



LEAN

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Home, School and Community Educating for Life"

January-February 2007

Volume 3, Issue 3

Homeless Huskies

Students continue tradition of caring

A huge thank you to the students who braved the weather and slept out on the front lawn for the 14th annual "Homeless Huskies." The event raised \$6,080 for the Salvation Army, Genesis House and Warming House. This event would not be possible without the support of the teachers, staff and administration at Olean High School who help supervise this fundraiser. To date, Homeless Huskies has raised a total of \$78,154.

Businesses and schools making donations: 3rd Street Studio, 501 Café, A Cut Above, Alcas, Angee's, Applebee's, Askey General Supply, Attard's, Boardmanville, Burger King, Dominos, East View, Holiday Valley Resort, IJN, Jumpin' Juice & Java, Main Street Pizzeria, Maurice's, McDonald's, Mickey's, OHS, Old Library Restaurant, OMS, Paper Factory, Park & Shop, Pizza Hut, Ponderosa, Ried's Food Barn, SBU Bookstore, SDS, Sports Locker, Studio 4 East, Suedehead, Tasta Pizza, The BUZZ, Tim Horton's, Tops, Total Tan, Wal-Mart, Washington West.

OHS students participating were:

9th grade - Shanae Abdo, Rebecca Ahearn, Kaitlyn Andreano, Sara-Ann Baldwin, Kasey Boutwell, Scott Brady, Christina Devling, James Diblasi, Taylor Eade, Amy Farris, Todd Hansin, James Hardenbergh, Kaitlin Harvey, Tanner Kahm, David Kranock, Amanda Lasky, Brittney Lee, Michael Liu, Amy Livoto, Jacob Mallery, Dan Massaro, Gina Matejka, Amanda Mattys, Tchianna McPeak, Christopher Mosher, Sarah Nodler, Chris Pavlock, Louise Penman, Nicole Russo, Ryan Scheminger, Kyleigh Vanhoutte, Megan Wells

10th grade - Keriann Bellamy, Dan Boutwell, Abby Bretzin, Felisha Bud-



Presenting Genesis House Director Linore Lounsbury (right) with a donation are (l-r) Brandy Wangelin, Rachel Burrows, Jennifer Mosher, Jennifer MacDonald, Lindsay Cheek and Megan McKeown.

hinger, Amber Calson, John Capitani, Amanda Carlson, Angelica Carlson, Taylor Carney, Bridget Cooney, Megan Dwailebee, Mackenzie Forrest, Amanda Giermek, Liz Grigsby, Jen Howard, Rachel Kasperski, Bridget Lamb, Keshia Major, Chelsea Marcellin, Callahan McBride, Gina Melaro, Christa Nianiatius, Mike Powell, Nick Reed, Samantha Reed, Josh Rosel, Annie Skrobacz

(continued on page 2)



Cassie Bold prepares for a night in the cold.

Homeless Huskies,

continued from page 1

11th grade - Joe Allen, Mohammed Al-Samirai, Ashley Arnold, Lyndsey Baldwin, Chris Barnard, Alexa Blackon, Ryan Bohn, Cassie Bold, Dan Braithwaite, Cory Bullers, Nicole Burgess, Kaitlee Derx, Carrie Diriso, Mark Gerwig, Meghan Guild, Caitlyn Heinz, Jake Hughes, Guinevere Johnson, Megan Kane, Nick Kolasinski, Kathleen Lewicki, Steven Lewis, Angela Luty, Kayleigh Morensoni, Emily Mulherin, Hannah Penman, Paul Reed, Nina Reese, Emily Sorokes, Steve Sprague, Culley Steiner, Justin Tarr, Dan Tate, Jessica Williamson, Tiffany Young, Jeff Zambanini, Martha Zimmerman

12th grade - David Allen, Afia Babar, Abram Brown, Carrie Burgess, Joelle Burrows, Rachel Burrows, Jacob Carll, Lindsay Cheek, Dana Demarest, Robert Frungillo, Adam Griffith, Brett Guntow, Matt Hardenbergh, Elise Katzenstein, Stephanie Lacher, Jen MacDonald, Megan McKeown, Jeni Mosher, Eileen Proto, Adrienne Sader, Damian Saleh, Carl Samuelson, Alex Simon, Katie Simon, Lauren Simon, Brandy Wangelin

Foundation funds fitness monitors

The Olean City School District Foundation has awarded its fourth educational grant to the Olean High School Physical Education class for heart rate monitors to give students an awareness of target heart rate levels, how they vary, and how to monitor one's heart rate. The Olean High School physical education staff has designed fitness units each quarter for all ninth and ten graders around the use of the heart rate monitors - the students will learn how monitors work, care, and cleaning of these units. Each class, students will wear a monitor to log their resting heart rate, target heart rate, and recovery heart rate while doing different fitness related activities. Wearing these monitors will help give the students an awareness of how active or inactive they really are during various activities and exercises during the class period.

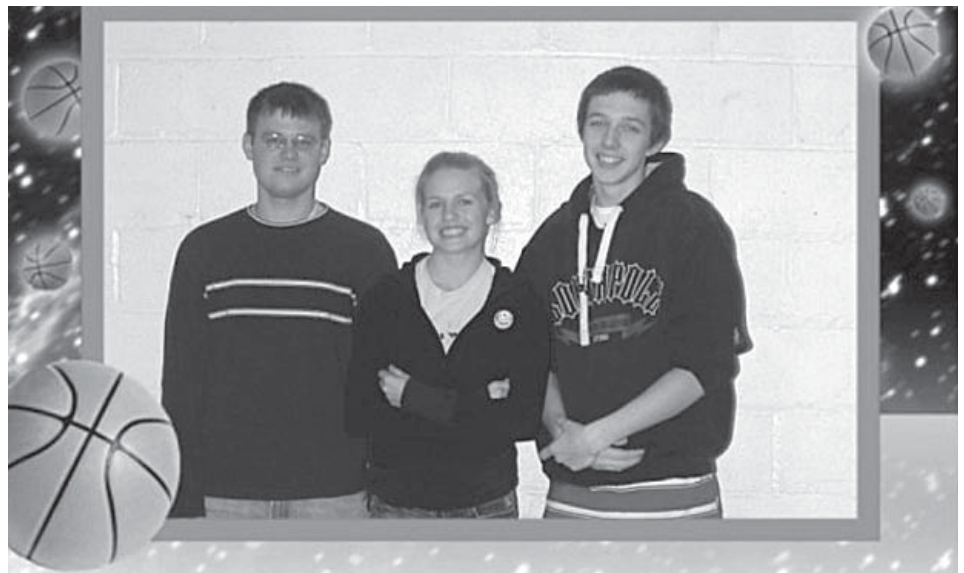


Business classes benefit from SBU partnership

**By Christine Stavish,
Business Education Teacher**

Olean High School Sports & Marketing students have been fortunate to form a partnership with St. Bonaventure University's Athletic Department. Both Kera Strong, Promotions Coordinator, and Karen Hill, Assistant Athletic Director for Financial Affairs and Special Events, from SBU have visited the Sports & Entertainment Marketing classes this year to discuss promotions, to encourage the students to be involved in assisting with the promotions, and to allow students to work at the Women's and Men's Basketball games. This partnership allows our students to gain experience first-hand with the athletic and promotions departments of SBU. Students are fortunate as they will learn responsibility, have the chance to work with others, observe other careers, participate in hands-on advertising, receive the time to network with college students, have the chance to work in the area of promotions, gain advertising skills, and mostly represent Olean High School as a community volunteer.

Truly, these authentic activities give



Brett Batesky, Renee Handmore and Rhett Taylor participated at St. Bonaventure as part of the Sports & Entertainment Marketing Partnership.

our OHS Business students a wonderful opportunity. Their next assignment is to help publicize a special day in January for third- through fifth-graders. Our elementary students will not only learn about "R-E-S-P-E-C-T," but they have the opportunity to see our very own marketing

students involved in the advertising and planning of this special event.

Thanks SBU for giving our Sports & Entertainment Marketing students a wonderful opportunity. We appreciate your time, your experience, and your community involvement.



Mid-year highlights across the District

By Mark J. Ward,
Superintendent

As we near the mid-year point of the school year it is a good time to highlight some of the new initiatives, accomplishments and unfinished business that we are working on:

- The **Reading First Program** that has been introduced in grades K-3 is the single biggest “change” in the delivery of instruction that the Olean City School District has ever seen. We have made a true commitment to “making reading first” with our goal of having every child reading on grade level by the end of third grade. The teachers are working very hard with this new program and they need the support of the parents. Please make reading a part of your everyday life in your home!

- The **Elementary Task Force** is continuing to meet in an effort to look carefully at our present facilities, instructional needs and the financial implications. It is important that we develop a “vision” for what our schools should look like in the future. The committee, Board of Education and administration are continuing to sift through the information and hope to have a recommendation by late January or early February. The Hunt Architectural Firm, as well as our financial advisors, are assisting us in costing out the “numbers” and determining the best way to maximize our resources. The District is working toward the development of a **Capital Project** that will include work in the elementary buildings, as well as the high school. While no final decision has been made the District, officials are beginning to lean more toward a three-school arrangement based on the use of savings to help pay for the many needed improvements our facilities require.

- The **Pupil Services Department** (formerly called Special Education) has now moved from the former North Hill Elementary School to the rear of the high school on the corner of Reed and 4th streets. The department will include Psychological Services, 504 Services, CPSE (Committee on Pre-School Special Education, CSE (Committee on Special Edu-

cation). We will be establishing several reserved parking spaces on Reed Street for parents attending meetings. The area has been completely remodeled by our own maintenance staff and you will find the workmanship to be superior. They have transformed the former shop and print area into offices and conference rooms for 11 staff members. Please stop by and take a look at the new Pupil Service Department!

- The Board is continuing to proceed with the **sale of the former North Hill Elementary School**. After a new search and survey are completed, the building and property will be advertised for sale. The Board will select the successful bidder and the voters will have an opportunity to make a final decision on the sale. The Board plans to offer it as a second proposition in May during the Annual Budget vote.

- With the implementation of a nine (9)-period day in the middle school we are now able to offer comprehensive **AIS (Academic Intervention Services)** to all students who are required by law to receive this service. This additional instruction is designed to help students improve in both the skill and content areas that have been identified in the testing process. We believe that this additional time will prove to be a tremendous asset in helping our middle school students reach the “standards” established by the state and federal government.

- Our **“Before and After School Programs”** are meeting the needs of many students and families in the District. Across the District we are averaging about 158 students in the morning and 200 in the afternoon in our four elementary programs. The St. John’s Recreational Program sponsored by the City Parks Department is averaging between 50-60 students in grades K-8. With this kind of data, we know that we are reaching out to many students and believe that the program will only get stronger as we add more programs and opportunities.

- We are beginning to explore the possibility of a new use for the former Nabisco Building located on 7th Street

as a **“Community Learning Center.”** Through the efforts of the Community Schools, we are working on several grant opportunities that will allow us to remodel and improve the site for parents and children involved in the Even Start Program. Our dream (vision) is to remodel the front part of the building and create a room for adults who are working on their GED as well as other educational programs. The other part of the building would have a room for the children. We also plan to do additional site work and build a fenced-in playground for the children. This project is now in the planning stages with most of the work planned for the fall.

- The return of a vibrant high school **Business Department** took another step this year with the addition of a second teacher. Between Mrs. Chris Stavish and Mrs. Sue Frentz, they are offering an assortment of courses that are filled to the max! Over 230 students are being served by the following courses: Career Exploration, Financial Planning, Micro Computer Applications I and II, Accounting, Business Communications and Sports Entertainment and Marketing.

- Currently, we have 255 students taking **11 college-level courses taught in high school**, with students receiving college credit from Jamestown Community College and Syracuse University. Next year, students will begin receiving credits for engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). These opportunities give our students an inexpensive taste of college-level courses that are easily transferred to other colleges across the country. College credits earned this way can reduce the cost of college for families and, in some cases, could reduce an entire year of college study.

- The District is pledging financial assistance to the Olean Urban Renewal Agency to do an updated **feasibility study of Bradner Stadium**. We want to take an in-depth look at the “Stadium” and see how we can work together to make the vision for a modernized Bradner Stadium a reality. We are extremely excited about the potential this project has for the Olean community.



High school music students shine at Area All-State Festival

Congratulations to our wonderful musicians who participated in the Senior High Area All-State Music Festival in Fredonia in November. They met and performed with other top musicians in Western New York in Symphonic Band and Mixed Chorus.

Pictured above are Area All-State vocalists (back, l-r) Dan Boutwell, Carleigh Spiller, Christa Nianiatius, Angela Luty, Anna Miller, Katie Simon, Jacob Carll and (front, l-r) Christine Bartimole, Lindsay Cheek, Jocelyn Parks, Tanaka VanDruff, Alison Brady and Emily Sorokes.

Shown in bottom photo is Area All-State french hornist Deborah McDowell.



Of watercolors and writing

Art students in the Drawing and Painting class have recently created watercolor landscapes that incorporate collage images from either magazine sources or from photographs they scanned. Students used a variety of watercolor techniques to create the paintings, working from photographs and other media. They were able to develop and portray a theme, such as family members or specific locations. Some students have documented their grandparents, others chose cityscapes or ocean scenes. Mrs. Ventura's Advanced English classes will be viewing these paintings and using them as a catalyst for writing.

OHS yearbook staff increases coverage for 2007

Something new and exciting is happening at Olean High School yearbook office. In the past, the high school yearbook staff has covered events from the beginning of school until March due to publication deadlines. This year, however, the yearbook staff will be burning the midnight oil in order to insure there is an ample amount of coverage for all OHS spring events including sports' teams, junior-senior proms, and even graduation. That's right, the Class of 2007 can expect their senior trip and graduation ceremonies to be photographed and captured for their 2007

yearbooks. The staff members will send in the last signature, a sixteen-page spread, on July 1st. The extended deadline **will not affect** the June delivery of the high school yearbook.

For those seniors who purchase yearbooks, their additional sixteen pages will be mailed to them. Underclassmen who purchase the yearbooks will receive their "spring pages" at the beginning of school.

Anyone who needs information about ordering the OHS 2007 yearbook should phone Mrs. Skrobacz, adviser, at 375-8001.

To be or not to be ... literate

By Amy A. Anastasia
OHS English Department

As a high school English teacher, the question is constantly raised in my classroom, "why do we have to read this?" I'm sure as parents many of you get the same grumbles at home. We have to ask ourselves the question then, why are kids constantly grumbling about it? Some will say it's boring, others it's too hard, and yet others simply don't like to read. The obvious answer is one we don't like to face though...they simply don't understand what they are reading. They read the words across the page, but there is a difference between reading words and comprehending them.

Traditionally, literacy meant the ability to read and write. In our ever-changing, technological society, it has expanded to mean much more. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) "literacy is the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts. Literacy involves a continuum of learning to enable an individual to achieve his or her goals, to develop his or her knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in the wider society."

The Department of Education requires that students accomplish four writing tasks on the NYS Regents Exam in order to graduate. However, as defined these tasks are applicable to all subjects and success throughout their lifetime, as functioning, literate individuals in society as we know it today. Students need to be able to listen, speak, read and write for information and understanding; for literary response and expression; for critical analysis and evaluation; and for social interaction. These tasks entail students' abilities to understand, analyze, synthesize, and communicate effectively in the diverse, complicated world we live in today.

It is our goal in the Olean High School English Department to instruct and enable our children to become full participants in the world they live in. This involves various reading strategies that you at home can actively participate in with your child not only in the subject area of English, but in all subject areas.

1. Have children use context clues or break up words, sentences or paragraphs into pieces and use context clues to help

them understand what they are reading. Sometimes the sentences, paragraphs and even the words are long and complicated. This helps them not to be so overwhelmed.

2. Have them ask themselves questions about what they are reading. Questioning aids in developing comprehension and making connections with other areas in their lives.

3. Predict, infer and hypothesize about what they think is going on or will happen next. This increases interest level to see if their predictions were correct and helps with critical thinking. Ask them, "Why do you think that? Sometimes their predictions may be off, but critical thinking skills are developed in terms of their logical order of thinking and how they think.

4. Help them determine what is important and what is irrelevant in the reading. How many times do we see paragraphs upon paragraphs of highlights? Determining importance is a lifelong skill.

5. If comprehension is a constant issue, have them after each paragraph summarize with "think alouds" what they just read. Writing things in their own words is also helpful. Reading out loud is also very useful. Students tend to stare at pages of reading, hoping the words will simply

be absorbed. When they read aloud, it enhances their speaking skills and their comprehension skills.

6. Some people are visual learners. If that is the case, it helps to make a picture of what they are reading about in their mind or doodle it in their notes.

7. Finally, help them make the connections or what we call using their schema. Try to connect what they are reading in various ways. Three simple ones include: a connection to self – what does this remind them of in their own life; connecting text to text - maybe while reading Shakespeare they can connect to global studies; and connecting text to the world around them - what do they know about the world around them that they can connect to this text to help them better understand it.

The Olean City School District has taken various measures recently that illustrate how important reading truly is for everyone. The middle school sent a team to the Learn to Be Literate seminar last spring, and this year we have all seen the new Reading First Initiative fall into place nicely in our elementary schools. It is our hope and our New Year's Wish that every child in the Olean City School District choose TO BE LITERATE!!

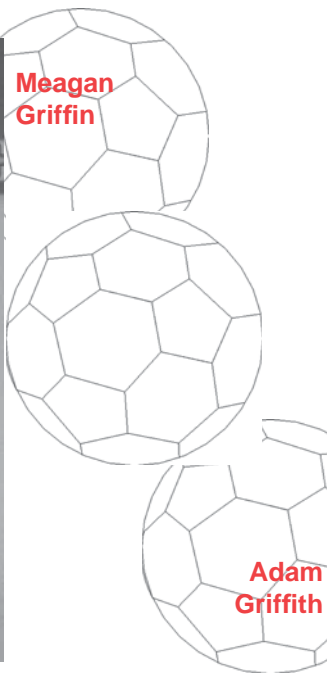


Who will be the Physics Olympics champ?

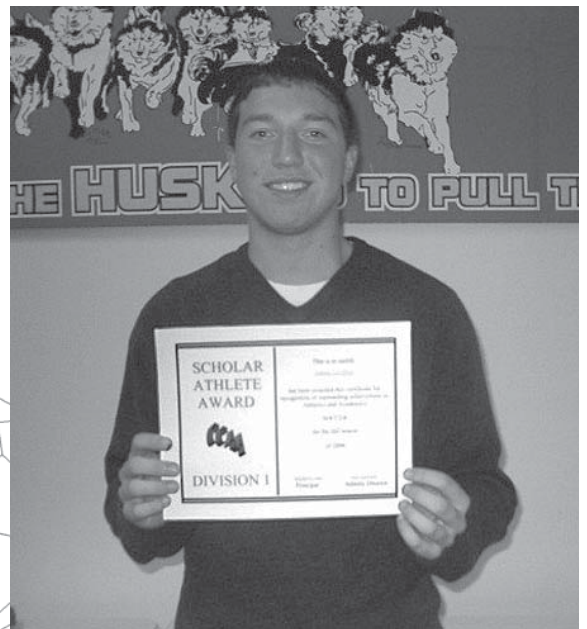
Students from Mrs. Ring's physics class take part in the fifth of 12 Physics Olympic Challenges that take place during the year. In this challenge students must calculate the exact landing spot of the projectile launched from the ramp. The ball may not leave the table until the students have calculated the landing spot and then classmates watch as each group shoots for their grade. Current leaders are Andrew Carucci and Brandon Lee. Stay tuned for the announcement of the Physics Olympic Champion!



Meagan
Griffin



Adam
Griffith



Griffin and Griffith earn Scholar-Athlete honors

The Olean High School Athletic Department proudly announces that senior Meagan Griffin (soccer) has been selected for her respective fall sports team to the **2006 Buffalo News/Section VI All-Western New York Scholar/Athlete Team**.

This award, sponsored by Section VI, recognizes academic as well as athletic achievement. To be nominated for the team, a student must have

carried a 90+ average for the previous six semesters and been a starter or significant player in his/her sport.

This is an outstanding accomplishment and one of which Meagan, her team, our school and our community can be very proud.

In addition, Meagan was named the **CCAA Division I Female Scholar-Athlete of the Season** for the 2006 fall season. The CCAA Division

I member Athletic Directors selected Meagan as the recipient of this award for demonstrating outstanding achievement in academics, as well as athletics.

Senior soccer player Adam Griffith also received recognition for being selected as the OHS male Scholar-Athlete nominee for the 2006 fall season.

Congratulations Meagan and Adam!



Moore named 'Super 7 Athlete of the Week'

The Olean High School Athletic Department is proud to announce that Zach Moore, a senior on the Varsity Boys Basketball team, has been named the WKBW Channel 7 "Super 7 Athlete of the Week" for the first week of December. Channel 7 presented Zach with this award at basketball practice on Thursday December 7th in Olean.

Congratulations Zach and the OHS Boys Varsity Basketball team!



OHS All-Sportsmanship Team for Fall 2006 Season

The following students have been selected for the OHS All-Sportsmanship Team for the Fall 2006 season:

Shown above (l-r) Varsity Girls' Tennis, Kayla Branch; Varsity Cross-Country, Rachel Kasperski; Varsity Cheerleading, Elizabeth Grigsby; Varsity Football, Josh Brucker; Varsity Girls' Soccer – Meagan Griffin; AD's Choice, Demetrius Bailey; JV Girls' Soccer – Taylor Eade, JV Football, Richard Kennedy; and JV Cheerleading, Annie Berstrom.

Pictured below (l-r) JV Boys' Soccer, Michael Liu; JV Volleyball, Amanda Carlson; Varsity Girls' Swimming, Beth Leroy; Varsity Volleyball, Susan Muse; Varsity Boys' Soccer, Reid Gan.



Congratulations

Nicole Calbi!

**Named OHS
Athlete of the Season
(Cross Country)
Fall 2006**

**Support our teams;
join the OHS
Sports Boosters**

The Olean Sports Boosters meet once a month in the high school cafeteria at 7 p.m. We are proud of all our coaches and players and we support them any way we can. We welcome new members to any of our meetings. There are even door prizes! Come and support the Huskies sports teams!!!!

Go to www.oleanschools.org, athletics, sports boosters, meetings and events for a list of meeting dates.





ST. BONAVENTURE STUDENTS HELP OUT

By Mrs. Taylor

Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Kosinski would like to thank Bona students, Shayne Graham, Caitlin Curran, Alyssa Towne, and Jill Galvin for helping them out this semester. We know they will be wonderful teachers and wish them the best of luck. You will be missed. Mrs. Taylor's class is shown above left reading the Olean Times Herald with Miss Towne. Miss Graham and Miss Curran are shown in the right photo helping students in Mrs. Taylor's class.



THANKFUL SIXTH-GRADERS

By Mrs. Flynn

The holiday season is a time for everyone to reflect upon the many blessings they receive in their lives. The sixth grade students in Mrs. Flynn's Family and Consumer Science classes decided to show their gratitude for the blessings they receive by giving to others. Shown above (l-r) are Tom Kirk, Evan Ryan, Sarah Barlett, Middle School Principal Mr. Trietley and Ashlyn Irvin. The students baked over 75 loaves of pumpkin bread to be served at the Community Thanksgiving Dinner that was held on November 18. About 500 meals were served to residents in the Olean area. The students also made greeting cards that were distributed to the guests in attendance. The activity proved to be meaningful as well as fun for all of the sixth grade students.

BLUE TEAM STUDENTS PREVAIL IN POETRY CONTEST

By Ms. Bergan

This year's annual "Friends of the Community" poetry contest was a poetic success for our students. This year's contest attracted entries from various school districts in New York and Pennsylvania. Matt Witte (pictured below) won second place honors, while Tevin McDermott won first place. Burgandi Rakoska (missing from photo) won honorable mention. The contest theme was "Be a Leader, Be a Reader."



and the 'Middle'



A TRIP TO HOUGHTON'S ADVENTURE PROGRAM

By Nanette Higgins

On Wednesday, November 15, a group of excited middle school students and staff set off for Houghton College. The students in Mrs. Fenner's and Ms. Higgins' classes participated in Houghton's Outdoor Adventure program. The group spent the morning engaged in team building activities that encouraged them to work together. Most students were very enthusiastic about the afternoon activity of scaling the rock climbing wall. Several students climbed to the top several times. Those able to make it to the top were rewarded by being able to sign their names to the top of the wall. A great time was had by all.

HONORED FOR PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Our second Perfect Attendance winner is 6th grader Kristie Lewis. She was awarded a \$50.00 check for having perfect attendance during the 1st quarter. She is pictured at right receiving her award from OMS Principal, Mr. Trietley. Congratulations!



ENTS CONTEST

lean Library"
Blue Team
115 entries
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this year was

CLASS TAKES LEARNING TRIP TO EGYPT

By Mrs. Bean

As a culminating activity to the Green Team's unit on Egypt, Mrs. Bean's sixth grade social studies classes (shown below) took a trip to Egypt by creating three-dimensional projects. Students created structures like pyramids, sarcophaguses, and salt maps. A variety of Egyptian foods were sampled and there was a surprise visit from Cleopatra herself. Stay tuned for their next adventure. I heard they might climb Mount Everest.





This year's Red Ribbon Week was a huge hit. This annually celebrated week has one goal in mind and that is to pledge, as a nation, to be drug free. Olean Middle School was no different. The festivities kicked off Friday, October 20, with the Red Ribbon Week dance. Students proved that they could have fun on a Friday night without drugs.

The following week included scores of fun-filled activities. Like last year, students were asked daily trivia questions, and had a chance to show off their school spirit during "wear red and gold" day. Teams also competed for top honors in hallway decorations. This year's winners were the Orange and Blue Teams.

This year's Red Ribbon Week finale topped them all. All middle school teams competed in a field-day against drugs. Students sack raced, bean bagged, and wheel-barrowed their way to a victory over drugs. The Gray Team came out on top in all categories.



Reading First and DIBELS test early literacy

By Lynn Corder,
Reading First Coordinator

DIBELS are a series of short tests given to children in kindergarten through third grade to screen and monitor their progress in learning the necessary skills to become successful readers. Many NYS elementary schools are using DIBELS as part of their Reading First grant to meet the reading requirements of No Child Left Behind.

All DIBELS measures are timed with most taking only one minute. The reason for the timing is to find out if a child is able to answer the questions automatically and not take a long time to think about how to answer the questions or read the words correctly. Having these basic reading skills at the automatic level allows children to focus on understanding the meaning of what they are reading. This is the primary goal for all Reading First children. The five sub tests associated with DIBELS are as follows:

Letter Naming - Kindergarten and first grade students are given a page with letters and asked to name each one. This test tells us if the child is likely to struggle or be a successful reader in the future. It only takes one minute to give this test.

Initial Sounds - By the middle of

kindergarten, children should be able to say or recognize the beginning sounds in words automatically. To measure this with DIBELS, students are given a page with four pictures. They are asked to find the picture that starts with a particular sound or to say the beginning or initial sound in a word. It takes about three minutes to give this test.

Phoneme Segmentation - This is a measure of children's awareness of the many sounds that make up words we speak. It is given to kindergarten and first grade students and is a skill that should be mastered by the end of kindergarten. The child is told a word like "cat" and asked to say all of the sounds in the word. There are three sounds in "cat." It takes only one minute to give this test.

Nonsense Words - The ability to blend together the sounds represented by letters to make words is an important skill in learning to read. This skill helps children in kindergarten, first and second grades to use their knowledge of the relationship between letters and sounds to read unfamiliar words. Children are shown a page of make-believe words, like "tob" or "miv," and asked to read them by saying the individual sound of each letter in the

word or the whole word itself. It takes only one minute to give this test.

Oral Reading - This is a measure of how fluently and accurately children can read passages written at their grade level. This is given throughout the first, second, and third grades. Children are given three passages and asked to read each one aloud for one minute. Children who read accurately and fluently are better able to understand what they read.

All children are assessed with the DIBELS measures at least three times a year. Struggling readers are assessed twice a month in an effort to track individual student progress. The next assessment period will be in late January. Please ask your building principal, Reading First Coach, or classroom teacher if you have questions related to these assessments.



Resource center for parents opens at East View

East View Elementary parent, Thomas Pilon (above) and son, Evan, check out the new Parent Resource Center located across from the school office. The center contains a table and chairs along with two displays of information for parents. The displays have pamphlets and single sheets that provide helpful information and parenting tips. Topics include: improving reading and study skills, promoting responsibility, preventing bullying, and internet safety. Parents are welcome to sit in the area to read the information, or take the free materials home.



East View supports Kettle Drive

Approximately 25 fifth-graders and staff members from East View Elementary School donated their time from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on a Saturday to ring bells for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive. Everyone agreed that this was a great way to help others. Pictured above (l-r) are 5th graders Kristin Brown and Jonah Rosel with staff member, Mrs. Margie Kosinski.



Annual Thanksgiving Feast:

On November 16, the kindergarten classes at Boardmanville celebrated Thanksgiving with their Annual Thanksgiving Feast (shown below). Thanks to contributions by their families, the children were able to make the stuffing, the mashed potatoes, and butter! Centers were set up for each activity and many parents volunteered to serve the food. We also had turkey, cranberry sauce, rolls and vegetables. The classes had a ball and were stuffed...but had room for pumpkin pie with whipped cream! Oh, what a feast!!

Athletes Promote Reading: Student athletes from Olean High School visited some of our elementary classrooms this fall to read to the students and share their knowledge and advice about the importance of reading and doing one's best in school and in life. Pictured above are Mrs. Storch's third-graders with two members of the Olean varsity football team.



Boardmanville Elementary School



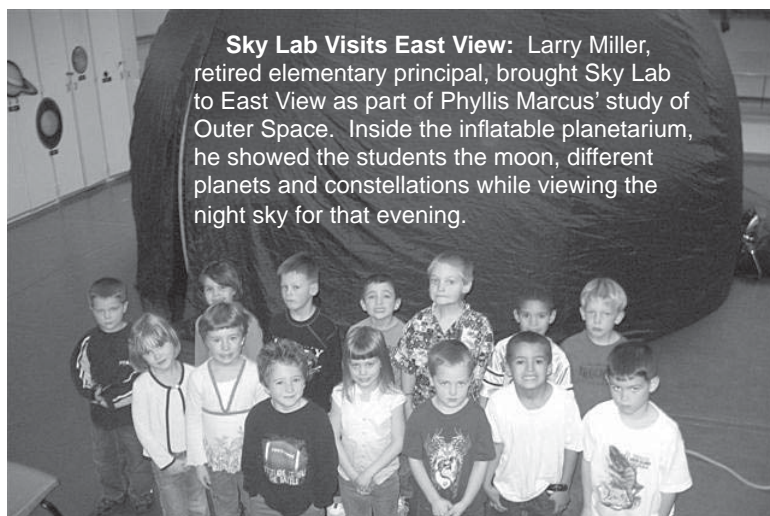
Third-Grade Thanksgiving Project: Third graders made turkey napkin holders for the people at Olean General Hospital. This is the tenth year that our third-graders have made these creative holders for the tables at the hospital to brighten Thanksgiving for patients. The pictures above shows some of the third-graders delivering the napkin holders.



Bully Alert Program: As part of the Character Education program, Mrs. Jody Murphy presented McGruff's Bully Alert Program to the first graders in Phyllis Marcus' and Michelle Cortez's classes. Students were given different scenarios and asked to choose a good bully solution and what might be a bad bully solution. Next, students were provided with written booklets which were completed together so students would be exposed to proper ways to deal with a bully situation.



Reading First Centers: An important part of the Reading First 90-minute block of instruction for grades K-3 is the literacy center. (above). A center is an activity/area designed for a small group of students to work independently, cooperatively, or with an adult. The centers should reinforce the main components of Reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Pictured are some of Mrs. Sakala's kindergarten class working at a listening center with a St. Bonaventure University intern.



Thanksgiving Fun: Mrs. Crawford's, Mrs. Deibler's and Mrs. Marsfelder's classes gathered together to make Thanksgiving dinner (see photo below) to serve to family and friends on Nov. 16. Students made mashed potatoes, stuffing, corn muffins, blueberry muffins, pudding, apple and cherry pies. This was an exciting event for everyone and will be remembered for years to come.



"Super Bees" = Super Behavior: East View has a positive behavior plan that emphasizes three main beliefs – that students and adults, work together to Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Responsible. Students are recognized for their good behavior, earning BUG cards for Being Unusually Good. Each Friday, Super Bee students are rewarded with lunch with Principal Mr. Olson in the "Bee Hive" and receive a husky paw zipper pull.



Ivers J. Norton Elementary School

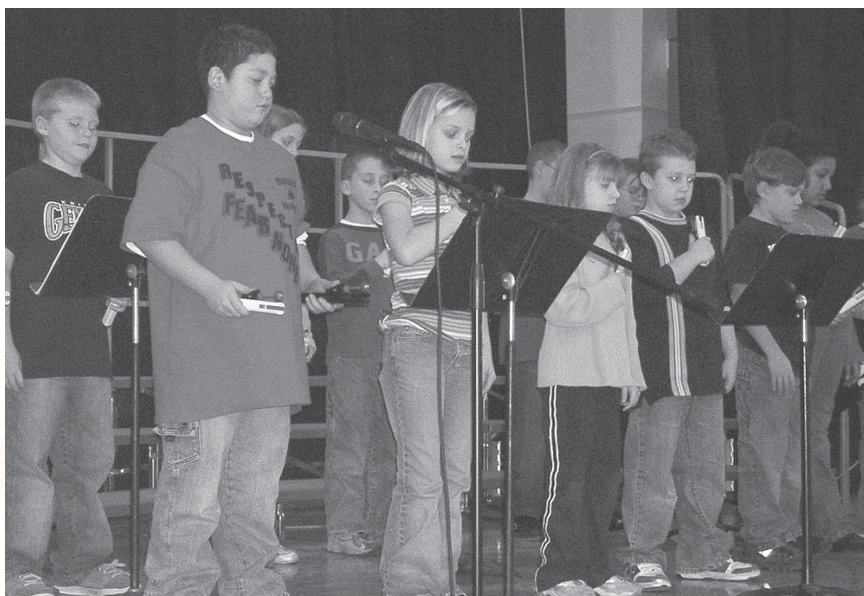
A Farewell Note from Mrs. Gore:

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the parents of IJN for the opportunity to watch your children blossom from brand new kindergartners to 5th grade graduates. Thank you to all of the faculty and staff for the opportunity to work with the world's greatest co-workers, and most of all thanks to the children at IJN for all the years of being a part of your daily lives. Your smiling faces, happy voices and boundless energy has kept me on my toes and young at heart!

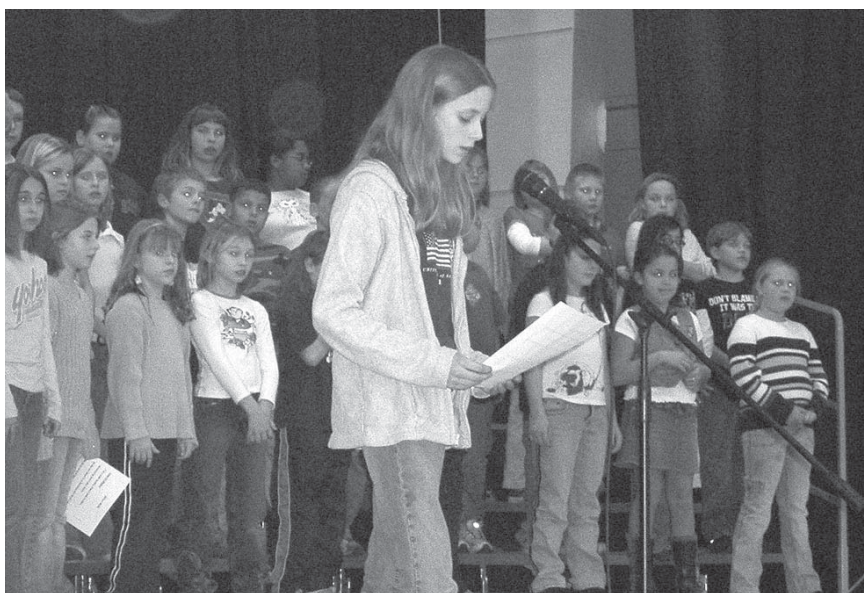
After 22 years as the school secretary at IJN, I have many happy memories that I will take with me as I enter into the next chapter of my life. I'm eagerly looking forward to retirement and have plans to travel with my husband and do some volunteer work, but you can be sure my heart will always belong to IJN.



We'll Miss You, Mrs. Donavon: Mrs. Colleen Donavon is leaving the Olean City School District after 15 years as a teacher's aide for kindergarten. She also helps in the main office, as well as in the nurse's office. She is known by students, faculty, and staff for her friendliness, compassion towards all, and her never-ending desire to help everyone. She will be missed. Good luck in your next adventures!



Holiday Concert a Hit with Families: Parents, faculty members and students came out to IJN's holiday concert to kick off the season with fun and music for all. Students in grades three through six were represented and much to the delight of everyone who attended. The students sang songs, rang bells, and the audience was invited to join in the finale. Our own Mr. William Hughey, music teacher, even wrote one of the songs the students performed. If you missed it, you might want to put it on your agenda for next year. It was a very worthwhile break from shopping and rush of the season.





Working Together Putting Reading First: Pictured above are Mrs. Martin's fifth grade and Mrs. Wells' Pre-K reading buddies sharing "book boxes." At home with a parent, each Pre-K child created a "book box" that contained clues and decorations for guessing what one of their favorite books to read together was about. After making educated guess about the book topic, the "buddies" found a cozy spot and read the book together. What a wonderful way to share favorite books!

Washington West Elementary School



Having Fun After School: Students in grades K-5 have been enjoying many fun and exciting activities at the After-School Program. One of the weekly highlights is when all grades come together to participate in "Reading Buddies." Older students pair up with younger ones to read a seasonal book and complete a hands-on activity. This month students enjoyed reading "The Mitten" and completed an activity together to re-tell the story. Working together in the After-School Program has been fun and rewarding for all students involved. Great job, Mrs. Lewicki and Mrs. Woodring!

Putting Reading First: Miss Estes' first-grade class and Mrs. Hamed's third-grade class have been teaming up for working together. Most recently, the students got hooked on a very special book. They listened to a super holiday story that emphasized the importance of learning to read and always doing one's best. After discussing the story, they created gingerbread houses together while listening to holiday music and had a fun Friday afternoon. Mrs. Vecchio also stopped by to lend a helping hand.



Oh My! 'Senor Matejka' and 'Senora Monroe':

Mrs. Cashing, former OMS LOTE teacher and current teacher in St. Bonaventure University's School of Education, will weekly join Mrs. Monroe's and Ms. Matejka's (shown at right) students in their cooperative Mexico unit and project. The students combined map and math skills to find a route between Olean and Mexico City (see photo below).



OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

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Engaging in literature centers at Washington West

After an enticing book synopsis, Mrs. Matejka's multi-age enrichment students at Washington West Elementary School (above) choose a book to read in cooperative groups. Each day students use a semantic feature analysis to organize and choose roles such as character captain, predictor, vocabulary enricher, illustrator, and summarizer. After they pick a role, they read to each other and discuss the concepts in their quality literature. Mrs. Matejka is very impressed with the active, self-directed discussion, predictions and inferences. The books they chose are: "Alice in Wonderland" by Lewis Carol; "The Giver" by Louis Lowry; and "My Side of the Mountain" by Jean George.



OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mission ...

"Home, School and Community
Educating for Life"

Values ...

- Excellence
- Honesty/Integrity
- Learning
- Mutual Respect
- Resourcefulness
- Responsibility & Accountability
- Sensitivity to Diverse Needs
- Teamwork

Strategic Themes ...

- Curriculum and Instruction
- Facilities & Learning Environment
- Finance/Resource Management
- Building Relationships