Thanks for a SUPER drive!

Thanks to everyone who supported the District-Wide Super Bowl Food Pantry Drive. Our students collected 6,150 cans of food to be distributed by the Olean Food Pantry.

Class winners in the pizza contest were: Mrs. Marcus, East View, 227 cans; Mrs. Hamed, Ivers J. Norton, 215 cans (see photo at right); Mrs. Grandusky, Boardmanville, 164 cans; Miss Randall, Mrs. Raimondi, North Hill, 159 cans; STCS, 133 cans; Mrs. Lewicki, Washington West, 178 cans. A Spirit Award was given to Mrs. Metler’s class of six students who collected an impressive 96 cans.

School totals were: Ivers J. Norton - 1,663 cans; East View - 1,432 cans; Boardmanville - 1,202 cans; Washington West - 844 cans; North Hill - 414 cans; STCS - 595 cans.

School Board votes on closing North Hill

By Mark J. Ward, Superintendent

The Board of Education was scheduled to vote at the March 21 meeting to close the North Hill Elementary School effective June 30, 2006. Through a series of community meetings starting in September the District has conducted a thorough and open review of our present elementary configuration examining all aspects in an effort to develop a “vision” for our educational system.

Parents have been concerned over the “District’s Plan” and a mini review of the key points has been included in this article. While we recognize that decisions like this are difficult, the Board must look at it in the context of all students.

Major reasons to close North Hill at this time:

- Immediate savings of over $300,000 which represents approximately 3% on tax bills
- We currently have space at other schools that will accommodate the students.
- Some of the savings (approx. $200,000) can be used immediately to add elementary programs/staff.
- A portion of the savings can be used to lessen the impact of rising costs (approx. $100,000).
- The enrollment has shown a steady decrease while the tax base has dropped over 20% in the last 20 years. It is time for the school district to downsize its operation to meet the changes that our community is going through.
- The City of Olean is facing major tax increases for water, sewer, and city government and the same people are impacted by school taxes.

How will the savings be used to improve education?

- We will provide “before school programs” at all elementary buildings ($20,000).
- We will increase a part-time guidance counselor to full-time ($21,000).
- We will increase a part-time nurse to full-time ($22,000).
- We will place teacher aides in all elementary computer labs (currently they are not staffed).
- We will expand “after school programs” to all schools (grant funded).
- We will purchase “Reading First” materials for all students at Boardmanville (@ $70,000).
- We will hire a “Reading Coach” for the Reading First Program at Boardmanville (@ $47,000).

(continued on page 3)
What is S.A.C.?

By Pat Massaro

S.A.C. or Student Activities Council consists of a group of seniors, elected by their peers, at Olean High School who develop and manage several events throughout the year. S.A.C. aims to raise money for the less fortunate in our local area. The group meets daily to discuss issues throughout the school and the community. This council deals with several fundraising throughout the year to help those in need. Most recently, S.A.C held its 13th annual Homeless Huskies fundraiser (see story at right) which had 148 students participate and raised $7,400. To date, this event has raised $72,500 for the Genesis House, Warming House and the Salvation Army. Our annual Up All Night fundraiser this year will be held on March 3. This event last year raised nearly $3,000 for the Kozlowski family and has raised $14,285 since its initiation. Other events that SAC ran throughout the year include: Freshmen Orientation, Homecoming and Winter Weekend festivities, dances, jar wars, and monthly hat and dress down days to benefit various organizations or families in need in our community. Each year SAC also sponsors a family at Christmas time and hosts a five days of giving event in which the students bring in various items each day of the week. These items are then donated to help local families who need basic items for the winter and holiday season.

Last school year, S.A.C. raised and donated more than $20,000. The total amount of money that the council has distributed to the community and high school classes since 1994 is approximately $164,400.

The Student Activities Council members for the 2005-2006 school year are: Presidents Colleen Kelly and Natalie Pelton, Vice Presidents Pat Massaro and Sarah Rhinhart, Secretaries Ali Kane and Molly McKeown, and Treasurers Rachel Askey and Whitney Foskit. The advisors for this year are Maria Brooks and Melody Jones.

If you would like to contact S.A.C. call 716-375-8000, ext. 8003.

Current and former OHS Social Studies Department members gathered to thank Mr. Scott Elder, Department Chairman, for 35 years of educating Olean students. Pictured (front, l-r) Mrs. Laura Widman, (Assistant Principal Kenmore East School), Mrs. Donna Bunce, Mrs. Patti-Ann Brown, Mrs. Janine Scholla, and (middle, l-r) Mrs. Jean Abdo, Mr. Elder, Mr. Harry Wolfrom and (back, l-r) Mr. Rick Moore (Superintendent of Salamanca), Mr. Paul Kleinser (OHS Department Chairman, retired), Mr. Carl Kolasny, and Mrs. Bob Lilivett (OHS, retired) Department members absent from photo are Mr. Mike Kane and Mrs. Katie Wolfgang.

S.A.C. Spotlight

Homeless Huskies raise nearly $7,500

By Colleen Kelly

Picture this: a cold, snow-filled night in December, the sky providing a freezing insulator for all that choose to submerge themselves, and the front lawn of Olean High School scattered with students ready to brave the elements. For the OHS students who chose to participate in Homeless Huskies, the above-mentioned "picture" became a reality.

On the 10th of this past November, Olean High School students and staff took part in the 13th Annual Homeless Huskies fundraiser. In order to be permitted to sleep outside in cardboard boxes, each student was required to raise a minimum of $40. Many students went above and beyond this, however, with the highest donor raising $140. Pat Massaro, the top donor, states that raising money for the event "was rewarding."

Altogether, $7,463 was raised. At the discretion of the Olean High School Student Activities Council, $5,000 went to the Genesis House, followed by the Warming House and Salvation Army each receiving $1,250. Overall $73,000 has been donated to several charitable organizations in the area since the start of Homeless Huskies in 1992.

The 9th annual After-Prom Party will be held immediately following the prom on May 13 from 1-4 a.m. at the Olean Middle School. All students must sign in by 1:30 a.m. This event is open to ALL juniors and seniors, not just those attending the prom, and is free! A permission letter will be sent home to all parents/guardians at the beginning of May and must be returned to Mrs. Kathy Welch at OHS by May 12. Activities include volleyball, swimming, ping pong, basketball, computers, and movies. Plenty of food and refreshments, including pizza, subs, and chicken wings will be provided throughout the night. Prizes, such as TVs, DVD Players, Cameras, Mini-refrigerators, Microwaves, CD players, cordless phones, and many gift certificates will be given away and everyone in attendance will win a prize. This activity is made possible through the generosity of area merchants and parents. Our goal is to provide a safe and fun alternative on prom night when peer pressure and wrong choices are tempting. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation, please call Mrs. Welch at OHS, 375-8010, ext. 3321, or e-mail kwelch@olean.wnyric.org.

By Colleen Kelly

North Hill board vote

(continued from page 1)

The Student Activities Council held its annual Jar Wars competition the week of January 23. The students at OHS donated pennies to their class as “good” points and gave the other classes silver or dollars which are “bad” points. The class with the most “good” points wins the week-long competition. The Jar Wars event raised a total of $1,300 this year with the winning class being the juniors. Half of the proceeds were donated to the winning class and the other half went to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital.

Make a safe choice: Join us for the After-Prom Party

Other information that has been often asked:

• A transition team has been developed to assist the children, families, and staff in implementing the changes if North Hill is closed.
• North Hill students currently in grades 2, 3, 4 will go to Boardman-ville, siblings may also go there.
• North Hill students currently in grades K, 1 will go to East View, siblings may also go there as well.
• The Superintendent will work with families on an individual basis as needed to assist in future attendance concerns.
• Shuttle bus will be provided for North Hill students living less than one mile from their neighborhood school will be offered transportation.
• If we run our present busing more efficiently (running at 30 % of capacity) we do not believe there will be increased costs.
• We were advised by grant officials to only apply for three schools for the Reading First Grant. North Hill students’ needs were included in the original grant.

The Board of Education committed to providing Reading First funding at all elementary buildings.

We have no intention of increasing the number of students in classes. We want to provide more balance in all classes.

A look into the future:

• There has been discussion and excitement about the possibility of building one “new” elementary school. The District will need to develop a “Task Force” to work with the Board to decide the next step – capital project for a new school, maintain three or four elementary schools, or renovate/add on to existing schools. This task force will be formed immediately after the vote.

• Re-districting for four schools adds all the North Hill area to Boardman-ville with the exception of Homer Street which will become part of Washington West.

Additional information and power point presentations from the community meetings is available on the District web site: www.oleanschools.org

North Hill board vote
OHS Guidance News & Notes

Spears honored as Scholar-Athlete

Congratulations to Michelle Spears for being chosen Channel 4 of Buffalo’s Scholar Athlete for the Month for February! Channel 4 traveled to OHS Feb, 23rd to meet up with Michelle and talk about her accomplishments. Michelle was nominated for being an outstanding student and a dedicated athlete. Michelle’s accomplishments include CCAA (Chautauqua County Athletic Association) Division I Female Scholar-Athlete of the Fall 2005 season, Section VI All WNY Scholar Athlete for Volleyball, and OHS Athlete of the Fall 2005 season. Michelle is also the President of our National Honor Society. She plans on becoming a physician and is currently competing for a seat in the George Washington University Medical School through St. Bonaventure University’s 4+4 dual degree program.

Students Begin Course Selections

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors are meeting with their counselors to select next year’s courses. Counselors will be sending home the student’s course requests for parents to review and return with a parent signature. The course selection process will be completed by May 1.

Penn-York College Night March 28

Juniors are reminded to attend Penn York College Night on Tuesday, March 28, at St. Bonaventure University’s Reilly Center. After the game, the Wizards signed autographs for all of the fans. The OHS Booster Club organized the event in order to raise money for those less fortunate.

FAFSA Needed for College Aid

Scholarships are being announced daily. For an additional resource on financial aid, students are encouraged to apply for a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Colleges will be contacting students to make appointments for scheduling courses and financial aid. Applications for financial aid should be completed as soon as possible.

OHS All-Stars take on the Harlem Wizards

By Eileen Keenan Skrobacz

The OHS gym was packed ... fans even sat out the door, against the wall, and behind the opponents’ bench to watch the Olean City School District’s All Star Basketball team take on the Harlem Wizards. Employees from all of the district’s elementary, middle and high schools made up the roster. It was a special treat for the fans to see their secretaries, teachers, coaches and administrators play against the Wizards. Excitement filled the air as the jump ball went up and the OHS All Stars took command. Steve Estes, varsity football coach, grabbed the tip-off and ran to the basket and slam-dunked the ball. The fans went crazy, the cheers were raising the roof, and the Huskies were in the lead. Throughout the game, the lead went back and forth, the Wizards would go up by four, and the Huskies would hit a three-pointer, be fouled, and score on the foul shot. During the third quarter, the Wizards gave the Huskies a twenty-point lead. And then the Wizards began to show their stuff. Slam dunks, three pointers, and lay-ups all fell as easily as possible for the Wizards. The Huskies seemed to have hit a slump! Although the final score did give the victory to the Wizards, everyone at the game agreed that the Olean All Stars played the best game of their one-game season.

After the game, the Wizards signed autographs for all of the fans. The OHS Booster Club organized the event in order to raise funds for the club. Everyone felt the evening was packed with fun, excitement, and a lot of laughs. And the next morning, the Olean All Stars might have had sore muscles, aching backs, and tired legs, but through their pain, the All Stars could certainly feel great because they had helped to raise money for their Olean athletes.

Don’t forget the income tax code

The Olean City School District code for income tax purposes is 462. Putting this number on your tax return is extremely important to the District. This number helps determine the amount of state aid the school district receives.

Nominated for good character

LiZhi Zheng was recently nominated by Mrs. Kathy Welch to receive the American Youth Character Award. This award is the only national award given to young people solely for strength of character. They are not given for isolated acts of heroism or generosity. Nor are they given simply for high grades, leadership posts, excellence in athletics or the arts. Rather, they are designed to honor young people whose lives and achievements demonstrate an enduring commitment to the qualities associated with good character. Those selected are undeniable role models for their generation.

Students take turn as bell-ringers

What do sub-freezing temperatures and bell ringing have in common? All you need to do is ask the students who volunteered on December 13, to ring the bell for the Salvation Army’s Red Kettle Drive! Cassie Bold, Allison Brady, John Capitali, Jacob Carl, Adrienne Sader, Felisha Hrabowy, Alyssa Edwards, Amber Donnelly, Sarah Rhinehart, and Ryan Chizeck all braved the temperatures. OMS teacher, Judy O’Dea, stepped in with hot cocoa and coffee to help volunteers maintain some body heat! The students dressed accordingly and even sang Christmas carols. Many shoppers exiting Wal-Mart made sure to mention what a sacrifice the students were making to brave the elements. The comments and knowing that they were helping to raise money for those less fortunate than themselves made the students feel that their time was well-spent.
Thank you Coach Altmire!
35 years 1971-2006

OHS athletics cited for sportsmanship

The OHS Girls Varsity Soccer team and the OHS Varsity Football team were selected as recipients of the Section VI Sportsmanship Award in the Chautauqua County Athletic Association League and the Section VI South Division respectively, for the 2005 fall season. This is one of the most prestigious awards a school can receive, since it serves to recognize a major objective of interscholastic athletics, sportsmanship. The OHS girls' varsity soccer team and varsity football team have been recognized by other coaches in the league for exemplary characteristics of sportsmanship displayed throughout the season.

It was also announced that Natalie Pelton (right), girls' varsity soccer player, was selected as the "All-WNY Good Sports Team" for the 2005 fall season. This is one of the most prestigious individual awards an athlete can receive since it too serves to recognize the major objective of interscholastic athletics, sportsmanship. Natalie receives this award in recognition of exemplary characteristics of sportsmanship displayed throughout the season.

Orcutt wins Sec. 6 Class AA Wrestling Title

By Ms. O'Connor

Olean senior Bryan Orcutt (shown on the top podium) won the Class AA Wrestling title at 152 lbs. at the Section 6 Class AA Wrestling Tournament held in Fredonia on February 11. Bryan is the fourth Olean wrestler in the past four years to win a class title.

Bryan was seeded fourth in his respective weight class and upset the number one and two seeds to win the Section 6 Class AA Championship. Bryan moved onto the Section 6 Division One State Qualifier held at the University of Buffalo on Feb. 17. He must place first in this qualifier to reach the State Championships in Long Island February 24 and 25.

Moore scores 1,000th point

Zach Moore, a junior on the varsity basketball team scored 1,000 career points on February 2. Zach achieved this milestone in the first half of an 83-58 team victory over Fredonia.

Pictured (l-r) are Coach Anastasia, Zach and his parents Katie & Andy Moore. Congratulations!

OHS 2006 Spring Sports Schedule

Boys' & Girls' Track

Boys Head Coach - Paul Ksionzyk
Girls Head Coach - Bob Ring
Assistants - Dan Kluczko, Dan Freeman
(meets at 4:30 p.m., unless noted)

Boys April 6 at Bradford, 4 p.m.
April 6 at Frankville Relays, 1:30 p.m.
April 11 at Allegany-Limestone, 1 p.m.
April 13 at Wellsville w/AIF-Almond
April 18 at Falconer Inv. (Falconer)
April 22 at Kane Invitational, 10 a.m.
April 27 at Dunkirk
April 29 at OLEAN INV., 10 a.m.
May 2 at FREDONIA
May 5 at Alleg-Limes Relays
May 9 at Gowanda
May 12 at Falconer Inv. (Falconer)
May 16 at SOUTHWESTERN
May 19 Super 8 Meet (Frankville), 5 p.m.
May 20 at Pentathlon & Steeplechase
(Maple Grove), 10 a.m.
May 22 at FREDONIA
May 24 at (JV Meet), 4 p.m.
May 26 CCAA Championships (Randolph), 4 p.m.
May 27 CCAA Championships (Randolph), 10 a.m.
June 2 at Section VI Championships (JFK), 12 Noon
June 3 at Section VI Championships (JFK), 12 Noon
June 9 NYS Track & Field Champ. (St. Lawrence), 12:30 p.m.
June 10 NYS Track & Field Champ. (St. Lawrence), 10 a.m.

Boys' Varsity Tennis

Coach – Peg Ulasewicz
(Games at 4 p.m., unless noted)

Boys April 3 at Allegany-Limestone
April 4 DUNKIRK
April 5 FREDONIA
April 6 at Portville, 12 Noon
April 21 at Allegany-Limestone
April 24 at Southwestern
April 26 at Bradford, 12 Noon
April 27 at Dunkirk
April 28 at Fredonia
May 1 at Wellsville
May 4 at Gowanda
May 5 at Allegany-Limestone
May 8 at Cuba-Rushford
May 9 at Southwestern

OHS Varsity Tennis

Coach – Peg Ulasewicz
(Games at 4 p.m., unless noted)

Girls April 6 at Allegany-Limestone
April 8 at Portville, 12 Noon
April 21 at Allegany-Limestone
April 24 at Southwestern
April 26 at Bradford, 12 Noon
April 27 at Dunkirk
April 28 at Fredonia
May 1 at Wellsville
May 4 at Gowanda
May 5 at Dunkirk
May 8 FREDONIA
May 16-18 at CCAA Championships, TBA
May 23-25 Section VI Championships, TBA
June 1-3 NYS Champ., TBA

VARSITY SOFTBALL

Coach – Matt Threehouse
(Games at 4:30 p.m., unless noted)

April 3 at Fredonia
April 5 FREDONIA
April 6 at Wellsville
April 21 PORTVILLE, 12 Noon
April 24 at Allegany-Limestone
April 26 at Southwestern
April 29 at Bradford, 12 Noon
May 1 DUNKIRK
May 2 at Cuba-Rushford
May 4 at Gowanda
May 5 at Allegany-Limestone
May 8 CUBA-RUSHFORD
May 9 at Falconer
May 10 at FREDONIA
May 12 at Wellsville
May 15 WELLSVILLE
May 17 at Dunkirk
May 18 at Gowanda
May 20 at PORTVILLE, 10 a.m.

VARSITY BASEBALL

Coach – Al Dibs
(Games at 4:30 p.m., unless noted)

April 3 at Fredonia
April 5 FALCONER
April 6 at Wellsville
April 24 at Allegany-Limestone
April 26 at Southwestern
April 29 BRADFORD, 12 Noon
May 1 DUNKIRK
May 2 at Cuba-Rushford
May 4 GOWANDA
May 5 SOUTHWESTERN
May 8 ALLEGANY-LIMESTONE
May 9 CUBA-RUSHFORD
May 10 at Falconer
May 12 at FREDONIA
May 15 WELLSVILLE
May 17 at Dunkirk
May 19 at Gowanda
May 20 at PORTVILLE, 10 a.m.

VARSITY GOLF

Coach – Carolyn Shields
(Games at 3:30 p.m., unless noted)

April 3 FREDONIA
April 5 at Falconer
April 6 at Wellsville
April 21 PORTVILLE, 12 Noon
April 24 at Allegany-Limestone
April 26 at Southwestern
April 29 at Bradford, 12 Noon
May 1 DUNKIRK
May 2 at Cuba-Rushford
May 4 at Gowanda
May 5 at Allegany-Limestone
May 8 CUBA-RUSHFORD
May 9 at Falconer
May 12 at FREDONIA
May 15 WELLSVILLE
May 17 at Dunkirk
May 19 at Gowanda
May 20 at PORTVILLE, 10 a.m.

VARSITY TENNIS

Coach – Randy Langdon
(Games at 4 p.m., unless noted)

April 3 at Fredonia
April 5 at Wellsville
April 6 at Allegany-Limestone
April 24 at Southwestern
April 26 at Bradford, 12 Noon
April 29 at Dunkirk
May 1 at Cuba-Rushford
May 2 at Gowanda
May 5 at Allegany-Limestone
May 8 at Cuba-Rushford
May 9 at Southwestern
May 10 at Dunkirk
May 12 at Gowanda
May 15 at Portville, 10 a.m.

March-April 2006

Olean City School District Newsletter
Welcome St. Bonaventure Fieldblock students

By Elizabeth Cashing

The St. Bonaventure Adolescence Fieldblock experience was created to integrate actual classroom opportunities with continued university instruction. It is modeled after the relationship of medical internships with teaching hospitals. The goal of this component, which provides extended classroom time, is to enable a more effective student teaching experience during the semester after Fieldblock. Participating students are placed with clinical faculty [Olean classroom teachers] for the semester and all interaction in the classroom is under the direct guidance of these experienced professionals.

The student’s day is initially split so they receive University instruction for part of their time and observe/work in the classroom for part of the time. They spend time developing presentation techniques, classroom and instructional strategies, lesson preparation, presentation and evaluation, and generally becoming acclimated to the daily world of teaching. St. Bonaventure University is excited to be working with the faculty and staff of OMS and OHS as we collaboratively prepare the next generation of teachers. We appreciate the warm welcome that has been extended.

Mr. Ellison is a Master’s of Education student at St. Bonaventure who will be observing Mrs. Wilton’s Spanish classes. He is an Olean native and graduated from Portville Central School. Mr. Ellison has coached at Archbishop Walsh and also coaches baseball for the Olean Little League. Having lived in Spain for five months, Mr. Ellison feels that “learning about a culture and its language really opens your eyes to how diverse the world is.” Mr. Ellison will graduate from St. Bonaventure this December with a Master’s in Adolescent Education for Spanish grades 7-12.

Ms. Nicola is currently in the MSED program at St. Bonaventure. From this January through May, she will be interning with Mrs. O’Dea in her 7th grade math class. Ms. Nicola graduated from St. Bonaventure with an undergraduate degree in business. She also played on the Bonnies women’s soccer team for four years and this fall she was a volunteer coach for the OHS girls’ soccer team. So far Ms. Nicola has enjoyed getting to know the students and observing Mrs. O’Dea’s teaching. She looks forward to teaching and learning the rest of the year.

Mr. Wier is a Masters of Education student at St. Bonaventure, who will be observing Mr. Vecchio’s Social Studies classes. He also works as a substitute teacher in Olean Middle and High Schools. He graduated from Ithaca College in 2005 with a bachelor’s degree in politics. In his free time, he likes to play guitar, violin, and banjo, work on muscle cars, volunteer at his church, and spend time with parents, friends, and his dog, Misty. He hopes to someday become a social studies teacher.

Spelling Bee came down to three

By Miss Bergan

On Jan. 11, the Middle School held its annual Spelling Bee. The spelling bee began at 6:30 p.m., and parents, students, teachers and administrators joined in the LGI room to watch one of the most challenging and exciting competitions in bee history. Mrs. Weber, Ms. Bergan, Superintendent Mr. Ward, and our Principal Mr. Trietley volunteered to judge as 40 students vied for the championship. Mrs. Brennan announced each word as Ms. Giardini made sure every participant was in the correct order. Little did everyone know that an hour and a half after the start of the competition, there would be three students who set out to prove that they could not be out-spelled. Amazingly enough, the final three students represented each middle school grade level.

The next morning, sixth grader Stephanie Samuel, seventh grader Nigel Knieser and eighth grader Michael Liu competed in a 100-word spelling test. Out of 100 words, one letter sent one of the students back to class with the two remaining students wondering how anyone was going to decide who the better speller was. Another oral exam was given and Michael was crowned 2006 OMS Spelling Bee Champion and earned a chance to participate in the WNY written test Feb. 8. The OMS Spelling Bee is held in conjunction with the Buffalo News Spelling Bee and can guarantee an interesting I-N-T-E-R-E-S-T-I-N-G interesting evening.

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HORROR PROJECTS

By Miss Bergan

Edgar Allan Poe turned 197 years old on January 19 and in honor of his birthday, Blue Team students read “The Tell-Tale Heart” and “The Black Cat.” Students had the chance to display their understanding of the stories through three different projects: a newspaper article, a letter to Mr. Poe or a non-violent illustration. There were different requirements for each project and the students’ hard work and effort were impressive. The photo at left shows some of the students who turned in exceptional projects.

DENTAL CLINICS

By Mrs. Lamb

Olean Middle School hosted dental clinics during the months of January and February. Over 90 students received screenings. The clinic was part of a grant received by Tri-County Dental Clinic under the supervision of Dr. Jeffrey Menoff. Shown at left is Shelby Rice having her teeth examined by Melanie Franz, dental hygienist. Also assisting at the clinic was Kimberly Hoppe.

DARE Program Culmination

By Mrs. Jedrosko

On Feb. 6, the Olean Middle School was the site of the City of Olean DARE Program Culmination Ceremony. The DARE program is taught to all sixth graders in the Olean Middle School and the Southern Tier Catholic School. The program begins with a four-week instruction concerning bullying, teasing and gossiping and continues with 10 weeks of instruction about drugs, tobacco, alcohol and peer pressure. Officer Randy presented approximately 183 students with their graduation certificates, a DARE T-shirt, wristband and parent bumper sticker. On hand were Olean Mayor David Carucci, OMS Principal Jerry Trietley, STCS Principal James Paczynski, Olean Chief of Police Brian Donnelly and special guest, St. Bonaventure men’s basketball player Ahmad Smith. Awards were presented to these DARE essay contest winners: Green Team - Abigail Stavish, Orange Team - Stacia Farris, STCS - Kaitlyn Layman and overall winners Karalyn Anastasia from OMS and Derrik States from STCS. A pizza party followed in the cafeteria.

VIRTUAL REALITY

By Mr. Bauer

The Green Team sixth grade students recently visited outer space via Indiana. Using the newly purchased polycym, students were hooked up by satellite to the Brownsburg (IN) Challenger Learning Center. Students seated in the Olean Middle School LGI room participated in “Eyes in the Sky,” a program geared to teach students about space study, applications, and communications satellites. The interactive program lasted about 45 minutes and gave students an opportunity to see and ask questions about how parts of the electromagnetic spectrum are used to help map the earth, predict weather, create your own! They used several overhead projectors to solve proportion problems in their math classes, knowing that shadows create equal ratios.

BRUSHING UP ON DENTAL HEALTH

By Mrs. Jedrosko and Miss Truman

In light of dental health month, Mrs. Jedrosko and student teacher, Miss Truman, welcomed Beverly Bennett from the Cattaraugus County Health Department. Mrs. Bennett shared some shocking results of improper dental care. The realistic props really helped the students see the importance of taking care of their oral health. Mrs. Bennett also gave several great demonstrations of proper dental care. The students were lucky enough to take some great information, a tooth brush, toothpaste, dental floss, and other goodies. The students have been entered into a T-shirt design contest. The student that creates the best design for promoting good dental care will have their design printed on T-shirts. Let’s keep our fingers crossed.

CREATING SHADOWS

By Mrs. Taylor

What do you do when you need a shadow on a gray day in January? Be like the Red Team and create your own! They used several overhead projectors to solve proportion problems in their math classes, knowing that shadows create equal ratios.

LESSON GETS A LITTLE ‘ROCKY’

By Mrs. Jedrosko

Mrs. Jedrosko’s student teacher, Miss. Truman has been introducing her class to the world of rocks and minerals. The students have really gotten their hands dirty. They have learned a lot about rocks and minerals; what they are made of and even how they are formed. That’s not all! The students have much more to discover about where various rocks and minerals come from as well as how they withstand the elements of their environment. They will even explore the many uses of the rocks and minerals extracted from our mother earth and even how they are formed. They have even made their own rocks. That’s not all! The students have much more to discover about where various rocks and minerals come from as well as how they are formed. That’s not all! The students have much more to discover about where various rocks and minerals come from as well as how they are formed.

WIRELESS LAPTOPS

By Mrs. Taylor

Computers are even more accessible at the middle school these days as two mobile carts with wireless laptops were recently purchased. The units can easily be wheeled into classrooms for student use and are already in high demand. Pictured at right are sixth grade students in Mrs. Sporoni’s and Mrs. Lahn’s classrooms.

A Black History observance is in order. As we all know February is the annual observance of Black History Month. It is a time to honor the accomplishments and achievements of African Americans. With this in mind, Mrs. Kosinski’s and Mrs. Taylor’s writing classes are busy researching and writing about African Americans who have changed the history of our country. Abolitionists such as Harriet Tubman and Carter Woodson, the “Father of Black History”, are a few of the names chosen by their students. Also, sports greats such as Hank Aaron and Jackie Robinson are being researched. The students are enjoying this project and are excited about sharing the information they have uncovered with their peers. Pictured at left is Brijona Ulmer reading her essay on Sojourner Truth.

Olean City School District Newsletter
March-April 2006
By Mrs. Snyder

On February 4th, students from the Middle School Music Department participated in instrumental and vocal Solo Festival. The festival, held at Allegany-Limestone High School, gives students from Cattaraugus County a chance to be graded on a solo and receive comments from someone other than their school teacher. Students are required to perform a prepared solo, scales, and sight-reading on their instrument or voice. They are given a numerical grade and helpful comments to help them improve on their instrument. Olean Middle School music teachers are very proud of our students and the outstanding job they did to represent our school. Bravo!

In the top photo are (back, l-r) Steve Capitani, Danielle Threadgill, Amanda Seaward, Michael Liu, Samantha Hulsestein, Crystal Cybulski-Newburg, Kassey Boutwell and (front, l-r) Rebecca Kasper, Justin Scott, Louise Penman, JD Olson, Emily Kayes and Michael Lauty.

In the middle left photo are (l-r) Meegan Pilon, Macklin Koski and Mariya Clemons.

In the middle right photo (clockwise from top left) Brooke Shulze, Tom Skudlarek, Matthew Witte, Joe Reed, Steven Jackson, Rebecca Lasky, Brandon Jones and Amanda Lasky.

In the bottom photo are (back, l-r) John Samuelson, Paul Pezzimenti, Louis Proto, Alyssa Brown, and (middle, l-r) Connor Charles, Samantha Peters, Andrea Anastasia, Samantha Armstrong and (front, l-r) Tchianna McPeak, Ketilin Harvey, Matthew Allen, Karimah Rahman and Brady Gaynor.

They’ve got the music in them!

Olean City School District Newsletter

March-April 2006

Boardmanville Elementary School

We All Scream for Ice Cream: Mrs. Stephens’ kindergarten class made ice cream together for the letter I. We used milk, sugar, vanilla, ice cubes, and salt. Everyone took turns shaking the bag. We tasted it in mini-ice cream cones. We graphed our favorite flavors and made a class book: “We Scream for Ice Cream!” The kids had a ball! Just look at these faces!

Young Authors in Progress: First-graders in Mrs. Raymond’s room (below) were authors after reading the story, “The Same As You.” They wrote their own book about how they are the same as someone in their family.

Celebrating Chinese New Year: The boys and girls in Mrs. Storch’s and Mrs. Grandusky’s 3rd grades at Boardmanville had fun learning about Chinese New Year when they had a small feast. The children made red lanterns and dragon masks. They exchanged red envelopes they made and fortunes they created. They learned this is the Year of the Dog and most of them used chopsticks very successfully.

Taking Good Care of Teeth: Students in Mrs. Grandusky’s third grade and Mrs. Olson’s second grade (above) team up for Dental Health lessons. Coke stained, hard-boiled eggs were cleaned with a soft brush and toothpaste! Special teeth were created to practice flossing techniques. Mrs. Dynda had students create a poster that will be entered into a Dental Health Contest. Student teacher, Ms. Van Ocker, had students learning tooth words and information in her group. The students had a great time learning dental health. Special thanks go to East View Elementary for sharing several activities that were used.

Students and staff at Boardmanville have continued to be very busy in this new year. Those in grades 3-5 took the first administration of the state testing in English Language Arts mandated by the No Child Left Behind legislation. All grades have also been doing a lot of reading and writing in all the subject areas. Visitors to our school are encouraged to view and enjoy the many projects and pieces of writing that are displayed in our hallways. These are just some examples of the learning taking place.

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**100th Day of School:** Mrs. Scanlon’s first grade (above right) and Miss Smith’s kindergarten (above left) celebrated the 100th day of school on Feb. 14. Activities included counting 100 Fruit Loops into necklaces; flipping a coin 100 times and tallying the amount of times the coin landed on heads or tails; searching for 100 hearts in a sandbox; and decorating the number 100 to make masks. Kindergartners also were visited by Zero the Hero and Zerona to help them understand that 100 has two zeros. What a fun day!

**North Hill Elementary School**

**Dental Sealant Grant:** The TLC Health Network was awarded a Dental Sealant Grant that allowed a dental hygienist (above) to come to North Hill. Any child that had parental permission was allowed to participate in this free program. At North Hill, 53 students received a dental screening by the hygienist and 24 of those students needed and received sealants on their molars. A big thank you to the dental hygienist, “Miss Melanie” for helping us take better care of our teeth.

**Third Grade Marks Chinese New Year:** Students in Mrs. Howden’s Third Grade are learning about China in their continuing study of World Communities. The children have been very interested in Chinese New Year which is celebrated on the first day of the new moon (between Jan. 21 and Feb. 20). In China, families gather for a big feast on New Year’s Eve and all stay up late believing that it will bring longer life to their parents. A highlight of the New Year’s celebration is the great Feast of Lanterns, when people join in a parade led by the Golden Dragon. Pictured above are students wearing their own dragon headpieces and showing their scariest dragon faces. Besides China, the students have studied the United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Ghana, Kenya, Egypt, and Japan ...with several exciting countries yet to come.

**Fourth Graders Hard at Work:** Mrs. DiCerbo’s 4th grade class has been working very hard this quarter preparing for the English and Language Arts Exam. The exam was given over a three-day period and the kids took it very seriously and tried their best. We just finished our study on the American Revolution in social studies and learned a lot of interesting facts about our forefathers. All of the students completed a power point presentation on a reading book and did a wonderful job! During a fun break, Mike Krouth and Alexis Shorter (below right) enjoyed a quick game when the Harlem Wizards stopped by. We are all looking forward to the spring!!

**Learning about Dental Health:** Mrs. Deibler’s class has been learning about their teeth and how to keep them healthy. On Feb. 7, we had a dental hygienist demonstrate how students should brush their teeth and how to floss correctly. Students were given toothbrushes, mirrors and toothpaste to practice.

**Keeping the Dream Alive:** During January, Mrs. Raimondi’s 2nd grade students discussed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the “I Have a Dream” speech. All students and their parents wrote their “I Have a Dream” speech too. Many of the dreams included world peace and no more fighting. Other students wanted everyone to take care of the earth. Some students wished that all people had enough to eat. It’s time to listen to our children.

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**Fifth-Graders Mathletes:** There’s a new club for fifth-graders called the Mathletes. Every Monday, members meet with Mr. Harvey in the MST room after school. Currently students are concentrating on preparing for the NYS Math Test in March. The club is focusing on creative problem-solving using the basic operations as well as geometry and algebra. Often there are many different ways to find the correct solution. It’s an interesting way to exercise the brain. MATH RULES!

**“D” is for Dinosaurs:** Mrs. Marsfelder’s class has been busy learning about dinosaurs during their study of the letter D. The “Rock Man,” Mr. Paul Giachetti from the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, talked with students about fossils and how they are derived. We grouped many dinosaurs on a Venn diagram according to the size. The class pairs up with Mrs. Gerrity’s class weekly on Fun Friday’s to make projects. We completed our unit on Fun Friday by making dinosaur eggs and dinosaur snow globes.

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Ivers J. Norton Elementary School

What’s So Curious about George?: The students at IJN have found out! They boarded buses (above) at the school on Feb. 16 to go find the answer to this simple yet complex question. It was a very rainy day when the students went looking for their answer. Yet with yelling and hollering excitement in their voices, they pressed on. At the end of their quest, they found their answer at the Carmike Theater (below). Just ask the students from IJN what’s so curious about George?

Third-Graders “Visit” Africa: Mrs. Petroni’s and Mrs. Hamed’s third-grade classes studied Africa in December. As a culminating activity Dr. Gaston Dembele, an education professor at St. Bonaventure University, came in as a guest speaker. Dr. Dembele is from Africa. He brought various items (from Africa) with him including a tapestry, clothing, and music. The class listened as he read a story about children in Africa and what their day is like. There was a discussion about the clothing and reasons why they wear certain types of fabric. He also discussed the languages of Africa and the different cultures. Do you know how many different languages are spoken in Africa? Ans. - More than 1,000. Afterwards, he gave the students a verbal “quiz” on the information he had given them. He even gave out prizes for correct answers. One of the prizes was a set of authentic African bracelets. Everyone seemed to enjoy the visit and they learned a lot about Africa in a short amount of time.

Kindergarten Learning and Having Fun: Mrs. Bates’ and Mrs. Morgan’s kindergarten students are shown in action as they participate in a mitten sight-word matching game, work with a parent on a stamping activity and display their flowers and ladybugs -made out of hearts- posters (photo at left).

Washington West Elementary School

Penguins—How Cool!: Mrs. Brooks’ second-graders have been learning about penguins. Students wrote some fun penguin stories and placed them on penguin-shaped paper, which are proudly displayed in their hallway. Our young enthusiasts really enjoyed watching the “March of the Penguins” movie. They were fascinated as they watched the emperor penguins in their own environment!

Around the World from our Classroom: Mrs. Matejka’s multi-age enrichment students are working on and proudly displaying projects from their Around the World unit of study. Guest speakers from Burkina Faso, Africa, Jamaica, Guyana, South America, Philippines, China visited Mrs. Matejka’s students and provided a wealth of information about these locations, including the way of life in different parts of the world.

A Few of Our Spectacular Things: Fourth-graders in Mrs. Frederick’s class have been working with powders and crystals in their science lessons. Students worked in groups and used safety goggles to examine different substances that included plaster of Paris, baking soda and starch. Another science project included making delicious digestive systems. Students labeled each part of our digestive system using Swedish fish, fruit roll-ups, Twizzlers and Skittles. Who knew science could be so yummy!

Applying Our Math Skills: Mrs. Faulkner’s second-graders have been working with money. They are learning how to make change and counting up and down from a given amount.

The Year of the Dog: Mrs. Lewicki’s and Mrs. Paladino’s third-graders celebrated the Chinese New Year, The Year of the Dog. The children paraded through our halls singing songs, playing instruments and carrying banners, lanterns and masks. The celebration continued throughout the day by enjoying some Chinese food. These activities were a culmination of a social studies unit on China.
Food and had a lot of fun trying to eat with chopsticks. Everyone learned about Chinese culture, enjoyed the great Chinese foods. Parents were invited to join their children for a lunch composed of a variety of Chinese foods. Everyone learned about Chinese culture, enjoyed the great Chinese foods. Parents were invited to join their children for a lunch composed of a variety of Chinese foods.
Olean City School District and the Olean City School District Foundation are undertaking a $30,000 renovation project to upgrade the grounds and facade of Olean High School. The project will include: cleaning of the school’s sandstone base, removal of existing plants, lighting the pillars across the front of the building, renovation of the Marshall Eade fountain so it is fully functional, adding a brick plaza with picnic tables, benches, lamp posts, urns, new trees and shrubs.

With the recent loss of several trees due to age and high winds, the District explored replacing the trees. They looked more carefully at the grounds and the building and felt that a long-range plan should be developed. The District met with several landscapers and took proposals from them and Scott’s Lawn and Landscape Services’ design was selected.

The Foundation has offered to assist by selling bricks that will be used to create a new OHS front plaza while also funding the other improvements. This will give the community an opportunity to support the project without use of taxpayer money.

“In it’s time to give back to the establishment that has given all of us our foundation. The high school needs this face lift to bring new life to the school,” stated David Carucci, President of the Olean City School District Foundation Board, and OHS Class of 1978.

Mark J. Ward, Superintendent of Schools, said, “although the project was not extremely expensive, the Board thought it would be a good idea to allow the Foundation to use this project to benefit the school, as well as serve as a Foundation fundraiser. Much of the preliminary work will be done by our own Buildings and Grounds staff to reduce the cost. It is important that we maintain the integrity, beauty and grandeur of the building and grounds and this project really is an investment in the future.”

Michiko McElfresh, President of the Olean School Board, added, “Few opportunities come along such as this, where you can be a part of a legacy for thousands of future Olean High students. We encourage school clubs, past/current athletic teams, families of graduates, businesses in the Olean area, our alumni, family and friends to participate.”

To learn more or to receive a fundraiser flyer, please contact Meme Yanetsko, OCSDF Secretary/Treasurer at (716) 372-4433 or meme@oleanny.com; or Mark Ward, OCSD Superintendent at (716) 375-8018 or mward@olean.wnyric.org.