



# Orchard Park Central School District Spring 2018 Community Report

## Orchard Park Police to Host Parent Information Night



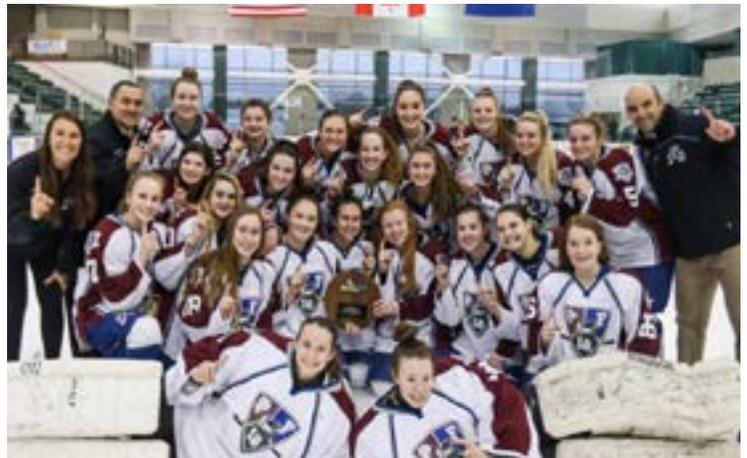
The Orchard Park Police are partnering with the Orchard Park Central School District to offer another Parent Information

Night. The event will take place in the Orchard Park Middle School Auditorium on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. The event is open to parents and guardians of all Orchard Park students.

## FLOP Hockey Team 2018 State Champions

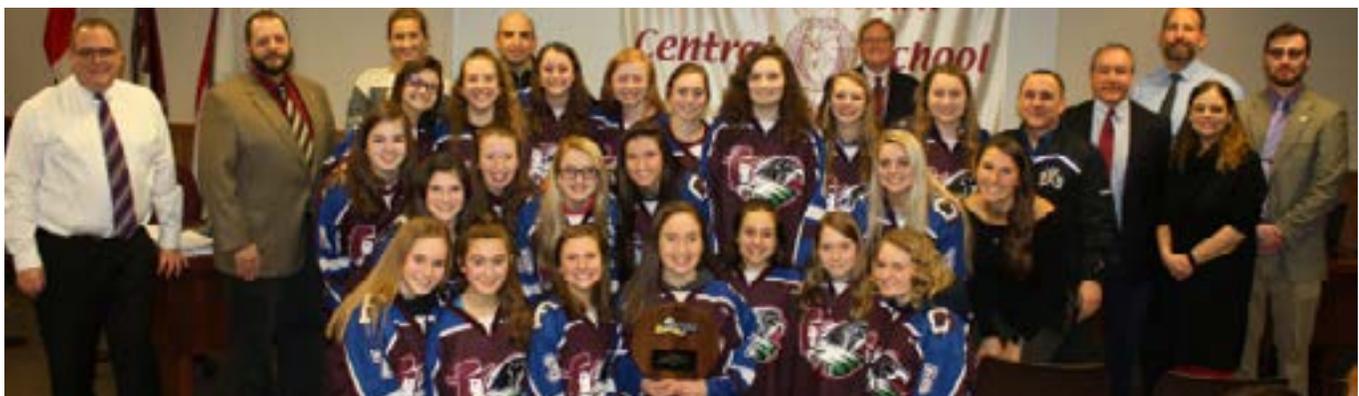
The Frontier Lakeshore Orchard Park girls are the 2018 New York State Girls Ice Hockey State Champions! The team coached by Lucian Forcucci, Bob Klimowicz, and Chalsie Hausburger beat Salmon River 4-1 in February to clinch the State Championship.

They are the first Girls Hockey team from Section VI to win the State Championship and the second female team ever from Orchard Park to win a State Title. These student athletes are a shining example of academic and athletic excellence.



*The FLOP Hockey team poses for a photo after winning the State Title in February.*

Their dedication to their school, communities, and team are to be commended. From 5:30 a.m. practices, to playing high school hockey at the same time as competing on travel teams, to excelling in the classroom. Their desire for success and dedication to their teammates is unmatched.



*The Board of Education recognized the Frontier, Lakeshore, Orchard Park Girls Varsity Ice Hockey Team on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. The FLOP team is pictured with the Board of Education members, Superintendent Matthew McGarrity and Director of Physical Education and Athletics, Mr. David Hack.*

## Cancer Awareness Club Partners with Kaely's Kindness Foundation

Orchard Park High School's Cancer Awareness Club (CAC) volunteered at the Kaely's Kindness Foundation's Mother Daughter Luncheon on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Ten club members sold raffle tickets and ran baskets to the winners during the event. All worked together to ensure a memorable and successful fundraiser.

The CAC has worked with Kaely's Kindness in the past, providing monetary donations to the organization through fundraisers of their own. This year the CAC forged a closer relationship when Kaely spoke to the club about her Foundation and her experience with cancer. Members graciously decided to use the money raised from selling Christmas Candy Grams to buy Valentine gifts for members of Kaely's Foundation, as well as cookie bouquets for three girls who are currently undergoing treatment.

The efforts have come full circle for Kaely, who is a recent graduate of Orchard Park High School, a former Cancer Awareness Club officer, and a cancer survivor herself.

Kaely's Kindness Foundation provides resources for teens living with cancer. For more information, please visit [kaelyskindness.org](http://kaelyskindness.org).



On March 4<sup>th</sup>, ten Cancer Awareness Club members volunteered at the Kaely's Kindness Foundation's Mother Daughter Luncheon. They are pictured above with advisor, Amanda Quinn and Eggert Elementary teacher, Tara Zimmerman at the event.

## OPHS Student Receives Honorable Mention in State Archives' Student Research Award Competition

Orchard Park High School student Gabriel Blood received a Certificate of Honorable Mention in the 2017 State Archives' Student Research Award competition for his work on *The Life of Dr. William H. Gail*, who was a Civil War Surgeon. His accomplishment is a testament to the hard work and dedication that is encouraged in all Orchard Park students.

Gabriel, who has always had a strong interest in history, says that it was his father who inspired him to pursue the subject further by attending various local events and talks. During one of their visits to the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, the curator offered Gabriel the opportunity to examine William H. Gail's Civil War surgical kit. All that was known about the owner of this object was found on the nameplate on the box. From there, Gabriel spent a year researching and writing about Gail's life and achievements by visiting local historical sites, libraries, museums, local churches, and cemeteries.

In addition to receiving an Honorable Mention for this impressive award, he has presented his work in local venues including the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, the Buffalo Civil War Round Table, the Erie County Historical Federation, Living History Day at SUNY Fredonia, as well as to local students and the St. Matthias church community.

Gabriel is interested in pursuing other research projects, one of which would create a historical marker for the original grave site of Red Jacket, the great Seneca orator. He would also like to pursue an internship at a local library to further strengthen his history studies.

Gabriel received the History Student of the Year award in both eighth and ninth grade. He would like to thank his teacher, Ms. Kelly Giallella, for reviewing his work for the State Archives' awards competition.



Gabriel Blood received a Certificate of Honorable Mention in the 2017 State Archives' Student Research Award competition for his work on "The Life of Dr. William H. Gail." He is pictured being recognized by the Board of Education on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Orchard Park Places First at 2018 NCCC Tech Wars

The Orchard Park High School STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) students took part in the annual Niagara County Community College Tech Wars on January 10<sup>th</sup>. After entering in six events and placing in all of those, Orchard Park placed first overall for Outstanding Technology Education Program in the High



Orchard Park High School STEM Team after Tech Wars

School Division. Tech Wars is a competition that brings together students in grades 6-12 to face off in a variety of technological and engineering based events. This year was the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Tech Wars and there were more than 700 students from 26 school districts that participated. In the photography event, Sarah Campbell won first place while David Cappello brought home second place for Orchard Park. Kevin Turton, David Cappello, and Sami Detwiller placed first and second respectively in the architecture event. The video contest was won by Ryan Yang and David Cappello and was a stunning example of professional cinematography. Eric Stuhr placed second with his robotic t-shirt design in the t-shirt event. In the on-site 3D parametric modeling CAD contest, Emily Blake placed third. The students from OP swept the bridge competition. In first place was Josh Waltenbaugh, Joe Nicomento, and Tom Connors. In second place was Amanda Newbury, Faith Leigh, and Megan Urbaniak. In third place was Donovan Hamm. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves by collaborating with each other and watching other students compete.

## Physical Education Classes at Windom Celebrate the Olympics

Windom Elementary Physical Education classes celebrated the Winter Olympics with an obstacle course based on Olympic events earlier this year. Students spent two weeks doing the obstacle course unit in all of their Physical Education classes. According to Physical Education teacher Wendy Lewandowski, it was a great way for students to exercise while having a great time and enjoying current events.

Pictured to the right is Lauren Patterson swinging to South Korea and on the far right is Elijah Green winning the Gold for the United States.



## Valentine Cookies for Seniors



Mrs. Lori Ramsey and Miss Christina Narbe hold up a tray of cookies that they put together during the cookies for seniors event.

On Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> the Orchard Park Teachers Association and the Orchard Park School Related Professionals combined their efforts to provide their annual Valentine Cookies for senior citizens & public servants.

Over 70 OPTA and OPSRP members participated in this event. Each volunteer baked three to four dozen cookies, with over 2,500 cookies delivered to Eggert Elementary School. Volunteers from OPTA, the OPSRPs, and Orchard Park High School students then arranged and wrapped 34 trays of cookies that were delivered to 11 different senior and public service facilities throughout Orchard Park.

It was a sweet treat for our older citizens and public servants.

## Award-Winning Short Film by OPHS Teacher and Team to be Screened at Cannes Film Festival

OPHS English teacher Maria Marinaccio and her film team, Partially Submerged Elephants, will be heading to the 2018 Cannes Film Festival in May where their award-winning short film "Ride of your Life" will be screened. They are one of just two U.S.-based teams who will be represented at the festival, one of the most prestigious in the world.



Buffalo-based film team Partially Submerged Elephants proudly display their award for Best Cinematography at Filmopalooza in Paris. From left to right:

Miss Marinaccio and her team won the Buffalo 48 Hour Film Project, a filmmaking competition that takes place each year in major cities worldwide. They were honored at Filmopalooza in Paris on March 9<sup>th</sup> where they competed against international winners of the 48 Hour Film Project. Miss Marinaccio and her team won the award for Best Cinematography. They also received a nomination for Best Editing and made it to the Top 5 worldwide with a nomination for Best Film.

Marinaccio says, "We are excited beyond words to help put the Buffalo film community on the map... What a wild ride this has been so far... and apparently it's not yet time to step off"

To view the film, visit <https://vimeo.com/231312529>.

## Seventh Grade Students Present Poetry Projects



Seventh grade students presented their poetry projects in the Library Media Center in February.

Seventh grade students in Mr. Spillman's English Language Arts class were presenting their poetry projects in the Middle School library. Each student chose a poem that they connected with or enjoyed for any number of reasons after researching many different poems. Students then did a bit of research and writing about the poem and poet they chose and presented their appreciation for the poem by memorizing and reciting it for the class, composing and sharing their own response poem, or creating a visual interpretation of the poem using Adobe Spark - a free, web-based video collage program.

## Images From Around the District



Students from the Orchard Park High School chapter of DECA attended the Region 12 competition on January 7<sup>th</sup>. They competed in various business-related contests, including marketing, finance, and human resources. Twenty-nine of these outstanding students have qualified to represent Orchard Park DECA at the State Career Conference/Competition this March in Rochester, NY.



Mrs. Hanlon's class at Windom Elementary finished their non-fiction unit in Reader's Workshop with each student selecting a biography to read and report on, including dressing up as the subject.



Students in Miss Buck's class at OPMS celebrated Valentine's Day by going on a "Blind Date" with a book. The students read short descriptions of the book without seeing the cover and decided which books they were most interested in.



Members of the Buffalo Police Dept. visited Eggert Elementary in January Police K9 Shield. Third grade students presented the Buffalo Police Department with Tribute Books in memory of Officer Lehner.

## Students Participate In Day of Work-Based Learning

Business Law students engaged in a full-day of work-based education on April 11<sup>th</sup> for a real-life look at corporate and criminal law. Students first traveled to the New Era Cap Corporate Headquarters to meet with Daniel F. Dovi, Corporate Counsel & Director of Legal who helped students to learn the academic paths to law school. Then students traveled to Erie County Hall where they met in the Ceremonial Court Room with a panel of legal professionals including The Honorable Eugene Pigott Jr., Justice with the New York State Court of Appeals, Lenora Foote-Beavers, Executive Assistant to The Honorable Gerald Whalen, Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Fourth Department, and with Joseph Krenitsky, Chair, Paralegal Department, SUNY Erie.



From left: Paula Elsinghorst, Madison Guarino, Billy Kruszka, Kaitlin Fotevski, Samantha Smith, Delaney Harrison, Joli Messenger, Ashton Kaderli, Jordan O'Brien, Emily Clough, Joe Krenitsky, Lenora Foote-Beavers.



Fourth grader Kaylee Szalay practices making maple syrup. It was part of a field trip with Earth Spirit. Students learned about the history of maple syrup making, some tales associated with it and also got to see ways that it was made. The trip was sponsored by the South Davis PTO.

DARE officer Kristen Mazur is pictured with Cameron McCarthy at the Ellicott DARE Graduation ceremony in January. Both Eggert and Ellicott fifth grade students graduated from the DARE program in January and South Davis and Windom students will graduate in June.



## Orchard Park Seniors Sign Letters of Intent to Play Sports at the Collegiate Level

Two Orchard Park High School seniors signed their national letters of intent to play their sports at the college level at a signing ceremony at the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.



*Pictured from left: Patrick Mann and Emily Henrich.*

Emily Henrich plans to attend Dartmouth College to play rugby next year. She has been playing since she was 6 years old, and currently plays for the Niagara Rugby Club, the WNY All-Stars in the summer, and on national select teams, Atlantis and Scion. She has represented the U.S. on the High School All-American team and the U20 All-American team. Emily loves playing rugby for the sense of unity, family, and trust among the players, and for the physicality of the sport. She chose to attend Dartmouth for its athletics and academics, and because it felt most like home to her. Emily hopes to represent the U.S. Rugby team someday.

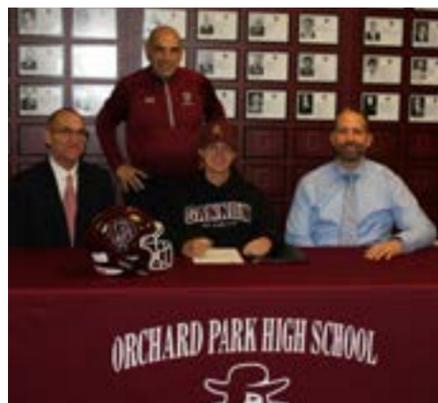
Patrick Mann plans to attend St. Bonaventure to play rugby next year. He has been playing rugby for nine years, and was on the Rugby New York Western All-Star team while he was in Middle School. Patrick loves playing rugby for the speed and physicality of the sport. He is looking forward to playing at the college level. He chose St. Bonaventure based on the camaraderie and unity he experienced while attending Bona Summer Rugby Camp. Patrick plans to major in Business at St. Bonaventure.

An Orchard Park High School senior signed his national letter of intent to play football at the college level. The signing ceremony took place at the Orchard Park High School on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Brian Strybel plans to attend Gannon University in the fall to play football. Brian started playing tackle football in 6<sup>th</sup> grade when his friends encouraged him to join a youth team. As a starting kicker on Orchard Park's Varsity team for the last three years, Brian says, "I would give anything to have one more chance to compete on our field in front of our fans."

Brian decided to continue playing at the college level when he started receiving attention from scouts and was asked to visit several schools. Brian feels that what makes him so successful in football is trusting himself to do the position right, and having confidence helps him focus.

Brian chose Gannon because he said, "it just felt right." Not only was he impressed with the staff and school, but it's close enough to home that friends and family can see him play often. Brian plans to study Criminal Justice and hopes to work at the Federal level someday.



*Pictured from left: Orchard Park HS Principal Jonathan Wolf, Coach Gene Tundo, Brian Strybel, and Athletic Director Dave Hack.*



*Pictured from left: Cynthia Boncaldo and Cal Puskar.*

Two Orchard Park High School seniors committed to play their sports at the collegiate level at a signing ceremony at the Orchard Park Central School District Offices on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Cynthia Boncaldo plans to play soccer at Utica College next year. Cynthia has been playing soccer for 14 years and plays for both Orchard Park High School and Global Premier Soccer. She enjoys the mental and physical nature of the sport. Cynthia would like to continue to play in college because it has always been a dream of hers and she feels it shows her that hard work pays off. She selected Utica College because it is well respected for Cynthia's anticipated major, Child-Life, and because it allowed her to continue her soccer career. In the future she hopes to become a Child-Life specialist.

Cal Puskar plans to run cross country at the University at Buffalo next year. Cal has been running cross country for Orchard Park since seventh grade. He loves doing well and hitting certain times or marks that he strives for. He also enjoys running with friends. Cal chose to continue cross country during college because he knew it would make his friends and family proud and he also thought it could be a great way to save on tuition costs. Cal attributes his cross country success to his mentality and the effort he puts in.

## Nominations Currently Being Accepted for Hall of Fame

The Orchard Park Central School District Athletic Department is seeking nominations for the 2018 Hall of Fame class. Director of Physical Education and Athletics, Mr. David Hack states, "This is a tradition we are very excited about and we are looking forward to continuing the Hall of Fame for many years to come."

Selected recipients will be inducted at a breakfast during Homecoming 2018. The nominees will take part in the 2018 Homecoming Parade and be recognized during half-time at the Homecoming football game.

If you feel there is an athlete, coach or member of the support staff personnel you would like to nominate, please do so by May 1, 2018. Visit [www.opschools.org/athletics](http://www.opschools.org/athletics), click the "Hall of Fame" tab and you can either submit your nomination there online or you can print it out and send it in to the Athletics Office. For any questions regarding a nomination, please call the Athletics Office at 209-6208.

Those nominated will be reviewed for current good standing within their respective community and then asked to complete a more detailed resume to be returned for further consideration. Each resume returned will be considered for five years.

If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact the Orchard Park Central School District Athletic Office at 209-6208.

## Life and Career Students Learn About Future Opportunities

Orchard Park Middle School teacher, Mrs. Cindy Timmel, invited Jody Cormier from Erie 2 BOCES to speak to her eighth grade Life and Career Skills class about the benefits of learning skilled trades at the Ormsby Educational Center in East Aurora. Orchard Park students are able to participate in the half-day program during their Junior and Senior years at the Orchard Park High School.



*Jody Cormier speaks to eighth grade students about the course options the Ormsby Educational Center offers.*

Culinary arts, cosmetology, drafting, criminal justice, construction technology, and environmental conservation are also offered.

Please click [here](#) to visit the Ormsby Educational Center online for more information.

## "Explore and More" Visits Ellicott



*Mrs. Matthews second grade class is pictured with the house structure they put together during the Explore and More's "Tinkering" program.*

The Ellicott PTO sponsored "Explore and More" coming and setting up an in-house program called "Tinkering" on March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at Ellicott Elementary. Each second grade class had a 45 minute workshop where they were able to rotate through stations to play, build and create using magnets, wooden blocks, snapping foam materials, and even build a small wooden structure. The second grade students absolutely loved the hands-on fun.



*Students in Mr. Cohoon's second grade class are pictured enjoying the "Tinkering" program!*

# Upcoming Events

## *April*

- 23...HS PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 23... HS STAP Comm Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 24...SD Kindergarten Orientation, 9:30 a.m.
- 24...EG Kindergarten Orientation, 9:30 a.m.
- 25...EG Kindergarten Orientation, 9:30 a.m.
- 25-27...EG Book Fair
- 26...EG Book Fair Family Event, 8 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.
- 26...SD Kindergarten Orientation, 2 p.m.
- 26...EL Science Night
- 26...HS Orchard Park Pride Night, 6:15 p.m.
- 27...HS Early Dismissal, 12:45 p.m.
- 30...MS Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Orientation at MS, 6:30 p.m.

## *May*

- 1-3...Math Assessments
- 2...EG PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 2...SD/WE Cadet Concert, 7 p.m. at MS
- 3...WE PTO Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 3...SD PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 4...EG Appreciation
- 4...CCPTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
- 5...SAT at OPHS
- 7...EL Kindergarten Orientation, 2 p.m.
- 7...HS Music in May I, 7 p.m.
- 8...EL Kindergarten Orientation, 2 p.m.
- 8...Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 8...EG Orchestra & Choral Concert, 7 p.m.
- 8...SD/WE Music in May, 7 p.m. at HS
- 8-10...MS BOGO Book Fair
- 7-18...HS AP Exams
- 9...MS PTO Meeting, 9 a.m.
- 9...MS Spring Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.
- 10-11...EG Mother's Day Plant Sale
- 10-11...SD Mother's Day Plant Sale
- 10-11...WE Mother's Day Plant Sale
- 10...EL Spring Orchestra/Chorus Concert,

- 7 p.m. at HS
- 10...HS AOF Senior Graduation Night, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- 10...HS Financial Aid Night, 7 p.m.
- 10...EL PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 11...EL Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- 12...Summer Driver Education Registration, 8 a.m.
- 14...EG/EL Band Concert, 7 p.m. at HS
- 15...Annual Budget Vote & Board Member Election, 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.
- 15...HS Music in May II, 7 p.m.
- 15...WE Kindergarten Orientation, 9:45 a.m.
- 16...MS Spring Band Concert, 7 p.m.
- 16...EG Kindergarten Screening
- 17...WE Kindergarten Orientation, 1:30 p.m.
- 17-18...NYSSMA Instrumental Majors
- 17...EG Kindergarten Screening
- 17...SD Art Show & Ice Cream Social, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 18...HS NHS Induction, 7 p.m.
- 18...ArtSplash, 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- 18...EG Kindergarten Screening
- 18...SD Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- 21...HS Music In May III, 7 p.m.
- 21...EG Kindergarten Screening
- 21-23...SD Book Fair
- 21...HS STAP Comm Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 22...MS Spring Chorus Concert, 6:45 p.m. & 8 p.m.
- 23...EG Kindergarten Screening
- 24...EG Kindergarten Screening
- 24...HS Underclass Awards Night
- 28...Memorial Day – No School
- 28...Memorial Day Parade, 9 a.m.
- 29...HS PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 31-1...HS Caps & Gowns Distributed

## *June*

- 1...EG School Tool Box Sale Begins
- 1...HS Senior Picnic
- 1...MS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Daybreak

- 1...SD PTO Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, 9:30 a.m.
- 2...HS Senior Prom
- 4-7...SD Kindergarten Screening
- 5...Grade 4 Written Science Testing
- 5...HS Regents Exam
- 5...QMB New Member Meeting, 7 p.m. HS
- 6...HS Last Day of Classes
- 6...EG PTO Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 7...WE PTO Meeting, 4 p.m.
- 7...District Showcase Concert, 6:45 p.m.
- 7-11...HS Local Exams
- 8...WE Hot Dog Luncheon, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 8...EG Family Inflatable Fun Run, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- 9...ACT at OPHS
- 11...HS Scholarship Auditions, 3:30 p.m.
- 12-22...HS Regents Exams
- 12...Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 13-19...MS Exams
- 15...HS Senior Banquet
- 16...Annual QMB Bottle Drive, 9 a.m.
- 19...Elementary Half-Day, 11:30 a.m.
- 19...Last Elementary Student Day
- 19...Last MS Student Day
- 19...WE Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, 12 p.m.
- 21...HS Baccalaureate Service, 7 p.m.
- 23...HS Graduation at Kleinhans 2 p.m.
- 25...Summer Community Education Classes Begin

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