



# LEAN

## City School District

*"Home, School and Community Educating for Life"*

December 2020-January 2021

Volume 17, Issue 2

### Alexis Gibbons Signs with East Tennessee State University

Alexis Gibbons will continue her soccer career at East Tennessee University, located in Johnson City, Tennessee. Alexis plans on attending East Tennessee State University next fall, majoring in Rehabilitative Health Sciences, while also playing soccer for the Buccaneers in the Southern Conference.

Pictured with Alexis (from left to right), front row – Shawn Gibbons (father), Alexis Gibbons, Sabrina Gibbons (mother), Natalie Gibbons (sister). Back row – Dan Freeman (OHS head girl's soccer coach), Emily Gibbons (sister), and Dylan Shaw (OHS girl's soccer coach).



### OHS Model United Nations Team Participates in Virtual Canisius Conference

The Olean High School Model United Nations team has been active and adjusting to the virtual approach to conferences. On November 5, 12 members participated through Google Meet as delegates to the Canisius College MUN Conference. These students researched a real-world issue to thoroughly understand it and its possible solutions while also investigating how various countries perceive the topic. As delegates,

they write a position paper prior to the conference, debate the issue at the conference, and work collaboratively with students from other high schools to write resolutions.

The delegates participated with 12 other high schools from the Buffalo area and were able to achieve the high honors in two of the councils. Nate Kwiatkowski earned Best Delegate honors as a member of the Contemporary Security Council, and David Ruszkowski earned the award for Outstanding Delegate in the Historic Security Council.

Other delegates to the conference performing admirably were Jason Copella, Grace Ventura, Aiden Butler, Ruth Scordo, Heartly Phipps, Grace Ring, Riti Anumalasetty, Dylan DiRosa, Tanvi Patro, and Nathaniel Martinelli. MUN members also in attendance included Chance Padlo, Naomi Hill, Gavin Weseman, and Yuki Wada.



# Happy Holidays Huskies

## Endurance · Fidelity · Intelligence



### **Balto Statue in Central Park**

It has been a rough year for everyone, but we need to thank everyone for their endurance, fidelity, and intelligence as we Huskies mush on through these difficult times together.

Huskies have always weathered the storm regardless if it is weather or an outbreak of a disease. In fact, let's draw our attention to how a Husky actually saved a whole community from an epidemic. Yes, the famous Balto, Disney even made a movie about him and it was the inspiration for the origin of the annual Iditarod sled dog race.

**Balto** (1919 – March 14, 1933) was a Siberian Husky and sled dog belonging to musher and breeder Leonhard Seppala. He achieved fame when he led a team of sled dogs on the final leg of the 1925 serum run to Nome, in which diphtheria antitoxin was transported from Anchorage, Alaska, to Nenana, Alaska, by train and then to Nome by dog sled to combat an outbreak of the disease.

Balto lived in ease at the Cleveland Zoo until his death on March 14, 1933, at the age of 14. After he died because of old age, through the art of taxidermy he is displayed in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, where it remains today.

**The Serum Run** In January 1925 doctors realized that a potentially deadly diphtheria epidemic was poised to sweep through Nome's young people. The only serum that could stop the outbreak was in Anchorage, Alaska. The engine of the only aircraft that could quickly deliver the medicine was frozen and would not start. After considering all of the alternatives, officials decided to move the medicine via multiple dog sled teams. The serum was transported by train from Anchorage to Nenana, where the first musher embarked as part of a relay

aimed at delivering the serum to Nome. More than 20 mushers took part, facing a blizzard with -23 °F (-31 °C) temperatures and strong winds. News coverage of the event was worldwide.

On February 2, 1925 the Norwegian Gunnar Kaasen, a family friend of Leonhard Seppala driving a team of Seppala's dogs which he had left behind in case they would be needed, led by Balto and co-lead by Fox, was handed off the serum package by Charlie Olson in Bluff. They arrived in Port Safety shortly thereafter, where the final leg of the relay was to begin. The final team and its driver, Ed Rohn, had believed Kaasen and the relay were halted in nearby Solomon due to inclement weather, and so were asleep when Kaasen and Balto made it to this final relay point – Kaasen decided to continue on, in order to save time it would take to change sleds and hitch up a new team. He traveled the remaining 25 miles to Nome, and arrived at Front Street at 5:30 AM. All ampules of the antitoxin were intact, and Kaasen handed them over to be thawed for use by mid-day many lives were saved.

After the mission's success, Balto and Kaasen became celebrities. A statue of Balto, sculpted by Frederick Roth, was erected in New York City's Central Park on December 17, 1925, ten months after Balto's arrival in Nome. Balto himself was present for the monument's unveiling. The statue is located on the main path leading north from the Tisch Children's Zoo. In front of the statue a low-relief slate plaque depicts Balto's sled team, and bears the following inscription:

Dedicated to the indomitable spirit of the sled dogs that relayed antitoxin six hundred miles over rough ice, across treacherous waters, through Arctic blizzards from Nenana to the relief of stricken Nome in the Winter of 1925." (*Wikipedia*)

### **Endurance · Fidelity · Intelligence**

May you all slow down, stop, and reflect on what we have all accomplished as a school, community, and a nation this past year. It is truly remarkable how everyone has endured, stayed truthful, and have used their intelligence through this ordeal.

Huskies the serum is on its way! Stay positive and reflect on how fortunate we are to have each other to lean on during difficult times. Enjoy your family and fellow Huskies each and every day. Let's pledge to lift each other up with kind and supportive words and actions. As we all know it takes all the Huskies to pull the sled!

Peace to all and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Mr. Moore



# Welcome New Hires!

## Administrator



Michael Martel – In August, Mr. Martel was appointed Director of Technology. Mike spent the previous five years as the Olean High School Assistant Principal. Before becoming an administrator, he taught math, science and computer science at Hinsdale Central School. An Olean alumni, a graduate of St. Bonaventure, he has a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and two master's degrees, one in Secondary Ed. and one in Educational Leadership. Mike lives in the Olean area. His three children attended Olean schools. In his spare time, he runs a local men's amateur soccer club, Olean 1854 FC.

## Teachers:



Rachel Barry is the new Special Education teacher at the Olean Intermediate Middle School. Ms. Barry obtained her Bachelor of Science in Elementary and Special Education from St. Bonaventure University and anticipates receiving her M.Ed Literacy from the American College of Education in October 2021. Rachel was a Kindergarten teacher at Allegany-

Limestone Elementary School from September 2017 through June 2020.

Heather Gogel joins the district as an ELA teacher. Ms. Gogel obtained her Master of Arts in Secondary Education from the University of New Mexico in May 2020, a Bachelor of Science in Education from SUNY Fredonia in May 2012. Heather taught 7th and 8th grade English from April 2015 to September 2020 at Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School in Albuquerque, N.M.



Christopher Knapp is the newly appointed Music teacher. Mr. Knapp obtained his Bachelor of Music from SUNY Fredonia in May 2020 and an Associate Degree in Music from Onondaga Community College in May 2017. Christopher completed his student teaching at Hamburg Central School and substituted for the Dundee Central School District.



Mary Miller has been hired as an Elementary teacher at Washington West. Mrs. Miller obtained her B.S.B.A in Elementary and Special Education from St. Bonaventure University in May 2005 and anticipates receiving her M.Ed. in Childhood Literacy and Inclusive Special Education in May of 2021. Prior to joining the district, Mary taught Universal PreK at Olean Head

Start and was the Executive Director of Child Care for the Olean Family YMCA from February 2006 through August 2018.

## Support Staff:



Vivienne Cline –  
Food Service Helper



Joseph Duplechian –  
Information  
Technology Specialist



Jocelyn Daley –  
Teacher Aide



Susan Faulkner –  
Food Service Helper



Melissa Green –  
Keyboard Specialist



Kari Jennings –  
School Nurse (RN)

# Welcome



Amy Livoto –  
Teacher Aide



Nicole Marsfelder –  
Teacher Aide



Victoria Ramsey –  
Food Service Helper



Logan Webster –  
Teacher Aide

# THANK YOU!

## *Happy retirement to the following employees.*

Thank you for your dedication, motivation and years of service.

You will be missed.



Marjorie Dexter -  
*Reading Teacher*



Darlene Firkel -  
*Food Service Helper*



Patricia Howden -  
*Reading Teacher*



Sheila Yaffe -  
*LOTE Teacher*

## High School Equivalency Diploma

Adults over 16 years old seeking a high school equivalency diploma (HSE) have a rare window of opportunity to earn a diploma without taking the traditional two-day test.

The State Department of Education has temporarily made it possible for Adult Basic Education teachers to recommend students, with approval from supervisor, be awarded a diploma if they have passed at least three pertinent Regents exams or three of the subtests that are usually required to apply to take the TASC (formerly GED) test.

Since 2018, the New York State Board of Regents approved regulatory changes to provide a fourth pathway to earn a New York State High School Equivalency (HSE) Diploma.

Individuals who have passed Regents Examinations in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies can substitute those passing scores for a maximum of four of the five corresponding Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC™) subtests: reading, writing, math, science, and social studies.

The following table details which passed Regents Examinations will be allowed in place of the corresponding TASC™ subtests:

<b><i>Regents Exam</i></b>	<b><i>HSE Subject Area Credit</i></b>
Any English language arts Examination	TASC™ Reading and Writing
Any Mathematics Regents Examination	TASC™ Mathematics
Any Science Regents Examination	TASC™ Science
Any Social Studies Regents Examination	TASC™ Social Studies

The Olean City School District's Community Schools office is offering in-person classes and online learning during the Temporary Covid-19 guideline period to continue to serve students. Classes are at no cost to students who must be NYS residents.

Classes are offered on Mondays in Salamanca from 9-12 PM at 22 Broad Street, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Olean from 9:30-12:30 PM in the Olean Probation Office Conference room at the County Building, and Fridays in Olean from 9-12 and 1-4 PM at the Onestop in Blue Bird Square.

Students will need to wear a mask and temperatures will be checked upon entering any office. Seats are limited in all classes following CDC guidelines.

For more information, please call 716-375-8046.





Thank you OCSD Teachers, Staff, and  
Students...you are amazing!  
Stay HUSKIE STRONG!

## OLEAN SCHOOLS FOUNDATION...

[www.oleanschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.oleanschoolsfoundation.org)

[ocsdfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:ocsdfoundation@gmail.com)

A 501c (3) organization that fundraises to support:  
Academic Enrichment Grants and the OCSD Wall of Honor

### **OSF IS PROUD OF ALL THE 2019-2020 OSF GRANTS APPROVED:**

Authors Everywhere Grant – EV	Outdoor Play Grant – EV
Letters Alive Grant -WW & EV	We Are Authors – OIMS
Book Worm Reading Books – WW & EV	Huskie Reading Cushions – WW
Leaders' Lounge – EV	Pi Day Competition – OHS
Support the OHS Band Grant – OHS	3-D Printers for Makerspace – OIMS
Ukuleles Grant – EV	Math Activities Grant – EV
Community Outreach Van Wrap – OCSD	Whale Watch Activities Grant – OIMS

### **2020-21 OSF GRANTS APPROVED TO DATE:**

Authors Everywhere Grant – East View Elementary  
Marching Band Software Grant – OHS  
YMCA Remote Learning Grant - OCSD

## **ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR WALL OF HONOR 2021**

(Deadline for submission 12/31/20)

## **ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR**

Instructions and forms for WOH nominations  
and

Grant applications found at:

[www.oleanschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.oleanschoolsfoundation.org)

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED OUR CATTARAUGUS GIVES DAY ONLINE  
DONATIONS CAMPAIGN ON GIVING TUESDAY – DEC. 1, 2020**

### **PLANNED FUTURE FUNDRAISERS:**

Friday April 30, 2021 – A NIGHT AT THE RACES  
Saturday June 20, 2021 – RED and GOLD GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Looking forward...with Huskie Hope!**



# News From OHS

## Iceland Travel Scholarships Awarded



Ninth graders Bryanne Cowles and Chance Padlo were recently awarded \$500 each from the travel scholarship. The trip to Iceland in July 2021 will explore the rich geologic history of Iceland. Travelers will revel in the geothermal wonders of Iceland- Blue Lagoon hot springs, volcanic craters, and subarctic fauna. From the capital of Reykjavik, we will travel

the popular Golden Circle and see Gullfoss waterfall and the Geysir geothermal area. From there, we will visit the famous black-sand beaches of Vik and the Lava Centre in Hvolsvöllur. The trip to Iceland will showcase the geology of a divergent plate boundary and is focused on the science of the region. Travel to Iceland is sponsored by Dan Freeman, Earth Science teacher. We are still enrolling student travelers that currently attend Olean High School. If you are interested in this trip, please contact Dan Freeman at [dfreeman@oleanschools.org](mailto:dfreeman@oleanschools.org). Mr. Freeman is also

in the process of planning a science trip to Australia and New Zealand for 2023. Please contact him if you are interested in this trip. Students must currently be in 7th to 12th if travelling in 2023.

The students competed for the scholarship through an application and written essay on why Iceland interests them and how the trip may benefit their future. Recipients must be in good standing academically and behaviorally. Recipients must also complete 5 hours of community service before the trip in July of 2021.

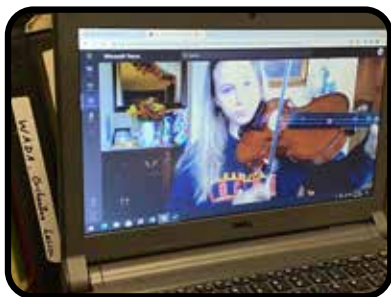
In prior years, a full scholarship was awarded to Tenaya Ramadhan for a school sponsored trip to Normandy, France in 2018. It was sponsored by our Olean French Club's initiative of Cookies for Culture in memory of Claudia Kurjakovic and the travel scholarship also in Claudia's memory. This year's Cookies for Culture partial scholarship was awarded to French students Devin Singh and Josh Terhune who will be traveling with the Olean French Club to Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia.

The Scholarship is in memory of Claudia Kurjakovic, class of 2004. Her passion was traveling worldwide to understand and experience world cultures. Claudia was born in Iceland, so this trip is of special significance.

## OHS Orchestra Only Aiming Ahead during COVID-19

Although most of the NYSSMA Festivals were cancelled, Yuki Wada (Violin, Grade 12) was still accepted into his 2nd NYSSMA All-State Orchestra, and Nathan Gabler and Mark Brown were both accepted into NYSSMA All-State Mixed Chorus. They will be performing at a virtual All-State Concert in December.

Lily Schena (Viola, Grade 10), Brennan Kielar (Violin/Grade 8), and David Ruszkowski (Cello/grade 9), are taking advantage of taking private online lessons. They are showing dramatic improvements and are preparing for their future performance opportunities! One opportunity coming up is the NYSSMA Spring Virtual Solo Festival in April.



## TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA



Come journey down under. This is a trip of a lifetime. An interest meeting will be held via Teams for interested travelers in early January. If you are interested in this travel experience, please contact Mr. Freeman at [dfreeman@oleanschools.org](mailto:dfreeman@oleanschools.org) to reserve your spot for the interest meeting. This trip is focused on the science of Australia and New Zealand which boasts exotic wildlife, beautiful nature, and fascinating indigenous cultures. Some activities that will occur on the trip will be snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef, visiting a geothermal area, and exploring the city of Sydney.

# Bits and Bytes from the Tech Dept.

This has certainly been a different school year for all of us. Here is some helpful information from the technology dept.:

## If you have tech related issues and are at home

*During the school day (7:30 AM – 3:30 PM)*

- Call the tech dept. directly: 716-375-8044.
- Email Mr. Lasky: [dlasky@oleanschools.org](mailto:dlasky@oleanschools.org) or Mr. Martel: [mmartel@oleanschools.org](mailto:mmartel@oleanschools.org)
- Message Mr. Lasky or Mr. Martel through TEAMS

*After hours*

- Tues./Thurs. from 7-9PM, call 716-375-8044. One of our techs is available to help if you have problems with devices or connectivity. For issues with specific assignments, please contact your teacher.
- There are links and videos on our website! Click on the Technology Tab.
- Mr. Lasky and Mr. Martel also monitor their email.

## If you have a broken device

Bring it into the library at OHS and OIMS. We will get it repaired and back to you. Elementary students, see your teacher.

## If you need to bring in your device directly to the tech dept.

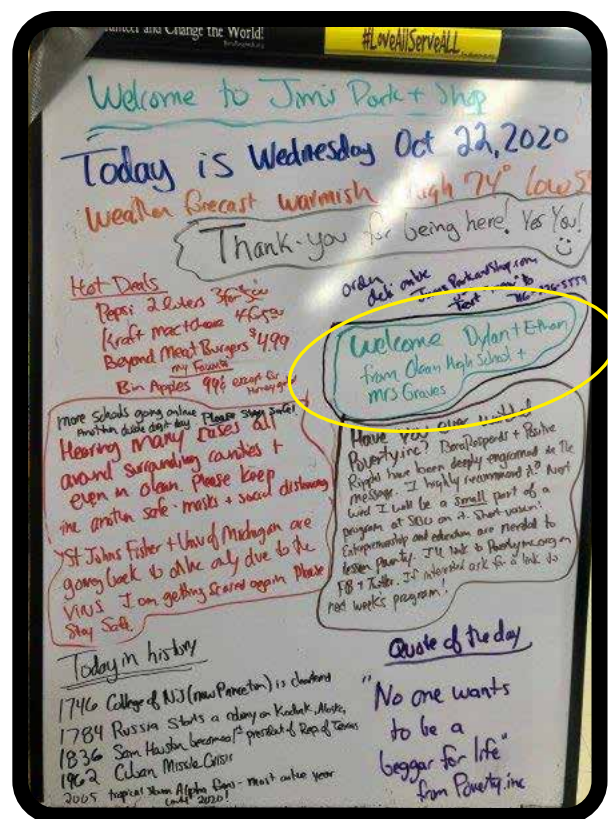
Go to the 3rd Street side of the high school to the back parking lot. Look for the "Technology Dept." sign. Knock on the door directly below the sign. Please call ahead and wear a mask!

If you have not registered for Parent Square yet, please do! This is one of the main avenues of communication from each school and the District to your homes. Check your email for a registration invitation. If you are not sure, call your school to check that we have the correct email address for you. The Parent Square app can be downloaded from the App Store on your smart phone.



## Warm Welome

On Thursday, October 22nd, high school students Ethan and Dylan visited Jim's Park n Shop. They were welcomed by a greeting on the sign at the store's entrance. Thank you to Jim and Jen Mahar for the thought you put into making their morning such a great learning experience.





# News From OIMS

## Great Cookie Election of 2020

We may have been too young to vote for President and other important leaders of our community and country, but students in Mrs. Mest's class learned about the process through the GREAT COOKIE ELECTION of 2020!

Students campaigned for and invited faculty and staff to vote for their favorite cookie, OREO or CHOCOLATE CHIP. Both cookies are delicious and have wonderful qualities, but by one vote, Chocolate Chip was voted the BEST COOKIE of 2020!



## Learning Math in a New Way

Sixth grade math is progressing along nicely throughout this time of remote learning. The students have learned to complete many games, scavenger hunts, mazes, puzzles, scoots and mysteries online as well as the traditional math assignments while applying their newly acquired math skills in the area of Algebra and Geometry. Their ever increasing technology skills have been impressive as we continue to spice up the curriculum while making lessons fun and exciting.



## The OIMS SAC

"The Tree" has turned into a collage of colorful leaves and pumpkins. Positive words or sayings were added to make this year a little more inspirational for students. With the help of Mrs. Mest's class and with our SAC students, Mrs. Coulter and Mrs. Dwaileebe (Co-Advisors) are keeping things moving in a positive way. Each month "The Tree" will be decorated with seasonal or inspirational ideas for a more positive atmosphere during these unforeseen times.



## Thank You to Our Veterans

Courageous, Brave, Honor, are just a few incredible words to describe our Veterans. Wednesday, November 11th was Veterans Day. Our OIMS SAC individually wrote Thank You cards and included \$10 Tim Horton cards to some of our Veterans at Bonas. During the holiday month, our SAC has become creative during our remote times at home. SAC will encourage school spirit while at home, some ideas are: Ugly Sweater Day, Crazy Hair Day, Hat Day, and PJ Day.

## Getting Creative

Ms. Cawley's 7th Grade Art students spent the first quarter working on a variety of hands-on mediums while in person. Students worked to create Pop Art prints, wire sculptures, and wood burning signs.







## How to Request Library Books

Whether we're learning at home or at school, the OIMS Library is open for business! Students can check out library books through our curbside pickup program, eBooks and audiobooks are always available to check out and enjoy on devices through Sora, our school's OverDrive platform. For more information, visit [oleanschools.org/oimslib](http://oleanschools.org/oimslib) or send Mrs. Fox a message in Teams. Let's keep reading.



## Creating STEM Magic Together

Miss Burrows' fifth grade class is reading *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K. Rowling. For Halloween this year, they got to participate in some magical STEM activities like making a feather fly and creating slime. They also got to dress up like Harry Potter and really feel a part of the story!



## Creating Ancient Egypt at Home

Students in Mr. Talbot's Social Studies class recently completed Ancient Egypt 3-D projects at home. Daniel Armijo used his 3-D printer to create a pharaoh being prepared for mummification. The mummy's organs could be removed and placed in canopic jars! Ethan Woodring created a pyramid along the Nile River using sugar cubes, a frosting Nile River, and made sand using brown sugar. He also created two mummies with hot dogs and crescents for the project.



Ethan Woodring

## Native American House Project

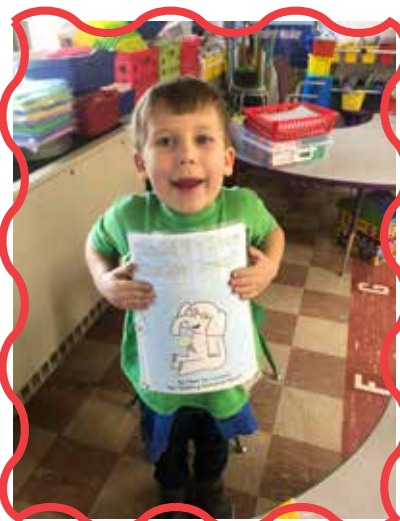
Every November, as part of the unit study on Native Americans, Mr. Bell and Mrs. Coulter's seventh grade Social Studies classes finish off the unit by building replicas of Native American houses. During the unit students learn about the different houses the Native Americans built and lived in. Students choose to build an Iroquois longhouse, a Sioux teepee, an Inuit igloo, or a Hopi pueblo. In a typical year, students bring their houses in for a day of presentations. This year, Mr. Bell and Mrs. Coulter had students build their houses at home, then upload pictures or a video of their project to Microsoft Teams. Mr. Bell said, "I always look forward to this project. I enjoy seeing the creativity of the students."



# Washington West Elementary School

## Write on, husky pups!

Students collaborated on a project alongside their kindergarten pup pals. Together, they wrote a story about all the things they should share! Check out these illustrations and great writing.



## Positivity Pumpkin

Throughout October, our husky pups worked to spread positivity and joy through the halls of Washington West. Every day, our classrooms noted adjectives and thoughts about what makes WW so great. The words spanned across the pumpkin, which served as a display of husky pup pride throughout October and November.



## Our Leaders

Our husky pups have shown an immense amount of resilience in the last several months. Resiliency and perseverance are two things that we look for in LEADERS every day. Several of our students have met the mark to receive this prestigious honor. Congratulations - and remember - today a reader, tomorrow a LEADER!

## Meet Cocoa the Elf

You can't hide the excitement of the newest husky pup to hit the halls of WW - Cocoa the ELF! Cocoa will be around all month to check in on our littlest learners and make sure they're working hard. Tune into our morning announcements every day to see what Cocoa is up to! All building-wide announcements and updates are offered daily via Parent Square.



Follow your Husky Pups on Twitter @OleanWW



# East View Elementary School



## Celebrate Good Times

We still are celebrating when students have Good News or Level Up in their reading. Officer Kurt loves to help too!



## Turkey Time

Students in Mrs. Knight's class are photographed here celebrating Thanksgiving.



## Thank You Vets

Some of our Pre K students are photographed here thanking our Veterans.



## We Will Miss You

Mrs. Howden recently retired and our students got to say goodbye with cards and flowers.

## Zoom Story Time

Mrs. Sorokes is reading a story via Zoom to her first grade remote students. Before our school went completely remote after Thanksgiving we had approximately 80 students learning completely virtual.



## Dressing Up

We had great Halloween celebrations in each classroom this year. Even Woody and Buzz joined in the fun!

Follow our school on twitter @OleanEastView

December 2020 - January 2021



## OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

410 W. Sullivan St.  
Olean, NY 14760  
[www.oleanschools.org](http://www.oleanschools.org)

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## Interact Club Continues to Connect



During the quarantine summer, the OHS Interact Club connected virtually to send letters of support and gratitude to the Olean community frontline workers with *Project Separated but United*.

This project was a small way for the Olean community to support their essential workers. Rather than let the pandemic end their 2019-2020 Interact year on a whimper, OHS Interact united online and gathered letters of gratitude, encouragement, and appreciation for their frontline workers. Solely a student effort, this initiative was organized and carried out by the Interact Officers. Although it was not the same as thanking workers in person, the OHS Interact Club hopes they were able to convey how much frontline workers' sacrifices give to the Olean community.



## Veterans Day Pasta Dinner

This annual event held at the Allegany American Legion on Tuesday, November 10th, was a SOLD OUT success. Since this was a take-out only dinner, students from the Interact Club assisted the American Legion by packaging take out dinners. Helpers for this event were: Riti Anumalasetty, Nate Gabler, Brennan Kielar, Lauren Kielar, Thomas Kielar, and Yuki Wada.

## Olean City School District Mission/Vision

*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

Embracing diversity

Continuous improvement

Academic excellence and lifelong learning

Honesty, integrity, responsibility, and accountability

Student potential and achievement