

October-November 2009

Volume 6, Issue 2



OHS celebrates Homecoming

Annual Homecoming and Spirit Week events were held at Olean High School October 12-17th.

Activities included the crowning of the Homecoming

Court: Freshman Escort – Liam McNamee & Freshman Attendant – Kate McKeown; Sophomore Escort – Maleke Fuentes & Sophomore Attendant – Alicia Henning; Junior Escort – Jordan Thompson & Junior Attendant – Olivia Sorokes; Senior 2nd Escort – Kevin Stevens & Senior 2nd Attendant – Tchianna McPeak; Senior 1st Escort – James Hardenbergh & Senior 1st Attendant – Kelly McKeown; and Homecoming King – David Kranock & Homecoming Queen – Julia Himes. Congratulations to everyone!

The Homecoming Parade was held on Saturday, October 17, before the football game and featured a recycling theme. Float results were: 1^{st} Place – Seniors; 2^{nd} Place – Sophomores; 3^{rd} Place – Juniors; and 4^{th} Place – Freshmen.









District awarded Early Ready First grant

The Olean City School District has received an Early Reading First grant for over \$2.7 million from the U.S. Department of Education for Project MADE – Make a Difference Early.

This funding, part of the President's "Good Start, Grow Smart" initiative, is designed to transform existing early education programs into centers of excellence that provide high-quality, early education to young children, especially those from low-income families. The district will use the funds to enhance the educational programs in Olean for 3- and 4-year-old children by preparing them to begin kindergarten with the necessary foundation to fully benefit from formal school instruction.

Project MADE will incorporate a partnership between the Olean City School District, Cattaraugus County Head Start and St. Bonaventure University. Designed to improve the overall literacy and language skills of students before kindergarten, Project MADE is designed to create centers of excellence that promote preschool-age children's language and cognitive skills and provide an early literacy foundation for success in kindergarten.

The project will start this January 2010, with full implementation by the summer of 2010, when there will be additional full day Pre-K programs available in Olean. A four week program for children entering kindergarten will be held during the summer months. A Parent Liaison will support parents with resources, materials and best ways to help their children learn. Classrooms will be equipped with the supplies and learning materials needed to create print-rich environments focusing on oral language, phonological awareness, print awareness, and alphabet knowledge.

For more information please contact Jen Mahar at 375-8039.

Message from the Superintendent

Giving students a 'WOW factor'

By Dr. Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent

The responsibility of public education is to prepare students for the possibilities that may exist tomorrow, not just for what is known today. Therefore, we must be willing to learn about and from technology; the economics and cultures of the world; and we must encourage our students to dare to dream about what could be as well as help them keep their dreams alive.

Students of today must understand and accept that learning does not stop upon graduation. Learning is life long and is required for those who desire to find success in the 21st Century job market. Our learners must know how to manage themselves, communicate effectively in all dimensions; speaking, reading, writing, listening, and viewing. They will need to deliver creatively designed presentations that will demonstrate their ability to reason, problem solve, and think critically. They will need a "WOW Factor." Their success will depend upon the building of solid relationships and the demonstration of respect and empathy towards the values, beliefs, and cultural norms of others.

The Olean City School District is committed to providing appropriate schooling for our students. We set our goals high, engage our students in the learning process using technology, offer rigorous courses of study, and we create opportunities for performance based learning. But we will not achieve our maximum potential without you. We need you; parents and guardians, to set high behavioral standards for your children. We need you to reinforce the importance of learning. We need you to help your children make responsible choices. We need you as our life long partner. We thank you for your commitment to your child's learning.



OHS students attend NYSSA Honors Camp

Six OHS students attended an intensive month-long music camp at SUNY Fredonia last summer. The New York State Summer School of the Arts is a selective honors camp for highly motivated and talented music students. The students gain much experience and practical knowledge in this process. Music Boosters helped to provide scholarships so that students could take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Graduates Dan Boutwell and Nick Reed attended for the second year, and are currently in collegiate music programs. Also attending were: (above, I-r) Kasey Boutwell (*Super Hero Day*), Sariah Charleston, Byron Herbert and Karimah Rahman.









Loretta Close



Christopher Korzeniewski



Beth McIntyre

New teachers and staff welcomed

Evelyn Bysiek was recently hired as a Math teacher at the High School. In May 2009, Evelyn received her Masters of Science in Education from St. Bonaventure University in the Advanced Inclusive Processes Program. During the 2006-2007 school year, Ms. Bysiek taught grades 9 – 12 Mathematics at Canaseraga Central School and has taught Summer School Math courses at Olean High School.

Loretta Close was hired on October 7th as a part-time Reading teacher. Loretta obtained her Masters degree in Reading from St. Bonaventure University in December 2000 and her M.S.E.D in 2004. Ms. Close taught at Franklinville Central School from 2001 through 2007. In September

of 2007 Ms. Close joined the Olean City School District as a Reading Intervention Specialist.

Christopher Korzeniewski is a Special Education teacher at the Olean Middle School. Chris was a long-term substitute from January 2009 through June 2009. Mr. Korzeniewski received his Master of Science degree from St. Bonaventure in May 2004. For three years Christopher was a High School Special Education teacher at Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems in Custer City, PA.

Beth McIntyre is the new English teacher at the Olean High School. Beth obtained her ED.M degree in 2004 from the University at Buffalo

majoring in English 7 – 12. Ms. McIntyre taught English at the Lenoir County Public Schools in NC for two years and Cattaraugus-Little Valley Central School for nine years.

Lindsay Travers is the new Kindergarten teacher at Ivers J. Norton Elementary School. Lindsay received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from St. Bonaventure University in May 2009. Ms. Travers completed her student teaching at Ivers J. Norton in the Spring of 2009.

Katie Ralston is the new 12:1:1 Special Education teacher at the Olean Middle School. Katie graduated from Edinboro University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary and Spe-

cial Education. Ms. Ralston completed her student teaching at Pfeiffer Burleigh, Erie City School District and has substituted for the Olean City School District from May 2009 through June 2009.

Erin White joins the District as a Reading teacher at the East View Elementary School. Erin received Masters of Science degree in Literacy from Alfred University in December 2006. Erin was a Literacy Specialist (K – Grade 3) at Genesee Valley Central School from the Fall of 2006 through June 2009.

Other new employees joining the district include:

Melissa Adams – Teacher Aide for Community Schools. (continued on page 3)



Lindsay Travers



Katie Ralston



Erin White



Melissa Adams



New staff,

continued from page 2

Stacy Bobian – Monitor at Boardmanville Elementary School.

Deanna Burton – Food Service Helper at Washington West Elementary School.

Karen Callahan – Monitor at Boardmanville Elementary School.

Kathleen Gibbons – Teacher Aide at Ivers J. Norton Elementary School.

Sue Karnuth – Food Service Helper at Olean High School.

Cody Lampack – Cleaner at Olean High School.

Jeff Rau – Cleaner at Boardmanville Elementary School.

Margaret Schumpft – Monitor at Boardmanville Elementary School.

Noreen Smeal – Food Service Helper at East View Elementary School.



Stacy Bobian



Deanna Burton



Karen Callahan



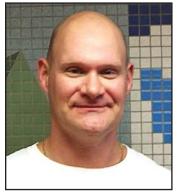
Kathleen Gibbons



Sue Karnith



Cody Lampack



Jeff Rau



Margaret Schumpft



Noreen Smeal

Indian Classical Music workshop presented at OHS

Distinguished musician Sandip Burman graced the stage at OHS for an informative workshop on Indian Classical Music. A native of India, Mr. Burman has played and recorded with many pop and jazz and Indian artists. He shared his knowledge of the style with examples on authentic Indian instruments. Music students will use this exposure and knowledge in performances later this year.





GUIDANCE NEWS: Timely advice for juniors and seniors

Junior Class of 2011

Busiest Year of High School

The junior year of high school is arguably the busiest year of your high school career. Students should be starting to make college and career plans. Do not wait until your senior year to begin the process!

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) will be offered to juniors in November 2009. If you are planning for a career in the military, sign up in the Guidance office to take this aptitude test. Students not seeking a military career are also welcome to take the exam if you are interested in learning more about your strengths and weaknesses and career interests.

A SAT prep course will be offered to juniors after the PSAT on a first come-first served basis. Contact Mr. Threehouse directly if you are interested.

Juniors should begin taking the SAT or ACT in January-June 2010. Visit the websites at www.collegeboard.com and www.act.org for the list of test dates and deadlines.

In December 2009, junior parents will receive information about Financial Aid Night at Olean High School.

Academics

Please remember the importance of good grades and attendance this school year. See Mr. Threehouse if you are having difficulty with your academics.

College-bound students should be challenging themselves by taking the most difficult courses that they can handle. Students are reminded to try to obtain the highest academic averages possible. Colleges like to accept motivated students into their programs!

New York State mandates that all students earn 22 credits and pass five regents exams before graduating from high school. Mr. Threehouse will meet with each student throughout the year to monitor their progress toward graduation.

Post-High School Planning

If you are planning to attend college, Mr. Threehouse will be asking for your college applications in November 2010. You have a year to research colleges and plan for visitations. Your senior year will be much more enjoyable if you know where you want to apply by the start of your senior year!

Students should set up appointments

with colleges for campus visits during the spring semester of your junior year. Prepare questions before your visit.

Students interested in entering a branch of the military after high school should make contact with a recruiter as soon as possible.

Students wanting to enter the workforce immediately after high school should become familiar with the Department of Labor/Cattaraugus County One-Stop. DOL/One-Stop staff offer many programs for people interested in finding a job in the Olean area. They also have information about available jobs outside of our area.

Job shadowing is an excellent way for students to learn more about jobs/careers. Mr. Threehouse would gladly help to set up a job shadowing experience for a student if they need help finding a mentor.

Juniors are reminded to listen and pay attention to the school announcements during homeroom and after school. Mr. Threehouse relays a lot of information to students through the announcements including scholarship information and deadlines.

Senior Class of 2010

Seniors, now is the time to apply to college! Mrs. O'Connell has	need to bring the School Counselor Form or Secondar	
been in to each of the Government and Economics classes giving	School Report to Mrs. O'Connell. Guidance will send	
presentations to the seniors about what they need to do this year	completed applications, counselor forms, letters of	
to make the transition from high school a smooth one! Mrs.	recommendations and transcripts to the appropriate	
O'Connell will be meeting individually with each senior to go	colleges. Don't forget your application fee!	
over high school credits, academic progress, the college process,		•
and post secondary plans. Students can find college applications	January 2, 2010 Students will need to log on to	
online and in the Guidance Office. Most colleges will charge an	www.fafsa.ed.gov to get a PIN number to complete the	
application fee to apply to their college, but some will waive the	Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The form	
fee if you apply online or visit the college. If you have questions	should be completed no later than January 31, 2010	
please see or call Mrs. O'Connell in Guidance at (716) 375-8004.	_	•
	Pick up scholarship applications in Guidance.	
Senior College Application Checklist:		
	January 2010 (TBA) Financial Aid Night at OHS	
Ask teachers for letters of recommendations and have		
them sent to the Guidance office.	March 24, 2010 Penn York College Night at St.	
	Bonaventure University	
Fall 2009 Visit College Open Houses		
	SAT Exam Dates	ACT Exam Dates
Retake SAT and ACT exams.	November 7, 2009	December 12, 2009
	December 5, 2009	June 12, 2010
Complete applications by Thanksgiving and bring them	January 23, 2010	

March 13, 2010



to the Guidance office. Students who apply online will



SEVENTH-GRADERS ASK, 'WHO AM !?'

At the beginning of this new school year, seventh grade students were asked to think about whom they really were and what was important to them in life. This information was the basis for the collage each student created for their ELA class. Students were encouraged to be creative; some students chose poster board, while others used a variety of materials such as stuffed animals, skateboards and pizza boxes to display the important elements of their lives. The students also wrote an essay that explained the items on their collages. During class, each student read their essay and each student wrote down something they had in common with each person in their ELA class. These projects helped students get-to-know each other, and were displayed for all to see at OMS Open House in September.



News from arou

OMS DANCE: 'THE BEST

By Eileen Keenan-Skrobacz

"It was the best night of my life," the young OMS sixth grader said as he looked up at all the stars in sky. Was he recalling a night spent star-gazing? No, actually the happy but sweaty and exhausted middle schooler had just attended his first middle school dance, and he thought it was quite a success!

Quite possibly, most of the over three hundred middle schoolers who attended the dance had a great time. The evening was filled with lots of music, many dances which the majority of the students already knew,



and the opportunity to just hang with friends.

OMS Principal Jerry Trietley has promised the students dances. The proceeds from the first dance will help defray

OMS PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent conferences at the middle school are sch 24th and Tuesday, November 25th. Students will be Each team will send home specific information al

BOARD MEMBER SPEAK

By Eileen Keena

What does a board of education member do? How job? How many hours a week do board members wo bers need? What's the best part of your job? Many n McElfresh, OCSD Board of Education member who say Grade Gray Team students about the role of board

Students eagerly raised their hands to ask question out that Mrs. McElfresh received no pay for her hours impressed with the volumes of information Mrs. McEdecisions about their education.

The students who attended the presentation left wi member is elected by the community, serves a five-ye to be a board of education member. The Gray Team s able to visit them.



••••••••••

and the 'Middle'

NIGHT OF MY LIFE!



a dance-a-month if they behave appropriately at the cost of the 8th Grade Darien Lake Trip.

SET FOR NOVEMBER 24-25

neduled to be held on Monday, November e dismissed at 10:45 a.m. on these days. Four their conferences in the near future.

S ABOUT HER ROLE

n-Skrobacz

much money are board members paid for their rk? What special qualifications do board membany questions were fielded by Mrs. Michiko recently visited the middle school to inform the members in their community.

s and were quite surprised when they found and hours of work. They were also quite alfresh had to know in order to make educated

th the knowledge that a board of education ar term and does a tremendous amount of work tudents were grateful that Mrs. McElfresh was



SUPERINTENDENT VISITS GRAY TEAM

By Eileen Keenan-Skrobacz

"What makes you special?" OCSD Superintendent Colleen Taggerty asked the Gray Team students in a recent visit to English teacher Mrs. Skrobacz's class.

One hand went up, then another, and soon more students had raised their hands. "We are amazing!" said one of the students.

"That's right,"Dr. Taggerty exclaimed. "You are an amazing bunch of students!"

And so began the first of a school year worth of classroom visits between Dr. Taggerty and the 8th graders in Gray Team students in Mrs. Skrobacz's third period English class.

Traditionally, Dr. Taggerty has adopted a class for the school year. She maintains contact with the students through monthly visits, discussions and even visits in her office at OHS. Dr. Taggerty maintains contact with the students, asks them about their concerns, solutions to problems which arise, and looks for ways for the students to connect not only with each other, but also with the adults.

Upon her arrival at her first encounter at OMS, Dr. Taggerty had the students complete informal surveys about the students' expectations of each other, staff members, and administrators. The students completed the survey with Dr. Taggerty's promise that she would present their comments at the administrative level meeting in October.

The eighth graders already have the feeling, "When I begin at OHS next year, I will already know someone!"







Studying Crayfish: Fourth Graders are studying crayfish in science class. As part of the unit, students weigh and measure each crayfish.

Tarantulas and Lizards

Visit!: Boardmanville's PTO is kindly paying for a representative from Sun-Dance-Kids Farms to visit Boardmanville each month this school year. "The Animal Guy", Mr. Morton, brings different animals to our school each month and spends the entire day teaching all of the students about the animals. Each student is given the opportunity to hold and pet the animals if they wish. In September, our visitors were baby goats. October's visitors included tarantulas and lizards. Thank you



to the PTO for covering the costs, and to Mrs. Chudy for doing the work to find and provide this great program for our school!

Purple Ink For Purple Week: Kindergarten students (at right) are working hard in Mrs. Stephens' class. They used purple ink (during purple week) to stamp and match the lowercase letters with the uppercase letters. It's always fun in centers. Come in and join us for the fun!



Boardmanville Elementary School



Comparing Apples to Apples: Students in Mrs. Chudy's kindergarten class tasted different varieties of apples this fall. Each child compared the taste of each apple and decided which kind they like best.



Creative NYS Geography: As part of their social studies course, fourth graders made creative maps of New York State (above and below). The students were very creative in choosing how to make their maps, including map cakes, giant cookie maps, modeling clay, paper and cardboard, quilts, etc.





YANKEES

Walk to School Day: Despite the inclement weather, many East View students and parents participated in the International Walk to School Day. For their efforts, students who walked to school that day received a certificate in addition to a healthy snack provided by our PTO. The students were happy to participate in a healthy activity along with helping the environment.



Students Recognized for Being Respectful: As part of the partnership between East View and CUTCO, one student from every class is recognized each month for demonstrating the character trait for that month. These students attend a pizza luncheon and receive a good character pin. A representative from CUTCO talks to the students about the character trait for that month and teachers who are on the partnership committee assist with the lunch and distribution of pins. Pictured is Tim Keenan from CUTCO congratulating each student for showing respect during September. Thanks to Mr. Keenan and CUTCO for sponsoring this worthwhile activity.

East View Elementary School

East View Learns Sign Language: One of East View's building goals this year is for both students and staff to learn sign language. Some of the teachers have already been teaching sign in their classrooms and



have found it to be helpful reinforcing directions for students who are more visual learners. In addition, students have been learning some sign language to use in the cafeteria through the "Monday Morning Meetings" with Mr. Olson and Mr. Hughey. Students will continue to learn new sign language at the Monday meetings and then the staff will learn the same signs at their monthly faculty meetings. Pictured are two students practicing the signs for "finished" and "yes".



Wal-Mart Awards Teachers: The local Wal-Mart store surprised East View teachers at a recent faculty meeting with prizes and cake. As an expression of thanks for the teachers' service to the children of our community, East View was chosen by the store's associates to receive \$1,000 in gift cards. Ten teachers were randomly chosen through a drawing to receive a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card to purchase classroom supplies. Thanks to Wal-Mart for the generous surprise!





Starry Night: Vincent van Gogh's painting Starry Night was the inspiration for a new mural on the walls of IJN. Pauline Stanford, art teacher, worked her artistic magic as she created a replica of the 1889 masterpiece. Thank you, Mrs. Stanford, for adding to the beauty of the building and leaving a gift that will last a lifetime.

Ivers J. Norton Elementary School

Santa Claus Lane Float: Our 100th year anniversary is coming to a close. Our last way to celebrate will be to enter a float in the Santa Claus Lane Parade November 27th. Our float will represent our school and all its partners in education – our PTO, Saint Bonaventure University,



Jamestown Community College, Olean Area Federal Credit Union, and Brookside Community. All IJN families and listed partners are welcome to walk in the parade. Please call our office 375-8941 for registration information and float meeting dates and times.

Welcome Foster
Grandparents: IJN
students are greeted each
day by four lovely ladies
who work for the Foster
Grandparents Program.
Anne Hilton, Judy Stark,
Romayne Green, and
Donna Conner come to
work with our students.
They support our students
with extra academic help,
often in the areas of math



and reading. In the process, our students benefit from building new relationships, receiving one-to-one attention, and working with different community members. For more information on this program, please call our office at 375-8941.



International Walk to School Day: Wind and rain didn't deter the participants of the International Walk to School Day on October 7th. IJN had over 60 participants in the event. Students and parents were encouraged to create a "walking school bus" by joining with IJN teachers and community members as they walked to school. Thank you to the following teachers who participated: Randy Samuelson, Leslie Morey, Bernie Martin, Susan Hamed, Lauren Stuff, Suzanne Kallenbach, Colleen Larsen-Deibler, Elaine Stephan, and Amanda Bess. A very special thank you to our community support offered by: Sgt. Mike Marsfelder, Resource Officer Jason Hlasnick, Patty Tertinek and Kathy McGoldrick from the Department of Social Services.

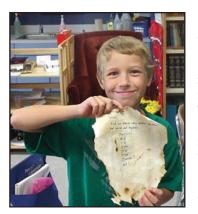


Character Trait of the Month - Responsibility: During the month of October, students at IJN focused on being responsible. Students were encouraged to show responsibility both at home and in school. In addition to the typical areas of childhood responsibility (homework completion, taking care of pets, etc.), our students were focused on our special topic – How to be Responsible on Halloween Night. Sergeant Mike Marsfelder came to IJN to share his safety tips. This worthwhile presentation encouraged our students to trick or treat with an adult, carry a flash light, eat no candy before it is checked, and to only go to houses with the porch light on. Thank you, Sgt. Marsfelder, for a great presentation!





Math Made Easier!: The First Grade students in Mrs. Chamberlain's class have been working on graphing in math. They have been learning how to collect and organize the data. The students were also given the opportunity to be the graph when locating points on a grid. Our student teacher, Miss Ormsbee, has been a terrific help in showing us how to locate points on a grid!



GeoPirates:

After learning about map skills, students each received a pirate map (at left). They had to follow the coordinates on the map using latitude and longitude to find their hidden booty.



WW Reading Buddies: The Reading Buddies program is going strong at WW! Mrs. Martin's 5th Graders have been teaming up with Mrs. Murray's Pre-K students to share their love of reading.



Fire Safety Week: Firefighters visited Washington West to talk about fire safety with our students. Above are students from Mrs. Bates' class.

Washington West Elementary School



A Tasty Lesson:

Mrs. Jakubczyk's Kindergarten class worked on making apple pies with the help of some friends from our community (photo at left). What a yummy fall project – tasty AND educational!





solve the caper and find ways to figure out who the criminal was by learning about investigations and lifting finger and foot prints. It was exciting hands-on learning that demonstrated how our learning fits in to the real world in a very essential way.



OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

410 W. Sullivan St.
Olean, NY 14760
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.oleanschools.org

ADMINISTRATION

Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent of Schools
Joseph Mahar, Interim Business Manager
Barbara Lias, High School Principal
Jeffrey Andreano, Assistant High School Principal
Gerald Trietley, Middle School Principal
Lawrence Welty, Assistant Middle School Principal
John White, Boardmanville Elementary Principal
David Olson, East View Elementary Principal
Linda Nottingham, Ivers J. Norton Elementary Principal
Joel Whitcher, Washington West Elementary Principal
Lynn Corder, Director of Personnel/Reading First Coordinator
Judith Creeden, Director of Curriculum (K-5) & Testing, & C.I.O
Marcella Richmond, Director of Special Education
Csobanka Woodworth, Technology Administrator

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Having a blast at Harmony Explosion

Seven OHS Students participated in Harmony Explosion Camp at the RIT Campus in Rochester. The students were treated to a wonderful experience with Barbershop and Beautyshop workshops and performances, along with pizza, great meals, new friends and lots of fun! They gained lots of valuable experience in a cappella singing.

The two days and nights were financed in large part by scholarships from local and



district barbershop organizations. Many thanks to Ted Norton, Youth Outreach Coordinator for the local Barbershoppers, who presented us with this opportunity.

Pictured clockwise from center front are: Melissa Vanness, Rebecca Lasky, Bethany Chesebro, Miles Marvin, Justin Scott, Steven Jackson and Rebecca Kasper.



NON PROFIT

ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Permit No. 73

Olean, NY 14760

OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mission ...

"Home, School and Community Educating for Life"

Values ...

- Excellence
- Honesty/Integrity
- Learning
- Mutual Respect
- Resourcefulness
- Responsibility & Accountability
- Sensitivity to Diverse Needs
- Teamwork

Strategic Themes ...

- Curriculum and Instruction
- Facilities & Learning Environment
- Finance/Resource Management
- Building Relationship