



# LEAN

## CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"It takes ALL the Huskies to pull the sled."*

Budget  
news inserted  
in this issue!

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## Stetz and Phillips top Class of 2005

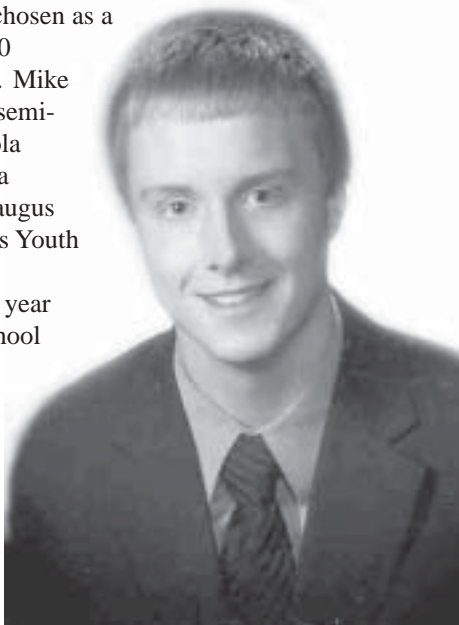
Olean High School Principal, Barbara I. Lias, announces the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2005:

### Valedictorian - Michael Stetz

Michael Stetz of 947 Delaware Avenue has been named Valedictorian of the Class of 2005 at Olean High School. He is the son of Dan and Tina Stetz. First in the class of 2005, Mike is the recipient of the Founding Scholar Award from Syracuse University and the Math-Science Award from Rensselaer Polytech Institute. He is Treasurer of the National Honor Society, Co-Secretary General for Model UN, and a member of Knowledge Masters and the yearbook staff. Mike was named to the Dean's List for part time students at Jamestown Community College and was chosen as a candidate for the Big 30 Academic Scholarship. Mike was also selected as a semi-finalist for the Coca Cola Scholars Program and a recipient of the Cattaraugus County Youth Bureau's Youth Citizenship Award.

Mike has been a six year member of the high school golf team that captured the League Championship in 2004. A First Team CCIAC All-Star since his freshman year, he was also selected as a Section VI All Star. Mike has been a member of the high school basketball team for four years. A co-captain of the team his senior year, Mike was a member of the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete team. He was also selected to the Annual All WNY Academic Basketball Team and was an honorable mention for the CCIAC Division I All Stars.

Mike has been active as a lector and Eucharistic Minister for



Transfiguration Church and has served twice as the chairman of Souperbowl Sunday which collects non-perishable food for the Olean Food Pantry. He is employed by Blockbuster Video and the Bartlett Country Club.

Mike has been accepted into the Management Honors program at Syracuse University where he will begin his collegiate studies in the fall of 2005.

### Salutatorian - Julianne Phillips

Julianne Phillips of 224 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street has been named Salutatorian of the Olean High School Class of 2005. She is the daughter of Robert and Nancy Phillips. Vice President of the National Honor Society, Treasurer of the Science Club, and a member of Jamestown Community College's Phi Theta Kappa, Julie is also involved with Knowledge Masters and the Olean High School chapter of SADD. She is a member of the school concert band, orchestra, and jazz band and has played in the pit orchestras of several school and community musicals. She was a member of Olean Honors Strings for two years and has also played with the St. Bonaventure string ensemble and the Allegany Youth Wind Symphony. She has been accepted into the Area All-State band and orchestra once each. Julie is also a three-year member of the varsity tennis team and was named Olean High's Scholar-Athlete in the fall of 2004. She has studied dance at the Neighborhood School of Dance for 14 years and has participated in a number of Cattaraugus County Living Arts Associations productions.

Julie will enter the University Honors Program at the University at Buffalo in the fall of 2005.



# National Honor Society grads named

**Maggie Allen** – Daryl & Colleen Allen  
– Ohio Northern University

**Joellen Beatty** – Mary Monterville &  
Brian Beatty – St. Bonaventure

**Anne Bergstrom** – Steven & Margaret  
Bergstrom – Daemen College

**Omar Chohan** – Dr. Zahid Chohan &  
Noureen Chohan – Drexel University

**Rachel Horowitz** – Joel & Carol  
Horowitz – Hamilton College or College of  
Wooster

**Alexandra Johnson** – Don & Roxann  
Johnson – JCC

**Amanda Jones** – Tim & Amy Jones and  
Andrea Matteliano – Ithaca College or  
Allegheny College

**Holly Jones** – Tim & Amy Jones and  
Andrea Matteliano – Grove City College

**David Lamb** – Mike & Celeste Lamb –

SUNY Geneseo

**Laura Lewicki** – Don & Judy Lewicki –  
Allegheny College

**Peter Lowry** – Thomas & Patricia  
Lowry – RIT

**Andrew Malpiedi** – Joe & Pam Malpiedi  
– St. Bonaventure

**Catherine Matoian** – Kim Simon –  
University of Pittsburgh

**Evan Miller** – Nancy & Jim Miller –  
Pittsburgh Main Campus

**Jason Paar** – Michael & Cynthia Paar –  
Oswego University

**Steven Pancio II** – Steve & Michelle  
Pancio – University at Buffalo

**Julianne Phillips** – Robert & Nancy  
Phillips – University at Buffalo

**Michael Proto** – Daniel & Christine  
Proto – University of Pittsburgh

**Jonathan Raymond** – Scott & Elaine  
Raymond – Jamestown Comm. College

**Erin Redden** – Mike & Katie Redden –  
West Virginia University or New Paltz

**Lauren Samuelson** – Randall &  
Carolyn Samuelson – Hobart & William  
Smith or Bucknell University

**Adam Sorokes** – Larry & Sue Sorokes –  
St. Bonaventure University

**Michael Stetz** – Dan & Christine Stetz –  
Syracuse University

**Boris VanDruff** – Eric & Suzana  
VanDruff – SUNY Fredonia

**Tracy Wangelin** – Raymond & Nancy  
Wangelin – Genesee Community College

**Joseph Weidt** – David & Karen Weidt –  
SUNY Brockport

**Margaret Yehl** – Steven Yehl & Mary  
Helen Yehl – SUNY Geneseo



## Spanish Club spends weekend in New York City

By Carol Shannon

### H.S. Languages Other than English Chair

Shortly after midnight on Friday morning, March 18<sup>th</sup>, a group of 42 Spanish Club students and 11 adults left for a weekend in New York City. Upon our arrival we embarked on a 9-hour walking tour of Manhattan. We explored Fifth Avenue, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rockefeller Center, Times Square, Central Park and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Following a brief stop at our hotel, we were off once

again – this time to dinner and a show at Medieval Times.

On Saturday morning we arose early and toured the area around Ground Zero, then headed for Chinatown and Little Italy. An afternoon on Broadway at the matinee of Mamma Mia was followed by dinner at El Quijote, a Spanish restaurant where everyone practiced speaking Spanish. Students and adults alike enjoyed authentic Spanish cuisine. Our last stop on Saturday was the Empire State Building.

Sunday was another early morning that started with a Circle Line Ferry ride to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. After some haggling with street vendors at Battery Park, the group enjoyed shopping at Macy's and a bit of free time prior to boarding the bus.

The Spanish Club's next trip is to Europe! We plan to go to Barcelona, Madrid, and Paris over the 2006 spring break. The tentative dates are April 10 – April 21, 2006.





Pictured at left is the cast of the OHS musical "Les Miserables" which delighted audiences April 1 and 2 with outstanding performances from everyone involved.

## 'Les Mis' a smashing success

The play "Les Miserables" was staged at OHS Auditorium April 1-2, and by all accounts was a huge success. Congratulations to the cast and crew:

Student Directors - Carrie DiRisio, Hinna Malik; Wardrobe Mistress - Sarah McDowell; Light Board Operator - Mari-Linn Labella; Spotlight - Jason Rarey; Stage Crew - Angela Rogers, Pat Massaro, Vanessa Finch; Props Mistress - Lauren Perkins; Sound - Andy Mellon; Publicity - Katie Koski.

Jean Valjean - Lucas Groth; Javert - Boris Van Druff; Fantine - Maria Bellanca; Mme Thénardier - Rachel Luty; Thénardier - Ryan Kasperski; Thénardier's Gang - Chris Klice, Matt Barnard, Alex Querns, Jon Maynard, Joey Allen, Paul Kinnaird, and Kevin Welch.

Eponine - Ainsley Haffner; Marius - Adam Sorokes; Cosette - Lindsay Cheek; Enjolras - Larry MacDonald; ABC Society - Cully Steiner, Adam Losey, Justin Joyce, David Allen, Adam Griffith, Andrew Carucci, and Jacob Carll.

Gavroche - James Langford; Little Cosette - Katlyn Anastasia; Young Eponine - Rebecca Lasky; The Bishop of Digne - Jacob Carll; Constables - Adam Losey, Cameron Jobe; Factory Foreman - David Allen; Farmer - Joey Allen; Laborer - Andrea Baker; Factory Girl - Kelli Sorokes. Workers - Emily Sorokes, Tanaka Van Druff, Melissa Ahern, Haleigh VanHoutte, Martha Zimmerman, Amanda Mellon, Jennifer MacDonald.

Poor of the Time - Stephanie Lacher, Trelanea Springstead, Adrienne Sader, Alyse Bright, Laura Brook, Afia Babar, Rachel Ventura, Jamie Rice; Lovely Ladies - Rachel Askey, Leigha Weeks, Kristen Rose, Rachael Moscato, Rachel Ventura, Jamie Rice, Jocelyn Parks, and Amanda Jones; Old Woman - Christine Bartimole.

Orchestra - Violin, Anna Miller and Allison Brady; Viola, Brittany Joyce and Melissa Moore; Clarinet, Brittany Kahle; French Horn, Debbie McDowell; Cello, Holly Jones; Trombone, Julie Phillips; and Bass, Isaac Spaeth.

## OHS Husky Happenings live on the air

Olean High School broadcasts a live television program to the school every morning. The TV studio allows student volunteers to go "on-air" and work the various technical positions behind the camera. The program is in a news format and delivers school events, sports scores, upcoming meetings, and messages to faculty and students. PowerPoint airs at 7:30 a.m., with the live show at 8 a.m.

Some members also attend the BOCES' Radio and Television Production Technology program. These students provide extra technical knowledge that is taught to other students. All members must be willing to go on the air and learn all the "behind-the-scenes" equipment. Former TVstudio members have pursued broadcasting in college.

Any senior who wants to go on the announcements is encouraged to set up a time. Six studio members will be graduating this year.

These students come in early each day so others can start their day with information: Andy Mellon, Carl Samuelson, Adam Sorokes, Jeff Walker, Amanda Jones, Lauren Samuelson, Jen Mosher, Erin Gustason, Natalie Pelton, Colleen Kelly and Shanna Emeigh.

## Seniors impressive in Scholastic Challenge

By Carolyn Shields

On April 2, the senior team of Rachel Horowitz, Julie Phillips, Lauren Samuelson and Mike Stetz competed in the annual Scholastic Challenge at Portville Central School. Twenty-two area teams answered questions in four rounds. Rounds 1 and 2 were 1 minute in length. Rounds 3 and 4 were buzzer rounds.

Olean breezed through three matches and were then defeated by Cuba-Rushford with a one-question margin. In the consolation bracket, Olean worked its way to the final match and was narrowly defeated by Wellsville Black. The Olean team finished third overall and was truly impressive in their math and literature knowledge.

# Tech committee studying District web page

The Information Technology Committee has reviewed the district web page to see how it can be streamlined and where improvements can be made in navigation, design, information and appeal of the site. As a first step, the committee evaluated the web page based on a checklist. Then items were generated that either need to be added or changed on the site. No idea was excluded during the brainstorming session.

See the web below for the ideas generated.

The next phase of the redesign process is now taking place. An invitation went out to high school and middle school students to participate in a design contest. Students will have two months to create a design for the district site. A set of guidelines was provided for the students to follow. Student designs are due June 1 and web page designers will present their work to

the technology committee.

A web page subcommittee was formed to begin the categorization of over 120 district web pages and looking at which of the addition/deletions need to be considered, where to add them, etc.

If you have an interest in serving on the web page subcommittee please contact Cso Woodworth, at 375-8008.

## OHS team places second at Odyssey of Mind event

By Chris Rosel,  
Odyssey of the Mind Coach

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Olean High School team of seniors Rachel Horowitz and Holly Jones, sophomores Afia Babar, Lauren Simon and Molly Wagner, and freshman Nadia Babar competed at Salamanca High School in the Regional Odyssey of the Mind competition.

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving competition for students of all ages. The students select a problem, create a solution, and then bring their solution to competition against other teams in their age/grade category. The OHS team chose "Get the Message." For this problem the team's performance included telling a story three times, each time using a different method of communication: a primitive, evolved, and a futuristic method created by the team. The presentation was narrated by Molly, with Rachel, Holly, Afia, and Nadia performing the story three times using a variety of creative communication - the hitch... the team had only eight minutes to set up their stage, perform, change the set, their costumes and signal they were done. An intricate endeavor!

The team had been working since November on set design and costumes, as well as inventing their story line, writing the script and practicing, practicing, practicing. There were 64 teams total from all over Cattaraugus County that competed in the competition. Olean placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in their division! Way to go OHS!



## Bloodmobile continues caring tradition

On May 4, an American Red Cross Bloodmobile was held in the auxiliary gymnasium and was a huge success.

Mr. Block's Health Education classes have sponsored bloodmobiles since 1981. Students in health classes work at the bloodmobiles which are scheduled annually in the fall and spring. Students who are 17, weigh at least 110 pounds, and

are in good health, may donate.

Since 1981 Olean High students have donated over 3,400 units of blood. Each unit of blood can be used to save up to four lives. That means our blood donors have saved as many as 13,600 lives.

Congratulations to all the students who have donated blood and to those who will continue to make this highly successful.



## LIVING ENVIRONMENT REGENTS REVIEW

Monday, May 16	3-4 p.m.	Room 321
- <i>Similarities &amp; Differences Among Living Organisms</i>		
Wednesday, May 18	3-4 p.m.	Room 321
- <i>Homeostasis in Organisms</i>		
Monday, May 23	3-4 p.m.	Room 321
- <i>Genetic Continuity</i>		
Wednesday, May 25	3-4 p.m.	Room 321
- <i>Reproduction &amp; Development</i>		
Wednesday, June 1	3-4 p.m.	Room 321
- <i>Evolution</i>		
Monday, June 6	3-4 p.m.	Room 321
- <i>Ecology</i>		
Wednesday, June 8	3-4 p.m.	Room 321
- <i>Human Impact on Ecosystems</i>		
Monday, June 13	3-4 p.m.	Room 321
- <i>Scientific Inquiry &amp; Skills</i>		
Monday, June 20	3-4 p.m.	Room 321
- <i>Laboratory Skills – Part D</i>		
Tuesday, June 21	3-4 p.m.	Room 321
- <i>All topics – Bring lots of questions!</i>		



## ENGLISH REGENTS REVIEW

Tuesday, May 24	Task I	3-4 p.m.	Room 203
Thursday, May 26	Task II	3-4 p.m.	Room 203
Wednesday, June 1	Task III	3-4 p.m.	Room 203
Monday, June 6	Task IV	3-4 p.m.	Room 203

## U.S. HISTORY & GOVERNMENT REGENTS REVIEW

Tuesday, May 31	3-4:30 p.m.	LGI Room/M.S.
- <i>The Constitution</i>		
Thursday, June 2	3-4:30 p.m.	LGI Room/M.S.
- <i>Reforms and Reformers</i>		
Monday, June 6	6:30-8 p.m.	LGI Room/M.S.
- <i>Industrialization</i>		
Wednesday, June 8	6:30-8 p.m.	LGI Room/M.S.
- <i>Foreign Policy</i>		
Tuesday, June 14	6:30-8 p.m.	LGI Room/M.S.
- <i>Supreme Court Cases</i>		

## Jar Wars at Olean High raises money for St. Jude's

The annual Jar Wars Class Competition was held at the Olean High School from March 28<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>. In this week-long contest, students in grades 9-12 rallied to raise hundreds of dollars for St. Jude Children's Hospital and their respective classes. Throughout the week, students brought in coins and bills to donate. They put the pennies in their class's jar for points, and the silver coins and paper money in the other class's jars to count negatively. While the silver and the paper count negatively for the class competition, there is nothing negative about this event. The competitive spirit brought out the true generosity here at Olean as shown by the students and faculty.

## EXAMINATION SCHEDULE: JUNE 2005

June 16 Thursday	June 17 Friday	June 20 Monday	June 21 Tuesday	June 22 Wednesday	June 23 Thursday	June 24 Friday
<b>9:15 a.m.</b> Comprehensive English: Session I  RCT in Science	<b>9:15 a.m.</b> Comprehensive English: Session II	<b>9:15 a.m.</b> Second Language Proficiency Exams: French, Italian, German, Latin & Spanish	<b>9:15 a.m.</b> Regents in Global History & Geography  RCT in Reading	<b>9:15 a.m.</b> Physical Setting/ Earth Science  Living Environment	<b>9:15 a.m.</b> Mathematics B  RCT in U. S. History & Govt.	<b>RATING DAY</b>
<b>1:15 p.m.</b> Mathematics A	<b>1:15 p.m.</b> Comp. Regents Exams: French, Italian, German, Latin, Hebrew & Spanish  RCT in Mathematics	<b>1:15 p.m.</b> RCT in Writing	<b>1:15 p.m.</b> Regents in U.S. History & Government	<b>1:15 p.m.</b> Physical Setting/ Chemistry  Physics Setting/ Physics  RCT in Global Studies	<b>Uniform Admission Deadlines</b>  Morning Examinations - 10 a.m.  Afternoon Examinations - 2 p.m.	



## Wangelin named Player of the Year

Olean High School senior Tracy Wangelin has been recognized as the league **“Player of the Year”** for the 2004-05 girls’ basketball season. She was selected for this outstanding award by the CCIAC Division I league coaches. Tracy led the “Lady Huskies” to a sixth consecutive CCIAC Division I league title.



## Samuelson, Stetz earn basketball honors

Olean High School senior basketball players Lauren Samuelson and Mike Stetz have been selected as members of the 7<sup>th</sup> annual **All-Western New York Academic Basketball Team**. The award, sponsored by WNY High School Sports and WGRZ TV Channel 2, recognizes the top area high school basketball players in terms of academic as well as athletic achievement. Lauren and Mike were among only 22 student-athletes in WNY selected for this distinguished award. Each received an award plaque and a personalized pull-over sweater.

Lauren was also named the CCIAC Division I Female Scholar-Athlete of the Season for the Winter 2004-05. The CCIAC Division I member school athletic directors selected Lauren as the recipient of this award for demonstrating outstanding achievement in academics as well as athletics.



Evan Miller

Steve Pancio



Mike Stetz

Molly Yehl



## Seniors selected to All-WNY Academic Teams

Olean High School seniors Evan Miller (bowling), Mike Stetz (basketball), Molly Yehl (basketball) and Steve Pancio (wrestling) have been selected for their respective winter sports teams to the **2004-05 Paddock Chevrolet’s Scholar/**

**Athlete All-Western New York Academic Teams**. The award, sponsored by Paddock Chevrolet and Section VI, recognizes academic as well as athletic achievement. To be nominated, students must have carried a 90-plus average for the previous

six semesters and been a starter or significant player in their sport. This is an outstanding accomplishment and one in which each student-athlete, his/her team, our school and community can be very proud.





## Fuentes wins Michael Parks Team Player Award

The OHS Athletic Department is happy to announce that Julio Fuentes, a senior on the boys' varsity basketball team was selected as the recipient of the 2004-05 "Michael Parks - Team Player Award." This award is given annually to a member of the varsity boys' basketball team and is presented in memory of Michael Parks, a 1996 graduate of OHS and former varsity basketball team member. Coach Mickey Parks presented the award to Julio on Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup> at the OHS Sports Boosters Club Winter Season Banquet. The photo at left shows Julio with Michael's parents, Mickey & Ann Parks.

## Coach Dibs reaches 150<sup>th</sup> career victory

OHS Coach Al Dibs recently achieved his 150<sup>th</sup> career coaching victory as the boys' varsity baseball coach. Coach Dibs reached this milestone when the Huskies defeated Falconer 14-8, on Tuesday April 5, 2005; in a CCIAC Division I league game. To honor this achievement, the photo at right shows Coach Dibs being congratulated by OHS Sports Boosters Club President and volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach Joe DeCerbo. Coach Dibs was also presented a commemorative baseball signed by members of the varsity team.



## Winter season sports stand-outs recognized

During the OHS Sports Boosters Club Winter Season Banquet, Lauren Samuelson and Evan Miller (left photo) were named OHS Scholar Athletes for the 2004-05 Winter Season. Alex Palmquist (right photo) of the Varsity Boys' Swimming and Diving Team was chosen as the OHS Athlete of the Season Winter 2004-05.





Reed McElfresh and Jacob Mallory, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Student Advisory Council members, brainstorm ideas for the next meeting.

## Change is possible when everyone works together

By Eileen Keenan-Skrobacz

OMS students are learning effective tools to cause changes at their school. Dave Olson, OMS principal, gathered a group of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who were interested in being heard with the idea of making some modifications at their school. The group is known as the Student Advisory Committee. Gathering ideas together which impact the students, staff, and administration was important for everyone on the committee.

One topic of interest to the students was having the cafeteria offer soup during lunch periods. The Advisory Committee talked about possible soup options, but realized that they couldn't ask the cafeteria staff to make 30 different kinds of soup. Polling the students helped to narrow down the choices. After collating the data, the five top soup choices were announced over the OMS PA system. There was cheering heard throughout the building. Parents would probably be thrilled to know that broccoli-cheese soup was in the top five and served to hungry middle schoolers just before spring break. It was a big hit.

The students on the Advisory Council have seen first-hand how changes can be made using energy, support, and effort to work together to accomplish goals. The committee will continue to meet once a month in order to continue to address the needs of the entire OMS family. With Mr. Olson's guidance, the students have truly demonstrated the motto of OMS: "We are here to help each other!"

# Is your 5<sup>th</sup> grader ready for Olean Middle School?

By Eileen Keenan-Skrobacz

Many fifth graders' parents express concerns when their son or daughter begins to talk about being excited to head off to Olean Middle School in the fall. What can parents do to help their child with the transition? What happens if their child forgets his/her lunch money? What will a typical day be like at OMS? Will my child be able to handle the homework? How does my role as the parent of middle schooler differ from that as an elementary parent? What does a middle schooler look like? What are the teams in sixth grade? When does school start and end?

Dave Olson, OMS principal, and OMS guidance counselors, Cynthia Sinesiou, Jim Driscoll, and MaryLee Wenke hosted a Fifth Grade Parents' Night on May 4. They addressed the answers to the aforementioned questions and much more. Parents also were given the opportunity to ask questions. The OMS personnel discussed teaming, guidance services, visitations, student activities, parent involvement at OMS, agendas, school and

homework websites, and the parent-student handbook.

Parents were informed about the expectations at OMS, how to help their children succeed, and that life as a middle schooler is one where there are physical and psychological changes which are normal and to be expected.

Olean City School district fifth graders are currently exchanging letters with pen-pals from OMS. The students are writing to Blue Team and Yellow Team seventh graders and asking them questions which are of interest to the fifth graders about OMS. The middle schoolers are open and honest with the fifth graders. Honing their friendly-letter writing skills is just one of the objectives of the Pen-Pal Exchange.

There are plans for the seventh graders to go to the OMS pool when the fifth graders are taking their district swimming lessons in order to meet their pen pals. Teachers involved hope that knowing another friendly face at OMS will help the fifth graders with their transition from elementary to middle school.



Seventh graders, Jeffrey Ganoung and Amy Livoto, work on skills needed for success on the TONYSS (Tests on New York State Standards) in May.

## Rest + Breakfast + Timeliness = SUCCESS

By Eileen Keenan-Skrobacz

Every year students across the nation are tested on their curriculum knowledge gains. And 2005 is no different for students at OMS. Beginning in early May, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will take the Tests on New York State Standards in math and English/Language-Arts.

Research shows that students perform better if they have had a good night's sleep, eat breakfast, and arrive on time for school. When a student is tardy, especially on test days, the entire class is disrupted when the student enters.

Although the **results** of the math and English-Language Arts TONYSS are not averaged into the students' content grades, the students' individual achievement levels may require the district to place the students in a New York State remediation program the following year. Throughout the school year, teachers cover the material which is expected to be tested according to the formats provided by the state.





# OMS string students enhance abilities



Rachel Pfeiffer, 7<sup>th</sup> grade violinist, rehearses for the upcoming Solo Fest in Jamestown.

By Eileen Keenan-Skrobacz

“Without music, life is a journey through a desert.” (Pat Conroy) The Olean Middle School students will continue their music journey as they prepare to compete in Solo Fest in Jamestown on May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Students participate in solo fest in order to have an adjudicator judge their performance. Solo Fest is conducted on a volunteer basis. Music teachers encourage students to take on the challenge of Solo Fest in order to continue to improve their musical abilities. During violin, cello, and viola lessons, students practice under their teacher’s guidance.

“Overall, the students’ progress and development amaze me. Their overall achievements are the result of hard work, practice, and pride in playing their instruments,” Mrs. Snyder stated.

Mrs. Snyder is confident that the String Solo Fest participants from OMS will make our district proud as they continue to journey through the music world and on to success.

## Knowledge Masters quizzed in international competition

By Eileen Keenan-Skrobacz

Imagine attempting to recall facts about history, math, science, and English as fast as a question appears on a computer screen! Olean Middle School sixth, seventh, and eighth graders recently competed in an international competition against schools from all over the United States, Hong Kong, and Korea where their knowledge was tested and their speed in answering questions correctly would add additional points to their overall score. Under the guidance of eighth grade foreign language teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth Cashing, and OMS Media Center Director, Ms. Carmen Soplop, 18 students gathered in the LGI room to channel their knowledge into a room full of energetic competition.

As questions appeared on the large screen, students had options for answering. If a student was really confident about his/her answer, he/she would tell the teammates right away. When a math problem appeared, students would put their pencils to paper immediately and compute the problem. Rapidly, answers would be compared, and the final answer would be submitted through the Internet.

According to seventh grader Knowledge Master Team member Reed McElfresh, students compete for a variety of reasons. “My older brother competed and it looked as though he had fun. I find the questions interesting and challenging at the same time,” Reed stated.

Coach Soplop stated, “KM is a wonderful opportunity for some of our talented



OMS Knowledge Masters (front, l-r) Amanda Lasky, Megan Dwaileebe, Sarah Lehman, Angelica Carlson, Christa Nianiatius and (middle, l-r) Louise Penman, Kaitlin Harvey, Chelsea Sutterlin, Matt Allen, Andrew Panus, Taylor Bold, Emily Kayes, and (back, l-r) JD Olson, Jason Mahar, Michael Lui, Jared Warren, Reed McElfresh, and Michael Witte.

students to shine academically and reach beyond the day-to-day curriculum. It is heartening to see their sharp wits and keen mental abilities in action.”

When Louise Penman, 7<sup>th</sup> grade team member, was asked about her involvement with KM, she responded, “The questions are fun to answer. Knowledge Masters provides our team the opportunity to use our knowledge from our classes and outside reading we have done.”

The Olean Middle School Knowledge

Masters team has conquered questions such as, “You won \$60,000.00 in the lottery. You keep 1/3 and divide the rest equally among your 5 brothers and your three favorite teachers. Each of their shares amounts to how much?” How about, “Which state (Ohio, Nevada, California, West Virginia, or Rhode Island) has the lowest population density?” If you would like the answers to these questions and many more, ask one of the OMS Knowledge Masters team members.

## Parents kept aware of child's progress at school

By Eileen Keenan-Skrobacz

Every five weeks, students at Olean Middle School receive an envelope filled with academic information and a guidance department update. Teachers send either a progress report or a report card of children's successes and any areas where students may need to put forth more effort. Teachers will indicate if a parent-team conference is necessary.

Checking the school-provided agenda for teacher updates and assignments, viewing the team's website at home, and having a quiet place to study are just a few of the helpful recommendations. Parents may want to remind their sons or daughters that there is a ninth period for after-school help with individual teachers. Comprehensive final exams, which count as 20 percent of the students' final average for each subject, are rapidly approaching. Students should take the opportunity to work with their teachers in order to improve their study habits, review class material, and go over any work which isn't thoroughly understood.



Top fund-raisers from each school were (l-r) Abraham Knieser, Patrick Scholla, Kelsey Stimlinger, Alyssa Flederback, Madison Ozzella and Kylie O'Connell.

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

On March 22, the Olean City School District Physical Education Department held its 15<sup>th</sup> annual "Jump Rope for Heart" event to benefit the American Heart Association. This activity involving about 120 students in grades 4-8 took place in the Olean High School gymnasium from 6-8 p.m. Teams of students jumped for a total of 90 minutes at two-minute intervals. Students obtained donations from sponsors. The top fund-raisers from each school are as follows: Kelsey Stimlinger, Washington West Elementary, \$260;

Patrick Scholla, Ivers J. Norton Elementary, \$158; Madison Ozzella, Middle School, \$151; Alyssa Flederback, North Hill Elementary, \$125; Kylie O'Connell, East View Elementary, \$100; Abraham Knieser, Boardmanville Elementary, \$87.

All proceeds benefit the lifesaving research and education programs of the AHA. The grand total raised for this year was **\$5,817.95**. To date, this annual physical education department event has raised over \$68,000 for the American Heart Association.

## Committee planning for the District's future

Mark J. Ward, Superintendent

The District Strategic Planning Committee is continuing to work on the District mission, values, strategic themes, vision and the major issues facing the District/community in the next five years. While the committee plans to make a formal presentation to the Board in May, here is a "preliminary report" of the work so far:

OCSD Mission: "**Home, School and Community Educating For Life**"

OCSD Values ... **Excellence, Honesty/Integrity, Learning, Mutual Respect, Resourcefulness, Responsibility & Accountability, Sensitivity to Diverse Needs, Teamwork**

Strategic Themes:

- Curriculum and Instruction  
Early Childhood Development  
Technology  
Special Programming

Data-Driven Decision Making-  
Outcome Orientation

- Facilities and Learning Environment  
Safety
- Discipline
- Finance/Resource Management
- Building Relationships
- Human Resources  
Outside Professional Resources  
Board-Administrative Leadership

Issues Facing Olean City Schools:

- Funding – Fiscal Responsibility
- Parental Support/Involvement
- Meeting the Needs of Our Students
- Pertinent Professional Development
- Elementary Configuration  
Transportation

This is only a rough draft of the committee's work to date, but the discussions that have been held throughout the school year will have a very significant impact on the District for years to come.

Once the Strategic Plan is finished it will establish a framework for the future that defines the District's priorities and provides a "plan" that can be used for decision-making.

Planning for the future is more important now than ever as we work to balance the needs of our students with the limited resources of our community. With a shrinking student population, rising costs on all fronts, and limited economic growth, we must now, more than ever, be willing to face the difficult questions and establish a clear vision for the future of our school system. Some of the issues will be difficult but we need to establish an open dialogue and be ready to face the economic and ever-changing educational realities of our time. Together, we can chart a bright and responsible future for our children that prepare them for the challenges and demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century!





Students and staff at Boardmanville continue to be very busy working and learning new things. After a long, snowy winter, it's nice to see the grass again, and we all look forward to enjoying our wonderful playground. Above, Boardmanville students participated in the Jump Rope For Heart Program, raising \$701 for the American Heart Association.



Reading Specialists, Mrs. Spears and Mrs. Olson teamed up with second graders to use the Step Up To Writing Program (pictured above) to create stories about bunnies in spring.



Students in kindergarten through third grade (shown at left) were recognized for displaying the character trait for the month of March, CARING.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MAY

- 10-12 New York State Math Assessment for grade 4
- 17 Olean School District Budget vote and Board of Education elections
- 24-25 New York State Science Assessment for Grade 4
- 30 NO SCHOOL  
Memorial Day

### JUNE

- 3 Boardmanville PTO School Carnival
- 22-24 Dismissal at 11:15 a.m.
- 24 Last day of school

# Boardmanville Elementary School





The kids in Miss Bohrer's kindergarten/first grade class had some messy fun in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday the first week of March. First, Miss Bohrer read the Dr. Seuss story, "Oobleck." Oobleck was a slimy, green substance that fell from the sky in the story. Miss Ann Brucker, East View's occupational therapist visited the room to help the kids make gak, which looked and felt just like Oobleck. The substance starts out sticky but becomes easier to handle the more it's touched.

**What's up at the East View Wolf Den?** - Every Tuesday and Thursday after school, a group of St. Bonaventure students come to East View to run a program called the Wolf Den. In this program, the SBU students work with children from East View. Each SBU student tutors a small group of children by playing computer and board games to help with skills in reading, math and following directions. The SBU wolf visits each year!

**Family Connections/First Grade** - Marlene Lang's Family Connection/Adult Education Class works closely with Phyllis Marcus's first grade. Recently, some of the students were working on their interviewing skills when they asked Mrs. Marcus all types of educational questions which they later had to edit and share with other members of their class. Mrs. Lang's entire class and the first graders have worked on various activities including story writing skills which resulted in some wonderful stories. The two groups thoroughly enjoy each other and have shared many educational experiences like the art/social studies/writing/music/math project when they constructed a life-size replica of the Mayflower and presented a very informative program to the school.

**Library Awarded "We the People Bookshelf"** - The East View Elementary School Library was selected to receive a grant award of special books from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association in March. The library received 19 books in a special collection called the "We the People Bookshelf". These books are on the theme of freedom and include such classics as, "Animal Farm, 1984, Fahrenheit 451, Ben and Me, Miracle at Philadelphia and the Chronicles of Narnia."



Mrs. Rogozinski and Mrs. Bowser's First and Second grades have been working on a multi-age weather unit for 6 weeks. Each week, students identify and locate five states on a map and use the Internet to find daily temperatures. They learn facts about each state while comparing temperatures in different regions. They are very excited about this unit!

## East View Elementary School

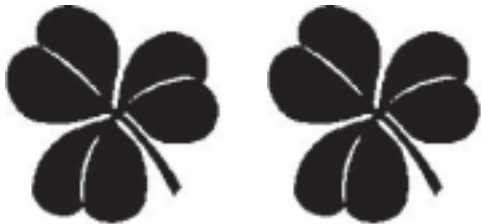


The students at East View Elementary participated in a school-wide reading program, which involved students reading with their parents. It was a tropical theme, in which the students dressed tropically every day and were challenged with "Beach Ya Can Reach Your Goal." They wore sunglasses, visors, leis and Hawaiian shirts. The students enjoyed special treats each day to remind them to continue working towards their reading goal. Teachers extended the program by carrying the theme into classroom lessons and activities. PARP was concluded with a special visit from the Steel Drum Band performed by students from Randolph Academy. All really enjoyed the music, singing and dancing. PARP was a very successful event for East View.



# Ivers J. Norton Elementary School

We, at IJN know how to keep our students quiet and entertained during lunch. Just call the Irish Dancers in for a performance. Students, faculty and friends watched in awe, as the Irish Dancers took to the gym/cafeteria floor for some refreshing entertainment on St. Patrick's Day (see photos above and right). A Big IJN Family THANK YOU to them and we hope you can come back next year!



If you missed IJN's Spring Concert held Thursday, March 31, you missed a fun and entertaining night. The theme was "When I Grow Up." The concert featured students in grades 5, 2, 1, kindergarten and our musical bell choir. Many thanks to our music teacher, Melissa LoPresto. Shown in the photo at left are Brian O'Connell, Principal, Rebecca Kasper, 5<sup>th</sup> grade student, Chris Burton, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, and Jim Lapallo, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. IJN staff and students are learning to make great music together.



On March 9, North Hill Elementary traveled to Buffalo to see the performance of "The Lion King" at Shea's. Students were treated to lunch at the Holiday Inn (shown at right). The performance was incredible and a lifetime experience for all of our students and staff. One student commented, "This is the most beautiful music I have ever heard." The faces on the children were awesome. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen for our children at North Hill Elementary.



# North Hill Elementary School



North Hill Elementary hosted the St. Bonaventure Percussion group. This group is led by Mr. Mark Howden. The percussion group is comprised of various student musicians from St. Bonaventure University. The staff and students had an opportunity to perform with this very talented group of individuals (see photo at right).



North Hill Elementary celebrated Dr. Seuss's Birthday March 1, 2005. A special appearance from Dr. Seuss himself was the highlight of the evening. Officer Randy from the Olean Middle School made a special appearance to read to all of our children. This was a great night for all of our students, staff and families.

North Hill Elementary Student exceeded their goal for P.A.R.P (Parents as Reading Partners) by reading 1,856 books. The students at North Hill were challenged to read 1,500 books during the month of March. If students reached their reading goal, "Patrick" and "Sponge Bob" would visit the children during "Fantastic Friday." The students did a tremendous job in accomplishing this goal. We are very proud of our students, staff, and families at North Hill for their tremendous reading effort.





Kindergarten registration for any child who will be 5 years of age on or before December 1 and who lives in the neighborhoods serviced by Washington West will be conducted on May 10 and 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call 375-8961 to make an appointment. A parent is to accompany his/her child for the registration process, which will take approximately two hours. Pictured are some "early bird" WW Husky Pups who recently visited us and went through a brief trial run of the registration process to help inform others of this process. Special thanks to Mrs. Kathleen Gibbons and son, Jake, and Mrs. Paula Ketchner and son, Aaron!

## Washington West Elementary School

Kindergarten Visitation Day will be held for students entering WW kindergarten in September and their parent/guardian on Wednesday, May 18, from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m. Students will meet our Kindergarten Teachers Mrs. Kris Bates, Mr. Brian Martin and Mrs. Marianne Morgan. They will also complete some fun activities and enjoy a few light refreshments in a kindergarten room. Parents/guardians will meet with Principal Cheryl Vecchio, who will provide information about WW, procedures and educational opportunities provided for kindergarten children.



The Primary Concert — featuring the First Grade Rhythm Band — will be held May 17 at 7 p.m. First grade teacher Mrs. Donna Olson said, "The Rhythm Band is a highlight of first grade. The students get a chance to show their musical talents, and their concert is thoroughly enjoyable for the audience!"

All first-grade students will participate using one of five rhythm band instruments: drums, tambourines, maracas, sticks or triangles. Each number will spotlight a student conductor who skillfully keeps the wee musicians playing together.

Vocal Music Teacher Mrs. Kathy Eggert said, "The first-graders are practicing so very hard for their concert. They know that they must watch the conductor at all times and always be ready to play their instrument. They sound wonderful and are getting excited about their special night!"

## OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

410 W. Sullivan St.  
Olean, NY 14760  
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  
David Olson, Middle School Principal  
Joel Whitcher, Assistant Middle School Principal  
John White, Boardmanville Elementary Principal  
Vincent DiTanna, Interim East View Elementary Principal  
Dr. Brian O'Connell, Ivers J. Norton Elementary Principal  
Maureen Donahue, North Hill Elementary Principal/Director of Special Education  
Cheryl Vecchio, Washington West Elementary Principal  
Judith Creeden, Director of Curriculum (K-5) & Testing  
Csobanka Woodworth, Technology Administrator

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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# District foundation promotes excellence

More than two years have passed since the inception of the Olean City School District Foundation, OCSDF. Through its mission, the OCSDF can promote excellence in education by recognizing students for scholastic achievement, encouraging teachers to take innovative approaches to public education, and fostering community service.

The Foundation's Board of Directors thought it appropriate to update the school district on the impact the foundation has made on the school and the community. The concept of the foundation is exclusively for charitable, educational, scientific, and literary purposes for students. Distributions have been made to a few school projects made possible by donations from the OHS Community:

- The Guitar Grant - enables eighth grade students to learn how to read and perform music before they enter high school;
- Percussion Grant - enables students in grades kindergarten through fifth at North Hill, Ivers J. Norton, and East View elementary schools to learn the knowledge of pitch, composition, and rhythm through

*Since it's inception  
two years ago, foundation  
already having an impact*

the use of percussion tubes, "Boomwhackers."

- Book Drive - All Olean Schools donated books to the book drive - **more than 1,500 books were collected.** The books were redistributed back to Olean City Schools, Southern Tier Catholic Schools, Archbishop Walsh, and to the Tyler Bihler Book Swap.
- Academic Wall of Fame - With its inaugural class inducted this June, The Wall of Fame will recognize those individuals who have demonstrated both in Olean City Schools and in succeeding years the worth of academics, who have well defined goals, who have provided mature leadership, and who have had an impact on society. The Academic

Wall of Fame will be a visual display at the Olean High School honoring distinguished alumni for their outstanding academic and professional accomplishments. When visitors look at the Wall, they will be inspired by past students who have gone on to succeed in the community. The awardees will be honored at the Wall of Fame Ceremony on June 19 during the Olean High School Alumni Assoc. Weekend.

This Foundation has helped bring music and books into the classroom and will continue to assist students for many years to come. We also will begin an Academic Wall of Fame this year, information is enclosed. It is the Foundation's hope that the OHS Community can make a yearly tax-deductible donation to the Olean City School District Foundation, so projects like the ones above could continue to be funded. For more information, please contact Mark Ward, OCSDF Superintendent by phone (716) 375-8018 or by e-mail mward@olean.wnyric.org or Meme Yanetsko, OCSDF Secretary/Treasurer at (716) 372-4433 or by e-mail meme@oleanny.com.