



LEAN

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Home, School and Community Educating for Life"

February / March 2014

Volume 10, Issue 4

Students Shine at Music Festivals

Congratulations are in order to two of our most accomplished student musicians who represented Olean High School at the All-State Festival in Rochester. These two students competed against thousands of New York State music students to achieve this highest honor. They had the privilege of working with world renowned conductors and presented concerts at Eastman Theater in December with the following groups:

Julie Mulryan- All State Women's Chorus

Maija Klute- All State Mixed Chorus

Also achieving Area All-State (Western New York) status were Kaitlin Field, Maija Klute, Jackie Hitchcock, Julie Mulryan, Jonah Rosel, and Janelle Shaffer for Zone 1 Senior High Chorus.

Sarah Knieser and Sara Fox performed in the Zone 15 Area All-State Orchestra, and Brooke Gronemeier, Andrea Harris, Madeline Hughey, Julia Rakus, Mia Rogers, Natalie Sova, Hannah Stayer, Gabriel Williams, and Karino Wada performed in the Zone 1 Junior High Area All-State Chorus and Orchestra in December.

We are proud of your accomplishments! GO HUSKY HARMONY!!!

In other music news, the Philadelphia-based "DePue Brothers Band" (<http://www.depuebrothersband.com>) visited Olean High School Instrumental Department to share their talents and passion for music. The high school jazz band and string orchestra received the ensemble clinic. Mr. Jason DePue of the Philadelphia Orchestra provided the violin master class with Emily Allen and Julie Mulryan (picture). Thank you DePue Brothers Band and Mrs. Colosimo of Pitt-Bradford for visiting us.



Julie Mulryan and Maija Klute (top photo) at the All-State Music Festival in Rochester.

Among the students selected for Area All-State Music Festivals were (middle photo, l-r) Kaitlin Field, Julie Mulryan, Jonah Rosel, Jackie Hitchcock, Janelle Shaffer and Maija Klute.

Jason DePue (bottom photo) of the Philadelphia Orchestra conducts a master violin class.





Bea McGarvey presents a seminar to District team members.

Speaker Discusses New Personalized Learning Strategies

A team of teachers, administrators and Board of Education members participated in a training seminar with Bea McGarvey, co-author of the book, *Inevitable: Mass Customized Learning: Learning in the Age of Empowerment*.

This presentation focused on a new vision for education that customizes instruction to meet the personal learning needs of every student. Mrs. McGarvey also shared research-based strategies regarding instruction, curriculum, and assessment.

This new information will be shared across the district through the CDEP/ Shared Decision Making Committee.



From the Superintendent

District Exploring a Standards Based Learning Environment

By Dr. Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent

The Olean City School District is investigating a Standards Based Learning approach for student learning. Currently, some argue, schools are designed to produce Industrial-Age results. Students enter classrooms, take in information, comply with the expectations of the teacher, and work through the curriculum over the course of the school year. In a Standards Based Learning environment, otherwise known as Mass Customized Learning, the school environment is designed around the needs of the learner. With all learners expected to reach the same outcomes, the learner moves through the curriculum at their own pace. A Standards Based Learning Environment will force us to reassess our practices; reassess the meaning of failure; reassess how we use time; and reassess what we believe to be true about intelligence.

While it may sound impossible to implement, we are learning it is very doable. For example: using the Core Curriculum and the "I can" statements provided to us by the State Education Department, our PreK-3 schools could begin to transform into Standards Based Learning schools by changing the current report card to a learning outcome report card, and by changing some of our time-driven practices. By implementing flexible grouping and/or creative scheduling to deliver specific content, we would begin the shift to a more learner-centered environment. Similar principles would apply to grades 4-12 as well.

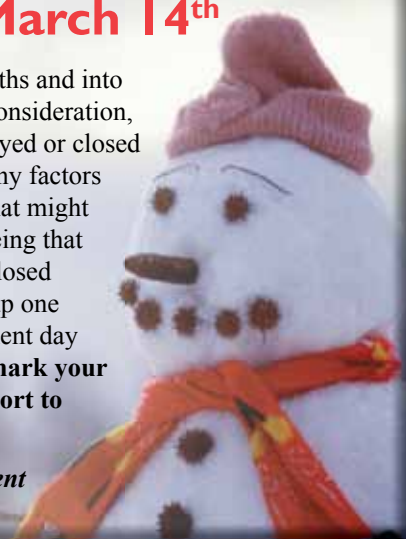
The Comprehensive District Educational Planning Committee/Shared Decision Making Committee has made the commitment to research these concepts in great depth. Minutes to the meetings are located on our school website. A Google search of Mass Customized Learning by Charles Schwahn and Beatrice McGarvey (*see related story this page*) will provide you with information regarding the processes of implementing such practices.

As the District continues to explore Standards Based Learning, I encourage you to learn along with us.

Snow Day Make Up March 14th

As we begin to move out of the winter months and into spring, I want to thank you for your support, consideration, and patience for each day that the District delayed or closed due to the extreme cold weather. There are many factors to consider when emergency situations arise that might warrant a closing; the most important factor being that of student safety. Given that the District has closed three days thus far, we are in need of making up one day. Therefore, the March 14th Staff Development day will now be a student attendance day. **Please mark your calendars to reflect that all students will report to school on March 14th.**

- Dr. Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent



OHS Students in Action



Toiletry Collection for the Genesis House: During the month of December, OHS students and staff generously donated over 300 personal hygiene items which were delivered to the Genesis House to be dispersed to its clients in need. Eighth grade students in Mrs. Carrie Samuelson's Hoot Club, a community service group, helped to box up and deliver the collected goods. Pictured are (l-r): Mrs. Carrie Samuelson, Tioga Simpson, Taryn Nasuta, and Sister Melissa Scholl (Genesis House volunteer and Aftercare Coordinator).



PB & J Drive for Olean Food Pantry: In December, the 8th grade class sponsored a week-long Peanut Butter and Jelly drive to benefit the Olean Food Pantry. Through donations from the OHS staff and student body, as well as an 8th grade dance, the Class of 2018 was able to contribute over 315 pounds of canned goods to the local pantry. The class officers worked hard each day to help make the drive a success. Pictured are (l-r): Mrs. Camp (co-advisor), Julia Rakus, Zack Linderman, Lucas Chapman, Scott Brook (food pantry representative), Sachita Barua, Bryan Smith, Alyssa Ramarge, and Mrs. Billings (co-advisor). Not pictured is class treasurer Austin Ring.

Board of Education Nominating Petitions Due on April 30th

On Tuesday, May 20, 2014, eligible district voters will elect two (2) positions on the Board. One (1) position is to be for a five (5) year term commencing on July 1, 2014, and terminating on June 30, 2019, created by the expiration on June 30, 2014, of the term of member Ira Katzenstein. One (1) position is to be for a five (5) year and 41 day term commencing on May 21, 2014, and terminating on June 30, 2019, created by the expiration on May 20, 2014, of the term of interim member Eric Garvin. To qualify as a candidate, one must be a qualified voter and a district resident for one year immediately prior to May 20, 2014.

Nominating petitions will be available March 21, 2014, at the District Clerk's office, 410 West Sullivan Street, Olean, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. By 5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2014, each candidate must also file with the District Clerk a nominating petition containing the signature and legal address of no fewer than 100 qualified voters living in the district.

A qualified voter must be a United States Citizen, at least 18 years old, a district resident for thirty (30) days immediately prior to the date of the election, with their current address either correctly filed at the Board of Election in Little Valley or properly registered at the district's registration which will be held on May 6, 2014, at the District Clerk's office from

Sex Offender Link on District Website

The Olean Board of Education approved a policy that requires all parents be notified of any Level 3 offenders who are living in our school district. A Level 3 offender is the most serious and the "risk" to the community is considered high. Therefore, for the public's convenience, we have established a "link" on the front page of the District's website www.oleanschools.org with the NYS Neighborhood Predator Report. This link takes you to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services where you can find additional information and the picture of any Level 3 sex offender living in our school district.



Future Cornell Teammates Cheer on Wil Bathurst

The Cornell University Men's Basketball Team filled the stands at OHS to welcome Wil Bathurst (*second from right*). Cornell was in Olean for their match-up against St. Bonaventure University. In support of Wil, the entire team attended the OHS vs. Greece Athena game. Wil will attend Cornell University in the fall on a full scholarship to study Pre-Law.



OHS Blood Drives Help Save Lives of up to 171 People

Olean High School has hosted two Red Cross blood drives so far this school year. Adults and students 16 years of age and older were able to contribute to these worthwhile events.

The September 20th drive collected a total of 19 units of blood and included eight first-time donors. The winter blood drive, held on January 16th, was even more successful, collecting 38 units of blood with 18 first-time donors.

These donations combined could have saved the lives of up to 171 people.

Great job Huskies!



Let Them Eat Cake (in French Class)!

Or in this case *Bûche de Noël*, one of France's traditional desserts for the holidays. Each year Mrs. Napoleon's JCC 2510(level 4) French class joins forces with Mr. Zych's class to create the most delicious and decadent treat ever. Students from both classes review the recipe beforehand and then get started on a two day baking spree. Day one consists of students preparing the batter, which is then transformed into a thin jelly roll cake. Day two consists of students decorating their creations with a variety of sweets, frostings and sprinkles to create the traditional Yule Log. After feasting on the treats, students toured the building passing out all the extras—YUMMY!



Ski Season Is for Everyone!

Brrr! The members of this year's Olean Ski Club love this cold winter! Justine Brooks, Sophia Melvin and Bailey Brushingham (*above, l-r*) are some of the students who each Thursday board a chartered bus, sponsored by Mr. Dave Carucci of Premo Limousine, and travel to Holiday Valley for a night filled with fun! The weather might be brisk, but the skiing and boarding has been awesome. This year's ski club advisors are Mrs. Wolfgang and Mrs. Brooks, and the club consists of students in grades 6 through 12. Keep in mind for next season that discounted passes to Holiday Valley are available through the club and that all community members are welcome to join.



What's New in Physical Education?

Ever heard of Eclipse Ball? It is the latest game being played by the high school students in Physical Education. The game is played on a regulation volleyball court and each player has a racket. The ball used is a soft rubber ball—an eclipse ball. The rules are similar to those of volleyball but players can hit the ball in the air or off a bounce!



Sprucing up the Halls of OHS

Last year, a committee was formed at Olean High School by Jan Rhody-Marvin to improve the quality of our halls at OHS. This could include paintings, drawings, quotes, banners, and posters, anything that would spruce up the halls and provide inspiration. This year four students, who are completing community service hours for National Honor Society, have stepped forward to help in this endeavor. Charles Martin, Christiana Mehmel, Alexa Minard, and Rachel Painter have volunteered during their free time to paint a quote in the second floor hallway. Christiana has done all the preliminary work by writing the quote, free hand, on the wall. She and Alexa have painted this quote, assisted by Charles and Rachel. When this one is completed, Christiana and Alexa will be working with the history department to add a quote to their hallway too. Our committee appreciates the efforts of these students to make the halls of OHS inspirational!



SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

Ms. Matejka's 5th Grade class held a Science Fair. Pictured above are winners: 1st Place Winner – Nathan Kwiatkowski; 2nd Place Winner – Leandra Tascone; Honorable Mention – Norah Sweitzer, Shaneaqua Link.



SPELLING BEE CHAMPIONS

The Olean Intermediate Middle School Spelling Bee was held on Thursday, January 9. Six spellers took part in this annual showdown. This competition is the first step toward a possible trip to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC, to be held this spring.

This year's winner, Mackenzie Windus, a 6th grader, was crowned our school champion. She also competed on February 5th for a place in the Western New York Regional competition to be held in March. The winner of that contest will then be invited to compete in Washington. Runner-up was Makenzie Rossman, another 6th grader. They are being congratulated by Principal Gerald Trietley.

YOUNG LEADERS ATTEND

On January 20th, OIMS 7th grade students attended the Cattaraugus-Allegany Middle School Student Leadership workshop held at the Dresser-Rand Challenger Learning Center. The guest speaker was Ed Gerety who keeps his audience on their feet and highly motivated. There were students from 22 area middle schools with Olean having the most in attendance. Students were provided lunch and a T-shirt.

The students participated in a goal setting exercise which commenced with them making their own personal dream board. They were given thought provoking questions such as, "If you were told you only had 1 hour to live, who would you call first?" One student said he would call his mother, so Mr. Gerety had him call his mother in front of the 100-plus participants to tell her that he loved her. The students were asked to let them know how they feel by writing them a letter which was mailed.

After lunch, the students gathered by school to discuss the positives and thoughts with the other schools. The groups were asked to pick one of the ideas to change it. The OIMS students decided they wanted to improve their school dances by having a theme for each dance and discussed ideas for the theme.



'TEENS FOR JEANS' CAMPAIGN

Ask families in the Olean City School District to help for any cause, and they come forward! It is amazing to live in a district where we help each other constantly. The 3rd Annual Aeropostale/OIMS "Teens for Jeans" campaign is in full swing throughout the district during January and February.

As always, there is a great need to help people in our community who are facing some difficult situations. Parents, students, and staff throughout the OCSD have made it a point to clean out their closets, look under their beds, and send in the jeans for the annual drive.

Jeans in all shapes and sizes, gently worn, and clean are donated to the Olean Genesis House. Donors receive a discount coupon from Aeropostale to use when buying a pair of jeans at the store.



OIMS 7th graders (l-r) and Alivia Schoening sit for the annual "Teens for Jeans" campaign.

ND WORKSHOP



ed to reach out to those that they appreciate and to the recipient.
and negatives about their school and share their the negatives and come up with a plan on how to school dances. The students decided to improve the mes.

AIN A SUCCESS



Ethan Dalton, Aaliyah Bruner, Jarrett Prizel amidst the many jeans collected for the OCSD " drive in conjunction with Aeropostale.

MEET OUR FIVE STAR 'MOVIE STAR'

The 1st semester winner of Five Star Bank Wants YOU to be Our Movie Star is OIMS 6th grader, Samantha Thomas. Every "A" in any core subject earns students a chance to be in a drawing for a gift certificate to Carmike Cinemas, as well as a popcorn bucket full of snacks.



Pictured (l-r): Gerald Trietley, OIMS Principal 6-7; Samantha Thomas, OIMS 6th grader; and Amy Domboski, Five Star Bank Assistant Vice President.

FALL INTO A GOOD BOOK

The Library AR contest is off and running. As of January our students have read and taken the quiz on 1,189 books with a pass rate of 90%. For every 3 quizzes passed a student adds a leaf to the tree and receives a special treat bag. As an extra reward each student is then entered into a drawing to receive one of many Beanie Bears each month. Great Job!

The Accelerated Reader program is run by Renaissance Learning. It has been highly popular and successful for over 25 years. Accelerated Reader (AR) is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent reading practice.



CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Amy Wass, RDH, examines the teeth of sixth grade student Jordyn Wiley in the Nurse's office at OIMS. With parent permission, dentists from the Gundlah Dental Center School Based Program provided visual dental exams to students at OIMS. Students were then able to receive sealants, fluoride treatments and polishing at no charge at school. Students in need of further treatment were referred back to their own dentists for care.



Ms. Wass also spoke to each child about the importance of dental health and taking care of their teeth throughout life.



STEM Program Moving Full Steam Ahead

How many middle school students look forward to waking up at 8:00 on a Saturday to learn something new? The 14 students involved in Olean's new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Enrichment Program have defied the stereotype. They are up, excited, and ready to learn each Saturday that a session occurs at St. Bonaventure University.

The program began in November of this school year and will continue through the summer, when the program concludes with a four-day residential summer camp at St. Bonaventure. The students attend one Saturday session with a different professor in the STEM field at St. Bonaventure, and then attend a monthly field trip related to the identified topic.

In November, the students explored the field of biology, looking at body systems and actual bones. The students then completed a physical fitness activity and created a fitness plan with their parents. The body systems and physical fitness session was followed by a trip to the Bodies-R-Us studio at Buffalo Science Museum.

In December and January, the students drafted and created circuit boards for LED lights, and most recently attended a field trip to Alfred State Technical Campus in Wellsville. The campus tour included visits to all of the science and technical departments, as well as a lunch made by the culinary arts students. The remaining



sessions will include lessons in computer programming, chemistry, and math.

"This has been a rewarding experience for our son. He is excited to wake up every Saturday, and looks forward to all of the STEM sessions," said a parent of one of the students.

The program also includes educational sessions for the parents that are led by Miss Ralston, STEM Program Coordinator.

The opportunities are endless for the students and parents involved in this program.

The program is funded by a grant the district received from the New York State Education Department, and provides endless opportunities for our students and parents in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.



Learning about Electricity

Mrs. Keis and Mrs. DiCerbo's blended classroom learned about electricity. They were able to build their own circuit boards and test them out by reviewing the vocabulary terms.

OIMS Crafters' Club Showing Care for their Community

Twenty-First Century Learners certainly know the importance of giving back to our society. Students in the recently created "Crafters' Club" are working on projects which will be given to local community members to let people know that middle schoolers are aware of the needs of our community. Through a generous grant from the City of Olean Youth Department, OIMS students were invited to join an after-school club to do something fun and worthwhile for our community. Members in the club, which is open to anyone in 6th and 7th grade, decided their first project would be to color masks and donate them to the Olean General Hospital to use when little ones come to the hospital.

Can you imagine a doctor or a nurse looking at a little patient behind the face of a colorful lady bug? Or a sparkly unicorn? Those were just some of the masks the students worked on after school. Members wanted youngsters who need to go to the hospital to perhaps not be so worried about what would happen to them at the hospital.

The latest project for the OIMS "Crafters' Club" was to create mini-boards for the residents at Eden Heights, just in time for Valentine's Day.

Kindergarten Registration Information

The Olean City School District will be conducting Kindergarten registrations for the 2014-2015 school year from March 25-28, 2014. If you have a child who will be 5 years of age by December 1, 2014, **please complete the form below and return it to your neighborhood elementary school, or call the school at the number listed below.**

SCHOOL	DATES—2014		TIMES	PHONE
East View Elementary	Tuesday	March 25	9:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.	375-8921
	Wednesday	March 26	9:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.	
Washington West Elementary	Thursday	March 27	9:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.	375-8968
	Friday	March 28	9:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.	

Child's name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
First Last

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Phone Number: _____

Names of other school age children and the school attending:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

It's Time to Register for Pre-K

The Olean City School District will be conducting an information session to prepare for Universal Pre-Kindergarten registration and enrollment for the 2014-15 school year. If you have a child who will be 4 years of age by December 1, 2014, you are invited to join us on **Wednesday, March 26th from 6:00 – 7:30 PM at the Olean Intermediate-Middle School's pool entrance.** Information is also available on the District website under Community Schools.



Welcome!

OCSD welcomes Trisha Wineberg as a new Teacher Aide at OIMS.

East View Elementary School



Go for the Gold! East View students are competing for gold medals in Reading while our American Olympians are striving to win big in Sochi, Russia. As part of our Parents As Reading Partners (P.A.R.P.) program, students are encouraged to read 15 minutes or more at home each evening with a parent or guardian to fulfill their reading quota. To add interest, students and teachers are also dressing in the colors of the Olympic rings, with a different color assigned to each day. Some of the other school dress days are Spirit Day and Sports Day. Students meeting their reading goals will earn gold medals on ribbons, have their names displayed around the building on medals, and will be treated to an Olympic Award Party. Pictured here (left to right) are Reading Specialists Mrs. Spears, Mrs. Howden, and Mrs. Swetland with some of our Olympic readers at the Reading Incentive Kick-off. GO READERS... GO FOR THE GOLD!



Day of Kindness: The students in Mrs. Bushnell, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Hart and Mrs. Keller's reading classes participated in a Day of Kindness on December 19th. After weeks of reading stories about kindness the students and teachers decided it would be nice to give back to the community by doing random acts of kindness for a day. The students baked cookies and delivered them to the Olean Police Department, the Olean Fire Department and the Post Office. They made blankets and delivered them to the Genesis House. The students sang Christmas Carols and made cards for the residents of Eden Heights. The students also decorated the doors of the resident's rooms with homemade wreaths. A favorite part of the day was hanging candy canes on the cars in the Tops Parking Lot. The students also loved taping quarters to the vending machines in the Tops lobby, so that children shopping with their parents could get a fun treat! The classes ended the day by passing out candy canes at the Olean Center Mall and ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. The students are excited and busy making plans for celebrating Random Acts of Kindness week in February.



Dancing out the Wiggles: Students in Mrs. Stephens' class take a break and exercise to One Direction on the SmartBoard. They have to follow a certain color dancer. It gets the wiggles out and helps them focus at the same time! They LOVE it!

OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

410 W. Sullivan St.
Olean, NY 14760
www.oleanschools.org

ADMINISTRATION

Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent of Schools
Kathleen Elser, Business Administrator
Barbara Lias, High School Principal
Jeffrey Andreano, Assistant High School Principal
Gerald Trietley, Olean Intermediate (Gr. 6-7) Middle School Principal
Joel Whitcher, Olean Intermediate (Gr. 4-5) School Principal
John White, East View Principal
Linda Nottingham, Washington West Principal
Mia O'Brien, Director of Human Resources
Marcella Richmond, Director of Special Education
Csobanka Woodworth, Technology Administrator
Jen Mahar, District Coordinator of State & Federal Aid Programs

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT**



Giving a Hoot About How Owls Grow

The students in Pre-K at Washington West read the story "Owls, See How they Grow". In the story we learned about owls and how they grow and develop. Did you know that after 12 weeks owls are considered full grown and go off on their own? After the story we were visited by the "Owl guy" Mark Baker from "Birds of Prey." He brought a Screech Owl, Barn Owl, Snowy Owls, and a Barred Owl all of which he rescued. He taught us many facts about the owl, most importantly never to touch them if we see them injured. It was a great experience for our students to see first hand the animals we learned about in our reading series.

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