Orchard Park Middle School Student Selected as a TIME For Kids: Kid Reporter

Orchard Park Middle School student Nolan Watson was selected to be a TIME for Kids: Kid Reporter during the 2017-18 school year. Over 300 students apply each year and only 12 are selected. Kid Reporters serve a term of one year. Nolan began in August 2017 and will continue reporting until August 2018.

Nolan's original interest in TIME for Kids began when he was in 5th grade at Ellicott. They would read TIME for Kids and it sparked his interest in the publication and reporting. Nolan originally applied to be a TIME for Kids reporter during the summer between 6th and 7th grade. At that point he was selected as one of the 25 finalists but was not chosen to be a reporter. When he applied again the following year he was selected as a finalist and made the cut as one of 12 Kid Reporters selected throughout the country.

The application process involved submitting previous written work and a 3-4 minute video. Nolan submitted two writing pieces he had done. One about Saturday Night Live and more kids becoming interested and aware of the show and another about the 11 Day Power Play and Roswell Park. He also submitted a video about himself.

During the course of the year Nolan along with a parent and a photo journalist will be able to travel throughout the country on different assignments. So far Nolan has been published once for a book release. Being published was a very exciting experience for him. Nolan said “It was really cool to have 6th graders asking if he was the person in the magazine they were reading.”

Recently he had an opportunity to visit the Time Inc. World Headquarters. While there he personally met his mentor who he has been working with throughout his Kid Reporter experience. She gave him a tour of the Headquarters and they had an opportunity to discuss journalism and potential future assignments.

Nolan is looking forward to being able to pitch some of his ideas to the magazine in the coming year. He already has an assignment to get started on in January and he is looking forward to it.

Nolan is grateful for this amazing opportunity and would like to thank a few of his teachers who helped him get here. Specifically Mr. Herman, Mr. Spillman and Mrs. Ryan.
Superintendent’s Column

By: Matthew P. McGarrity

This time of year always has me reflecting on how fortunate we are as a school district and as a community to live and work in Orchard Park. To say that our community is a giving community is an understatement. We have so many people that give in the way of donations, time and talents. At literally every Board of Education meeting, we have several donations from individuals or groups including: our PTOs, the Quaker Athletic Boosters, the Music Boosters, the QMB Boosters and the Foundation for Academic Excellence, just to name a few. All of these donations greatly enhance our programs and allow our students to take advantage of opportunities that would not be possible if it were not for the generosity of these groups and individuals.

We are also blessed with a multitude of people who volunteer in a number of capacities. All of these people bring their talents and expertise to our children every day in many forms. These giving people and organizations also play a key role in teaching our students the meaning of giving back to our community and schools, which is an invaluable lesson for our young people. Thank you again for your donations, time and talent for the benefit of our students and community.

Ellicott Student Receives Dr. Horace Mann K-12 Student Award

Ellicott Elementary fifth grader, Alek Aaron David Ralls received the Dr. Horace Mann K-12 Student Award in November.

Alek received the award at a ceremony at Buffalo State. Fourteen of his family members were able to attend in addition to his fourth grade teacher, Miss Lauren Stegemann, one of his current fifth grade teachers, Mrs. Donna Schwarzenholzer, Speech teacher, Emilie Smith and Ellicott Elementary Principal, Mr. Paul Pietrantone. This was a truly special event and only a few students were honored with this award.

Alek was nominated by his fourth grade teacher Miss Stegemann. In her nomination she states “Alek has embodied what it truly means to be a student and a role model.” She nominated him for his perseverance, determination, optimism and self-advocacy skill. Alek continues to work to become the best version of himself. Even when a skill is difficult for him, he takes action and applies strategies he has learned to master it.

Alek is known throughout Ellicott Elementary for his positive attitude and his effort to make others feel welcome. He always puts others before himself and is sensitive to the needs of others around him including his classmates.

Miss Stegemann proudly says, “It is without a doubt that I know Alek will continue to succeed in character and academics in life. I couldn’t be more proud of him”.

The Horace Mann K-12 Award was established in honor of the late Horace Mann, a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus who passed away in 2010.
Orchard Park High School Teacher Honored at Film Competition

Orchard Park English teacher, Miss Maria Marinaccio, along with her team, the “Partially Submerged Elephants,” won the Buffalo Area 48 Hour Film Project. The 48 Hour Film Project is a filmmaking competition that takes place each year in major cities across the globe. Miss Marinaccio got involved in the competition in 2016, where she was able to meet the group that she worked with this year.

The challenge itself takes place within just 48 hours over the course of a weekend. Teams consist of filmmakers of various skill levels whose challenge is to create a short film of 4-7 minutes, all while including a randomly-assigned prop, line of dialogue, and character, while also adhering to one of two genres pulled from a hat. After receiving the challenge on a Friday evening, the “Partially Submerged Elephants” met and had a brainstorming session with all of its members to devise a possible storyline. Afterwards, a group of 4 or 5 writers within the team continued meeting and developed the script, sending it out to team members at 5 a.m. The team members had from 5 a.m. – 8 a.m. Saturday morning to gather costumes in preparation for filming to begin.

Miss Marinaccio’s group chose to film at the Erie County Fair, where they obtained permission to use the Tilt-a-Whirl ride to capture some of the most important shots of their film, which they titled “Ride of Your Life.” The team ended up filming in 13 different locations overall. Each person on the team had an important role in making the movie a success. There were runners who made sure that all necessary props were available at the correct times. Meal planners made sure that everyone was fed and hydrated throughout the process so that the team had the energy to continue working the crazy hours needed to ensure the film’s success.

The “Partially Submerged Elephants” received ten nominations: Best Overall Film, Best Acting, Best Editing, Best Directing, Best Cinematography, Best Musical Score, Best Sound Design, Best Graphics, Best Special Effects, and Audience Choice. They were recognized with six awards: Best Acting, Best Editing, Best Special Effects, Audience Choice-Group B, for the film’s particular screening group, Audience Choice Overall, and Best Overall Film. Miss Marinaccio herself took home the award for Best Acting, but attributes the group’s success to the team’s collective vision to use this opportunity to “be creative and make a wonderful film,” their end goal was not to win but to come together as a team to create a work that could speak to and be enjoyed by all types of audiences.

Being the winners of the Buffalo 48 Hour Film Project, the team will travel to Filmapalooza in Paris, France, in the first week of March to accept an honor for creating a “city-winning film,” and to compete against international winners of the 48 Hour Film Project for a chance to screen at Cannes Film Festival. Maria is extremely grateful for the opportunity to have participated and excelled in this challenge along with her teammates, and she is most looking forward to continuing to use the experience as a teaching opportunity for her own students.

Check Out The Virtual Backpack

The Orchard Park Central School District is now sending flyers home through the Virtual Backpack available on our website. You can visit the Virtual Backpack for your child’s building at the link below.

The Virtual Backpack will decrease the amount of paper flyers going home with students and it will also be a great reference to parents if they want to refer back to a certain piece of information. Instead of keeping track of individual paper flyers, the flyers will be available throughout the year to be accessed by both parents and students.

It is encouraged to check the Virtual Backpack at least once a week to ensure that you don’t miss anything! Visit www.opschools.org/opcsdvirtualbackpacks.
Download the New OP Schools App Today

The latest news and information in the Orchard Park Central School District is now available on smartphones and mobile devices with a new mobile app. Orchard Park is partnering with Blackboard to expand its communications outreach with a mobile app that is now available in the online iTunes and Google Play app stores for free.

The mobile app will offer a constantly updated feed of district news and events with photos and links to the district’s website. The app can also be customized by the user by selecting the schools they are most interested in for news and updates. Users can choose to receive push notifications to get breaking news, updates about school closures, calendar changes or even sports updates. The push notifications are great for community members who would like to know when schools are closed but may not have a child in school.

“We know that our students are more successful in schools when parents are engaged in their learning and school activities,” said Matthew McGarrity, Superintendent of Orchard Park Central School District. “With our new mobile app, parents and community members can stay connected with our local schools and with the activities our students are engaged in everyday.”

Parents and the public are encouraged to download this free mobile app to their smart-devices in the iTunes or Google Play stores.

Images From Around the District

Windom Elementary kindergarten student Reese Lorenz is photographed with her parents making some Thanksgiving crafts in the Windom cafeteria the day before the Thanksgiving recess.

Modified Swim Team Hosts First Swim Meet at OPMS in Recent Years

The Orchard Park Middle School hosted its first swim meet in recent years on Monday, December 18th. The pool was redone as a part of the most recent Health and Safety Project voted on by District residents in December 2014.

Previous to the project the Middle School pool was just under the required size needed to host competitive swimming events. The Middle School pool underwent a complete renovation which included structural improvements to the outside wall, new windows, new filtration, tile, a renovated girls locker room and an improved teaching station.

Ellicott Elementary principal Paul Pietrantone and teacher Catie Beth Sulski are pictured presenting a check to John Higgins from Veterans One-Stop Center of WNY. In November, Ellicott ran a coin drive as part of their Veterans Day activities. Ellicott raised $368 for veterans in our community.

The modified swim team takes a quick picture before their first meet in the Middle School pool.
Inclement Weather Procedures

At this time of year it is very important to be aware of our inclement weather procedures. The decision to close schools is not an easy one to make and often the decision needs to be made quickly, decisively and always in the best interest for the continued safety of our students and staff. We begin the decision process at 4:00 a.m. or sooner, depending on the weather and the forecast. With having more than fifty other locations that we transport students to (BOCES, private schools, special programs), a delayed start is usually not an option for a district our size.

Once the decision is made to close, radio and televisions stations are contacted, the district’s web-page is updated and the iConnect notification is sent out to parents. We would ask that parents take a few moments to sign into the Parent Portal and review their contact information to make sure that their contact information is up to date. For more information on the Parent Portal please visit our website www.opschools.org.

The Orchard Park Central School District covers approximately 50 square miles, and much of the area is hilly terrain shaped in a narrow band that stretches south. Because of the land formation, it is common to have varying weather at different ends of the district. So, even though school may not be closed, your decision to keep your child home is quite appropriate if the weather conditions around your home are a safety concern.

If weather turns bad during the school day, students will remain at school until the weather is clear enough to travel. Typically, we begin the dismissal process early, which allows the extra travel time needed in bad weather to get students home - close to the regular time. To increase the potential for older siblings to be home when the younger ones arrive, the dismissal sequence starts with high school students. Middle school dismissal follows, and elementary students are dismissed last. If parents or older siblings cannot be home for the returning youngsters, please make sure your child knows of an alternate place to go, like a specific friend or neighbor’s home.

It is a good idea to talk to your child about cold weather safety. It is important to check your child’s (even teenagers) outerwear. Protecting exposed skin during cold weather is extremely important: warm coats, hats, gloves, scarves and boots will help protect your child during the winter season.

When considering the safety of students in cold weather the following information from the National Weather Service is used as a guideline in making a determination to close schools:

- Cautionary: Wind Chills of -18 to -20 degrees
- Advisory: Wind Chills of -25 degrees or below
- Warning: Wind Chills of -35 degrees or below

In many areas of the country, schools will not close until the wind chill temperature is at the Warning level of -40 degrees or below. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that no one should be outside with unprotected skin with wind-chill factors in the range of -40 degrees or below. In Orchard Park, if the wind chill temperature reaches above the advisory level, school may be delayed or closed.

South Davis Elementary Creates Music Video

South Davis Elementary came together to make a music video in honor of Rachel’s Challenge. Fifth grade students starred in the video but the entire school was a part of this exciting community building activity.

South Davis Elementary along with the other Orchard Park Elementary School’s are participating in a character education program called Rachel’s Challenge. The goal of the character education program is to create a positive and respectful climate and culture within our schools.

The South Davis Bullying Prevention Coordinating Committee was looking for an extra special way to bring the school together as a part of Rachel’s Challenge. The committee decided that a lip dub music video to the song “Give Love” was the way to go!

Fifth grade students at South Davis Elementary rehearsed twice a week for several weeks to prepare for their lip dub debut. On the day of the event, the entire South Davis population came together for the video. The lip dub experience was an incredible community building activity. You can watch South Davis start a “Chain Reaction of Kindness” when they “Give Love” in their first ever lip dub music video at this link: https://youtu.be/7ezzDOEFoE4.

Melissa Holmes from WGRZ is pictured interviewing Sophia Bizub from South Davis Elementary about the lip dub music video.
South Davis Partners With The P.U.N.T. Foundation

Annually 5th grade students at South Davis Elementary donate gifts to a family in need through the P.U.N.T. Foundation's Adopt a Family program. They do this in memory of Andrew Pawlak, an Orchard Park student who attended South Davis Elementary school. Andrew passed away six years ago after losing his battle with cancer.

This year Brian Moorman former Buffalo Bill and creator of the P.U.N.T. Foundation was able to come to South Davis along with the P.U.N.T. Foundation’s executive director, Gwen Mysiak, Andrew Pawlak’s cousin, and executive director of the P.U.N.T Foundation standing with the gifts that were donated by fifth graders at South Davis.

Pictured from left to right is: Sarah Flascher, fifth grade teacher at South Davis Elementary, Claire and Nathan Pawlak siblings of the late Andrew Pawlak holding a picture of their brother, Brian Mormon creator of the P.U.N.T. Foundation and Gwen Mysiak, Andrew Pawlak’s cousin, and executive director of the P.U.N.T Foundation standing with the gifts that were donated by fifth graders at South Davis.

The mission of the P.U.N.T. foundation is to provide children affected by cancer and their families with the opportunities and support to enjoy the life for which they fight so hard.

This is the fifth year that the South Davis 5th grade has coordinated a donation through the P.U.N.T. Foundation in memory of Andrew. This year his younger siblings Claire and Nathan were able to attend.

Fifth graders help load the donations that they collected that will make the holiday season a little brighter for a family staying at the Ronald McDonald house.

Pictured from left to right is: Sarah Flascher, fifth grade teacher at South Davis Elementary, Claire and Nathan Pawlak siblings of the late Andrew Pawlak holding a picture of their brother, Brian Mormon creator of the P.U.N.T. Foundation and Gwen Mysiak, Andrew Pawlak’s cousin, and executive director of the P.U.N.T Foundation standing with the gifts that were donated by fifth graders at South Davis.

Images From Around the District

Eggert Elementary third grader Ava Rojek went above and beyond to collect food for Eggert’s Holiday Food Drive held in November. With the help of her mother, Ava created a video that was uploaded to social media asking for donations. She also wrote a letter on the back of the donation flyer. She then dropped off copies of that letter to all her neighbors. Within a week Ava collected over 420 donations of non-perishable items for Eggert’s Food Drive.

Fifth graders at Windom are studying Motion and Design. During the hands-on investigations, the students use K‘Nex pieces and become “design engineers.” With their teams, they design and build both creative and standard vehicles. They study the concepts of force, friction and Newton’s Laws of Motion to determine what slows down and speeds up their vehicles.

Mr. Chirico Rozsa from Freed Maxick was the opening guest speaker at the Academy of Finance’s Work Based Learning Conference this year. Mr. Rozsa is an alumni of the Orchard Park High School.
In Case You Missed It

The Community Report is published six times per year and mailed home four times per year. Here are highlights from the Fall 2017 edition which is available online.

Orchard Park Middle School students held a “Storm of Generosity” in September to benefit schools effected by hurricanes; Harvey, Irma and Maria. Pictured are some of the Executive Council students preparing for the fundraiser.

Police K9 Shield escorted by Buffalo Police Officer Marshall visited South Davis Elementary. Officer Marshall spoke to students about what service dogs do and the bond formed between a dog and its handler.

Students in Mrs. Tortorice’s class at Eggert hold up Tribute Books they created in memory of Officer Craig Lehner. The class had brainstormed and written about character traits that best described him. They put them together in a book and shared them with Officer Lehner’s police station.

In September there was a reading invasion at Windom Elementary. Students, teachers and staff members throughout the building stopped what they were doing to take 30 minutes for everyone to read.

The Quaker Marching Band is pictured during their performance at the 2017 New York State Field Band Championships. QMB placed 3rd in the competition.

Mrs. Rupp’s class at Ellicott Elementary is pictured learning about Fire Safety with the Orchard Park Fire Department.
It’s no secret, coding and computer programming is a growing field. For the second year in a row, Forbes has indicated Computer Science degrees as one of the top in-demand degrees sought by employers (source: Forbes.com 2016, 2017). In the ever-evolving and vast field of technology, the study of computer science in K-12 schools promotes creativity, problem solving, logic and reasoning skills. Those with expertise and four-year degrees in this field have immense potential for career and employment opportunities.

In the Orchard Park Central School District, we have increased our students’ exposure to computer science, which includes computer coding, programming and robotics. Starting in elementary school, our students have applied the skills of sequencing, estimation and problem solving to program Blue-Bots and Scribbler 3 robots. Elementary children have also experienced the challenge of working with Cubelets and Lego WeDo 2 to create and program robots that meet various specifications. Students are highly engaged and motivated to creatively problem-solve and, therefore, persevere through setbacks and failed attempts. With each attempt, students are learning to reflect on what went wrong and to find alternate solutions.

At Windom Elementary School, for example, students have developed their knowledge of computer coding language, writing over 45,000 lines of code on Code.org! Students have programed successful paths for Dash and Dot robots, and many lines of code were created in scratch.com for students creating movement/audio/apps. Ellicott Elementary’s Coding Club uses a block coding program, Scratch, to create computer generated mazes, and Scribbler robots to program their robot to move around obstacles.

In middle school, computer science is infused in Technology and Engineering Education classes, Computer class, Science, and even in our Library. In Technology class, students explore innovative technologies and manufacturing processes through engineering design projects such as trebuchet redesigns, package development, product innovation, and model dragster creation. Students develop drawings and write machine code to cut designs out of wood or high-density foam using a CNC router. Design work leads to creating unique,
finished products like etched phone cases and water bottles.

In small groups, middle school students complete different tasks to learn about the capabilities of the educational robot. The tasks start off simple and grow increasingly more challenging. Students study a new language in the study of computer and robotic coding. Students write computer programs to control robots. National Instruments, the same company that developed the software for NASA’s Mars robot rovers, designed the robot software. As the tasks get increasingly more complex, students incorporate sensors (sound, light, ultrasonic and touch) to help the mobile robot detect and avoid objects in the surrounding environment. The final capstone activity puts the students’ knowledge and problem-solving skills to the test. Students are tasked to create an autonomous robot that must navigate and find its own way through a maze! Recently, the Technology program acquired a newer generation of robots that are currently used by students in the Robotics club.

The Orchard Park Middle School Library participates in an Hour of Code extended learning event, which begins during Computer Science Education Week and continues for the month of December. In the past 3 years, Orchard Park Middle School students have completed hundreds of hours of code writing. This year, with our Makerspace open learning lab, students have learned coding, programming, and robotics during study hall time. In the Makerspace, students explore many different areas of computer science.

Orchard Park High School offers choice and opportunities to build on the foundational skills developed at the elementary and middle school levels. For those wanting to deepen their study of computer programming and coding, we offer Programming I, II, using Alice and Programming C++. Students can even challenge themselves to take a college level Advanced Placement (AP) course in Computer Science, where students may earn college level credit. The high school coursework focuses on teaching Computer Science not just the language du jour. Collaboration, communication, creativity and problem solving using computers in an efficient, effective manner are our goals.

As a district that strives to provide a comprehensive program with engaging and relevant educational experience, we have evolved our computer science curricula. Wired Magazine (2015) reported that reading and writing code is the new literacy, and our students have opportunities and options to explore this new literacy. Students can pursue college and career studies of interest while engaging in the development of logic and reasoning skills, problem-solving, and creativity through computer science studies.

Become an Orchard Park Pride Sponsor

The Orchard Park Pride program recognizes outstanding high school seniors for their academic and vocational achievements, character and leadership. As we acknowledge these young people, we alert the community and area employers to the high quality of our students who are potential employees and we make the students aware of the possibilities available in Orchard Park for future employment.

A committee composed of representatives from the Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, Orchard Park High School and the community has convened again this year to highlight deserving students and promote links between these students and the local business community.

Ten percent of the senior class will be chosen in January and recognized at a dinner on Thursday, April 26, 2018 in the OPHS cafeteria at 6:15 p.m.

Orchard Park is proud of these students. We are confident that you will want to be part of this important event by becoming a sponsor and sharing your career knowledge with these outstanding youths. As a sponsor, you will be seated with an assigned student and the student’s parents. You will also be acknowledged in the dinner program. Sponsors will be provided with biographical information about their student one month prior to the dinner. The $150.00 sponsorship fee helps defray the cost of dinner for the sponsor, student and parents as well as the student’s award. The limited number of students will be assigned to sponsors in the order in which the reservations are received. If you respond by March 1, 2018, your name will appear in the program and in press releases. Please contact Amy See at 209-6272 if you would like additional information or have any questions.
Petitions for Candidacy on the Board of Education Beginning February 1, 2018

Petitions for school board candidates in the Orchard Park Central School District will be available beginning February 1, 2018 in the Office of the District Clerk, 2240 Southwestern Blvd, West Seneca, between the hours of 7:30 am and 4:00 pm.

To be a qualified candidate for the Board of Education you must be a resident of the district for at least one year prior to the election, a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age, able to read and write, and cannot be an employee of the district.

The terms of two trustees on the seven-member school board are up for election, Mrs. Karen Kane and Mrs. Elizabeth Quinlan. Each term is for three years, July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021. Candidates must obtain at least 25 valid signatures, which represents two percent of last year’s total vote count. Petitions are due in the office of the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2018.

Public voting on the budget is Tuesday, May 15, 2018 from 7 am- 9 pm in the Orchard Park High School Gymnasium. Please use the Freeman Road entrance.
Seven Orchard Park High School seniors committed to play their sports at the collegiate level. Six of the seniors signed their national letters of intent and one senior has verbally committed. The seniors committed at a ceremony at the Orchard Park Central School District Offices on Tuesday, November 14th.

Morgan Baxendale plans to play lacrosse at Franklin Pierce next year. Morgan has been playing lacrosse since she was in third grade. Morgan plays for Stampede Lacrosse and for the Orchard Park High School. Morgan loves many different aspects of lacrosse including the team camaraderie and most importantly the fun. Morgan feels she is successful in lacrosse because of her commitment and many years of hard work and practice. She chose to attend Franklin Pierce because she felt an immediate connection with the team on her overnight visit and the school was the perfect size for Morgan. At this point Morgan isn't sure what she would like to major in but she has an interest in political science and law.

Matthew Holowka is looking forward to playing lacrosse at Mercyhurst next year. He has been playing lacrosse for 13 years and is looking forward to continuing next year at Mercyhurst. Matt has played for many different lacrosse teams but he is especially proud of being a part of the Brine All American Team; Matt is a Brine All American and there are only 20 in the United States. Over winter recess Matt along with his Brine teammates played in Florida representing the USA in the Brogdan Cup. He attributes his success in lacrosse to his dedication to the sport even in the off season. Matt decided to attend Mercyhurst because of the academics, the atmosphere of the lacrosse team and it is the perfect distance from home, according to Matt. He plans to study Intelligence Studies at Mercyhurst and hopes to eventually obtain a job at the Department of Defense.

Alyssa Lutz will be playing soccer at RIT next year. She has been playing since she was four years old. She currently plays for the Orchard Park Varsity team and Global Premier Soccer. She loves the sport and feels she can really excel in soccer. Alyssa felt she didn't want to give up on something that she had been doing for such a long time and she didn't want to be just an average college student so she felt playing soccer in college was definitely the right fit for her. Alyssa is looking forward to attending RIT and feels that the school has a unique academic program that fits her perfectly. She plans to major in New Media Design which is coming up with ideas for the technology of the future and social media.

Maura McCabe will be playing lacrosse at Gannon University next year. She has been playing lacrosse since she was four years old. Maura plays for Orchard Park and Stampede Purple. Maura loves the speed of the game and the team oriented aspect of it all. She wanted to play during college because she is truly passionate about lacrosse. She chose Gannon because she loved the excitement of the campus and the lacrosse program. She plans to major in English and minor in pre law. Maura plans to go to law school and eventually become a lawyer.

Kayla Raymond will be playing softball at Niagara University next year. She has been playing with local house teams since she was five years old. She currently plays for the Orchard Park Varsity team and for the Easton Heat Gold 18u Travel team. Kayla loves that when she is playing softball she feels like she is a part of a family. It has also offered her great opportunities to travel and meet new people. She did not want to give up softball so she opted to continue next year. Kayla chose to attend Niagara because it is a small community and the team and coach were very welcoming. Kayla plans to study Sports Management /Sports Operation. She hopes to own and athletic clothing company in the future.

Madison Stewart will be playing softball next year at St. Bonaventure. She began playing baseball when she was just four years old and switched to softball when she was eleven. She loves the competitive aspect of softball and playing with teammates that soon became sisters. Madison has always wanted to play softball in college so the decision to continue at the next level was an easy one. She elected to attend St. Bonaventure because she fell in love with the school and clicked with the softball coaches. She plans to study to be a teacher at St. Bonaventure.

Lily Wozniak is looking forward to playing softball at Canisius next year. She has been playing softball since she was 8 years old. She currently competes on the New York Diamond Girls travel program and plays year-round for Coach Brian Coons. Lily loves the competition of the sport and enjoys being a part of a group of girls with similar goals, challenges and interests. Lily selected Canisius because she felt it was a school where she could be successful academically. Through her involvement in the school’s softball clinics, she grew comfortable with the coaches, players and campus. At Canisius Lily will study Biology as well as Canisius’ pre-health profession’s program.
Upcoming Events

January

13...ECMEA JH All-County Auditions
15...Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School
16...EG Niagara Candy Sale Begins
16...WE Niagara Candy Sale Begins
17...HS Jazz Concert, 7 p.m.
18...MS 8th Grade Winter Concert, 7 p.m.
19...EL Chocolate Sale Begins
19...WE Winter Family Skate Night, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
20...ECMEA HS All-County Auditions
22...STAP Comm Meeting, 7 p.m.
22-25...Local/Regents Exams
22...Winter/Spring Community Education Walk-In Registration, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
24...Winter/Spring Community Education Walk-In Registration, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
29...Winter Community Education Classes Begin
29...Winter Driver Education Classes Begin
29...5th - 6th Grade Special Education Transition Parent Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at MS
29...HS PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
30...K-8 Half Day, Elementary Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. Middle School Dismissal at 10:30 a.m.

February

1-2...WE Operetta, 7 p.m.
1...WE PTO Meeting, 4 p.m.
5-9...MS Yearbook Sale
5-9...WE Box Tops Contest
6...SD PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
6...EL PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
7...HS Winter Choral Concert, 7 p.m.
7...EL Chocolate Sale Ends
8...EG Appreciation
9...SD Candy Sale Begins
9...HS Festival of Bands, Concert at 7 p.m.
10...HS Winter Homecoming Dance, 8 p.m. – 11 p.m.
12-13...EG Operetta, 7 p.m.
12-13...EL Operetta, 7 p.m.
12...STAP Comm Meeting, 7 p.m.
13...Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
14-15...SD Operetta, 7 p.m.
14...MS PTO Meeting, 9 a.m.
15...EG Science Night, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
16...K-8 Half Day, Elementary Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. Middle School Dismissal at 10:30 a.m.
16...HS Early Dismissal, 12:45 p.m.
16...OP Symphony Concert, 7:30 p.m.
19-23...Mid-Winter Recess – No School
26...HS PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
28...HS College Night for Juniors, 7 p.m.

March

1...HS Senior Citizen Spaghetti Dinner
1...WE PTO Meeting, 4 p.m.
1...SD PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
2...EL Dr. Seuss Day
2...CCPTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
3...ECMEA Elementary All-County Rehearsal
6...District Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.
6...EG Square 1 Art Sale Begins
7...EG PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
8...EL PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
8...District Band Concert, 7 p.m.
9-10...ECMEA Jr High Festivals
9...SD Family Fun Night, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
13...Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
14...ECMEA Elementary All-County Rehearsal
14...MS PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
15-17...HS Musical, 7 p.m.
15...EG Shamrock Night, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
15...Project Know Parent Orientation, 7 p.m. at MS
16-17...ECMEA Dress Rehearsal @ Kleinhaus/Jazz Rehearsal @ Cheektowaga
18...HS Musical, 2 p.m.
19...HS STAP Comm Meeting, 7 p.m.
20...EG Square 1 Art Sale Ends
20...Project Know Girls Night, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at MS
21...SD The Arts Night, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
22...EL Chocolate Sale Pick Up
22...Project Know Boys Night, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at MS
23-24...ECMEA Sr. High Festival
23...EL Family Fun Night, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
23...MS 6th Grade Activity Night, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
26...HS PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
30-6...Spring Recess – No School