



LEAN

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Home, School and Community Educating for Life"

February-March 2008

Volume 4, Issue 4

The Husky Shop opens for business

The Husky Shop has opened at OHS! On Monday, February 4, members of the DECA Club gathered as OHS Principal Mrs. Lias cut the ribbon signifying the grand opening of the new school store located on the second floor of the high school.

Others on hand for the grand opening were Superintendent of Schools Mark Ward, Board of Education President Michael Martello and Business Administrator Ann O'Brien.

According to school store worker Rachel Moscato, "The business department teachers, Mrs. Stavish and Mrs. Frentz, felt it would be a great idea for the students to learn how to really run a store. This is practical experience



OHS Principal Barb Lias and senior Hannah Penman at the ribbon-cutting.

for all of us."

"We had to decide what to order, how much to order, count the items upon

receipt, and price everything," said Rachel. "Hannah Penman and I are working on getting the word out to the students about the new store."

One way the store workers are spreading the news is by wrapping hundreds of notes on pencils and distributing them to everyone in homeroom. The notes will read, "The Husky Shop is now open!"

Items available for the student body and staff to purchase include OHS flip flops, a variety of hats, scarves, bags, beads, towels and more. The students plan on adding school supplies soon. The Husky Shop is open before and after school to serve everyone's needs.

Thank you, Five Star Bank employees!

Five Star Bank employees in Olean, through the company's corporate giving program "Children and Education," are volunteering in area kindergarten classrooms by reading to children, along with other activities. On February 4, bank representatives presented bookmarks to the four Reading First coaches to be used as reading incentives. The Olean City Schools is thankful for the generosity of our community partners.

Pictured are (back, l-r) Boardmanville coach Patty Howden, Washington West coach Jennifer Kless, Amy Schneggenburger of Five Star Bank, Heather Lyons of Five Star Bank, Ivers J. Norton coach Pam Neary, East View coach Linda Nottingham and (front, l-r) Washington West students Sophia Renaud, Morgan Hawkins, John Perry and Jacob Burton.



Board moving forward with revised Capital Project vote planned for June 10

By Mark J. Ward,
Superintendent

Following the December Capital Project vote, the Board of Education and administration carefully reviewed the results of the exit surveys and have taken the time to listen to district residents. The feedback and dialogue has given everyone a better perspective on what our community would like and is willing to support in a Capital Project. Based on that information, the board has decided to move forward with a “revised project” which will formally be adopted in March. The proposed project will focus on the following:

- Maintaining four elementary schools
- Using EXCEL (Expanding our Children’s Education and Learning) funds to cover the district’s local share for the project
- Improving the learning environment (classroom upgrades)
- Making substantial technology improvements
- Upgrading the electrical, heating and plumbing systems
- Increasing energy efficiency and savings
- Enhancing building security and handicap accessibility
- Addressing traffic flow, safety and parking issues

While the final scope and costs associated with the project have not been finalized, the project will be in the neighborhood of \$27,650,000. One of the fundamental goals of the board will be to present a project that has no tax impact on the local taxpayers.

There are no plans for any major additions to our existing buildings. Instead, we plan to work within the present structures to make improvements and upgrades. The project will address many specific areas of need in the Ivers J. Norton Elementary School, including: a small addition to the kitchen/storage area to remove the cafeteria serving line from the hallway, enlarging and remodeling the library, enlarging and renovating the second floor bathrooms for handicapped accessibility, replacing deteriorated flooring throughout the building, and increasing storage space in all classrooms.

In addition, we plan to address improved traffic flow and additional parking at East View, Washington West and Boardmanville. These improvements will be more “user friendly” and increase safety for student drop off and pick up. The entrances to East View and Boardmanville will both be upgraded to allow for more safety and control. The main scope of the work in the high school will focus on improving instructional space and replacing the current heating and air-handling systems.

In order to eliminate any costs to the local taxpayer, the district plans to use EXCEL Aid to pay for the district’s share of the project. This is money that has been set aside by the NYS Legislature for every school district to improve their school facilities. Olean has been allocated \$1.87 million, but can only access it through a voter-approved capital project.



Mark Gerwig and Emily Mulherin take a break between DECA competitions.

Business students place at DECA competition

By Christine Stavish
High School Business Teacher

Ten OHS DECA students participated at Alfred University for the Regional DECA competition on January 4. This is Olean High School’s second year as members in DECA, and our students all performed exceptionally well. Five of our DECA members did so well that they were invited to compete in Rochester on March 5-7. Nick Kolasinski placed first for New York DECA Region 11/13, and Mark Gerwig was third. Because of this, Nick and Mark are definitely candidates for the state competition which will be held at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. Hannah Penman, Emily Mulherin and Joe Allen were also invited to compete for the state competition. The three seniors scored in the top three for the regional competition, and at which they scored in the top three for the district.

Nick and Mark will team together for E-Commerce challenges, testings and role plays. Emily will compete in the Prepared Speech Division, Hannah will compete in Sales’ Demonstration Division and Joe will be compete in the Retail Merchandising area. Over 2,000 students across the state will be ready to compete and represent their schools. If these students place in the top five (overall) at states in their test area, they can qualify to go to nationals in Atlanta which is the International Career Development Conference. Good luck, everyone!

District students, staff donate to food pantry

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national, youth-led movement that tackles the problem of hunger during Super Bowl week. Since it began in 1990, \$41 million worth of food and monetary donations has been generated by youth across the country to help people in need. For the past few years, the Stetz family had dedicated their time and efforts to organizing the event. This year, OHS junior Annie Skrobacz took over the event from the Stetz family.

During Super Bowl week, January 28 to February 1, the Olean City School District and Southern Tier Catholic Schools participated in the National Souper Bowl of Caring with a canned-food drive in the elementary schools and Hat/Dress Down Day at the middle and high schools. Everyone - from the Olean Board of Education and Superintendent Mark Ward, who granted permission for the project, to Dave Fidurko's maintenance staff who collected the donations from the elementary

schools and dropped them off at the Olean Food Pantry - had a hand in making the National Souper Bowl of Caring a success.

The elementary students and staff collected over 5,000 cans, while the middle and high school students and staff contributed \$500. All of the donations were contributed to the Olean Food Pantry.

Maureen Curry, Olean Food Pantry coordinator, was overwhelmed with the generosity of the students and staff.

Donating to the Olean Food Pantry has become a tradition with the Olean High School staff, as well. And this year is no different. During December, everyone joined together to create theme baskets which were raffled off at the high school's and middle school's annual holiday party. The baskets contained reindeer, books and bites, movie tickets, specialty coffees and teas, and much more. Tickets were sold throughout the month and raised \$325. The proceeds from the baskets were donated to the Olean Food Pantry.



OHS Junior Annie Skrobacz helps unload boxes of food recently donated by students and staff in the Olean City School District.

High school students recognized for attendance

It takes will power, determination, and diligence to make it to school every day! Sometimes, a student might not feel 100 percent, but school is important, and being in class is imperative to grasping the concepts teachers are presenting.

Congratulations to the following OHS students who achieved perfect attendance for the first quarter: Shanae Abdo, Randy Abel, Arron Anastasia, Kaitlyn Andreano, Jaysen Baum, Ryan Bohn, Amber Boula, Amanda Carlson, Ashley Carlson, Kyle Clarke, Tabytha Cleveland, Kaitlyn Cooney, William Dombroski, Michael Eddy-Crawford, Todd Hanson, Justin Hatzell, Cody Hogle, Tanner Kahm, Lindsay King, Chelsie Knapp, David Kranock, Mari-Linn Labella, Garrett Maurouard, Reed McElfresh, Andrew McIntyre, Tchianna McPeak, Anamarie Mehmel, Catrina Miller, Andrew Panus, Paul Pezzimenti, Karimah Rahman, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Ryan Scheminger, Amanda Seaward, Avery Shoup, Anthony Stivers, Jessica Swetland, Nicole Williams, Christopher Young and Jeffrey Zambanini.



Economics class tours Dresser-Rand

OHS students are shown above while on a plant tour of Dresser-Rand Industries in Olean in January. Pictured are Dylan Smith, Culley Steiner, Nicole Calbi, Megan Kane, OHS Economics teacher Mrs. Wolfgang, Nate Pleakis, Jake Houseknecht, Tanaka VanDruff, Angela Luty, Jessica Williamson and Michelle Burns, Project Analyst Supervisor.

Parents notified of Level 2 & Level 3 sex offenders

The Olean Board of Education has approved a policy that requires all parents be notified of any level 3 sex offenders who are living in our school district. A level 3 offender is the most serious and the “risk” to the community is considered high. Therefore, the District will be using this newsletter to publish the names, addresses and other pertinent information related to the nature of the offense committed by such sex offender.

For the public’s convenience, we have established a “link” on the front page of the District’s web site www.oleanschools.org with the NYS neighborhood Predator Report. This link takes you to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services where you can find additional information and the picture of any Level 3 sex offender living in our school district. We believe you have a right to know and we will continue to notify you periodically.

Steven M. Allen
603 E. Highland Avenue
1st degree sexual abuse, 2nd degree rape
Female 13

Steven Clemons
603 E. Highland Avenue
1st degree sexual abuse, 2nd degree rape
Female 13

Frank B. Cole
927 ½ Buffalo Street, Apt. 2
Forcible Touching
Male 9

Frederick (Freddy) Crawford
2nd degree sexual abuse
Male 11

David Crum
2nd degree sexual conduct against a child
Female 5

Joseph C. Cucchiaro
1010 Washington Street
2nd degree sexual abuse
Female 12 and 13

Jack E. Denning
314 S. 3rd Street
2nd degree sexual abuse
Female 11

Clark Follett
2nd degree sexual abuse
Female 13 and 14

Cecil Gayton
3rd degree rape
Female 14

Fred George
1401 ½ Washington Street
2nd degree rape, incest
Female 12 and 15

Raymond A. Grygo
306 Tompkins Street
2nd degree sexual abuse
Female 10

Victor L. Harrison
209 E. State Street, Apt. 5
2nd degree sexual abuse
Female 7

Mitchel Hinckley
372 Hamilton Street
1st degree sexual abuse
Female 13

Richard T. Hurrle
Out of state sex felony
Female 8 and 9

Richard M. Kline
346 W. Highland Avenue
2nd degree sexual abuse
Female 4

Daniel (Buddy) Langdon
215 W. Green Street
Sexual misconduct
Female 16

Lionel Luper
3rd degree attempted rape
Female

Dennis A. Merrill
615 ½ E. State Street, Upper Apt
2nd degree sexual abuse
Female 12

Darryl Myers
114 ½ Fulton Street
1st degree sexual abuse
Female 14

Luis Otero
3rd degree criminal sexual act
Female 16

Max Reyes
912 Front Street, Upper
Out of state sex felony
Female 2, 6, and 8

Clifford Thompson
313 South Third Street
1st degree attempted rape
Female 7

Maurice (Ed) Turner
611 W. Henley Street, Lower 1
1st degree sexual abuse
Female 10

Kenneth Werts
633 S. Union Street, Apt. 6
1st degree sodomy, 2nd degree sodomy
Male 12

**To learn
more ...**

go to www.oleanschools.org
and click on the
NYS neighborhood
Predator Report link.
This link takes you to the
New York State Division
of Criminal Justice
Services.



The OHS Winter Weekend Court attendants were (front, l-r) sophomore Megan Wells, senior Alexa Blackmon, Queen Kim McFadden, senior Beth LeRoy, junior Alejandra Cardenas, freshman Kelsey Pleakis and (back, l-r) sophomore Scott Brady, senior John McElfresh, King Joe Pleakis, senior Jake Houseknecht, junior Matt Hopkins and freshman Taylor Bold.



Senior Thomas Travis shows off his class spirit during the Winter Weekend activities.

Winter Weekend 2008

OHS students enjoyed a week of activities celebrating Winter Weekend 2008. On Monday, students dressed in their pajamas and on Tuesday, the students donned outfits which represented celebrities. One of the highlights of the week was Wednesday when students dressed like the teachers, while many of the staff entered school dressed as students. On Thursday, students wore their nerdiest clothes. Friday was scheduled as Spirit Day, but a snow day cancelled school. Saturday evening's dance was held as scheduled and students turned out by the hundreds to dance the night away and crown the court at midnight.



At left, sophomores Christina Devling and Megan Wells wear homemade T-shirts cheering on basketball players Joe Palumbo and Jake Houseknecht. Below, seniors (l-r) Martha Zimmerman, Emily Sorokes, Alison Brady, Tanaka VanDruff, Angela Luty, Alyse Bright, Anna Miller, Christine Bartimole and Chris Fox sing the Alma Mater at the beginning of the Winter Weekend assembly.



After-Prom Party is BACK!

The 10th annual **Olean High School After-Prom Party** will be held immediately following the prom on May 4 from 1-4 a.m. at the **Olean Middle School**. All students must sign in by 1:30 a.m. This event is **free** and open to **ALL** juniors and seniors, not just those attending the prom. Permission letters will be sent home to parents/guardians and must be returned to Mrs. Stavish at OHS by May 2.

Activities will include volleyball, swimming, ping pong, basketball, computers, card tournaments, and movies. Plenty of food and refreshments will be provided throughout the night. TV's, DVD players, digital cameras, mini-refrigerators, microwaves, MP3 players and gift certificates will be given away. **Everyone** in attendance will win a prize.

The OHS After-Prom Party is made possible through the generosity of area merchants and parents. The goal is to provide a safe and fun alternative on prom night when peer pressure and wrong choices are tempting. If you have questions or would like to make a donation, please contact Mrs. Maureen Ullman at 375-8968, ext. 2126, or mullman@olean.wnyric.org.

Music Booster News

The Olean Music Boosters worked with the high school music students to host an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at Applebee's on Saturday, January 26. The music students seated, served, and bussed tables when their guests finished eating. About 150 people attended the event. This is the first time the Music Boosters have hosted this fund-raiser, but they hope to make it an annual event. All proceeds will be dedicated to the String Festival held at Houghton College in May.

The OHS Music Boosters are always looking for new volunteers and patrons. The boosters meet the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the second-floor conference room at the high school. To learn more about how you can help, please contact Jackie Reed at 378-1197.



Saving lives, one blood drive at a time

If you attend OHS, are 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and are looking for the opportunity to save someone's life, you need to look no farther! Health and physical education instructor Ryan Nawrot has been promoting bloodmobiles at the high school. The impact of saving another human being's life is just one reason for students to donate an hour of their time. According to American Red Cross Account Manager Melissa Riehle, "High schools are actually the largest supplier of blood. In fact, the American Red Cross typically struggles with blood shortages during the times when high schools are on break. This just goes to show you that high schools are a great source of blood."

The students and staff at Olean High School donated 24 pints of blood during their December drive. While the number may have fallen short of the school's goal of 35 pints, Ms. Riehle was quick to point out that, "24 units of whole blood were separated into 70 components which resulted in 72 lives being saved because of the OHS Blood Drive."

What makes students donate? According to OHS junior Andrew Mehmel (*pictured above*), "Since 9/11, the blood shortage has really made me think about it. The age was lowered, and I have been donating whenever I am eligible. I've donated once out of school. I donate when possible. It's a really good feeling when I donate; it doesn't hurt. Most people are just afraid of the needle. Everyone who has been there while I have been giving blood has talked me through the experience. It's not bad at all."

According to Ms. Riehle, once the donations leave OHS they are transported to the American Red Cross main office in West Henrietta where they undergo testing, packaging and processing.

"Most people don't realize that red blood cells are only usable for 42 days, the platelets are usable for five days, and the plasma can be frozen for up to one year. This demonstrates why the blood is collected quickly, tested, typed, packaged, and shipped in order for it to reach and benefit a patient in need," she added.

Track team sends care packages to Iraq

OHS students and staff were called upon by the track team members to donate items to be shipped to our service men and women serving in Iraq. Track coach Paul Ksionzyk organized the efforts with his team. The students began the community service project by placing signs throughout the school and running announcements as reminders. Contributions to the project came in the form of gum, candy, popcorn, hot cocoa, playing cards, and much more.

The track team members and their coaches collected the donations before the boys' and girls' basketball games in January. The teammates gathered with their coaches to prepare the packages and send them to the soldiers.

Students say H.S. Advisory Committee works!

If you were given the opportunity to try to make suggestions and changes at your school, would you be willing to work with others? A group of volunteers at Olean High School have gotten involved in order to see what improvements they can make. The group is made up of freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors who meet with OHS Principal Barb Lias every month. The students are gathered, two classes at a time, to discuss what has happened at OHS since their last meeting. Over lunch, everyone is informed by Mrs. Lias about the previous month's issues.

Junior Andrew Mehmel joined the Principal's Advisory Committee because he felt it would be an avenue of communication between the student body and the administration. "In the past, when I was looking for a quiet place to do my homework, I would try to go to the school library when school was dismissed.

Unfortunately, it wasn't open. I brought it up and many of the students thought it would be a great idea to have our school library open after school. It would give lots of kids increased study time, access to study materials. We would like the library open for at least half an hour after school. Mrs. Lias is working on having the library staffed after dismissal."

"The Principal's Advisory Committee works!" Andrew exclaimed. "Mrs. Lias does her best to get things working. We are trying to fix the fountains in the school and have them pump out cold water. We meet once a month. We present Mrs. Lias with a new list of ideas of what students think need to be changed in school. Mrs. Lias gives us her list and shows us what has happened the previous month."

The committee has also requested Advanced Economics be offered next year, and according to Mrs. Lias, "It's a go!"

The juniors and seniors who attended the January meeting commented on the improvement in school lunches. "The lunches are really starting to come around," according to senior Mark Gerwig.

Other areas which were discussed included the condition of the soccer and baseball fields, National Honor Society, SAT classes for review, and students being able to gain access into the school after hours. Mrs. Lias said that perhaps a walkie-talkie system could be implemented for the students' convenience when they forget a book or homework assignment. She will continue to work on it.

While students see there is work to do, they were also pleased with what they have been able to accomplish.

Spotlight Students of the Month named

Congratulations to the following OHS students who have been named to February's Spotlight of the Month:

Zach Cooper - nominated by Mrs. Giardini and Mrs. Skiver for being named the Male Youth Athlete of the Year for Special Olympics.

Lyndsey Baldwin - nominated by Mrs. Ventura for going out of her way to be helpful in English class.

Sarah Peterson - nominated by Mrs. Ring for her helpful and positive attitude in class.

Anthony Watts - nominated by Mrs. Ring for agreeing to be in charge of a class and always being an excellent participator and contributor in class.

Amanda Seaward and Cody Hogle - nominated by Mr. Anger for demonstrating patience and kindness toward another student.

Amber Grimes - nominated by Mrs. Wenke for her genuine caring for others, good deeds and acts of kindness.

Alex Carpenter - nominated by Mrs. Rosel for stepping in to help her in a difficult situation.

Sarah Nodler - nominated by Mrs. Scholla for doing a very kind deed for another student.

Gina Melaro, Vanessa Finch, Ashley Bly, Felisha Buchinger - nominated by Mrs. Skrobacz for their efforts in journalism and nailing their yearbook deadlines.

Penn York College Night is March 11

The annual Penn York College Night will be held on March 11 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at St. Bonaventure University's Reilly Center. There will be representatives from nearly 100 colleges and universities available to talk with interested students and parents.



French students create Yule logs

Juniors in Mrs. Napoleon's French class display the Yule log they created. Shown from (l-r) are Kerriann Bellamy, Jared Hamer, Michael Witte, Jen Howard and Christa Nianiatius.





DRESSING UP FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

Mrs. Perry's Gray Team students Brandon Austin, Nicole Sova and Jimmy Dombrowski are pictured at left dressed up as a gangster, flapper, and auto mechanic representing workers from the 1920's time period. As part of a social studies project, the students also needed to complete a five-minute PowerPoint presentation.

HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!

As a culmination to their unit about China, Green Team students celebrated the Chinese New Year by sampling a variety of foods from this area. Some students mastered the art of using chopsticks, but not all! However, everyone enjoyed decoding the meaning behind their fortune cookie. The Chinese New Year project was a successful educational experience for everyone involved. Pictured above are (l-r) Luke Bowser, Corie Both, Malik Burney and Mrs. Bean.



News from around



Mr. Schwabenbauer, Olean Food Pantry students (l-r) Maggie Moore, Kelly Hustak and

THE PURPLE T

Mrs. Carrie Samuelson's eighth-grade Purple T-shirts back to their community and to put others first. in one of several projects throughout the year.

Their most recent effort involved a school-wide long event involved daily announcements, both others' needs first and donate money or canned a goal of raising \$20, enough to feed a family of

Collections in the homerooms were tallied as a way to encourage participation. There was also the privilege of wearing a hat all day. The Purple T-shirts reading announcements, making and hanging signs over \$200 in just pennies, nickels dimes and quarters counts. In addition to the school-wide collection and proceeds from the after-school OASIS student a success. On December 18, OMS students presented \$1,000. In addition, several boxes of canned goods through Mr. Shoup's health classes.



LAISSEZ LES BONS TEMPS ROULER!

Mrs. Jackson's seventh- and eighth-grade French classes celebrated Mardi Gras on Tuesday, February 6. The classes enjoyed the traditional New Orleans King's Cake (pictured above with the eighth-grade advanced class) and other fun delicacies. The history of Mardi Gras was discussed and each student received a strand of beads in the traditional colors of purple, green and gold. As they say in New Orleans, "Laissez les bons temps rouler! (Let the good times roll!)"

und the 'Middle'



president accepts a check from middle school and Stephanie Devling.

TEAM GIVES BACK

Team students are being encouraged to give Teachers are asking each student to participate

wide collection for the Food Pantry. The week-a sung and spoken, asking OMS students to put goods to the Food Pantry. Each homeroom had of five a holiday meal.

on a homeroom chart (thermometer style) as so a Hat Day in which students paid \$1 for ple Team students' involvement ranged from signs, to collecting and counting money. With quarters, our students realized that every **little bit** n, the staff's "Comfort for Charity" collection dents' raffle helped to make our fund raising sented a check to the Olean Food Pantry for oods were collected in the school lobby and

SIXTH-GRADERS PLACE IN POETRY CONTEST

This year, four sixth-grade students in Mrs. Hendrix's class at Olean Middle School earned awards for their participation in the Friends of the Olean Public Library poetry contest. Alex Sertick earned the first place award, Matt Ketchner received second-place honors, and Janelle Shaffer and Allyson Threehouse both received honorable mentions. Congratulations!



SOUPER BOWL HAT DAY

Olean Middle School students participated in Souper Bowl Hat Day. Students paid \$1 to wear a hat all day and the collection was donated to the Souper Bowl charity effort. Pictured (l-r) are Joe Reed, Tom Skudlarek and Michael Padlo.

SPELLING BEE WINNERS

On January 18, 40 Middle School students participated in the annual Spelling Bee held in conjunction with the Buffalo News. This year, the spelling bee consisted of 150 written words. Seventh-grader Soumitri Barua was named OMS Spelling Bee champion for the second year in a row. Runner up was Sarah Barlett, also a seventh-grader. Both students are members of the Blue Team. Soumitri went on to compete in the county-wide spelling bee test on February 6. Congratulations to all our participants!



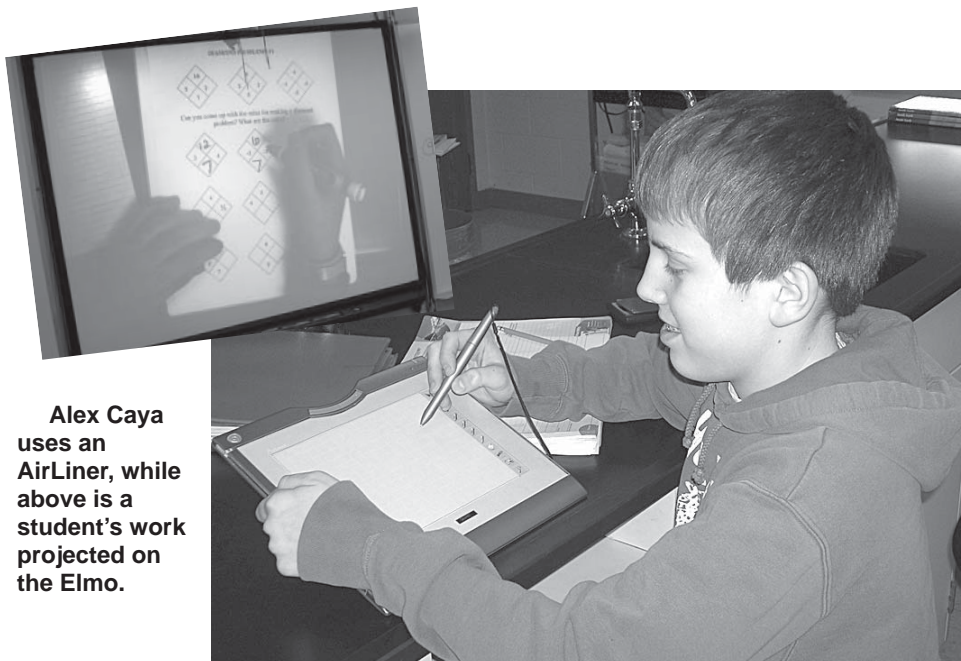
Elmos, SMART Boards and AirLiners, oh my!

By Ms. Carmen Soplop,
M.S. Library Media Specialist

New technology is finding its way into the classrooms at Olean Middle School. The 21st century has definitely arrived! If the lingo confuses you, here is a quick run-down.

An Elmo is a visual presenter, commonly called an Elmo, because that is the brand name. It is actually a small camera that takes a picture of any object that is placed on the platform below it. The Elmo needs to be connected to a data projector or monitor in order to view the object or image. It is especially useful for showing small, three-dimensional objects that need to be enlarged for easy viewing. It is also great for projecting worksheets or pages from books such as colored maps, paintings, sheet music, etc. This ability to function as an opaque projector makes it much more versatile than the more common overhead projectors that are used in many classrooms. At Olean Middle School, the library has an Elmo and data projector on a compact mobile cart which makes it easy to move from classroom to classroom as needed. Mrs. Dunbar, an eighth-grade math teacher, also has one in her room. Students enthusiastically volunteer to work at the Elmo every day.

SMART Boards are amazing! A SMART Board is also another brand name. It is an interactive whiteboard. It is a large screen that is usually mounted in the front of a classroom easily viewed by all the students. It is connected to a computer and uses a data projector to



Alex Caya
uses an
AirLiner, while
above is a
student's work
projected on
the Elmo.

display the computer screen on the board. Currently we have several television monitors and ceiling projectors that allow one to project a computer screen. However, a SMART Board takes this ability into an interactive realm. The screen actually acts as a giant mouse so that users can just use a finger to point, click, drag etc. One can also write on the board using digital ink. There is a whole palette of tools that allows the user to manipulate and interact with the data in many ways. Currently SMART Boards have found their way into just a few lucky classrooms at OMS.

An AirLiner, also put out by SMART

Technology, is actually just a smaller, mobile version of a SMART Board. It is a wireless slate that runs on batteries so it allows the teacher to walk around the room while using it, or the students to take turns using it from their seats. It can be used in conjunction with a SMART Board, or on its own, to control images or other data on a large screen. An AirLiner allows you to use all the manipulative tools of the SMART Board software.

Mrs. Samuelson's eighth-grade science class uses an AirLiner on a daily basis. In the words of some of her students, it is "awesome," "fun," and "makes learning more interesting because it is interactive."



Middle School honors attendance winners

Middle School Principal Trietley congratulates eighth-grader Stacia Farris as she was named the most recent Perfect Attendance winner.

Principal Trietley with Chelsea Nedell (8th grade), Nick Gengo (7th grade), the most recent winners of the Distinguished and Acceptable Attendance Awards.

December Distinguished and Acceptable Attendance Award winners were seventh-graders Adam Cashimere and Jamal Klute.

Journalism class takes on daunting yearbook task

Recording a year's worth of memories is a daunting task, but it is far more complex when your job is to record those memories for hundreds and hundreds of students. If you were a student in the OHS journalism class, you understand the commitment necessary to take pictures, sell ads, record athletic teams' records, track down seniors for their quotes; at times, the list appears endless.

Many students believe the end product of a year in journalism class is just the yearbook, but those words are never spoken among the staff. The students must make choices on a daily basis; decisions which they understand affect their classmates' yearbooks. The coverage of all of the major events at Olean Senior High School takes priority when capturing the memories for the year. Taking pictures, uploading them to the yearbook site, cropping the pictures on the internet, writing captions to help preserve the memories take hours upon hours for the staff. And that's not all the yearbook participants do.

Most people would not purchase a book from a bookstore without at least glancing at the cover or reading the synopsis. With the yearbook, however, everything remains a closely guarded secret among the staff. The student body relies heavily on the yearbook staff's taste, sense of fairness with regard to placing photos of as many students as possible, and capturing as many highlights of the school year as possible. There are some students who



prefer not to be photographed, and the staff respects those students' wishes.

There are many hurdles encountered throughout the year.

One of the first, and probably most difficult tasks for the staff, is to sell advertisements to area merchants. Visiting local merchants is truly a life-

experience for the students. They must present themselves in a courteous manner, be prepared to answer questions about possible ads, and once the ad is secured, take accurate notes for both the yearbook staff and the advertiser. Self-taught, yet seemingly professional, staff members will create advertisements for the businesses; this is an advantage for local businesses to have a new and colorful ad created as part of the cost of advertising in the high school yearbook. The yearbook can be considered a business. The financial aspect of printing a full-color, 168-page yearbook is stressful for the staff.

Yearbook staff members have visited every English class to explain the finances behind the creation of the yearbook. In order to publish the first yearbook, the cost is an overwhelming \$32,000. Students are charged \$65 for their yearbooks. While many students were surprised with the price of Congress 2008, once the staff members showed the students the overall costs of publishing the yearbooks, the students were more understanding of the yearbook fee. Most would agree that the final product is well worth the investment.

Autism topic of talk at SBU

Dr. Philip Strain, Professor of Educational Psychology in Early Childhood at the University of Colorado at Denver, will speak about Autism on Thursday, April 24, from 3-6 p.m. in the Murphy Auditorium at St. Bonaventure University (SBU). The event is presented by the SBU Counseling Education Department, in conjunction with the Autism Society of America - Western New York Chapter.

This free workshop is geared towards parents, students, professionals, community members, and interested service-related providers who work with students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

For further information, contact Karen O'Dell at 969-3299 or Jennifer Saylor at 375-7670.

Annual Asbestos Notification

In compliance with Sections 763.85 and .93 of the asbestos-containing materials in schools rule, all facilities owned, leased or operated by the Olean City School District have been inspected for the presence of asbestos-containing building materials. Asbestos management plans have been developed for all facilities and submitted to the New York State Education Department.

The E.P.A. requires re-inspections every three (3) years by an accredited asbestos inspector. This re-inspection was done June 28, 2007, and the results were reviewed by an accredited management planner. The 2007 re-inspection found no significant changes in the condition of the asbestos-containing materials. In general, the asbestos materials in the district are in good condition and will continue to be managed as recommended by the accredited management planner. Copies of the management plans are available for public inspection during business hours in offices of each of the facilities. Questions concerning the inspections and management plans should be made to David Fidurko in the district office or by calling 375-8040.

Battle of Bands benefits Darfur Foundation

Where can students go to demonstrate their music skills? The Olean High School Annual Battle of the Bands was held in January and provided a venue for the students to jam for their friends, have a great time doing it, and raise money for a cause.

Senior Chris Young, one of the program's sound technicians, found the event to be very worthwhile. "I performed with my band, 'Soul Intrusion' which has three other members: Forrest Marvin, Ethan Whipple, and Nate Baldwin. We're a metal band, and we write our own music. The evening was long, but a lot of fun," Chris stated.

"Forrest and I worked on the Battle of the Bands in order to give something back to our community," Chris said. "All proceeds from admission were donated to the Darfur Foundation. And, the winning band even gave their prize winnings to the Darfur Foundation," Chris continued. "The crowd, which brought in over \$1,000 for the Darfur Foundation, seemed to enjoy the show. This year the pit was opened for everyone's enjoyment, which gave the crowd the opportunity to really cheer on the performers.



Winter Reading Fun: This year's Reading Incentive Program was a huge success. Some activities scheduled throughout the two weeks to encourage reading were TV Turn-Off Night, guest readers, a special concert, and The Read-to-Ride program, where we teamed up with Darien Lake to offer a free admission ticket to every student who met their goal in the reading program. Members of the OHS Girls' Basketball Team (*top left*) and the St. Bonaventure Men's Soccer team came to Boardmanville as guest readers. Everyone from preschoolers to adults enjoyed the Hills Brothers' (*top right*) reading-based performance during school and the family performance in the evening.



Boardmanville Elementary School



Family Game Night: Third-grade teachers, Mrs. Olson and Mrs. Grandusky, wrote a grant to purchase board games for our school. The games made their debut in January at a family game night (*shown above*) here at school, and are available in the school library for teachers to sign out and use in their rooms. Thank you to Mrs. Olson, Mrs. Grandusky and the Olean Foundation, who provided the grant for these games.

Building Volcanoes: As part of their science unit, third-graders worked with their parents at home to build volcanoes. After bringing their creations into school, the students spent a science class using baking soda and vinegar to make their volcanoes "erupt." At right, one of the students poses with her erupting volcano.



'F' is for Friends: On Wednesday, January 23, Mrs. Stephens' kindergarten class met from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to celebrate letter "F" week. We had fun with family and friends! We came dressed in our pajamas, drank hot chocolate, ate some cookies, and shared our work. We read our poetry books, checked out our handwriting books, practiced with our ABC books, and showed off our Step-Up to Writing projects. The children and their families had a great time and were ready for bed when they got home.





Character Education Assemblies: As part of East View's Character Education Program, monthly, school-wide assemblies are held to recognize students who have demonstrated the character trait for that month, as well as teach the students the upcoming character trait. Pictured above are some of the St. Bonaventure Women's Basketball Team along with East View students at one of these assemblies. The team helped recognize the East View Good Characters for January, and talked to everyone about Fairness and Good Sportsmanship.

Important Dates at East View

March 3-7	NYS Math Test for Gr. 3-5
March 5	PTO meeting, 6 p.m.
March 7	Family Fun Night, 6-8 p.m.
March 13	Building Level Team Meeting (BLT), 6 p.m.
March 19	Spring Concert, 7 p.m.
March 21-24	No School
March 25	No School for students, Staff Development Day
March 27-28	Parent-Teacher Conferences
April 7-18	No School, Spring Recess



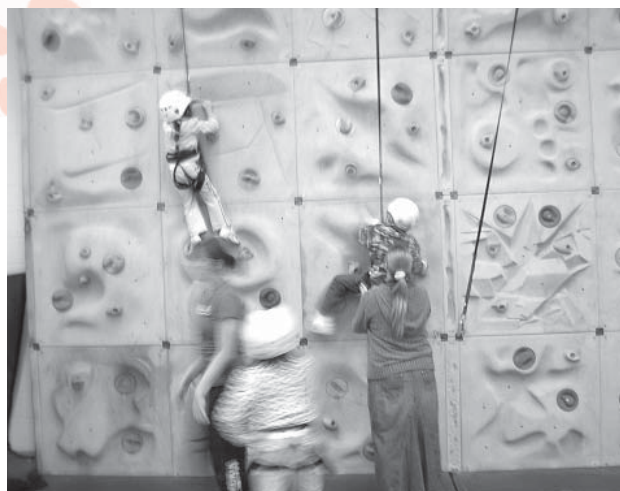
After-School Program: The after-school program at East View continues to provide a great opportunity for our students. In addition to homework helpers, we have academic assistance in the Fast ForWord Computer Lab (with St. Bonaventure students), a Physical Education program and special presentations such as learning about the Solar System (*above*) and Japanese culture including an origami demonstration (*below*).

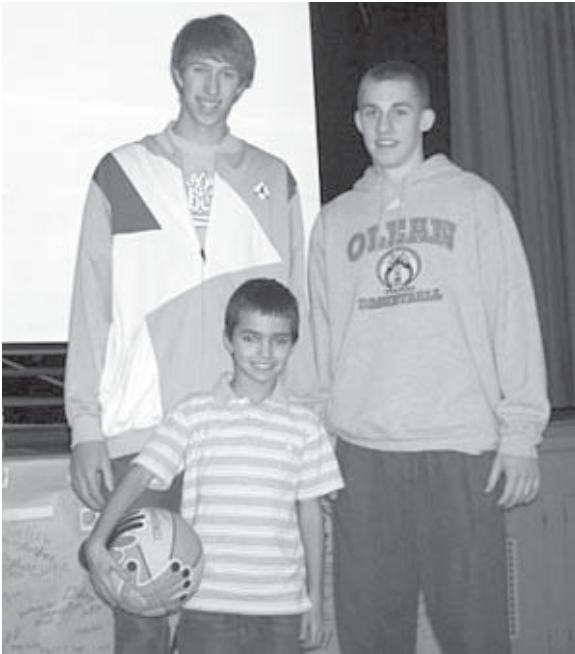


East View Elementary School



YMCA Family Open House: Recently, East View families had the opportunity to enjoy the YMCA facilities for an evening. The Y provided an open gym, rock wall climbing (*at right*), the pool and gym inflatables. The PTO provided refreshments (*at left*) that included pizza, drinks, veggies and fruit. A huge thank you to the YMCA and our East View PTO! It was a great family activity.





Elk's National Shootout: Tavien Kemp, a third-grader at Ivers J. Norton, was entered in the Elk's National Shootout basketball competition in November and has won three competitions so far! He gets to shoot 25 foul shots and each time he has made at least 22. He even got to shoot against Jake and Sam (shown above) from the OHS varsity basketball team at our Husky Pup Program. Tavien will travel to Cortland and Syracuse for the next competitions.

Bona Students Blast onto Campus:

IJN is partnering with St. Bonaventure University to provide education majors with 35 hours of tutoring in a school setting. The students are assigned students to work with in the area of reading. Stephanie (at right) is working with students in kindergarten, third and fourth grade. She is a sophomore at St. Bonaventure and is working toward dual certification in elementary/special education. Janet (not pictured) is working toward dual certification in elementary/special education. She will also be certified in Spanish. Janet is working specifically with our first-graders building oral reading fluency through the Blast Off program. Jennifer (not pictured) works in the mornings with our first-graders and she will begin working with some of our third-graders in the afternoons. Jennifer is working on dual certification in elementary/special education. We are grateful to have these dedicated and hardworking students in our classrooms and wish them ongoing success with their teaching careers.



Whatever Floats

Your Boat: Third-graders have been learning about buoyancy in science. The children each designed their own boats (at right). Student were given the task to plan and design a boat that would be effectively buoyant. The boats were tested to see if they could float. The students' boats were also tested to see how much weight they could hold.



Ivers J. Norton Elementary School

Students of the Month:

Each month, a student in each classroom is selected by their teacher as a Student of the Month. The student must demonstrate strong behavior in the character trait of the month.



The students pictured above are shown at The Old Library Restaurant for the special luncheon with the principal. The PTO helps to subsidize the funding for this monthly event.

All the Presi-

dents: Second-grader Andrea Certo (right) can not only name all of the U.S. Presidents in order, but he can also give several facts about each of them. Andrea demonstrated his unique achievement at a Husky Pup Program in January when he was recognized as a student showing perseverance.





Rapping about Responsibility: The fourth- and fifth-graders create monthly character education presentations and post them on the Washington West Web site. In January, Mrs. Monroe's class chose "Responsibility" as its character trait. Their presentation included a PowerPoint slide show and the students performed a super skit and a really cool rap (*above*)! Check out their presentation on the Web and make a comment on our blog.

Happy Chinese New Year! Mrs. Frederick's and Mrs. Faulkner's third-graders celebrated Chinese New Year feasting on wonderful dishes of traditional Chinese food (*below*). Learning about Chinese culture was very exciting and interesting -- not to mention very filling!



Smart Art Geometry Gallery: Ms. Matejka's enrichment class has put together an art gallery (*above*) representing art through science and geometry that is displayed at the Olean Public Library.

Presidents' Day: In honor of Presidents' Day, Mrs. Phillips' and Mrs. Ullman's classes researched each president of the United States. Information was gathered from the "Whitehousekids" Web site. A short fact sheet was completed for each president, as well as a colored picture (*right*). Students worked together on this project and especially enjoyed using the laptops. Mrs. Ullman and Mrs. Phillips agreed that the results were impressive!



Washington West Elementary School



Our New Friend Elmo! Students are using a new piece of technology called "Elmo" (*left*). It is an electronic device that projects images on the screen (similar to an overhead projector) but displays in color and by a camera. Mrs. Monroe's fifth-grade class loves learning fractions using "Elmo."



Future American Idol? Mrs. Faulkner's third-grade class is creatively composing musical pieces. After they are done with their compositions, they solfege (*above*), sign and sing what they have written.

OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

410 W. Sullivan St.

Olean, NY 14760

www.oleanschools.org

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Joel Whitcher, Assistant Middle School Principal
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IJN completing mid-year benchmarks in Reading First

The Mid-year Benchmark 2 Assessment Period of the Reading First initiative officially ended at Ivers J. Norton Elementary School on February 15. Testing was completed and the current data was reviewed by the teaching staff in meetings held on Thursday, February 7. Data was looked at, discussed and drove the instructional groupings that were created/re-created at those meetings.

The kindergarten students were tested on initial sound fluency, phoneme segmentation fluency, letter naming fluency and nonsense word fluency. We will continue to progress monitor the kindergarten students in phoneme segmentation fluency until the 3rd Benchmark.

Our first-graders were tested on phoneme segmentation fluency, nonsense word fluency and oral reading fluency. We will continue to progress monitor their oral reading fluency.

The second- and third-grade students were tested on oral reading fluency and will be progress monitored for the remainder of the year on that.

A Mid-year Benchmark report card will be sent home ASAP so you know how your child scored on the DIBELS and what their group placement will be in their classroom.

The students and teachers of IJN should be commended for their hard work and their flexibility during the benchmark testing schedule.



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