Homecoming Spirit Shines

Students and staff at OHS certainly enjoyed showing their Husky pride during theme days for Homecoming Spirit Week!
**Welcome, continued from pg. 2**

the period of September 2015 through January 2016. Ms. Puller received a Bachelor of Science in Education; Psychology/Sociology concentration from SUNY at Geneseo in 1989 and a Master of Science in Reading from Alfred University in 1991. Ms. Puller has taught at various schools located in MD, NY, and PA.

**Katie Schmitt** joins the Olean Intermediate School as a Special Education Teacher. Mrs. Schmitt received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education and Special Education from St. Bonaventure and a Master of Science in Educational Psychology in May 2015 from Kaplan University. Katie was a long-term Special Education Teacher for the Olean City School District for the 2014-2015 school year.

**Robert Washington** joins the District as a High School Special Education Teacher. Mr. Washington received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a Minor in Secondary Education from St. Bonaventure University in 2001; a Master of Science in Adult Education from Buffalo State College in 2004; and a Master of Science in Special Education from St. Joseph’s University in 2011. He was a teacher at the Children’s Center for Treatment and Education in Bradford, PA and also taught in the Harrisburg, Erie, and Pittsburgh, PA areas.

**Support Staff:**

- **Tina Aiello-Austin** – teacher aide - Olean Intermediate Middle School
- **Clarissa Bennet** – teacher aide – Olean Intermediate Middle School
- **Brandy Blanchard** – teacher aide – Olean Intermediate Middle School
- **Kathleen Butler** – teacher aide – Washington West Elementary School
- **Camille Charleston** – teacher aide - Washington West Elementary School
- **Charmeaine Dwalleibee** – teacher aide – Washington West Elementary School
- **Melissa Green** – teacher aide – Washington West Elementary School
- **Sarah Rachels** – teacher aide - Washington West Elementary School
- **Margaret Tingley** – teacher aide – East View Elementary School
- **Annette Fisk** – Keyboard Specialist - Olean High School
- **Erin Koch Pagett** – Account Clerk Typist - Pupil Services
- **Clarissa Bennett** – teacher aide - Olean Intermediate Middle School
- **Sarah Retchless** – teacher aide - Olean Intermediate Middle School
- **Kathleen Butler** – teacher aide – Olean Intermediate Middle School
- **Melissa Green** – teacher aide – Washington West Elementary School
- **Erin Koch Pagett** – Account Clerk Typist - Pupil Services
- **Sarah Rachels** – teacher aide - Washington West Elementary School
- **Margaret Tingley** – teacher aide – East View Elementary School
- **Deborah Silloway** – teacher aide - Washington West Elementary School

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**District Welcomes New Staff to the Husky Team**

**Administration:**

Jennifer Kless was appointed Coor- dinator for Curriculum and Instruction in October 2015. Mrs. Kless began her teach- ing career with the District in September 1993 as an Elementary Teacher. Through- out her tenure, Jen has been appointed to Reading Coach, Math Coach, as well as Literacy Coach. Since August 2013, Mrs. Kless has been a Teacher on Special As- signment aligning curriculum maps to the NYS Common Core Standards, developing and implementing standards-based report cards for Title I Reading Program, coordinating STAR benchmark testing, and so much more.

**Teachers:**

Chelsea Bowker joins the District as a Special Education Teacher at Olean High School. Ms. Bowker received a Bachelo- r of Science in Elementary Education. Dual Certification with Special Education and received a MSED in Differentiated In- struction; Gifted and Students with Disabilities from St. Bonaventure Univer- sity in May 2014. Prior to being ap- pointed with the District, Chelsea was a Classroom Teacher for C-A BOCES. Brandy Bennon joins the District as a Special Education Teacher at Olean High School. Mrs. Bennon received a dual Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood and Special Education from LeMoyne Col- lege in May of 2011 and a MSED in Special Education from Buffalo State College in August 2013. Prior to joining the District, Brandy worked at St. Bonaventure University as the Operations Manager. Elizabeth Casey is the new 5 FTE Reading Teacher assigned to the South- ern Tier Catholic Schools. Mrs. Casey received a Bachelor of Science in Element- ary Education from St. Bonaventure Uni- versity in 1985 and Masters of Science in Reading from SUNY Oswego in 1992. From 2000-2003, she worked for the Dis- trict as a Remedial Reading Teacher at East View Elementary. Caitlin Martin was recently appointed as a long-term Special Education Teacher for the 2015-2016 school year. Caitlin re- ceived a Bachelor of Science from SUNY Brockport in May 2014. Prior to her ap- pointment, Ms. Martin was a substitute teacher for Allegany-Lincoln. Laurie Murray repositions the District as a long-term substitute Elementary Teacher at Washington West. In August of 2006, she was appointed to the position of Element- ary Teacher and resigned in August 2010 to relocate to Bath, NY with her husband. Laurie received a Bachelor of Science in Education from SUNY Fredonia and a Master of Science in Childhood Education from SUNY Albany in December of 2009. Linda Puller was recently appointed as a long-term Special Education Teacher at the Olean Intermediate Middle School for (continued on page 2)

**Have Ideas on Improving Student Achievement? Share Them!**

By Dr. Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent

At the heart of the Comprehensive District Educational Planning/Shared Deci- sion Making Committee is the focus on improving student achievement. The commit- tee meets on a regular basis to investigate and determine how to best impact student achievement. The objectives of our first meeting for the 2015-16 school year were to identify current practices in and around the District that serve as evi- dence of achievement of our vision/mission and guiding principles; and to identify practices that can be built upon or implemented to advance momentum toward our vision/mission statement and guiding principles.

Throughout the discussion, it became evident that the District’s focus on being EPIC (exceptional, personalized, innovative and creative) aligned perfectly with the mission/vision statement and our guiding principles. Other major initiatives such as moving to a balanced literacy curriculum that aligns with the Common Core Standards; implementation of the Common Core math modules; the 1:1 ini- tiative with the distribution of computers; professional development with a focus on understanding poverty and diversity; and the creation of a student initiated club that will focus on community service both locally and internationally were all evidence of how the District is fulfilling its vision/mission.

Additional areas that the committee will focus on this year will be course offer- ings; the impact of the change of start times; defining what it means to be college and career ready at Olean; which current practices can the committee can utilize as a catalyst for continued momentum and what the next steps going forward will be.

The committee would like to hear from you. What do you believe the Olean City School District is doing well that promotes high expectations for all learners and, in what areas do we have gaps? Continuous improvement must be more than a state of mind. As stated by Mortimer Adler, “The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as long as we live.”

Therefore, continuous improvement must be actively pursued. Please share your thoughts and ideas with us. My email is: ctaggerty@OLEAN.WNYRIC.ORG

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**From the Superintendent**

Olean School District staff members show their spirit during opening day festivities as they gathered for this aerial photo. With elevated goals and expectations, 2015-2016 is going to be an EPIC school year.

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Olean City School District Newsletter

October-November 2015
Groups Sponsor Emergency Preparedness Program at OHS

Anastasia Selected for NYS Basketball Hall of Fame

OHS and SBU Students Learning Together

Lowe Awarded Tenure

Collaborative Curriculum Using Laptops in Full Swing
Learning to Play Guitar

Mrs. Eustis has been teaching all the 7th grade students how to play guitar. Students are fully engaged and working diligently. Could we have a future rock star in our midst?

What is Reading Leveling?

Students at the Olean Intermediate Middle School are learning all sorts of information. To improve their reading skills through a new program called “IRLA,” Classroom teachers and reading specialists have been busy leveling students. In order to determine where a student will read and be challenged, a process called leveling is used.

Teachers meet one-on-one with students, go over basic word lists and vocabulary lists, which includes asking students to define words or provide synonyms, and a cold read. The cold read requires students to select a passage and read part of it out loud and some of it silently. Upon completion, the teacher asks the student various comprehension questions, vocabulary questions, and inference questions.

Once the student has completed leveling with the teacher, s/he is shown books and informational texts which will provide words or provide synonyms, and a cold read. The cold read requires students to select a passage and read part of it out loud and some of it silently. Upon completion, the teacher asks the student various comprehension questions, vocabulary questions, and inference questions.

The answers to those questions is a resounding, “YES!” Blue Team and Yellow Team students in Mrs. Skrobacz’s English classrooms are standing tall behind their desks. It isn’t a difficult or costly idea. Twenty-five sets of bed risers were purchased during the summer for the English 7 classrooms. Initially, students were a bit surprised when they entered the classroom on the third floor at OIMS. Once they started to stand for their English class, it became the norm for them.

“It’s good because when Mrs. Skrobacz goes to the back of the classroom to show us something, we move easily,” said 7th grader Christian Myers.

Haleigh Feeney, another seventh grader stated, “I think it’s easier to pay attention when I stand. When I sit, I could slouch and not pay as close attention in class. I like it!”

“I feel like it helps me stay awake. When I sit down, I can sit in a certain position where I can start to feel tired. I like standing a lot,” said Kyle Pockalny.

Caroline DeRose stated, “You can move more, not just sit in one place all period. When Mrs. Skrobacz moves around the classroom, we can move easily to see her.”

“It helps me focus more,” according to Kellen Baker. “Instead of sitting down, I can move around a bit,” he added.

Laptops for 6th Grade Classes

For the first time in the history of the Olean City School District, OIMS sixth graders have been given their own laptops. In accordance with the 1:1 Technology Initiative, laptops were provided to all of the OIMS sixth graders. Students also received padded carrying cases for their laptops. It is a hefty responsibility for students to maintain their laptops. They were instructed about the regulations for maintaining their laptops, charging them at home each night, and allowing updates to occur. Parents also received information about the laptops’ care and the accountability factor required for students to maintain their laptops.

The sixth graders enjoy their laptops and take the responsibility of having them very seriously. Another plus, each student was afforded the opportunity to download five “Office 365” accounts for their families’ use. Office 365 contains Word, Publisher, Power Point, OneNote and more. The families are able to download the program to their iPhones, iPads, personal computers, and iPads so students can have access to some awesome materials.

Getting a Taste of the Arctic

Students and staff of OCSD received a taste of the Arctic on Friday, September 29th, with the Polar Spray, an event designed to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics New York. Students from OIMS have been involved with Special Olympics Unified sports since 2013, and the partnership continues to grow bigger and stronger. The Polar Spray is a preview to the Polar Plunge in Buffalo on December 5th, where once again OCSD will be Freeze’n For a Reason. For more information on the Polar Plunge visit polarplunge.org and search Olean Huskies Unified.

Collaboration is Key in Art

Mrs. Nickel’s 4th Grade Art classes have been working on an interdisciplinary unit combining the artistic prowess and lessons learned in Social Studies and ELA classes. Mrs. Nickel is helping her students create Wampum belts to go along with their unit on Native Americans. Here, students are working on the design process before they complete the actual Wampum belts. In planning her lessons based on what students are already working on in their other classes, Mrs. Nickel can reinforce understanding of the curriculum and enhance the learning experience for all involved. Plus, they produce some really amazing art for the rest of us to admire!

OIMS Homework Helpers

Is your student finding homework overwhelming? There is help! Mrs. Maureen Paterniti, Homework Helpers’ coordinator, along with OIMS teachers Mrs. Lacey Hill and Mrs. Patti Metler, work Monday through Thursday from 3:15 – 4 p.m. in the OIMS Library with students who need homework help or a quiet place to study.

Teachers guide the students throughout the 45-minute period. Parents need to sign up and can require that they attend daily or allow them the option of attending on a day-to-day basis.

Call Mrs. Ullman at 375-8060, ext. 4305 to request a permission form.

Students Standing Tall in 7th Grade

Why would students stand for a class period? Perhaps to help them think better on their feet? To allow blood to flow throughout their bodies? Maybe it’s an opportunity to try something different? The answers to those questions is a resounding, “YES!” Blue Team and Yellow Team students in Mrs. Skrobacz’s English classrooms are standing tall behind their desks. It isn’t a difficult or costly idea. Twenty-five sets of bed risers were purchased during the summer for the English 7 classrooms. Initially, students were a bit surprised when they entered the classroom on the third floor at OIMS. Once they started to stand for their English class, it became the norm for them.

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Haleigh Feeney, another seventh grader stated, “I think it’s easier to pay attention when I stand. When I sit, I could slouch and not pay as close attention in class. I like it!”

“I feel like it helps me stay awake. When I sit down, I can sit in a certain position where I can start to feel tired. I like standing a lot,” said Kyle Pockalny.

Caroline DeRose stated, “You can move more, not just sit in one place all period. When Mrs. Skrobacz moves around the classroom, we can move easily to see her.”

“It helps me focus more,” according to Kellen Baker. “Instead of sitting down, I can move around a bit,” he added.

Let’s Talk Money on Nov. 3 & 17

Financial literacy is an important life skill for our students to learn. Wider Opportunities for Greater Olean, Inc. (WOGO) has received a grant from Five Star Bank to offer our students in grades 4-7 a unique opportunity to attend a two-hour workshop on financial literacy. Students will learn what money is, income sources, annual budgeting and savings, and needs vs. wants.

A workshop for students (at least one parent must also attend) in grades 4 and 5 will be offered on Tuesday, November 3, 2015, 5:45-7:45 p.m., in the OIMS LGI Room. A workshop for students (at least one parent/guardian must also attend) in grades 4 and 5 will be offered on Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 5:45-7:45 p.m., in the OIMS LGI Room. A pizza dinner will be provided at each workshop.

Space in the workshops is limited! Please call the Guidance Office at 375-8064 for registration information.

Students have been working on an interdisciplinary unit combining the artistic prowess and lessons learned in Social Studies and ELA classes. Mrs. Nickel is helping her students create Wampum belts to go along with their unit on Native Americans. Here, students are working on the design process before they complete the actual Wampum belts. In planning her lessons based on what students are already working on in their other classes, Mrs. Nickel can reinforce understanding of the curriculum and enhance the learning experience for all involved. Plus, they produce some really amazing art for the rest of us to admire!
Congratulations to Hannah Stayer and the student whose password for your student’s information sign up, please call 375-8010 to obtain a Parent Portal Access

Did you know you can access your student’s information on-line at olean.wnyric.org to take a more informed view of their children’s progress in school by providing access to grades, schedules and report cards instantly. To sign up, please call 375-8010 to obtain a password for your student’s information.

Huskies Announcements

OHS morning announcements are now available on our webpage. Simply click the link at the OHS homepage to find out the latest & greatest in Husky territory.

H.S. Equivalency Classes

Need your high school diploma to get that job or promotion? Olean City School District offers FREE high school equivalency classes. For more information, contact Linda Edstrom, Adult Education Coordinator, 716-375-8033, or ledstrom@olean.wnyric.org.

Parent Portal Access

Did you know you can access your student’s grades on-line? Parent Portal is an on-line site that has been designed to improve communication between home and school. It enables parents to take a more informed view of their children’s progress at school by providing access to grades, schedules and report cards instantly. To sign up, please call 375-8010 to obtain a password for your student’s information.

Super Bowl of Caring

The holidays will be here before we know it, and we will be gathering with friends and family to celebrate. As you do your holiday shopping, consider buying extra items to set aside for the Olean Food Pantry. Students will be collecting nonperishable food items for the annual Super Bowl of Caring food drive. The event will occur during the week preceding the NFL Super Bowl, which will be played on February 7. Food will be collected at all local schools and local businesses. Contact Marie Rakus at mrakus@olean.wnyric.org for more information or to donate.

HP Grant In Action

Washington West will be receiving a new Traverse Wall in their gym as a result of the HP Grant. Students in physical education classes will enjoy the challenge of climbing across the wall.

OHS morning announcements are now available on our webpage. Simply click the link at the OHS homepage to find out the latest & greatest in Husky territory.

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Junior Class 2015-16 Checklist

Continue working hard in school to maintain the highest grades possible in a rigorous academic schedule. Colleges want to accept the highly motivated students! College admissions decisions are based mainly on the strength of your high school transcript.

Maintain good attendance at school. Stay involved in school activities, athletics or clubs offered at school.

Visit Mr. Threehouse’s web page where you will find information pertaining to career planning, NCAA Clearancehouse, SAT/ACT, graduation requirements, etc.

Four-year college bound students should be taking the PSAT/NMSQT on Octo-ber 14, 2015. The cost is $15.00. Sign up in the guidance office.

Students interested in entering the military after high school should make contact with a recruiter this school year. These students should also take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) on December 2, 2015 at Olean High School. Sign up in the guidance office.

The PSAT/NMSQT results will be returned in late November or early December. Take time to review your test results and follow the recommendations on the PSAT score report to improve your scores on the SAT. Four-year college bound juniors should register to take the SAT’s and ACT’s in March-June 2016. Visit www.sat.org/register and www.actstudent.org to register for these important tests.

Students and their parents will be invited to attend our annual Financial Aid Information Night held in the Olean High School cafeteria in early January 2016.

Juniors should begin to visit colleges in the spring semester of the school year and throughout the summer. The ultimate goal is to be ready to apply to college(s) by December 1, 2016. This will ensure that you meet the deadlines in a timely manner and will also make the process less stressful on you.

Meet with Mr. Threehouse to prepare your senior year schedule in January-March 2016. At this time you will also complete a graduation audit to make sure all graduation requirements have been met or scheduled for your senior year.

Continue to listen to the morning and afternoon announcements as pertinent scholarship information pertaining to juniors and seniors are announced on a regular basis. Visit Mr. Threehouse to ask questions as they arise.

Music Boosters Need Your Help

The Olean High School Music Boosters want you to get involved and help support the excellent music programs our school offers students. Music Boosters are proud that Olean students are able to participate in chorus, band, and orchestra. If you are a parent of an OHS singer or musician, please consider attending a meeting to see how you can help. The meetings only last one hour and are held the first Monday of each month at 7 pm in the OHS second floor conference room. Music students will be selling beautiful wreaths and poinsettias in the coming weeks to help fund events and purchase items for the music department. If you have any questions, please contact Marie Rakus at mrakus@OLEAN.WNYRIC.ORG.

Summer Graduate Congratulated

Summer graduate Preston Jordan was honored by Olean High School officials during a ceremony to mark the completion of his required course of study. From left are former High School Principal Barbara Lis, who retired at the end of the last school year; Preston’s father, Emmet Jordan; Preston; Paul Knieser, Olean School Board President; and Jeffrey Andreano, former Assistant Principal who is now the Principal.

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October-November 2015

Olean City School District Newsletter

Kick It Math Facts - Our third graders are Kickin’ It to learn their math facts this year. Third graders at East View earn necklaces as they master various math facts throughout the year with a program that works like a karate belt system.

Super Bee Super Heroes - A special thank you to Mrs. Grandusky, a friend to East View, for sewing capes on to our Friday Super Bee shirts (left). We recognize students in each class for following the school rules of being safe, responsible and respectful.

Reading Buddies - Here is a photo of pre-k and third grade students buddy reading from Mrs. Obenrader, Mrs. Ackerman, Mrs. McInnis and Mrs. Caya’s classes. They had a wonderful time gaining the power of reading and working together.

Independent Reading - At East View, our core belief is, “Reading gives you power, the more you read the better you get and the smarter you become.” Our school is transforming its culture of reading to include renewed emphasis on independent reading with our students. Not only will our students be reading text and working together to keep everyone safe, respectful and on time for restored art program!

Buffalo Philharmonic - All of our students attended a Buffalo Philharmonic Concert last month and were wowed by the experience.

S.W.A.G. - In September’s opening day meetings, our Olean and BOCES staff members were challenged to find the ‘one word’ that would motivate them to be their best. Based on the motivational work of Jon Gordon, teachers chose a word that would be reflective of their intentions and goals for the new school year. Teachers want their students to know that they are capable of anything as long as they have SWAG. The teachers have been incorporating S.W.A.G. into first grade writing lessons. After reading Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin, students were taught that the acronym can be used to remind writers to Start sentences with a capital letter, to Write neatly, that a space is needed between each word, to start sentences with a capital letter, to give proper punctuation at the end of each sentence.

Warning Back, ART! - WW families enjoyed the “Make Your Mark” display during open house as presented by our new art teacher, Stacie Bowen. For two quarters, Mrs. Bowen offers our students two art classes per week. The students have truly enjoyed expressing themselves through their projects. Thank you for restoring our art program!

Washington West Elementary School

Welcome Back, ART! - WW families enjoyed the “Make Your Mark” display during open house as presented by our new art teacher, Stacie Bowen. For two quarters, Mrs. Bowen offers our students two art classes per week. The students have truly enjoyed expressing themselves through their projects. Thank you for restoring our art program!

Parking Problem Resolved - Arrival at Washington West is safer and more efficient with our newly designated parking spaces. The available spaces along our sidewalk allow parents to park and walk their children safely to our entrance. These spaces also give parents more time to tend to their children’s needs. When used properly, these spaces allow for our ‘drop and go’ lane to move freely; reducing the congestion in our lot and along Washington Street.

Many thanks to our students and parents who work together to keep everyone safe and on time for school. Go team WW!

You Are the Reason We Are Here - Washington West’s opening theme for the 2015-2016 school year focused on empowering our students! Our banner reminds us not only of the value of each child, but of the potential in each and every one who attends our school. We at Washington West are proud of what we do each day to support our students! If you are interested in participating in our programming, please contact our office (375-8968) or access the district website (oolaneschools.org) for a volunteer form. We welcome you to join us!

Olean City School District Newsletter

October-November 2015
The Olean City School District is a student-centered community of excellence in which all members are challenged to learn, achieve, contribute, and innovate.

**Guiding Principles**

A commitment to fostering:

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

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**2015 OHS Homecoming Royalty**

On a Friday, Oct. 2nd, at an Olean High School football game, the 2015 Homecoming Court was announced. Pictured (l-r) are freshmen attendants Katie Patrone and Nick Crandall; sophomore attendants Mia Rogers and Nick Karl-Lebrenz; Second Senior Attendants Mallory Bliss and Luke Earl; Homecoming Queen Miranda Sakala and Homecoming King Jake Volz; First Senior Attendants Halle Farwell and Terrance Farwell; and junior attendants Noelle Anzivine and TJ Magro.