



ORCHARD PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY REPORT

March/April 2012

HAMBURG MAN RECEIVES ORCHARD PARK HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AFTER MILITARY SERVICE

Ramon Ross Fullington, born in 1925, received his Orchard Park High School diploma Thursday, March 1, 2012. Ray had joined the navy in 1943 after he completed his junior year of high school in Orchard Park and had never received his diploma. After 69 years Ray's daughter Nancy and her husband Kim Dennis decided to change that.

Operation Recognition is the law that made Ray Fullington eligible to receive his high school diploma. Operation Recognition allows certain veterans to earn high school diplomas if they left school without graduating. Section 305 of the NYS Education Law created Operation Recognition to recognize the dedication and sacrifice of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veterans who left school before graduation by awarding them a high school diploma.

Orchard Park's Superintendent of Schools, Matthew McGarrity and Board of Education President, Alfred McClymonds delivered Ray's



Superintendent of Schools Matthew McGarrity and Board of Education President Al McClymonds delivering Mr. Ray Fullington's diploma.

diploma to him personally. Ray's extended family was there to share in this well-deserved and exciting moment.

The Orchard Park Central School district congratulates Ray and recognizes him as someone who truly embodies the characteristics that the Orchard Park School District holds in high regard. Ray exemplified this during his time in the service. Enlisted personnel earned points for being on Active Duty or serving in a dangerous location. The number of points you had determined when you could leave and go to a safer place.

Ray never kept the points that he earned. He passed them on to his fellow soldiers who had families and children.

Ray was an exceptional man in the military and after he was honorably discharged in February of 1946 he went on to lead an exceptional life. He met and married his wife Phyllis O'Connor and had two children Martin and Nancy. The Orchard Park Central School District would like to thank Ray for his service to our country. We are proud to say that he is an Orchard Park graduate.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COLUMN

I would like to congratulate all of those retiring from the Orchard Park Central School District this year. As a district, we appreciate and want to thank you for the time and dedication you have devoted to the Orchard Park Schools. We recognize that your efforts have played a large part in contributing to the success of the students in the Orchard Park School District. You will be greatly missed. We wish you all much happiness as you enter into the next phase of your life!



Matthew McGarrity

Congratulations to; Anthony Agnello, Science Teacher for 35 years, Douglas Barry, Elementary Education teacher for 39 years, Sandra Beers, Physical Education teacher for 32.5 years, Michael Behm, Physical Education teacher for 32 years, Louise Breen, Bus Driver for 23.5 years, Colleen Butera, Foreign Language teacher for 13 years, Suzanne Craik, Physical Education teacher for 34.5 years, Angelo Daluisio, Industrial Arts Teacher for 12 years, Denise Doherty, English teacher for 24 years, Denise Drumsta, Elementary Education teacher for 33.6 years, Jeanne Dryja, Health Education teacher for

31 years, Thomas Dryja, Special Education teacher for 23 years, Kathryn Eschbach, Elementary Education teacher for 25 years, Donna Faulhaber, Teacher Aide for 18 years, Robert Ferrentino, Science teacher for 24 years, Carol Fitscher, Business teacher for 29.4 years, Theresa Gerken, Bus Driver for 29.75 years, Denise Gimlin, Home and Career teacher for 19 years, Melvin Hamann, Bus Driver for 13.25 years, Janet Jahnke, Teacher Aide for 24.75 years, Susan Ketzer, Library Media Specialist for 22 years, Noreen Kulczyk, Elementary Education Teacher for 30.5 years, Donald Lorentz, Business

teacher for 29 years, Lucille Mahoney, Life & Careers teacher for 32.8 years, Joan McAllister, Elementary Education teacher for 18 years, Karen Meyer, Elementary Education teacher for 24 years, Diane Norman, Teacher Aid for 13.25 years, John Paladino, Elementary Education teacher for 22 years, Kevin Schott, Industrial Arts teacher for 33 years, Cynthia Schwab, Elementary Education teacher for 10 years, Suzanne Shults, Bus Attendant for 15.75 years, Richard Shults, Bus Driver for 4.75 years, Terry Spicola, Principal, 29 years working in the District, Walter Stefani, Social Studies teacher for 34 years, Kathryn Stillwell, Teacher Aide for 12.75 years, Sandra Stone, Library Media Specialist for 22 years, Mary Vesneske Elementary Education teacher for 23 years, and Kathleen Walter Industrial Arts Teacher for 14 years.

Cumulatively this group of 2012 retirees has worked in the District for 906.05 years. Their knowledge and experience has benefitted the District in more ways than can ever be counted.

Board of Education Candidates Night

Tuesday May 1st

Meet the Candidates - 6 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Informal Coffee with the Candidates 6:15 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Hosted by the Eggert Road Elementary PTO

Administration Building

3330 Baker Road Orchard Park, NY

The Eggert Road Elementary PTO will host a Meet the Board of Education Candidates Night on Tuesday, May 1st from 6 - 6:15 p.m. followed by a Coffee with the Candidates from 6:15-7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 3330 Baker Road. During the Meet the Candidates a representative from the Eggert Road PTO will introduce each candidate and read information about them. The candidates will introduce themselves and address the audience. At approximately 6:15 p.m. the informal portion of the night will begin with coffee and refreshments provided by the Eggert Road PTO. During this time the candidates will mingle and speak individually with residents. Immediately following the Coffee with the Candidates will be a Public Hearing on the Budget.

ELLICOTT ELEMENTARY HOLDS DOOR DECORATING CONTEST



The Ellicott Student Council, Wellness, and Olweus Committees worked together to develop a door-decorating contest for the month of March. The theme for each classroom that participated was to send a message that reflected the things that have been learned so far through the Olweus Classroom Meetings. We had a lot of support and many classrooms participated. Each classroom was recognized for their efforts and participation, but we rewarded the most creative design overall and at each grade level. Each display was excellent, so much so that we had a tie for the overall best display. Mr. Englert's 4th grade classroom and Mrs. Rupp/Mrs. Noe's 1st grade classroom took the top prize.

Pictured to the left Mr. Englert's 4th grade classroom's door. Mr. Englert's class was one of the two classes the won Ellicott Elementary's Door Decorating Contest.

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS PERFORM AT EGGERT

Mrs. Filsinger's kindergarten class put on a play for their parents entitled "Stories From Long Ago" on Wednesday, March 28th. The students performed "The 3 Little Pigs", "Goldilocks and the 3 Bears", "The Gingerbread Girl" and "The Three Billy Goats Gruff".

Pictured to the right are Mrs. Filsinger's kindergarten students; Mickey Gocella, Emily Pirrami, Christopher McDonald and Anthony Piccillo performing The Three Billy Goats Gruff.



IMPORTANT TESTING REMINDERS

Please update your school calendar. ELA Testing for grades 3-8 will occur in April. Grades 3-8 will be doing ELA testing on April 17th, 18th and 19th. Grades 3-8 Math Testing will be April 25th, 26th and 27th.

TWO SENIORS HONORED BY BUSINESS FIRST

Two Orchard Park High School seniors have been named to Business First's 2012 All-Western New York Academic Team. Emily Frost (First Team) and Kristen Klemmer (Second Team) have qualified for this year's list of the 100 most outstanding high school seniors in the eight-county region.

Winners were chosen for their records of academic excellence, school leadership and community involvement. The top 25 were named to the First Team, 25 runners-up to the Second Team and another 50 to the Special Mention list.

Emily and Kristen are both thrilled that they have been named members of the 2012 WNY Academic Team. Emily's parents Jeffrey and Christine Frost feel this honor validates Emily's hard work and many accomplishments when Emily herself is very modest about her achievements. Kristen's parents John and Karen Klemmer are proud of the way Kristen dedicates herself to school and her tremendous focus and self-direction.

"This is an extremely difficult honor to win," said



*Orchard Park High School Senior
Emily Frost*

Jack Connors, president and publisher of Business First. "The Academic Team is extraordinarily exclusive. There are roughly 20,000 seniors in Western New York's high schools, and we've selected only 100 for this year's Academic Team. That's the top one-half of one percent, the best and brightest students anywhere in our region."

Schools throughout the eight-county area were asked to nominate their smartest and



*Orchard Park High School Senior
Kristen Klemmer*

most accomplished students for consideration by a nine-member committee, which included seven admissions directors at area colleges and two Business First editors. A total of 117 schools responded with 415 nominees.

The complete list of 100 honorees along with their photos and profiles will be published in Business First's 2012-2013 Guide to Western New York Schools, which will hit newsstands on June 15th.



The cast of the high school musical dressed in costume before the dress rehearsal of "Cinderella"

ELEMENTARY EXPLORATIONS

The Orchard Park Elementary Explorations program consists of elementary staff members teaching a short, fun, special-interest class to students after school. The classes meet once per week on an assigned day from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

The classes will be held in the elementary building of the instructor, but students may attend classes at any building. However, your child may not be dismissed early from school in order to attend an Explorations class



Olivia Sferra showing her unicorn creation during her Elementary Explorations Class.



Pictured above are Devin Ryan and Sara Barone holding the clay cheeseburger they made in the iMovie Claymations Class at South Davis

in another building. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from the program and must pick up their child promptly at 4:30 p.m.

The classes cost \$25 for the six week session. Some classes require an additional materials fee, which is payable directly to the instructor on the first day of class. All materials fees are listed in the brochure along with the class description. If you are financially eligible for tuition assistance, please contact the nurse in your child's building.

SHADOW DAY



Pictured is student Stacey Spiller along with Cindy Odom Chief Executive Officer of the Girl Scouts of WNY

Almost 70 Orchard Park students recently participated in the high school's annual Career Shadow Day. Students were placed with businesses across Western New York in career areas of their choice. A total of 30 businesses participated this year, including many from right here in Orchard Park.

Students shadowed in a wide variety of careers including law enforcement, marine biology, journalism, athletic training, physical therapy, pilot, information security, architecture, marketing, veterinary medicine, engineer-

ing, software development, management, choreography, auto mechanics, radio broadcasting, and education. Students had the opportunity to learn about the behind-the-scenes aspects of their chosen career field, and many were given the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities, such as the fingerprinting process and flying an airplane!

The program has been an integral part of the Business Department's Career and Financial Management course for over 15 years. Students spend a great deal of time researching careers in preparation for this culminating event. For many, this event is what shapes their career goals and aspirations. In the words of one senior, "It was life-changing."



Pictured above is Joel Columbo the Keynote Speaker at the Shadow Day luncheon.

OPHS GOES BALD FOR BUCKS

Thursday, March 29, 2012 the Orchard Park High School participated in Bald for Bucks. Bald for Bucks is a fundraiser that involves people shaving their heads to raise money for cancer research and patient care programs at Roswell. The program also increases cancer awareness throughout the community. This year over 25 Orchard Park High School students will be sporting bald heads in order to be a part of this great cause.

The Bald for Bucks event happened in the Orchard Park High School cafeteria. DJ Anthony from Kiss 98.5 was in attendance along with a huge audience of high school students, staff and their families who came to support the participants brave enough to shave their heads.

The participants collected pledges to shave their heads. This year Orchard Park High School's participants raised approximately \$9,800. Over



Melissa Barton and Ben Frost going Bald for Bucks

the last seven years that Orchard Park High School has been participating the average amount raised has been around \$7,500 so this year's increase is phenomenal! Orchard Park hoped to cumulatively reach a \$50,000 donation with this year's funds combined with years passed. The increase this year has allowed Orchard Park to exceed its goal.

The Bald for Bucks program began at Lake Shore High School in 2002. A teacher's sister had cancer and he offered to shave his head in support. He shared his idea with his students and one student said he would be willing to pay the teacher if he (the student) could actually shave his teacher's head. This inspired the Bald for Bucks fundraiser that has raised over one million dollars to date.



Erica Harding pictured with D.J. Anthony from Kiss 98.5 after going Bald for Bucks

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

- Erie 1 BOCES student, Adam Munich was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society.
- Ormsby student, Michael McCarthy won 2nd place in the Skills USA Regional Contest for Carpentry.
- Ormsby student, Justin Uncapher won 3rd place in the Skills USA Regional Contest for Diesel.
- Ormsby student, Jeremy Werner won 4th place in the Skills USA Regional Contest for Auto Body Helper.

MUSIC AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

During the month of March the Orchard Park Middle School celebrated Music in the Schools Month. The Music Department celebrated by having Tuesday Tunes. A competition where a song would be scrambled on the morning announcements and students would guess the song and if correct would be entered to win an i-tunes gift card. The Music Department sold t-shirts and bracelets and held a bake sale to raise funds. They successfully got all the Orchard Park Middle School students involved in Music in our Schools Month.

SOUTH DAVIS SCIENCE FAIR

South Davis 5th Graders Trevor Hoch and Hannah Woodrich standing with their Science Fair project. The 5th graders worked with partners to create projects for the Science Fair. The 5th graders researched and put together their projects. The younger students viewed all of the science projects and had an opportunity to ask the 5th graders about the projects and what they discovered while doing their research. The projects varied from finding which sports balls bounce the highest to which paper towels are most effective.



5th grade students Trevor Hoch and Hannah Woodrich with their Science Fair Project.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART



Pictured above 4th grade students Jordan Brown, Kathryn Pazderski, Niyla McCabe-Baumgartner and Aurora MacDonald getting excited for Jump Rope for Heart.

During the month of February Windom launched a school-wide Jump Rope for Heart event. Jump Rope for Heart is a national fundraising program that promotes physical activity, heart healthy living and community service.

It was an educational and activity based program for the Windom students. Students and families at Windom were offered the option of becoming a “heart hero” by donating to the American Heart Association. Windom families and students donated \$2,300! Windom celebrated their accomplishment Friday March 16th. They held a Drop Everything and Dance Event from 3:05-3:15 p.m.

MONEYSKILL COMPETITION

Orchard Park Seniors Keenan Hoover, Kendall Franz, Andrew Pohlman, Tyler Popiela, and Tyler Clark brought home 2nd place in the MoneySKILLS Competition held at the University of Buffalo. Keenan Hoover was the individual winner and won an Apple iPad 2. The MoneySKILLS Competition is designed to increase awareness of MoneySKILL, a curriculum designed to educate students on a variety of financial issues.

Congratulations to Keenan Hoover and the rest of the Orchard Park team including their coach, Business teacher, Jim Agnew.



Individual winner Keenan Hoover and Business Teacher Jim Agnew

ORCHARD PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2012-2013 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

- Tuesday, April 17th- Ellicott PTO 9:30 a.m.
- Monday, April 30th - High School PTO 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 2nd - Eggert Road PTO 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, May 3rd - Windom PTO 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 8th - Middle School PTO 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, May 10th - South Davis PTO 1:30 p.m.

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**DON'T FORGET TO LIKE THE
ORCHARD PARK CENTRAL
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ON FACEBOOK!**

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OPCSD

ALUMNI UPDATE

The Class of 1977 will be holding their 35th High School Reunion this summer. Check out their website www.opclassof77.com for more information!

The Class of 1987's 25th Year Reunion will be held on July 27, 2012. It will be at The Byrd House Restaurant & Bar. (Previously named Max's and Eddies, attached to the O.P. Bowling Lanes) 4246 North Buffalo Street, Village of Orchard Park, NY 14127. The reunion will start at 7 p.m.

WINTER 2011-12 WRAP UP

MAROON KEY:

Varsity Boys Basketball	MATTHEW McCORMICK
Varsity Girls Basketball	NOELLE POLONCARZ
Varsity Boys Bowling	RYAN KELLY
Varsity Girls Bowling	ELIZABETH SZPARA
Varsity Cheerleading	KERIANN KELLY
Varsity Boys Ice Hockey	ERIC KOERNER
Varsity Girls Ice Hockey	NADINE de NIJS
Varsity Boys Indoor Track	MARK MERCER
Varsity Girls Indoor Track	HOLLY BOGDAN (track) & JAMIE GUADAGNO (field)
Varsity Rifle	DOMINIQUE MECCA
Varsity Boys Swimming	ANDREW DUSZYNSKI & SPENCER BRAY
Varsity Wrestling	DAQUAN RODRIGUEZ

QUAKER ATHLETICS MVP:

JV Boys Basketball	JEFFREY BIDDLE
JV Girls Basketball	HANNAH JOHNSON
JV Cheerleading	CHRISTINA BIXLER
JV Wrestling	TRAVIS McNICHOL
Mod. Wrestling	TROY BANKS
Mod. Boys Basketball	WILLIAM ATKINSON
Mod. Girls Basketball	PENNY LENARD
Mod. Boys Swimming	QUINTON VARGO
Mod. Girls Swimming	MADISON DOLCE

ECIC DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP:

Coed Varsity Rifle	DOMINIQUE MECCA	ECIC Aggregate Champion
	DOMINIQUE MECCA	ECIC Prone Champion
	DOMINIQUE MECCA	ECIC Offhand Champion
	DOMINIQUE MECCA	ECIC Kneeling Champion
	DOMINIQUE MECCA	ECIC Air Rifle Champion
Varsity Boys Swimming	ANDREW DUSZYNSKI	ECIC Champion – 200 Free
	ANDREW DUSZYNSKI	ECIC Champion – 100 Free
	SPENCER BRAY	ECIC Champion – 200 IM

SECTION VI CHAMPIONSHIP:

Coed Varsity Rifle	DOMINIQUE MECCA	Section VI Aggregate Champion
	DOMINIQUE MECCA	Section VI Prone Champion
	DOMINIQUE MECCA	Section VI Offhand Champion
	DOMINIQUE MECCA	Section VI Kneeling Champion
	DOMINIQUE MECCA	Section VI Air Rifle Champion
Varsity Boys Swimming	ANDREW DUSZYNSKI	Section VI Champion – 200 Free
	ANDREW DUSZYNSKI	Section VI Champion – 500 Free

STATE QUALIFIER:

Varsity Boys Indoor Track	BRENDAN ALLMAN AND MARK MERCER
Coed Varsity Rifle	DOMINIQUE MECCA
Varsity Boys Swimming	SPENCER BRAY, ANDREW DUSZYNSKI, ZACH HEALY, NOLAN McARDLE, STEVEN CZUCZMAN, AND LIAM HOOVER
Varsity Wrestling	DAQUAN RODRIQUEZ

STATE RECORDS:

Coed Varsity Rifle	DOMINIQUE MECCA	NYS Aggregate Record Holder
	DOMINIQUE MECCA	NYS Prone Record Holder
	DOMINIQUE MECCA	NYS Offhand Record Holder
	DOMINIQUE MECCA	NYS Kneeling Record Holder

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:

Coed Varsity Rifle	DOMINIQUE MECCA	NYS Aggregate Champion (2 time)
	DOMINIQUE MECCA	NYS Prone Champion
	DOMINIQUE MECCA	NYS Offhand Champion

Orchard Park Central Schools Board of Education

3330 Baker Road • Orchard Park, New York 14127

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Resident

2012

EG – Eggert Elementary
EL – Ellicott Elementary
SD – South Davis Elementary
WE – Windom Elementary
MS – Middle School
HS – High School

May

- 1...Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., District Office - Baker Building
- 2...EG PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 2...MS Grade 6 Parent Orientation, 6:30 p.m.
- 3...EL Science Night
- 3...WE PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 4...EG Spring Clean-Up, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 5...Variety Show, HS 7 p.m.
- 5...SAT, HS
- 7...WE/SD Band and Orchestra Concert 7 p.m. MS
- 7-18...HS Advanced Placement Exams
- 8...MS PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 8...MS Music In May I, 7 p.m.
- 9...HS Music In May I, 7 p.m.
- 10...SD PTO Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
- 10...EL Vocal/Orchestra Music In May, 7 p.m.
- 10...WE Choral Music In May, 7 p.m.
- 10-11...EG Mother's Day Plant Sale

- 10-11...SD Mother's Day Plant Sale
- 10-11...WE Mother's Day Plant Sale
- 11...SD Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- 14...HS STAP-Comm Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 15...Annual Budget Vote, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m., HS
- 15...EL PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 15...HS Music In May II, 7 p.m.
- 16...EG Vocal/Orchestra Music In May, 7 p.m.
- 16...SD/WE Instrumental Music In May, 7 p.m., HS
- 17...MS Music In May II, 7 p.m., HS
- 18...HS Blood Drive, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 18-21...WE Book Fair
- 19...Summer Driver Education Registration, 8 a.m., HS Community Ed. Office
- 21...HS PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 21...WE Ice Cream Social/Art Show/Book Fair, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- 22...HS Music In May III, 7 p.m.
- 23...SD Art Show & Ice Cream Social, 6-8 p.m.

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.

The Community Report is a publication of the Orchard Park Central School District. It is published six times per year and mailed home three times per year.

Superintendent of Schools: *Matthew McGarrity*

Editor: *Julianne Heinen*

Contributors: *Matthew McGarrity*

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