



# LEAN

## CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"Home, School and Community Educating for Life"*

January-February 2006

Volume 2, Issue 3



**Red Ribbon Week**

## Pledging to be drug-free

**By Janeen Bergan**

Red Ribbon week is a nationally celebrated week dedicated to helping students become aware of substance abuse. Red Ribbon Week's goal is "to promote a unified and visible commitment toward a drug-free America." At the beginning of the week the OMS Students were asked to sign a pledge stating they would be drug free. Mr. Shoup, Miss Bergan, Sommer Blackwell and Kayla Rose displayed those pledges in the front foyer in the letters "OMS." During the week, students answered daily trivia questions for prizes.

The students and staff also had a chance to show their school's drug free spirit by wearing RED and GOLD on Thursday and Friday. The dance topped the week off as DJ Joe Anderson played music and students got a chance to dance and show everyone that they can have fun and be drug-free.





## Middle School spreads holiday cheer



### Baking for our community Thanksgiving

By Mrs. Flynn

Olean Middle School Family and Consumer Science students put on their aprons and went into the kitchen, used their cooking skills and helped bake for the Community Thanksgiving dinner. On November 19<sup>th</sup>, over 400 dinners were served to members of the Olean community. The students baked over 80 pumpkin breads to be served with the dinner. The students enjoyed making the bread and thought it was "absolutely delicious" when they sampled it in class. This annual dinner benefits many families during Thanksgiving and Olean Middle School students are always happy to help when they can! Thank you to everyone who helped make this a positive experience for all!

### Food Pantry receives much-needed help

By Mrs. Samuelson

The purple team students organized a fundraiser to help the Olean Food Pantry. Setting a goal of raising enough money to feed 10 needy families through the Olean Food Pantry, Olean Middle School students were asked to donate their spare lunch money each day for a week. Students also participated in a Hat Day collection where each student could pay \$1 for the privilege of wearing a hat throughout the day. The staff pitched in by donating their proceeds from a "Comfort for Charity" day to help the students meet their goal. Thank you to everyone who helped make this positive fundraiser successful!



### Character project raises funds for families

By Mrs. Riker

Olean Middle School seventh grade students on the Blue Team participated in a Character Education Project in November. Participating students wore their favorite sports team attire and donated a dollar to the Olean Food Pantry. The team of students and teachers collected \$64 for the Adopt-A-Family Fundraiser. We would like to thank the students and teachers for their generosity.



### Ringin' bells for the Salvation Army

By Mrs. Samuelson

Above (l-r) John Samuelson, Kyle Clarke, Kevin Stevens and Joe Palumbo were among almost 20 eighth-graders from the Purple Team who participated in a community service project by ringin' the bell for the Salvation Army on Dec. 8. Working in shifts, the group braved the frigid temperatures and manned the kettle at K-mart for several hours. The Purple Team has participated in this service project for the past 10 years. Thank you to the following students who participated: Chris Mosher, Sarah Nodler, Amy Wetherby, Shanae Abdo, Tchianna McPeak, Chris Pavlock, Sam Hendrickson, Emily McFall, Rosemary Ames, Meegan Pilon, Chris Gilbert, Allison Holly, Heather Reed, Victoria Terwilliger, Kyle Clarke, John Samuelson, Joe Palumbo and Kevin Stevens.

## OMS readers hope to meet fairy tale author

By Mrs. Jedrosko

Several classrooms in the Olean City School District have been enjoying the story; Julie, and the Lost Fairy Tale by Janie Lancaster. *The Times Herald* published Mrs. Lancaster's delightful story of a Grimm's fairy tale which had been forgotten about for 50 years and later was found by a young girl named Julie. The story was published one chapter at a time, three days a week for a total of five weeks

and has been submitted to be published in book format in the near future.

Mrs. Lancaster lives in San Diego, California but thanks to the Newspapers In Education (NIE) program, the Hampton Inn, and State Farm Agent, Marcella Smith, she was able to visit the Twin Tiers area in November. During her visit, Mrs. Lancaster



Pictured above are Mrs. Taylor's and Mrs. Jedrosko's 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading classes.

met with several classes, teachers, and parents to discuss the many aspects of literature and the writing process. Although she was unable to visit the Olean City School District, her story was still enjoyed by many. It is hopeful that Mrs. Lancaster will be able to return to our area in the spring for what is sure to be another educational visit. "How

wonderful it must have been for the students to be able to meet the author of such an enjoyable story," said Mrs. Jedrosko.

The NIE program provides newspapers free of charge to area school districts. However, it is up to the teachers to ask for the program. "NIE is only as good as the teachers who choose to use it and that is precisely why it is a valuable program. The teachers do it for the benefit of the students!"

stated NIE Coordinator Cora Niver. Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Kosinski and Mrs. Jedrosko would like to thank *The Times Herald* for publishing the story; Julie, and the Lost Fairy Tale. Also, a big thanks to Mrs. Niver and the NIE sponsors for providing their classrooms with newspapers at no cost to the school district.

## Pennies for Patients to be held in February

By Mr. Shoup

The students and faculty at the Olean Middle School are participating in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients program. This program raises funds to find cures for Leukemia, Lymphoma, melanoma research and for patient aid and services. This opportunity allows students to develop compassion and learn the value of helping others while they are working for a good cause.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Olean Middle School Pennies for Patients program will run throughout the month of February this year. Each school that collects over \$200 or more for the campaign will win a pizza party for their top fund-raising homeroom. Olean in the last two years has just missed the top 10 schools that participate in the Pennies for Patients Program. This year we hope to make it into the top ten schools that participate. Many activities are being

planned this year, for example a dance in February, in which all of the proceeds will go to the Pennies for Patients Foundation.

School administrations appreciate the value of having students work with a goal of helping others. "Our students' involvement with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society reminds them of the importance of being involved with the community and helping those in need." Mr. Shoup, the school's coordinator for Pennies for Patients and health educator at the Middle School states, "This is a wonderful program for us to take part in and the expected results of our students' efforts will benefit an outstanding organization." In the last two years Olean Middle School has raised \$2,257.23. Now folks, that is a lot of pennies and change!

We all should be proud of our accomplishments and donations in the last two years. The support of Olean Middle

School faculty and students will really help advance our mission to cure Leukemia, Lymphoma, blood cancers, and help patients and their families deal with these diseases.

If anyone in the community would like to donate money to this program, or offer items to raffle, please call or send donations to Mr. Shoup, Olean Middle School, Pennies for Patients Program, 401 Wayne Street, Olean, NY, 14760 or call 375-8060, ext. 4218.

At this time we are also looking for a person or persons to honor in memory of these contributions this year. In the last two years Olean Community Bank has taken the time to count our change and transfer the funds into dollars. Furthermore, we would like to thank Olean Community Bank tellers for their efforts in the past two years-Thank You!



## News from around the 'Middle'



Shown (back, l-r) Jessica Swetland, Nicole Sova, Brad Nenno, John Samuelson, Christina Devling, Heather Reed, Jason Mahar, Amanda Seaward, Matt Witte, Michael Liu, Todd Hanson, Roger Wangelin and (middle, l-r) Maria Skrobacz, J.D. Olson, Zanaid Marra and (front, l-r) Kaitlin Harvey, Crystal Cybulski, Angela Finch, Sarah Shembeda, Kaitlyn Andreano, Amanda Lasky, Reed McElfresh, Chris Mosher, Abby Stavish, Rebecca Lasky, Taylor Bold and Dakota Spencer.

### KNOWLEDGE MASTERS

By Mrs. Brennan

Yes, that's right! The 2005 fall Knowledge Masters Competition is over and the "Great Auk" has spoken. He says congratulations to this year's Olean Middle School Knowledge Masters' Team. The Knowledge Masters Competition is a yearly competition pitting teams from schools across the country against one

another. The students work together facing 200 tough questions via a computer vying for top scores based on the accuracy and speed of their answers. During the December 7, 2005 competition, the OMS team did very well. They scored 1316 points out of 2000 possible points. This placed them in the top third of the 776 schools that competed nationwide and 6<sup>th</sup> in New

York state.

This year's team, pictured above, is comprised of sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who worked together after school for the last six weeks. The team will compete again in the spring.

After the competition the team members were treated to lunch by the OASIS program who sponsored the team.



### GREEN TEAM

By Mrs. Bean

Mrs. Bean's sixth grade class was studying Ancient Egypt as part of their social studies curriculum. As a culminating activity to this unit, they had an Egyptian fair. Students created 3-dimensional projects dealing with Egypt which included models, dressing up and sampling food. It was a wonderful experience and very entertaining. Look for them in the future as they travel back in time to Ancient Greece and visit the amphitheater.



### GRAY TEAM

By Mrs. Weber

Gray team students, like Taylor Eade pictured above, earned some excellent life experience in December. Public speaking is a difficult skill even for adults, but these young teenagers were put to the test and performed admirably. Under the guidance of their English student teacher, Mr. Scott, and the middle school librarian, Ms. Soplop, students presented their poet projects in the beautiful library behind a podium and with a microphone. Students shared the name of the poet they researched, interesting fact(s) about that poet, and expertly read one of that poet's poems to the class. Gray Team students should be commended for their excellent performances.



## News from around the 'Middle'



### BONA WOLF VISITS OMS

By Mrs. Jedrosko

Mrs. Jedrosko's 5<sup>th</sup> period reading class was surprised when the Bona Wolf stopped by to say "hello" on December 8, 2005. It seems that one of the students had been frightened by the Big Bad Wolf at a basketball game held at St. Bonaventure University. The Wolf, not wanting to get a nasty reputation for scaring children, made arrangements to meet with several students and make amends. The Bona Wolf played games with the students, had his picture taken with them, and also came bearing gifts, which always helps. He gave the students mini basketballs, Bonnies pencils and personalized letters. Each letter contained inspirational quotes and included a word written in Chinese, which described that student. Needless to say, a good time was had by all. Mrs. Jedrosko and her 5<sup>th</sup> period class would like to send a great big thank you out to St. Bonaventure University and their new friend, the Bona Wolf.



### RED TEAM

Red Team students created autobiographies in their language arts class.



### RED TEAM

By Mrs. Hendrix

During Math, students learned about  $\pi$ . Garrett Putt, Ryan Drost, and Deon Gayton of the Red Team are discovering the relationship between the diameter and circumference of circles by measuring several common household items. This relationship is what we call  $\pi$ .

### SEVENTH-GRADERS PLACE IN POETRY CONTEST

By Miss Fargo

Four seventh graders at Olean Middle School earned awards through the annual Friends of the Olean Library poetry contest. Madison Ozzella earned the first place award, Jessalyn Ganoung and Barbara Simon received second place honors, and Victoria Swier was one of three honorable men-

tions. This year, there were 235 entries submitted to the contest, which is open to area students in grades 6-8. The submitted poems were to reflect the theme "explore your world through reading." A reception was held on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Olean Public Library for all winners, their family members, and teachers. First place winners received a \$20 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble and all winners received Certificates of Achievement and a booklet containing this year's best entries. All seventh graders in Miss Bergan and Miss Fargo's English classes participated in the contest this year.







## OMS Beautyshoppers are on the go!

By Mrs. Rhody-Marvin

The "OMS Beautyshoppers" are nine talented young ladies who dedicate time to bringing joy to others through music. Their three and four-part "barbershop style" harmonies are challenging, but this hard-working group of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders excels. From the Board of Education luncheon, to the Toys for Tots concert, to the Allegany Rehab Center, and to the Senior Citizen's luncheon, they eagerly share their skills with all who are fortunate enough to hear them. Way to go, Beautyshoppers! Sing on!

"OMS Beautyshoppers" Clockwise from top left: Kasey Boutwell, Kaitlin Harvey, Louise Penman, Brittney Duffy, Brady Gaynor, Tchianna McPeak, Kaitlyn Anastasia, Riley Branch, Olivia Sorokes



## Junior High Area All-State musicians give outstanding concert performance

By Mrs. Rhody-Marvin

Two OMS and five OHS music students participated in the Area All-State Music Festival in early November at Akron Central School. Students must earn high grades in solo competitions in order to qualify for this event, which brings many accomplished musicians together from the greater Western New York area. Congratulations and "Bravo" to our hardworking and dedicated musicians!

Selected for Junior High Area All-State Chorus (above, clockwise from top left) were Daniel Boutwell, Christa Nianiatius, Carleigh Spiller, Mckenzie Forrest, Kasey Boutwell and Kaitlin Harvey.

Chosen for Junior High Area All-State Band were John Capitani - alto sax (top left photo) and JD Olson - trumpet (bottom left photo)



## High School Knowledge Masters team compete in open

By Laura Kopec

Thousands of students throughout the country and in many foreign countries competed this December in the 45<sup>th</sup> Knowledge Master Open academic competition. High school students faced their computers and 200 tough questions to vie for top scores based on the accuracy and top speed of their answers.

A team of 12 students at Olean High School scored 1294 of 2,000 possible points. The team placed 16<sup>th</sup> out of 29 teams overall in New York State, and 357<sup>th</sup> out of 794 teams overall in the world.

Students on the team included: Seniors Matt DiRisio, Sam Georgian, and Michelle Spears; Juniors Afia Babar, Katie

Simon, Molly Wagner, and Ramsha Zia; Sophomores Carrie DiRisio, Mark Gervig, and Forrest Marvin; Freshmen Jared Warren and Mike Witte.

The Knowledge Master Open was designed to stimulate enthusiasm for learning and recognition for academic accomplishment. The contest runs on classroom computers to allow all students the opportunity to compete in a large academic event without the expense of traveling to a central site. Results of the contest are tabulated into overall, state, and enrollment-size rankings by Academic Hallmarks, a Colorado publishing firm that hosts the event. Contest results and example questions are available at [www.greatauk.com](http://www.greatauk.com).

## Jan. 27 Regents & Local Mid-Term Schedule

\* Please Note: The schedule for testing on January 27, which appears below, was inadvertently left out of the recent Regents mailing sent home to students. \*

Cafeteria	Time
Studio Art	8:30-10 a.m.
<b>Room 26a, 26b, 110, or 313 (see teacher for room assignment)</b>	
Global 1 (Mrs. Brown's students only)	8-9:30 a.m.
Global 1 (Mr. Kolasny's students only)	10-11:30 a.m.
<b>Room 109</b>	
Mathematics B	8:30-11:30 a.m.
<b>Room 320</b>	
Living Environment (College Biology Local Exam)	8:30-11:30 a.m.
<b>Resource Room</b>	
RCT In Global Studies	8:30-11:30 a.m.
<b>Music Suite</b>	
Band Rehearsal	12-1 p.m.
Orchestra Rehearsal	1-2 p.m.

## 'PUG' formed to explore new technology

By Csobanka Woodworth, Technology Administrator

Olean has gathered together an inspiring group of brave and willing teachers and library media specialists (Gloria Swetland, Nancy Sullivan, Jan Rhody-Marvin, Carol Shannon, Tammy Martin, Pearl Bowker, Patricia Howden, Jodi McMullen, Rebecca Billings, Carmen Soplop, Cindy Kurjakovic and Laura Kopec) to learn as much as we can about video conferencing.

The PUG (PolyCom Users Group) has already met twice. They have experienced, first hand, how to set up the PolyCom, make a call using an IP address and control the "camera" from their site and the "camera" from the other site during a mock video conference.

This group is very excited about the possibilities that this new piece of technology can provide for their students and staff in the district. These teachers are already working on a plan to connect classrooms together within the district to share student projects, to attend meetings, etc. Don Scholla and Mark Ward recently used the video conferencing capability to "attend" meetings held off site - without having to leave the district.

During future meetings the PUG will be pouring over available video conference opportunities, video conferencing with teachers from other district within the Cattaraugus and Allegany counties, (to develop a network of peers that they can later contact and collaborate with on projects), learn best practices for use of video conferences, how to prepare for a video conference, and of course, putting into practice what was learned.





OHS Model UN Delegation consists of (Row 1, l-r) Ramsha Zia, John McElfresh, Lauren Perkins, Afia Babar, Katie Simon\* and (Row 2, l-r) Shaun Bennett, Carrie DiRisio, Mark Gerwig\*, Carrie Burgess, Sarah Lehman, Colleen Kelly\*, Alex Mager, Hinna Malik and (Row 3, l-r) Sam Georgian, Lucas Groth\*, Matt DiRisio\*, Ian Adelstein-Hermann, Abram Brown, Forrest Marvin, Carl Samuelson\*. (\*) Denotes OHS Model UN officer.

## Model UN delegates serve at Canisius Conference

OHS Model United Nations Delegation took part in the Canisius College MUN Conference on Oct. 20. Students served as delegates from Algeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Tanzania, Benin, Nigeria, Egypt, Palestine, and on four UN Security Councils, as well as on the Arab League,

and the UN Commission on Human Rights. In addition to the 20 students who attended the Canisius Conference, OHS Model UN had 17 other students who helped research conference topics for our delegates who hope to attend future

conferences in the spring that will be held at SUNY Buffalo and St. Bonaventure University. OHS Model UN is led by our secretary general, senior Michele Spears, and is advised by Mrs. Donna Bunce and Mrs. Janine Scholla.

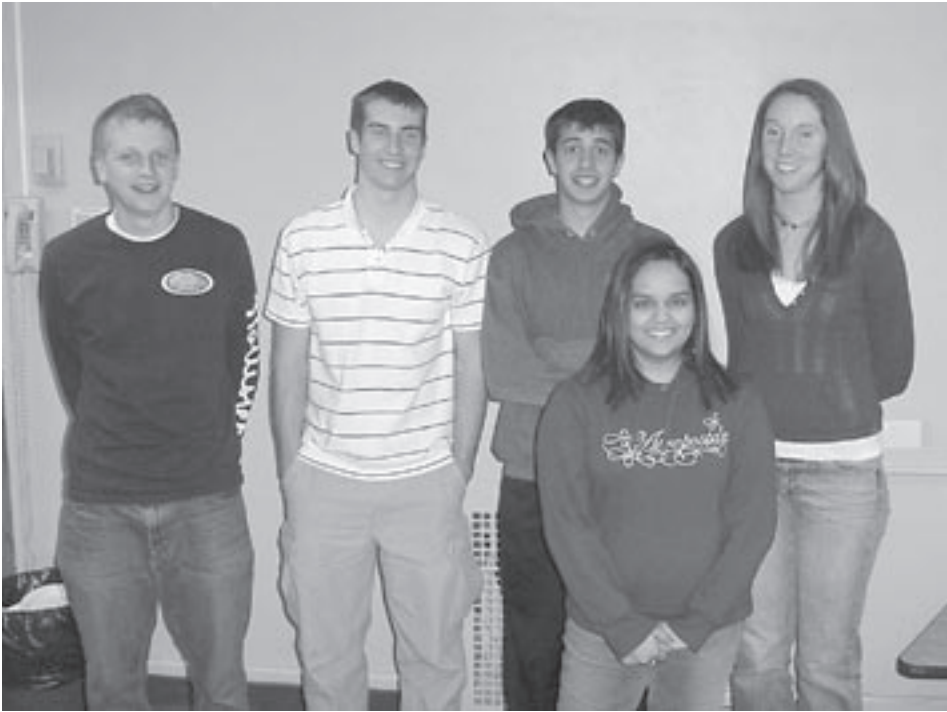
## Team competes in ‘Meeting of the Minds’

By Jean Abdo

Five OHS students participated in the “Meeting of the Minds” competition held at the Olean Campus of Jamestown Community College on Nov. 19. The competition featured eight area schools in an academic quiz bowl format. OHS team members were Michelle Spears (team captain), Matt DiRisio, Sam Georgian, Afia Babar, and Mark Gerwig.

The “Meeting of the Minds” competition followed a single elimination format and featured questions on topics that reflected the high school curriculum. The Olean team won its first round match before bowing out in the semi-final round to the eventual champions, Port Allegany.

This was the second year that OHS participated by enabling students the opportunity to demonstrate their academic talents.



## WINTER AND SPRING ACTIVITY ABOUNDS IN THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

The Olean High School Guidance Office has been busy meeting with students since the beginning of this school year. Students are assigned counselors by grade level. This year’s assignments are:

Rene O’Connell – 12<sup>th</sup> grade      Michael Howard – 10<sup>th</sup> grade  
Leah Allen – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade      Matt Threehouse – 9<sup>th</sup> grade

All counselors try to meet with their students during the fall semester to review last year’s academic success and confirm this year’s course requests. Students are informed of the number of credits completed to date, along with what courses they still need to take throughout high school.



**Seniors** have been meeting with Mrs. O’Connell to submit their college applications. This year’s senior class has been very busy. Seventy five percent of this year’s senior class has already applied to college with over 200 individual college applications completed. Seniors have already begun to receive acceptance letters from some colleges. The majority of college acceptances will be sent to students beginning in February 2006. Seniors generally do not need to make their final choice of which college they are going to attend until April or May. Mrs. O’Connell also has been advising students on where to search for opportunities in the community for employment to those students who will not be entering college directly after high school.

**Juniors** are meeting with Mrs. Allen to review their PSAT results. The PSAT was administered in October. The PSAT prepares students of the SAT I Reasoning Test that juniors will begin taking in the spring. The following dates for the SAT for the 2005-06 school year:

Test Date	Registration Deadline
April 1, 2006	February 24, 2006
May 6, 2006	April 3, 2006
June 3, 2006	April 28, 2006

**Juniors** can register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) or stop in the Guidance Office for a registration booklet. Mrs. Allen will be glad to assist any student in completing the application.

Penn York College Night is another activity **juniors** are encouraged to attend. Penn York College Night at St. Bonaventure University will be held on March 28, 2006, 6:30 p.m to 8:30 p.m. at the Reilly Center. This college fair will host representatives from over 100 colleges throughout New York State and parts of Pennsylvania and Ohio. A financial aid workshop session will also be conducted throughout the night.

Mrs. Allen also will be meeting with all **juniors** before the spring recess to choose next year’s course selections. Parents are always encouraged to contact the guidance counselor to provide input and ask questions about what courses students will be taking the following school year.

**Sophomores** visited the BOCES Center in November to tour the building and receive information about individual programs. Mr. Howard will be meeting with all the sophomores before the spring break to choose next year’s course selections. Sophomores also will be meeting with Mr. Howard to research career fields that may match their interests and abilities. The guidance office encourages students to explore many options throughout high school.

**Freshman** class has settled into their new building nicely. Mr. Threehouse has been busy meeting with these students to help them feel at home. Mr. Threehouse will assist these students in choosing their course selection for next year.

## Freshmen’s opinions count!

By Eileen Skrobacz

Imagine, if you will, being a freshman during your second month of classes at Olean High School, and the school librarian calls into your eighth period and wants to see you immediately after school. Your heart begins to race, your anxiety level increases and you begin to ask your self questions such as, “What did I do? I couldn’t have an overdue book already, could I? What is the problem? I must be in trouble!”

You rush to the library and see twelve other freshmen students who are also there to meet Momma K. She sits you down, tells you to relax, and then informs you that she would like to have you participate in a Freshmen Forum where you will discuss your experiences both positive and negative at Olean Middle School.

WOW! You think to yourself! This is my big chance to tell it like it really is. Momma K gives you a list of questions which will be used during the forum. Could this be the opportunity of a lifetime? You have a chance to tell anyone who will listen what life was like at OMS! When you get home, you look over the list of questions and think seriously about your middle school experiences. There were some fantastic times, and certainly, there were some instances when life was difficult at OMS, but isn’t that what you were told to expect before you even walked into OMS? You think about the teachers who prepared you for OMS, the adults who lent you money, school supplies, or even a shoulder to lean on. Yes, now that you think about it, your OMS experience was filled with far more positive times than negative.

And you took the opportunity which was presented to you to talk about your experiences in a mature, responsible, and pleasant manner. There were even some opportunities to reminisce and laugh!

Everyone involved in the Freshmen Forum was extremely proud of your honesty, straightforwardness, and willingness to participate. Most students would not be willing to put themselves ‘out there’ like you were all willing to do. I nominated each of you for being there when we needed you! Thank you **Sarah, Shelby, Matt, Jennifer, Rachel, Christa, Liz, Mackenzie, Keri, Paige, Annie, Megan, and Felisha** for participating in the Freshmen Forum. Your efforts were certainly appreciated!





Michelle Spears and Sam Georgian



Molly McKeown

## Spears, Georgian, McKeown earn fall sports honors

The Olean High School Athletic Department proudly announces that senior volleyball player Michelle Spears was named the CCAA Division I Female Scholar-Athlete of the Season for the 2005 fall season. The CCAA Division I member athletic directors selected Michelle as the recipient of this award for demonstrating outstanding achievement in academics as well as athletics.

Michelle also was named OHS Fall 2005 Athlete of the Season for her performance on the Girls' Varsity Volleyball Team.

Senior soccer player Sam Georgian also received recognition for being selected as the OHS male Scholar-Athlete nominee for the 2005 fall season.

Molly McKeown was named CCAA Division I Soccer Player of the Year.

## LaPennas & Spears named to Sec.VI Scholar/Athlete teams

The Olean High School Athletic Department proudly announces that seniors Katie LaPennas (tennis) and Michelle Spears (volleyball) and have been selected for their respective fall sports teams to the: **2005 Buffalo News/Section VI Scholar/Athlete All-Western New York Academic Teams.**

The award, sponsored by Section VI, recognizes academic as well as athletic achievement. To be nominated for the team, students must have carried a 90+ average for the previous six semesters and been a starter or significant player in their sport. This is an outstanding accomplishment and one of which each student-athlete, his/her team, our school and our community can be very proud. Congratulations Katie and Michelle!



Katie LaPennas



Michelle Spears



## OHS names Fall 2005 All-Sportsmanship Team

Members of the All-Sportsmanship Team include above (front, l-r) Varsity Cheerleading – Breanna Cottone, JV Girls' Soccer – Cassie Bold, Varsity Boys' Cross-Country – Chris McGonigle and (back, l-r) JV Football – Joe Pleakis, Varsity Girls' Soccer – Ali Kane, Varsity Football – Mike Sprague, Varsity Girls' Cross-Country – Carrie Dirisio. Additional team members include below (front, l-r) Varsity Girls' Swimming & Diving – Christina Snyder, AD's Choice – Lindsay Myers, JV Volleyball – Kelly Ash, Varsity Boys' Soccer – Matt Hardenbergh and (back, l-r) Varsity Volleyball – Katie Boyle, Varsity Girls Tennis – Tiffany Herrington, and JV Boys' Soccer – Corey Bennett.



## NYSPHSAA Scholar/Athlete fall team awards

To earn this team award, a certain number of varsity athletes in each sport must have their season's report card averages combined for a team average. If that average is 90% or greater, the NYSPHSAA declares the team a State Scholar/Athlete Team. Each team member who has an average of 90%, or helps the team earn an average of 90%, receives a scholar/athlete team award pin.

Congratulations to the following OHS fall sport athletic teams and team members for receiving the 2005 NYSPHSAA Scholar/Athlete Team Award !!

**Girls' Tennis** NYSPHSAA Scholar/Athlete Team Award: Sarah Shembeda, Sarah Lehman, Mari-linn Labella, Katie Lapennas, Kayla Branch, Megan Wells, Bridget Cooney, Angela Luty, Maria Proto.

**Girls' Volleyball** NYSPHSAA Scholar/Athlete Team Award: Michelle Spears, Lindsay Cheek, Deb McDowell, Laura Brook, Stephanie Rockwood, Jillian Shaffer, Nicole Graham, Missy Moore.

**Girls' Swimming & Diving** NYSPHSAA Scholar/Athlete Team Award: Annie Skroback, Meghan Guild, Hannah Hughes, Elizabeth Colarusso, Aubree Worth, Kara McGonnell, Christina Snyder, Katlyn Worth, Elizabeth Chamberlain, Laran Fox, Ashley Bly.

**Girls' Soccer** NYSPHSAA Scholar/Athlete Team Award: Meagan Griffin, Erin Gustason, Molly McKeown, Megan Kane, Natalie Pelton, Sarah Wolcott, Megan McKeown, AnnMarie Ventura, Brandy Wangelin, Ali Kane, Rachel Lowry, Rachel Ventura.

**Boys' Soccer** NYSPHSAA Scholar/Athlete Team Award: Sam Georgian, Reid Gan, Mark Gerwig, David Allen, Adam Griffith, Reuben Lehman, Matt Hardenbergh, Brian Wetherby, Kevin Welch, R.J. Strickler, Tyler Peterson, Chris Barnard.

**Girls' Cross Country** NYSPHSAA Scholar/Athlete Team Award: Christa Nianatus, Kathleen Lewicki, Elizabeth Mahar, Carrie Dirisio, Alicia Stebbins, Amanda Giermek, Sarah Rhinehart.



# YOUR help is needed with After-Prom Party

Are you aware that parents of OHS students have been providing a safe alternative on prom night, when the risk of drinking and driving is very high? We have been involved with the planning of the after-prom party since its inception eight years ago. It is open to the entire junior and senior classes; they are all welcome; **attendance at the prom is not necessary.**

**We need parental involvement of any interested parents** to help plan this event. Are there **any freshman and sophomore parents** who



would like to see this event provided for your future junior or senior? Please consider **getting involved now** to ensure that this activity will be provided for your child. Attending the actual after-prom party is not necessary, but you're welcome to chaperone if you'd like to. Other areas to consider helping

are: set-up, clean-up, food, fund raising and thank-you notes. With many hands this project can be an easy task. We usually have a very small committee and this year we are in need of more support and fresh ideas. Our hope is to "Pass the Torch" in a few years to other experienced parents.

If this is an activity that you would like to be involved with, please contact us at OHS, 375-8010, ext 3321 (kwelch@olean.wnyric.org), or 375-8060 Ext. 4165 (fwelch@olean.wnyric.org). If there is enough interest, we will begin planning this event in January. Please read the "Dear Abby" article printed at right for an important message. Thank you.

Fred and Kathy Welch

## Letter to DEAR ABBY

Sunday, November 23, 2003 Olean Times Herald

Dear Abby:

My letter concerns a beautiful 17-year-old girl. She was the apple of her father's eye, one of my daughter's closest friends. She was popular and enjoyed sports. She had a bright future ahead of her.

She, her boyfriend and another couple opted for a nice dinner and a party instead of attending the homecoming dance. At some point during the evening, these kids made a tragic mistake -- alcohol became a part of the "fun."

The police said alcohol, excessive speed and wet pavement led to the terrible crash. The car hit two trees at nearly 60 mph, and this lovely young girl died at the scene. Her boyfriend is paralyzed. The 18-year-old driver of the car died the following morning. They had dropped off another teenager just minutes before the crash. She didn't realize until morning that the ambulance she heard wail by her bedroom window was for her friends.

I wish every teen would see what I witnessed at the funeral -- the grief-stricken father, the mother in shock, other family members numb with disbelief. Maybe it would save some lives. We as parents could offer little comfort to our devastated children. Half the high school was there, not a dry eye in the place. Many teens seemed on the verge of collapse.

This calamity is repeated every year in this country. It has to stop.

Teens: I BEG you. Please don't drink and drive or ride with anyone who has been drinking.

Parents: Promise your children that while you don't condone underage drinking, a safe ride home is just a phone call away -- night or day. Assure them that this ride comes without lecture or punishment of any kind.

So many lives will never be the same. The grieving families will never fully recover. Please, Abby, print this letter as a warning. Life is fragile. Life is precious. Don't waste it -- don't take chances.

Mourning in the U.S.A.

Dear Mourning,

My deepest sympathy to all of the families who were affected by this senseless tragedy.

Teens who do not drink credit their families as the biggest influence for making that intelligent choice. Youth whose parents discuss alcohol (and drug) use with them -- regularly, knowledgeably and specifically -- are less likely to engage in substance abuse than teens whose parents say little or nothing about the subject. Knowing your children's activities and friends, and the parents of their friends, is also important.

I urge every parent and other adult caregivers to ask the government's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information for a free copy of the booklet "Keeping Youth Drug Free." It can be obtained by calling toll-free: 800-729-6686. (It can also be read online at [www.health.org](http://www.health.org).)

With more than 2,200 young people ages 16 to 20 dying in alcohol-related crashes every year, we must make a greater effort to prevent this waste of human life.

To my young readers: Please don't shrug this off. Make smart choices, because if you don't -- it *can* happen to you.



Teachers and students from IJN volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army's annual kettle drive (see photo at left). It was a very cold Saturday in December and hot chocolate was in order. There was a lot of bell ringing, a lot of singing and a lot of hot chocolate drinking going on. When asked how they felt about this experience, the students were quoted as saying:

"I felt good about it because I knew I was helping other people." - Fylicia Barr

"It was fun. It was nice to help other people." - Dustin Provorse

Good, because I knew I was helping people in need of things for Christmas." - Taylor Draper

## Ivers J. Norton Elementary School

Students in D. Wilson's second grade have been learning about different holidays celebrated in the month of December. Diane Balaban (shown in photo at right), a community member, was a guest speaker who talked about Hanukkah. She talked about the driedl and what the symbols on it meant. She also brought in a menorah for the children to see. The students were excited and actively participated in the discussion.



Donna Kahm and Monika Harris during the check presentation.

Ivers J. Norton Elementary School is one of three Olean schools to receive \$2,000 through the Western New York Asthma Coalition for a School Asthma Management Pilot Program. The number of students with asthma has been rising steadily over the past several decades. Poorly managed asthma leads to persistent symptoms such as wheezing, coughing and chest tightness. These symptoms can lead to an increase in the number of school absences and adversely affect the student's ability to concentrate and study.

Through the program coordinated by Southern Tier Health Care System, Inc., the school nurse will be able to use \$1,000 to purchase equipment and office supplies needed to enhance the treatment of asthmatic students during the 2005-06 school year. The program includes staff development on asthma, education and training for students and parents as well as developing a communication system between students, parents, teachers, school nurses and health care providers to ensure effective asthma management. Additionally, the school will receive \$1,000 to track the use of asthma medication, student absenteeism due to asthma and asthma-related emergency room visits.

Washington West Elementary School and the Olean Middle School will also each receive \$2,000 for the same program.



# East View Elementary School

## Important Dates to Remember

**Jan. 9** – PTO meeting, 6 p.m.  
**Jan. 10-11** – ELA test for Grs. 3 and 5  
**Jan. 10-12** – ELA test for Gr. 4  
**Jan. 12** – Building Level Team mtg., 6 p.m.  
**Jan. 16** – No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
**Jan. 23-26** – Child Lures presentations  
**Jan. 27** – Characterade - take video home for the weekend  
**Jan. 27** – End of the 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period  
**Feb. 3** – Report Cards sent home  
**Feb. 20** – No School, Presidents Day  
**Feb. 21-22** – No School, Staff Dev. Days

**NYS testing – grades 3, 4 and 5:** The New York State English Language Arts Assessment will be administered to students in Grades 3 and 5 on January 10 and 11 and to Grade 4 on January 10, 11 and 12. Although students cannot really study for these assessments, parents can help their children prepare for the tests by: insuring that your child gets a good night's rest; making sure your child has a nutritious breakfast each morning; making sure your child is present and on time each morning.

## 5<sup>th</sup> graders tour ALCAS

By Carrie Cleveland, Christopher Gayton and Konrad Morawski

As part of the partnership between East View Elementary School and the ALCAS Corporation, a job share project is taking place in which 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are given a tour of the CUTCO and Vector facilities.

As the first students to take the tour this year, we learned a lot about the ALCAS Corporation. We learned that ALCAS is made up of two businesses, CUTCO and Vector. CUTCO makes the knives and after they are made, Vector sells them. During the tour, we learned how the knives are made, starting with sheets and coils of steel. Then the knives were cut out of the steel. To make the knives stronger, they are heated, frozen and then heated once more. Then we saw how the knives were sanded to make them even, shiny and sharp. We also saw how the handles are made using molds and then attached to the blades using rivets. Finally, the knives are sanded, polished and inspected. We would like to thank Mr. Tim Keenan for the wonderful tour of ALCAS.



**Mike Randall and Friends visit:** TV Channel 7 meteorologist Mike Randall brought his "Magic of Reading" program to East View as part of our Reading Challenge project. The program included magic, puppets, ventriloquism, audience participation, a strong message about the importance of reading, and lots of fun.

**Reading Challenge:** East View recently conducted a "Reading Challenge" in which the students were challenged to read 1,000 books during a four week period. Within the first two weeks, the students had gone over the 1,000 book goal so a new goal was set, adding another 1,500 books to the challenge. By the end of the month, the students had read over 2,500 books to earn a pajama day, a holiday concert by Glenn Colton with a special guest performance by "Elfis the King of Santa's Elves." The students did a great job exceeding all expectations. Pictured at right are third-graders Rachael Painter and Clay French figuring out how many more books the students need to read.



## Poster/essay contest winners

The following East View students were honored by the Fraternal Order of Eagles for their entries in the annual Poster/Essay Contest for National Home and Family Week are pictured (l-r): Grade 5 – Kelly VanBrunt, Grade 2 – Miranda Sakala, Grade 1 – Julie Ash, and Grade 4 – Shae Pucinelli. Congratulations students!



**Holiday houses:** We are ready for the holiday. We made yummy gingerbread houses to get in the spirit of the Christmas holiday. It was SUPER hard not to eat all the candy goodies or the yummy powered sugar glue, but we did it! We used our lunch milk cartons as the foundation and then piled on all the candy goodies. I wonder how long these houses will last once they get home?



**All aboard The Polar Express!** Mrs. Deibler's, Mrs. Marsfelder's and Ms. Smith's classes participated in a Polar Express Week. On Dec. 9, students lived the experience of riding the Polar express in our own classroom. The children boarded the train wearing their pajamas as the teacher passes out the Polar Express tickets. Some students had their tickets punched as seen in the movie. These events brought the book to life and allowed students to live the experience of the train ride. Several of the activities included, having hot cocoa as rich as melted chocolate bars, making trains to express their holiday wishes as well as a surprise visit from Santa Claus. Santa gave each child a candy cane and the first gift of Christmas. (The silver bell off Santa's sleigh.)



## Welcome Ms. Yurek!

We would like to welcome Julie Yurek to the North Hill family as our AmeriCorp representative. AmeriCorp members are engaged in service to their communities by mentoring children and building strong relationships with their families. Julie

will provide direct service to North Hill by mentoring selected students during the school day and visiting with their families outside of the school day. She will also be present during the extended school day program. Julie has spent the past month in Louisiana helping the victims of hurricane Katrina. Welcome home Julie!



# North Hill Elementary School



**Recycling - creatively:** Mr. Harvey's 5<sup>th</sup> grade and Mrs. DiCerbo's 4<sup>th</sup> grade have worked like busy elves in the art room creating hand-made wreaths and Frosty the Snowman faces. They used large styrofoam circles donated from our partner Henkel Corp. a few years ago. It took about 3-4 hours of work to complete the entire process. For the wreath they used green plastic squares, decorative gold rope, mini ornaments and, of course, a bow. For the big Frosty, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders cut many colorful pieces of felt for all the features. Mrs. Stanford, art teacher at North Hill, is extremely proud of the students and their hard work. She hopes that they enjoyed working with materials that are a little different. Recycling styrofoam can be challenging and creative.

**Ring the bell:** On Saturday, Dec. 10, fifth-graders donated their time to a very worthy cause. They were ringing the Salvation Army Bell at TOPS supermarket (see photo at left) from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Mr. Harvey and Mr. Corder helped student participants Mark Grigsby, Adam Pecherzewski, Audriona Jones, Nicole Anastasia, Justin App, Justine Nobles, Angela Reckard, Staci Wojcik, Joseph King, Andrew Kolata, Danielle Miller and Valerie Lange.



**Tom Turkey greets OGH patients:**

Six members of Marcia Storch's and Kathy Grandusky's third grade class from Boardmanville Elementary hand-delivered their creative turkey napkin holders to Olean General Hospital (see photo at right). Mary Fay and the Nutrition Staff gratefully accepted this thoughtful donation of over 100 napkin holders. The students designed the colorful Tom turkeys just for our patients' Thanksgiving meal trays. What a nice way for these young people to learn about thanks and giving. The little gobbler napkin holders sure brightened up everyone's Thanksgiving!



**Learning about different cultures:** Mrs. Waugh's fifth grade is talking about different cultures and we are writing letters to our Peace Corp pen-pal named Ryan in Albania.

**Reader's Theater:** Mrs. Budzinski's Second Grade Class read " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas" as part of a Reader's Theater presentation at Boardmanville's Morning Program. Clutching toys from Santa at the Reader's Theater presentation in photo at right are Carter, Jacob, Phoenix, Ande, and Madison, with Noah as Santa.



Season's Greetings!! We here at Boardmanville wish all of our students and families a very happy and safe holiday season. It is a very busy time for every one. As you will see on pages 16 and 17, the teachers and students have been busy here at school over the past several weeks.

## Boardmanville Elementary School



**Learning origins of Thanksgiving:** While reading Molly's Pilgrim Mrs. Grandusky's 3<sup>rd</sup> graders learned the origin of Thanksgiving. If you ask one of them about it you may be surprised. They were! Each child made a pilgrim or an Indian out of a clothes pin and other materials from home. Their creativity was terrific (see photo at left)!!

**Circuit testing for conductivity:** The fourth grade students in Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Sullivan's classes are busily working in their science centers. Students are working in centers based on Electricity and Magnetism. Luke, Skyler and Sarah are shown in the photo at right using an incomplete circuit and testing items to find which will act as a conductor to complete the circuit.

**Second-graders hard at work:** Mrs. Olson's second graders performed the play called Arthur's Thanksgiving for Boardmanville's Morning Program on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Everyone enjoyed the awesome actors and "turkeys" that were in the play!

Congratulations go out to Alexis Jonak for being our class winner of the Eagle's, "What My Home and Family Mean to Me" poster contest.

Everyone in the classroom was working hard on their "bare book," that they presented at an evening tea on December 21.



**Monday Morning Meetings:** Mrs. Bushnell's and Mrs. Stephens' classes get together every Monday for a Monday Morning Meeting. We start the week together with a song, poem, a picture story starter and a letter to the children. Here we in the photo at left reading our magic poem and turning letters into "M &Ms" for Mm week. "Letters are Magic! Alakazam! Alakazoo!"

**Learning how to sort:** The first grade has been learning different ways to sort objects by properties. Students sorted and labeled different items depending upon what property the item was sorted into. Students sorted by shape, color, size, texture and material.





**Mystery Reader program begins:** WW is very excited about starting a "Mystery Reader" program in Mrs. Bates' and Mrs. Morgan's kindergarten classrooms this year. This is a very fun activity for the students, parents and even the teachers! The Mystery Reader chooses a picture book to read to the class and perhaps an activity to go a long with the book. This has been a very enjoyable experience, and we welcome more participants. Our goal for this activity is to instill a "Love for Reading."



**Music to our ears:** The Shining Stars in Mrs. Kless' Class performed their holiday Bell Choir on Friday, December 16, at Husky Pup Prime Time for the husky pups and parents. They played six holiday songs using bells. Students practiced all December for the show, and they did an outstanding job! Mrs. Kless proudly congratulated her students, "Great job students! You always find a way to shine!"

## Washington West Elementary School



**Happy Harry Potter Day:** Mrs. Frederick's fourth-graders declared Harry Potter Day! The students just finished reading the third book in this thrilling series! They watched this movie to compare and contrast it with the book. Mrs. Padlo made chocolate wands as a treat. Mrs. Jones did a presentation on her trip to Scotland. She had pictures and treats for us! She sat in the same coffee shop that J. K. Rowling sat in and wrote the Harry Potter books. She also saw the famous castle where this amazing author got her idea to create the Hogwarts Castle! The fun didn't stop at 3 p.m. Families, students, former students, and Mrs. Frederick all met at Carmike Cinemas to watch the fourth Harry Potter movie, "The Goblet of Fire." A fun day was had by all! Who knew reading could be this much fun!!!



**Stepping up, up and away to writing!** Katie Skudlarek (above) is among the students in Mrs. Lewicki's third grade class who have been working hard on improving their writing skills by using the Step Up to Writing program. Mrs. Woodring, resource room teacher, pushes-in to Mrs. Lewicki's classroom daily to team teach writing lessons. Students have been working hard and enthusiastically to become better writers!



**Fourth-graders lead the way to instill a love of reading:** Mrs. Frederick's fourth-graders and Mrs. Chamberlain's first-graders meet every Wednesday to do Reading Buddies. In addition to reading stories, they complete a variety of writing activities. As a culminating activity for their work with "The Polar Express," students will wear their pajamas, watch the video and will share an extra special treat.



**Star readers:** Kaitlyn reads a story to her classmates (above) as she is the 'star reader' of the day. Each day a different child reads a short story to the class. This lets the students practice their reading skills as well as gives them an opportunity to work on their public speaking skills.



**Serendipity?** Something strange and eerie happened one afternoon in Mrs. Frederick's fourth-grade! Within 10 minutes, three students lost a tooth! The class was shocked. Mrs. Frederick thought it was a prank, Nurse Mrs. Hendrickson thought it was hilarious and the tooth fairy almost went broke!

**Putting their writing skills to a patriotic use:** First-graders in Mr. Martin's class have been busy writing cards and letters to our soldiers in Iraq (see photo below).



**Fun way to learn about Mexico:** Mrs. Monroe and her fifth-grade students recently worked on a social studies unit about Mexico (see photo at left). Each student had a folder with fun materials to work on. In teams of two, the students researched Mexico on the Internet, made presentations and created maps of Mexico using many secret ingredients usually found in a kitchen!!



## **OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

410 W. Sullivan St.  
Olean, NY 14760  
[www.oleanschools.org](http://www.oleanschools.org)

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Mark J. Ward, Superintendent of Schools  
Joseph Mahar, Business Manager/District Clerk  
Barbara Lias, High School Principal  
Jeffrey Andreano, Assistant High School Principal  
Gerald Trietley, Middle School Principal  
Joel Whitcher, Assistant Middle School Principal  
John White, Boardmanville Elementary Principal  
David Olson, East View Elementary Principal  
Dr. Brian O'Connell, Ivers J. Norton Elementary Principal  
Lynn Corder, Interim North Hill Elementary Principal  
Cheryl Vecchio, Washington West Elementary Principal  
Judith Creeden, Director of Curriculum (K-5) & Testing  
Csobanka Woodworth, Technology Administrator

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Michiko McElfresh, President  
Steven Hamed, Vice President  
Laurie Branch  
Gordon Cross  
Mary Fay  
Ira Katzenstein  
Michael Martello  
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**POSTAL PATRON LOCAL**

# **Elementary Decision ... Road Map to the Future**

**By Mark J. Ward, Superintendent**

The Board of Education is continuing to sponsor a series of meetings that have given the community an opportunity to interact with school officials to revise and discuss options the District might consider as we evaluate our elementary program. Currently, there are three committees (Facilities, Curriculum & Programming and Transportation) that are considering different approaches to educating our elementary students and how these specific areas might be impacted. The committees are focusing on how potential change will impact learning opportunities for our students, as well as the financial realities facing our community.

The groups are continuing to look at different options that include no change to our current elementary configuration, reducing the number of schools from five to four and then phasing into three, with another option to wait until the entire change can be implemented at once. It has been estimated that the closing of North Hill will provide the District with roughly \$300,000 that could be used to provide additional services for our students or help defray increasing operational costs. The administration has continued to emphasize to the public that closing a school will not decrease taxes but it will allow us an opportunity to use the money differently to benefit our children.

For more information about our elementary schools, go to the District's web site, [www.oleanschools.org](http://www.oleanschools.org) and click on the link that says "Road Map to the Future."

The committees will continue to discuss the different options at their next meeting slated for Tuesday, Jan. 10, at the IJN Elementary School at 7 p.m. This meeting will feature the Hunt Architecture and Engineering firm who has been examining all of our buildings as part of the state's required Building Condition Survey and Five Year Plan. Their report will provide a review of our facilities and attach specific costs to areas that are in need of improvement. If the District downsizes the number of schools, there will be a definite need for a capital project to renovate and expand some of our facilities. The survey should additionally assist the District to better define energy, equipment and technological needs.

The committee reports will be presented to the Olean Board in late January. The Board plans to make their final decision at the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting after examining the work of the committees, reviewing costs and considering the long range needs of our District.



**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