



Orchard Park Central School District Community Report

June/July 2009

Congratulations to the Orchard Park High School Class of 2009 Top Ten

The Orchard Park Central School District is pleased to announce the Top Ten graduating seniors from the Class of 2009. Selected on the basis of scholastic achievement, these students also excel in the arts, athletics and service through volunteer work in the community. Their plans include attending college for various majors, from environmental science to biology to English to engineering. Congratulations to these students and all our graduates. We wish them the best life has to offer.



The 2009 Class of Top 10 are (Row 1) Kelsey Bendlin, Kathryn Fancher, Jennifer Johnson, Jessica Saville, Stephanie Suddaby, (Row 2) Stanley Makowski, Matthew Simson, Nicholas Kolesar and Curtis Wassum. Pictured below is Anna Zahm.

Valedictorian

Jessica Saville



College Plans: SUNY Geneseo or Nazareth College for environmental science.
Honors and Awards: Middlebury

College Book Award, Bausch & Lomb Science Award, Harvard-Radcliffe Book Award, Orchard Park Pride.

Extracurricular Activities: JV Volleyball, National Honor Society, National French

Honor Society, Quaker Marching Band, Erie County Fair Marching Band, Girl Scouts, Ecology Club, Bible Club, Checkmates, Saxophone Quartet.

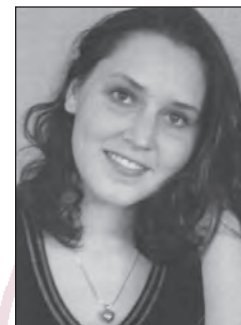
Volunteer Work: Girl Scouts, French Camp volunteer.

Best thing about OPHS: My favorite part of Orchard Park High School is all the different clubs and activities you can be involved in. There is something for any interest.

*Jessica is the daughter of Jeffrey and Molly Saville.

Salutatorian

Anna Zahm



College Plans: Hamilton College or Colgate University, possibly for the classics.
Honors and Awards:

Excellence in AP U.S. History and AP Latin IV, Achievement on the National Latin Exam, Wellesley Scholastic Book Award,

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Orchard Park Pride, AP Scholar with Honor.

Extracurricular Activities: Quaker Marching Band, school musicals, Drama Club, Writer's Sodality, National Honor Society, Princeton Model Congress.

Volunteer Work: Vacation Bible School, Sleep-Out for the Homeless, Buffalo Book Fair, Annual Spring Cleanup, ECMEA Junior Festival Volunteer.

Best thing about OPHS: The opportunities provided by the diversity of classes.

*Anna is the daughter of Robert and Susan Zahm.

Kelsey Bendlin



College Plans: SUNY Geneseo for biology
Honors and Awards: Agnes Scott College Book Award, Outstanding

Student in Global History, Scholastic Achievement Awards (grades 9-11).

Extracurricular Activities: National Honor Society, Stage Crew, Girls Chorus, Choraliers, Swing Chorus.

Volunteer Work: Teaching horseback riding, various jobs for neighbors.

Best thing about OPHS: The wide range of clubs, activities and electives which allow the students to explore their interests.

*Kelsey is the daughter of Ralph and Marie Bendlin.

Kathryn Fancher



College Plans: Brigham Young University for an undecided major.
Honors and Awards: Certificate

of Excellence in English, Spanish, Integrated Algebra I and Spanish 4, Bryn Mawr President's Book Award, Young Womanhood Recognition

Extracurricular Activities: Girls Varsity Swim Team, Math Tutoring Association, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Musical Pit Orchestra, All-County Band.

Volunteer Work: Father Baker Manor, Hunter's Hope, Ten Lives Club, Ronald McDonald House

Best thing about OPHS: The level of academic and musical excellence.

*Kathryn is the daughter of John and Joan Fancher.

Jennifer Johnson



College Plans: University at Buffalo for English
Honors and Awards: Elmira College Key Award

Extracurricular Activities: National Honor Society, Still Life, Writer's Sodality, S.O.I.L

Volunteer Work: Youth Court, National Honor Society tutoring.

Best thing about OPHS: The wide variety of extracurricular activities.

*Jennifer is the daughter of James and Marlene Johnson.

Nicholas Kolesar



College Plans: Hamilton College for science
Honors and Awards: Canisius College Summer

Honors Program, Certificates of Excellence in Honors Integrated Algebra II, Honors English, Global History, Earth Science, Honors Geometry and Global History, Outstanding Student in Technical Drawing.

Extracurricular Activities: Bible Club, Boy Scouts of America, Chess Team, Ecology Club, Homeroom Representative, Masterminds, Math Tutoring Association, National Honor Society and Science Club.

Best thing about OPHS:

I like that it offered me interesting course choices and a variety of clubs through which to meet people and pursue my interests.

*Nicholas is the son of Kevin and Gail Kolesar.

Stanley Makowski



College

Plans:

University of Rochester for an undecided major.

Honors and Awards:

Certificates

of Excellence in Global History, Honors Geometry and AP American History, Saint Michael's College Book Award, The American Legion #567 Boys State Award.

Extracurricular Activities:

JV and Varsity Soccer, National Honor Society, Princeton Model Congress, Varsity Club

Volunteer Work: DARE Role Model, Kids' Day Newspaper Sales.

Best thing about OPHS: My teachers here have been really great. They're always there for extra help and even just to talk.

*Stanley is the son of Stanley, Jr. and Suzanne Makowski.

Matt Simson



College

Plans:

University of Pittsburgh for computer and chemical engineering.

Honors and Awards:

Orchard Park Pride, National Merit Scholarship Commendation, AP Scholar with Honor, National Honor Society, National Chemistry Olympiad Finalist, Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Achievement in AP U.S. History and Biology.

Extracurricular Activities:

Varsity Swim Team, Varsity Track & Field, OP Club Rugby,

Boy Scouts, Destination ImagiNation, TWST Swim Club.

Volunteer Work: Weekly summer tutoring of Sudanese refugee children, Ten Lives Club, Lancaster Youth Bureau School Supply Closet.

Best thing about OPHS: I have thoroughly enjoyed my friends and teachers at OPHS.

*Matt is the son of John Simson and Catherine Topper.

Stephanie Suddaby



College

Plans: McGill University for chemistry.

Honors and Awards:

AP Scholar, National Commended

Student (PSAT), Business First's Academic Team, Mount Holyoke Book Award, Outstanding Student in Latin 2, Global Honors Algebra 2/Trig, Gold Medal in National Latin Exam.

Extracurricular Activities:

AFS International Club, Southtowns Youth Orchestra, People to People Student Ambassador, Chamber Orchestra, the Voice, Latin Quiz Bowl, Tae Kwon Do, captain of Master Chong's World Class Tae Kwon Do Demonstration Team at the Orchard Park location.

Volunteer Work: Orchard Park Town Hall, Kicking for Miracles charity, Chamber Orchestra at Nursing Home.

Best thing about OPHS:

I like the variety of courses available for the students to enroll in.

*Jessica is the daughter of Loubert and Midori Suddaby.

Curtis Wassum



College

Plans: Purdue University for aeronautical and astronautical engineering.

Honors and Awards:

Eagle Scout,

Certificates of Excellence in Band, Chemistry, and Pre-Calculus BC, QMB Section Leader, Scholastic Achievement Award, Who's Who Among American High School Students, National Honor Roll, Orchard Park Pride, Clarkson University High School Achievement Award, Rensselaer Medal Award, U.S. Army All-American Marching Band member, American Legion Boys' State Delegate, Business First All-Western New York Academic Team, New York State Conference All-State Participant.

Extracurricular Activities:

National Honor Society, Varsity Tennis, Young Life, Southtowns Youth Orchestra, Quaker Marching Band, Boy Scouts of America.

Volunteer Work: Orchard Park Recreation Department, Habitat for Humanity, Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Best thing about OPHS:

I have most liked the diversity in activities at Orchard Park. For seemingly every interest, there is an organization and a group of fellow students with similar tastes with which to share your experiences.

*Curtis is the son of Duane and Karen Wassum.

Board of Education Organizational Meeting Overview

The Orchard Park Central School District Board of Education held their Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, July 1, 2009. At the meeting, Donald Sniezak was once again elected President, and Maria Lehman was re-elected Vice President. In addition, Alfred McClymonds and Carla Marazzo took their Oath of Offices as re-elected Board Members.

Other highlights of the meeting are as followed:

- Mrs. Thomas led a discussion with the Board regarding a new bus garage for the District. For over two decades, the District has tried to move the current bus garage away from the Village for a variety of reasons, specifically spacing and safety. Because the current garage and adjacent property are not large enough to house our bus fleet, the Transportation department parks buses on Duerr Road and at Ellicott Elementary. After discussion, it was decided that the District continue to research options for a new bus garage, while the Board would take a tour of the current bus garage and look at a similar facility in another District.

- Scott Jones and Jeff Nunn from Gordon Jones Associates provided a Capital Project Update to the Board. Overall, the project is moving along on time and on budget. A major component of the project is the addition of a three-story classroom Science wing, which will be completed this winter.

Information on the bus garage and capital project will continue to be discussed at future board meetings and will be included in the next issue of the Community Report.

Superintendent's Column A Tribute to the Class of 2009



Joan Thomas

Dear Parents and Community Members:

Many of you are the parents of this wonderful class and have heard accolades not only during this graduation season, but all year long.

The following is a small segment of what I said at graduation on June 27, 2009. I wanted to share my feelings with you regarding this class.

"Good afternoon, Mr. Sniezak, Board of Education Trustees, Mr. Wolf, Administrators, teachers, parents, family members, friends. Before I present to you the Class of 2009 for their diplomas, I would like to say a few words directly

to the class of 2009.

Class of 2009 – you will always hold a special place in my heart since you were the last class I principaled at the Middle School. We were together during your 6th grade year and your 7th grade year. Then half way through your 8th grade year, I retired. However I failed retirement and came back as your superintendent. It has been both my pleasure and honor to serve you as Principal and Superintendent.

As a class, you leave a tremendous legacy. You excel in academics. You were offered \$4,849,423 in awards and scholarship money. This is an increase of over \$1 million from last year's class. As athletes, you are #1 in the state for football and volleyball and all teams, both male and female, are #1 in the hearts of your parents, family, and school mates. Your abilities in the arts, music, creativity, theatre, and government are unsurpassed. Your willingness to support the less fortunate is admirable. The Orchard Park Central School District will wait a very long time for the next class to even duplicate your accomplishments.

However, beyond all of this you are a group of young people who display admirable qualities. You care about one another. You are respectful, trustworthy, honest, ethical, hard-working, task-committed, and realistic. These are the traits that not only do colleges and employers admire, but the traits that endear you to other people, making you life-long friends.

Congratulations to your parents and family who have raised you, your teachers and administrators who have taught you, and the Board of Education and community who have facilitated and supported your education.

Seniors, you leave us now and I have for you four simple, yet sincere, requests:

Please don't ever drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and don't let anyone you love do so either. ***Continue*** to do for your community what your community has done for you. You may not always know where you are going but you certainly know where you're from. ***Respect*** your parents, your family, your teachers, and friends. You know, the ones that helped you for the past 13 years to get to this stage today... keep in touch. And ***please*** design a world free from hate, poverty, disease, ignorance, violence, hunger and fear...you know, like the one that you worked to create as the class of 2009, a class of friends...compassionate, caring, sensitive friends.

Thank you Class of 2009 for all you have done for the Orchard Park Central School District. You will be long remembered."

Students Broaden Knowledge of WWII and the Holocaust



Photo credit: D. Rebmann

Middle School students were able to broaden their knowledge of World War II and the Holocaust through hands-on learning and visits from experts.

Students in the classes of Mr. Jafarjian and Mrs. Hanes created a WWII/Holocaust Museum in their classrooms, which included videos, posters and models depicting items and situations related to the war and the events of the Holocaust. The museum was open for students and faculty throughout the day, and coincided with an evening event for students and parents. The evening event featured a presentation by Sophia Veffter, Holocaust survivor, and Sylvia Schwartz, executive director of the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo.

Pictured left (top) with several of the handmade items on display in the museum are Mrs. Hanes, Nick Darling, Ryan Klass, Mike Reilly, Mike Lepkowski, Chris Dushkoff, Joe Kren, Jacob Thiesen and Mr. Jafarjian.

Pictured below are presenters Sylvia Schwartz and Sophia Veffter with members of the Orchard Park Middle School Student Council and Orchard Park Middle School Assistant Principal Mrs. Cirillo. From left are Sylvia, Maggie Shilvey, student council president, Dan Makowski, student council secretary, Sophia and Mrs. Cirillo.



photo credit: J. Kornacki

Ellicott Elementary had the honor of hosting Buffalo Sabres Clarke MacArthur and Patrick Kaleta in the library. As part of the Shoot! Score! Read More! program, the players read aloud to emphasize the importance of reading. Sabretooth and Perry Winkle were also on hand to entertain the students. The guests of honor are pictured here with Mrs. Shumaker's 2nd grade class.



Orchestra students from all six schools performed a District Orchestra Concert at the Hamburg Wesleyan Church this past Spring. Over 400 students in grades 4-12 performed at the concert, which featured the debut of "Neo Variations" by the Middle School Orchestra, a piece written by 2007 Orchard Park High School Graduate Joseph Tracy. The evening culminated with a grande finale of "Anvil Chorus" performed by all of the groups combined.

On the Record...

Nota Bene

Congratulations are extended to the 41 students from the Middle and High School who were recognized as winners on the 2009 National Latin Examination. These students were joined by more than 135,000 others from all 50 states and 11 foreign countries who took the exam. The awards are bestowed based upon the number of correct answers in the areas of Latin grammar, translation, derivation and Ancient Roman civilization.

The following students were recognized:

1st Place - Gold Summa Cum Laude Awards: Damien D'Arcy, Emily Frost, Adam Tomich, Alexandra Wagner, Emily Stott and Jeffrey Gumkowski.

2nd Place Silver Maxima Cum Laude Awards: Elizabeth Simson, Benjamin Johnson, Christopher Mraz, Camille Paladino, Emily Saeli, Joshua Tryon, Jessica Dolnick, Erin Hoover, Alanna Ross, Olivia Wasteneys and Anna Zahm.

3rd place - Magna Cum Laude Awards: Aaron Alexin, Madeline Shiley, Richard Young, Nicholas Dillon, Carley Doyle, Ryan Merewether, Elise Martin, Stephanie Sieczkarek and Daniel Gustafson.

Honorable Mention - Cum Laude Awards: Caitlin Allaire, Jessica Battaglia, James Gattie, Amanda Moore, Emily Feldman, Heather Jones, Mark Simson, Patrick Summers, Liam Allman, Amanda Kullman, Lynn Schroeder, Andrew Fitscher, Rachel Krautsack and Emily Yox.

In addition to participation on the National Latin Exam, Orchard Park Latin students joined about 300 other students from throughout Western New York to participate in a written, academic competition sponsored by the Classical Association of Western New York. Students took an exam appropriate to their level of study and answered questions based on vocabulary, grammar, derivation, culture and translation. Below are students from the High School and Middle School who participated in the exam, including their levels and awards:

Level 1: Christine Breindel, 1st place; Jessica Battaglia, Taylor Gorman, Heather Macnamara, Amanda Moore, Madeline Shiely and Elizabeth Simson, Honorable Mention. **Level 2:** Adam Tomich, 1st place; Damian D'Arcy and Emily Frost, 2nd place; Nicholas Dillon, Carley Doyle, Benjamin Johnson, Heather Jones, Ryan Merewether, Camille Paladino, Emily Saeli, Mark Simson, Patrick Summers and Joshua Tryon, Honorable Mention. **Level 3:** Ross DiPronia, 1st place; Liam Allman, 3rd place; Jessica Dolnick, Elise Martin, Megan Roberts, Stephanie Sieczkarek, Honorable Mention. **Level 4:** Olivia Wasteneys, 1st place; Daniel Gustafson, 2nd place; Alanna Ross and Emily Stott, 3rd place; Shannon Fitzgerald, Lynn Schroeder and Michael Walia, Honorable Mention. **Level 5:** Anna Zahm, 1st place; Rachel Krautsack, 3rd place; Andrew Fitscher, Jeffrey Gumkowski and Emily Yox, Honorable Mention.

Olympic Bound



2009 Graduate Mike Stefani has been selected to the USA Men's Volleyball Junior Olympic National Team. The team will compete in the 2009 FIVB World Championships representing the United States in Pune, India, from July 31 to August 9. Of the 18 athletes selected, Mike is the only high school senior on the team, which is comprised of Division I collegiate players in their freshman and sophomore years. He recently accepted a Division I scholarship to the Ohio State University.

Literary Achievement

Congratulations to the staff of OPHS's *Still Life* literary magazine for awards received at the Western New York Student Press Association's Media Day Competition at SUNY Fredonia. Last year's edition was entered in several categories and student poets, writers and artists received impression recognitions including: Best Graphic Art in a Literary Magazine: 1st place, Whitney Bender ('08) and 2nd place, Serena Bielecki ('08). Best Art Photograph in a Literary Magazine: 1st place, Anne Muscatello ('08), 2nd place, Katie Patacky ('10) and 3rd place - Stacy Stiffler ('08). Best Poetry: 1st place, Grace Pappalardo ('09), 2nd Place, Anna England ('11) and 3rd place, Jenny Johnson ('09). Best Prose: 2nd place, Grace Pappalardo ('09).

Design Winners

Congratulations to Laura Adinolfi, winner of the 2009-2010 High School Handbook cover contest. Laura is a sophomore in Mr. Skalski's Drawing & Painting II class. She is pictured here with House III Principal David Lilleck.



Congratulations are also extended to Junior Brittany Moore, a high school sophomore, who recently won 2nd prize in the Erie-Catt Teacher Center Logo Contest. Brittany is a student in Mrs. Perla's art class and is pictured with her to the right.





Western New York Native and New York Times Bestseller Wendy Corsi Staub took time from her visit to the area to spend time with students from Windom Elementary. Wendy also made a special visit to the classroom of her best friend, Windom's own Mrs. Schmidt! Wendy is the author of more than 70 books, varying from suspense and mystery to romance novels published under the name "Wendy Markham." While at Windom, Wendy conducted a writing exercise with all the 4th grade students and answered the many questions they had. She is pictured here with Mrs. Schmidt and members of her class. Pictured in row one are: Leo Koellner (Windom student and Wendy's nephew), Talia Fitzgerald, Delanie Suto, and Grace Wroblewski. In row two are Wendy and Mrs. Schmidt.



In April, 29 students from the Orchard Park Middle School traveled to Canada for a tour of Quebec City. Over their four-day trip, students visited several historic points in the culturally rich French city and were able to practice their French exclusively, eat French food, visit a sugar shack and participate in Quebecois dances. Mrs. Butera and Mrs. Kress led the trip, along with chaperone Mr. Goggins. The photo above shows the following students touring historic Chateau Frontenac with one of many docents students: Nick Darling, Mitch McGovern, Tyler Eagleton, Pat Keane, Jordyn Smith, Alexa Ditonto, Sydney Metzger, Jess Sanna and Stacy Welch.

Ellicott 5th Graders Learn Good Health from the Experts



Ellicott Elementary's Annual 5th Grade Health Awareness Day was once again a rousing success. The day began with a keynote address from Dr. Michael Cummings, senior cancer research scientist and director of the Tobacco Control Program at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, who has been labeled a pioneer in the field of tobacco control. Students participated in a variety of stations where parents and volunteers in the health and fitness field reinforced the concepts of the 5th Grade Health Awareness Curriculum, learning more about exercise and nutrition, first aid/CPR and physical therapy.

Pictured here are Ellicott students participating in a hands-on exercise to gauge resting and target heart rates.



The Orchard Park Central School District was well represented at the Destination ImagiNation Global Finals held in Knoxville, Tennessee on May 20, 2009. Six teams from Orchard Park competed in the competition, facing off against 50 other teams in each DI problem. Congratulations to the following teams (listed with their problem and place):

<i>Video Lit Hits</i>	<i>Eggert, 23rd place</i>
	<i>OPMS, 11th Place</i>
	<i>OPHS, 15th place</i>
<i>A New Angle</i>	<i>Eggert, 14th place</i>
	<i>OPMS, 6th place</i>
<i>Private DI</i>	<i>South Davis, 9th place</i>

Pictured above is the South Davis Elementary Team. Thanks are extended to the teams, their coaches and parents. The District is proud of their accomplishments, team efforts and commitment.

HS Students Part with Locks to Defeat Cancer

This spring, Orchard Park High School was one of dozens of schools and organizations from across Western New York who hosted a Goin' Bald events to raise funds for Roswell Park Cancer Institute. The student-led event raised \$6,397.41 by 27 students and 13 faculty willing to go short to find a cure for

cancer. Orchard Park students, under the guidance of Ms. Denise Heary from BOCES, volunteered their services for the event. The fundraiser was planned by more than 50 students from the Business Education department's Leadership Skills classes and DECA 50 Leadership students and DECA. Pictured here are Sean Hogan (above) and Ryan DiMaria (below), two of the 40 participants in the event.



Take a Look It's In a Book!

South Davis Elementary Student Adam Miller was selected as a 1st place finalist in Reading Rainbow Young Writers & Illustrators Contest. Adam was honored at a special ceremony held on June 4 at the WNED studios in Buffalo. At the event, Adam read his story, King and Queen Abazama, for the audience, while his illustrations were projected on a large screen for all to view. Adam is a student in Mrs. Connor's kindergarten class. He is pictured here (far left) with the other finalists.



Revised Code of Conduct Adopted

*By Dennis Fitscher
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Pupil Services*

Our Board of Education recently adopted a revised Code of Conduct. School districts in New York State are mandated as part of the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) legislation to develop a code to improve school safety.

Most people make the assumption that the required Code of Conduct was written to address student behavior on school property and at school-related functions. While this information is true, a District's Code of Conduct also calls for the maintenance of order on school grounds for all members of the school community, which not only takes into account students, but also teachers, school personnel, parents and visitors.

The original Code of Conduct was written with foresight and wisdom, but that committee could never have predicted the changes in technology and education law. As a result, a committee representing all constituent groups was formed to update the Code. The goal was to revise the Code, taking into consideration the effectiveness of the Code, and the fairness and



consistency of its administration.

The most substantial changes can be found in the box below. These modifications and others were presented to the community at a public hearing on May 19. School personnel, parents, students and other interested parties were invited to participate and respond to the recommended revisions. The Board of Education adopted the revised Code of Conduct at their June 9th meeting, which now obligates the District to submit the

revised Code to the Commissioner of Education within 30 days.

The District would like to publicly thank the committee members (listed below) for providing their time, effort and expertise to critically review our Code of Conduct. This updated guidance document will assist us in ensuring a safe environment for all individuals to work, play, learn and visit at our schools.

If you are interested in viewing the entire Code of Conduct, please visit the www.opschool.org website and click on "Code of Conduct" under "About Us."

Significant Changes to the Code of Conduct

- Expanded the definition of school property
- Added an expectation for essential school partners whereby they lead by example and conduct themselves in a courteous, respectful manner
- Added prohibitive conduct for engaging in cyber-bullying
- Revised protocols for the discipline of students with disabilities to reflect changes in education law
- Updated sign-in procedures for visitors to align practices with our security system and district policy
- Public conduct prohibited on school property now includes: removing district property or the personal property of anyone lawfully on school property; use language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive; smoking or using other tobacco products on school property
- Violators of the prohibited conduct are subject to immediate ejection and/or removal

Committee

Thank you to the members of the 2008-09 Code of Conduct Committee:

Dennis Fitscher	Assistant Superintendent
Matthew Beauregard	STAP-Comm Student Representative
Kim Cirillo	Middle School Assistant Principal
Mike Graffeo	High School Teacher
Jim Higgins	Director of Health, Physical Education & Athletics
Julie Kaczor	Elementary Assistant Principal
Marianne Matyas	School Related Professional
Al McClymonds	Board of Education Member
Alanna Ross	STAP-Comm Student Representative
Karl Shoop	PTO Parent Representative
Joanne Scolese	School Related Professional
Terry Tryon	High School House 2 Principal
Sheila Visco	PTO Parent Representative
Dave Rebmann	Community Youth Court
Rhonnie Gorman	Community Youth Council Representative

Talented Group Inducted Into National Honor Society

Congratulations to the 108 students listed below who were inducted into the National Honor Society at Orchard Park High School. Membership into the National Honor Society is based on a student's outstanding performance in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.



Inductees include: Samantha Arcara, Carl Armstrong, Chelsea Armstrong, Jeffrey Baker, Anthony Basile, Andrea Bautista, Elizabeth Blackley, Eric Bodnar, Amy Bogolin, Joseph Boyd, Caroline Bristol, Elizabeth Brydges, Karah Charette, Kerry Chella, Meghan Clough, Elizabeth Cohen, Emily Colarusso, Amelia Colon, Meghan Dembik, Calle Demeter, Ross DiPronio, Jillian Dolan, Brett Doster, Jaymie Druding, Mitchell Dzimian, Vadim Fedorishin, Timothy Felong, Taylor Ferguson, Shannon Fitzgerald, Chelsea Graber, Daniel Gustafson, Avery Hartmans, Erin Hayes, Erin Hoover, Claire Houghton, Andrew Huebert, Paige Idziur, Akshita Iyer, Casey Jablonski, Kyle Jeziorski, Cassandra Joseph, Molly King, Ann Koehler, Evan Korn, Jessica Kreuzer, Kimberly Kucharski, Amanda Kullman, Mary LaMacchia, Allison Lewandowski, Peter Lukasiewicz, Samantha MacNamara, Allysa Maderer, Chelsea Maderer, Julia Maggioli, Meg Mankowski, Bryan Matthews, Melinda McCabe, Brendan McLaughlin, James McMullen, Ryan Merewether, Christina Metauro, Alexander Mikol, Carl Milazzo, Sarah Miller, Amanda Moore, Chelsea Neaverth, Sara Newton, Andrea Pawarski, Jillian Pawlowski, Alison Phillips, Lauren Postula, Alyssa Radziwon, Jocelyn Redlinski, Jennifer Rojek, Alanna Ross, Angela Salerno, Bethany Saul, Charlotte Saul, Brittany Saunders, Michael Sawyer, Lynn Schroeder, Caitlyn Sears, Alexander Shafer, Jessica Shaffner, Lee Shular, Stephanie Sieczkarek, Megan Skelly, Anne Smith, Rebecca Spinaris, Sarah Stanton, Valerie Stefani, Kevin Stevens, Emily Stott, Edward Sullivan, Jennifer Szmania, Claire Taberski, Alison Tepas, Adam Tomich, Evan Vaughn, Patrick Violanti, Alexandra Wagner, Rebecca Wajda, Olivia Wasteney, Jeffrey Weiss, Elyssa Wiecek, Jennifer Zhang, Joshua Zhang and Nicole Zizzi.



Twelve students from Orchard Park High School DECA attended the New York DECA State Career Conference in Rochester. There, they competed in various business-related contests, including sales demonstrations, advertising presentations, role-play and test taking events. Eight of these outstanding students were finalists in their contests, and one took third place. A special thank you goes to the following companies for helping to fund the cost of the trip for these students: Sgroi Financial, Boys & Girls Club of Orchard Park, Tops Friendly Markets, Edible Arrangements, and Runner's Roost.



Students at Eggert had an eggciting time when Conor Devine, son of Eggert teacher, Mrs. Devine, visited the school for a demonstration on how to make Pysanky eggs. Making of the Pysanky eggs, which are decorated using a wax-resist method, tied into the third grade cultural study of Russia and their study of author Patricia Polacco. Books on egg decorating were displayed, and the presentation was shared with Windom and Ellicott Elementary schools through the use of teleconferencing equipment. Conor is pictured above with several students listening intently.



In April, Windom Elementary School had the honor of hosting author Tim O'Shei. A Western New York native, Mr. O'Shei has had the opportunity to meet and write about his own personal heroes including hockey great Wayne Gretzky, former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, television and movie stars Michael J. Fox and Christopher Reeve. He spent time over two days visiting with each grade level at Windom, and also had lunch with two lucky students from each grade level. He is pictured above speaking to (and dancing in front of) Windom students in the library.



Thanks are extended to the South Davis PTO for their recent donation of \$19,536. The generous donation to the District will be used to purchase eight SmartBoards (interactive white boards) for classrooms at South Davis. Pictured here are South Davis Principal Christine Rassow (left) and Board of Education President Don Sniezak (center) accepting a check from South Davis PTO Co-President Donna Sferra at the June 9, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

Local Businesses, Colleges and the Chamber Provide Scholarships for AOF Graduates



Members of the 2009 graduating class of the Academy of Finance were recognized at an end of the year dinner held at LaGalleria Restaurant in late May. Several students were presented with scholarships, including Mitchell Graham, who received a \$2400 Academic Excellence Scholarship and \$500 Matching Program Scholarship from Bryant & Stratton College, in addition to a \$500 scholarship from Five Star Bank. Rachael Crapsi received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce, while Marcela Ramirez was also recognized with a \$500 scholarship courtesy of Five Star Bank. Scott Courteau was awarded

a \$500 SUNY ECC Scholarship. Pictured here are several members of the 2009 Class including, from left, Ryan Hansgren, Brittany McGraw, Marcela Ramirez, Dahlya Skarbowski, Scott Courteau, Mitchell Graham, Jeff Tundo and Rachael Crapsi.

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Resident

2009-2010 School Calendar Reminder

A reminder that the **2009-2010 school year will begin on September 3, 2009.** Please note that this date occurs **BEFORE Labor Day** (which is September 7, 2009). In addition, Spring Recess in 2010 does not coincide with Easter Sunday. Please note these important dates on your calendar:

September 3, 2009	First Day of Student Attendance K-12
September 7	NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
October 12	NO SCHOOL - Columbus Day
November 11	NO SCHOOL - Veteran's Day
November 26-27	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Holiday
December 24-31	NO SCHOOL - Holiday Recess
January 1, 2010	NO SCHOOL - New Year's Day
January 4	Classes resume
January 18	NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Day
February 15-19	NO SCHOOL - Mid-Winter Recess
March 22	Superintendent's Conf. Day
	NO Student Attendance K-12
April 1	Superintendent's Conf. Day
	NO Student Attendance K-12
April 2	NO SCHOOL - Holiday
April 19-23	NO SCHOOL - Spring Recess
May 28	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day Weekend
May 31	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day Weekend
June 22	Last Elementary Student Day (dismissal at 11:30)
June 23	Last Middle & High School Student Day

Please note the above list does not include Elementary and Middle School half-days and High School early dismissal days. To view the entire 2009-2010 calendar, please visit our web site at www.opschools.org and click on "Calendar."

www.opschools.org

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