Remembering Dr. King’s Legacy

“I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

It’s not too often that 11th graders get to return to their former teachers and work with younger students on a project. But, students in Mrs. Wolfgang’s US History class got to do just that when they partnered with Mrs. Gabler’s 5th graders and Mrs. Billings’ 8th graders to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. day. By working together, the students created a bulletin board display about diversity, honoring Dr. King’s legacy. The students took turns interviewing each other, and the conversations that resulted were simply amazing. The activity reminded students that everyone is unique and it’s what’s on the inside that counts. Many new friendships were formed that day, and judging by the look on the kids’ faces, it was an all-around success!
Proposition 1 for $12,500,000 - Proposition 1 will allow the district to update and repair existing facilities.

Proposition 2 for an additional $4,000,000 - Proposition 2 will enhance educational space at the high school with the continuance of the updates to the corridor, floor and ceiling in the basement and on the 2nd and 3rd floors.

The Question and Answer section below was developed to facilitate a more in-depth understanding of the financial implications and the timing of the newly proposed capital project.

Q. How was this project developed?
A. The information collected in the 2015 Building Condition Survey was used to develop a five-year plan for facility improvements. The District has a facilities team that met with our architect and construction manager to review the information and assist in prioritizing the five-year plan.

The group then began to look at the systems that require repair and/or replacement as well as the academic program needs of the district and began to develop items for a potential capital project. After reviewing a number of building and site improvement options, the Board of Education chose the options that are identified as the most cost-effective and necessary solutions for the building needs at this time.

Q. Why does the Bond Issue need super majority for approval?
A. Without super majority approval there will be no state aid to offset the costs associated with any emergency repairs that may be needed and routine maintenance. The work would have to be paid for through the school district’s general fund, with all of the associated costs passed on to local taxpayers. Payment from local taxes would have to be made immediately instead of spreading the costs out over a number of years.

Q. If this Bond Issue passes, do you anticipate another Bond Issue any time soon?
A. It is always difficult to predict the future over a long period of time. We anticipate that our district will have some kind of small project every five years or so. Whether they involve renovations to buildings or just completing repairs and updates will be determined by how effectively we develop and implement projects like the one that is currently being proposed.

Q. Why don’t we handle these improvements in a regular budget, instead of putting them up for a vote in a capital project?
A. In New York State, a project referendum is the most effective option financially for any school district. Olean currently receives 93.3% in building aid for a project. What this means to the taxpayer is that for every $1 spent, the district receives $.933 back in building aid. Why is that? Because the state recognized several decades ago that school buildings and school infrastructures across the state had fallen below standard or were even in serious disrepair. Increased building aid was established as an incentive for school communities everywhere in the state to design and approve modernization projects.

Q. Why don’t we replace all of the roofs now?
A. Replacing a roof involves removing the insulation and all materials down to the roof deck and replacing the entire system. Restoring a roof maintains the existing system by adding a coating that extends its warranted life.

By staggering the replacement of the roofs it affords the district the opportunity to address other items as well as roofs during a capital project. It also helps to ensure that the warranties on the roofs do not all expire at the same time.
SBU Offering Leadership Program to Juniors

The Junior Leadership Development Program, presented by St. Bonaventure University Student Affairs Division, is a series of workshops designed for college-bound juniors from Olean High School. Individual workshops will encourage participants to:

1. discover what is important in their college search process.
2. prepare for what is to come in their first year, both academically and socially.

All workshops are FREE and will be held at St. Bonaventure University.

OHS juniors can register for all four workshops, or individually for whichever are of interest and fit their schedules. Those who participate in all four will receive a certificate of completion for the program.

Pre-registration is required by going to www.sbu.edu/juniorlead. However, students may register up to the day before each event. Once registered, a confirmation email will be sent which will include additional information about the workshop, location and directions.

Session One – Leadership and Getting Involved, Wednesday, February 24th, 4:00 – 5:30pm. This workshop will explore different leadership and extra-curricular opportunities that exist on most college campuses. Participants will also engage in activities which allow them to explore their own leadership skills.

Session Two – The College Adjustment: Academics and Beyond, Wednesday, March 16th, 4:00 – 5:30pm. Participants will learn about resources available at most institutions that assist with academic transition issues, such as writing and math labs, tutoring centers, advisement centers, etc. Students will also learn what the expectations are academically at the college level, and the common mistakes that freshmen make during their first year.

Session Three – Building Diverse Relationships, Thursday, April 14th, 4:00 – 5:30pm. Participants will learn about the myths and realities of the social issues they will face in college. Topics of conversation will include alcohol and drug use, mental health issues, and sexual misconduct on college campuses. Leaders will also explore common resources on campuses that help students deal with these issues, and what students can do to prepare themselves.

Session Four – The Social Scene, Wednesday, May 25th, 4:00 – 6:00pm. Participants will learn about the myths and realities of the social issues they will face in college. Leaders will also explore common resources on campuses that help students deal with these issues, and what students can do to prepare themselves.

Link to Neighborhood Predator Report Site

The Olean Board of Education approved a policy that requires all parents be notified of any Level 3 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, for the public’s convenience, we have established a “link” on the front page of the District’s web site www.oleansschools.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.

District Lists Employee Updates

Suzana Bartimole was recently hired as the ELA teacher at the Intermediate/Middle School. Mrs. Bartimole received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from St. Bonaventure University in May 2015. Connor has experience substitute teaching in various positions in the Olean City School District.

Connor Charles was recently hired as the 4th grade Elementary teacher at the Intermediate/Middle School. Ms. Charles received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from St. Bonaventure University.

Judy Doty – Food Service Helper at Washington West

Michael Gianas – Cleaner at Olean High School

Mark Huselstein – District Director of Facilities II

Scott Rucinski – Custodian/Buildings & Grounds Maintainer

February-March 2016
Olean City School District Newsletter

**Important Student Immunization Change**

Effective September 1, 2016, all students entering 7th and 12th grades are required to have the Meningococcal vaccine as mandated by NYS Public Health Law section 2164.

For students entering 7th grade in 2016, a second booster dose will be required at age 16.

Please contact your physician to be sure your child has this required immunization.

You may also contact your child’s School Nurse if you have questions about this new regulation.

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**Local Author Donates Books to OHS**

Olean High has been given a set of books by a local author, Jim Pransky. Jim is a professional scout for the Colorado Rockies. He grew up in the area and graduated from Portville Central Schools. Jeff Anastasia was the liaison between Mr. Pransky and Olean High.

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**Creative Expression Abounds at ‘Poetry Out Loud’ Competition**

The Olean High School English Department hosted the 6th Annual Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest on December 15th in the Olean High School auditorium. The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation partnered with U.S. Art Agencies to support Poetry Out Loud. The program encourages the nation’s youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and recitation. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literature. All OHS students in grades 9 through 12 participated in a classroom competition, and twenty students were chosen to compete in the school-wide competition.

The winner of the OHS competition was Zayba Chauhdry with her recitations of “The Legend” by Garret Hongo in the first round and “Solitude” by Ella Wheeler Wilcox in the second round. Second place was awarded to Natalie Sova with her first round recitation of “Bleeding Heart” by Carmen Gimenez Smith and her second round recitation of “The Tables Turned” by William Wordsworth. Students’ recitations are judged based on their physical presence, voice and articulation, dramatic appropriateness, evidence of understanding, overall performance, and accuracy. Zayba traveled to Buffalo on Tuesday, February 2nd, to compete in the regional competition.

Poetry Out Loud was launched in high schools nationwide in the spring of 2006 and has grown to involve millions of students across the country.

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**Officials Recognize Recent OHS Graduate**

Congratulations were extended to Bret Smith during a recent ceremony to award him his high school diploma. Bret completed his high school coursework in December of 2015. From left are: Jeffrey Andreano, principal of Olean High School; Bret; Chris McNeill, principal of Elm Street Academy in Cuba; and Ira Katzenstein, Olean School Board member.
‘Flipping My Classroom’

By Angie Bello,
OIMS 7th Grade Math Teacher

Typically in a class, students take notes in school and then are assigned a worksheet for practice at home. In my flipped class, I “flip” what normally happens in class and what students do at home. I’ve turned my PowerPoint lessons into videos that students watch at home the night before, and I’ve turned my homework assignments into worksheets that the students work on in class. For homework, students watch a video at home on their district provided laptops and complete a note page with some questions they have to answer on their own. The next day in class, I check the note page for a completion grade and we go over questions they have to answer on their own. Then students work together in groups on a worksheet. I even allow students to grade their worksheets in class, which provides them with immediate feedback.

Students have the opportunity to collaborate with their peers on the in-class worksheet. Students are also spending less time at home on homework. The videos are normally 8-12 minutes in length. The type of questions the students ask each other are really amazing to listen to. As a teacher, I want my students to ask questions like “why did you get that” or “how did you solve this” or “why did you do that” or “what did you do here.” Often times, they are too shy to ask their teacher those questions. However, in my flipped classroom, students are encouraged to ask their peers these kinds of questions, and I think that they feel more comfortable doing so. As students are working on their worksheets in class, they also have the chance to ask me questions about things they don’t understand. In the past, they would have had to wait until the next day in class to ask these questions. I’ve really seen success with this type of class, and the students seem to really enjoy the class. I asked my students how they felt about the flipped classroom; here are some things they said:

“It’s easier because we don’t have as much homework to do.” – Kaura Chahal
“We have the freedom to go at our own pace.” – Alice Dwaileebe
“It is fun doing homework in class.” – Malachi Klein
“You can help your friends, and they can help you with the worksheets in class.” – Lucas Sakala

All in all, my students and I seem to really enjoy my flipped classroom!

OCSD Foundation Brings the Music!

Students and the Music Department at OIMS would like to thank the OCSD Foundation for their grant which allowed us to purchase three new band instruments: 2 trombones and one tenor saxophone. This gift allows more students to have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument. Above are: Brandon Harvey, Liberty Oberry, and Dakota Lewis making music and pursuing their talents. Again, thank you to the Foundation!

Interested in an amazing cultural experience?

We are looking for families to host Spanish students for four weeks this summer 2016 (from July 19th-Aug. 12th) with an opportunity to set up a language exchange in France or Spain (for two weeks this July).

For details, contact Mrs. Napoleon at OHS (or email mnapoleon@OLEAN.WNYRIC.ORG).

Paxton Retchless, Caroline DeRose, Noah Paterniti and Kiran Khettry complete the note page “homework” as they watch a video lesson in study hall.
Olean City School District Newsletter

**Simple Supper a Big Success!**

OIMS 5th graders collaborated with the OIMS Art and Music Departments and St. Bonaventure University to host a “SIMPLE SUPPER” on January 28th at Doyle Hall to benefit the Warming House. With the help of OIMS Art teacher, Mrs. Nickel, students crafted soup bowls which were on display for “auction” at the supper.

OIMS 5th grade families graciously donated nearly $500 to the Warming House at the event. Thank you to Mr. Wada and his orchestra students for adding to a beautiful evening!

**Learning about Leadership**

On January 14, fifteen future leaders from the OIMS School Student Leadership Workshop at the Dresser Center were presented with a “SIMPLE SUPPER” by Mr. Ed Gerety. Mr. Gerety had a very positive message of “having an attitude of gratitude”. OIMS students, as well as several others from area 7th graders, were encouraged to set goals for themselves, and they created their own “dream boards”. They wrote thank you letters to a special person in their lives, and they worked together to discuss what they like about their school and what they would like to see changed. A big take away for Nathan Gabler, a member of the blue team, was an activity the students did showing them “you can only go as far as you think you can”. Mr. Gerety also stressed that to be a future leader, you had to “Be Grateful, Be Positive, Be Passionate, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Kind.” It was a very upbeat day for the students and they came away with many good ideas.

**Color Fun in smArT ClAss**

Mrs. Nickel’s 7th grade students made a color wheel with frosting. They worked in groups of 6-7 students, and when they got done, they got to eat the cookies!

Mrs. Nickel’s 5th grade students infused technology with art work using an iPad, uploading the pictures to the website Artsonia, and submitting artist’s statements about their creations. Visit [www.artsonia.com/olean1](http://www.artsonia.com/olean1) to view some of the inspired work by our students.
A new program at OIMS allows students to get a little exercise in the mornings before school. Mrs. Jo Dexter, Title I teacher, spearheaded the activity by sending home permission forms and inviting early-risers to join her in the gym each morning for an hour of light-stepping, musical fun.

PEP Walkers at OIMS meet every morning from 7:15 - 8:15 and walk to music. The Morning PEP walk is being sponsored by an OCSD PEP Grant given by the Federal Government to expand our physical education offerings.

Mrs. Nickel’s 7th grade students made a color wheel by mixing together primary colors with frosting. When they got done they got to eat the art by taking photographs of their own artwork using an iPad, uploading the pictures to the website Artsonia, and submitting artist’s statements about their creations. Visit www.artsonia.com/OLEAN1 to view some of the inspired work!

Read a Book and Adopt a Hippo

Mrs. Frisina, who is the fourth grade counselor, generously donated a giant stuffed hippo to the fourth grade as a prize for a reading contest. Every time a student finishes a book for IRLA and gets an 80% or higher on the Accelerated Reader quiz, they get a drawing slip to put in for the contest. IRLA is the new independent reading program adopted by Olean City School District for grades Pre-K through 7. On February 12th, we will draw the name of the student who will adopt the giant hippo.

Color Fun in smArT Class

LEADERSHIP

Six 7th grade class participated in a Middle School Student Leadership Workshop at the Dresser Challenger Center. The presenter of the program was Mr. Ed Gerety. Mr. Gerety had a very positive message for the students of “having an attitude of gratitude”. OIMS students, as well as several other area 7th graders, were encouraged to set goals for themselves, and they created their own dream boards. They wrote letters thanking a special person in their lives, and they worked together to discuss what they like about their school and what they would like to see changed. A big take-away for Nathan Gabler, a member of the blue team, was an activity the students did showing them “you can only go as far as you think you can”. Mr. Gerety also stressed that to be a future leader, you had to “Be Grateful, Be Positive, Be Passionate, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Kind.” It was a very upbeat day for the students and they came away with many good ideas.

Putting a Little Pep in Our Step!

A new program at OIMS allows students to get a little exercise in the mornings before school. Mrs. Jo Dexter, Title I teacher, spearheaded the activity by sending home permission forms and inviting early-risers to join her in the gym each morning for an hour of light-stepping, musical fun.

PEP Walkers at OIMS meet every morning from 7:15 - 8:15 and walk to music. The Morning PEP walk is being sponsored by an OCSD PEP Grant given by the Federal Government to expand our physical education offerings.
DECA Chapter Competes

On January 5, 2016, Olean High School’s DECA chapter participated in a Regional DECA competition at JCC. This competition consisted of students not only from Olean, but also from Hornell, Southwestern, Salamanca, Wellsville and Whitesville. This event had several business leaders that served as judges, faculty members, DECA Advisors, student volunteers, and business education students.

Once again, our DECA members performed exceptionally well. Three of our DECA members did so well that they are invited to compete for DECA’s State Competition which is held in Rochester, NY, on March 9th, 10th, and 11th. These three students are: Anisah Chauhdry, Saad Mirza and Bartholomew Snyder.

Saad Mirza was the overall winner for the entire DECA Region. This will be Saad Mirza’s second time participating at New York State DECA. Each student has picked a marketing expertise testing area and they will perform two business role plays to show their knowledge.

One of our judges was Olean Rehabilitation Center’s President and Chief Executive Officer, Mari Howard. Mari said, “I found the experience to judge the DECA Competition particularly rewarding. The students had the opportunity to interact with local business leaders. It was enlightening to see the level of investment that many of the students made in preparing for their interviews. I was impressed by the level of knowledge and insight many of the high school students conveyed about the products and services they were responsible to market. It is a wonderful, real life experiential learning opportunity for the students who are involved. It was my pleasure to be involved in this project.”

After hearing Mari’s positive comments, we truly endorse this learning activity and know that this is an authentic and very meaningful day for our students’ futures.

Good luck goes to Anisah, Bart and Saad as they have begun preparing for their State Competition!

Look What’s New in High School Physical Education

Thanks to the Olean City School District Foundation and the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP), the high school physical education department received free archery equipment. During a recent staff development day, the physical education staff was trained in the proper use and classroom instruction of archery. We are excited to offer this activity to the students in our district!

REMEMBER ... the weight room is open before and after school for student use.

Snow shoeing will be the high school Adventure Activity for February. See Ms. Davenport or Mrs. Brooks for more details.

Coach A Headed for NYS Basketball Hall of Fame

The goal every basketball season for Coach Jeff Anastasia is that his Boys’ Varsity Basketball Team will make the Final Four at Glens Falls. The goal is still the same this year, but ... if his basketball team falls short, Coach A. will still be going in March, as he is going to be inducted into the New York State Basketball Hall of Fame on Sunday, March 13, 2016. Coach A. has accomplished much in his 29 years as the boys’ basketball coach. He has won over 525 games at Olean High School, with an 80% winning percentage. Coach A. has also led his teams to 18 League Championships, 11 Sectional Titles, 5 Final Four Appearances, and 1 State Championship. BIG THANKS to Coach A. for once again putting Olean on the map and for continuing to be a dedicated teacher and coach in the Olean City School District.

Thank You Youth Football!

The East Olean Youth Football program recently donated $700 to the Olean Modified Matters Committee of the Olean Sports Boosters Club. This money was raised by the East Olean Youth Football teams through their annual fundraisers including working the concession stand at Olean Varsity Football games.

The midget’s age group of the Youth Football Program in Olean stopped playing this past year due to having no other area teams to play. The Olean City School District was able to bring back Modified football for this age group so they could to continue to play.

In support of Olean modified football, the East Olean Youth Football teams have contributed helmets, shoulder pads, pants and now this check for $700.

Thank you – East Olean Youth Football!

The picture above shows Tim Jordan (left), President of East Olean Youth Football, presenting the check to Paul Ksionzyk, the Olean City School District’s Athletic Director and Olean Sports Boosters Club member.
Kindergarten Registration Information

The Olean City School District will be conducting Kindergarten registrations for the 2016-2017 school year from March 29 – April 1, 2016. If you have a child who will be 5 years of age by December 1, 2016, please complete the form below and return it to your neighborhood elementary school, or call the school at the number listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>DATES—2016</th>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington West</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>9:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>9:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East View Elementary</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>9:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>9:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Child’s name:________________________________ Date of Birth:________________________
  First   Last

Parent/Guardian Name:__________________________________________________________

Address:___________________________________________________________________
  Street     City     State     Zip Code

Phone Number:_______________________________________________________________

Names of other school age children and the school attending:

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
Learning About Buoyancy: Grade 3 students have been learning about buoyancy in science. As part of their learning, they incorporated elements of design and engineering to construct a floatation device to hold set amounts of weight.

Independent Readers: As part of our extra independent reading, the Pre-Kindergarten classes have teamed up with special reading buddies from Mrs. McIntosh’s, Mrs. Caya’s, and Ms. Martin’s Third Grade classrooms. Every Monday afternoon, both Pre-Kindergarten students and Third Grade students read books with one another. Pre-Kindergarten students use books appropriate to their reading level and the Third Grade reading buddy helps them to track the print or start the sentence stem if they may have forgotten. Our students look forward to this special time to show how they are growing as readers!!

Art Makes A Return: East View Elementary is ecstatic to welcome Ms. Bowen and the return of the Elementary Art program! It’s been proven that early exposure to visual art promotes activity in the brain and helps children understand other subjects more clearly, and participating in art activities helps children gain the tools necessary for understanding human experience, adapting to and respecting others, and developing creative problem-solving skills by communicating thoughts and ideas in a variety of ways.

Indoor Snow?? Mrs. Stephens’ Kindergarten class brought the snow indoors!
PTO Bringing Holiday Cheer: The Washington West PTO provided lots of holiday spirit the week of December 7. At the Holiday Shoppe, gifts were purchased at the Dollar Tree and sold to students for $1 so they could enjoy giving gifts to their family and friends. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who came to help, including community members, family of staff, and Olean High School students. As one little boy stated, “This is the best store I’ve ever been to!” The week ended with Cookies with Santa where children were able to have their faces painted, play holiday games, make crafts, enjoy cookies and milk, and visit with Santa. The magical holiday season concluded with Santa reading, “Twas The Night Before Christmas.”

Grade 2 Book Critics: This year, Mrs. Brooks’ Second Grade is participating in a book review in the library. If a student feels a book is one that other students would like to read, that student gives a “book talk.” The student tells about the book and entertains questions from the students and Mrs. Harenda pertaining to the book. This has become quite a hit with Mrs. Brooks’ class and is soon to be venturing out into other classes.

W.O.W. Tutoring at Washington West: Washington West 2nd and 3rd grade students are Working On Work in a new afterschool tutoring program. WW staff members, in conjunction with St. Bonaventure University education majors, provide assistance to students in this three day per week program. The picture is from our “Meet and Greet” gathering, at which parents and students met the tutors and discussed program opportunities.

How Lucky We Are To Have Books! Students in Ms. Frederick’s Third Grade donated money to purchase four picture books to send to a donkey mobile-library in Ethiopia and a mobile school in Afghanistan. They also created a picture book about themselves, their school, and their country to send as well. Students learned this fall in the new ELA modules that students around the world struggle to access books, so they researched schools in need, and made two contacts. Instead of exchanging gifts for Christmas, they made a donation and purchased their favorite picture books. The students expressed how thankful they were to easily access the power of reading!!

STEM – Making Its Way into First Grade: BOCES STEM instructor, Mr. Clay Nolan, is visiting all First Grade classes to conduct an exciting activity. After reading “Three Ninja Pigs,” teams of students build a house of straw (drinking straws), bricks (index cards) or sticks (tongue depressors). The house needs to be able to withstand the wolf’s attempt to blow it down. Students enjoyed the hands-on, minds-on activity! Thank you, Mrs. Deibler, for coordinating this project!
Olean City School District
410 W. Sullivan St.
Olean, NY 14760
www.oleanschools.org

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

A commitment to fostering:
- A respectful, safe, and welcoming environment
- An acceptance of diversity
- Continuous improvement
- Academic excellence and lifelong learning
- Honesty, integrity, responsibility, and accountability
- Student potential and achievement

Congratulations Winter Weekend Court!
Olean High School is pleased to announce its 2016 Winter Weekend Court. Pictured: (back, l-r) Sophomore escort Zack Linderman, Senior 2nd escort Noah Patrick, Winter Weekend King Kenneth Gould, Senior 1st escort Sawyer Fries, Junior escort Monty Shoemaker, Freshman escort Matthew Antonioli; and (front, l-r) Sophomore attendant Jordyn Washington, Senior 2nd attendant Anna Pecherzewski, Winter Weekend Queen Kaylee Tascone, Senior 1st attendant Phoenix Reisner, Junior attendant Natalie Young, Freshman attendant Mary Ring. Congratulations to all!