

# Orchard Park Schools Update

February 11, 2021

## Mid-Winter Recess

The Orchard Park Central School District will be closed February 15 - February 19 for Mid-Winter Recess. School will resume on Monday, February 22 which will be an A day.

## Travel Guidelines

If you are planning to travel over the February Recess please review the NYSDOH Travel Guidelines linked below.

[NYSDOH Travel Guidelines](#)

## Upcoming Half-Day and Early Dismissal

Friday, February 12 is a half-day for students in grades K-8 and an early dismissal for high school students.

- Elementary students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m.
- Middle school students will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m.
- High school students will be dismissed at 12:45 p.m.



## UPK Registration Deadline is Approaching

Applications for Universal Pre-Kindergarten are being accepted for the 2021-2022 school year until March 5, 2021. Applications can be completed online this year in an effort to minimize person to person contact. If you haven't already completed the registration process please visit: [www.opschools.org/upk](http://www.opschools.org/upk).



## If You Haven't Completed Kindergarten Registration Register Now!

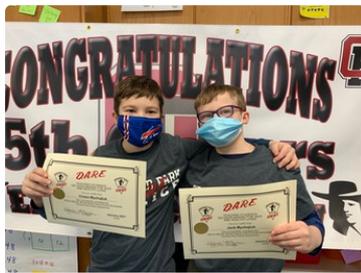
For information on registering your child for Kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school, please visit [www.opschools.org/kindergarten](http://www.opschools.org/kindergarten). Applications can be completed online this year in an effort to minimize person to person contact.

## Subscribe to the Orchard Park YouTube Channel

Tune into the Orchard Park YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/OrchardParkYoutube> and subscribe! Help the Orchard Park YouTube channel reach a milestone of 1000 subscribers. If we reach our goal it enables the district to live stream from anywhere on any device allowing us to share more events with Orchard Park families and our community!

## What's Going On In Our Schools

Please check out the stories below to view a sampling of what has been going on within our District.



## Fifth Graders Graduate from D.A.R.E. Program

Eggert and Ellicott Elementary fifth grade students recently graduated from the 15 week D.A.R.E. program. The students spent the 15 weeks of the program meeting with Orchard Park Police Officer Kristen Mazur, learning and discussing ways to appropriately make decisions that could affect their lives. South Davis and Windom students will participate in the D.A.R.E. program this spring.

The D.A.R.E. program teaches 5th grade students many lessons that can be used throughout their lives. Students learn about making safe and responsible choices using the D.A.R.E. Decision Making Model, dealing with negative peer pressure, social media safety, dangers of alcohol, tobacco and vaping, bullying and so much more. The program emphasizes teaching students how to become good citizens within our community

Officer Mazur was able to use a combination of recorded lessons, Google Meets and in-person curriculum to teach the fifth graders over the course of their 15 weeks in the D.A.R.E. program.

*Ellicott Elementary students Chase and Jack Mychajluk proudly display their D.A.R.E. certificates after graduating from the D.A.R.E. program.*

## Windom Elementary Students Read to Animals at the SPCA Serving Erie County

Mrs. Kolodziejczak's first grade class at Windom Elementary was able to virtually read to animals at the SPCA Serving Erie County for the months of December and January through the Paws for Love program. Mrs. Kolodziejczak was able to partner with Katherine Gillette-Cockerill the Humane Educator at the SPCA Serving Erie County to offer this opportunity to her first grade students. The class used Zoom breakout rooms so each pair of students was able to read to an animal while Mrs. Kolodziejczak could monitor all of the students from her screen. The reading partners got to practice their reading skills while reading to dogs, cats, a bearded dragon, and a guinea pig. Mrs. Kolodziejczak along with the animal handlers onsite at the SPCA kept reading engagement high by encouraging the reading partners to read with expression while helping each other. If families are interesting in participating in the Paws for Love program visit <https://yoursPCA.org/talefortwo20-21/>

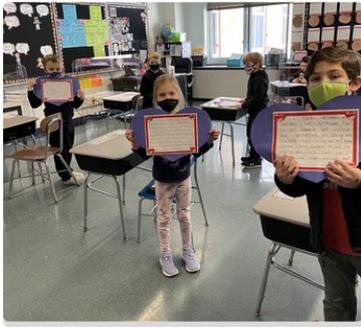


*Pictured are Joseph Pirrone and Jacob Olivieri reading to Freddie the guinea pig. Freddie is part of the Paws for Love therapy animal program.*



## OPHS Library Offers Book Boxes

The high school library is doing subscription book boxes for our high school students. Librarians Beth DiLucente and Jessica Godios hand select books for each student who has signed up to receive a book box. Each box also includes some bonuses and swag. This month is a Valentine's theme with scented putty erasers, scented stickers, and valentines candy along with a button craft. January's theme was self-care. The library team included a stress ball, a KIND bar, sudoku, crosswords and word search games as well as coloring sheets and links to the librarians favorite yoga videos. Library aides, Marcy Arthur and Eileen Clinton pull the books, assemble the boxes and deliver them to classrooms. Participants choose to receive 2-5 books per month with a 4 week loan period. Currently there are approximately 70 subscriptions including some completely remote students. The library team has checked out over 1,800 books this year through this program. The librarians are thrilled to be getting books into the hands of the students during this unusual year.



## Valentines for Veterans

Eggert Elementary students created Valentines for Veterans through Legislator John Mills 2021 Valentines for Veterans program.

Multiple classes at Eggert Elementary were able to participate in making Valentine's Day cards. In Julie Tortorice's second grade class the students have been learning about strengthening their writing skills with adjectives so each of their cards included a paragraph about why Veterans are heroes. The second graders included many adjectives to describe the character traits of a Veteran.

Every year Legislator Mills' office is told by the veterans how meaningful the valentines are to them. With so many people suffering due to isolation the Legislator's office believes this year's program is even more important for both the students sharing their messages of love and gratitude, and the men and women who will receive them.

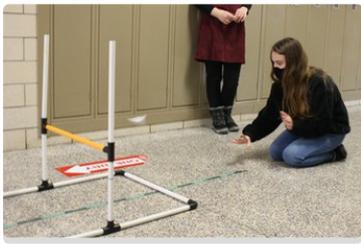
*Pictured are second grade students Killian Brown, Riley Fletcher and Greyson Allard holding the Valentines they created.*

## Ellicott Elementary Participates in World Read Aloud Day

February 3rd was World Read Aloud Day. Special Area teachers at Ellicott Elementary and District Administrators recorded themselves reading stories aloud for the students at Ellicott. All of the classes at Ellicott Elementary were able to listen to the recorded stories throughout the day on February 3rd.



*Pictured are Ellicott Elementary students watching a video of Superintendent McGarrity reading Forest Has a Song by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater, aloud.*



## Middle School Students Shoot Field Goals While Learning Physics

Students in Mrs. Staebell's eighth grade science class participated in a pre-Super Bowl science lab. The students created paper footballs (a piece of paper folded into a triangle). Then they attempted to flick their football with their fingers in hopes of getting it through the goal post. The students were able to make multiple attempts, record and evaluate their results. The students were learning Sir Isaac Newton's three laws of motion. They saw the laws of motion in action and were able to explain how each of the three laws of motion explained how, why, and where their footballs traveled during the competition. It was an impressive way for the students to see the science in action.

*Pictured is Alyssa Bowers flicking her football through the goal posts. After each football landed the students were able to measure the distance and direction it had traveled to adjust their results for future attempts.*

## South Davis Creates a New Music Video

South Davis Elementary came together once again to deliver an entertaining music video to the song "Moment of Truth". South Davis' Bullying Prevention Coordinating Committee chose to make the video in an effort to create a positive sense of unity within the building since they are unable to do many traditional activities like assemblies this year. Check out their music video below.

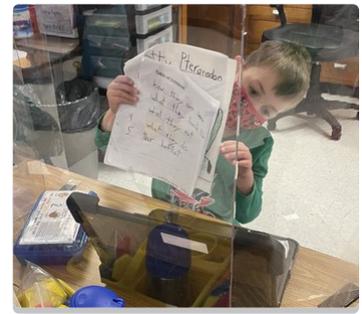
### Moment Of Truth



## First Graders Write Animal Chapter Books

First Grade students in Mrs. Biondo and Mrs. Miller's classes at Windom Elementary have been working hard to learn all about the world around them during Reader's Workshop. To celebrate their

hard work and new knowledge, each student chose their favorite animal to study. The students then researched facts about their animal and used the facts to write an animal chapter book during Writer's Workshop. Once the writing process was complete, the classes collaborated with Instructional Technology Coach, Nicole Holler, to photograph, record and publish their nonfiction writing digitally. The first graders hope to share their knowledge about the animals they studied! To check out the animal chapter books click here: <https://flipgrid.com/+windomgrade1>



*Pictured is Zackary Bean publishing his book on Pteranodons.*

## OPHS Business Department Receives Next Gen Person Finance Gold Standard Challenge Grant

The Orchard Park High School Business Department, in conjunction with its Academy of Finance program, recently announced that they are a recipient of the 'Next Gen Personal Finance Gold Standard Challenge' grant. This \$10,000 grant was made possible by the Superintendent recommending the Board of Education adopt the requirement that all students take a course in Personal Finance to graduate and the Board of Educations adoption. The funds will be dedicated to furthering the Business Department's financial literacy mission at OPHS.



### About the Orchard Park Central School District

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The Orchard Park Central School District covers approximately 50 square miles and includes portions of six adjacent townships: Orchard Park, West Seneca, Hamburg, Boston, Elma and Aurora. We have four elementary schools, a middle school and a high school, serving some 5,400 students.

We are continuing a long tradition of excellence in academics, athletics, service and the arts. Our schools are known for outstanding academic achievement at all levels. Over 90 percent of our graduates go on to higher education.

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