

## Family Engagement News

by: Cindi Rhoades

Welcome Back to School & Happy Holidays! I hope you all had a nice little break for the Thanksgiving holiday and got to spend some quality time with family and friends! I enjoyed my time having all three of my children and my grandson together for the brief holiday, although Tennessee is a long drive especially at this time of year! Our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner was a huge success this year, serving about 340 people! I want to thank all the volunteers that helped make this event possible. (See the pictures below.) Last month, we held our District Pumpkin Smash where about 40 people came to Canticle Farm to smash their pumpkins, promote composting, and help save our landfills. (see pictures). The Music Boosters held a Circus that filled the stands (see pictures), and of course we had our annual food drive to support the Olean Food Pantry! Although December will be a short month for students at school, there is a lot going on. We have 6 musical concerts open to the public this month (see each school's schedule below) and the **Board of Education** will meet on **12/9/25 at OIMS at 6:30 PM**. **Don't forget that there will be NO SCHOOL from December 22<sup>nd</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. School resumes on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.** I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season!

**East View:** East View PTO held a Painting with the Principal for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and their adult partner. About 14 students showed up to paint with Mrs. Keller & Mrs. Ermer (see pictures). We held our first CUTCO character assembly where we celebrated those students who embodied the trait of "Be Proactive". The parents of November student winners were able to come in and see their child be presented with their certificates, and then CUTCO volunteers came in with pizza the following week for those winners! (see pictures). We will be doing this monthly! We also held Parent Teacher Conferences. Mr. Folland ran a Soccer Challenge during Veteran's Day, and about 30 students & families participated. East View also had 11 students who were chosen for the Elementary Juror Art Show at SBU last month as well! A nice reception was held for the students and their families, and the artwork will be on display at the Regina A. Quick Center at SBU until January 5<sup>th</sup>. Go and check out our talented students' work! Mrs. Ermer has the Family Art Contest going on, so I hope your family was able to participate! We will have our annual **Santa Night** on **December 12<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30 PM**. We will also announce and showcase all the submissions from the Family Art Contest that night as well as picking the

winner from East View's 12 days of Christmas Attendance Incentive! All East View students and their families are encouraged to attend! For our holiday concerts: **Kindergarten** will be on **December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:45 PM** and **Grade 1** will be on **December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:45 PM**. The next **PTO Meeting** is **TONIGHT at 6:30 PM** in the main office. We will be planning the rest of this school year's awesome events. January will mark our big attendance incentive program for students so keep an eye out for that!!! **Don't forget that there will be NO SCHOOL from December 22<sup>nd</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. School resumes on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**Washington West:** Washington West had a busy November, first with our Reading Invasion Night and Title I Parents Night where about 60 people came to celebrate Reading (see pictures). Then we held Parent Teacher Conferences and our Husky Hut where we had a clothing and hygiene give away for our families. 93% of families participated in Conferences this time around. Then, who could forget the Fall Family Fun Night with the scavenger hunt, BINGO, games and making your own cookies! (see pictures) We hope you took advantage of these awesome opportunities! There are also some photos below from the October "Show Up and Shine Attendance Campaign where 145 students received prizes and certificates and were entered into a drawing to win a Neon sign! What for? Students just needed to be on time and attend daily through the month of October to be eligible! We will be hosting another attendance incentive program in January! Washington West also had 11 students who were chosen for the Elementary Juror Art Show at SBU last month as well! A nice reception was held for the students and their families, and the artwork will be on display at the Regina A. Quick Center at SBU until January 5<sup>th</sup>. Go and check out our talented students' work! Upcoming events in December include our **Cookies with Santa** this Friday, **December 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 7:00 PM**, our **Kindergarten Concert** on **December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM** in the OHS Auditorium and **Grade 1** will be on **December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM** in the OHS Auditorium. We will have winter hats and gloves available for those who need them at our Cookies with Santa event or reach out to Mrs. Gumtow at any time. We will also hold our annual Christmas Shop so watch for news about this. **Don't forget that there will be NO SCHOOL from December 22<sup>nd</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. School resumes on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**OIMS:** OIMS held our Coffee with the Superintendent last month as well as Parent Teacher Conferences. About 83% of our parents showed up for this very important event. This month we are hosting the **Board of Education Meeting at 6:30 PM on December 9<sup>th</sup>** and the

Middle School **Concert** on **December 10<sup>th</sup>** at **6:30 PM** in the OHS Auditorium. Don't forget we also have Family Swim nights on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, & 17<sup>th</sup>**! All families are welcome to participate in these free swim nights. (see pictures) **Don't forget that there will be NO SCHOOL from December 22<sup>nd</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. School resumes on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**OHS:** OHS held our Financial Aid Information & FAFSA Completion Night for Seniors & Parents. 38 seniors and their families came in to complete the FAFSA process and learn about the financial aid available. The Varsity Sports Banquet was held, and 136 athletes and their coaches & families (85%) came to celebrate their hard work. (see pictures) Thank you to Mrs. Howard for hosting the Living Library in honor of Veteran's Day! Veterans came into the school to visit with students in a relaxed atmosphere. (see pictures). Our Music Department braved the cold to put on an excellent performance for the Veteran's Day Celebration uptown. (see pictures). Upcoming Events at OHS will include our **Winter Concert** on **December 17<sup>th</sup>** at **6:30 PM**. **Don't forget that there will be NO SCHOOL from December 22<sup>nd</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. School resumes on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.** Any student needing volunteer hours can stop in to see Ms. Rhoades (room #1) for opportunities.

**Special Education:** If you are a student with a disability, are a Junior or Senior, and you haven't yet filled out your paperwork for ACCES-VR (transitional services) please get those applications in as soon as possible. We are looking at a Resource Fair very soon, so keep an eye out for information on this. If you have any questions, give Cindi Rhoades a call at (716) 375-8031.

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

<b>December 1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	<b>EV PTO- 6:30 PM Main Office</b>
<b>December 5<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>WW Cookies with Santa 5:30-7:00 PM</b>
<b>December 8<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>WW Kindergarten Concert – 6:30 PM OHS Aud</b>
<b>December 9<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>WW 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Concert- 6:30 PM OHS Aud.</b> <b>BOE Meeting 6:30 PM OIMS</b>
<b>December 10<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>OIMS 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert – 6:30 PM OHS Aud</b>
<b>December 11<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>EV Kindergarten Concert- 1:45 PM EV</b>
<b>December 12<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>EV 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Concert- 1:45 PM EV</b> <b>EV Santa Night- 6-7:30 PM</b>

**December 17<sup>th</sup>: OHS Concert- 6:30 PM OHS Aud.**

**NO SCHOOL DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>-JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>: School Resumes on Monday January 5<sup>th</sup>**

Don't forget to check out the Family Engagement Page! Go to the school's main website ([www.oleanschools.org](http://www.oleanschools.org)) and in the upper right-hand corner of the screen, click on **Menu**. Scroll down to hover on the **Community Schools** where you will find the **Family Engagement Page**. Here you will find plenty of resources, and we will continue to update these. There are also a **Calendar** and a **Community Events** section that includes both things through the school and a section for events out in the community for families to participate in! New items are listed almost daily, so check them out. We also added a section for **Newsletters** that will be posted monthly. If you know of an event in the community and don't see it listed there, feel free to contact Cindi Rhoades at (716) 375-8031 or [crhoades@oleanschools.org](mailto:crhoades@oleanschools.org) and fill me in. In addition, there is a family resource page for each of our buildings through Parent Square.

**Scroll down for lots of pictures!**



(Farm to School Pumpkin Smash)



(Music Boosters Circus)



(WW Reading Invasion & Title I Parents Night)



(EV Paint with the Principal)



(WW Show Up & Shine)



(EV CUTCO Character Assembly)



(EV CUTCO Luncheon)



(OHS Living Library)

Keep Scrolling!



(Varsity Winter Sports Banquet)



(OHS Music Dept. On Veteran's Day)



(OIMS....Family Swim)



(WW Fall Family Fun Night)



(Community Thanksgiving Dinner)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!