



# LEAN

## CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

December 2016 - January 2017

Volume 13, Issue 3

## Continuing A Tradition of Caring



### Homeless Huskies

The Olean High School Student Activities Council would like to congratulate more than 150 students who helped raise over \$9,661 for our twenty-fourth annual Homeless Huskies event held on November 10th. The money raised will be divided between the Genesis House and the Warming House. The students persevered through a night of cold temperatures which allowed for a true experience and the creation of awareness for those who are homeless. SAC truly appreciates the continual support from the staff and community for this annual event. Without the caring community, this event which helps so many, would not be possible.

### Community Thanksgiving

Community members, students, families, and staff from Olean City Schools and Jamestown Community College joined together for the 29th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner in November. This fall tradition brings together several hundred people for a warm meal and holiday cheer. Students made festive decorations for the walls and centerpieces for the tables and pumpkin bread for all to share. Local businesses and organizations contributed to the meal, and staff provided desserts. We are thankful for all of our donors, volunteers, and guests who came together to enjoy this special meal.



## School District Tests Buildings for Lead in Water

On September 6, 2016, Governor Cuomo signed into law legislation requiring all NYS public schools to test their drinking water fixtures for lead. The District completed this testing at East View, Washington West, Olean Intermediate Middle School, Olean High School and the Athletic Complex.

Of the test results received, some did show a lead level in the drinking water higher than 15 parts per billion. As a result, the District immediately shut off access to the water source and has developed a corrective action plan for each area. Letters to families explaining the testing results were issued to families by the building principal.

For more information regarding lead in drinking water please visit the Cattaraugus County Health Department's website at [www.cattco.org/drinking-water-testing-schools](http://www.cattco.org/drinking-water-testing-schools). You can also visit the EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

*From the Superintendent*

## Holiday Season Offers Time for Reflection and Renewal

**By Dr. Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent**

As the holidays fall away, a new year begins. It is almost as if a rebirth is upon us. The New Year celebration brings with it a time of self-reflection and the creation of a list of promises we make to ourselves that are intended to lead to a healthier lifestyle. For me, it is a time to re-examine our practices and traditions that promise to make your child's educational experience one of rigor and relevance. The rigorous goals set for our students are achievable when we believe in all of our learners. I believe, do you?

My promise to you, our families and our learners, is to provide the very best research based educational experience available. This promise means we must embrace the notion of continuous improvement and accept that change will occur. This year our elementary teachers and families have seen a change from the traditional report card to a standards based report card. The intent behind a standards based report card is to assess knowledge separate from attendance, behaviors, and attitudes. While all are vitally important to the success of the learner, truly understanding what a student knows and is able to do will enhance educational experiences to follow. Please do not hesitate to reach out to teachers, principals, curriculum leaders or myself with any questions or concerns you have regarding the new report card.

Change is also occurring in the ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies content. With content change comes change in assessments. With change in assessments comes change in State accountability. The Olean City School District continues to progress towards the annual performance targets set by the New York State Education Department. Through a continuous improvement focus, the goal is to surpass the targets and exceed the State average in all areas. This goal will be realized because the Olean City School District believes in the potential of your children; our learners.

It is my hope that 2017 brings much joy your way and that each day we collectively find ordinary ways to do extraordinary things within and outside of our school community.

## Meet Our Newest Olean City Schools Employees



**Aaron Wolfe**

**Administration:** Aaron W. Wolfe was recently appointed to the position of Director of Human Resources. Mr. Wolfe began his teaching career in WNY in 2003 as a BOCES Staff Specialist for Instructional Excellence. In 2007, Aaron joined the Cattaraugus-Little Valley Central School District as its Curriculum Coordinator. Throughout his tenure at Cattaraugus-Little Valley, Mr. Wolfe has also served as the High School Principal, Elementary Principal, and the Chief Information Officer/District Data Coordinator.

Aaron received a BS in English from Houghton College in 1995, a MS in School Counseling in 2003 from Niagara College, and a Master's in Educational Administration in 2007.

**Support Staff:** Jennifer Budaj – Teacher Aide



**Jennifer Budaj**





# Ventura Elected President of NYS English Council

At the 2016 New York State English Council (NYSEC) conference in October, Olean High School teacher Sally Ventura was named president-elect of the organization.

NYSEC is the New York affiliate of the NCTE, the National Council of Teachers of English, a group of professionals dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education.

Mrs. Ventura been a member of NYSEC since 2013 as a representative of the western region of the state. She and her husband Lou Ventura, also an English teacher at Olean High School, are associate editors of *The English Record*, a peer-reviewed journal sponsored by NYSEC.

As president, Mrs. Ventura's responsibilities will include evaluating programs of excellence throughout the state and organizing the 2018 conference. Marie Rakus and Ashton Lowe of the OHS English department will serve as conference chairs. Additionally, Mrs. Ventura will continue to attend meetings in Albany



**Current NYSEC officers and slate of newly elected officers. Mrs. Ventura is in the center.**

at which she will receive updates from the State Education Department regarding programs in ELA education.

Also recognized at the 2016 confer-

ence were Stephen Sorensen, a recipient of a mini-grant award, and Lou Ventura, who received an Educator of Excellence Award.

## *Chamber Players Perform Fireside at Allegany State Park*



The "Studio 107 Chamber Players" from Olean High School perform at Allegany State Park throughout the year. The group was invited to offer music at the "By the Fireside" program in the Red House administration building in Allegany State Park on Saturday, December 17, 7:00-8:30 p.m. We hope everyone enjoyed the time with music by the park's beautiful fireplace.



## Exceptional Bona Buddies Program Topic at Conference

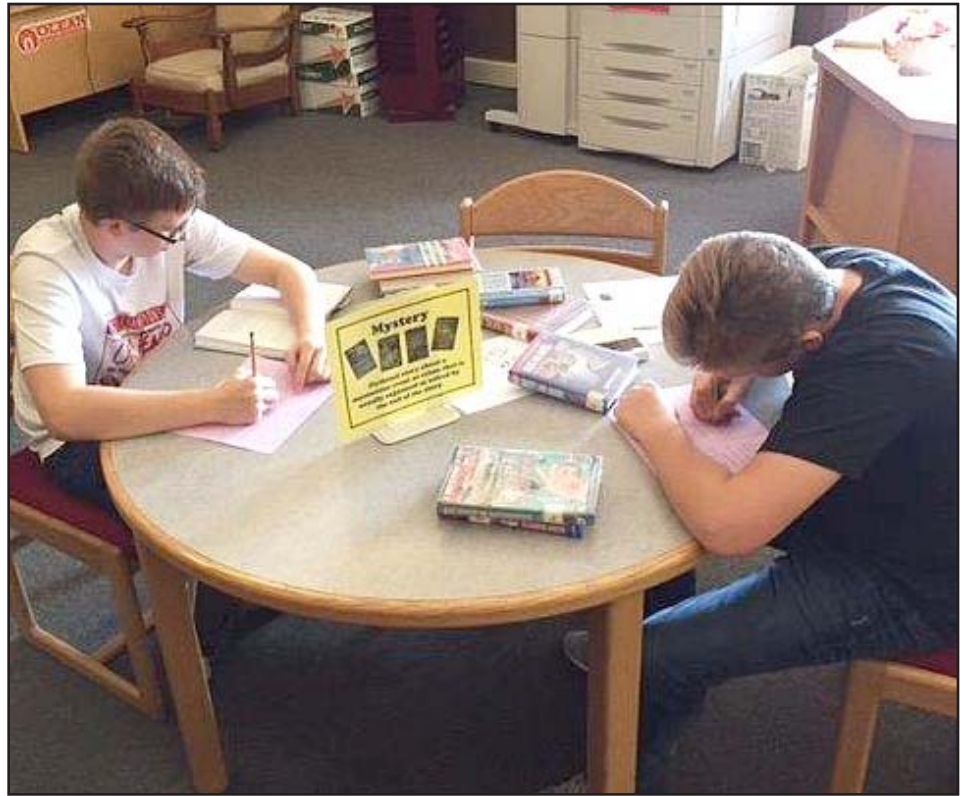
Two Olean faculty members recently presented at the New York State Council for Exceptional Children state-wide conference in Buffalo. Jackie Giardini, a speech pathologist, and Holly Scordo, special education teacher, worked closely with Anne-Claire Fisher, St. Bonaventure University professor, to discuss a program the three have developed together.

The presenters told an audience of education professionals and college students about the Exceptional Bona Buddies program. Bona Buddies is a collaborative effort where high school students with special needs spend some time on the Bonaventure campus. During campus visits, the high school students experience a slice of college life. They also get to practice social and academic skills with current university students.

Each of the presenters spoke from a different perspective. Mrs. Giardini explained ways to help speech students use their language skills outside of the school setting. Mrs. Scordo explained the logistics and rich educational experience students have while at Bonaventure. Dr. Fisher told the audience members about how the program gives college students a new perspective on the needs of teens with disabilities.

This type of program is gaining popularity across the country. Many schools and colleges are looking at creative ways to keep teens who are 16 and older interested in learning. The college community is a great place for older teens since campus is really designed for this age group.

Both the Exceptional Bona Buddy program and the presentation have been a successful collaboration between two local educational entities.

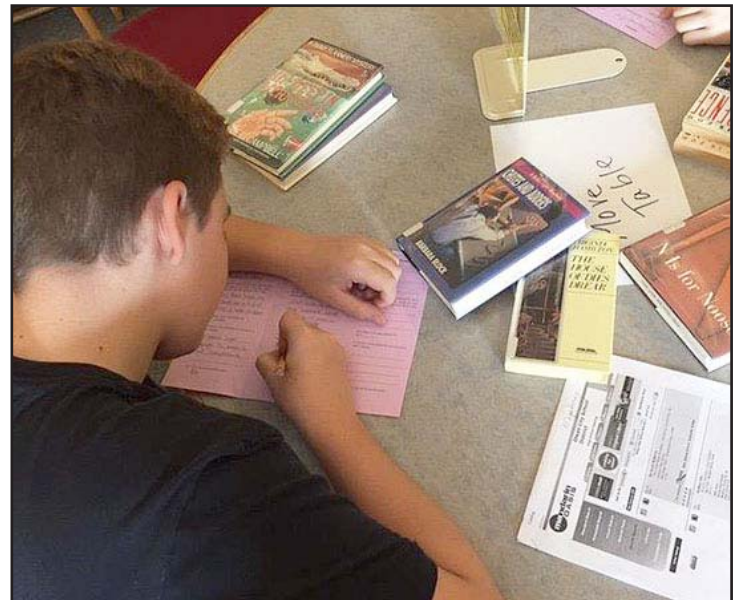


## OHS Students Sample Reading through Unique 'Book Tasting'

Recently, English 9 and 10 teacher Mrs. Lowe and High School Librarian Ms. Kurjakovic teamed up to lead their students through a "book tasting," a unique way to sample several books in order to choose the perfect one.

Because high school students in grades 9 and 10 participate in Accountable Independent Reading, it is very important that each student choose a book that they will enjoy.

Ms. Kurjakovic set up several tables centered around various genres, and students were able to "taste" books. At each table, students selected one of the books, read the front and back covers and the first page, and then completed a "menu" giving their impressions of the tasting. By the end of class, students were able to "take-out" the "appetizer," "main course," or "dessert" they enjoyed the most.







# Scenes from 2016 Santa Claus Lane Parade



Members of the Olean Educational Support Personnel Association (OESPA) got into the holiday spirit by participating in the Santa Claus Lane Parade in downtown Olean on Friday, November 25th. The float featured Mr. Button's favorite toy – his Jeep – towing a campsite scene complete with a roaring fire, a kayak and sleeping bags. The Jeep, labeled Tonka, was filled with holiday

gifts and marked with two giant gift tags “for Cindy” and “for Joey” from Santa. OIMS students Helaina and Sofia Rucinski and Jaden Miller helped bring the “Tonka Adventure Toys” theme to life by joining the OHS Husky mascot in roasting marshmallows over the faux fire. Members of the support staff union dedicated the float to all of the students they serve in the Olean District.





# LOTE Students Attend International Day at JCC

Upper level French and Spanish students from the high school were invited to attend this year's International Day at JCC. The day was filled with many great activities. Students split into groups and attended a variety of workshops which consisted of: interacting with a panelist of international students presently attending JCC who talked about their impressions of the United States; a visit to the Weeks Gallery to view the "Made in China" exhibit (which showed our intimate relationship with China and the goods that they supply to our consumer hungry country); and ending with a wonderful gathering of booths set up representing many different cultures. One booth was a "vegemite tasting picture booth" from Australia. Others included Henna art from Tunisia, and worry dolls from Guatemala. Students were also treated to a delicious international lunch that consisted of plantains, cabbage rolls, pasta, couscous, a variety of spicy meats and of course good ol' pizza. It was a super rewarding day.







## Classes Celebrate National French Week

Every year students have an opportunity to appreciate the French culture (just a little bit more) during the second week of November. Mrs. Napoleon's French students were able to experience foods from Québec (poutine-fries, gravy & cheese and maple sugar pie), New Orleans (jambalaya-spicy rice, sausage/chicken) and Moroccan Hairia (chick pea/lamb stew), as well as fixing up delicious French crêpes with Nutella to share with our staff. Students put on their chefs' hats and became crêpe makers extraordinaire. A cultural French experience was had by all.



## Learning about Gastronomy at Olean High

Students are able once again to participate in cooking classes offered once a month at the high school thanks to our PEP grant.

Over the past year and into this year, students have learned how to make special dishes and desserts, and decide on healthy choices. Thus far students have made crêpes and chocolate chip cookies. Next month we will be fixing everyone's favorite ... LASAGNA.

Information about the monthly classes is on the announcements, and sign-ups are in Mrs. Napoleon's room 307.







## NATIVE AMERICAN PROJECTS

Students in Mrs. Perry's 7th Grade Social Studies class recently studied the culture of early Native American tribes. Each student was required to create a physical replica of a Native American home in addition to a written essay and an oral class presentation. The students did an outstanding job, and each project was creative and unique. Pictured (*above, l-r*) with their projects are Anna Mest, Christian Barta, Hannah Nelson, Max Wolfe and Olivia Graham.



## HONORING QUARTER

Congratulations!! On Friday, November 19th, fourth and fifth graders were recognized at an end-of-quarter awards assembly in the OHS Auditorium. Teachers identified those students who have excelled in math or reading, showed marked improvement, or were extra helpful. Members were able to attend and celebrate with the



## BLACK LIGHT DANCE

On Friday, November 18th, the Olean High School Thirst Project Club: A World with Water hosted a black light dance at OIMS (*photos left and right*) for grades 6 and 7. The club raised more than \$1,000 in admissions, concessions and selling glow sticks. All proceeds will benefit the Thirst Project's effort to erase the global water crisis that holds 663 million people without access to clean safe drinking water. OIMS students had a blast while supporting a great project!





## LY EXCELLENCE



ful in class. Many parents and family  
these award-winning OIMS students.

## CE FUNDRAISER



## WHAT'S COOKING AT OIMS?

OIMS Students took advantage of an after-school cooking class to learn about healthier ways to make some of their favorite food items.

Mrs. Whiteman taught the kids how to use wonton wrappers instead of dough to make wonton pizza cups and will be making other items using wonton wrappers at future classes.

This after-school programming was made possible through the PEP Grant. Be sure to watch for information on how to sign up for future classes.





# Presentation Emphasizes Value of 'Soft Skills'

On Thursday, December 1, 2016, Olean business students attended a presentation by Mr. David Koebelin, Director of Human Resources at Cutco Corporation. The presentation was hosted at the Olean Development Center in conjunction with Evelyn Sabina, Coordinator of Dream It. Do It. (DIDI-WNY), and Mr. Larry Sorokes, Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce. This presentation also had attendees from Portville Central School and faculty members.

Mr. Sorokes proudly welcomed us to



the Olean Business Development Center and summarized Olean's plan for development and the Chamber's role in assisting Olean to be a better place for future employment. In addition, Mr. Sorokes introduced Mr. Koebelin. The presentation that was provided by Mr. Koebelin stated the facts that ALL students and all those that are entering the workforce should have knowledge of "soft skills". The various skills are ones that Cutco employees are expected to use and are also expected to be used in today's workforce. Students were reminded of the importance of their attendance; their ability to work with others, their job initiative, and various other "soft skills" that not only will help them find a job but also to keep that job.

At the end of the presentation, Mr. Koebelin provided a chart and explained the process of how many applicants apply for a position and the process that follows down to the applicant receiving the job offer. Seventy (70) individuals may apply for a job. Ten (10) of those individuals may be considered for the job. Five (5) will possibly get an interview. Two (2) individuals will get a second interview. Lastly, one (1) will get the job. We have high hopes for our students that they will be #1 and will land an awesome job. We have great hopes for the future of our business education students, and we are very thankful for the reminder Mr. Koebelin provided us. Thank you to all that were involved in this valuable presentation.



## Summer Pathways Interns Help Technology Staff

Over the summer, the Technology Department was fortunate to host interns from Pathways to Employment through The ReHAbilitation Center. On Mondays and Thursdays throughout July and August, Scott, Darcy, and Timothy, along with their job coaches, arrived to work in the Technology Department. Tasks that they completed for our department included: wiping down the exterior and interior of the student laptops; cleaning the keyboards on the laptops; checking the pockets of the laptop bag for any items left behind by students; vacuuming the inside and outside of the laptop bags; unpacking newly purchased laptops and applying labels to them and the power cords; and scanning the bar codes of the laptops and power cords into a spread sheet for us.

They were a tremendous crew to work with, and our department truly appreciated the assistance they provided. A HUGE shout out to Scott, Darcy and Timothy for helping prepare the student laptops for distribution by August 30. We hope to partner with Pathways to Employment again.





# PEP Grant Adventure Activities in Full Swing

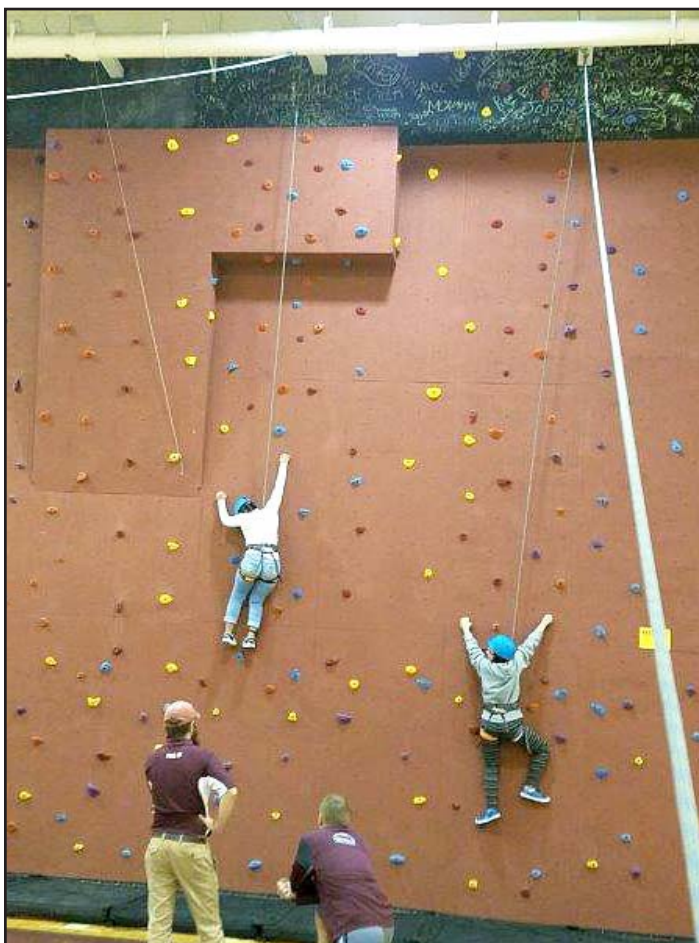
Morning and after school activities, sponsored by the PEP grant, are in full swing throughout district schools.

At the high school, the monthly adventure activities had overwhelming success. In October, the students participated in the outdoor ropes course at Portville. It was a great challenge and students especially liked the zip line.

In November, the activity was the indoor climbing course at Portville.

For December, the activity was Sky Zone in Buffalo. Many students have never been to this indoor trampoline park before so this free activity was especially fun.

In January, the activity will be snowshoeing with our snowshoes purchased through the Pep Grant.





# Musicians Selected for Area All-State Festivals

Congratulations to following OHS music students who were selected from Niagara, Erie, Chautauqua, and Cattaraugus counties and performed in honor ensembles at Area All-State Festivals.

**Junior High Area All-State Festival November 4-5 at Akron Central School** (*upper right photo*):

**Chorus:** Nathan Gabler, Jazlynn Knapp, Reyna Reisner, Grace Ventura, Mackenzie Windus

**Orchestra:** Yuki Wada

**Senior High Area All-State Festival November 18-19 at SUNY Fredonia** (*middle and lower right, and lower left photos*):

**Mixed Chorus:** Andrea Harris, Eli Hendrix, Madeline Hughey, Julia Rakus, Tenaya Ramadhan, Gabriel Williams

**Treble Chorus:** Mia Rogers, Anna Ross, Taylor Shearer, Hannah Stayer, Maegan Windus

**Orchestra:** Karino Wada







## Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

### DID YOU KNOW?

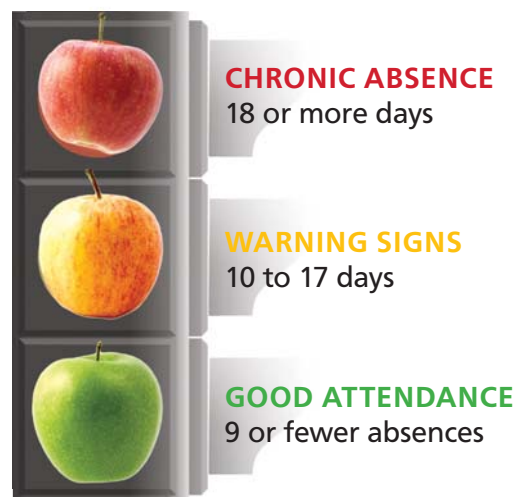
- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

**Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.**

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

### When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

For more on school readiness, visit [attendanceworks.org](http://attendanceworks.org) and [reachoutandread.org](http://reachoutandread.org)

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**Thanksgiving Reading Challenge:** Mr. Crawford promised that if the East View students did their Thanksgiving break reading challenge he would ride a turkey into their classrooms with some special prizes! Besides some sore legs, both Mr. Crawford and the students really enjoyed their Turkey surprise.



**Learning About Circuits:** Third graders from Mrs. Waugh class engineering circuits.

# East View Elementary School



**Junie B. Jones Live:** Thanks to our partners at CA BOCES, our Kindergarten and First Grade students were able to attend Junie B. Jones live on stage. They loved the show!



**Wall of Gratitude:** Our entire school focused on the Character Trait of Gratitude for the month of November. Grades 2-3 built a Wall of Gratitude where students and staff made post it notes to list what they were thankful for each day. Our main message to get across to our students was that it is not happy people that are thankful; it is thankful people who are happy.



**Pajama Reading Day:** Mrs. Sakala and Miss Martin's Kindergarten class had a pajama reading day recently. At East View we believe reading gives you power, the more you read the better you get and the smarter you become.





**Thankful Hearts:** Washington West rocked out the month of November by showing the Character Trait of Thankfulness! Pictured above are the recipients of the November Character Trait award. A monthly assembly is held at Washington West highlighting the particular trait for that month! Students, teachers, and family members gather in the cafeteria to acknowledge the students who are chosen by their teachers.



**My, what big ears you have!** Mrs. Faulkner's Third grade class experienced a virtual field trip about wolves. The class observed a discussion about how wolves are perceived around the world between a moderator at the International Wolf Center and a third grade class in New York. The students also observed the habitat of wolves living within the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minnesota. This activity provided rich background knowledge for students before they begin the New York State ELA Module in the spring. This experience will be followed up with other virtual field trips at the center.



**Olean to Ann Arbor:** Ms. Frederick's Third Grade took a virtual field trip to Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum to create Halloween slime (*photos above and below*)! The students worked in groups and created two different kinds of slime. They learned the states of matter and what polymers are. The students loved it!



**Super Hero Search:** Pre-K students have been working hard learning to recognize and write a new letter each week. Mrs. Johnson's class had some silly fun when they finished S week! Everyone got to dress like a super hero as they hunted for the letter S!

# Washington West Elementary School



## OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

### ADMINISTRATION

Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent of Schools  
Kathleen Elser, Business Administrator  
Jeffrey Andreano, High School Principal  
Mike Martel, Assistant High School Principal  
Gerald Trietley, Olean Intermediate (Gr. 6-7) Middle School Principal  
Joel Witcher, Olean Intermediate (Gr. 4-5) School Principal  
Linda Nottingham, Washington West Elementary Principal  
Brian Crawford, East View Elementary Principal  
Aaron Wolfe, Director of Human Resources  
Marcella Richmond, Director of Special Education  
Csobanka Woodworth, Technology Administrator  
Jen Mahar, District Coordinator of State & Federal Aid Programs  
Jen Kless, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

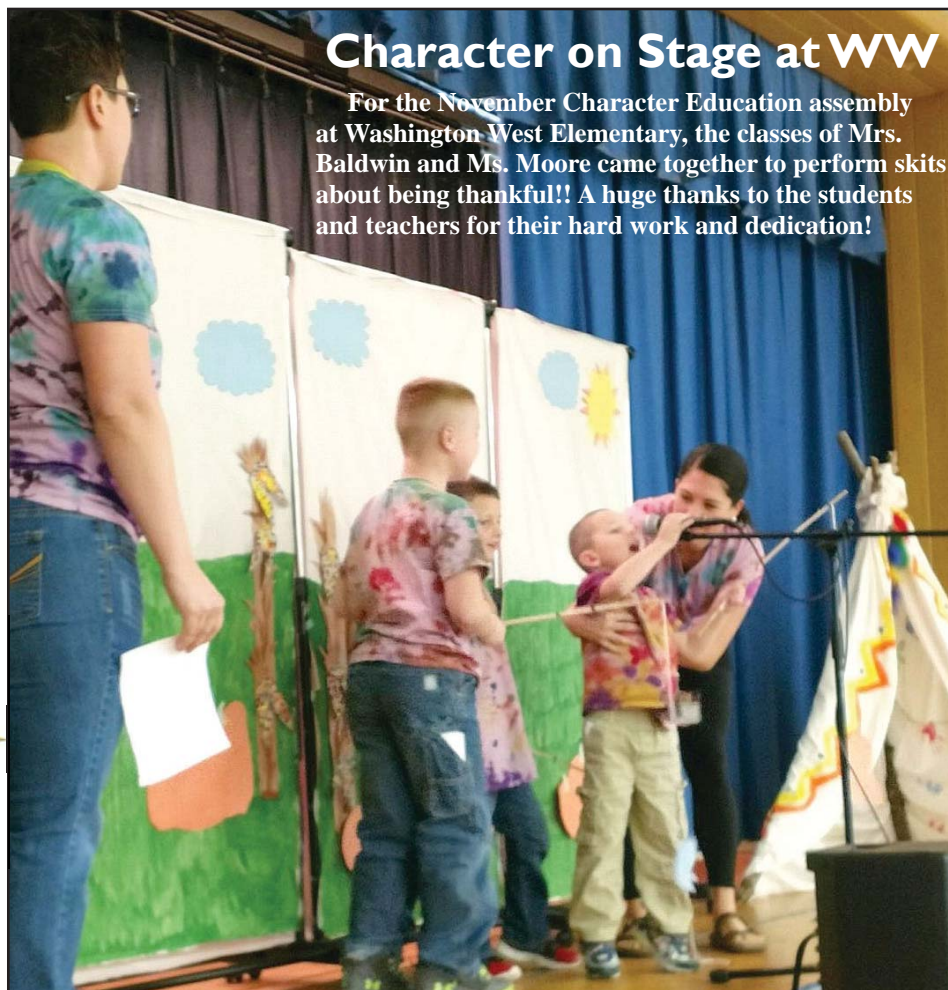
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## Character on Stage at WW

For the November Character Education assembly at Washington West Elementary, the classes of Mrs. Baldwin and Ms. Moore came together to perform skits about being thankful!! A huge thanks to the students and teachers for their hard work and dedication!

## 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

An acceptance of diversity

Continuous improvement

Academic excellence and lifelong learning

Honesty, integrity, responsibility, and accountability

Student potential and achievement