



LEAN

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Home, School and Community Educating for Life"

Capital Project
Vote June 17!
See page 3.

April-May 2008

Volume 4, Issue 5

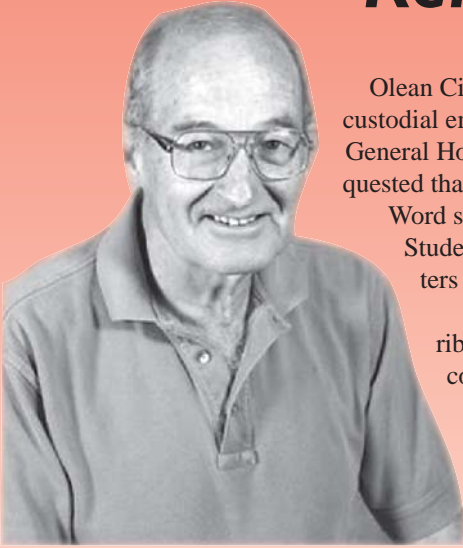
We are the CHAMPIONS!



It was a dream come true for the Olean High School Boys' Basketball team and Coach Jeff Anastasia when they captured the NYS Class B Boys' Basketball Championship title. For the story and more photos, please turn to page 3.



Remembering Harold Dutton



Olean City School District mourned the unexpected passing of beloved and well-respected custodial employee Harold Dutton. Harold passed away on Monday, March 10, at the Olean General Hospital after a battle with cancer. The next day, Superintendent Mark Ward requested that the flag in front of the high school be flown at half mast in Harold's honor.

Word spread quickly and students came to school wearing black in memory of Harold.

Students and staff also created a scrapbook for Harold's family in which they wrote letters to his wife and family recalling the wonderful times they had with Harold.

Students and staff held various fund-raisers, such as purchasing and wearing black ribbons, and donating a portion of funds from the "Up All Night" event in order to contribute to Harold's family. He will be missed by the entire district.

At right, OHS students Chris Klice and Shelby Gadsden made T-shirts to memorialize Harold after his death.



Pair advance to International DECA meet

Seniors Mark Gerwig and Nick Kolasinski were awarded trophies during the NYS DECA competition held in Rochester. Both young men qualified to compete in the International DECA competition which was held in Atlanta, GA, at the end of the April. DECA Advisors and OHS Business Department Chair Christine Stavish expects there to be 20,000 students at the competition.

At the International DECA Competition, held April 26-30, Nick and Mark were one of four teams from New York state to participate in the competition. They were successful in the Internet Commerce/Marketing Division. Each had to answer 100 multiple choice questions. Next, they were given 30 minutes to come up with a plan, and then finally give a 15-minute presentation.

Competing against students from all over New York state was no easy task.

"Most of the schools even have chapter competitions to help them prepare for regionals and states, but we go directly to the regionals and then on to states," Nick said.

"It is exciting! We studied for the multiple choice section. And we certainly have Mrs. Stavish, OHS DECA advisor, to thank for her continued support," said Mark.

"The format at the DECA International Competition is the same as the Regional and National Competition so we know what to expect. We expect to do well," said Mark.

Also competing at the NYS DECA competition were Hannah Penman, Joe Allen, and Emily Mulherin.



DECA winners Mark Gerwig (left) and Nick Kolasinski.

Community Capital Project vote June 17

By Mark J. Ward, Superintendent

During the past four months the Board and administration has taken time to reflect on the reasons why the community rejected the December capital project and have developed a revised plan based on that information. We have attempted to address the most pressing needs of our school buildings by concentrating on improving the learning environment for our students. Classroom heating, ventilation, and fresh air flow in all buildings will be addressed in all buildings. Where possible we are modernizing electrical capacity to meet the technological demands for 21st century learning.

The District has not made any substantial investment in the four (4) elementary buildings or High School in nearly eighteen (18) years and most of this project addresses ongoing upgrades and improvements that should have been made. The project is free of frills but addresses fundamental needs that should be done on a regular basis. A more detailed brochure on all aspects of the capital project will be sent out in early June.

What is the difference between this capital project and the one rejected by the voters in December?

- The project will be reduced by over 50% from \$55,534,000 to \$27,475,000
- Ivers J. Norton Elementary School will remain open
- No funds will be targeted for athletic improvements
- There will be no classroom additions
- Large group instruction room at the High School will not be included
- A new gym will not be built at Boardmanville

What will the project include?

- Upgrades to electrical, heating and plumbing systems
- Substantial technology improvements in all buildings
- Multiple steps to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs
- Classroom upgrades and some renovations at all five (5) buildings
- Improved building security and handicap accessibility
- Traffic flow, safety and parking issues
- Enlarged kitchen and library facilities at IJN
- New entrance on Oviatt Street at Boardmanville
- Window replacements at Washington West and East View
- Emergency generators at the middle and high school

How will it be paid for?

- The District will use \$1.87 million EXCEL funds to cover a large portion of the local share of the project (Funds provided by the State Legislature to Olean that can only be accessed through a voter-approved capital project)
- \$460,000 in debt service reserves will be used over the next 15 years to reduce the local effort
- District will receive over 92% in state aid toward the project cost
- The overall project will be bonded over 15 years in accordance with State regulations
- The local tax increase will be spread over three years with ½ of 1% increase (@\$55,000) each year

Special win for coach's alma mater

"This was always my dream!" began OHS Coach Jeff Anastasia's thank-you speech when he addressed hundreds of well-wishers upon returning home as the coach of the New York State's Boys' Class B Basketball Championship team.



Coach Jeff Anastasia

"I played ball for Olean, and I loved it. I played basketball when I went to college, but found my true love was coaching the sport," Coach Anastasia said. "I wanted, more than anything, to live my dream: return to my alma mater, coach varsity boys' basketball, and someday, bring home the NYS Championship!"

Coach Anastasia has been working with Olean athletes for more than 20 years.



"I have taken teams to the states in the past, but this time, we were able to do it! My dream has come true," Coach Anastasia said.

This was the first time in the school's history that a team captured the state championship. Individual athletes have

placed first at the state level, but no other team has accomplished as much as the OHS Boys' 2007-2008 Basketball Team.

Congratulations Coach Anastasia, Coach Kolasinski, Coach Martin, Coach Blask, and all of the players who worked so hard to bring home the state trophy.

NHS inducts new members

On February 19, eighteen juniors and two seniors were tapped for the OHS Chapter of the National Honor Society. Those who were tapped proceeded to the cafeteria for breakfast and words of encouragement and congratulations from Principal Barb Lias and Superintendent Mark Ward.

On February 24, the National Honor Society candle-lighting induction ceremony was held at the Old Library Restaurant. NHS officers, Mark Gerwig, Emily Sorokes, Kathleen Lewicki, and Carrie DiRisio read about scholarship, leadership, character and service.

"You have accomplished much to be here today," said Mr. Ward, "and much is expected of you."

"You will continue to make your parents, teachers, and community proud because you are well-rounded individuals. You are not here based solely on academics. All of you have demonstrated the four pillars of the National Honor Society: scholarship, leadership, character, and service."

New inductees were: Keriann Bellamy, Kayla Branch, Abigail Bretzin, John Capitani, Angelica Carlson, Megan Dwaileebe, Jocelyn Huselstein, Kristen Jedrosko, Ryan Joyce, Sarah Lehman, Cameron Lewis, Elizabeth Mahar, Kara McGonnell, Sean O'Connell, Michael Powell, Mark Powers, Annie Skrobacz, Jared Warren, Michael Witte and Christopher Young.



Recognized at the Spotlight Luncheon were (l-r) Meghan Guild, Nicole Burgess, Jaleesa Sledge, Erin Colley, Kim McFadden, Duane Lampe, Alex Carpenter, Kyle Higley, Ryan Baer and Chelsea Marcellin.

Spotlight shines on students for going above and beyond

Each month, students at OHS are nominated by staff members to attend and be recognized at the Spotlighters' Luncheon. During the luncheon, the students are treated to a special luncheon prepared by OHS cafeteria employees, given words of encouragement from Mrs. Lias, OHS principal, and Mr. Andreano, OHS vice-principal. Students have received the "Spotlighters" awards for various reasons: helping other students in class, successful work on the yearbook, going above and beyond the call of duty, honesty, and more.

At April's luncheon, there was something different. The name of the awards' luncheon had been changed to the "Harold Dutton Spotlighters' Luncheon." According to luncheon planner, Kathy Welch, "The name change was suggested to me by Janine Scholla because Harold was the epitome of the award. Every month, when a staff member sings the praises of their student nominee at the luncheon, the common thread is the kindness, hard work, dedication, and altruistic attitude that the student possesses. Changing the name seemed the most appropriate way to honor Harold's wonderful qualities and to express how much the OHS community cared for him," she concluded.

Staying 'Up All Night' to help others

Members of the OHS Class of 2010 are shown at right gathering for a picture at the school's annual "Up All Night" event held in March. Many high school students participated in various games and contests during the night, while raising money for two local families. Students had to raise money in advance in order to participate in the all-night fun.



NetStorage allow file access from home

**By Csobanka Wordworth
Administrator for Technology**

Colleges and universities have used NetStorage across the country to provide access to files for their faculty and students. A few public high schools are on the cutting edge of providing this opportunity to their students ... and Olean is ready to do the same.

The Olean City School District is now offering a way for staff and high school students to access their network drives from home or anywhere that has Internet service, using a web browser. With the use of NetStorage district users can have access to their network drives (their H drive) from computers outside the district.

The only requirements for accessing the network drive are a Novell user account, an Internet connection, and a web browser (Mozilla, Netscape, or Internet Explorer). There is nothing to install locally on any computer; it could not get any easier. NetStorage provides users with the ability to download, upload, and delete files from their network drive. Remember, if you are using a dial-up connection, your upload and download speed will not be as fast as using DSL or high-speed cable.

There are forms available in the high school main office for students to pick up and complete. A parent/ guardian will need to sign the form before an account for a student is created. With access to the

network drive come certain user responsibilities. Two of the most important user responsibilities are keeping passwords private and using the server space for school-related purposes only. In addition to the district technology acceptable use guidelines, the district has outlined expectations for student use of NetStorage. These are elaborated upon in the NetStorage agreement form.

This bears repeating ... as a reminder, district server space is for school-related files only.

District staff can contact the Information Technology Services department for information on creating a NetStorage account.



Above is OHS' Israeli Delegation (l-r): Lauren Perkins, Amanda Lasky, Hannah Penman, John Samuelson, Christa Nianiatius, Caitlyn McNamee, John McElfresh, Reed McElfresh and J.D. Olson.

OHS Model United Nations teams impressive at March conference

Congratulations to the Olean High School Model United Nations organization for their placement at the University of Buffalo Model United Nations Conference on March 11.

OHS Model UN delegates representing the United States placed fourth overall, and the OHS delegation representing Israel placed seventh. These are both impressive accomplishments by our students, as there were some 584 student delegates in attendance, representing 54 countries from 32 schools throughout Western New York.

In addition, Christa Nianiatius and Caitlyn McNamee, representing Israel, were chosen Best Delegation in the Ad Hoc Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee.

OHS delegates represented their respective countries' policies, and knew the necessary rules of procedure. Well done, MUN members!

High school blood drive set for May 28

Ryan Nawrot, OHS health and physical education teacher, is planning a blood drive on May 28, which is the last Wednesday in the month.

As always, the students are asked to sign up to donate during their lunch or free period. Mr. Nawrot set up the blood drive late in the school year in order to accommodate those students who had already donated blood to the Community Blood Bank, through DECA, so that they would also be able to donate to this Red Cross blood drive.

If the drive attracts a high number of donations, there is also a good possibility that OHS will be eligible for a scholarship.

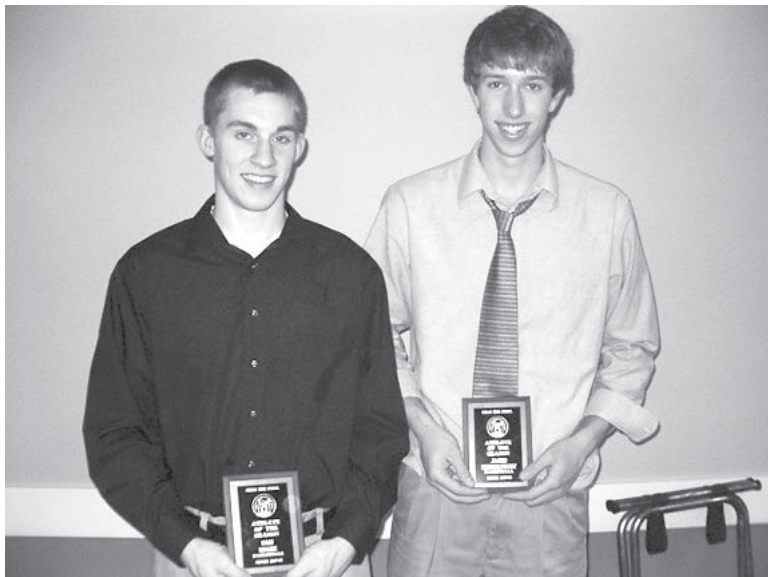
Anyone in the community is also welcome to donate. If you are interested, or need more information about the blood drive, please call Mr. Nawrot at 375-8001.



Athletic Department News



Senior Boys' Basketball player, Reid Gan, and senior cheerleader, Emily Sorokes, have been named OHS Scholar-Athletes for the Winter Season 2007-08. This award is given by the CCAA League and recognizes achievement in academics as well as athletics.



OHS Athletes of the Season for Winter 2007-08 were Sam Moore (left) and Jake Houseknecht of the Varsity Boys' Basketball Team. Sam also was named the WKBW Channel 7 "Super 7 Athlete of the Week" for the week of March 10. Channel 7 presented Sam with this award at basketball practice on Thursday, March 20, in Olean. Congratulations!



Seniors Nicole Calbi and Sam Moore have both been recognized as the league "Player of the Year" in girls' and boys' basketball respectively for the 2007-08 winter sports season. Both were selected for this outstanding award by the CCAA Division I league coaches.



Named to the OHS All-Sportsmanship Team for Winter 2007-08 were (front, l-r) JV Girls' Basketball – Melanie Yanetsko; Varsity Cheerleading – Jessica Williamson; Varsity Girls' Basketball – Nicole Calbi; JV Boys' Basketball – Will Wetherby; and (back, l-r) Varsity Boys' Swimming & Diving – Jacob Hughes; AD's Choice (Boy's Basketball) – Jake Houseknecht; and Varsity Boys' Basketball – Alex Moore. Missing from photo were: Varsity Wrestling – Josh Sallie; Varsity Boys' Bowling – Rob Prince; and Varsity Girls' Bowling – Rebecca Ahearn.



Congratulations to the Olean High School Girls' Basketball Team on capturing the 2007-2008 Section VI Class B Championship title. The girls played a great season under head coach, Don Scholla. Pictured are (front) Nicole Calbi, (middle, l-r) Kelly McKeown, Alicia Mikowicz, Brittney Lee, Rachel Lowry, Nicole Calbi, Megan Kane, Shelby Gadsden, and (back, l-r) Grace Williamson, Brianna Wright, Coach Estes, Jaleesa Sledge, Coach Samuelson, Alicia Stebbins, Taylor Carney, Rachel Kasperski, Rachel Bantelman, Milika Bryant and Coach Scholla.



On March 9, OHS Coach Paul Ksionzyk was inducted into the Cattaraugus County "Sports Hall of Fame." A 1972 graduate of Olean High, Coach Ksionzyk returned to his alma mater as a physical education teacher and coach in 1980. He coached the Boys' and Girls' Cross Country teams for 25 years and is currently in his 28th year as the Boys' Track & Field coach. Coach Ksionzyk is the CCAA Division I Track & Field chairman and also serves as the Section VI Boys' Track & Field Chair. He has been a Section VI Athletic Council Representative from Cattaraugus County for many years. Coach Ksionzyk has always been, and continues to be, a true ambassador for OHS, Cattaraugus County and Section VI. Congratulations to Coach Ksionzyk on this well deserved award! He is pictured at left at the ceremony along with his wife, Diane, and son, Mike.

Athletic Department News



OMS PRESENTS FOR PATIENTS

By Ms. Giardini

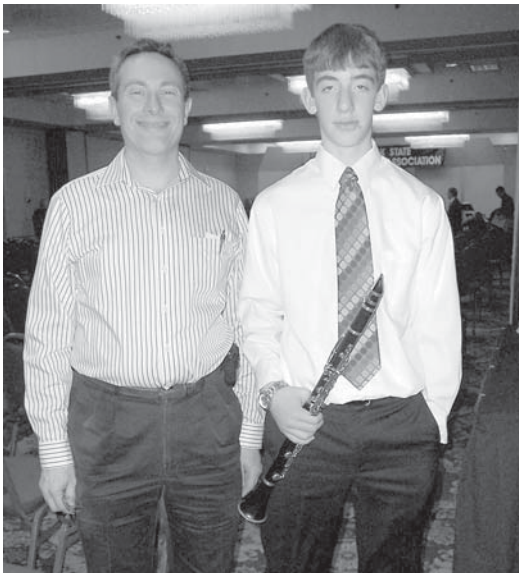
June 1, 2006 was a life-changing day for Lauren Lawless. She was diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia, also known as ALL. Lauren was a patient at Golisano Children's Hospital at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester for more than a month. She continues to go to Golisano every three weeks for continued treatments.

Lauren recalls how boring it was sitting in a hospital bed; the highlight would be when strangers would donate gifts to the children.

Lauren decided to do the same for the children at Golisano's this Easter. She rallied students at OMS to help her fill Easter baskets which would be given to the patients. For three weeks in February and March, Lauren encouraged the students to donate coloring books, crayons, crafts, card games, puzzle books, journals, stuffed animals and reading books.

Lauren's goal was to fill twenty baskets. She easily exceeded that goal and filled forty baskets which she delivered to the children at Golisano on March 21st, 2008.

During her time at OMS, Lauren has been an honor-roll student, SAC treasurer and sings in the chorus. Her desire to brighten Easter for other children has been an inspiration to everyone at OMS!



NYS HONOR BAND

By Miss Garbay

Matt Witte (Grade 8, seen in photo with his dad, Dr. Gil Witte) and Martha Zimmerman (Grade 12) traveled to Syracuse on March 7-9 to participate in the NYS Band Directors Association (NYSBDA) Middle and High School Honor Bands. The bands were conducted by Patrick J. Burnes, Adjunct Professor of Music at Montclair State University in New Jersey, and Dr. Russ Mikkelsen, Director of University Bands and Associate Professor of Conducting at The Ohio State University. Matt and Martha were selected for the ensembles based upon their outstanding spring solo evaluation scores. Congratulations to both!



PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARD WINNERS

In the left photo is sixth-grader Alyssa Abdo, Perfect Attendance Award winner. In the center photo Mercedes Ganoung (left) won \$50 for her perfect attendance from the beginning of the school year and Tomesha Hall (center) was the \$25 winner of the Distinguished Attendance Award. They are being congratulated by Middle School Principal Gerald Trietley. In the right photo is sixth-grader Kayla Henning, who won \$50 for Perfect Attendance. Congratulations, girls!

and the 'Middle'

OMS STAFF LOSES 529 POUNDS

You may no longer recognize some of the staff from OMS. Since January, thirty-two employees took part in the Biggest Loser competition and have lost a combined total of 529 pounds!

The Biggest Loser competition began in January with thirty-two team members weighing in weekly at the school nurse's office. Each participant was given a pedometer and encouraged to walk, exercise, and eat healthy. During the thirteen week program, Mrs. Lamb provided team members with information on topics such as healthy diet, food portions, blood pressure, cholesterol, and diabetes.

Top winners were OMS principal, Mr. Trietley and OMS guidance counselor, Mrs. Wenke. Congratulations to all OMS Biggest Losers!



FIVE STAR BANK MOVIE STAR

Congratulations Liam McNamee, the winner of the *Five Star Bank Wants You to Be Our Movie Star*, good grade incentive program. Every OMS student who earns an "A" in any core subject is eligible to win a night at the movies, compliments of Five Star Bank. To enter, students simply stop by the Olean Branch of Five Star Bank, or the OMS Guidance office with their report card. Each "A" in a core subject earns them a chance in the drawing. A winner is chosen two weeks after each marking period ends. The prize is a \$25 movie gift certificate and a popcorn bucket full of snacks.

In the photo at left are (l-r): Five Star Bank Branch Manager Amy Schneggenburger, OMS Principal Gerald Trietley, Liam McNamee, OMS Assistant Principal Joel Whitcher, and Five Star Bank Assistant Branch Manager Heather Lyons.



WNY SPELLING BEE FINALIST

Seventh-grader Soumitri Barua competed in the Western New York Finals of the Buffalo News Spelling Bee in March finishing in third place. Soumitri advanced to the finals by winning the OMS Spelling Bee for the second year in a row and also having a first place finish in the nine-county test held in February. Congratulations, Soumitri!

Rashad Tarr, Hailey Foster, Keisha Givan and Lacy Wilder competed for cash prizes at a public speaking contest held by Dresser-Rand and sponsored by the OASIS program. The presentations were given at the Old Library Restaurant. Students from Hinsdale Central School and Olean Middle School presented different topics about Dresser-Rand. Hailey Foster's speech on compressors won first place and a prize of \$200. Lacy Wilder's speech on career opportunities at Dresser-Rand placed third for \$75. Keisha Givan and Rashad Tarr each received an Honorable Mention and a \$25 prize. Congratulations to them all for this accomplishment!



DRESSER-RAND PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

'Jump Rope for Heart' raises more than \$5,000

On Tuesday, April 1, the Olean City School District Physical Education Department held its 18th Annual "Jump Rope For Heart" event to benefit the American Heart Association.

This activity, involving about 100 students in grades 4-8, took place in the Olean High School gymnasium from 6-8 p.m. Teams of students jumped for a total of 90 minutes at 2-minute intervals.

Students obtained donations from sponsors in return for their team participating actively in this event. The top fund-raisers from each school are as follows: Anthony Ozzella, Washington West Elementary, \$229; Connor Prizel, Ivers J. Norton Elementary, \$135; Colleen Gerrity, Olean Middle School, \$51; Nate Durham, East View Elementary, \$95; Cassi Stoltz, Boardmanville Elementary, \$327.

"Jump Rope For Heart" serves to promote physical activity and a healthy active lifestyle. It shows students the benefits of a regular exercise program, gives them vital information about cardiovascular health and helps them understand that the way they treat their bodies today will affect the quality of their lives tomorrow.

The event coordinated by the Olean City School District physical education staff and sponsored by the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NYS AHPERD), benefits the American Heart Association. All proceeds raised through "Jump Rope For Heart" benefit the life-saving research and education programs of the AHA.

The grand total raised for this year was \$5,129.66. To date, this annual physical education department event has raised over \$80,000 for the American Heart Association.

Thank you to the Olean community for your continued support of this worthwhile event!



Winners were (l-r) Cassi Stoltz, Boardmanville; Nate Durham, East View; Colleen Gerrity, Olean Middle School; Lauren Metzger, American Heart Association; Anthony Ozzella, Washington West; and Connor Prizel, Ivers J. Norton.

Oasis announces finals review schedule

Finals are just around the corner and starting May 19th Oasis will offer final review classes in Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Spanish and French. Below is a copy of the review class schedule. Please make sure to take advantage of this extra help.

For additional information about the OASIS 21 program contact:

Lynn Corder, Coordinator 375-8097
 Chuck Bauer, Site Supervisor 375-8060 ext 4406
 Mike Forney 375-8990
 Lucinda Turner 375-8060 ext 4137

What: Finals Review Classes

Where: Students must sign in @ cafeteria on scheduled days.

When: May 19, 2008- June 16, 2008



Grade Level	Monday 3:00-4:00	Tuesday 3:00-4:00	Wednesday 3:00-4:00	Thursday 3:00-4:00
6 th	Social Studies Mrs. Speroni Room # 415	Math Ms Jordan Room #417	Science Mrs. Gayton Room # 410	Language Arts Mrs. Flynn Room # 417
7 th	Soc. Studies	Math Mrs. Jones Room # 323	Science Mr. Silvers Room #311	Language Arts Mrs. Mathieson Room #320
8 th	Math Mr. LaCroix Room # 238	Social Studies Mr. Valeri Room #209	Spanish Mrs. Silvers Room # 224	Language Arts Mrs. Dexter Room #226
	Integrated Algebra Mrs. Dunbar Room# 237		Science Mrs. Kosinski Room #216	
7 th & 8 th			French Mrs. Jackson 7 th & 8 th Grade Room # 305	

Reading First in Olean: The big picture K-3

By Lynn Corder,

Reading First Coordinator

The K-3 students in the Olean City School District are making great gains in reading, as we head toward the end of year two of the Reading First Grant! The overall goal of the grant is to have 80% of our K-3 students reading on grade level by June of 2009. As you can see, the graph at right shows a steady increase in scores, outperforming the average scores of all Reading First schools in our region!

In the fall of 2006, our students started the program with just 50% of students at benchmark. A new reading series was implemented, and new teaching strategies were incorporated into the classrooms. Teachers and students focused on the “fab five” skills of reading (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension) and increased the scores to 67% by the end of the year. What a fantastic leap of 17%!

It is important to note that our students maintained their levels over the summer and entered in the fall with only a slight 3% decrease. This is due to a combination not only the great lessons taught in the classroom,

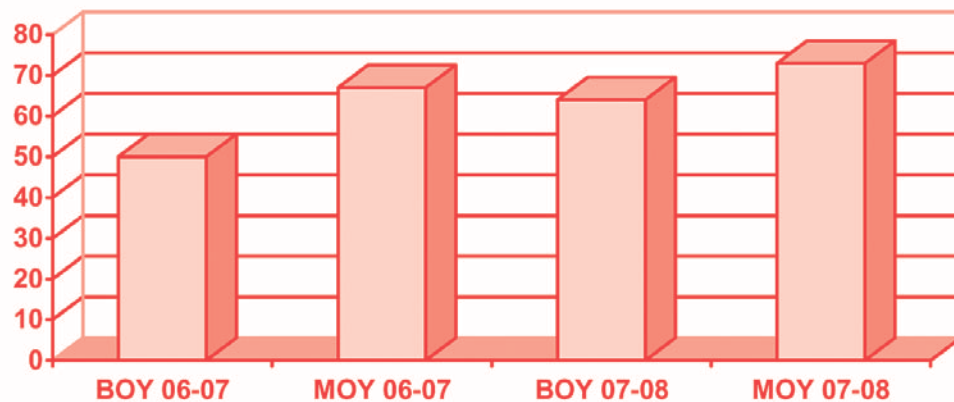
but of the continuous support from parents and extra reading programs/tutoring offered during the Summer Star Program.

Fall of 2007 started with 64% of our students at benchmark. With reading blocks, curriculum, and new strategies in use, the program focus widened to include extra reading time for all students. This additional 30 minutes allowed all students to receive reading lessons that focused on necessary skills, regardless of reading ability;

making it possible to provide lessons that are unique to each group.

Now at an incredible 73%, our teachers and students are more determined than ever! The district is on the road to reaching, and possibly exceeding the 80% benchmark goal by June of 2009. What a fantastic testament to the superb classroom teachers, building principals, reading coaches, hard working students, and dedicated families who make up the Olean City School District.

BOY = Beginning of Year
MOY = Middle of Year



NYS Special Education Review completed

The New York State Education Department's (NYSED) Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) has completed the Special Education Quality Assurance Review in the Olean City School District initiated this school year. This focused review examined the district's compliance with selected Federal and State laws and regulations governing the education of students with disabilities.

The review was conducted by VESID's Special Education Quality Assurance office and staff from the Special Education Training and Resource Center (SETRC) as well as staff from our school district.

The review process involved a review of school records of selected students with disabilities, classroom visitations and staff interviews. In addition, several meetings of the Committee on Special Education were also observed.

The Olean City School District was in compliance with 65 of the 76 areas that were addressed. Strengths included well-run CSE meetings, curriculum that is aligned with the New York State learning standards, all students having access to the general education curriculum, parents are informed, and professional development is occurring. Teachers are using technology, supplemental school personnel are used

effectively, and good behavior management plans are in place. The district needs to focus on diagnostics and evaluative reading strategies with students with disabilities beyond 3rd grade. Weaknesses were also noted in the implementation of some of the Consultant teacher models as well as the educational benefit of students' IEP's. An overview of the findings was presented and discussed at the April 22, 2008 meeting of the Board of Education. A copy of the report may be obtained from the Superintendent's office, located at 410 W. Sullivan St.



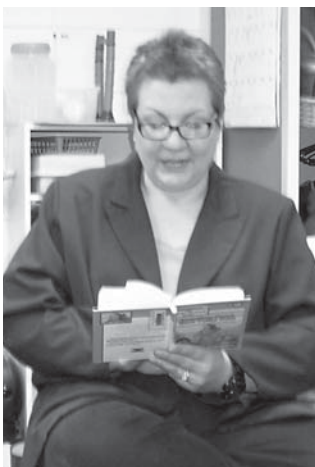
Dressing up for History: Students in Mrs. Olson's third-grade class recently researched and presented information about a given person to the class. They could choose to do a poster or dress like the character that they studied. Pictured above are students dressed as J.E. Matzeliger and George Washington.



Caring for our Community: The Boardmanville PTO sponsored a food drive for local food pantries, inviting other schools and our corporate sponsors to participate. Pictured above is Mr. Talbot's fourth-grade class, who donated the largest amount of food at Boardmanville. Thank you to all who gave so generously to help support families in our community.

A Special Guest

Reader: A BIG thanks to Casey Hill (right), morning DJ at WPIG, seen here reading to Mrs. Metler's class. The students enjoyed listening to her read "Vampires Don't Wear Polka Dots." Students worked on listening comprehension and got to enjoy a different voice. From all the giggles during the story, the kids were definitely enjoying the mental pictures! Thanks again, Casey!



Challenge 24: Pictured below are fourth and fifth grade students who participated in the CHALLENGE 24 math competition held at St. Bonaventure. The team was coached by Mrs. Sullivan. The competition involves students being presented with three numbers, which they must combine in a series of math operations to total 24; sometimes there are multiple solutions for a set of numbers. The boy next to Mrs. Sullivan, and the girl directly in front of him are 4th graders who took fourth place and second place, respectively. Moving over to the right, the two fifth grade girls took first and second place respectively. Congratulations to Mrs. Sullivan and her team of bright young mathematicians!



Boardmanville Elementary School



Helping St. Jude Kids: Boardmanville students collected tabs again this year to help Smitty and WPIG raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Smitty, the Big Pig, and "The Little Pig" visited Boardmanville and collected buckets of tabs!

What's the Weather ... in Dallas? As a way to enhance the science curriculum with technology, Mrs. Schreiber's and Mrs. Bowser's second-grade classes began video conferences with second-graders in Dallas, TX. The video conferences allowed the classes to directly share information and discuss the topic of weather with students in Dallas. For three weeks, each class presented the local forecast, a graph of the week's weather, and pictures of the Olean area to their partner school in Dallas. At the end of each session, students were able to ask questions via the Polycom (video conferencing equipment). Talking and learning in real time with students in another part of the country was exciting and engaging for the students. Special thanks to Ms. Gina Pecora, Mrs. Bowser's student teacher, for creating the PowerPoints used during the video conferences, as well as Mrs. Sue Grosso for setting up the equipment.



Accelerated Reader Store: Earning Accelerated Reader points is really paying off for East View students. The points students earn for reading books and correctly answering questions about those books can now be converted to Accelerated Reader "Bucks." These "bucks" are used to purchase items from East View's Accelerated Reader Store, a portable store, which is run by fifth-grade students from Mr. Crawford's class.

East View Elementary School



Celebrating Dr. Seuss: East View celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with a variety of activities: all the classrooms decorated the outside of their rooms with scenes from Dr. Seuss books, Mayor David Carucci read "Green Eggs and Ham" to the entire school, and a huge hat from Cat in the Hat was created from cupcakes (which the students later enjoyed). Thanks to Pre-K teacher, Mrs. Jill Obenrader, for coordinating the events.



A Blast from the Past: East View's Spring Concert was a real "Blast from the Past" as the fourth- and fifth-graders performed songs from the 1970s. One of the highlights of the concert was our own version of the Village People performing "YMCA." Congratulations to all the fourth- and fifth-graders and music teacher, Mr. Bill Hughey, for a great concert. Also, thanks to Middle School music teacher, Mrs. Jackie Eustis, and parents, Stephen Foster, Tom Pilon, and Martin McCall for providing the live music for the concert.



1970s Themed Spring Concert: On March 13 all children in grades four and five participated in the Spring 1970's Concert. Parents participated in the show by answering 70s music trivia questions posed by Mr. Hughey and also by providing dress for the children in some kind of 1970's style. The girls dressed in loud and multi-colored, silk, big/open collars, bell-bottoms, curly and feathered-back hair, headbands, clogs and platform shoes (don't forget the lip gloss!). The boys dressed in polyester pants and shirts, (remember the leisure suits?) brown, yellow, white and powder blue were popular colors, black platform shoes, bell-bottoms, feathered-back and big-curly hair with lots of headbands. And let's not forget the great music of the concert! The 70s music was just terrific and the students did a fantastic jobs. The students were accompanied by a real life rock band which consisted of parents.



Challenge 24: On March 22, two fourth-grade boys from IJN participated in the Challenge-24 competition at St. Bonaventure University. They spent weeks prior practicing for the competition, which entails deriving the number 24 by using any operations and four numbers pre-printed on playing cards. Both boys advanced to the final round in the competition along with four other fourth-grade students from surrounding areas. Congratulations to the boys! Their hard work and dedication truly paid off and the entire IJN community is extremely proud of their efforts.

Reading Circle Program:

Ivers J. Norton was selected to participate in The Reading Circle, a FREE literacy program designed to encourage a parent or guardian to read with their child at an early age, instill a lifetime love of reading in children between ages 3-8, and make family reading fun. The program provides a continuous flow of books to children. A child takes home the initial book packet to enjoy with their family and from then on the books are returned and delivered through pre-paid postal envelopes. There is never a cost to the child, parent, or school. All of us at IJN are truly grateful for the generosity of the Bares Circle Foundation of Ellicottville for giving us the opportunity to participate in this terrific program. So far, the Reading Circle has circulated over 11,000 books during the 2007-2008 school year. In the future the other elementary schools in Olean may be invited to participate in the program if the IJN families continue to show this great involvement! **Great Job IJN families!** Please contact Susan Avery at the Community Schools office if you are interested in more information about this wonderful program.

Ivers J. Norton Elementary School



Using Laptops for Learning: The students are shown here utilizing laptops in Ms. Stuff's fourth-grade classroom. The laptops allow for more flexibility with space and location in the classroom environment. Students were working on measuring the perimeter of different shapes. They were also using geoboards and measuring the distance around the figures.



History Comes Alive: Husky pups in Mrs. Martin's, Mrs. Matekja's, Mrs. Martin's, Mrs. Monroe's, Mrs. Phillips' and Mrs. Ullman's classes recently took a field trip to the World War 11 Museum in El-dred, Pennsylvania, to get ideas for developing their own "living museum" at WW in June!

A Cinderella Adventure: The fourth- and fifth-graders in Mrs. Ullman's class went on a "Cinderella adventure." First, they read eight Cinderella stories from around the world. After learning about the story elements they wrote their own Cinderella stories. One fourth-grade boy stated, "I know this is kind of weird because it is Cinderella, but I am so excited to write my story!" The stories written by the students varied from traditional Cinderella stories to a Star Wars spin off with a Cinderella twist. It was a great opportunity to target a variety of skills!



Agriculture Literacy Day: Second-graders in the classes of Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Lewicki and Mr. Martin came together and enjoyed a visit from Pat Kerl and Charlie Jurenko, volunteers from the Cornell University Cooperative Extension. As part of Agriculture Literacy Day, Pat and Charlie read the students a story called "Sugarbush Spring" and gave students an opportunity to sample pure maple syrup. The students enjoyed the story, but the highlight of the presentation was definitely being able to taste the delicious sweet maple syrup!



Visiting Eden Heights: Our traveling pups also visited residents at Eden Heights Senior Citizen Home and handed out decorations and a treat. As a culminating activity, one of the seniors played the piano, and our students danced the "Hokey Pokey." What a great way to celebrate spring with our friends at Eden Heights!

Washington West Elementary School



It's What's on the Inside that Counts! Second-grade teacher, Mrs. Lewicki, and Resource Room/consultant teacher, Mrs. Davis, read a story about Helen Keller with their husky pups. To help students better relate to the disability of being blind, they were blindfolded and led around the classroom by a "guide dog" (a classmate). Students also took a "taste test" and tried to guess what food they were going to eat without looking at it. They realized how important their other senses were when they were unable to use their sense of sight. This lesson made the girls and boys also realize that they shouldn't judge someone just because they have a disability or are different from them because it's what is on the inside that counts!

OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

410 W. Sullivan St.

Olean, NY 14760

www.oleanschools.org

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Parent Literacy Educator hired

Recognizing that parents are their children's first and most important teachers, the Olean City School district has hired a new staff member to provide opportunities to increase parent involvement and improve family literacy. Susan Avery is the new Parent Literacy Educator. She is with Community Schools and is working with the elementary school staff to organize family literacy programs and events.

We launched our first program, The Reading Circle, in April. All K-2 students at Ivers J Norton Elementary were enrolled in this free program. The program will bring books directly into the home from May to August for parents and children to read together. A literacy family night themed "Catch the Reading Bug" will be held at the Olean Public Library for the Class of 2021 kindergarteners on June 4th. Library cards and kindergarten literacy bags will be distributed to participants at the event. We want to encourage families to use the library, its services, and the activities in the literacy bag to increase their kindergartener's readiness to start school this fall. A monthly newsletter will be heading to the homes of our elementary school families early May. Susan will be sharing information in each newsletter to assist parents, and other family members in their efforts to support reading and language development in our elementary aged students.

We are excited to have families active in literacy. For more information, Susan can be reached at 716-375-8000, ext. 3154.



Susan Avery



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