

## Family Engagement News

by: Cindi Rhoades

Welcome Back to another exciting year of school in the Olean City School District! The weather is starting to cool off a bit and soon the leaves will be changing. The year certainly goes fast, especially for the seniors!

We had some awesome events this summer and are planning many more events for this year. The biggest one so far is the **Welcome Back to School** event scheduled for **Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> from 10Am-Noon**, in the track area at OIMS. This event is open to all students and their families, as well as other community members. Come and play some games, win some prizes, meet people, and find out all about the opportunities and services in our area. We will have a ton of exciting things for you to do. Remember, it is very important to your child's success to stay involved in school activities, no matter how old they get!

**East View** held their Open House on August 29<sup>th</sup> for students and Parents and had a great turnout. The theme this year is "Wild About Learning"! We also welcomed a new Principal, Mr. Steve Chartier. Some of you may have met him on August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Popsicles with the Principal he held at the school. We also have a new Counselor, Ms. Callahan. We will continue to offer the Back Pack Program at East View so if you get an email about the program, please fill out the application as soon as possible. East View is opening its doors again to Parent Volunteers so if you didn't get an application at Meet the Teachers Night, stop by the main office for a form (it requires a background check). Upcoming events: **East View Back to School Bash @ the YMCA on September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3-6 PM.**

**Washington West** also had their Open House on August 29<sup>th</sup> for students and Parents, and had a fantastic turn out. The theme for them this year is "Out of this World" There will be several staff out in the morning to say hello to families when they drop off at school all week! We will also continue to offer the Back Pack Program at Washington West so watch for an email about this soon.

**OIMS** held many days of Open Swim for families throughout the district. We are so lucky to have this great opportunity for all families to enjoy the pool. **New this year:** OIMS had their 1<sup>st</sup> annual 4<sup>th</sup> grade Student & Family Orientation Night on **August 26<sup>th</sup>**. We had 57% of the incoming 4<sup>th</sup> graders attend this awesome event with their parents. See below for some great pictures! OIMS will also have their annual Open House on **September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4-6 PM....that's TONIGHT!** We hope everyone can make that event!

**OHS** held their Fall Sports Meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup> and their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student & Family Orientation Night on **August 27<sup>th</sup>**. We had 84% of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their families attend this special and very informative event. School starts on **September 4<sup>th</sup>** and OHS will have their annual Open House that afternoon from **4-6 PM**. New this year will be an area where all the clubs/activities will have booths for you to look at with your student. Stop by and remember one of the keys to success is for students to get involved! **SENIORS:** Just a heads up

that SUNY will run their “free application week” from October 21<sup>st</sup> through November 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

**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 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 PM** at the PLC (Central Registration) 402 N. 7<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>** and one for **March 12<sup>th</sup>**.

The Olean City School District is pleased to announce that we are still working on bringing a free dental clinic to all our buildings and expanding our Back Pack Program. We are also very excited about two huge events: Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Welcome Back** event on **September 21<sup>st</sup>** and our annual free **Community Thanksgiving Dinner** on **November 16<sup>th</sup>** so mark your calendars! We will continue to offer several parent engagement activities this coming school year. I can’t stress enough, the importance of the community as a whole interacting with the school and getting involved! Board of Education (BOE) meetings are held at least once a month and all community members are encouraged to attend these meetings and have a say in policies, practices, budgets, etc.

#### **SAVE THE DATES:**

**Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup> 4-6 PM OIMS Open House That’s TONIGHT!!!!**

**Wednesday September 4<sup>th</sup>- School Begins for all students**

**- 4-6 PM Open House at OHS**

**Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> – Welcome Back Community Event 10AM-Noon**

**Wednesday October 9<sup>th</sup>- 6-7 PM ACCES-VR Night**

**Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup>- 6-7:30 PM Parent Network Workshop**

**October 21<sup>st</sup>-November 3<sup>rd</sup>- Free SUNY application weeks**

**Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>- Community Thanksgiving Dinner**

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 had already!**



9<sup>th</sup> grade class officers help out at 8<sup>th</sup> grade orientation night (above) & 4<sup>th</sup> grade orientation (below)

