

## Family Engagement News

by: Cindi Rhoades

Happy Holidays! I hope you all had a family-full Thanksgiving experience and are getting ready for the holiday season! I know I enjoyed being with my three kids, my grandson and other family members for Thanksgiving and I'm really excited to have everyone home for Christmas this year!

The Olean Community Schools put on our 31<sup>st</sup> annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 16<sup>th</sup> and we had a great turnout. I can't thank all the volunteers enough! We had over 30 adults and 45 students come and help, and we served about 200 people from the community. I am excited to see how large we can grow this event next year! (see pictures below)

**East View:** Parent Teacher conferences were a huge success. Please take a minute to fill out the survey sent to you through Parent Square, so we can continue to make improvements with our conferences. We also had the Scholastic Book Fair. Thank you for taking the time to be involved in your child's education and encouraging them to read! Santa's coming! Come join us on **December 13<sup>th</sup>**, for our first Holiday Hoopla from 6-8 PM! Upcoming events include the Family Literacy Night on **January 22<sup>nd</sup>**, a Winter Dance on **February 7<sup>th</sup>**, Ice Skating, and the end of the year Carnival on **June 13<sup>th</sup>**! I'll keep you posted! Our Winter break runs from December 21<sup>st</sup> through January 5<sup>th</sup>, with school resuming on Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Washington West:** A huge THANK YOU to Washington West for offering us the opportunity to hold our Community Thanksgiving Dinner last month! Once again, the Parent Teacher conferences, and the Book Fair were extremely successful. Please take a minute to fill out the survey about conferences that was sent to you through Parent Square. This survey helps us plan for even better conferences. Come join us for Cookies with Santa Night on **December 6<sup>th</sup>** from **5-7 PM**. Upcoming events include a Free Family Ice Skating event on **January 12<sup>th</sup>** (2:30-4:30), and many more things in the works! Our Winter break runs from December 21<sup>st</sup> through January 5<sup>th</sup>, with school resuming on Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**OIMS:** Thank you OIMS for hosting the Billy Martin's Cole All Star Circus last month, sponsored by the Olean Music Boosters. The gym was packed full of students and families from

all over! (see pictures below) Parent Teacher conferences were held, and more people came in for them this year! Please take a minute to fill out the survey about our conferences so we can continue to make them better for families. Upcoming events will include their **Family Literacy Night** coming soon. Our Winter break runs from December 21<sup>st</sup> through January 5<sup>th</sup>, with school resuming on Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**OHS:** OHS & the Sports Boosters held their Fall Varsity Athlete Banquet where they celebrated 150 athletes and their families. Also, I would like to add that none of our Fall athletes needed the morning tutoring to stay eligible to play. Way to go athletes, keep up the great work! OHS will have their Financial Aid Night on **December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM**, in the OHS cafeteria. Juniors and Seniors, please plan to attend with your parents! For any questions, contact your School Counselor, Rene O'Connell at (716) 375-8016, or stop in to see her.

**Special Education:** The Special Education team gave some tours of all our classes to a group of students from Houghton College which went very well. If you are a student with a disability and are a Junior or Senior, and you haven't yet filled out your paperwork for ACCES-VR (transitional services), you still have time to do this! We have planned another free workshop through Parent Network on **March 12<sup>th</sup>**.

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

<b>Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Washington West Cookies with Santa 5:00-7:00 PM</b>
<b>Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Olean High School Financial Aid Night 6 PM</b>
<b>Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>East View Holiday Hoopla 6-8 PM</b>
<b>Dec 21, 2024-Jan 5, 2025</b>	<b>Winter break, No School - Schools resumes on Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>!</b>

Did you know that there are plenty of resources available on our website? Just go to [www.oleanschools.org](http://www.oleanschools.org) and under the **Community Schools** you will find the **Family Engagement** Page. Here you will find plenty of resources and we will continue to update these.

There is also a **Calendar** and a **Community Events** section that includes both things through the school and a section for events out in the community for families to participate in! New items are listed almost daily so check it out. We also added a section for **Newsletters** that will be posted monthly. Also, there is a family resource page for each of our buildings through Parent Square. If you know of an event in the community and don't see it listed there, feel free to contact Cindi Rhoades at (716) 375-8031 or [crhoades@oleanschools.org](mailto:crhoades@oleanschools.org) and fill me in.

**Enjoy the pictures below of some events we've had!**



Thanksgiving Dinner



**More Pictures below**



Thanksgiving Dinner



Circus at OIMS