



FEBRUARY 2019

# In the Loop

## WINDOM ELEMENTARY PTO NEWSLETTER

From  
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Dear Parents and Students:

Happy February! We are in the thick of winter (with an end in sight, I hope!) but classes are still heading outside for Recess at Windom. It is important that you send your students to school with hats, gloves, boots and warm jackets. Together with Windom's school nurse, Sarah Johnson, a decision is made daily on whether the temperature has dropped below safe levels for outdoor recess, but we are hearty Western New Yorkers and outside time is critical for developing brains and bodies!

A huge thank you to the many families, staff, and students who participated in our 2019 Musical, *The Jungle Book Kids*. Every student saw the show during the day and both evening shows were SOLD OUT! Thank you again for everyone's support in the months, weeks, and days leading up to the performances. To all families who bought water or carnations, thank you for supporting our fundraiser for the brand new sound system – which was delivered and installed just in time for the show and WOW, what a difference it makes!

It's that time of year where Orchard Park begins Kindergarten Registration! If you or anyone you know has a child who will be 5-years old by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 – they should enroll in Kindergarten! Please contact District Registrar Amanda Alba at 209-6325 or [aalba@opschools.org](mailto:aalba@opschools.org) to begin the registration process. The sooner students are enrolled, the better!

I hope you all have a restful, healthy February Break – remember, no school February 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> and there is an Early Release Day at 11:30 a.m. on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your continued support,

Phil Johnson  
Principal

### What's Inside February

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#### WINDOM'S AUTHOR VISIT

welcoming NYT bestselling  
author Susan Verde

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#### WINDOM MOVIE EVENT

featuring the animated  
adventure *Small Foot*

9

#### MCTEACHER'S NIGHT

stop by to see your  
favorite Windom staff



#### Questions or Comments?

contact [Jennifer Spoto](#),  
Newsletter Editor

# From the P R E S I D E N T

Dear Windom Parents:

It's already February and we're more than halfway through the school year, but there are still many fun PTO-sponsored events before this year concludes. We had lots of fun on January 19<sup>th</sup> at our Family Skate Night at Frank Young's Sports Arena, a Windom favorite!

We just wrapped up our annual Box Tops Contest. Thank you to everyone who sent in Box Tops. Windom receives 10 cents for each collected. A special thank you to the volunteers that helped count: Kevin Dash, Laura Haggerty, Veronica Pirillo, Shannon Schleif and Jill Cavarello.



Congratulations to this year's winning classes!

Kindergarten – Mrs. Schaffstall  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade -Miss Kulczyk  
2nd Grade – Mrs. Stifter  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Ms. Buck/Ms. Novak  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Mrs. Hanlon  
5th Grade – Ms. Lobur

The Windom PTO Family Movie Event is coming up on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11 a.m. at the Hamburg Palace Theatre. Our feature movie is *Small Foot*. Please save the date and watch for more information as we get closer!

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments please feel free to contact me at [jsmithwindompto@outlook.com](mailto:jsmithwindompto@outlook.com).

Jonelle Smith  
PTO Co- President

If you are a new PTO member, please be sure to visit [join.myschoolanywhere.com](http://join.myschoolanywhere.com) and enter join code *windompto* to register online. You will get access to our electronic directory, event listings, signups, and email notifications.



## FEELING SOCIAL?

Want to stay informed about the latest updates, news, and special events? Follow us on Twitter **@WindomElem** and join our Facebook group **Windom PTO**.



### WINDOM ELEMENTARY PTO MEETING MINUTES 2/7/19

Attendees: P. Johnson, J. Smith, W. Lewandowski, J. Robison, C. Shields, K. Dash, D. Jakel, J. Spoto.

January PTO Meeting Minutes approved by K. Dash, J. Robison.

### PTO Correspondence - None

### Reports

Treasurer: Kevin Dash – Report dated 2/7/19 for January 2019

Monthly Treasurer's Report for Jan 2019			
	Checking Account	Savings Account	Total
Beginning Balance	\$11,243.37	\$1,485.35	\$12,728.72
Income			
Misc. Fundraiser - Five Below	\$132.36		
Misc. Fundraiser - Chipotle	\$428.56		
Misc. Fundraiser - Tops	\$45.30		
Interest Dividend		\$0.13	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$606.22</b>	<b>\$0.13</b>	<b>\$606.35</b>
Expense			
Fourth Grade Field Trip	\$848.00		
Central Council Dues	\$572.50		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$1,420.50</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,420.50</b>
Ending Balance	\$10,429.09	\$1,485.48	\$11,914.57
Net Income (Loss)			-\$814.15

Principal: Mr. Johnson – The Windom Musical took place on February 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> with the new sound system in place. Tickets for a chance to win front row seats, bottles of water, and carnations were sold to help raise funds for the musical budget. The Windom-Haiti Partnership raffled five pieces of original Haitian art to raise money for a lunch program (for non-consumables such as bowls, and the salary of a chef) at the New Birth School, our partner school there. Additional fundraisers are being considered, including a rubber bracelet sale and a drop-your-kids-off night. Through a grant via the OPFAE, Windom will receive a “Book Vending Machine” where students can redeem earned tokens based on their acts of kindness. The vending machine includes 200 tokens and customizable shelving for various book sizes. Proposed funding for the books would ideally come via the PTO, book fair donations, and/or building funds. The machine is expected to be in before the end of the current school year. “Mission in Vision” is a Shared Decision Making (SDM) Committee initiative to create a new Windom mission statement. The SDM Committee will be reaching out to the parent community to get feedback on positive buzzwords that summarize what their child has gained by attending Windom. Some of the before & after-school clubs require a few additional materials as part of their experience. Given current policies that are in place, there was discussion on how we might be able to secure funds in order to purchase consumable items that the kids might receive. Lastly, for the first time in about 10 years there will be a relocation drill at Windom on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. This means that staff will evacuate the building for a period of time.

Teacher: Mrs. Lew reporting – Windom’s Author Visit will take place from March 12-13, 2019 when we will welcome NYT bestselling author Susan Verde. An order form and letter went home regarding this event. Book orders are due by Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Artmeier was looking for a ticket sales helper during the Windom Musical. The Kindergarten teachers thanked the PTO for Mr. Morton visits. Parent Volunteers are requested for Girls on the Run – visit the Virtual Backpack for more information. The PTO will once again be sponsoring the KONA Ice Truck during the 5<sup>th</sup> grade field day in June.

### PTO Updates

Family Skate Night – About 150 people attended this annual event and everyone had fun.

Box Tops Contest – Our goal this year was to earn \$1500 (15,000 box tops), and we earned approximately \$1347 (13,471). This was down about 15% from last year even though reminders were sent out throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who submitted their box tops and to those who signed up to count them. Classroom Winners of B&N gift cards: K – Schaffstall, 1 – Kulczyk, 2 – Stifter, 3 – Buck/Novak, 4 – Hanlon, 5 – Lobur.

Niagara Candy Fundraiser – Catalogs were distributed the week of February 4<sup>th</sup>. Order forms may be returned to school up until Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>. Candy pickup will be April 1st.

Square 1 Art – The students have wrapped up their Square 1 Art projects, which will be submitted to Square 1 by February 13<sup>th</sup>. Ordering info should be going home in the next few weeks and materials will be delivered in time for Mother's Day.

**Upcoming/Current Events**

Mother's Day Plant Sale – Will take place just before Mothers Day, May 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Due to a relocation drill on the morning of the 9th, student shopping will begin at 11 a.m. Students can purchase up to 3 plants for \$1 each.

Fun Run – The proposed date of this fundraiser will kick off on May 4, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Spoto, PTO Secretary



Please join us at our next PTO meeting on  
**MARCH 7 AT 3:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY**

## Congratulations to our Box Tops Collection Contest Winners!

Kindergarten - Mrs. Schaffstall  
First Grade - Miss Kulczyk  
Second Grade - Mrs. Stifter  
Third Grade - Ms. Buck / Mrs. Novak  
Fourth Grade - Mrs. Hanlon  
Fifth Grade - Ms. Lobur

Each classroom earned a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card!

WE collected approx. 13471 box tops, and earned approx. \$1347.

Thank you to our volunteers who counted: Jill Cavarello, Kevin Dash,  
Laura Haggerty, Veronica Pirillo, and Shannon Schleif.



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## Library View

Ok, turn off the running podcast (Apparently it's not helping since I got my butt handed to me in a race this weekend by some other 60+ year-old geezer. I want him tested!!) Turn off my phone. Turn on my brain. Not an easy task by any means. Start writing.

It turns out that this master "peace" was partially inspired by Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Fleetwood, Mrs. Schaffstall, my wife, and Mr. Rogers (yes, *that* Mr. Rogers). You see I, you, we, and your children have been extremely fortunate over the nineteen years of my visit on the Windom planet to have had and continue to have incredible support of the library from all sides of our community. What a concept!! Believe me when I tell you that this is definitely not the case in many other school libraries in Western New York!!!

Support? How so, you ask? For instance, when you are surrounded with people who have vision (too, too many to name here) and that vision includes the educational betterment of your children, it ups your game. For instance, "Mrs. Gloss, may we paint the library so it looks and feels more inviting to the kids?" Yes. "Mr. Johnson, may we purchase some cushy seating so the kids have a comfortable place to read in the library?" Yes "PTO, may we have an author visit every year?" Yes. And on and on and on. There is actually a long term vision to transform the library into a community learning space that is dynamic, flexible and inviting. This will take awhile and I hope the next guybrarian embraces it. No worries, Mr. Johnson will hire someone who has that vision. And no I'm not retiring YET.

The most recent installment of the transformation of the library are new tables that can be folded, rolled and nested in seconds versus the old ones that weighed more than I do and were older than some of you. This is beneficial and falls in line with the vision in so many ways.

What's next on our journey? Darn, I can't reveal that. But it should be sometime this spring and you can bet we will have a reveal celebration!!!

Onward! This Library View topic blossomed because of the four people mentioned above. So, my wife and I watched the Mr. Rogers documentary over the weekend. (Watch it!! But have tissues ready.) Someone in the list of names above is a huge Fred Rogers fan. Well, in true Mr. Rogers style Mrs. Fleetwood came up with a "wellness" fundraiser idea that really does have something to do with our wellness. Again, I can't reveal this until it is formally approved. Also, Mrs. Schaffstall and I are co-chairs on the Staff Wellness Committee. In reality she does all the work while I sit next to her and look pretty. But, we will be charged with administering Mrs. Fleetwood's fundraiser if and when it is approved. So, there you have it. And this leads back to supporting each other which leads to the support I receive in the library from everyone.

Now, with inspired vision that is put into practice EVERYDAY by those listed above and by teachers, SRPs, administrative staff, you and your family, PTO, OPFAE, best library aid ever, custodial staff, district staff, computer tech staff and, most importantly, your kids, the Windom Community has benefited by having a library that is not like the libraries of the past or having a stereotypical librarian of the past and we will continue to evolve into a space that kids will feel welcome and want to visit often and, and want to read, read, read!!

Thank you so much for your support!!!

"Let's make it a snappy new day." - Mr. Rogers

Peace,  
Mr. Clark

# Kindergarten Registration is open for September 2019!

If your child will be 5 years old on or  
before December 1, 2019...

please call or e-mail the  
Orchard Park Registrar at

716-209-6325 or

[aalba@opschools.org](mailto:aalba@opschools.org)

to start the process. Thank you!



## SPREAD THE WARMTH AT WINDOM

With winter upon us, WE are collecting winter gear such as coats, hats, boots, gloves, and scarves. If you have any items that your children have outgrown, please drop them off at school. Your generosity goes to fellow Windom families in need.

Likewise, if you have a need for a winter item, please contact Mrs. Hutschenreuter at 209-8190 or [khutschenreuter@opschools.org](mailto:khutschenreuter@opschools.org) or Mrs. Johnson at [sjohnson@opschools.org](mailto:sjohnson@opschools.org). Thank you for your donations!



# Windom Welcomes NYT Bestselling Author Susan Verde on March 12-13, 2019!

Pre-sale book prices have been discounted for this event. Please see form below to place your order by Wednesday, February 13th. All books will be autographed by Susan Verde.  
For more information about Susan, please visit her website at [susanverde.com](http://susanverde.com)

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

## Susan Verde ~Book Order

\*\*\*\*All Paperback books \$5.00 \*\*\*\*\*All Hardcover Books \$11.00\*\*\*\*

Books	Qty	Total	Inscribed to..
<b>Paperback- \$5 each</b>			
<u><i>The Water Princess:</i></u> "The story of one young girl's quest to bring clean drinking water to her African village"			
<b>Hard Cover Books - \$11 each</b>			
<u><i>Hey, Wall:</i></u> Armed with pencils, paints, dreams, and Grandma Addy's memories, Angel and others paint the big wall that had been cold, empty, and cheerless.			
<u><i>I am Human:</i></u> Sparse text and illustrated children celebrate the emotions and actions that make us human.			
<u><i>I am Peace:</i></u> Simple text and color illustrations introduce the practice of mindfulness to children to help them handle their emotions, anxiety, busy lives, and stress.			
<u><i>I Am Yoga:</i></u> As a young girl practices various standard yoga poses, she imagines herself as a tree touching the sky, a playful dog, a warrior, and more while relaxing and seeing how she fits into the world.			
<u><i>The Museum:</i></u> A little girl is fascinated by all she sees inside a museum, carried away by the feelings the artworks cause in her.			
<u><i>My Kicks: a sneaker story!</i></u> :A young boy has grown out of his sneakers, but he doesn't want to get rid of them because they tell such great stories.			
<u><i>Rock 'n' Roll Soul:</i></u> A young music lover steps onto the school talent show stage determined to be herself and sing her own unique song.			
<u><i>You and Me:</i></u> Relates, in rhyming verse, how fate brought two cat best friends together.			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

Book Orders Due~ Wednesday, February 13th

Checks Only Please~ Please Make Checks Payable to Windom PTO



SAVE THE DATE!

# WINDOM'S FAMILY MOVIE EVENT

March 3, 2019, 11 AM - 1 PM  
Hamburg Palace Theatre  
31 Buffalo St., Hamburg

Pre-sale tickets are just \$1 each. Order by February 28th!




FEATURE MOVIE: SMALL FOOT

Return the portion below in an envelope addressed to "Windom PTO" with cash payment by Thursday, February 28, 2019 and include your e-mail address for confirmation of your reservations.

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## WINDOM MOVIE EVENT – SMALL FOOT

Student(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher and room #: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation E-Mail address (**required to receive confirmation**):

\_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: 2 tickets 3 tickets 4 tickets 5 tickets 6 tickets

Dollar amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Cash only**





## McTeacher's Night



# Save the Date!

## Windom McTeacher's Night



McTeacher's Night  
McDonald's @ Orchard Park Rd.  
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 4-7 p.m.

Your favorite Windom teachers and staff will be working behind the counter at the Orchard Park Rd. McDonald's! Stop by to say hello and order your favorite menu items. Windom Wellness earns 20% of all sales.



2019-2020

Orchard Park Central School District's  
Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program

**UPK Registration begins  
Wednesday, January 2, 2019.**

- Children must turn 4 years old by December 1, 2019 in order to be eligible to register for UPK.
- To make an appointment to register your child for the UPK Program, please call Amanda Alba, Central Registrar at 716-209-6325.
- There is limited availability for the UPK program based on grant funding. If more children apply than there are available slots, the district will hold a random selection lottery. This has been the case for the past three years.
- The Orchard Park Central School District partners with local preschool providers for this program. Due to capacity limitations, the program is not housed in our elementary buildings.
- Registration must be completed by Friday, March 29, 2019 in order to be eligible for inclusion in the UPK lottery. The registration forms may be downloaded from the district's website ([www.opschools.org/upk](http://www.opschools.org/upk)) or mailed to you upon request.



**Registration is by  
appointment only.**

**Please contact  
Amanda Alba at  
716-209-6325 to  
make an  
appointment.**

**There are only  
100 available  
slots for UPK.**

**Your child MUST be  
registered by  
3/29/2019 to be  
eligible for inclusion  
in the lottery**

**Don't delay!  
Make an  
appointment  
today☺**

**AMANDA ALBA  
CENTRAL REGISTRAR**

2240 Southwestern Blvd.  
West Seneca, NY 14224

716-209-6325





The UB School of Dental Medicine and the Eighth District Dental Society present...

# Give Kids A Smile Day

For Children Ages 1-18 Who Do Not Have Access to Dental Care

## A DAY OF **FREE** DENTAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN!

**University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine**  
**Squire Hall • 3435 Main Street • Buffalo, NY • 14214**

**Saturday • February 9, 2019**  
**9AM-3PM**

*Presented by*



**FIDELIS CARE**

Exams • Cleanings and Fillings • Extractions • Orthodontic Consults (Braces)  
 • Hearing and Eye Exams • Healthy Eating Demos

*For more information and to schedule an appointment call*  
**(716)829-2780**

*\*Every child and parent/guardian will receive a free lunchbox, toothbrush, floss, toothpaste and more!\**

## Five Easy Ways to Give Back to Windom

1. **Tops in Education** - Register your TOPS BonusPlus card [at this link](#) and choose Windom Elementary as the beneficiary. Every time you scan your loyalty card at TOPS, Windom gets 5% back on eligible products.
2. **BoxTops for Education** - Buy, clip, and save on participating products. See pages 7-8 for details about our annual classroom contest and a collection sheet.
3. **AmazonSmile** - When you shop at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and select "Orchard Park PTO" as the AmazonSmile charity of choice, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to our collective group of PTOs.
4. **Restaurant and Retail Fundraisers** - Throughout the year, we will publicize a place and a timeframe for you to grab dinner or merchandise. An average of 20% of sales from purchases will come back to Windom.
5. **Imagine Recycling** - Drop off your used printer cartridges, mobile devices, cell phone batteries, charging ports & cords in the box located in the foyer at Windom. We will get a percentage back on items collected.





*inspiring girls*  
TO BE JOYFUL, HEALTHY AND CONFIDENT!

## Become a Girls on the Run coach this spring !

**Girls on the Run** is looking for coaches to encourage girls towards achieving big things in the spring 2019 season! **Do you want to be a positive influence in a young girl's life?** This could be the volunteer opportunity for you! Support girls in completing a 5k while teaching them about themselves, their friends, and their community. Not a runner? Not a problem! Regardless of your running ability, **as a coach you will serve as a role model and empower girls to activate their limitless potential.**

### Why you should coach:

- ◆ Our curriculum includes dynamic discussions, activities and running games for girls grades 3-5 everything for practice is provided for you
- ◆ Online and in person training provided
- ◆ Be a part of a 2-3 person coaching team
- ◆ Help girls develop healthy living skills over a 10 week period



### Spring Season Dates :

March 18th - June 2nd

### Mandatory new coach training:

Sunday, March 3rd

**or**

Saturday, March 16th

**Practices:** 90 mins twice per week

**5k Date:** Sunday, June 2nd,  
9:30 am

For more information on coaching email

[lauras@gotrbuffalo.org](mailto:lauras@gotrbuffalo.org)

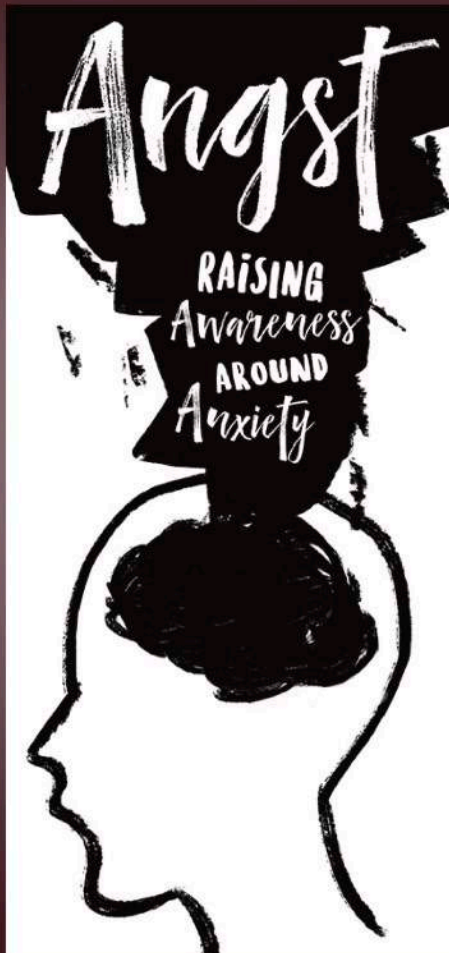
Coach applications are open online at [www.gotrbuffalo.org](http://www.gotrbuffalo.org)



# Parent Information Series on Mental & Emotional Health

*presents*

## Angst



*A Community Screening Event on  
Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

**6:30 - 8 p.m.**

**Orchard Park Middle School  
Auditorium**

**This IndieFlix Original documentary:**

- Raises awareness around anxiety by exploring its causes, effects, and what we can do about it;
- Features candid interviews with children and teens who have suffered from anxiety and what they've learned about it;
- Includes discussions with mental health experts about the causes of anxiety and its sociological effects;
- Provides help, resources, and tools for parents.

*For more information about the film, please visit*

**<https://angstmovie.com/about/>**



## Community News - Head Lice



Head lice can be a frequent occurrence, particularly in elementary schools. Head lice is a rapidly growing problem that has no reflection on one's own cleanliness, social or economic situation. Head lice are defined as parasitic insects that can be found on the head and are characterized by itching of the scalp as a result of live lice in the hair or ova (nits) attached to the hair shaft. The adult is a flat wing-less creature with six legs and a stubby antenna. Lice do not hop, jump or fly. The eggs they lay are called nits. The nits attach to the hair shaft and are very difficult to remove as they manufacture their own glue-like substance to hold themselves to the hair shaft. The most common symptom is the persistent itching. Children scratch behind their ears and at the base of their neck. Head lice are not contagious, are not known to spread illness, nor are they life threatening or due to poor hygiene. Rather, head lice are spread through the sharing of hats, combs, brushes or by direct contact with the hair of an infested person. Head lice feet are specially adapted for holding onto human hair. Head lice would have difficulty attaching to smooth or slippery surfaces like plastic, metal, polished synthetic leathers & other similar materials.

If a case is reported in a classroom, all parents in that class will be informed.

### What can you do?

- We ask you to check your child's head, nape of the neck and behind the ears for live lice or nits (lice eggs) on a weekly basis. Do the same for siblings and anyone else in the home. See your physician to confirm any suspicions you may have about what you find.
- Immediately report any confirmed diagnosis found at home to your school nurse.
- Consult with your pharmacist or physician to choose the right product for treatment. Carefully read the directions for application and re-treatment.
- Remind your children not to share personal items such as combs, brushes, hats with one another.
- Check the OPCSD homepage ([www.opschools.org](http://www.opschools.org)), type the word lice in site search for more information.



The **Windom Elementary Virtual Backpack** is a central repository of online informational flyers that are sorted by month for quick and easy access. Please check the backpack frequently to get the most up-to-date information on upcoming events, fundraisers, extracurricular activities, and school-specific information.



**Orchard Park Central School District**

2240 Southwestern Blvd. West Seneca, NY 14224

*Matthew McGarrity*  
Superintendent*www.opschools.org*  
(716) 209-6200

Dear Parent or Guardian,

New York State Education Law (effective July 1, 2018) requires a physical exam for all students in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11, as well as students new to the Orchard Park Central School District, and students identified as needing services from Committee for Special Education. This letter will be sent in advance of the upcoming school year when a new physical is required for your child to give you time to schedule/ provide the necessary updated physical.

**Please....**

- Schedule an appointment with your child's doctor for an updated physical
- Have the physical form filled out by your child's doctor (available on district website or may use form provided by your child's doctor)
- Return physical form to your child's school Health Office (phone: 209-6322/ fax: 209-6490)

Your prompt attention and cooperation are greatly appreciated!

Sarah Johnson, R.N.  
Windom Elementary School Nurse  
(716) 209-6322

*Philip Johnson*  
Windom Principal

**Windom Elementary**  
3870 Sheldon Road Orchard Park, NY 14127  
[www.opschools.org/windom](http://www.opschools.org/windom)

(716) 209-6279  
Fax (716) 209-6490

**Orchard Park Central School District**

2240 Southwestern Blvd. West Seneca, NY 14224

*Matthew McGarrity*  
Superintendent*www.opschools.org*  
(716) 209-6200

Dear Parents and /or Guardians:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of an important change in the immunization requirements for students entering sixth grade. Effective September 1, 2007 a New York State Public Health Law amendment requires students born on or after January 1, 1994 and those entering the 6th grade on or after September 2007 must receive a Tdap booster immunization. Tdap is the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis vaccine.

Written documentation of this booster immunization must be provided by your physician's office. Please note that in accordance with New York State Public Health Law/ Education Law your child may be excluded from attending school if immunization requirements are not met.

Please...

- Call your child's doctor with any questions and to schedule an appointment for the Tdap booster
- Forward written documentation to school health office no later than June 15th
- If you are unable to complete immunization requirements by June 15th submit date of scheduled appointment student will receive this booster

It should be noted that school health personnel are not available during the summer months to receive this information. Your prompt attention and cooperation are greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact your school nurse for questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Philip Johnson  
Principal*Philip Johnson*  
Windom Principal**Windom Elementary**  
3870 Sheldon Road Orchard Park, NY 14127  
[www.opschools.org/windom](http://www.opschools.org/windom)(716) 209-6279  
Fax (716)-209-6490

**Orchard Park Central School District**

2240 Southwestern Blvd. West Seneca, NY 14224

*Matthew McGarrity*  
Superintendent*www.opschools.org*  
(716) 209-6200**Reminder to all parents and guardians of students at Windom re: “Food Allergy Classrooms”:**

In order to keep our students with food allergies safe, we ask that you refrain from sending in any homemade treats or items bought from a bakery into classrooms for special occasions. We also ask that you refrain from bringing in any type of food into any common areas of the school other than the cafeteria. We cannot guarantee the safety of these homemade or bakery food items as cross-contamination may pose a risk. If your child is in a “Food Allergy Classroom”, you were informed over the summer with a letter from the principal and Health Office. Food allergies can be life-threatening and we are all responsible to keep students safe in schools.

If you would like to send in a treat to the classroom for your child on a **special occasion only**, please make sure that the snack is store bought and pre-packaged from a safe snack list with the proper labeling/ingredient list.

A safe snack list is available for your reference from Mrs. Johnson (School Nurse) and at <http://snacksafely.com/safe-snack-guide/>. Please keep in mind that this is a safe snack list primarily for peanuts/tree nut, dairy, egg and sesame allergies. If your child is in a classroom with any other type of food allergies, please contact your child's teacher or the School Nurse for reference. Always check the label for possible cross-contamination.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Johnson in the Health Office and she can provide you with safe snack ideas.

Thank you for your cooperation in this effort to keep all of our students here at Windom safe, happy, and healthy!

**Philip Johnson**  
Windom Elementary School Principal

**Sarah Johnson, R.N.**  
Windom Elementary School Nurse

*Philip Johnson*  
Windom Principal

**Windom Elementary**  
3870 Sheldon Road Orchard Park, NY 14127  
[www.opschools.org/windom](http://www.opschools.org/windom)

(716) 209-6279  
Fax (716)-209-6490





## Important News for Schools and Child-Care Facilities

**What:** Pursuant to New York State Public Health Law (PHL) § 613, schools and child-care settings are required to post influenza educational material, in plain view, within their facilities. **Information must be posted starting now.** Influenza season begins in early fall and can last through May.

Outreach to parents and guardians of children ages 6 months to 18 years must be directed to those whose children attend:

- Licensed and registered day-care programs
- Nursery schools
- Prekindergarten
- Kindergarten
- School-age child-care programs
- Public schools
- Nonpublic schools

**Purpose:** To ensure that families of these children receive information on influenza and the benefits of influenza immunizations in connection with efforts to raise the immunity of children against influenza.

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) would like you to know that information regarding influenza and the benefits of influenza immunizations is free, accessible and available in different languages from several organizations:

- NYSDOH:  
[www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/child\\_care\\_and\\_schools/](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/child_care_and_schools/)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:  
[www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/print.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/print.htm)
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene:  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/flu-seasonal.page>

Along with this announcement you will find *The Flu: A Guide for Parents*. This guide is an example of information that is geared towards parents and guardians. It explains why seasonal influenza is serious, provides signs of influenza and tells parents and guardians how to protect their children from influenza by getting them vaccinated. Your facility is welcome to copy and post this guide, or use information you find from the other organizations above.

If you have questions about this section of the PHL, please contact the NYSDOH Bureau of Immunization at [immunize@health.ny.gov](mailto:immunize@health.ny.gov) or 518/473-4437.

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# Keep your kids safe. Get their flu vaccine every year.

## The Flu: A Guide for Parents

<b>Is the flu more serious for kids?</b>	Infants and young children are at greater risk for getting seriously ill from the flu. That's why the New York State Department of Health recommends that all children 6 months and older get the flu vaccine.
<b>Flu vaccine may save your child's life.</b>	Most people with the flu are sick for about a week, and then they feel better. But, some people, especially young children, pregnant women, older people, and people with chronic health problems can get very sick. Some can even die. An annual vaccine is the best way to protect your child from the flu. The vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months and older every year.
<b>What is the flu?</b>	The flu, or influenza, is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs. The flu can spread from person to person.
<b>Who needs the flu vaccine?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flu vaccine can be given to children 6 months and older.</li><li>• Children younger than 9 years old who get a vaccine for the first time need two doses.</li></ul>
<b>How else can I protect my child?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Get the flu vaccine yourself.</li><li>• Encourage your child's close contacts to get the flu vaccine, too. This is very important if your child is younger than 5, or if he or she has a chronic health problem such as asthma (breathing disease) or diabetes (high blood sugar levels). Because children under 6 months can't be vaccinated, they rely on those around them to get an annual flu vaccine.</li><li>• Wash your hands often and cover your coughs and sneezes. It's best to use a tissue and quickly throw it away. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands. This will prevent the spread of germs.</li><li>• Tell your children to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stay away from people who are sick;</li><li>• Clean their hands often;</li><li>• Keep their hands away from their face; and</li><li>• Cover coughs and sneezes to protect others.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>What are signs of the flu?</b>	The flu comes on suddenly. Most people with the flu feel very tired and have a high fever, headache, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and sore muscles. Some people, especially children, may also have stomach problems and diarrhea. The cough can last two or more weeks.

<b>How does the flu spread?</b>	People who have the flu usually cough, sneeze, and have a runny nose. The droplets in a cough, sneeze or runny nose contain the flu virus. Other people can get the flu by breathing in these droplets or by getting them in their nose or mouth.
<b>How long can a sick person spread the flu to others?</b>	Most healthy adults may be able to spread the flu from one day before getting sick to up to 5 days after getting sick. This can be longer in children and in people who don't fight disease as well (people with weaker immune systems).
<b>What should I use to clean hands?</b>	Wash your children's hands with soap and water. Wash them for as long as it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice. If soap and water are not handy, use a hand sanitizer. It should be rubbed into hands until the hands are dry.
<b>What can I do if my child gets sick?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks lots of fluids.</li> <li>• Talk with your child's health care provider before giving your child over-the-counter medicine.</li> <li>• Never give your child or teen aspirin, or medicine that has aspirin in it. It can cause serious problems.</li> <li>• Call your child's health care provider if your child develops flu symptoms and is younger than 5 or has a chronic medical condition like asthma, diabetes, or heart or lung disease.</li> <li>• If you are worried about your child's illness, call your health care provider.</li> </ul>
<b>Can my child go to school or day care with the flu?</b>	No. If your child has the flu, he or she should stay home to rest. This helps avoid giving the flu to other children.
<b>When can my child go back to school or day care after having the flu?</b>	Children with the flu should be isolated in the home, away from other people. They should also stay home until they have no fever without the use of fever-control medicines and they feel well for 24 hours. Remind your child to protect others by covering his or her mouth when coughing or sneezing. You may want to send your child to school with some tissues, and a hand sanitizer, if allowed by the school.

For more information about the flu, visit [health.ny.gov/flu](http://health.ny.gov/flu)

Or, [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



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