



# THE OAKUM

The Olivet Community Schools Newsletter

Visit us at: [www.olivetschools.org](http://www.olivetschools.org)



School Board Meetings

OMS Library, Second and fourth Mondays of each month

March, 2011

## Olivet Schools Says Farewell to Mary Barkley

By Teresa Montague, Administrative Assistant & Oakum Coordinator



*Joe and Mary Barkley*

On Friday, January 28, 2011 a soup and salad luncheon was held to honor and celebrate Mary Barkley as she leaves to accept a position as Director of Early Childhood Connections Project with the CISD.

Mary has been the

Olivet Middle School Principal for the past two-and-a-half years (also serving as the district's Special Education Coordinator and Grant Writer/Coordinator), worked as the leader of Fern Persons Elementary from 2001-2008, and prior to that has been an educator, curriculum coordinator and the K-3 professional development coordinator. When filling the role of the middle school principal, Mary was a perfect choice! Mary brought a renewed sense of energy and spark to the middle school, especially since she already knew the majority of her daily constituents, the students. The staff welcomed Mary with open arms, too. She always provided a spirit of open collaboration, comradery, and a "let's roll our sleeves up" work ethic. Mary she has proven herself to be dedicated employee, using her creativity and leadership skills to build bridges amongst the staff and students, she will truly be missed.

Mary's experience as the elementary school principal began in 2001 after serving the district as a teacher since 1986. Mary taught in all grades at FPE, Developmental Kindergarten through third grade. She also taught elementary Spanish at one time which is now a regular class for all elementary students. In addition, Mary served as a K-6 musical director for plays, and directed and instructed the K-5 Gifted and Talented program bringing challenging curriculum and instruction to those students who desired and needed the extra challenge. During Mary's elementary principalship she not only continued to strive for excellence in the areas of curriculum and instruction for Olivet

students, she decided to reach out to teaching candidates at Olivet College as an Adjunct Professor of Elementary Methods and also presented at county and state educational conferences. She is committed to helping students learn, teachers teach, and she constantly sought out the best practices and research to help be the best educator she could possibly be.

On a personal level, I have known Mary Barkley since approximately 1990, as an employee/co-worker and as a parent. As a parent we all want the "best fit" of a teacher for our children. Mary was always one of those "highly requested"



*Mary enjoys a farewell hug from teachers Diane Johncock, Jayne Walker and Traci Simmons.*

teachers and that is no surprise to anyone. She ran a classroom like the "Captain" of a ship! She was organized, on task, always looking out for the welfare of her "mates" and was always welcoming to those "to come on board." As a parent, I truly appreciated the learning environment she created for children; to learn and grow emotionally and intellectually all the while learning to be the best citizens they could be, to me that was PRICELESS!

### Kindergarten Parent Orientation

Fern Persons Elementary School

Thursday, March 24, 2011

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

FPE Gym

Please RSVP @ 269-749-4611 or E-mail: [NelsonC@olivetschools.org](mailto:NelsonC@olivetschools.org). This parent meeting will prepare parents for their child's enrollment in Kindergarten. Childcare will be available.

*Continued from page 1...*

Mary's long time friend Robbie once commented, "Mary comes from a family tradition rich in serving the Olivet community...and she is an excellent role model as a principal." There's no doubt about that! Thank you, Mary, for touching the lives of not only my children but thousands of children in our community!

When you think of Mary (Piepkow) Barkley, you can't help but think of family. Mary and her family are a close and caring clan, especially at family dinners at Mary and Joe's home with 60 plus guests. I hear the card games after dinner were similar to that of a "casino" night, both fun and serious. When I think of the energy it takes to host a gathering of that magnitude, I'm in awe! By no surprise, Mary credits her mother, Blanche (Lake) Piepkow. Mary said that her mother was her "first teacher and a very good one. She surrounded me with books and encouraged me to write from a very early age. Blanche Piepkow is an energetic 82 years old who continues to help children learn to read by volunteering each week at

Fern Persons in the Read to Succeed program." Mary says, in her new position as Early Childhood Connections Project Director, she will "support programs working with families with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. The goal is to make sure that every family is able to provide rich learning experiences by surrounding youngsters with books and helping them develop a love for learning, just as my mother did for me."



*Mary and her mother Blanche Piepkow.*

## OMS Fancy Dance receives "Fuel Up to Play 60" Grant

OMS student council members, Mrs. Kramer, Mrs. Daly and Mrs. Love joined forces to write a grant to provide cool line dancing and fresh fancy food at the February 4<sup>th</sup> dance held in the café. The grant was funded by the Michigan Dairy Association and Fuel Up To Play 60.



Students asked to have Mr. Armstrong return to PE classes to teach line dancing and then attend the dance to lead the students through the intricate steps. The grant provided the funding for the dance instruction and complimentary snacks for the students. The menu of fresh fruit kabobs, raw veggies and dill dip, cheddar and Muenster cheese cubes with whole grain crackers, bottled water and red cherry yogurt smoothie punch was a hit at the dance.

The event demonstrated the school social events can be healthy and fun when great exercise and nutritious snacks are involved.

## OLIVET GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

P.O. Box 195 \* Olivet, MI 49076  
269-749-2631

Dear Good Neighbors:

Thank you to **everyone** who contributed or helped in many ways during the annual Christmas food distribution program. A big thank you to the High School Student Government for purchasing \$1,000 in laundry soap, dish soap and food. Thank you to all the students & employees that helped collect food for the boxes. Thank you to those who attend the senior citizen lunches for all of the goods that you contributed. Thank you to FPE for collecting personal care items which families always have a need for.

The Olivet Good Neighbor Program was able to prepare boxes of food and personal care items for 70 families this year. We know the many individuals that received them greatly appreciate the help during these difficult times.

The generosity of this community is amazing. There are far too many individuals, businesses and churches to name that have contributed in many ways throughout the year. But to all of you **THANK YOU!!** Many people will be blessed by your generosity. We couldn't do it without you!

Olivet Good Neighbor Program



## Olivet Students are “Got Milk” Celebrities

Karla Love, Food Service Supervisor

Students from the Olivet Middle School sported a white mustache for the kick off of “got milk?” during lunch time on Thursday, January 20 in the school café. Like the familiar faces of movie stars, music artists, and sports celebrities, photos of students and celebrity retiring middle school principal, Mary Barkley, were taken and will be fond remembrances in the future. Special classic black T-shirts with the “got milk?” logo were raffled off to students during the promotion.

“We are encouraging low-fat milk and want students to know how important the protein and vitamins in dairy products are to growing bodies,” said food service supervisor, Karla Love. “We switched to 8 ounce plastic milk bottles several years ago, which have easy-open, twist-off caps. Students say the milk tasted better, is colder and our milk usage at lunch and as ala carte sales increases every year.”

Bringing the “got milk?” photo booth to school was fun way to encourage students to consume three servings of dairy every day to benefit their overall health. Boosting milk consumption improves stu-



*The boys basketball team posed for a celebrity photo during homecoming week.*

dents’ post-exercise recovery, helps fill nutrient gaps, and supports a healthy and toned body. Schools are under increased pressure to offer nutrient dense foods that children will choose.

Behind the scenes it looks like the Olivet Community Schools are “moo-ving” in the right direction to help students understand the goodness of milk and dairy products, how to make healthier choices in what to eat and drink, and that 60 minutes of exercise daily is the key to fitness. Got milk?



*Mrs. Barkley and OMS “Got Milk” Celebrities!*



## Great Team

By David Campbell, Superintendent



Many good things have been written and said recently about Mary Barkley and her numerous contributions to the students and staff of the Olivet Community Schools and the community of Olivet. She has clearly left a positive and lasting legacy and should be proud of a great career as an educator in our community. I am equally

confident that she will leave a very positive mark in her new position as Director of Early Childhood Connections in Calhoun County. I want to thank Mary for her service and am glad that she is remaining close by and still in a position to help improve the lives of children.

Replacing a principal in the middle of the year is challenging as the pool of candidates may be limited by the timing. We did conduct interviews and did not feel that we had found a great fit for our middle school. Right after the first round of interviews, the Governor announced his budget proposal, which included a \$470/student cut in funding for next year and a massive increase in the retirement rate that schools need to pay into the retirement system that will cost us about another \$230/student. We have a long history of budgetary stability in our district, but there is not a district in the state that can sustain these types of cuts and not look at significant cuts. The legislative process is a long and difficult process and we do not want to overreact to the first budget proposal, but it would be irresponsible to simply assume all will be well.

A combination of these two factors caused us to decide not to fill the middle school principalship with someone from outside the organization at this time. As the budget takes shape the next few months, we will respond accordingly and find ways to maintain the high levels of programming our community has rightfully come to expect from us. We will be posting the middle school principalship again in May in an effort to expand the pool of applicants, which may be from within the organization or from outside.

In the meantime, we analyzed several different options to fill the role of Interim Principal. The option that the Board landed on was to divide the responsibilities up among current administrators for the remainder of this school year. John Gehrig is currently the Curriculum Director/Literacy Coach and will be Interim Co-Principal and Curriculum Director. John taught in our middle school for 25 years prior to his current position as an ad-

ministrator. He is a person of great commitment to our school district, high integrity, and great knowledge of teaching and learning. He will assume leadership of the teaching staff and all the academic areas. John will remain the Curriculum Director, but much of his Literacy Coaching responsibilities will be folded due to his new responsibilities. Lastly, John completed much of an Educational Leadership program at MSU many years ago.



*Brooke Judd and John Gehrig will serve as Co-Principals for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year.*

Brooke Judd will be the other Interim Co-Principal. Brooke's experience in the office provide her with the background knowledge to effectively assume and oversee many of the managerial tasks of the principalship. Brooke will retain her leadership of areas of Op-

erations, Data, and Technology, but we will be enlisting more help from support staff to assist Brooke with her responsibilities in the realm of data and instructional technology. Brooke is currently working on her Masters in Educational Leadership at WMU.

Todd Page, our Student Support Coordinator, and Ben Wilson will continue to take the lead on student behavioral issues as they have been doing for the past several years. I am not a fan of the Co-Principalship model, but in this circumstance, it seems most logical as John and Brooke's strengths complement each other well. John, Brooke, and Todd are available to assist students and parents with the variety of needs that arise. They are all very capable problem solvers and will be a great team to lead our middle school in this time of transition. Their level of commitment to our students, staff, school, and community give me a high level of certainty this plan is the best option at this time. I hope you can take the time in the next month or so to get to know them if you do not already. I am confident you will see why we have entrusted our middle school to their leadership.

## The “Unstoppable” Lori Sedlar

By Linda Jo Scott, Contributing Writer to the Battle Creek Enquirer



Linda Jo Scott

One of life’s greatest blessings is having unselfish friends. I’m especially proud of one of mine, a lady named Lori Sedlar whose story is truly inspirational.

I first knew Lori as a single mother and non-traditional student back when I taught English at Olivet College in 1979. She had an unquenchable desire to become a teacher, and was the only English major I ever met who had chosen that major not because she loved it but because it was her weakest area. Her minor, math, she said, was her stronger area, so there was less need to pursue it in depth. Lori was offered a teaching position in the Olivet Middle School upon her graduation in 1983 and happily taught there for a year and a half before her whole life was plunged into a dark Hell from which many thought she could never return.

Lori was driving with two young girls on a country road one fall day, just before school started, when her car was hit full force from the side. Lori instinctively protected the girl in the front seat with her own body, and as a result, the girl was barely hurt. Lori, on the other hand, was hit in the back of the head and lay unconscious for five weeks. When she finally regained consciousness, she literally had to learn all over again how to move her arms, use her hands, talk, and even eat.

After four months of hospitalization, after years of physical therapy, and through her parents’ continuing help and her own determination, Lori has learned to be as independent as possible. She is still unable to walk because of severe problems of equilibrium, and speech still comes with some difficulty, but she has never given up on herself. In fact, as soon as she could, Lori established her own home, and tried to resume her old life. She does her own cooking, dusting and vacuuming—and some gardening from her wheelchair. She even attempts to shovel her deck and short driveway if the fellow assigned the task is late.

Not one to want to stay home all day, she went back to the Olivet Middle School 22 years ago, as a part-time volunteer teacher’s aid. She has worked most recently with Karen Mestemaker, who teaches fourth grade at Olivet Middle School. Lori considers herself lucky to be still active in the field of education, for, as she puts it, “I may not control my own room but I, at least in a small way, am fulfilling my long-time dream.”



Lori Sedlar volunteering in Mrs. Mestemaker’s classroom.

Besides tutoring students in spelling and math, she has even brought her own computer to class to type students’ literary work for distribution.

With her cheerful spirit and generous assistance, Lori provides an invaluable example for all children but particularly those with handicaps.

Lori’s mother put it well when she said to me, “I don’t know if anyone else could handle what she has handled and keep her spirits up. She’s truly a role model for handicapped people.” Lori herself looks at it all a little differently. “A lot of people are worse off than I am. It’s the life God gave me, so I have to accept it.” I personally cannot think of anyone I’ve ever known who has set a finer example for us all of how to make the most of what we have been given.

### OLIVET SENIOR LUNCHEON EVERY TUESDAY

**\$3.00 (60 Years and older)**

**\$5.00 (60 Under 60 years)**

**12:30 Arrival**

**1:00 Lunch is Served**

**1:30 BINGO/ Entertainment**

**Questions: Call Teresa Montague  
(269) 749-9129, Ext. #2704**

# The Michigan Merit Exam

By Randy VanDyke, Principal, Olivet High School



The Michigan Merit Exam is once again being conducted at Olivet High School on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of March. The Michigan Merit Examination (MME) is the state high school assessment administered to grade 11

and selected grade 12 students. It replaced the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) high school assessment in Spring 2007. The MME is now administered each year during the month of March. Federal and State laws require public schools to assess certain grade levels. The MME assesses juniors and some seniors while the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) continues to assess grades 3-9. These assessments provide a way to measure all Michigan students in the same subject, at the same time. The assessments provide valuable information to parents on their student's academic performance.

The MME is comprised of the ACT Plus Writing college entrance exam, portions of the WorkKeys work skills assessment, and several Michigan components developed to assess Michigan high school content standards. The MME assesses students in English language Arts (reading and writing), Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. The successful completion of this assessment is a graduation requirement for Olivet students. The assessment items are aligned to Michigan high school content standards. Colleges accept the ACT, taken as part of the MME, as a valid ACT score if the assessment was taken under college reportable conditions, meaning Standard Testing or ACT Approved Accommodations.

If you are the parent or guardian of a student taking the MME this spring, here are some reminders about the MME:

### ***MME Day 1-ACT Plus Writing (March 1)***

**Test 1=45 minutes**  
**Test 2= 60 minutes**  
**Break=15 minutes**  
**Test 3=35 minutes**  
**Test 4=35 minutes**  
**Break=5 minutes**  
**Writing=30 minutes**

### ***MME Day 2-Workkeys (March 2)***

**Test 1=45 minutes**  
**Test 2=45 minutes**  
**Break=5 minutes**  
**Test 3=45 minutes**

### ***MME Day 3-Michigan Mathematics, Science and Social Studies (March 3)***

**Test 1= 30 minutes**  
**Test 2= 35 minutes**  
**Break= 15 minutes**  
**Test 3= 35 minutes**

Breakfast will be served in the café beginning at 7 AM on each testing date. If you do not plan to eat breakfast, you need to plan to arrive at the school no later than 7:30 AM on each test day. If you arrive after testing has started, you will not be admitted to the testing room.

### **WHAT NOT TO BRING**

Do not bring the following items to the test room:

- Cell phone, pager, iPod, timer or other digital/electronic equipment. Use of any device to share or exchange information at any time during testing or during the breaks is a prohibited behavior. If you bring any of these devices to the test room, you will be required to turn the device off and leave it with the Room Supervisor until you are dismissed after testing concludes.
- Scratch paper, notes, foreign language or other dictionary (unless used as an approved accommodation). You may do scratch work in your Test Booklet.
- Pens, colored pencils, or highlighters
- Portable listening or recording devices
- Camera or other photographic equipment

### **TIPS TO DO YOUR BEST**

- Be well rested. Get a good night's sleep the night before each test.
- Eat a healthy breakfast each morning.
- Arrive on time! Students will NOT be admitted to the testing room once the Test Booklets have been distributed.
- Pace yourself during the test. If you find yourself spending too much time on one question, move on to the next question.'

Use breaks to eat and drink any snacks you may have brought with you. No food or drink is allowed in the testing room unless preauthorized due to a medical necessity.



## OHS ChemBio Class Studies Why “Fishing Isn’t as Good as it Used To Be”

Submitted by Terri Morton, OHS Science Teacher

The Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) and K-12 Partnership, supported in part by Michigan State University and the National Science Foundation has provided Mrs. Morton’s classes the opportunity to work with Mr. Ballew, a KBS fellow and MSU doctoral student. In addition to involvement in the GK-12 BEST (BioEnergy SusTainability SchooLyard Research Network) planting switchgrass and prairie grass for these bio-fuel plots, Olivet students had the opportunity to study the effects of fishing on fish populations. Mr. Ballew’s doctoral research involves studying the effects of depleting fish populations on fishing success. Working together at a summer KBS workshop in June 2010, Mr. Ballew and Mrs. Morton developed a fishing simulation that mimics fishing success in populations with bold and shy fish. Mr. Ballew’s research suggests that in fishing ponds with bold and shy populations of bass, the bold population can be depleted, and if this characteristic is inherited, continued fishing can deplete the bold fish, and therefore, result in situations where “fishing isn’t as good as it used to be”. The simulation activity completed by Mrs. Morton’s ChemBio classes shown here demonstrated this trend as well: all student fishing groups caught a higher population of bold fish! From this activity, students learned that human activity can affect fishing success (genetic variation in a

population), gained an understanding of the process of natural selection, and that you can learn science and have fun at the same time! Mr. Ballew’s research may lead to methods for managing fish populations.



*Dallie Flower, Nick Bellew, KBS Fellow & MSU Doctoral student, Chris Walkowski and Dan Delaney conducting a fishing experiment.*

## OMS Student have Success at Math Counts Competition

By Kristina Priesman, OMS Math Teacher



*Front Row: L to R: Amanda Peterson, Ian Hines, Lucas Reist, Alex Boehmer Back Row L to R: : Siera Sterley, Hailey Jungel, Ethan Smith, Conner Dartt.*

On February 4, 2011, eight Olivet Middle School students traveled to Jackson Community College for the Math Counts competition against eight other teams from different schools. All students gave a great effort and had a lot of fun working with some very challenging math problems both individually and in teams. Ian Hines was awarded first place overall in the individual competition and will advance to the state competition. Also, the team of Amanda Peterson, Ethan Smith, Ian Hines, and Alex Boehmer took first place in the team competition and will advance to the state Math Counts as well. This is our second year in a row sending a team to the state competition and the future looks bright as Ethan Smith, Ian Hines, Alex Boehmer, Lucas Reist, Conner Dartt, Hailey Jungel, and Siera Sterley will all be back to compete again next year.

Good Luck at the State Competition  
Ian, Amanda, Ethan and Alex

### Substitute Teachers Needed

Visit our website and click on the Employment tab for requirements and eligibility.

[www.olivetschools.org](http://www.olivetschools.org)

### May 3, 2011 Election

Absentee ballots available beginning Saturday, March 19 with your local clerk. The last day to register for this election is Monday April 4, 2011. Remember to vote!

# Rise! Dine! Shine!

By: Sarah Scott, Principal, Fern Persons Elementary



Morning routines at our house vary. Most of the time we are rushing to get out the door and making a couple of trips back into the house because we have forgotten our lunches or to turn off the lights! When it comes to breakfast, typically, Blair is eating a late breakfast (at the sitter). Less frequently, is he eating a well balanced breakfast before we leave the house in the morning.

## What is breakfast? (from students)

- “What we eat in the morning.” -Brayden
- “It is the most important meal of the day. We have to eat it so it keeps us calm and we don’t get all crazy (waving hands frantically) like that!” - Maci
- “We have to eat it because we have to be healthy.” - Hayden
- “YUMMY & helps us stay alive!”- Brady

## What is breakfast? (from parents)

- “The most important meal of the day.” Kelly
- “Energy!” - Amy
- “Breakfast is our fuel, and so like a car, without it we won’t work as well.” Kelly

We have all been told that *breakfast is the most important meal of the day*. Still nearly half of all American families skip breakfast on a daily basis. As parents and caregivers it is our role to provide our children a healthy breakfast - but also our responsibility to teach them the importance of breakfast and how eating a HEALTHY, WELL BALANCED breakfast will benefit them!

So, how does breakfast benefit our students? Breakfast helps our students with the entire learning process. School is a busy place where our kids are learning (different subjects) and participating in extra curricular activities. Breakfast provides the energy that the learning and activities require. Students who regularly eat breakfast have reported to have better concentration during their lessons. Breakfast is also beneficial for the MEMORY of students as they are quicker and more accurate when retrieving information. Even their problem solving abilities are enhanced when students eat breakfast on a regular basis. Stu-

dents who eat a regular breakfast show improvements with school attendance. Finally, studies show a direct correlation between breakfast and test scores.

Moreover, eating breakfast REGULARLY is one more step in preventing childhood obesity. A well balanced breakfast offers 1/4 of the nutrition that the body requires. Therefore, students who eat a regular, well balanced breakfast are less likely to indulge in fast food and junk food - making better choices (more nutritional) throughout the school day.

## What exactly is does a WELL BALANCED breakfast include?

A well balanced breakfast includes all of the nutrients - carbohydrates, proteins, calcium, Vitamin A, B6, Zinc and Iron.

- Include fruit in breakfast. Fresh fruits like oranges, grapes, mangoes, berries and apples-are great choices for breakfast.
- Cereals are a popular breakfast choice - but try to offer cereals that are HIGH in FIBER and LOW in SUGAR.



The exact meaning and importance of breakfast lies in the word itself. **Breakfast** is the first meal of the day, usually consumed in the morning. The word is a compound of "break" and "fast", referring to the conclusion of fasting since the previous day's last meal.

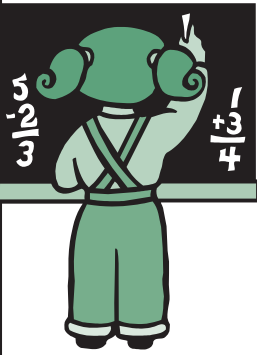
Breakfast is offered to FPE students—DAILY! Any student may purchase breakfast and enjoy it prior to heading to class for the day!

**Remember to Visit the FPE Bookfair**

**February 28 to March 10, 2011  
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**March 8, 2011 @ 6:00—7:30 p.m.  
Join us for Literacy Night and  
Visiting Author, Jeffery L. Schatzer**

# Kindergarten Round-Up & Pre-School Registration



Believe it or not, it is time to think about registering students for the 2011-2012 Kindergarten class. In order to notify you of the specific information (dates and times) for round-up, please fill out the form below and return it to Fern Persons Elementary as soon as possible. Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 1, 2011 to register for kindergarten. Also, please pass the word! If you know of other kindergarten age students that may not receive this publication let them know that they may call us at (269) 749-4611 to register by phone.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

(street)

(city)

(zip)

Phone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Male or Female (**circle one**)

Phone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Preschool experience: yes no  
(**circle one**)

**Return form to: Fern Persons Elementary, 4425 W Butterfield Hwy, Olivet MI 49076**



## OLIVET PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

We are in the process of gathering students who may qualify for the Olivet Schools Pre-school class. We currently are running two programs, both which have individual requirements. One program is the federally funded Head Start Program and the other is the preschool program which is funded by the State of Michigan. Students must be four years old by December 1, 2011.

If you feel that you and your family may qualify please fill out the form below and return it to Fern Persons Elementary as soon as possible. You will receive more information about qualification criteria and program guidelines in April.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Male or Female  
(**circle one**)

Parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

(street)

(city)

(zip)

Phone number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Return form to: Fern Persons Elementary, 4425 W. Butterfield Hwy, Olivet, MI 49076**

## High School Choirs and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade “Buddy Up” for Christmas Concert

Something special happened for the December 2010 Christmas Sing at FPE this last semester. Mrs. Kim Faulkner noticed that both the high school choir and the FPE 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade were singing the same song. It was the familiar “Carol of the Bells.” You know, the one that goes, “Hark, how the bells, Sweet Silver Bells.” She thought it would be fun to get the two groups together to perform that song.



Students from the Gessner/Peters team practice “Carol of the Bells” to sing with the OHS Choirs.

IT WAS FUN! The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade learned the carol in *unison*, or singing all on the same note. The high school choirs learned the song in *4 part harmony*. When the high school singers came to FPE to sing a Christmas Concert for the K-3 grades, they also did a lesson on *harmony* for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, showing them how it sounds to sing the same song together, but on different notes. Then, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders got up on the risers, the high school singers surrounded them, and the two groups sang “Carol of the Bells” for all the FPE students. Students from the Gessner/Peters Team played the Orff xylophones to accompany the song. It was “way cool.”

After that, the different high school groups sang a concert of holiday songs for all the FPE students and staff. It was a great experiment that really turned out well.



### K-8 PTO News...

Already into our third quarter, we all wonder where the time has gone. Olivet's PTO has been planning, organizing and successfully hosting or funding fun and educational events throughout the year.

In the fall, PTO planned and hosted our largest event of the school year. The Halloween Carnival was a huge success earning the organization a comfortable profit to help support Olivet students in other school events or equipment. Thank you to all parents, teachers and students who were able to volunteer their time to make this fun event one that everyone looks forward to, every year.

With some of the profit from the carnival, PTO was able to fund the New Family Picnic, the breakfasts for the MEAP tests, and to bring in the ESCAPE program during Fire Prevention week.

In December, PTO organized a Spiritwear sale. We offered a variety of different items to support our school's green and white spirit. If you missed being able to join in on purchasing items at this sale, PTO will offer another Spiritwear sale next December. Don't miss out!

The end of the school year is approaching quickly, but PTO is still in full swing. In the upcoming months, PTO will be supporting March is Reading month activities and Literacy Night, which will include a visit from an author!

Also, look for exciting PTO events during “Turn Off the TV Week” in April, including the Binder Park Zoo's Zoo-mobile program. In May, PTO will thank our wonderful teachers and staff with an appreciation luncheon.

Please watch for a PTO survey within the coming months, in your child's Friday or Monday folders. You can also get PTO information from the Olivet Community School's website.

Olivet PTO meets one more time this school year with the general public on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6 p.m. in the FPE Library. We'd love to see you there and hear your feedback on this year's events and activities. Without your input, we won't know what changes you're interested in to enhance the events that Olivet PTO offers in the future. We look forward to seeing you there!



## OSACA Second Annual SPRING GALA & Alumni and Community Wide Dance



The Olivet Schools Alumni and Community Association (OSACA) is planning to host the second annual Spring Gala, a dance open to alumni and members of the community. This prom-like event will take place Saturday, May 21, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the school café. Light refreshments will be served and Doug Pennington will be the DJ for the evening. Members of the Olivet FFA are acting as hosts and hostesses in support of the occasion. There will be a raffle of plants grown by FFA members.

Come dance and reminisce with friends and your classmates. Attendance was very good in 2010. We hope you will invite your friends to come this year. Recommended attire is “business casual.” Put the date for this occasion on your calendars now!

There will be a PowerPoint show projected on a large screen during the evening that will highlight the history of Olivet schools. Your photo or those of your former teachers and classmates might appear on the screen! The OSACA history committee is continually working on this project. If you have any photos you would like to add to this project, please contact Joyce Hughes by calling 517-543-1482. Your photos will be returned to you once copies are made.

*There is no cost to attend the Spring Gala.*

### OSACA Historical Committee

The OSACA Historical Committee has been working for some time now on collecting, scanning and organizing old photos related to the Olivet Community Schools. At right is a photo taken in 1941 with students and a school bus outside of the old high school building near college street. If you have old photos that you would like to share, contact Joyce Hughes at (517) 543-1482.



## FPE Bookfair & Literacy Night How Does Your “Reading” Garden Grow?

Do you add something to your “Reading” Garden daily? We would hope that you do. You can add to your “Reading” Garden by attending our Spring Book Fair at F.P.E.

**Feb. 28 – March 10, 2011    8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**March 11, 2011            8:30 a.m. – 1:00 pm**

**Family Nights are:**

**Feb. 28 & March 8 from 5:30 – 8:00 pm**

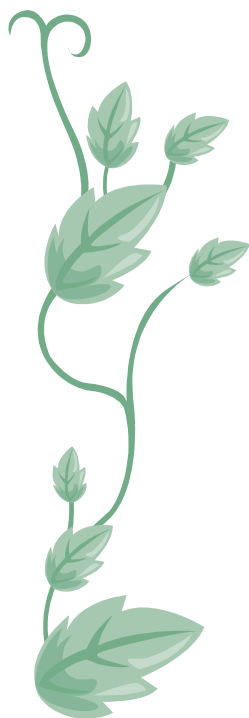
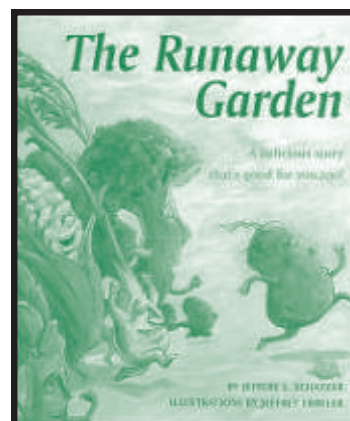
**Literacy Night & Family Book Fair Event**

**March 8 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

welcomes

**Jeffery L. Schatzer, Author of  
“The Runaway Garden”**

Please plan to attend this great night of “Reading”



## “Let’s Get Healthier Together”

Teresa Montague, Administrative Assistant & Oakum Coordinator

Over the past six years, Olivet Community Schools has hosted an annual “Healthy Kids Summit” in an attempt to teach children and their parents about topics to improve their health. Each year there have been guest speakers, nutritious snacks, along with raffles and “give-aways” to get more people in attendance and to help spread the word about what is being called “an epidemic” in this country: **Childhood Obesity**.

In my own journey, after being diagnosed with cancer at the age of 45, I continue to seek ways to improve my health and daily life. I am learning to finally take care of myself and in turn hope I can take care of others. I am trying to shop and plan for healthier meals and I am trying to exercise every day. I want to encourage you to make one small step toward a healthier lifestyle today. Change one meal a week, or one meal a day. Grocery shop with a list and a new recipe, with intentions of providing healthier meal choices for you and your family.

With the help of Donna Daly, PE teacher, Karla Love, Food Service Supervisor, and Principal, Sarah Scott, I plan to make this topic a priority in our school newsletter, The OAKUM, and on our district web page.

Help your children be the best they can be....help your children spend more time with you and your family, rather than sitting in front of a computer (“doing homework”) or texting on their cell phones. Let us help you and encourage you to make this topic a priority in your home and on the go, everyday.



I remember when my girls were involved in band and sports, how hard it was to get out of work, drive to a sporting event, try to find something “healthy” to have for dinner then get home so the girls could finish their homework. In the coming months, we hope to give you ideas that will be beneficial to your health, help you make better food choices, and give you tips and ideas for new recipes to try too. Parents please join us in our attempt to make Olivet students and our community a healthier one!

Visit our district web page at: [www.olivetschools.org](http://www.olivetschools.org), go the **Food Service** tab for recipes and exercise tips.

### Walk Your Way to Fitness

Whether you walk a fast pace or moderate stroll, daily walking will enhance your overall fitness and feel. Thirty to forty minutes around the neighborhood or at the school track should do it. Soon spring weather will be here and you can walk the track but, in the meantime, you can park at the school, walk the city “loop” while waiting for your kids at practice! From the front of the OMS/OHS complex the “loop” equals 1.3 miles.

### Activity & Calories Burned

| Activity              | Current Weight of 125 lbs | Current Weight of 150 lbs | Current Weight of 175 lbs | Current Weight of 200 lbs |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Walking (15 min/mile) | 44                        | 52                        | 61                        | 70                        |
| Walking (Up stairs)   | 150                       | 175                       | 202                       | 229                       |
| Running (9 min/mile)  | 109                       | 131                       | 153                       | 174                       |
| Volleyball            | 28                        | 34                        | 40                        | 45                        |

### Brown Rice & Lentil Casserole

- 2 cups of cooked lentils
- 2 cups cooked brown rice
- 1 onion diced
- 2 T Olive or Canola oil
- 2 cups plain yogurt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon of garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- 1/2 teaspoon of cayenne pepper
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese

In a heavy skillet heat oil and sauté’ onions. Add all ingredients except the cheese. Mix well and pour into a casserole dish. Sprinkle cheese on top and bake for 375 degrees for 30 minutes.

# CLARK & SMITH EARN OLIVET EAGLE SCOUT AWARDS

Articles submitted by Kathy Clark & Randy Smith



*Brandon Clark creates portable Disc Golf game for Olivet Schools physical education classes.*

Olivet Boy Scout Troop 1108 would like to congratulate Brandon Clark for achieving the rank of Eagle in December 2010. Brandon, 16, is the son of Mark and Kathy Clark of Olivet and a junior at Olivet High School. For his project, Brandon planned, organized, raised funds and lead a team of family and friends in building nine portable disc golf baskets for the Olivet Community Schools Physical Education Program. He also included several sets of discs, a notebook with rules, scorecards and golf pencils for the school. Brandon hoped that his project would introduce a new sport to the school as well as encourage kids to go outdoors. Coach Dean Peters, of Olivet Schools, was Brandon's contact and he was excited about Brandon's idea. Coach Peters told him that he had been interested in introducing disc golf to the school district but hadn't had the time to follow through with the idea. Since the set is portable it can be used at all three schools in the community.

Brandon has been involved with scouts since he was six years old, starting as a Tiger Cub with Pack 650. After completing Webelos, he crossed over to Troop 647. In May 2006, Brandon transferred to a new troop in Olivet, Troop 1108, chartered by Olivet College. He is one of the troop's first members and helped Scoutmaster Keith Brown welcome seven other scouts into the troop. Brandon is also a member of the Order of the Arrow.

Besides completing his project, Brandon has shown lead-

ership in his school band, volunteering to tutor other tuba players, helped with the local LEAP program, assisted Pack 650 with their Mother/Son Bingo Breakfast, Pine-wood Derby and Blue/Gold Banquets, participated in the work days at the Trevor Shrontz Memorial Playground, the Marshall River Clean-up, Scouting for Food, setting up and taking down seatbacks at MSU's football stadium and cleaning up the flag area at the Olivet Post Office. He has also been one of the top Trail's End Popcorn sellers, earning his way to a week at Northwoods Reservation each summer. Over the last few years he has held leadership positions in the troop as Den Chief, Librarian, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader. Brandon enjoys working on merit badges, having earned 30 of them and currently working on three more. He has also participated in parades in Lansing, Olivet and Marshall, proudly wearing his scout uniform. Brandon wants to remain active in his troop, enjoy the campouts, and to help others achieve their eagle rank. A special Court of Honor is being planned in March, 2011.



Boy Scout Troop 1108 will honor Jonah Randall Smith, 14, at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Sunday, February 27, 2011, at 3:00pm at the Margaret Upton Conservatory of Music of Olivet College in Olivet. Jonah is the son of Randy and Lynda Smith of Olivet.

Only two percent of Scouts attain the highest rank of the



*Jonah Smith led a crew of scouts, friends, family and church members restore abandoned firepit at Family Bible Church.*

*Continued from page 13...*

Boy Scouts of America. Before Jonah was eligible to earn the rank of Eagle, he had to advance through 5 previous ranks of Scouting. During that time, Jonah learned a variety of Scouting skills including camping, use of wood tools, outdoor cooking, first aid and the classic knot tying, as well as demonstrating service to the community and the troop. Community service projects have included river clean up, raking, Christmas box assembly and food bank distribution. Jonah has served his troop as a patrol leader, troop historian, and currently serves as Senior Patrol Leader.

To earn the rank of Eagle, a Scout must have also completed at least 21 merit badges and organize a service project that benefits his church, community, or school. Jonah led a crew of Scouts, friends, family, and church members that restored the abandoned firepit at Family Bible Church in Marshall. Jonah's plan called for rebuilding the firepit, and installing bleachers, benches, firewood storage, and safety equipment.

Jonah joined Cub Scout Pack 650 of Olivet at age 6 and

later earned the highest award in Cub Scouts, the Arrow of Light, the only award that transfers from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. A member of Troop 1108 since 2007, he regularly attends Summer Camp at Northwoods Scout Reservation in West Branch and has participated in many trips and activities including camping, Polar Bear camping, canoe trips, hikes and visits to the Air Zoo and Gerald Ford Museums. Jonah has been inducted into the Order of the Arrow, a national honor society of scouting dedicated to promoting camping and enjoyment of nature.

Jonah, a freshman at Olivet High School, is active in marching band, freshman basketball, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. A member of Family Bible Church in Marshall, he is active in youth group and serves as a sound/camera technician. Jonah has also volunteered with the Calhoun Emergency Response Team, participating in Search and Rescue. Jonah looks forward to combining his home school experiences from elementary and middle school with his time at Olivet High School to prepare for a future college career.

## America & Me Essay Contest

Submitted by: Christa McLane



*Gabrielle DeGroot  
1st Place Olivet Winner!*

As part of our curriculum, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are encouraged to be involved in real world writing with a meaning and a purpose. To give students an opportunity to do so, they participated in the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual America & Me Essay Contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance. The topic of the 2010-2011 contest was "My Personal Michigan Hero." Students had to choose a hero in their life from the Michigan area and write an essay explaining their

choice. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, Christa McLane, Karla Nail and Marion VanMeter, enlisted the help of our principal, Mary Barkley, and writing coach, John Gehrig, to determine the top ten from our school to submit. The three students, who earned the first, second, and third place awards

for their school, are Gabrielle DeGroot, first, Harley Layman, second, and Sabrina Baker, third. All three received an award certificate for their achievement. As the school's first place winner, Gabrielle's name will also be engraved on a plaque for permanent display in the school.

Gabrielle DeGroot's first place essay now advances to the state level competition, from which the top ten essays in Michigan will be selected. The top ten statewide winners, who will be announced in April, will each receive a plaque, a medallion and a cash award of \$1000. In addition, the top ten essayists will be honored in a banquet in Lansing, meet with Michigan's top governmental leaders, and be the featured guests at a Lansing Lugnuts minor league baseball game dedicated in their honor.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of all our 8<sup>th</sup> grade writers and would like to wish Gabrielle good luck in the state competition!

## Preschool "GrandParents" Needed

The Olivet Preschool is also looking for volunteers to become a classroom "grandparent." This person(s) would have weekly interaction with the preschoolers throughout the entire school year would working with children to develop early literacy skills, create a foundation for early math skills, read stories, complete open ended art projects, and help children develop their self-help skills such as passing food at family style meals or brushing their teeth. All volunteers are required to complete a background check complying with licensing laws, which our preschool follows. If you are interested, please call school and ask to speak to Lindsey Green, preschool teacher, 749-4611.

## Olivet High School Performing Arts

### DRAMA: All the World's a Stage

The Theatre community of Olivet High School is alive and well this 2010-2011 school year! Opening with an energetic and exciting revival of the beloved classic musical *Annie*, the OHS dramatists proved once again that "The sun'll come out tomorrow!"

Lead by the talented Trisha Funk in the title role, the cast comprised of a myriad of newcomers and season veterans, who danced and sang their way into everyone's hearts. Cast out by the cantanker-



*Lysander (Jake Maas) leaves his former love Hermia (Danielle McIlrath) asleep on the ground to pursue his heart's new desire as a fairy (Sophie Knorek) looks on, appalled.*

ous Miss Hannigan (expertly presented by Victoria Salyers); Annie traveled the streets of New York, an orphan alone in the wide world, encountering another lonely soul, Daddy Warbucks (rigidly played by Ethan Schriener). As these two lost souls redefined the term "family" they drew in a slew of characters such as the sweet and accommodating Grace (gently portrayed by Elli Alexander) and the ever present Butler, Drake (efficiently portrayed by Ben Deyoe). Attempting to thwart their newfound happiness, along with Miss Hannigan, was the notorious Rooster Hannigan (slyly portrayed by Ryan Nail) and his blonde side kick (cleverly played by Danielle McIlrath). The servants quickly grew to adore the sunny Annie; drawing us to see the world with new eyes. Rounding out the cast were a fabulous group of very talented and spirited middle school students allowing the audience to truly experience a wonderful and timeless classic.

December saw the students embark on a new adventure as they began work on the 2011 MIFA Theatre

competition piece, *Lovers in Midsummer*; an ambitious, highly active production centering on Shakespeare's fantastical play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The OHS Theatre team burst onto the stage at West Bloomfield High School on a cold, snowy January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Their wildly comical piece was well received by the adjudicators, earning them a Division I Rating and a secure advancement onto their Regional competition, held on their home turf on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011. District Competition saw many students also earn individual awards for Excellent and Superior performances. Excellent Awards went to: Faith Harrington for her portrayal of Egeus, Kaila Redfield for Set Concept/Design, Ben Deyoe for Sound Design, Hannah Harrington for Costume Design, and Elli Alexander for Program Design. Superior Awards went to: Hannah



*Egeus (Faith Harrington) furiously stares down her daughter as Duke Theseus (Ethan Schriener) and Demetrius (Dean Kronner) observe, quietly.*

Harrington and the enchanted dance chorus for Make-up Design, Hannah Harrington and Trisha Pfof for Choreography/Dance Captains. Additionally, this energetic company earned a full company acting ensemble Superior award for their portrayal of their spirited characters in Shakespeare's rollicking comedy. Leading the way, the four young lovers (portrayed by Trisha Funk, Danielle McIlrath, Jake Maas, and Dean Kronner) wander their way into a tangled wood filled with mysterious beings who transform their lives forever. Lead by the romantic, yet headstrong, Queen, played by Victoria Salyers, and her highly energetic and mischievous henchman, Puck, played by Brandon Bowerman, these beings show the audience that "The course of true love never did run smooth." As their world tumbles into all sorts of misadventures, the company quickly sorts them out, and the heart wins the day.

*continued from page 15 ...*

We of the OHS Theatre Company truly would like to thank all who have supported them throughout each of their theatrical journeys. The continued generous support of our community has allowed these students to thrive. We are grateful to you all!



We placed 5th in the state, tying with a Class A high school. The following individual awards were given:

**Excellent Ratings:**

**Mystic Ensemble/Dancers:** Laura Campbell, Tyler Dexter, Hannah Harrington, Summer Katz, Sophie Knorek, Trisha Pfof, and Kaila Redfield

**Set Concept and Design:** Entire Company

**Superior Ratings:**

**Performance/Acting:** Trisha Funk, Dean Kronner, Jake Maas, Danielle McIlrath

**Performance/Acting:** Brandon Bowerman

**Hair and Make-up:** Hannah Harrington, Laura Campbell, Tyler Dexter, Summer Katz, Sophie Knorek, Trisha Pfof, Kaila Redfield.

### OHS Choir Joins Forces for Public Event

The Olivet High School Choirs will soon be preparing for a very cool event scheduled for the end of March. After taking a break for several years due to scheduling conflicts, they are once again including a choral masterwork in their performance schedule. A “masterwork” is a multi-movement composition that is often set to a traditional text and accompanied by an instrumental ensemble or orchestra. This year, Fortissimo and Varsity Choirs, along with the high school choirs from Holt, Leslie and Mason Public Schools will be performing selected movements from Glenn McClure’s *Caribbean Mass*. Mr. McClure is a contemporary composer whose specialty is combining traditional texts with world music idioms and multi-cultural instruments. In this performance, the students will be directed by Mr. Derrick Fox, DMA student at Michigan State University and accompanied by a steel drum ensemble. Steel drums originated in Trinidad and were histori-

cally created when natives discovered that hollow 55-gallon oil drums could be dented and manipulated to create different pitches and fascinating sounds. In addition, the men will combine forces for an all male chorus and the ladies will sing a consort of unique songs entitled “Listen”. The ladies who perform in this section will have the distinct privilege of singing under the direction of Ms. Kristin Zaryski, Director of Youth Choirs at the Community Music School of Michigan State University.



**The concert will be performed at Leslie High School on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the school auditorium. A small admission fee of \$5 will be requested at the door.**

### Singers Excel at Solo & Ensemble Festival

On Friday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, twenty-four high school choir members traveled to Parma Western to perform at the MSVMA District 8 Solo & Ensemble Festival. As members of large and small ensembles, or as soloists, the students performed literature ranging from the Baroque Period through modern-day arrangements. After performing two contrary pieces, each musician spent some quality time with their adjudicator in a clinic setting where the judge guided the singer through ideas for improvements in their singing. District 8 was piloting a new rubric this year for the state organization and teacher, Mrs. Faulkner, was very proud of the students’ results. “Whenever a new rubric is implemented, grading criterion and standards are raised, she explained. All of our students earned medals for their performance and many students qualified for State S/E through their outstanding performance including the Men’s Ensemble( which included nine men from Varsity and Fortissimo Choirs ), Hannah Harrington, Rebekah Davenport, Katie Schurig and Taylor Thorn! Congratulations all on your hard work and success!



*OHS Choir Students pose for a photo prior to competition.*

# JAZZ BAND “UP NORTH PERFORMANCE TOUR AND SKI TRIP”

David and Lynne Funk, Band Director and Assistant

For many years Mr. Funk has wanted to take the jazz band on a ski trip. On Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup> this dream was realized! The 15 member OHS Jazz Band headed north on their first ever “Up North Performance Tour and Ski Trip.”



*The Jazz Band at the Inn at Bay Harbor.*

The first stop on their busy tour was at the **Inn at Bay Harbor** in Petoskey, the number three Marriott Renaissance Hotel & Resort in North America. Upon arrival, the jazz band was treated to a mouth watering pasta buffet in the formal dining room **Sagamores**. The band then played three hours of big band music, rock and roll, jazz, and even a few pop hits for the dinner guests. Our performance at the Inn was made possible by one of Olivet’s own graduates, Philip Parr, 2005, and also a recent graduate of Michigan State University. Phil is the restaurants manager for the Inn, and was a member of the Jazz Band from 2001-2005. Mr. Funk was thrilled to have him sit in with the band on a few tunes during our performance! We would also like to thank Phil and his staff for all they did to make our performance there such a memorable one.

After their performance the kids were invited to spend the weekend at The Vanator Family Ski Chalet located at the base of Nubs Nob Ski resort. The kids were very excited to be able to stay in a ski chalet that had a true Swiss Alps appeal. Many of the students had the opportunity to spend the night in the chalets sleeping loft, a first for most.

Bright and early Saturday morning the band arrived at **Nubs Nob Ski Resort** for a day of fun on the slopes! Many of the students had never skied before, and we were excited they could have this opportunity! After a few tries on the bunny hill, and a delicious cookout on the slopes courtesy of the Vanator Family. One of the most memo-

rable highlights of the day was the “Triple Yard Sale” on the Ramblewood ski run!

After a quick trip back to the chalet, they headed directly to the **Starlight Bowling Alley** for bowling and pizza before our evening gig in their “Sassy Loon” Restaurant. The restaurant patrons were treated to many up tempo musical selections throughout the evening. The kids were pleased to hear that several of the guests were skiers from the Nubs Nob ski resort.

Sunday morning brought yet another amazing performance opportunity for the band at the beautiful and historic **Perry Stafford Hotel** located in downtown Petoskey. The band was served a delicious continental breakfast, and then performed for their brunch guests. They also received a tour of the hotel complete with some folklore of the ghosts who “supposedly” live in the hotel!



Mr. & Mrs. Funk and the Olivet Jazz Band would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the John and Heidi Vanator Family for all of their generosity, hospitality, and hard work that went into making this trip possible for our students. They truly had an amazing time, and now have memories and experiences to remember for a lifetime! We can’t thank you enough!!!

**Spring Break**  
**April 4 - 8, 2011**  
**School Resumes**  
**Monday, April 11, 2011**

**AYSO Soccer Sign-Up**  
**Traveling Soccer Teams U10 and Above**

**Monday, May 16, 2011**

**5:00—8:00 p.m.**

**OHS Café**

**\$65.00 or \$120 for 2 children**

**Questions, call:**

**Tammy at (269) 763-3241**



## OHS Students Selected to Perform with University of Michigan Band



Above: Renae Dennis, Elayne Thomas and Sophie Knorek selected to perform with the U of M Band!

former music director with the Drum and Bugle Corps The Madison Scouts. The students felt like it was a very rewarding experiencing to perform in an ensemble of such great caliber. Congratulations Elayne, Sophie and Renae!

On Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Elayne Thomas, Sophie Knorek and Renae Dennis had the opportunity to perform with one of the most famous marching bands in the world, The Michigan Marching Band. Students from all throughout Michigan and surrounding states were nominated by their band directors and selected to perform with the band at their annual *Crisler Concert* held in Crisler Arena. The students spent the day in full band and sectional rehearsals, and had the opportunity to perform some very challenging music with some of the states finest musicians. They also had the opportunity to work with world renowned conductor Mr. Scott Boerma, Director of the Michigan Marching Band,



## Olivet to Host District Band Festival

On Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 20 schools will be traveling to Olivet to compete in the MSBOA District 8 Band Festival. This is Olivet's 3<sup>rd</sup> year hosting the event. We have received positive feedback from many schools who have requested to come back to our site. Our extraordinary volunteers have made Olivet's festival a well organized and positive environment for performing students and guests. **We are in need of many volunteers to help at the festival and ask anyone willing to help to contact Karen Deppe, Booster President, at 269-781-8020 or leave a message in the band room at 269-749-4570. Olivet will not only be hosting but participating.**

The Middle School bands will perform on **Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> grade at 4:00, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade at 5:00. On Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, the High School band will perform at 3:00.** We would love to have community members come and listen to our bands perform.

Comedian Heywood Banks

Returning to Olivet

Saturday, March 19, 2011

8:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 per person

For Ticket:  
Call Brenda:  
(269) 749-9953  
Olivet Middle  
School Office



Proceeds benefit  
the Olivet Bands

## Jazz Band Swings at Festival

On Tuesday January 25<sup>th</sup>, the Olivet High School Jazz Band performed in the annual Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 8 Jazz Festival. The festival was held on the stage of Mason High School with 20 jazz bands from around mid-Michigan participating. The highlight of the day was hearing the Michigan State Jazz Orchestra with the jazz faculty contributing in the performance.

All of the bands were critiqued by the Michigan State Jazz faculty during their performance, and then received a 20 minute clinic with one of the professors. Olivet had the esteemed privilege of working with Mr. Rodney Whitaker, bass and jazz instructor for the Jazz Lab Band 1. He worked with the kids encouraging them to communicate with each other by listening to what each person has to say through their instrument. The kids really responded to his natural teaching style and within a few minutes the band had greatly improved their listening skills.



On the way home after the festival many of the kids remarked about how awesome the Michigan State Band was, but also about how they could improve their performances as well. Mr. Funk was very pleased to see the positive impact the festival had with the kids as well as how it had inspired them. The group will have entertained guests at the annual Jazz Band Dinner Dance by the time this issue is distributed. We hope you enjoyed this talented group of musicians.

## OHS Band Earns Top Rating

Congratulations to the following high school band students for qualifying for the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's **State Solo & Ensemble Festival** by earning a first division superior rating at the district festival which was held at Haslett High School on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>; Laura Campbell, Brandon Clark, Renae Dennis, John Deppe, Trisha Funk, Tiffany Graves, David Huepenbecker, Camille Judd, Sam Judd, Sophie Knorek, Paige Mitchell, Emily Moe, Nathan Moody, Renee Morton, Victoria Olson, Jacob Reinsmith, Emily Roe, Teddy Short, Elayne Thomas, Taylor Williams, Trisha Pfost, and Josiah Wolf.

The following students also had excellent performances earning a second division rating: Hannah Amey, Evan Bahmer, Brandon Clark, Sloan Davis, Caleb DeGroot, Zack Fleming, Kristal Fuentes, Robert Funk, Taylor Hisler, Taylor Jungel, Courtney Kirchen, Mika Kleinfelt, Sophie Knorek, Leah Meyer, Renae Morton, Emily Nelson, Lena Peak, Amber Soblesky, Sydney Miller, Emily Roe, Kristin Ormsbee, Alexis Payne, Kaila Redfield, Ethan Schriener, Teddy Short, Cam Shook, Mariah Sterley, Joey Vanator and Andrew Zenker.

Olivet was represented very well with 46 students participating in the festival which featured the talents of over 1000 students from mid-Michigan. Students from class AA through class D schools were evaluated by state appointed adjudicators in the areas of tone, intonation, rhythm, technique and interpretation. Mr. Funk was very

proud of how the kids performed and represented their school. It's really special to watch a student choose to take on a solo or play in an ensemble. The extra practice time needed, their ability to handle their nerves when performing in public, and then to receive criticism are all very valuable tools they can use the rest of their life. The students learn a tremendous amount not only about their music but also themselves.

The solo students would like to thank Mrs. Paula Davis for accompanying them on the piano.

Her excellent musicianship was greatly appreciated and needed for several extremely challenging musical selections.

The state festival will take place at Okemos High School on Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>.

*Band students enjoying donuts prior to departing for their performance.*



# Olivet FFA Competes in District Leadership Competitions

By Ryan Hall, Olivet FFA Reporter

The Olivet FFA competed in the district contests on February 7 at Charlotte High School.

The Parliamentary Procedure team received 4<sup>th</sup> place with a silver award. The team consisted of: Donald Austin (President), Mackenzie Thompson (Secretary), Joey Mohler, Jacob Reinsmith, Caleb Degroot, David Huepenbecker, Elizabeth LaFleur, and Tyler Neal. We had a Junior High Conduct of Meeting team. The team consisted of: Advisor; Kayla Stewart, President; David Wine, Vice President; Hailey Jungel, Sentinel; Calvin Etson, Secretary; Jared Miller, Reporter; Abigail Wietzke, and Cheyenne Clark as the Treasurer. The team received a third place with a silver award.

We also had two Agricultural Issues teams. The team that consisted of Elaine Minnard, Hayli Lane, Nate Hayes, Maddy Amey, Katie Stewart, Hannah Amey, and Amber Sobleskey showed the pros and cons of putting antibiotics in animal feed. They received a first place, gold award. The other team consisted of Tonya Griffin, Brooke Graham, Emily Minnard, Diamond Snow, Jazmine Fletcher, Emily Roe, and Cylie Huffman. They received a second place, gold award. Both teams will be advancing to the regional competition.

In the Job Interview contest Sloan Davis received a 4<sup>th</sup> place, gold award; and Taylor Karaba received a 2<sup>nd</sup> place, gold award; and will be moving on to regionals. We had two members compete in the Public Speaking contest; Ryan Hall receiving 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a gold award and moving on to regionals, and Sydney Miller who received 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a gold award. Megan Ormsbee competed in the Creed Speaking contest and received 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a gold award.



Our Greenhand Conduct of Meetings team received 1<sup>st</sup> place and a gold award. The team consisted of; Erica Etson, Kristal Fuentes, Allen Gloor, Joe Polhamus, Brock Thering, Tiffani Schmidt, Paige Cords, and Erica Karaba. Our Demonstration team consisted of Kala Royston and Derrick Heuer. They received a 3<sup>rd</sup> place silver award.

Congratulations to all teams who competed. Special thanks to the following for judging a contest: Ryan Miller, Ron Stevens, Nick Vasilion, and Ben Camp.

The Parliamentary Procedure team who received a fourth place, silver award. Back row, from left to right: Joey Mohler, Jacob Reinsmith, Caleb Degroot, and Donald Austin. Front row, from left to right: Tyler Neal, David Hupenbecker, Makenzee Thompson, and Liz LaFleur.



*OHS Parliamentary Procedure Team*

The Jr. High Conduct of Meetings team, they received a third place, silver award. Back row, from left to right: Hailey Jungel, Jared Miller, David Wine, and Kayla Stewart. Front row, from left to right: Abby Wietzke, Calvin Etson and Cheyenne Clark.



*Jr. High Conduct of Meetings Team*

The two Public Speakers, Sydney Miller, received a third place, gold award. Ryan Hall, received a second place, gold award.



*Public Speaking Contestants*

# WYSIWYG

by Brooke Judd, Director of Technology, Operations, and Data



WYSIWYG (pronounced *WIZ-zee-wig*) is a term used in the computing world which stands for “What You See Is What You Get”. It’s a self-explanatory term meaning that what you see on the computer display screen (particularly in desktop publishing) is exactly what will appear when the document is printed.

But, please read on, that has nothing to do with the topic of my article.

I’d like to apply the WYSIWYG concept to each of us and the way we conduct ourselves. To me, “what you see is what you get” means that we should have the courage to act in accordance with who we are and what we believe. In order to do this, we first need to accept ourselves as who we really are, not as who someone else thinks we should be. We should never take action or pretend to be someone else for the sake of gaining acceptance. As you know, what you see isn’t always what you get. If you have ever purchased a frozen meal at the grocery store, (popped it in the microwave, and pulled it out, only to see that it clearly looks nothing like the picture on the box) you know exactly what I am talking about.

As a district, our Strategic Plan defines who we are and what we value. We say that we believe in treating others with respect, being kind and compassionate, acting responsibly, and being honest and trustworthy. This doesn’t just pertain to the staff of Olivet Community Schools. I believe that it applies to our students, parents, and community members as well. Take a moment to self-reflect.

How do we measure up? If our actions are in accordance with our thoughts and values, then we can honestly say “what you see is what you get”.

They say that your thoughts become words. Your words become your actions. Your actions become habits. And your habits become your character. But, as humans, of course, we are sometimes going to fall short and mess up. How can we get better at being who we say we are? Here are some hints...

- Be your genuine self
- Follow your own value system and common sense
- Listen to the advice of others, but make up your own mind
- Don’t be so proud to think that only others make mistakes – when you make one, admit it, and try to make things right
- You are unique - recognize, appreciate, and develop your talents
- Stand up for what you believe in and you will gain respect
- Being 'different' is a gift - you can enrich others by being yourself

As a concluding thought, WYSIWYG, doesn’t mean that we can never improve or aspire to be better. We should always look for ways to raise the bar. We should also make sure that we are consistently trying to align “who” we are with “what” we say we are. I saw a poster the other day that pretty much sums it up. It quoted Mahatma Gandhi when he said “Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do, are in harmony”. Let’s keep the words of our Strategic Plan in mind as we work together to improve our school district and community.

## FFA News continued...

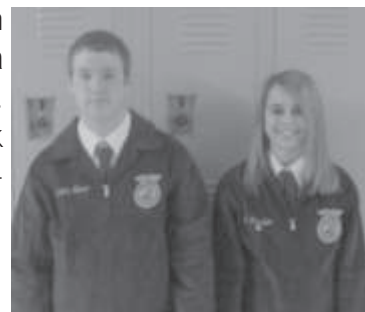


Job Interview Contestants

Job Interview contestants Sloan Davis, left, received a fourth place, gold award and Taylor Karaba, received a second place, gold award.



The Demonstration Team who received a third place, silver award. Kala Royston and Derrick Heuer did a Pig Showmanship Demonstration.



Demonstration Team



Creed Speaking Contest

Megan Ormsbee competed in the Jr. High Creed Speaking contest receiving a third place, gold award.

## Athletically Speaking...

Tom Sowles, Athletic Director



Overall, I would say that we have experienced a very exciting sports season up to this point and with any luck it should continue for the balance of the school year. Finishing up with the football season, we celebrated being the recipient of the Good Sports are Winners Award for football. On January 28 at the Kalamazoo Hackett basketball game, mem-

bers of the MHSAA representative council and MEEMIC presented the coaches and football team with this prestigious award. The Olivet football team and coaches were named the winner of this award from all teams that participated in the football play offs from all classes. The play and behavior exemplified the true meaning of high school athletics.

Congratulations are also in order for Coach Dean Peters. Dean was named the Division 5 Coach of the Year. Dean has stressed though that the credit and the award belong to his entire staff. The team concept doesn't only apply to the players but the coaches as well. We are very fortunate to have Coach Peters and his staff coaching our kids.

This spring there will be a few new faces in the coaching ranks for softball and track. Long time track coach Dean Peters has decided to take some time off and will not be coaching track this spring. Dean's record and accomplishments speak for themselves. He has had many all state athletes and championships but if you asked him they would not be the most important facts that he will remember. Dean coached many young men and women that learned more than how to run faster or throw farther. Many of those athletes come back to visit or volunteer because of the experience rather than the results or records they may have set. He established principles of hard

work, commitment and discipline. He was an encourager that cared and recognized those that finished last as much as those that finished first. Thanks Dean for a job well done.

Taking over for Coach Peters is Gabe Priddy. Coach Priddy has made his presence known with coaching track and football. He teaches health and physical education in the high school and middle school. His soft spoken demeanor and dedication to the kids and his profession will be welcomed.

In softball, Coach Sundberg has stepped down from his head coaching position. Coach Sundberg led the girls to a State Championship as well as many other invitational, district and regional honors. He guided the very talented team in a very methodical fashion and reached their goal of the Championship trophy. Mark will be spending a lot of time on the road watching his daughter, Chelsea who is pitching for Central Michigan University.

Taking over for Coach Sundberg is JV coach, Steve Meyer. Steve has enjoyed coaching the JV squad and working with the girls during the summer. Steve's personality is a good fit for our girls and I believe he will lead them in the right direction and get the most from their talent.

This year's JV softball coach will be Dave Franklin. Dave has faithfully served as a volunteer assistant for Coach Meyer for the past 2 years. He works very well with the girls and I anticipate he will make their JV softball experience a positive one.

Spring sports begin on March 14th. If you are planning on playing baseball, softball, track, golf or girls soccer you must have your physical before you begin practice. Go Eagles!!!

## 2011 Spring Sports & Coaches

|                |                        |                 |                            |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Gabe Priddy    | Varsity Track Coach    | Steve Meyer     | Varsity Softball Coach     |
| Bob Burcaw     | Assistant Track Coach  | Dave Franklin   | J.V. Softball Coach        |
| Mike Spoelstra | Assistant Track Coach  | Steve Peak      | Girl's Soccer Coach        |
| Brandon Peters | Assistant Track Coach  | John Homer      | Volunteer Coach – Track    |
| Russ Stolberg  | OMS Track Coach        | Bill Schlee     | Volunteer Coach – Baseball |
| Mike Boehmer   | OMS Track Coach        | Lonnie Spencer  | Volunteer Coach – Baseball |
| Duane Bickel   | Varsity Baseball Coach | Cindy Harr      | Volunteer Coach – Soccer   |
| Heath Otto     | J.V. Co-Coach          | Marco Hernandez | Volunteer Coach – Soccer   |
| Ruben Chavez   | J.V. Co-Coach          | Eddie Collins   | Golf Coach                 |

## MHSAA Football Playoffs Good Sports Are Winners!

In November, Olivet High School was a finalist in the Michigan High School Athletic Association Football Playoffs. Recently, the team and community received another special honor. The MHSAA and Olivet High School believe if we do not make the educated choice to have good sportsmanship at our events, we do not have a program worth promoting and protecting. That is why the MHSAA has so vigorously worked in recent years to describe and demand the highest standards of sportsmanship for high schools anywhere in the United States, and has been joined so generously in this effort by the MEEMIC Insurance Company.



*The 2010 Varsity Football Team honored as MHSAA/MEEMIC Good Sportsmanship Award winners!*

During the Football Finals, a committee observed the coaches, players, other students and spectators—and determined that Olivet High School and this



community were the most deserving of the “Good Sports Are Winners” sportsmanship award.



Fred Smith, Athletic Director of Buchanan High School presented Coach Dean Peters, his staff and the team with a glass trophy celebrating the award and thanking fans of Olivet High School for making high school athletics something to be proud of. Ellen Masco of the Fisk Insurance Agency in Charlotte, MI, a MEEMIC agent, presented the Olivet Football Team with a commemorative banner, further recognizing the outstanding sportsmanship the team, coaches and fans showed at the Football Finals at Ford Field.

## Olivet Youth Basketball “Creating a Tradition”

By Eddie Collins, Volunteer Coach

Olivet Basketball has been a point of pride for the community for many years now. While the success of the varsity programs has been a major part of this, the process began decades before this year's senior class in youth basketball.

Brian Dartt, boys' varsity basketball coach, organizes an annual youth basketball program that involves boys and girls from 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The program's success is dependent on organization and preparation, the willingness and commitment of volunteer coaches, and the support of parents who are willing to drive their children around on Saturdays. Throw in some kids that are excited



*Olivet Youth Basketball girls playing Springport at home.*

about basketball and there is a perfect combination for creating a tradition of success for Olivet basketball programs.

First and second graders who are exposed to their first organized basketball sessions focus on fun and fundamentals. The one

hour session consists of 30 minutes of practice and 30 minutes of three-on-three games. Kids learn and practice skills such as defense, dribbling, shooting, and passing. During the games, all kids are encouraged to shoot and shoot often.



*Olivet Youth Basketball Boys teams play at OHS.*

Third and fourth graders follow the same format (practice first half, play second half) as the younger group, but progress to a better understanding of some of the rules such as traveling, pivoting, boxing out, setting picks, staying between the person you're guarding and the basket, etc.

The fifth and sixth graders, who typically have gone through the first two progressions of OYB, begin traveling to play other schools in five-on-five full court games with referees and a scoreboard and clock. This is when the benefits of the younger programs begin to become obvious. It is very apparent which schools have youth programs for the younger children and which do not.

## Board of Education

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 Irene Perry, Vice President  
 Pat Sheets, Secretary  
 David Judd, Treasurer  
 Ronald Wilson, Trustee  
 Rick Platzer, Trustee  
 Kevin Sharp, Trustee

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| Randal VanDyke, H.S. Principal   | 269-749-3671 |
| Tom Sowles, Athletic Director  | 269-749-9631 |
| John Gehrig, OMS Co-Principal &<br>Curriculum Director                     | 269-749-9953 |
| Brooke Judd, Director of Technology<br>Operations & Data, OMS Co-Principal | 269-749-9953 |
| Martin Harris, Facilities Manager  | 269-749-4547 |
| Sherry Sellen, Transportation Supervisor                                   | 269-749-4541 |
| Karla Love, Food Service Supervisor  | 269-749-4281 |

### DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

**"Olivet Community Schools**  
 is committed to providing a caring  
 an academically challenging environment that de-  
 velops responsible citizens prepared to meet the  
**changing demands of our society."**

No person shall on the basis of race, creed, sex, religion, national origin or handicap be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination in any program, activity of employment by the Olivet Community Schools.

## Inclement Weather Information

**In case of extreme weather conditions when regular education buses are not traveling the roads, Special Education buses will also not be running. Other out-of-district runs may be cancelled also. To receive information regarding school closings, please tune into the following stations before calling our office. This will help keep the phone lines open for emergency calls.**

### RADIO STATIONS

|                      |                      |                     |                           |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>WKFR FM 103.3</b> | <b>WRKR FM 107.7</b> | <b>WKMI AM 1360</b> | <b>Z101.7</b>             |
| <b>WBCK AM 930</b>   | <b>WMMQ FM 94.9</b>  | <b>WNWN FM 98.5</b> | <b>WFMK FM 99 OR 97.5</b> |
| <b>WJXQ Q106</b>     | <b>WITL FM 100.7</b> | <b>WJIM AM/FM</b>   | <b>WVIC 95 FM</b>         |

### TELEVISION STATIONS

|                  |                   |                |                |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>WLNS TV 6</b> | <b>WILX TV 10</b> | <b>WOTV 41</b> | <b>WSYM 47</b> |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|

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