

Family Engagement News

by: Cindi Rhoades

Happy Fall. The leaves are starting to change, and the weather has a chill to it. We are a month into the new school year, and we have already had some pretty amazing things going on, and many more in the works!

Welcome Back to School Event: On Saturday September 21st the Olean City School District held a large Community Welcome Back to School for all the families in the district (see pictures below). We had a fantastic turn out and the weather cooperated much better this year (last year it rained all day). Along with many school resources including our Tech Department and our free books table, we had several community agencies there to distribute their information and engage the families in some awesome activities such as stomp rockets, corn hole, giant connect four, face painting, and so much more! Thank you to everyone who participated in this amazing event. We look forward to doing this again next year! Our next big community activity is our **Community School Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner** scheduled for **Saturday November 16th from Noon-2PM** in the High School Cafeteria. Bring your whole extended family! The entire Olean area Community is welcome.

East View: East View held their first PTO event with the Back to School Kick Off at the Olean YMCA on September 22nd. All EV students, staff and families had a great time swimming, using the new splash pad, laser-tag, playing in the gym, bouncing on the inflatables, crafts and more. Upcoming events at EV will be the **Family HoeDown** scheduled for **Tuesday October 29th from 4-6 PM**. Soon to come will also be some Family Literacy Nights, Santa Night, a Winter Dance, Ice Skating, and the end of the year Carnival! I'll keep you posted! Don't forget that on Thursday November 21st there is no school for grades PreK through 7th for Parent Teacher Conferences!

Washington West: Washington West has some great things planned for Families this year!. The **Fall Fest** will be held on **October 18th from 6-7:30 PM** and activities are planned for the whole family so don't miss this amazing event! They also have a Cookies with Santa Night on December 6th, a Family Ice Skating event on January 12th (2:30-4:30), and many more things in the works! Also coming next week.....The Spirit Wear Store (watch for Parent Square messages about this great opportunity! Don't forget that on Thursday November 21st there is no school for grades PreK through 7th for Parent Teacher Conferences!

OIMS: OIMS had about 300 people attend their annual Open House on September 3rd. Upcoming events will include their **Family Literacy Night** coming soon. Don't forget that on Thursday November 21st there is no school for grades PreK through 7th for Parent Teacher Conferences!

OHS: OHS had their annual Open House on September 4th. **SENIORS:** Just a heads up that SUNY will run their "free application week" from October 21st through November 3rd. Seniors can apply to up to 5 SUNY colleges for free during this time period, regardless of the application

you choose to use. For questions on this, contact your School Counselor, Rene O'Connell at (716) 375-8016, or stop in to see her. **Juniors & Seniors: Financial Aid Night** is scheduled for **December 9th** in the High School Cafeteria so watch for information on this. Both Juniors & Seniors come for the informational session and then afterwards Seniors stay for the FAFSA completion part (There have been significant changes to the FAFSA lately and we want to make sure to help you through the new process!

Special Education : If you are a student with a disability and are an incoming Junior or Senior, and you haven't yet filled out your paperwork for ACCES-VR (transitional services), we will have a Junior/Senior & Parent Night to help with this on **October 9th from 6-7 PM** at the PLC (Central Registration) 402 N. 7th Street. Paperwork for this will be sent out later this month. If you would like to fill the application out before that, just give me a call at (716) 375-8031. We have also planned to bring in at least two workshops from Parent Network, one scheduled for **October 16th** and one for **March 12th**.

SAVE THE DATES:

Wednesday October 9th- 6-7 PM ACCES-VR Night

Monday October 14th- NO SCHOOL

Wednesday October 16th- 6-7:30 PM Parent Network Workshop

Friday October 18th 6-7:30 PM Washington West Family Fall Fest

October 21st-November 3rd- Free SUNY application weeks

Tuesday October 29th- 4-6 PM East View HoeDown

Monday November 11th- NO SCHOOL

Saturday November 16th- Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday November 21st- No School for **grades PreK-7th (Parent Teacher Conferences)**

Friday December 6th 6-7:30 Washington West Cookies with Santa

Did you know that there are plenty of resources available on our website? Just go to 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 and fill me in.

Enjoy the pictures below of some events we had already!





