



LEAN

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Home, School and Community Educating for Life"

December 2015 - January 2016

Volume 12, Issue 3

Sharing in the Season of Caring



Approximately 40 winter jackets were collected by the 8th Grade H.O.O.T Club and dry cleaned by John Ash Cleaners, who donated their services. The coats were delivered to the Genesis House to be distributed to those in need. Pictured are: Mrs. Carrie Samuelson, club advisor; student volunteers Kiara Parks and Reyna Reisner; and Sister Melissa Scholl of the Genesis House.



Miss Bowen and Mrs. Stephen at Washington West collaborated to have the first graders make Christmas cards for all of the servicemen and women who will not be home for the holidays.



Amy Driscoll from King Arthur Flour conducted a demonstration for the fifth grade at OIMS. She explained the steps involved in baking bread, cinnamon rolls, pizza dough and pretzels. Every fifth grade student was given a baking kit with two bags of flour, a scraper, yeast and directions. Students took home the kits and, with their families, made two loaves of bread. One they enjoyed together, and the other was given to local food pantries. Many of these loaves were used for the Community Thanksgiving dinner at OHS. King Arthur Flour generously donated all supplies.



The OHS Student Activities Council would like to congratulate the 153 students who helped raise more than \$9,112.25 for our 23rd Annual Homeless Huskies held on Nov. 13th. The money will be divided between Genesis House and the Warming House. Students persevered through a night of snow and cold in awareness of those who are homeless. This event, which helps so many people, would not be possible without our community's support!

New Employees Join Olean District



Carolyn Raine is a Keyboard Specialist in the Human Resources Department.



Patricia Strobele-Goehrig is a Teacher Aide at OIMS.

Teacher Web Pages Helping Students and Parents

A great way to maintain communication and stay involved in your student's education is by visiting their teacher's web pages. You will be able to access their:

- Homework: many include blank copies of homework & lesson PowerPoints
- Lesson plans
- Helpful links: extra help and practice, visual presentations of content, educational games
- Contact information

It's easy to do. Simply go to the Olean High School home page, click on the 'Staff' link, and select the teacher's name you would like to access.

From the Superintendent

Board Considering Possible Capital Improvement Project

By Dr. Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent

The Olean City School District is looking forward to the future. In doing so, one of the major areas of consideration is the status of each one of our buildings. Over the past several months, the firm of Hunt Engineers/Architects/Surveyors, in conjunction with the firm of Young and Wright, have conducted an extensive Building Condition Survey on all district owned buildings. Their charge from the Board of Education was to examine the status of each school, Central Receiving, and the Athletic Complex. The review was to be done from the perspective of the critical and immediate needs and also include the wish list items from internal staff. The results were informative and, if all items/upgrades/repairs/additions were to be included, it would yield an approximate project cost of \$44,000,000.

Given our current financial status, the Board of Education is exploring a capital project improvement plan of approximately \$12,150,000. The cost will be funded by the state aid share and the local share. Our current state aid ratio is 94%. The remaining 6% is the local share. Based upon our current reserves and/or the debt service schedule, the designed project should not create an increase in local taxes.

Items to be included in the project are items of safety, accessibility, and areas in need of repair that are urgent in nature. Some of these items include: bathroom upgrades; new roofs; bus circles at the Intermediate Middle and East View schools; heating and ventilation upgrades; corridor and hallway upgrades; gym curtains; gym wall pads; carpet replacement; pool HVAC; sidewalks; ceilings; window replacement; classroom sink replacement; and masonry restoration.

The Board Buildings and Grounds Committee has met and outlined the capital project improvement plan. At the January meeting, the Board of Education will review the final aspects of the recommendations of the Committee and consider approval. If the proposed capital project improvement plan is approved by the Board, the district will hold a public vote in March.

I encourage our community to reach out to me, or any member of the Board, with questions and/or concerns. I also encourage you to attend the January 12, 2016, meeting of the Board to learn more about the specifics of the project scope.

The District will hold a public forum on the project status in early January.

Mr. Sorensen Awarded Tenure

Stephen Sorensen (left), English teacher, was presented a tenure certificate by Paul Knieser, President of the Board of Education.



District Offering Alternative Veterans' Property Tax Credit

The Olean City School District Board of Education has passed the Veteran's Tax Credit. The resolution, as follows, is available to all veterans who apply for the tax credit:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Olean City School District has considered the adoption of the Alternative Veterans' Exemption from Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York, Section 458-a, to be effective with the 2016 assessment rolls; and

WHEREAS, public hearings were noticed and held on September 15, 2015, on said resolution, and

WHEREAS, as a result of said hearings, the Board has considered community input on the adoption of an Alternative Veterans' Exemption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Olean City School District hereby adopts the Alternative Veterans' Exemption pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a in the maximum exemption amounts allowable in Real Property Tax Law, Section 458-a(2), a, b, and c, of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for combat veterans, six thousand dollars (\$6,000), for wartime veterans, and twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for disabled veterans, respectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately and shall be applicable to all 2016 assessment rolls prepared on or after January 1, 2016.

For calculation purposes, the combat amount gets added to the wartime amount. Veterans will receive 15% for wartime then an additional 10%, for 25%, if they were in a combat zone during a war-time period. The maximum amounts get added together for a maximum of 25% or \$10,000 off their total assessment.

Per Daniel T. Martonis, Cattaraugus County Director of Real Property, veterans who have already applied with the County for an exemption will not have to fill out another form. As a veteran, if you are not currently getting an exemption, you must contact the County or the Assessor's Office to complete the necessary paperwork.

The Olean City School District thanks all veterans for their service.



Emergency Preparedness Planning

The Olean City School District in conjunction with State, County and City officials held an emergency preparedness table top drill. The drill brought awareness to many of the unexpected mini crises that could arise during an actual event. Everyone present felt the drill was beneficial and recommended another one be conducted in the spring.

Cafeteria Reminders to Parents; Breakfast Available to Everyone

Breakfast is available every day at all of the Olean City School District buildings. Menus are available on the district web site. A main entree, as well as side dishes are available daily. Come join us to start your day with the most important meal of the day.

Every student who is eligible for free and reduced meals can eat both breakfast and lunch each day. Price for reduced meals is \$.25.

SCHOOL/GRADE	BREAKFAST BEGINS	PRICE
High School Grades 9-12	7:35 a.m.	\$1.60
High School Grade 8	7:35 a.m.	\$1.50
OIMS Grades 4-7	7:35 a.m.	\$1.50
Washington West Pre-k - 3	7:35 a.m.	\$1.45
East View Pre-k - 3	7:35 a.m.	\$1.45



Meal Charge Policy

- Meal charges will be limited to **\$10.00**.
- Students with charge balances on their account will become part of the weekly automatic call system for negative balances. Twice monthly a letter will be sent to the home for those charges.
- After reaching \$10.00 in charges your child will not be eligible to receive a choice of meal from the menu, but will be provided with cereal, juice and milk for breakfast and a sandwich, fruit and milk for lunch until charges are eliminated. Parents will be responsible for the cost of meals distributed in this manner.
- For you and your child's convenience, prepayments will be accepted at your child's school and placed on their account.
- Additional information regarding the District's Food Service Program can be found on the Olean City School District's website.



National Honor Society Inducts New Members

Olean High School recently inducted 38 new members to the National Honor Society. Students were chosen in a highly selective process based upon general excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character and were honored at a luncheon held at the Old Library Restaurant. Students are advised by Mrs. Katie Wolfgang. Pictured: (first row, l-r) Allison Monroe, Emily Ludden, Anna-Elisabeth Ross, Hannah Stayer, Natalie Young, Grace Wroblewski, Gabrielle Pfeiffer, Mackenzie Pfeffer, Andrea Harris, Victoria Gulnac, Maegen Windus; (second row, l-r) Brooke Gronemeier, Sarah Blazejewski, Taylor Shearer, Brianna Curtin, Emily Gayton, Aubrianna Weber, Victoria Certo, Cory Walker, Rebecca Fox, Peighton Ray, Jonathon Magro; (third row, l-r) Marcus Snyder, Connor Meyers, Bryan Bizzaro, Noelle Anzivine, Abigail Schwartz, Shannon McNamee, Jesse Hamed, Timothy Magro, Saad Mirza, Dylan Spencer, Jordan McLaughlin, Bartholomew Snyder; and (fourth row, l-r) Peyton Kunselman, Benjamin Eckstrom, Adam Moses, Luciano Rogers.



Activities Enhance Language Classes at OHS

The Day of the Dead, a special holiday celebrated by those with a Mexican heritage, is a beautiful celebration of life. It is a time to remember those special friends and family members who have passed. Mrs. Napoleon's Spanish 2 class created sugar skull cookies (above left), a traditional symbol of this festival.

This past October, a group of students from Mrs. Napoleon's level 3 and 4 French classes had the opportunity to attend 200 and 300 level French classes with Dr. Imoff, SBU Professor of French. Students also toured campus and were treated to lunch at the Hickey Dining Hall.



PEP Grant In Action: Ropes Course, Cooking, Ice Skating and More

The first round of assessments for our PEP grant were complete in October. Thank you to all the students who were randomly chosen to wear the pedometers. We appreciate your support. The final assessment for this school year will be at the end of January.

Seven physical education teachers in our district had the opportunity to attend the state conference for Physical Educators in Verona, NY, for 2 days. New and innovative ideas were brought to our attention to incorporate and enhance our physical education classes.

Cooking class with Ms. Whiteman at OIMS and Mrs. Napoleon at OHS are going great. Students are enjoying the cooking sessions sponsored by the PEP grant.

November's adventure activity for OHS was the Low Ropes Course at Portville School District. December's adventure activity was Ice Skating at the rink in Olean. Students had the opportunity to participate in these free adventure activities every month at the high school. See Ms. Davenport or Mrs. Brooks for more information.

The new weight room at the high school is complete. In addition to using the equipment during Physical Education classes, students can also come in the morning at 7:15 and after school to use the facility. There are over 50 students who take advantage of this opportunity to work out in addition to class time.

All students in grades 8-12 learned how to perform Hands Only CPR in October. Annette Adamczak volunteered her time to come into all the physical education classes for two days to teach our students the correct method of doing hands only CPR and how to use a Defibrillator.



Husky Pride On Display

Thank you Coach Wright! You inspire us all. Pictured is Ethen Gill (left) with Coach Ken Wright.

Substitutes Needed for All Positions

Are you interested in being a substitute for the 2015-2016 School Year?

The District is in need of substitutes in all areas:

- Long-Term Sub Teacher: \$110/day
- Certified Sub Teacher: \$90/day
- Sub Teacher w/Bachelors: \$81/day
- Non-Certified Sub Teacher: \$75/day
- Sub Nurse: \$15/hour
- Sub Teacher Aide/Cleaner/Food Service: \$9.15/hour

Applications for all substitute positions are available in the Human Resources Department, 410 West Sullivan Street, Olean, and on the District's website, www.oleanschools.org. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Mia O'Brien, Director of Human Resources, at 716-375-8097.



Elisamarie Martel walks the “tight-rope” anxious to reach the platform high in the trees.

Students Take on Challenge Course at Portville Central

On a beautiful October day, a group of Mrs. Samuelson’s 8th grade students put their skills to test as they braved the new ropes course at the Pierson Challenge Course behind Portville Central School. The course features low and high ropes elements as well as a zip line. The tasks the students were led through encouraged team building and communication skills. Thanks to the cooperative effort of PCS’s athletic director, Mrs. Beth Colligan and OCSD physical education teachers, Miss Katrina Davenport, Mr. Steve Anastasia and Mr. Ryan Nawrot, the field trip was an unforgettable experience.



Join Us for a ‘Reading Invasion’

Mr. Sorensen started Reading Invasions which take place monthly at various local venues. He invites his students and the community to join him and quietly read for an hour. Promoting literacy is certainly his goal, but he also enjoys the opportunity to showcase Olean. Attendees take home one of his fabulous, hand drawn bookmarks. Check his web page under the “Staff” link for the next Reading Invasion.



Taking the Plunge for Special Olympics

Olean City School District students raised more than \$1,700 by participating in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge held at Woodlawn State Park in Orchard Park.

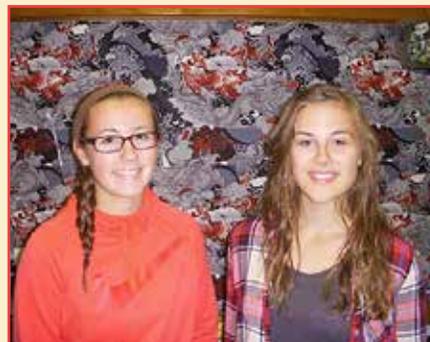
OCSD Students Making Exceptional Music



Students worked hard to prepare for the OIMS Winter Concert which was held on Thursday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the Olean High School Auditorium. Various holiday selections were presented along with featured selected duets. The concert was performed under the direction of Mrs. J. Thomas-Eustis.



Congratulations are in order for some of our most accomplished student musicians who represented Olean High School at the All-State Festival in Rochester. These two students competed against thousands of New York State music students to achieve this highest honor. They had the privilege of working with world renowned conductors and presented concerts at Eastman Theater in December with the following groups:



Upper Photo: (l-r) Maegan Windus, All State Mixed Chorus; and Hannah Stayer, All State Women's Chorus.

Lower Photo: Performing in the Junior High Area All-State Orchestra were (l-r) Yuki Wada and Filip Morawski.



Bottom Photo: Also achieving Junior High Area All-State for Grades 7-9 were (from top, l-r) Quinn Forrest, Mackenzie Milligan, Mackenzie Windus, Sebastian Sanchirico, John Knieser, Mary Ring, Olivia Lang, Torry Stives, Veronica Ferry, Morgan Hefti and Reyna Reisner. We are proud of your accomplishments! GO HUSKY HARMONY!





EGYPTIAN ADVENTURES

As a culminating activity to the Red Team’s unit on Egypt, Mrs. Bean’s sixth grade social studies classes took a trip to Egypt by creating three-dimensional projects. Students created structures like pyramids, sarcophaguses, and salt maps. They also took part in an archaeological dig for gold and jewels. Various types of Egyptian foods were sampled and there was a surprise visit from Anubis, god of mummification. Stay tuned for their next adventure. I heard they might try to climb Mount Everest.



ATTENDANCE HAS ITS REWARDS



One of the most important factors leading to student success in school is BEING HERE! Each marking period, students who have perfect attendance and distinguished attendance are entered into a drawing for Greater Olean gift certificates to reward them for being in school and on time every day. Mr. Trietley congratulates our drawing winners for the first marking period – 7th grader Dakota Everitt, who has missed only one day, and 5th grader Ariel Maine, who has perfect attendance so far this school year.

EMPTY BOWLS ‘SIMPLE SUPPER’

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing to help others?” - Martin Luther King Jr.

An empty bowl is symbolic of life. It has the capacity to be filled. Like the empty bowl, a life also awaits the potential “filling up”- with experiences, dreams and memories.

The OIMS 5th graders in collaboration with the Art Department, Music Department, and St. Bonaventure University will be hosting a “SIMPLE SUPPER” on January 28th from 5-6:30 at Doyle Hall to benefit the Warming House. With the help of OIMS Art teacher, Mrs. Nickel, students are crafting soup bowls which will be sold. Soup will be prepared by the Warming House and the St. Bonaventure University.

On November 18, guest speaker Maggie Morris visited the school to provide nutritional information, detailed the history of farming in the area, and the history of the Warming House. We hope to create a memorable experience for our families while helping to support our community. Details will be sent home to our 5th grade families in January.



A LOCAL LESSON

A group of Washington Club students were recently in Olean, West Virginia. These students volunteered to clean up litter on the streets and “give it back” to the community that has been so supportive of them. They collected over 30 pounds of garbage from several Olean streets. Mayor Aiello spoke about his responsibilities as Mayor. Our 7th grade Washington Club students visited our Capitol this spring, so this visit allowed them some time to see the state capital. It also helped them realize that we can all work together.

SUPPER' IN JANUARY



will be on display for "auction" at the supper. St. Bonaventure Community. invited our students at school and provided in our country, and explained the mission e experience for our 5th graders and their iled information and reservation forms will



ON IN CIVICS

invited to have lunch with Olean's Mayor ne afternoon in October as a way to "give their fundraisers. The students collected After lunch, Mr. Aiello talked to them hington Club students will be traveling to e insight into government at the local level. er to make our community a better place.



OH LÀ, LÀ! LE FRANÇAIS, C'EST TOP!

National French Week was celebrated in each 7th grade OIMS French class this year from November 5th through November 13th. This is a week sponsored by the AATF (American Association of Teachers of French) to commemorate all things French and to celebrate the fun experiences in learning the language.

This year's celebration at OIMS entailed five daily theme days: Très Chic Day, Scarf/Beret Day, Blue, White and Red Day, Say "Bonjour" to your Teachers Day and, last but not least, T-shirt Day! All French classes dressed according to the daily theme, practiced their French listening and response skills with TPR in the classroom (Total Physical Response), created their own replicas of French cartes d'identités (ID cards), and of course sampled French foods!!

Merci mille fois (Many thanks) to all the students who participated, helped decorate our corridors, and spoke in French on the daily announcements!

OIMS BEGINS BOOK CLUB

OIMS Book Club Committee members and students celebrate the introduction of the program to parents and students at OIMS.

Parents/guardians must turn in a registration form to Jackie Reed at the front office which will begin the process of distribution of book bags for families to share.

For more information on the OIMS Book Club, please call Jen Kless or Jo Dexter at 716-375-8061.





Cutting Fractions: Mrs. Hart's first graders put on surgeon masks to cut apart some contractions during a lesson.

A Thanksgiving Selfie: Check out Mrs. Knight's class full of turkeys who stopped by the office for a Turkey Selfie!

East View Elementary School



Remembering Our Veterans: Mrs. Jedrosko's class visited the local Veteran's clinic.



Challenger Center Visit: Our second graders visited the Challenger Learning Center and participated in the micronauts program. It was a great STEM experience.



Making Stone Soup: Mrs. Bushnell and Mrs. Keller's classes read the folk tale "Stone Soup," and then they made stone soup and ate it!



Bonus Reading Time: Mrs. Rodman's third graders were caught sneaking some reading time while they were waiting for their concert rehearsal.



Monster Match – Texas Style: Mrs. Murray’s third grade class connected with a third grade students in Texas via distance learning. Both groups of students were challenged to write a description of a monster. The classroom teachers then had students swap descriptions with their long distance partner. The classes then met via distance learning to compare their monsters and see how they looked! What a great way to connect our students with others across the country!



Safeteen Coalition Teaches Safety: The Safeteen Coalition is a group of students from St. Bonaventure and Olean High School. We are thankful that they came to our school to teach us about road safety. The WW students pretended to be cars and watched for pedestrians as they drove through a model city that was created on our cafeteria floor. Thanks for the valuable safety lesson!

Washington West Elementary School



100 Book Swap: To support the “100 Book Challenge” the first graders at Washington West participated in a book swap. Students brought gently used books from home and swapped for new books to take home. It was a great event and the students were excited to take “new” books home so they could log more steps. “This was so fun!”



Grade Reading Nooks: Book nooks are a great way to encourage children to read! They are fun and easy to create! A wonderful reading world can be created just by placing a blanket over a table to create a cave or a magical reading castle. Our classroom teachers are creating these nooks in classroom. The students love sitting in them while they read!!



OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

410 W. Sullivan St.
Olean, NY 14760
www.oleanschools.org

ADMINISTRATION

Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent of Schools
Kathleen Elser, Business Administrator
Jeffrey Andreano, High School Principal
Mike Martel, Assistant High School Principal
Gerald Trietley, Olean Intermediate (Gr. 6-7) Middle School Principal
Joel Witcher, Olean Intermediate (Gr. 4-5) School Principal
Linda Nottingham, Washington West Elementary Principal
Brian Crawford, East View Elementary Principal
Mia O'Brien, Director of Human Resources
Marcella Richmond, Director of Special Education
Csobanka Woodworth, Technology Administrator
Jen Mahar, District Coordinator of State & Federal Aid Programs

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Michiko McElfresh, Vice President
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Reading Milestones at WW

The first 100 Step Celebration at Washington West Elementary School was held for 134 students who proudly reached their 100 Step Milestone. Each step equals 15 minutes of reading. This means our 100 Step Readers have engaged in 1,500 minutes of independent reading! Mrs. Ketchner, WW's Literacy Coach, rewarded our "smart cookies" with specially decorated sugar cookies, celebration bracelets, and a "Paw-some" medal. The students were so excited and proud to wear their medals. Mrs. Sorokes and Mrs. Rucinski, Title 1 teachers, helped with our special day. Mrs. Ketchner can't wait to celebrate all of our students who reach their Step Milestones. We are spreading our love of reading at Washington West and our vision that the more you read the smarter you get, and the better reader you become!



Olean City School District Mission/Vision

The Olean City School District is a student-centered community of excellence in which all members are challenged to learn, achieve, contribute, and innovate.

Guiding Principles

A commitment to fostering:

A respectful, safe, and welcoming environment

An acceptance of diversity

Continuous improvement

Academic excellence and lifelong learning

Honesty, integrity, responsibility, and accountability

Student potential and achievement