit www.stepnup4swansons.com to see pictures and get additional information about

their story.

7th Grade Students Conducts Mock Trials

Mr. Al Jafarjian's 7th grade Social Studies Classes traveled to the Orchard Park Town Hall to conduct a mock trial. The trial pictured was the case of Simeon Bushnell, who was on Trial for violating the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, a historic case that really took place in Oberlin, Ohio in the years leading up to the Civil War. In this case the residents of the town of Oberlin help a slave to escape to Canada, stealing him away from slave catchers who had come up from Kentucky to take him back to the plantation he ran away from. According to the Fugitive Slave Law, this was illegal at the time, no one could help a slave escape. Many Northerners became abolitionists because of this terrible law. This law, along with many other events of the 1850s, led to the Civil War, a terrible struggle for the United States, that resulted in the end of slavery. By re-enacting trials in our classroom, students think critically, analyze information, speak and present in front of classmates and use debate skills. These are all excellent ways to prepare students to succeed in the new Common Core areas. 3



Pictured above Jake Graves and Bridget Morseon conducting a mock trial

Energy Update

By: Tom Schaner Energy Education Specialist

The Orchard Park School District has made a strong commitment to energy conservation over the past year. The Board of Education adopted an “Energy/Water Conservation and Recycling of Solid Waste” policy with its accompanying regulations. These documents specify the responsibilities of each stakeholder group - teachers, custodians, administration, etc. - in implementing conservation measures throughout the district. The policy also created the position of “Energy Education Specialist,” who works with all stakeholders to identify and initiate those energy conservation measures.

As Orchard Park’s Energy Education Specialist, I am responsible for a wide variety of tasks that all have one common thread - working cooperatively with all district employees to implement the board of education’s energy policy, thus reducing waste and redirecting those savings to the job of educating our students.

Our district has partnered with Energy Education Inc., a company with twenty-five years of experience in energy conservation within schools, to accomplish these goals. Energy Education Inc. provides experts who regularly visit Orchard Park Schools, making on-site evaluations and recommendations. They provide a sophisticated computer program that allows us to compare energy consumption from this year to last, factoring in variables such as weather. They share “best practices” in dealing with ener-

gy issues, allowing us to benefit from their years of experience.

Most of my time as energy education specialist is spent in the buildings doing “energy audits.” As I walk through a building, I measure room temperatures with an infrared temperature gun. I check to see if fresh air is being vented into classrooms during occupied times and stale air is being exhausted out of the building. I use a device called a data logger to monitor temperature and humidity in a classroom over longer periods of time. Many audits are done late at night, very early in the morning, or on weekends so I can observe the building in an “unoccupied” mode. During these times I hope to see cooler temperatures, exhaust fans off, classroom electronics off, and hall lighting at a minimum. I report the results of my audits to building principals and head custodians so that they can make any necessary adjustments at their building. I also meet regularly with the district’s maintenance department to share audit data and adjust the computer-based energy management system accordingly.

Communication is another important part of my job. Ours is a “transformational energy management” process, that seeks to transform all staff members into conscientious energy consumers in the workplace. Early on, I met with each faculty and staff to introduce the new energy initiative. I continually communicate to staff about events such as



Pictured above is Tom Schaner, Energy Education Specialist,

“shutdowns,” the times when classes are in recess. Explaining clearly what is expected of head custodians and teachers during these shutdown periods helps us realize more savings. I recently sponsored an Earth Day initiative called “A Simple Gesture”. More than sixty elementary classroom teachers made a commitment to reduce energy use in commemoration of Earthday. I have regular meetings with Superintendent Matt McGarrity, Assistant Superintendent Jeff Petrus and Head of Building and Grounds Bill Bosinski. We discuss any energy issues that impact the entire district.

Since starting as energy education specialist in October, I continue to grow in my knowledge of how our school district’s energy infrastructure works and how best to improve its energy efficiency. I am personally committed to energy conservation in my own life, and I bring that same zeal to my work in Orchard Park. I recently helped Orchard Park Schools become an “Energy Star Partner” which is a tangible commitment to energy conservation and a step toward higher honors with the U.S Department of Energy’s Energy Star Program. I look forward to establishing Orchard Park Schools as a leader in energy conservation and a model for other districts to emulate.

Orchard Park Seniors View Firsthand the Consequences of Drinking and Driving

By: Mary Wolf
Co-advisor of OPHS SADD

The Orchard Park Chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) partnered with the high school drama club, and the OP police, to send a serious message about safety in preparation for the prom and graduation.

The goal of the morning-long event was safety and making positive healthy decisions, not just for prom night, but for their entire lives said Mary Wolf, co advisor of OPHS SADD. The theme of the assembly was "Don't let your memories end here," and featured a speaker whose personal story made the tragic consequences of drinking and driving a reality for the students.

In addition to the assembly, the students experienced a simulation of a tragic car accident, and witnessed firsthand the consequences, both physical and emotional, of driving while impaired. Though student actors from the senior class of OPHS were used for the re-enactment, first responders commented that it was one of the most authentic portrayals that they had ever seen.



Pictured are students, Victoria Trent and Bailey Humiston, watching in distress as their critically injured classmate TJ Lavigne is taken to the ambulance by first responders from Hillcrest Volunteer Fire Company.

This is truly a community event commented Wolf. It involved officers from the Orchard Park Police, volunteers from all three Orchard Park Fire Halls, students from the Explorers Program, and Emergency Medical Service personnel. Dan Neaverth, Orchard Park District Fire Chief, provided narration and explained to the nearly 450 student observers exactly what was taking place on the lawn behind the gymnasium on Freeman Road. The students were respectful, attentive and awestruck by the event. One staff person was heard to say "it is much better to bring this reality to the students in the form of prevention, rather than have any one of them experience that type of tragedy in their own life".



The car explosion sets the stage for the simulation of a tragic car accident that is part of OPHS' annual SADD prom safety assembly.

After a solemn morning filled with messages of safety, personal stories of tragedy and loss owing to impaired driving, and the re-enactment of the results of poor decision making, the students were given the opportunity to begin their prom weekend with hope for their future and a glance at their past, as they signed year books, picked up their caps and gowns and enjoyed a delicious chicken barbecue. The whole event is in keeping with the mission of the Orchard Park Community to Keep Kids Safe.

The Ride for Missing Children Stops at Ellicott Elementary

The Ride for Missing Children was held in Buffalo last Thursday, May 24th. The ride held educational rest stops at local elementary schools and Ellicott Elementary was chosen.

Students had an opportunity to see the cyclists ride in from their 100 mile trek. The riders gave the students high fives as they entered the rest stop area. There were speakers to talk to the students and discuss safety; reminding children to steer clear of adults they don't know. There

was a silent tribute to acknowledge the many children that are currently missing. The ride holds its rest stops at elementary schools in order to have an impact on children that could be directly affected.

Ellicott Elementary school students had a great time and actively participated in the festivities. They cheered the cyclists on as they left to finish their journey after receiving some refreshments at Ellicott Elementary.

The Ride for Missing Children was started in 1995 when a group of cyclists rode from Central New York to Washington D.C. to promote awareness about missing children. The 100- mile Ride for Missing Children came to WNY soon after. This year was Buffalo's Sixth Annual Ride for Missing Children.



Cyclists ride into the Ellicott Elementary parking lot where all of the students have gone outside to greet them.

5th Graders Write Their Own Press Release

Jennifer Roward's fifth grade students learned about Public Relations on Monday, May 21st. They learned how to write a press release and practiced taking photographs. Below is the press release written by Mrs. Roward's fifth grade students.

The fifth graders at Eggert Elementary are celebrating their Moving-On Ceremony and are excited to go on to the Orchard Park Middle School.

All 93 fifth graders from Eggert Elementary School are celebrating that they are moving on to the Middle School.

The ceremony will be held on June 19, 2012 in the Eggert Elementary cafeteria. This moving up ceremony celebrates the fifth graders last year at this wonderful school.

The fifth graders of Eggert Road Elementary are proud of their big accomplishment of finishing kindergarten through fifth grade and are heading to the Middle School as responsible kids.

For more information, go to the district website, www.opschools.org. Be sure to click on the Eggert tab and Eggert calendar on the left.

Hope to see you at Eggert Elementary on June 19th for this special fifth grade day.



Pictured above is Mrs. Rowards class. This photograph was taken by fifth grader, Emilie Rush.

ArtSplash

This year ArtSplash, the all-district art exhibit was held from Friday, May 18th until Friday, June 1st. It was held at HSBC Bank at 4191 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.



The Shadow Flower
Sarah Campbell, Sixth Grade
Mixed Media Mrs. C. Gawley, MS



Blue Makaw
Sammi Nardolillo, Ninth Grade
Mixed Media Mr. Skalski, HS



Dragon Grouping
Jennifer Jones and Taryn Smith,
Fifth Grade, Mrs. Lori Benes, EL



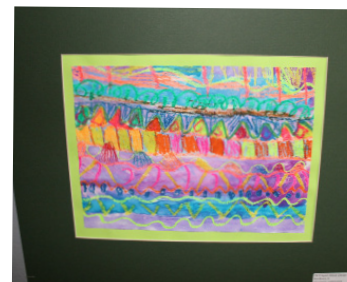
Southwestern Landscape
Shannon Grajek, Eleventh Grade
Acrylics and Oils Mr. Skalski, HS



Kelsey Schaffstall, Twelfth Grade
Ms. Perla, High School



Leah Pasqualetti
Watercolor, Fourth Grade
Mrs. Colleen Kelly-Sircus, SD



Oil Crayon Resist Design
Ava Bruce, Kindergarten
Oil crayons watercolors
Mrs. Johnson Eggert



Life
Elmilia Fanelli, Eighth Grade
Cut Paper Mrs. Sanchez, MS



Man in a Hat
Douglas Bellus, Fifth Grade
Block print Mr. Bond, Windom



Oaxacan Style Peacock
Kayla Paolini, ninth grade
Papier mache, paint
Ms. Perla, HS

Images Around the District



Three Orchard Park High School students were invited to perform a pre-concert selection at the Roycroft Chamber Music Festival on June 10th in East Aurora. Pictured here are Orchard Park students Maggie Holly, Alex Crinzi, Ryan Mraz, and their orchestra director, Mr. Alexander Safford. The students received musical coaching from Buffalo Philharmonic principal cellist Roman Meikinulov.

Each class from the high school chose a charity that would be the recipient of proceeds from the Spring Homecoming Dance. The class selling the most tickets was the freshman class. They “won” and were able to donate \$2036 to Haven House. Pictured to the right freshman class officers, Colleen O’Connor, Emma Saul, Jewelann Amato, Amy Olejniczak, along with advisors Renee Gruin and Tony Brach are handing the check to Patrina the representative from Haven House.



Eggert Elementary student, Ryan Albert loves taking photos. He was able to take photos during his fourth grade Field Day. The picture to the left is a photo he took of fellow fourth grader James Phillips after winning a race at Field Day.

Ellicott Elementary students created paper chains that stood for acts of kindness. Each link was an act of kindness that a student had completed. The fifth graders sat in a circle and were surrounded by the paper chains that had been completed. The paper chains wrapped around the fifth graders four times! That’s a lot of acts of kindness!!!



Pictured to the right are Mrs. Roward and her fifth grade students after the fifth grade moving-up ceremony. From left to right: Tess Kjellstrom, Emilie Rush, Jacquelyn Heinen, Mary Roberts, Mrs. Roward, Emily Wojciechowski and in the front Rachel Bella.



Pictured to the left are Windom Elementary's Retirees. Shown from left to right are Karen Myer, First Grade teacher; Mary Vesneske, Computer teacher; Janet Jahnke, Media aide; Sue Craik, Physical Education teacher; and Denise Drumsta, AIS Math teacher. The retirees were attending the District retirement ceremony held for the 39 staff members that are retiring this year.

Windom Elementary held an Art Show this Spring. Student artwork was displayed on tables throughout the hallways and hung on the walls. Pictured to the right is first grader, Jenna DeNysschen pictured with her very own impressive artwork.



First Grade student Nicholas Boswell another Windom Elementary artist is pictured to the left with his artwork.

Exceptional Students

- William Klas, Ormsby Educational Center student, has been inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Congratulations, William!
- Nathaniel Malinowski, Ormsby Educational Center student, has been inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Congratulations, Nathaniel!
- Joseph Stahl, Ormsby Educational Center student, has been inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Congratulations, Joseph!
- Carolyn Vitello, Ormsby Educational Center student, has been inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Congratulations, Carolyn!
- Derek Zolnowski, Ormsby Educational Center student, has been inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Congratulations, Derek!
- Matthew Klajbor, Potter Career and Technical Center student, was selected as the April Student of the Month. Congratulations, Matthew!

Orchard Park Athletics Spring 2012

SENIOR AWARDS

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR	Matthew McCormick – Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball
FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR	Margaret Holly – Soccer, Basketball, Lacrosse
QABC MALE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS	David Crowley and Matthew McCormick
QABC FEMALE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS	Justine Brennan and Margaret Holly
MALE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR	David Crowley
FEMALE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR	Justine Brennan
MAYOR'S AWARD	Kelly Hornbarger and Daniel Murphy
SUPERVISOR'S AWARD	Madeline Nowakowski and Mark Mercer
ARMY RESERVE NATIONAL SCHOLAR ATHLETES	Dominique Mecca and Patrick Hogan
ALL ACADEMIC ATHLETIC TEAM	Kayla Blomback, Holly Bogdan, Joseph Cipriani, Sawyer Dina, Andrew Duszynski, Lindsey Hurley, Taylor Jezuit, Benjamin Johnson, Kristen Klemmer, Nicholas Pokoj, Casey Young

CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

VARSITY BOYS LACROSSE	ECIC Class A Champions	
	Section VI Class A Champions	Coaches: Gene Tundo & Larry Catalano
VARSITY BOYS TENNIS	ECIC Division I Champions	Coaches: Terry McMahon & Mike Graffeo
VARSITY BASEBALL	ECIC Division I Champions	Coach: Jim Gibson

NYSPHSAA SCHOLAR ATHLETE TEAMS

GIRLS VARSITY LACROSSE
VARSITY SOFTBALL
BOYS VARSITY TENNIS
BOYS VARSITY TRACK & FIELD
GIRLS VARSITY TRACK & FIELD

STATE QUALIFIERS

BOYS TENNIS	Sawyer Dina and August Bruno
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SCHOOL RECORD

BOYS VARSITY TRACK & FIELD	Mark Mercer – 400m Intermediate Hurdles, 57.19 and Steeple Chase, 11:02.3
GIRLS VARSITY TRACK & FIELD	Melissa Vaughn – 100m Hurdles, 15.47

MAROON KEY (Varsity MVP)

BASEBALL	David Crowley
BOYS LACROSSE	Kole Robinson and Daniel Murphy
GIRLS LACROSSE	Caroline Perfetto and Madeline Nowakowski
SOFTBALL	Taylor Jezuit
BOYS TENNIS	Sawyer Dina
GIRLS TRACK & FIELD	Kayla Blomback (track) and Julia Hardick (field)
BOYS TRACK & FIELD	Mark Mercer

QUAKER ATHLETICS MVP (JV & Modified)

JV BASEBALL	Patrick Sheehan
JV BOYS LACROSSE	Adam Belica
JV GIRLS LACROSSE	Madison-Kate Potenza
JV SOFTBALL	Allison Darling
MOD A BASEBALL	Benjamin Wereski
MOD B BOYS LACROSSE	Kevin McParlane
MOD B GIRLS LACROSSE	Kiley Stoj
MOD B SOFTBALL	Lydia Petricca
MOD B BOYS TRACK & FIELD	Nathaniel Burnard and Matthew Mercer
MOD B GIRLS TRACK & FIELD	Katrina Wardner and Leah Wardner