



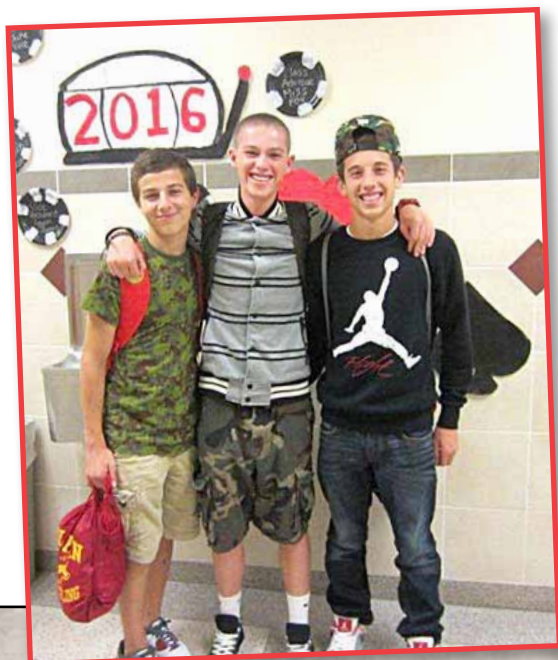
LEAN

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Home, School and Community Educating for Life"

October-November 2013

Volume 10, Issue 2



Showing the Spirit of Homecoming

During the week of September 30, Olean High School celebrated Homecoming activities.

The ground floor was decorated to the theme of famous cities. Each grade level chose a different city from around the world to help them design the colorful and interesting decorations they hung.

In addition, every day was a different theme. Each day, students were encouraged to dress in animal prints, tie dye, mismatched clothes, and spirit wear. One theme day that was very popular was Duck Dynasty Day. Students dressed in camouflage, hunting gear, and clothes with characters and sayings from the new hit show on them.

The week ended with an assembly, a football game, and a formal dance. It was an exciting week that was fun for everyone!

Homecoming Court: (front, l-r)
 Sophomore Attendant Brinee Torrey, Junior Attendant Ally Rakus, Freshman Attendant Anna Ross; (middle, l-r) Senior 2nd Attendant Ally Threehouse, Senior Homecoming Queen Julienna Haskins, Senior 1st Attendant Betsy Wetherby, Freshman Escort Dell Butler;
 (back, l-r) Sophomore Escort Sam Carson, Senior 2nd Attendant Wil Bathurst, Senior Homecoming King Dante Tarr, Senior 1st Escort Mason Windus, Junior Escort Jared McLaughlin.



Remembering Gordon Cross

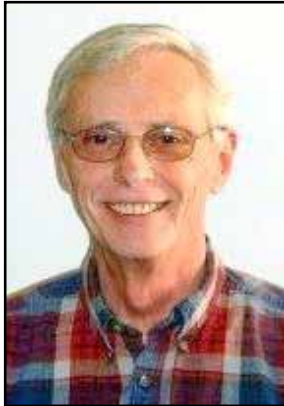
Board of Trustee, Gordon E. Cross, passed away September 21, 2013, at the age of 76.

On November 24, 2003, Mr. Cross was appointed to the Board of Education to fill a vacancy through June 30, 2004.

In May 2004, he was elected to the board for a five-year term and re-elected in May 2009 for another five year term.

Mr. Cross was a man of integrity and compassion. Gordon was a great man that cared immensely about students.

During the District's difficult financial struggles, he always kept his focus on serving the students. His leadership, commitment to our District, and his desire to help others will be greatly missed.



Thank You Board Members!

Governor Andrew Cuomo declares Oct. 28 - Nov. 1, 2013 School Board Recognition Week

Each year, School Board Recognition Week is observed by more than 700 school boards in districts throughout New York State. This week is designated to recognize the men and women serving as members of school boards that continually strive for improvement, excellence and progress in education. Please join us in acknowledging the District's Board of Education for their outstanding commitment, contributions, and many hours of devoted service to public education.

From the Superintendent

School's Purpose is to Enhance Achievement & Nurture Potential

As I write my article for the newsletter, I ponder the question; "What is the purpose of school?"

- A) to educate in the area of academics,
- B) to help our youth develop an understanding of citizenship,
- C) to develop the social/emotional intellectual capacity of each student,
- D) to enhance skills in art/music/athletics, etc...
- E) all of the above

In my assessment, the correct answer is E. The purpose of school is to enhance the achievement levels along with the uniqueness of each student.

It is the role of each person within our schools to ensure that our learners progress along a continuum in which all aspects of their individual potential is nurtured, challenged, and thoroughly developed over a course of time.

To many of our students, 13 years of school seems like a lifetime while to those of us in education, 13 years pass as fast as the blink of an eye.

We have a very short period of time to fulfill our obligation to your children and our learners. With more rigorous standards upon educators, teachers have had to revamp their content curriculum maps, reestablish assessment protocols, and modify teaching strategies.

Each modification must be thoughtfully designed and implemented. This type of educational reinvention means more rigorous work for each student who walks our hallways.

To ensure their successes, we ask that you help us by continuing to take an active role in monitoring your child's attendance, assignments, test results, progress reports and extra-curricular activities.

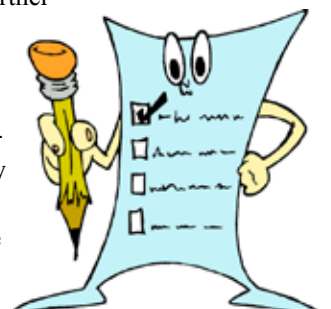
Together, we can help each child discover his or her skills and talents that will foster future successes.

Together in Education,

Colleen Taggerty
Superintendent

Family, Student and Staff Surveys: We'd Like to Hear from You!

In the upcoming months, the district will be conducting a survey with PLC Associates, Inc. called The Data Triangle. Family and community members, students in Grades 4-12, and staff will be asked to complete a brief survey to provide feedback on a variety of topics including academics, environment, leadership, partnerships, community programs, and more. This survey can be completed anonymously online or on paper. Links will be posted to the school website to access a confidential online platform. Paper copies of the surveys will also be distributed. The more responses, the better! Results from the survey will be used by our shared decision making teams to help guide program decisions. If you have any questions, please contact your building principal or Jen Mahar at 375-8039.





Loran Fox



Jennifer Gilman



Jacob Palo



Dylan Shaw



Rachel Burrows



Renita Coleman



Ashley Farr

**WELCOME
TO OUR
NEW
STAFF**



Tracy Hart



Danielle Hinman



Rachel Hendryx



Teresa Perkins



Yadram Ramlall



Scott Rucinski



Marlene Stadtler

Loran Fox is the Social Studies Teacher at the Olean High School. Ms. Fox received her Bachelor of Arts, History in 2010 and her Master of Education in 2011 from St. Bonaventure University. Previously Loran was a long-term substitute Global Studies teacher at the Genesee Valley Central School District and a substitute Social Studies teacher at Salamanca City School District.

Jennifer Gilman joins the District as a Math Teacher at the Olean High School. Ms. Gilman received a Bachelor of Science in Education degree in May 2012 and her Master of Science in Education degree from St. Bonaventure University in the summer of 2013. Jennifer taught at Pine Valley Central School District prior to joining the Olean City School District.

Jacob Palo is the new Technology Teacher at the Olean High School. Mr. Palo received a Bachelor of Technology Education in May 2013 from the California University of PA. Jacob completed his student teaching at Connellsville Area High School as well as Dunbar Township & South Elementary School.

Dylan Shaw was appointed to the position of High School Math Teacher. Mr. Shaw received his Bachelor of Arts in Education from Niagara University in May of 2011. Dylan taught Trigonometry, Precalculus, Earth Science, AIS, and 8th grade math at Hinsdale Central School.

Other new employees include:

Rachel Burrows – Teacher Aide at Olean High School

Renita Coleman – Teacher Aide at

Olean Intermediate Middle School

Ashley Farr – Teacher Aide at Olean Intermediate Middle School

Tracy Hart – Teacher Aide at Olean High School and Olean Intermediate Middle School

Danielle Hinman – Account Clerk Typist in the Business Office

Rachel Hendryx – Teacher Aide at Olean High School

Teresa Perkins – Teacher Aide at Olean High School

Yadram Ramlall – Cleaner at Olean High School and OIMS

Scott Rucinski – Cleaner at Olean High School

Marlene Stadtler – Food Service Helper at Olean High School

Cards for Beth Caitlin: An OIMS Tradition

By Eileen Keenan Skrobacz

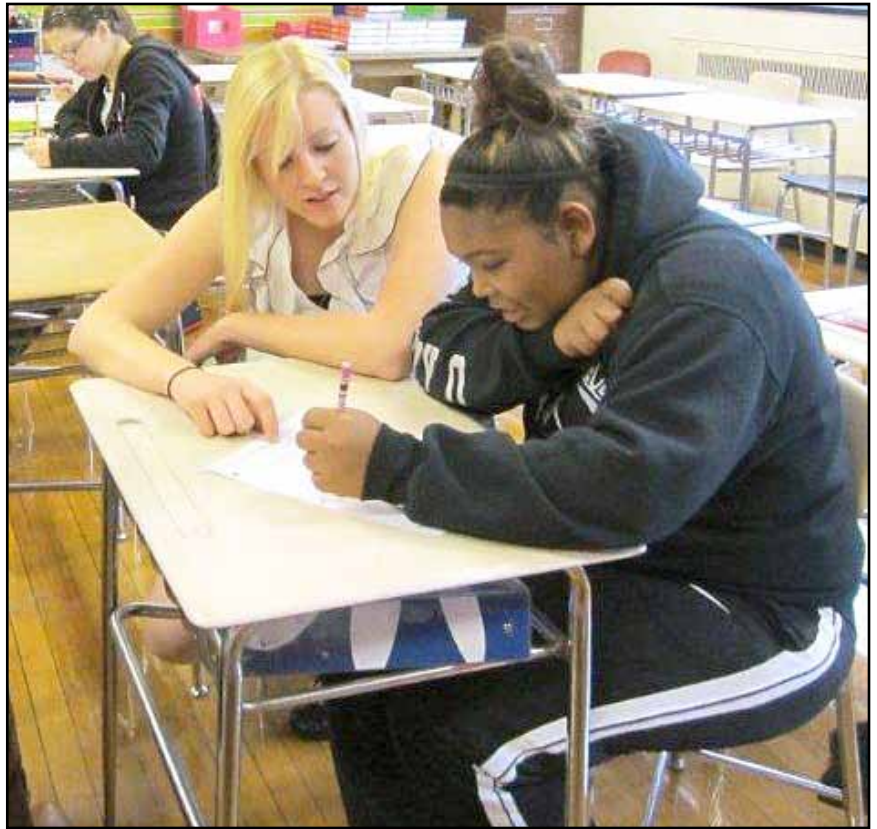
Thousands of cards and five years later, 6th and 7th grade OIMS students continue to create beautiful birthday and holiday cards for Mechanicsburg, PA, resident Beth Catlin. A fifty-five year old numeric savant, Beth's story has become a tradition in Mrs. Skrobacz's English classes.

At the beginning of the school year, students learn lessons about giving to people they may not even know. A kind of 'pay it forward' is the theme which carries students throughout the school year. Creating birthday cards for Beth is just one way the students keep in touch with Beth. When her father died, OIMS families rallied around and sent Beth a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Beth uses her own money to create the cards. A district-wide collection included boxes of crayons and paper to assist Beth in making her cards.

Beth, who is mentally challenged, has an amazing memory to recall the names, birthdays, and addresses of every single person she has ever met. She sends thousands of birthday cards to people all over the world. The students who have passed through Mrs. Skrobacz's English classes for the past five years often send birthday cards to Beth on their own once they leave the Intermediate Middle School. Beth continues to make cards because, "People love her!" she stated in an interview with a local TV personality in PA.



Jarrett Prizel (front) and Kayla O'Connor gather supplies to create their birthday cards for numeric savant Beth Catlin.



Linear Functions + Writing Stories = Creative Math

Miss Gilman's Algebra students are working really hard this year with the new Common Core curriculum. Students are learning how to answer Math problems using stories that they have created. Each student brings a unique and creative twist to their Math solution! Who knew that writing stories based off of Piecewise Linear Functions could be so much fun?

Visit Olean City School District's Informative Facebook Page

Did you know that the Olean City School District has had a presence on Facebook since January 2012? This year we are posting weekly items about the Common Core and information important to parents about this new initiative.

Have you ever heard our wonderful Bel Canto sing the national anthem? We have posted a video of them singing at a St. Bonaventure Basketball game. We post activities at all buildings, announcements, notices of upcoming events, and links to new items posted on the district web page.

All you have to do to get this information on your timeline is to "Like" Olean City Schools. <http://www.facebook.com/OleanSchools> We currently have 345 "Likes". Let's make it 500 by the end of the year!





OHS Class Competitions Held at Good Times

This year the annual class competition volleyball tournament was held at Good Times. Students commented how much fun they had playing on the new sand volleyball courts. Following a spirited competition, the Class of 2014 came out the victor, taking home the most class points and tee shirts.



Register for STAR with the NYS Tax

The STAR Registration program impacts more than 2.6 million homeowners receiving the Basic STAR exemption statewide. Senior citizens receiving the Enhanced STAR exemption are not impacted.

The registration facilitates Governor Cuomo's initiative to protect New Yorkers from fraud and waste in the STAR Program. The average homeowner saves \$700 as a result of the Basic STAR exemption, which is available on the primary residence of homeowners with incomes under \$500,000.

The registration deadline is December 31 in order to continue receiving the exemption in 2014 and thereafter.

Basic STAR recipients have three easy options to register:

1. More than 175 public events such as this one
2. Online registration at the Department's Web site takes only 2 to 4 minutes:
www.tax.ny.gov
3. Homeowners without Internet access or with questions should call (518) 457-2036.



Ten Employees Recalled to District

Recalled employees rejoining the district include:

Michelle Acierno – Physical Education Teacher at the High School

Danny Brooks – Guidance Counselor at the High School

Lyn Dempsey – Elementary Teacher at Olean Intermediate Middle School

Marjorie Dexter – long-term substitute Reading Teacher at Olean Intermediate Middle School

Kelly Gumtow – Guidance Counselor at Washington West Elementary School

Jennifer Hendrickson – Nurse (RN) at the High School

Pam Mellon – Food Service Helper at Washington West

Mary Volz – long-term substitute Elementary Teacher at Washington West

Kaitlin Speta – Elementary Teacher at East View Elementary School

Charles Warren – Science Teacher at the High School



A SWEET LESSON IN GEOGRAPHY

The fourth grade classes of Mr. and Mrs. Charles, Ms. Keis, and Mrs. DiCerbo once again invaded the cafeteria to make their New York State cookie maps. Mrs. Jones fired up the oven to cook over 60 cookies. There was plenty of dough and flour to go around, and the students got “hands on” when it came to understanding the geography of our great state. The students used chocolate chips to show the mountains of New York, frosting to show rivers and lakes, and of course, M & M’s to show our cities. The students were finally able to take a bite out of their map at the annual OIMS open house on Thursday, September 26.



‘PETS IN THE CL

Mrs. Mest’s classroom received a “Pets in the Classroom” grant which provided funds to purchase a home and essential supplies for the pet. Many valuable learning opportunities are provided through activities such as feeding, grooming and habitat care.

BLUE SHIRTS SEND



How we should be who to artwo I sa middl adults Thank And this m dreds apart. we un lies an bit fru frazzl hear c you to a hug Schoc



CLASSROOM' GRANT

the Classroom" grant from Pet Smart. This grant provided materials to care for Frankenstein the Guinea Pig in store for our students, including responsibility. Thanks to Pet Smart.

MESSAGE TO BULLIES

How did the Blue Shirt Day go at OIMS? Maybe you could ask sixth grader Taytem Heitzinger Gabriel. She took it upon herself to create an original piece of art in recognition of Stomp Out Bullies! She saw more blue throughout the intermediate school than I have ever seen before. The students also participated in an overwhelming manner. Thank you one and all! And maybe, just maybe, there was a lesson learned this morning when many of the hundreds upon hundreds of bully bands that students made began to fall. As one student put it, "It's okay Mrs. Skrobacz, I understand the message about stomping out bullies and coming to help our friends." Sure, it was a little frustrating when many of the bracelets began to fall when we were distributing them, but I did not receive one complaint. Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who helped to make Blue Shirt Day the day of awareness for the entire Olean City School District!



NATIONAL STOMP OUT BULLYING DAY

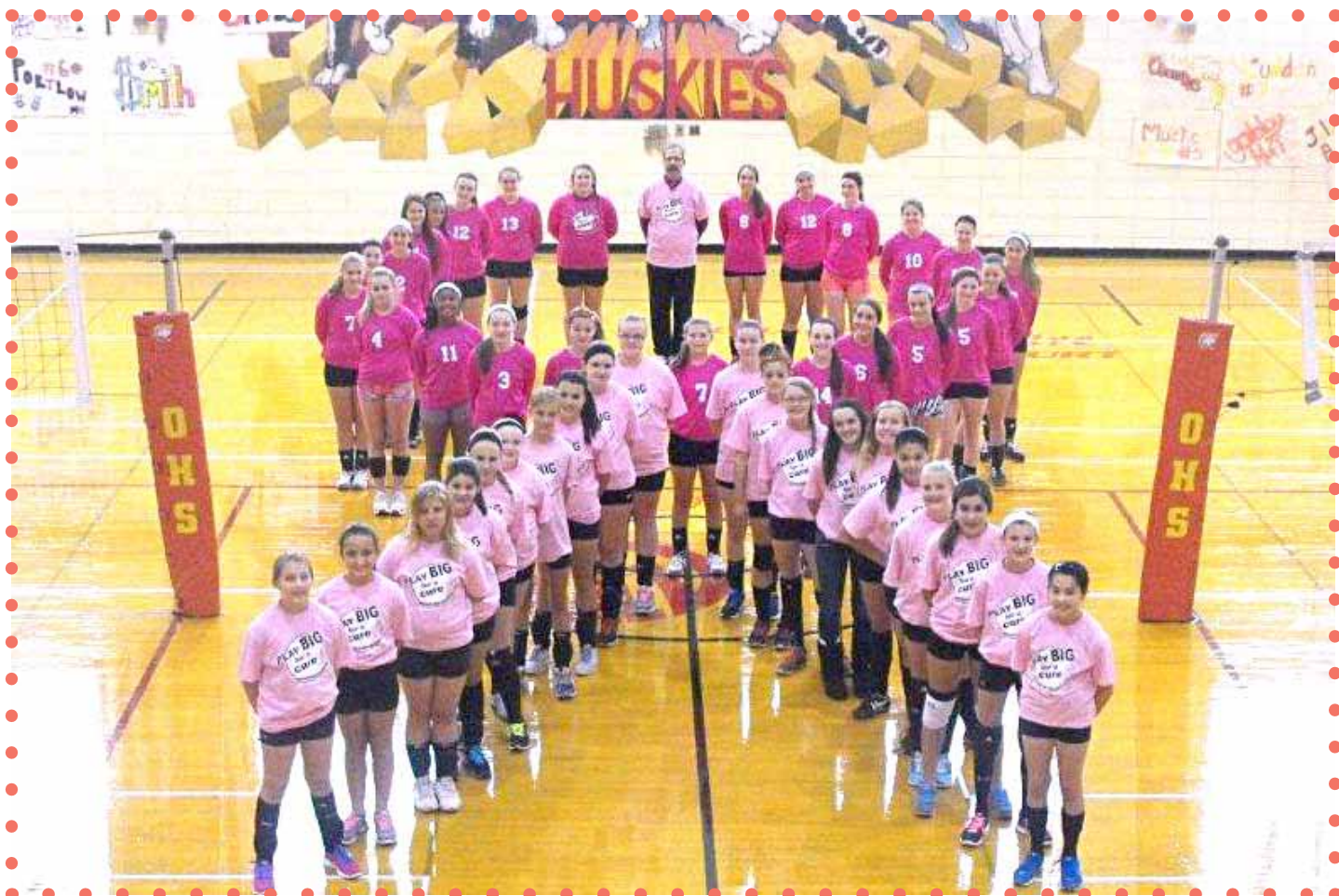
Thousands of blue and white rubber bands were gathered and manipulated into blue bands for the Olean Intermediate Middle School's first-ever participation in the National Stomp Out Bullying Day. Students from Mrs. Mest's class and Mrs. Skrobacz's classes worked tirelessly to make one blue band for every student who signed the bully pledge in homeroom. Approximately seven hundred students received the blue bands in homeroom. They were asked to wear the blue bands as a symbol to STOMP OUT BULLYING!

The entire Olean City School District took part in the wear a blue shirt to school National Stomp Out Bullying event. Announcements were on the PA, signs were posted throughout schools, and students were given reminders to wear blue (any shade!) to school on Monday, October 7th. Staff members also wore blue shirts as they recognized the importance of doing everything possible to help those students who are being bullied.

Additionally, OIMS seventh graders wrote poems about bullies for Olean Mayor Linda Witte's bully poetry contest. Students whose poems were selected by the committee were asked to attend an Olean Common Council meeting to read their original work in front of the council. Mayor Witte awarded prizes to the winning students.

The Olean City School District Foundation stepped forward and approved a grant to bring in a guest speaker, Joel Penton, to assist students in grades sixth through twelve in understanding how to stand strong against bullies and how to stay true to themselves. Two presentations are scheduled for later in the school year.





OHS Volleyball Teams Take Part in **PINK OUT**

The Olean Huskies Girls' Volleyball Teams participated in a **PINK OUT** on September 25th, 2013. The Huskies raised money to support the Susan G. Komen fund. The fund raises money in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. The match was played against Portville Central School. Parents, families and friends of athletes from both schools were absolutely phenomenal with their donations! A BIG Thank You to everyone who supported these girls!

Inaugural PTO Started at OIMS

We are extremely excited to share that OIMS has started our first PTO. The PTO has been established to provide support to the school by raising money to help fund class field trips, fund classroom activities, school programs and much more. The PTO will also be sponsoring activities such as fun nights and family activities. The success of the PTO is based on volunteer efforts of both parents and teachers. If you are interested in becoming active in the OIMS PTO, join us on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 in the OIMS Library. For more information, contact Char Dwaileebe at chardwaileebe@rock-etmail.com or Angela Mest at amest@olean.wnyric.org.

Important Guidelines for Head Lice

- 1) The parent contacts the school to report that their child has head lice. Or, if head lice is discovered in school, the parent is notified.
- 2) The same day the child's class is checked when appropriate.
- 3) If a live louse is found on another student in that class:
 - a) The parent of that student is notified.
 - b) The student is sent home as well as any siblings who have head lice.
 - c) Information regarding the treatment is sent home with the student.
 - d) The sibling's classes are checked.
- 4) A notice is sent home with every child in the classroom to inform parents that there were head lice found in that classroom.
- 5) The next day the students that were sent home are rechecked preferably before going to class.

In the event that a child returns to school with live lice three (3) consecutive times during the same lice infestation, a no nit requirement may be instituted at the discretion of the nurse or principal.

News from the Guidance Office

Upcoming SAT Exams:

December 7th (deadline for registration-November 8th)

January 25th (deadline for registration-May 9th)

Students must register online at www.sat.org

Upcoming ACT Exams:

December 14th (deadline for registration-November 8th)

Students must register online at www.act.org

Senior Reminders:

Mr. Threehouse would like to remind seniors that college applications should be completed by December 13th. If you need letters of recommendation from teachers be sure to make your requests as soon as possible. If your prospective college requests official SAT/ACT scores, students must make those requests online during their SAT/ACT registration or go to the SAT/ACT website to request that official scores be sent directly from the testing agencies.

College Application Process:

1. Take the SAT/ACT exam
2. Ask teachers in advance for letters of recommendation.
3. Apply for college admission using the college website or Common Application.
4. Notify your counselor as soon as you apply so that he/she can write a letter of recommendation, complete the counselor portion of the Common Application, the Secondary School Report and send your official transcripts.
5. Request that official SAT/ACT scores be sent to your prospective college from College Board.
6. Continue to take challenging courses and keep up your grades!

Resources for College Applications:

www.commonapp.org - apply for multiple colleges on one application

www.suny.edu - application for New York State colleges



Class Takes On Ropes Course at SBU

Ms. Bay's class took on the challenge of the ropes course at St. Bonaventure University on Wednesday, September 4. The students participated in numerous team bonding activities. The students in Ms. Bay's classroom would like to thank Major Hayes, Second Lieutenant O'Donnell, and Cadet Moore from the ROTC program at SBU for this incredible and rewarding experience. Also assisting the students on this adventure were Ms. Bay, Ms. Hendryx, Miss Burrows, Ms. Richmond, Ms. McIntyre and Mr. Brooks.

Text-A-Tip

*Help OHS stay safe
and remain anonymous!*

Text your tip to:

716-490-0516

Some reasons to text a tip:

- Criminal activity
- School safety concern
- Alcohol or drug information
- Suspicious activity
- Friends in trouble or being bullied

*All tips received will remain
untraced and anonymous.*



A Few Friendly Reminders from the High School

- ❖ Breakfast hours for students are from 7:00 – 7:45. Once students enter the building for breakfast, they must remain inside the building.
- ❖ Parents ... please be courteous when picking up your student(s) after school at the high school. Do not illegally park between the "No Standing from Here to Corner" sign and the corner of 3rd Street. This is a very congested area which raises concerns for our walkers, our community members and our traffic pattern. Thank you!



Ready ... Set ... Hut! Students at East View kicked off the new school year by learning many important skills for the game of football. They worked on throwing, field goal kicking, punting, doing kick-offs, recovering fumbles, catching, tucking, running and shot gun snapping. They also learned the names of the positions responsible for each skill and completed a football project at home. What does Physical Education do for your child? Physical Education ...

- is at the center of everything we do as it promotes a sound mind in a sound body.
- promotes active learning through movement.
- improves health related fitness levels (cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, and flexibility).
- establishes physical fitness patterns that help all students understand the value of lifetime physical activity for long-term wellness.
- promotes mental and social well being through individual and group activity.
- develops skills to encourage lifetime physical activities.
- helps students be exposed to a variety of sports and games.



“M” is for Muffins with Mom: To wrap up our letter “M” week, East View’s kindergarten classes celebrated “Muffins with Mom”. Many moms came in and enjoyed munching on muffins with their child. Thanks to all for making this event so marvelous!

East View Elementary School



Kindergarten Campers: Mrs. Stephens’ class started out their kindergarten year with a camping theme. At the end of the week they made backpacks from their favorite cereal boxes. Happy Trails!



No Bully Bee Station: Mrs. Sorokes and several of her students, after attending the Dignity for All Students and No Bully Bee Station, display one of the original banners for East View’s Positive Behavior Program. This is a school-wide program that promotes and teaches positive student behaviors since 2002. The East View School Rules are to: Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful.



Math with a Twist: As a fun “TWIST” to learning about graphs in Math, the students in Ms. Frederick’s class played Twister. They practiced completing Tally charts then created pictographs and bar graphs based on the colors of the game. This also gave them a chance to practice probability as well.

Fire Prevention Presentations: The students at Washington West were eager to meet the firemen and see the fire truck during Fire Prevention Week! Captain Jim Theodore and Sean McLaughlin shared fire safety tips and showed the students the fire truck. They also showed the children the fireman’s uniform and what a fireman looks like wearing it so the children would know what to expect if there was ever an emergency. It was a great learning experience!



Washington West Elementary School



WW Parent – Teacher Organization: The PTO at Washington West is off to an incredible start! Much planning and preparation occurs during the monthly evening meetings in the WW Library. The calendar of events is filling up and new members are always welcome! Please call 375-8968 if you are interested in joining the fun!

Fit and Fun School to Community Alliance: Washington West has jumped on board the Fit and Fun School to Community Partnership! Fit and Fun provides age appropriate, fun activities for students focusing on Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Education and Outreach. **Fit and Fun Family Night will be held at Washington West on Wednesday, November 20, from 6:00-7:30.** We look forward to many of the other activities and programs that will be available to our students throughout the year.



Walking School Bus ... still rolling along every Wednesday. Participants depart from the corner of North 5th Street and Washington Street at 8:00 a.m. Come and join us every Wednesday through Nov. 13th.



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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ECRWSS

**POSTAL PATRON LOCAL
OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

Cooperative Learning Activities

Mrs. Faulkner's Third Grade Class at Washington West spent the start of the school year doing cooperative learning activities with partners, small groups, and as a whole class.

"Saving Fred" (*upper photo*) was a test in creativity and trust. Each group was given a gummy worm on top of a plastic cup, a Life Saver under the cup, and four paper clips. They could not touch "Fred" with their hands, only the paper clips. They had to retrieve the Life Saver and place it around the gummy worm. Groups were required to document their choices. Many "Freds" lived to sail another day!

Small groups also made the Rain Forest layers (*lower photo*). Each student was responsible for learning about a layer and presenting to their group before they could begin constructing the Rain Forest.



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