



# Orchard Park Central School District Community Report

December 2019 January 2020 Edition

## Students Use Technology to Problem Solve

Students taking Mr. Evan DeWald's Computer Integrated Manufacturing or CIM course at the Orchard Park High School are getting a taste of what problem solving in their future careers may be like. The theme of the course is to let a problem or issue guide the learning. This class is a little different than a traditional Computer Integrated Manufacturing course. According to Mr. DeWald the class uses a "just in time learning" method which only teaches what is required to solve the current problem. This is similar to "just in time manufacturing" a new efficiency concept in manufacturing where they only create what is ordered as it is ordered by customers and they never make any extra to have in surplus. For the class it makes the learning authentic, and it allows the class to get through a broad range of content. The students learn a little bit about a large range of topics. It helps them with their innovation and problem solving abilities. It takes the class months to solve the problem as it would take a lot of time in real life to solve a large scale industrial problem.

The problem that the class selects for the CIM project is different every year meaning that the learning is authentic. Many times the class runs into problems and often Mr. DeWald knows the answer and can quickly help lead the students to a solution. However, sometimes he works through the problem with the students and they theorize what might be at fault and have to work together to come up with a solution. The learning of technical content takes place as they need to know it in order to immediately apply it to the project. As the students work on the project Mr. DeWald acts as a manager. Some days he may spend a whole period working with three students who have encountered a problem and then he may not see them again for a week as he is helping others. A big part of CIM is teaching students how to simply handle a large scale problem and how to handle being faced with something you don't know the answers to. You cannot just get frustrated and burn out, you have to relax and realize that it is part of the process and start considering possible avenues toward a solution.



*Pictured above are Jonathan Sokolowski, Jalen Salgado, Jason Van Loan and Andrew Bress. The students are using Arduino (IDE) Integrated Development Environment Software to create Arduino C++ code that will properly sense when a machine in the shop is in use and therefore perform desired dust collection system operation outputs during machine operation and upon the machine being shut down.*

This year the class has selected to automate the shop's dust collection system. Each year Mr. DeWald pitches multiple automation ideas that he thinks would work well for the class. He also opens the floor up to students who would like to add their own possible project

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Winter/Spring Community Education Brochure Enclosed. Pull Out and Save Center Insert!

## Bridget Guetta Named a Difference Maker



*Bridget Guetta is pictured above at the Sabres Game on December 12<sup>th</sup> with her husband Dave Guetta, Sabres player Jeff Skinner, her father and brother Peter McDonnell and Brendan McDonnell.*

Orchard Park Middle School Teacher Bridget Guetta was selected as one of Buffalo Sabres forward, Jeff Skinner's 53's Difference Makers.

The 53's Difference Makers program recognizes teachers from Western New York for the important contributions they make to their students and the community.

"Education is something that my family and I have always considered of the utmost importance," said Skinner. "I want to take the opportunity to show appreciation for the many Difference Makers in our community, who often do not receive the credit that they deserve. This program allows me to recognize the teachers who go above and beyond to have a positive impact on their students' lives."

Bridget Guetta was one of ten teachers selected this season. She received four tickets to the December 12<sup>th</sup> Sabres game, a \$1,000 donation was given to the Orchard Park Middle School, she got a postgame meet-and-greet with Jeff Skinner and she received an autographed jersey.

Bridget Guetta teaches science and reading at the Orchard Park Middle

## Windom's Book Vending Machine Open for Business

On Friday December 13<sup>th</sup> the Book Vending Machine at Windom Elementary officially opened and fourth grade student Lucy Hageman was the first to receive a book from the machine. Lucy's name was pulled from a raffle of students who participated in Library Card Sign Up Month.

During the 2018-2019 school year Windom Elementary received a grant provided by the Orchard Park Foundation for Academic Excellence, to purchase a Bookworm Vending Machine. It will have customizable shelving to accommodate various book sizes and enough room to store up to 20 different titles and a book stock of 200-300 copies. The current stock of books in the vending machine have been selected by Windom Elementary librarian Jim Clark. He and Library Media Aide Kim Artmeier routinely stock and rotate the books so they are always changing.



*Mr. Johnson is pictured with Windom student Lucy Hageman as she tries out the book vending machine for the very first time!*

Students earn a token, a gold coin, by getting "caught" displaying the characteristics of the district's Character Education words - respect, responsibility, honesty, tolerance, citizenship, and perseverance. Teachers can "catch" students demonstrating one of these characteristics and they give the student the coin. The student takes the coin down to the vending machine to "purchase" a book. The staff at Windom Elementary are tracking who earns the books and looking to ensure every child earns a book this year. The majority of the books were purchased and donated by the PTO, but many books were given as donations from Windom families. Families were able to purchase books for the vending machine at Windom's Book Fair and through the classroom Scholastic Book orders.

As Mr. Johnson states, "We spend a lot of time developing positive character traits in our students in a variety of ways - from Olweus Classroom Meetings to Character Education Assemblies and Spirit Awards, to Rachel's Challenge and 'acts of kindness' to our Read Aloud Series. What kind of person you are is as important to us as what kind of student you are. This book vending machine will help us acknowledge, reward, and grow positive character traits in our students. The vending machine has only been open for a month and books are already being earned by students doing the everyday things, big and small, that make them the great people we know they are and will continue to be as the go through the Orchard Park school system."

School. She is currently on the Character Education Committee at the Middle School and has worked toward beautifying the Middle School bathrooms in addition to other projects to re-enforce good character at the Orchard Park Middle School.

In addition, the book vending machine allows the school to support a reading initiative at home by providing books to students to help expand their personal library.



# Students Use Technology to Problem Solve Cont.

ideas. The class works together to critically analyze the different ideas and select the best choice. According to Joe Dougherty a student in Mr. DeWald's CIM class, "We have a small "shop type area" in the advanced manufacturing room which houses some basic machines



*Peter Balisteri, a member of the CAD group is creating a sketch of a linkage before he 3D models the part in Autodesk Inventor CAD software for 3D printing purposes.*

such as a belt sander, drill press, band saw, miter saw, etc. There are also lots of electronics and computers in the room and we wanted to be sure that the room stays clean. We decided it would be neat to automate the dust collection system so that when one or more of several machines is in use that the corresponding dust gate will open and the dust collection impeller will start up. When all the machines are done being used we want an appropriate delay and then the dust gates and impeller should close and turn off automatically. This would make the use of machines more efficient and improve cleanliness of the area." In order to automate the dust collection system the class was divided into five different groups responsible for different portions of the project. The five groups are: CAD, Fabrication, Electronics, Coding and Documentation. The CAD group is responsible for using 3D modeling software to design and model any custom machine parts that will be needed in the mechanical workings of the system. The parts are then created with the High School Engineering Technology Departments CNC router, 3D printers, and CNC laser cutter. The Fabrication group is charged with deciding how the whole project will physically be put together and assembled. They work closely with the CAD group at times. The Electronics group is responsible for designing and creating the necessary electrical circuits and ensuring that they will work in the system. They also complete tasks such as soldering and wiring. The coding group must design and write the program for the micro-controller which will be used to automate the entire system and allow it to work as desired. The Documentation group will document the whole process. The goal is to not only show what was completed technically in CIM class but also the creation of a CIM class documentary video to promote student interest in Computer Integrated Manufacturing and Automation.

At the time this publication went to print, the class had completely proven that the system as a whole will work by "bench testing" it. The system still needs to be installed and a few programming kinks need to be ironed out. The project is expected to be complete at the end of the semester but several students have already said they want to see the project complete even if they have to spend additional time outside of the class to do it.



*Students from the CAD and fabrication groups work on taking off measurements and sketches from their balsa prototype for a servo motor gate linkage. They are taking the measurements to the nearest ten thousandth of an inch with calipers.*

## Fifth Graders at Ellicott Celebrate Day of Reading

Fifth grade students at Ellicott Elementary celebrated a Day of Reading at Ellicott Elementary on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. This event was started three years ago. The students wear comfortable clothes, bring in blankets and stuffed animals and just read. In addition to students reading on their own, they travel from room to room learning about how the holidays are celebrated around the world. Also, the students read with their kindergarten buddies and special guests from the District Offices and the Orchard Park Middle School were invited to come in and read to the fifth grade students. New this year the fifth graders collected gently used books for the charity ReadRinseRepeat that one of the fifth grade parents helped to create and the students even made bookmarks to pass along with the book donation. Over 350 books were donated.

*Fifth grade students are pictured with many of the gently used books that they donated to the ReadRinseRepeat Charity. Over 350 books were collected and donated by the fifth graders at Ellicott Elementary.*





# Special Education Department Update

By: David Lilleck-Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & Pupil Services & Lynn Czemerynski-Director of Student Support Services & Special Education

As the Annual Review process is in full swing, preparation for a new school year is an extensive and time consuming process. We want to ensure that all of our students are provided the exceptional education they deserve and expect from Orchard Park. Part of this planning and preparation in the world of special education centers around the concept of Least Restrictive Environment, often referred to as LRE.

Least Restrictive Environment is defined as the placement of students with disabilities in special classes, separate schools, or other removal from the regular educational environment. The placement of an individual student with a disability in the least restrictive environment shall:

- 1.) Provide the special education needed by the student.
- 2.) Provide for the education of the student to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the student with other students who do not have disabilities; and
- 3.) Be as close as possible to the student's

home.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) stipulates that school children be educated in the Least Restrictive Environment. Placement decisions are made on an individual basis by the CSE and identified on the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

The requirements for determining the placement of a child with a disability are included in the current Part B regulations at 34 CFR §300.116 and Part 200 Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. This regulation requires placement decisions be made by a group of persons called the Committee on Special Education(CSE). The CSE is comprised of a general education teacher, special education teacher, school psychologist, a representative of the school district qualified to provide or supervise special education, as well as including the parents, and other persons knowledgeable about the child. The CSE takes into consideration a variety of measures such as evaluation data and classroom performance while looking at the unique educational needs of the student to determine placement options.

Although IDEA does not require that each school building be able to provide

all the special education and related services for all types and severities of disabilities, the district has an obligation to make available a full continuum of alternative placement options that maximize opportunities for children with disabilities to be educated with nondisabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate.

This often brings up the question as to the appropriateness of a particular program, based on the proximity of that program to the child's home. If a student's IEP requires services that are not available at the school closest to the student's home, the child may be placed in another school that can offer the services that are included in the IEP and necessary for the student to receive a free appropriate public education. If the student is placed in a school that is not the school closest to the student's home, transportation if needed for the student to benefit from special education, will be provided at no cost to the parent, to that location.

For more information, regarding your child's program or special education programs and services, please contact your child's Primary Service Provider (PSP), the Building Principal, or Lynn Czemerynski, Director of Special Education.

## Petitions for Candidacy on the Board of Education Available Beginning February 1, 2020

Petitions for school board candidates in the Orchard Park Central School District will be available beginning on February 1, 2020 in the Office of the District Clerk, 2240 Southwestern Blvd, West Seneca, Monday thru Friday during normal business hours.

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 three trustees on the seven-member school board are up for election, Dr. Christine Gray Tinnesz. Mr. David Nielsen and Mr. Dwight Mateer. Each term is for three years, July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023. Candidates must obtain at least 27 valid signatures. Petitions are due in the office of the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020.

Public voting on the budget and Board of Education candidates will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. in the Orchard Park High School Gymnasium. Please use the Freeman Road entrance.

## Download the OP Schools App Today

The OP Schools mobile app contains essential information on district news, events, and important reference information right at your fingertips. Download the app for free by searching for "OP Schools" in the App Store or Google Play. The app provides a customized experience for Orchard Park families by allowing you to:

- Subscribe to your school's calendar and get the latest event updates and cycle day information;
- View your school's Virtual Backpack to find out about fundraisers, extracurricular activities, and school-specific information;
- Tap the PowerSchool Parent Portal icon to access your student's report cards, attendance history, and test scores;
- Quickly view lunch menus.

Users also have the option to receive push notifications on school closures, calendar changes, sports updates, and breaking news. The push notifications are also helpful to community members who would like to know when schools are closed even though they may not have a child in school.

Don't delay, download the app today!



## OP Seniors Sign Commit to Play Collegiate Level Sports

Six Orchard Park High School seniors signed their national letters of intent to play their sports at the college level. The seniors signed their letters at a ceremony at the Orchard Park High School on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. The seniors are pictured to the right.

Brooke Becker plans to attend Providence College to play girls ice hockey. Brooke has played hockey since she was 5 years old. While at Providence College she will study biology with plans to go into Physical Therapy in the future.

Sophia Machowski will be attending St. Bonaventure next fall for cross country. She has been running competitively for six years. Sophia plans to study education and she hopes to become a Special Education teacher.

Abby Ryan plans to attend Robert Morris University in the fall to play volleyball. Abby has been playing volleyball since 7<sup>th</sup> grade when her physical education teacher suggested she try out. She plans to major in Nursing and after gaining some experience she plans to go back to school to become a Nurse Practitioner or a Physician's Assistant.

Maxwell Streety will be playing lacrosse at Pace University next year. He began playing lacrosse in Middle School. He is hoping to eventually go into law enforcement but as for now he is keeping his options open.

Jaden Swiatek plans to play softball at Niagara University. She began playing softball when she was 7 years old. She will begin with general education classes before she finalizes her career tract.

Charlotte Takacsy will be playing soccer at Carleton University next year. She has been playing soccer for twelve years. She plans to study criminology and hopes to become an environmental lawyer so she can help protect the environment.



Orchard Park athletes are pictured above at the signing ceremony that took place at the Orchard Park High School on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.



Follow [op\\_athletics](#) for the latest sports news and updates!

## Model UN Takes Multiple Awards

The Orchard Park High School Model United Nations went to the annual Canisius Conference on November 7, 2019. Ten students attended the all day conference and the team represented countries including Japan. The team was also asked to participate in the Crisis Committee in which Rose Quinlan won best delegation for Japan. Thomas Strade was originally a juror on the International Criminal Court but, due to an illness, he volunteered to act as the defense attorney, ultimately winning the award for Best Performance in International Criminal Court for the defense. In addition Bebe Choroser and Hannah Venning received the award for Outstanding Delegation in Historic Security Council 1989 and Marin Bogulski and Anne Rizqi received the Award for Best Delegation 2<sup>nd</sup> Class in Security Council 3.



# Images From Around the District



Photo courtesy of Kellie Crane

The Orchard Park Middle School performed Frozen Jr. on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Pictured are Middle School students Megan Gralke as Anna and Dana Totaro as Elsa at the coronation ball in OPMS' production of Frozen Jr.



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On Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> Windom Elementary kindergarten students were joined by their parents to make gingerbread houses in the Windom Elementary Cafeteria. Pictured above are Windom Elementary kindergarten students Parker Maguire, Connor Stearns, Luciano Gullo



Nickel City Reptiles and Exotics was able to visit Eggert Elementary on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> They brought a variety of animals and did several presentations for the Eggert Elementary students in grades 2-5. The assembly was sponsored by the Eggert Road Elementary PTO.



First grade students at Eggert Elementary celebrated Friendsgiving November 26<sup>th</sup> by making a friendship fruit salad, painting friendship rocks, creating friendship bracelets and more. Mrs. Funigiello is pictured working with some of the first grade students to make the fruit salad.



The Ellicott Student Council went to Orchard Heights Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> to carol. In addition to the students Moseley, Miss. Stegamann's therapy dog attended too! The kids sang many holiday songs and passed out jingle bells. They are pictured visiting Anthony an Orchard Heights resident.

## OPMS Tech Club Named State Finalists

The Orchard Park Middle School Technology Club has been selected as State Finalists for the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition. The competition is for STEM education groups in middle and high school to submit ideas (that they will ultimately act on) that solve an issue in their community using STEM principles. Mr. Lukas Gill, OPMS Tech Club advisor along with the Tech Club students dedided to apply.



Members of the Orchard Park Middle School Tech Club Shane Brege, Evan Iacono, and Evan Childs pose for a picture with advisor Lukas Gill on Ugly Sweater Day at OPMS. They are pictured holding the Samsung tablet they received for being named State Finalists in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition.

The students came up with an idea to solve the issue of sports related injuries to athletes by creating an app for coaches, athletes, and parents to use to help best prepare for practice and competition. This app will include information such as dietary recommendations, stretches, fluid and food intake, etc. based on the athlete age, sport played, type of activity, and more factors. The club is planning to do research into best practices in these areas so that the app is as beneficial as possible. They will use MIT App Inventor to create the app. The OPMS Tech Club was selected as one of approximately

300 state finalists selected out of several thousand applications submitted. Being selected as state finalists the club was awarded a Samsung Tab A for their hard work.

The club is expected to find out if they have advanced to the national semi-finals over the winter recess. At the time this newsletter went to print they had not yet heard the results. Whether or not they move forward the club will continue working on the app.

## DECA Students To Compete at Next Level



Students from the Orchard Park High School chapter of DECA attended the Region 12 competition

on December 15. They competed in various business-related contests, including marketing, finance, and human resources. Twenty-five of these outstanding students placed in their events and have qualified to represent Orchard Park DECA at the State Career Conference/Competition this February in Rochester, NY.

## South Davis Students Adopt a Family Affected by Pediatric Cancer

This holiday season fifth grade students at South Davis Elementary adopted the family of a 3 year old named Sophie who has been battling pediatric cancer.

Each year fifth graders at South Davis are able to do this through the PUNT foundation. The PUNT foundation provides support to families in Western New York faced with pediatric cancer. Mrs. Sarah Flascher, fifth grade teacher at South Davis Elementary, coordinates this event each year in memory of former South Davis student Andrew Pawlak who passed away from pediatric cancer 8 years ago.

This year Sophie along with her mother and grandmother were able to come to South Davis to receive the gifts the fifth graders provided for their family. Santa Claus made an appearance and the fifth graders sang holiday songs. After the assembly fifth grade volunteers assisted in carrying the packages, hidden in black garbage bags, for Sophie and her family out to several cars that would be delivering them to Sophie's home in time for the holidays.



Fifth grade volunteers at South Davis assisted in carrying the packages for Sophie and her family out to several cars that would be delivering them to Sophie's home in time for the holidays.



## Orchard Park Central Schools Board of Education

Orchard Park, New York 14127

Editor: Julianne Becker

www.opschools.org

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## Resident

### Upcoming Events

#### January

- 13...STAP Comm Meeting, 7 p.m. at OPHS
- 14...Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14...8th Grade Parent Scheduling Night, 7 p.m.
- 16...South Davis PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 17...WE Winter Family Skate Night, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- 20...Martin Luther King Junior Day - No School
- 21...Winter/Spring Community Education Walk-In Registration, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- 21-24...HS Local/Regents Exams
- 23... Winter/Spring Community Education Walk-In Registration, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

- 25...HS Winterscape Winter Guard Show
- 27...Community Education Classes Begin

#### February

- 1...3rd Annual Section VI Invitational Bowling Tournament
- 3-7...MS Yearbook Sale
- 5...Collegiate Athletic Signing, 3 p.m.
- 5...HS Winter Choral Concert, 7 p.m.
- 6...EL PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 6...WE PTO Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 6-7...WE Musical, 7 p.m.
- 7...EG Family Movie Night, 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- 7...HS Festival of Bands Concert, 7 p.m.

- 8...Winter Homecoming Dance, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
- 10...STAP Comm Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 10...SD PTO Meeting, 9:30 p.m.
- 10-11...EG Musical, 7 p.m.
- 11...Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 11-12...EL Musical, 7 p.m.
- 12...MS PTO Meeting, 9 a.m.
- 12-13...SD Musical at OPMS, 7 p.m.
- 14...K-8 Half-Day
- 14...HS Early Dismissal
- 17-21...Mid-Winter Recess - No School

## 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 30, 2020 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, 2020, your name will appear in the program and in press releases. Please contact Amy See at 209-6272 or visit [www.opschools.org/Page/10079](http://www.opschools.org/Page/10079) if you would like additional information or have any questions.