

School Notebook

Do the Right Thing

by **Debbie Barbiani**

*Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent,
Ellenville Central Schools*

It might not be true that “no good deed goes unpunished,” but far too many go unnoticed. A new feel-good program has begun in Ellenville which recognizes everyday doers of good deeds, and lets the whole community enjoy the warm-fuzzies those good deeds create.

Do the Right Thing is a national program, sponsored locally by the *Village of Ellenville Police Department, Ellenville/Ulster BOCES, 21st Century Learning Centers,* and the **Ellenville Central School District**. According to Officer Paul Craft of the *Ellenville PD*, there are 44 **Do the Right Thing** chapters nationally, but only four in New York State.


“Winners get a plaque, a \$200 savings bond, and a T-shirt,” said Craft. A picnic for the collective winners – there will be three each month – is planned for the end of the school year.

Craft said the winners aren’t told they’ve won until they’re called to the stage to receive their award during a school assembly. Then they know why their parents and friends are in the usually all-student audience.

The program is intended to extend the concept of “doing the right thing” beyond the individuals being honored and sell the idea to the community. Hearing about some of the good things that happen is a little shot of sunshine that might make others warm up to the notion.

At their first celebration in February, elementary school student Matthew Wilhelm won the award for being an all-around role model as a student, volunteer, and citizen; middle school students Samantha Rosenstock, Jesse Warner, Adam Wenig, Matt Rogers, and Daniel Matthews shared the honor for finding – and returning intact – a wallet. Kristin Figueroa was the surprised honoree from the high school, chosen for her volunteer work at the school and her other activities in the community.

ANYONE CAN ENTER! And anyone can nominate a child who displays exemplary behavior and citizenship, according to the nomination form. If you know a child whose accomplishment, attitude, or outstanding effort makes him or her a positive role model for peers and for the community, pick up a form at the police headquarters or at the Ellenville school offices.

Do the Right Thing is another of the cooperative efforts made possible by a *21st Century Community Learning Center* grant. For more info, call **647-0100**. 



Ellenville Middle School teacher Bob Hanington snapped this photo of an American bald eagle sitting in a tree behind the **Ellenville Central School** building.

The “03” number at top is actually painted on the face of the **Shawangunk Mountain** across the valley from the School; it is a tradition that, each summer, the number changes to indicate the year of the next High School graduating class.

This year’s **Ellenville High School** graduation will be held **Friday, June 27th at 6:30 PM** outdoors (weather permitting) at the High School track.

The September **Wawarsing.Net** will be a “back-to-school” issue.

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