On November 15th and 16th, Olean High School students presented the all school musical, *Les Misérables School Edition* to enthusiastic audiences. Over eighty students took part in the production as members of the cast, orchestra, stage crew, costume crew and tech crew. Students worked for three months on what was a very challenging project.

*Les Miserables* is an epic tale of passion and redemption in the throes of revolution. In nineteenth century France, Jean Valjean, played by Nathan Gabler, is released from years of unjust imprisonment, but finds nothing in store for him but mistrust and mistreatment. He breaks his parole in hopes of starting a new life, initiating a lifelong struggle for redemption as he is relentlessly pursued by police inspector Javert, played by Mark Brown, who refuses to believe Valjean can change his ways.

Finally, during the Paris Student Uprising of 1832, Javert must confront his ideals after Valjean spares his life and saves the life of the student revolutionary, Marius, played by Andrew Sherburne, who has captured the heart of Valjean’s adopted daughter, Cosette, played by Ruth Scordo.

This play afforded opportunities for many students to portray various roles. These included Mackenzie Windus who played Fantine and Jamie Chastain who was Eponine. Thenardier and Mme Thenardier were played by Quinn Forrest and Chloeanne Halladay. John Carlson played Enjolras. Sera Casey and Lucas Peterson-Volz were little Cosette and Gavroche.
From the Superintendent

It’s A Wonderful Life

I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season from our entire Olean City School District family. I know I speak for all of us when I say how very proud I am of our district and how much we appreciate the enormous support of the Olean community. The good fortune to work at the Olean City School District provides us all with a full-filling experience to share and grow as individuals and as a community.

I sat down, as I do every year and watched the film classic, It’s A Wonderful Life. As I watch the iconic Jimmy Stewart wrestle with the same life challenges we all face, one cannot help but imagine their own life, their own family, and their own hometown. In fact, the movie could have easily been filmed in Olean.

Every time I go over the bridge by the hospital I think of the scene where George jumps in to save the drowning man who turns out to be an angel, named Clarence. Question is, “Who was saving who?”

Throughout the film you can almost identify each of the characters in the film with a real person in Olean. The film highlights the goodness of being selfless, taking care of family, friends and community.

We practice kindness, thoughtfulness and selflessness every day in our district. The wonderful acts of kindness which are on display every day humbles me.

Recently, two of our Life Skills students took it upon themselves to organize a Thanksgiving dinner for their teachers, classmates, principals, Board of Education members and others. With the help of Sodexo food service director, Kevin Fisher, these students were able to accomplish their endeavor. What a heart-warming and fantastic event.

One of our seniors came up with the idea of organizing a flu shot clinic at the high school. Madelyn Hoffman, an Olean student who attends the New Visions program at BOCES, pulled off a very successful event. She intends to go on to become a doctor.

Homeless Huskies has been a tradition for twenty-seven years. 100 students raise donations by staying out in the cold all night in an effort to understand the hardships of homelessness. This annual event raises money for the less fortunate.

The Olean City School District Foundation received the largest number of contributors of any organization in New York State for the December 3, 2019 Cattaraugus Gives day.


Annual Hall Decorating Contest

Every day, I am fortunate to be able to observe awesome acts of kindness performed by our students, faculty, staff and administration. Many of these are done privately and for no other purpose than it is the “right thing to do.” The Huskie Family realizes everyone can bring something to the table and all are needed to help create an environment where we all can say, It’s A Wonderful Life.

So during the holiday season and throughout the year, let’s continue to keep up the good work in Olean, where it takes all the Huskies to pull the sled!

Happy Holidays from the Olean City School District.

Sincerely,

Rick T. Moore
The Olean Teachers’ Association would like to recognize Speech Language Pathologist Ellie Hoffman, who is celebrating twenty years in education. Mrs. Hoffman was hired by the Olean City School District in September 1999. She began working at Olean High school and Washington West Elementary school her first year, and then exclusively at Washington West for the past nineteen years. She has served as coordinator for various committees including the Building Instructional Team, the Instructional Support Team, and the Response to Intervention team over the past eight years.

Mrs. Hoffman graduated from SUNY Fredonia with a Bachelor’s Degree in Education for the Speech and Hearing Handicapped. She then continued her education at SUNY Fredonia where she earned a Master’s Degree in Speech Language Pathology. Congratulations to Mrs. Hoffman for her dedication and service to her students and the Olean City School District.

The Olean Teachers’ Association would like to recognize Special Education teacher Lori Mason-Varner who is celebrating twenty years in education. Mrs. Mason-Varner began her career at Jamestown Public Schools in 1999, then moved onto Falconer Central School in 2001, Boces (Olean) in 2003, and was hired by the Olean City School District in 2006. She is presently a teacher at Olean Intermediate Middle School in a 15:1 classroom.

Mrs. Mason-Varner graduated from JCC with an Associate Degree in Humanities/Theater and the University of N.Y. at Oswego with a double Bachelor’s Degree in Theater and Communication. She then continued her education at Mercyhurst University where she earned a Master’s Degree in Special Education and Empire State College of N.Y. for her music teaching certification. Congratulations to Mrs. Mason-Varner for her dedication and service to her students and the Olean City School District.

Olean City Schools is hiring substitutes in all areas! Want to be a Husky with a paycheck? We are always in need of quality student-focused individuals to serve our students at Olean City Schools. If you are interested in substituting, log on to www.oleanschools.org, go to “Human Resources” to find the Professional Application (for teachers) and the Civil Service Application (for Teacher Aides, Cleaners, Nurses & Cafeteria substitutes).

Send completed applications to Aaron W. Wolfe, Director of Human Resources, 410 W. Sullivan Street, Olean, NY 14760 or come by the HR Office at OHS – we’d love to meet you!

Teacher Substitute Rates: (Minimum Qualification – Associates or Equivalent)
- Associates: $90.00/Day
- Bachelors: $100.00/Day
- NYS Certified: $120.00/Day
- Retired OCSD: $165.00/Day

Cleaner, Teacher Aide, Cafeteria Substitute Rate: $11.10/Hour ($11.80 January 1, 2020)
Nurse Substitute: $20.00/Hour

Ellie Hoffman

Lori Mason-Varner

Marjorie Kosinski, Teacher Aide, is presented a retirement plaque by East View Principal, Brian Crawford.

Morning Adult Swim

Lap swimming or water exercise for adults at the Olean Intermediate Middle School pool from 5am to 7:30am on every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Enter through the OIMS gym doors.
For more information please contact Ms. Pamela Burrows at pburrows@oleanschools.org

New Support Staff:

Sally Gildner – Teacher Aide
Thomas Guay – Cleaner
Kieze Hund - Cleaner

December 2019 - January 2020
Nurse’s Notes...

It seems ‘Old Man Winter’ has arrived a little early this year, so it’s a good time to remind parents to please make sure your child has a warm, DRY coat, hat, mittens and boots on to keep them warm! Many of our Olean students walk to school and it doesn’t take long for the cold to cause a problem!

Speaking of problems...students are calling or texting parents during the school day on their personal cell phones to say they are sick and want to go home. We can’t allow students to leave school in this manner. If your child calls or texts you that they are not feeling well and they want to come home, please direct them to the Nurse’s office first! If there is a medical issue that warrants your child leaving school, you will be notified. Any students that do not follow this protocol and have a parent or family member pick them up from school without going through the Nurse’s office first, will NOT be given a medical note and the absence will be marked UNEXCUSED.

The best advice we can offer you for a healthy holiday season is to practice regular HANDWASHING! Soap, water & friction go a long way to combating those unwanted winter illnesses that visit us each year! Encourage your child to keep their hands/fingers away from their face, nose & mouths. Encourage your child to cover their mouth & nose when they cough or sneeze in the crux of their arm to prevent germs from being flung in the air & making others sick, AND their hands won’t be contaminated by catching a cough/sneeze! We also recommend using the hand sanitizer wipes that stores offer to wipe down the shopping cart handles – it’s a small, quick act that goes a long way towards protection from unwanted germs.

The OCSD Nurse’s wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas, a Happy Holiday season, and a safe & healthy New Year!

New York State School-Related Professionals Recognition Day

The celebration of School-Related Professionals Recognition Day is the direct result of a resolution submitted by more than a dozen local unions at the 2002 NYSUT Representative Assembly. Years of advocacy by the NYSUT Legislative Department were rewarded when the bill creating a permanent School-Related Professionals Recognition Day was signed into law in 2007.

School-Related Professionals Recognition Day is celebrated on the third Tuesday of November, often during American Education Week. NYSUT urges every school district to use this day to celebrate and honor the work of all School-Related Professionals — inside and outside the classroom.

Olean’s support staff union, OESPA, celebrated the day on Tuesday, November 19th, with a candy bar for each member detailed with a note of thanks for their efforts on behalf of students.

We thank all of the great support staff here at Olean – from the food service staff, nurses and teacher aides to the secretaries, cleaners, computer techs and maintenance workers - for their dedication and perseverance. Not all days are the same, but our support staff brings the stability and sunshine that help carry us through. Thank you for everything you do!
OLEAN SCHOOLS FOUNDATION...
“ENHANCING THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE”
410 W. Sullivan St.
Olean, NY 14760
www.oleanschoolsfoundation.org
ocsdfoundation@gmail.com

A 501c (3) organization that fundraises to support: Academic Enrichment Grants, as well as the Olean City School District Wall of Honor

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR OCSD WALL OF HONOR 2020!
To view procedures and criteria for nomination and to nominate an individual for consideration for induction into the OCSD WALL OF HONOR please go to Olean Schools Foundation website to complete and return the brief nomination form. Nominations are accepted until December 31, 2019 (to be eligible for June 2020 Induction).

GRANT APPLICATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOUND ON:
www.oleanschoolsfoundation.org

2018-2019 OSF GRANT APPROVALS:
Sensory Pathways Grant – Washington West
Pi Day Competition Grant – OHS
Mindfulness Grant – OIMS
Universal Pre-K Grant – WW
Authors Everywhere Grant – East View
STEM Play Grant – EV
Costa Rica Trip Activities Grant – OHS
Whale Watch Grant Activities – OIMS
Juggling Club Grant – OHS
Awards Banners Grant - OCSD

2019-2020 OSF GRANT APPROVALS TO DATE:
Authors Everywhere Grant – EV
Outdoor Play Grant – EV
Letters Alive Grant – WW and EV
We Are Authors – OIMS
(Other grant applications pending!)

2019-2020 FUNDRAISERS – TO SUPPORT GRANTS AND THE WOH!
TUESDAY – DECEMBER 3, 2019 – CATT GIVES DAY
FRIDAY – MAY 1, 2020 – A NIGHT AT THE RACES
SATURDAY – JUNE 20, 2020 – RED AND GOLD GOLF TOURNAMENT AND RAFFLE

Thank you all for your continued support!
News From OHS

OHS Select Choir Makes a Splash at Alfred University

The Select Choir had the privilege of performing in the Alfred University Choir Invitational Concert on Sunday, November 17th. After doing a choral workshop at OHS last year, Dr. Luanne Crosby, vocal music director at Alfred University, was so impressed with the choir’s sound that she invited them to perform with her college choir, community choir, and to offer several selections as well. The combined choir was accompanied by award-winning musician Dan Duggan on hammer dulcimer. Dan has recorded many albums, and can be heard on two of Paul Simon’s album. It was a special treat and privilege to perform with him, Dr. Crosby and the combined Alfred Choirs. Go, Husky Harmony!

High School FREE Adventure Activities

A group of high school students attended Lasertron in Buffalo in November. This is part of the monthly adventure activities sponsored by the Olean City School District. The December activity will be at Skyzone, and the January activity will be at the Holiday Valley Tubing Park in Ellicotville. Any interested high school student is welcome to attend and join in on the fun! Permission slips are available in the high school gym or from Mrs. Brooks.

Introducing the 2019-2020 NHS Inductees

Olean High School recently inducted 31 new members into the National Honor Society. Students were chosen based upon general excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character and were honored at a luncheon held at the Old Library Restaurant.
First L to R: Caroline DeRose, Andrew Sherburne, Paxton Retchless, Olivia Bean, Nathan-Michael Gabler, Chloeann Halladay, Kaura Chahal, Mariko Kobayashi, Kiran Khettry, Grace Ventura Second L to R: Collette Trudeau, Claire Meyers, Isabella Martinelli, Rebecca Schneider, Alyssa Otero, Joseph Magro, Lucas Sakala, Adrian Ross, Lauren Kielar Third L to R: Elisamaria Martel, Marina Heister, Brynn Ackerman, Hayleigh Federowiecz, Kailyn Vanderhoef, Christine Martin, Lucas Wood, Keon Cruz, Kaden Cruz, Justin Lin, Jason Copella Missing: Yuki Wada
Students Jacob Spears and Avianna Rauber organized a Friendsgiving Thanksgiving meal for their teachers, friends, and board members on November 21, 2019. They wanted to show how thankful they are for these people in their lives. Mr. Kevin Fisher, Cafeteria Manager, cooked all the food and coached them on how to serve. Their JOBS Coach, Leah Graves, helped them organize the event.

Good Samaritan Scholarship

Pierre Eade, working with the Olean Student Activities Council and the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation proudly announces the Good Samaritan Scholarship. This scholarship will be associated with the annual Homeless Huskies program. In order to be eligible for this scholarship, students must participate in Homeless Huskies, be active in community service as well as actively involved in leadership roles. Students learned of this new scholarship at the 27th annual Homeless Huskies program held on November 8th.

OHS Students Excel at Area All-State Music Festivals

Our district was well represented by these outstanding musicians who were selected by audition to perform at the Zone 1 Area All-State Festivals at Pioneer and SUNY Fredonia. Congratulations and Bravo to our outstanding musicians!

Zone 1 Junior High Area All-State:

Back row, L to R: Taya Oyer, Lily Schena, Ethan Peace
Front Row, L to R: William Snyder, Garrett Meerdink, Grace Haynes, Riti Anumalasetty

Zone 1 Senior High Area All-State:

Back row, L to R: Mackenzie Windus, Yuki Wada, Quinn Forrest, Mark Brown
Front row, L to R: Tanvi Patro, Nathan-Michael Gabler, Savannah Coker, Ruth Scordo

Not pictured: Paige Smith

Poetry Out Loud

Every year Olean High’s students display their public speaking and memorization skills by reciting a poem not only in front of their peers, teachers, families and friends, but also in front of a panel of judges. This year’s Poetry Out Loud competition was held in the High School auditorium after school on Monday, December 9th.

Another Successful Homeless Huskies!!!

The Olean High School Student Activities Council would like to thank the nearly 100 students who helped raise over $4,600 for our 27th annual Homeless Huskies event held on November 8th. SAC truly appreciates the continual support from the staff and community for this annual event. This event would not be possible without the generous donations and support of our caring community.
Enchanted Book Fair

Hug-A-Mug Coffee Shop starts your Friday with a morning beverage and smile (and even a HUG). Students in OIMS 12:1:3 Life Skills class follow step by step directions and work with their entire educational team (including PT, OT, Speech Therapists, Para Professional and Counselors) to make and deliver staff’s beverage of choice.
This year 5th grade students from Mrs. Hamed’s and Miss Burrows’ class participated in a STEM challenge based on the book “Balloons over Broadway” by Melissa Sweet. The story is about Tony Sarg, a puppeteer who engineered the balloon “puppets” for the Macy’s Day Parade. Like Tony, the students were given a helium filled balloon, straws, Popsicle sticks and construction paper and had to design and create their own balloons for the Thanksgiving parade that would move like the ones Tony Sarg designed. Students planned their designs either alone or with a small group, then created and improved their designs to get the final results.

National French Week was celebrated in each OIMS French class from November 4th through November 8th. This is a week sponsored by the AATF (American Association of Teachers of French) to commemorate all things French and to celebrate the fun experiences in learning the language.

This year’s celebration at OIMS entailed five daily theme days: Blue/White/Red Day, Scarf/Beret Day, Très Chic Day, Say “Bonjour” to My Teachers Day and, last but not least, French t-shirt/Party Day! All French classes dressed according to the daily theme, practiced their French listening and response skills with TPR (Total Physical Response) in the classroom, created their own replicas of French cartes d’identités (ID cards), and, of course, sampled French foods!!

Merci mille fois (many thanks) to all the students who participated and helped decorate our corridors and read on the daily announcements…en français! #LefrançaisPlusQu’uneLangue #FrenchMoreThanALanguage

Sixth grade students showed their appreciation for local Veterans by making poppies and writing special notes, which were then delivered with some sweet treats to several organizations in the area.
Thanks to the creative efforts of Mrs. Grosso, Computer Lab Aide, and Mrs. Woodring, 6th Grade teacher, OIMS students are now treated to some positive thoughts to carry them through their day.

The two ladies worked together to design and create some inspiring messages to lift spirits and encourage positive dialogue for students. Mrs. Grosso spent time before and after school prepping the surfaces and mounting the original decals where the greatest number of students were likely to see them – the cafeteria restrooms!

Thanks to the OIMS PTO for purchasing the materials for this terrific project!
November 8th was National STEAM Day and Ms. Cawley’s Art room brought a little bit of technology into our learning. Students worked together to build obstacle courses out of Lego bricks and then controlled a Dash Robot throughout the course. Students also created their own Starbucks cup, then used Quiver, an Augmented Reality app, to see their creations come to life.

On Saturday, November 23rd, teams of 4th and 5th graders and teams of 6th and 7th graders competed in the first ever OIMS Turkey Bowl flag football tournament. The teams played in a bracketed tournament with the “Hounds” winning the 4th and 5th grade division and the “AFC North” winning the 6th and 7th grade division. A great time was had by players and spectators alike!
Mrs. Threehouse’s has a class full of author’s that was excited to share their stories.

To celebrate how much reading we have done, our Reading Teachers put on an event where our 100 step readers patrolled the school looking for Witches and collected items for their own Witches Brew snack.

We love to celebrate our goals in the office! When student have good news to share they are showered with bubbles!
Our Second Grade Teacher and US Army Veteran, Mr. Martin, shared stories with the entire second grade about his time serving in Iraq.

Our CA BOCES Early Child Interns did a Veteran’s Day craft with students from Mrs. Stephens’ kindergarten class.

We had several teachers dress to celebrate Mr. Rogers World Kindness Day with cardigan sweaters.

We are so grateful to have full year music back in our elementary schools. Students are practicing with instruments in this photograph.
LOOK Who Leveled Up: The husky pups of Washington West work each and every day on building their skills as independent readers. As students read, teachers conference with individual students to monitor progress and help them work toward that next level. Each time a student levels up, we CELEBRATE! Check out those that have leveled up this year at Washington West! Don’t stop the reading, husky pups!

Students in first grade started their coding adventure with Sphero - a mini-robot! Code on husky pups!

Stuffing the Turkey: Each year, Washington West works in conjunction with the Olean Food Pantry to collect non-perishable food items for our local agencies. This year, we were "stuffed" with lots of love and support from our families! Thank you for contributing to this worthy cause!

Fine Motor Fun: Students in kindergarten work on building their fine motor skills. Check out how they used blocks to hide the turkey so he didn’t get gobbled up, and geo boards to make their shapes! Kudos Kindergarteners!

Follow your Husky Pups on Twitter @OleanWW
Hughey Family Award for Resilience established to support OHS grads

OLEAN, N.Y., October 31, 2019 — Ellen Hughey Reynolds credits a meaningful portion of her life’s success to the education she received, in both academics and life in general, at Olean High School.

In appreciation of that education, she has established the Hughey Family Award for Resilience at the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation to honor her family and express gratitude for the education her family received at Olean High School.

“Early in my career, it was apparent to me that I had received a terrific education, a grounding, in high school. I had my four-year degree and a degree beyond that, and I was working on Wall Street, but the Olean foundation was key,” said Hughey Reynolds, who had a long and successful career in human resources and management. “And not just in terms of academics, but also in terms of civic values and appreciating the individuality of students.”

Hughey Reynolds, her three siblings, and their mother all attended Olean High School. Without that solid education, she said, their future success may not have been possible.

“I feel strongly that the caliber of the academics was very high,” she said. “Equally important, we were expected to perform up to our potential and to demonstrate good values.”

Education was about more than academics, she said.

“Olean placed a value on being a well-rounded student, which communicated to us that it was also important to be a well-rounded person,” she remembered.

The Hughey Family Award for Resilience will support Olean High School students pursuing post-secondary education (including 2- and 4-year institutions or vocational schools), with an emphasis on a student who demonstrates resilience.

The award will be a minimum of $500 per student and is renewable for up to four years. The student recipient must be in good academic standing and demonstrate financial need.

Most importantly, though, the student’s goal statement in the application must demonstrate resilience by stating how s/he has overcome adversity with grace, carried on despite disappointments, failures, or hardships, or, if lucky enough not to have personally experienced a hardship, must state how s/he has demonstrated compassion and support of those who have had such challenges.

“The focus on resilience is because the older I get, the more I believe that the difference between success and failure is often perseverance,” she said. “It’s thinking, ‘Okay, that happened, but I am going to carry on. I am not going to give up or feel ‘less than’ because I have encountered this challenge. I am going to figure out how to make lemonade out of these lemons and not to be overwhelmed by what appears to be defeat.”

Hughey Reynolds felt compelled to include a component celebrating resilience in the scholarship because it was a character trait valued by her family, and honoring her family is at the heart of this scholarship fund.

“As you get older, you are in a position to do something other than just have good thoughts and feelings about how others contributed to your development,” she said. “You can do something tangible. This scholarship is an external expression of the love I have for my family and the deep appreciation I feel for OHS. I trust it will also lend a helping hand to someone who needs and deserves it.”

CRCF Executive Director Karen Niemic Buchheit expressed the foundation’s appreciation for such a thoughtful scholarship.

“It touches you to see an Olean native and OHS alumna decide to give back to the community where she grew up in such a meaningful way and with such sincere intentions,” said Buchheit. “As financially beneficial as the scholarship will be, it will be equally inspiring to student recipients, and we at the Foundation hope it will encourage and celebrate resilience, perseverance and compassion in a special group of students.”

If you are interested in exploring the possibility of setting up a scholarship, contact the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation at 301 North Union St., Suite 203 or online at cattfoundation.org.

For 25 years, the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation has been the area’s supportive, responsive and trusted community foundation. Established in 1994, CRCF is growing good by connecting donors to the causes they care about most in the region. Grants from the foundation support many areas, including education, scholarships, health care, the arts, community development, human service, and youth development. To learn more, call (716) 301-CRCF (2723), email foundation@ cattfoundation.org, or visit online at www.cattfoundation.org. CRCF is also on Facebook (facebook.com/cattfoundation) and Twitter (@CattFoundation).
Students in Ms. Bowker and Mrs. Bennion’s class made a 3D collaboration poster in honor of our veterans.

Back Left: Tyler Miller, Frank Pyrkos, Mason Tanyi, Chloe Frost, Jacob Spears
Middle kneeling: Damon Hollowell, Avianna Rauber
Front Left: Kollin Pellett, Alan Murphy, Dakoda Puccinelli, Emma Buckley