

Owego Apalachin Central School District

Superintendent's Highlights

November 28, 2016

Dear Owego Apalachin Community,



We recently concluded the first quarter and I couldn't be more proud of the work being done by our students and staff. There has been an assortment of great things occurring in our school district over the first few months of this school year, with student achievement at the forefront of everything we do and believe. We are on track to continue greatness in several capacities as the year moves on. Here are some of my latest highlights.

SMART Goals

Our staff has worked diligently to develop SMART goals over the past couple months in English Language Arts (ELA) and math for grades UPK-6. In grades 7-12, our faculty has developed them in each of the core areas - English, social studies, science and math. We have been looking closely at previous and current data to make informed decisions to improve specific areas related to our curriculum. The staff recognizes how important this process is as we address any gaps in curriculum, or areas that our students may need extra support. The overall goal is to use the data that we collect frequently to ensure a rigorous and viable curriculum which, in turn, will be part of providing a high-quality education for our students.

High School Musical

This year the Owego Apalachin Music Department has chose "The Music Man" as this year's musical. There will be three performances of the show in February. The cast consists of 60 students, plus our orchestra and stage crew, working diligently now, and for the next few months to bring us what promises to be an outstanding weekend of performances.

More Music

Our music program continues to impress and is among the best in the state. We had an outstanding jazz concert toward the beginning of the year, and chorus gave a terrific concert as well. The sounds were so clear, you'd swear our student-musicians had been at it all year. They were in June form. And the fall band concert is scheduled for tonight (Monday, November 28).

Looking at some individual awards, OFA senior Jordan Dove was selected to participate in the All-National Honor Band sponsored by the National Association for Music Education. In 2015 Jordan performed with the NYSSMA All-State Symphony Orchestra, qualifying him for this

year's All-National group - the highest honor for a high school musician. Jordan traveled to Grapevine, Texas, November 11-13 and joined others from across the USA for a three-day musical celebration. We are very proud of Jordan's accomplishments.

Also, Andrew Caldwell, Savannah Terry and Ellie Casterline were named alternates to the New York State School Musical Association Conference All-State. Terry and Casterline could be called upon to join the soprano section of the Mixed Chorus, and Caldwell could be called upon to play the trumpet. The All-State ensembles will rehearse and perform in December at the Eastman Theater, Rochester.

Athletic Achievements

We had a tremendous fall athletic season overall - with several of our teams ranked in the state's Top 10 throughout the season. Our defending state champion volleyball squad won its 6th straight Section 4 championship and a little more than a week ago played for its third state title in four seasons. The team took the championship match to the limit before finishing as the state's runner-up in Class B competition. Coach Brittney Race surpassed her 100th win this season, as well.

Our girls swim program continues to be one of the best in the state, finishing 2nd in sectionals with a team dominated by underclassmen. The future looks bright Coach Jason Westervelt's girls, as they've certainly already circled a date this time next year to win back the sectional title that had been theirs for many years.

Cross Country really came on strong toward season's end, with the boys 3rd in the section and the girls 7th in a field of 17 teams. Coach John Heath continues to fortify our fall running program, producing great runners and top-flight finishes.

Natalie Braman advanced to the state tennis qualifier and finished 3rd overall in Class B. Congratulations to Natalie on a great job. Varsity football had very strong season, making the playoffs and battling a tough Chenango Forks team before finishing with a 6-3 record. The three losses came from hard fought games against area powers Maine-Endwell, Newark Valley and Forks. Varsity boys and girls soccer both made it to the Class A sectional semifinals and had very respectable seasons. And our young golf team finished 6th in the Class B tournament. We look forward to great things out of that program in the future.

Away from campus, two of our students performed at the top of their sports. By now you've likely heard that OFA senior Lyndsey Field traveled to Erie, Pa., in October and shattered the world record in the dead lift. She will continue to train while also working on strength events in winter track & field for OFA.

And Michael "Mikey" Nickels, OFA sophomore, went to Crawfordsville, Indiana, the weekend prior to Halloween and came home with a national GNCC (four-wheeler) youth national championship.

Construction Update

Construction continues to go fairly well. The goal is to close out the Owego Elementary School and Administration Building projects in the coming months. The contractors are working diligently on completing punch-list items. While the Maintenance Building continues to move ahead, we've run into some issues that have created delays. Those issues have been addressed and the new completion date is the beginning of April 2017.

“Those Who Came Before Us”

The district hosted an event in late October to showcase findings of archaeological excavations by the Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) at Binghamton University at the sites of the new OES building and the district's new maintenance facility. The event will also link the past to present through remarks by an Onondaga Nation representative.

The program, called “Those Who Came Before Us: Archaeology at the Owego Apalachin School Campus,” consisted of two segments - one for our 4th- and 5th-grade students at OES, the second for the community. The students had very good questions in the follow-up portion of their presentation. About 50 people from the community attended, despite some bad weather that afternoon. We also received some nice TV media coverage from WBNG and Time Warner News, as well as an article from the Owego Pennysaver.



Andrea Zlotucha Kozub, the project director (shown on stage, left), and Wendy Gonyea (on stage at right), a Clan Mother of the Onondaga Nation, offered PowerPoint presentations during the two presentations in late October at OES.

Best regards,

Corey A. Green