

Happy Holidays!

NEWS

A Publication of
The Owego Apalachin School District



Owego Apalachin online: <http://OACSD.org>

Academics

OAMS science teacher Chris Mahon uses wireless technology during a recent lesson. In all the OA schools, technology is taking on a larger role. For more, Page 6.



Stephen P. Jensen photo

Athletics

The OFA football and boys' soccer teams had successful seasons that ended in the playoffs. For photos of the teams, in games the last few weeks, see Page 3.



David G. Boland photo

Arts

Eighth-grader Aubree Spatola works on a recent project for art class. Visual and performing arts are part of any usual day in the OA schools. For more, Pages 4 and 5.



Stephen P. Jensen photo

Ross Park ZooMobile Visits AES



Above, Alexis Eaton, of Apalachin Elementary School, checks out a rather large snake as the Ross Park ZooMobile visited her school last month. At right, R.J. Dunham makes a new friend. For more photos and a story, see Page 8.



Sarah Macchiano photos

OA district avoids costs for utilities: Total tops \$250,000

The numbers are in, and they're good.

As a result of an initiative that began in May 2004, the Owego Apalachin School District avoided more than a quarter of a million dollars in energy costs over the program's 18-month contract, according to Eric Kochis, district resource conservation specialist.

While the contract with Integrated Energy Solutions (IES) of Colorado has concluded, further savings will not, Kochis added.

"The initial contract that was signed stated that we would realize at least a 10 percent cost avoidance for

— See Costs Page 8

Technology adding new dimensions to OAMS classes

An exciting aspect of the new Owego Apalachin Middle School is the opportunity to utilize new technology available to teachers in the planning and delivery of their lessons.

This school year, training has been offered by Janet Bittner (computer coordinator), Sandy Stiles (OAMS librarian) and Chris Mahon (sixth-grade science teacher) in a variety of applications.

Mahon has trained teachers in the use of E-Schools, a computerized grading program. E-schools allows

— See Technology Page 6

How to reach OA



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OA loses old friend, Lewis Bradley

Long-time Owego Free Academy administrator, teacher, coach and friend Lewis E. Bradley passed away on Nov. 13. He was 77. Mr. Bradley spent 32 years as an educator, 30 of them with the OA Central School District.



Mr. Bradley graduated from OFA in 1946 and from Hartwick College in 1952. At Hartwick, he excelled in the classroom, as well as on the basketball court. He was also an excellent high school athlete.

In May of this year, Mr. Bradley was inducted into the OA Wall of Fame, located in the high school lobby. Mr. Bradley was present for his induction and gave a short speech. He retired from the district as the school business administrator in 1984.

"We were extremely proud to have Mr. Bradley in attendance with us last spring as he was inducted into our district's Wall of Fame," said Bernard C. Dolan, OA superintendent of schools.

"He was a man who dedicated a major part of his professional life to us in a wide array of capacities, and he'll always be in our minds and hearts.

"Lewis Bradley is a piece of this school district's history," added Dolan, "and our Wall of Fame would be incomplete without him."

Mr. Bradley had previously



Stephen P. Jensen photo

Lewis Bradley is shown here speaking in May at OFA as he was inducted into the district Wall of Fame. Mr. Bradley worked for the OA district for 30 of his 32 years as an educator.

been inducted into the Section IV Sports Hall of Fame, as well as the Hartwick College Athletics Hall of Fame.

After college, Mr. Bradley taught and coached in the Greene school district for two years, and in 1954 he began his long run with the OA schools, starting as a high school math teacher.

His coaching career began here soon thereafter, as he led the boys' junior varsity basketball team in 1954-55. The following season, he took over as the varsity coach and held that position through the 1961 season.

Mr. Bradley worked as a math

teacher while he was OFA assistant principal from 1961-65, and he became principal of the new Apalachin Junior High School in 1965, where he remained until 1972.

He then was principal of the Apalachin Middle School from 1972-74 and took over as principal of the high school in 1974. In 1980, he left that post and became the district's school business official.

According to Chris Evans, OFA boys' varsity basketball coach, the 2005-06 season has been dedicated to the memory of Mr. Bradley.

NOTES

Music Department to host December, January concerts

The Owego Apalachin Central School District's Music Department will host the following upcoming events:

- ♦The Holiday Kaleidoscope Concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, in the OA Theater, at which instrumental and vocal groups from OAMS and OFA will perform.

- ♦OAMS Choral Concert at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 11 in the OA Theater.

- ♦OFA Choral Concert at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 19 in the OA Theater.

OATA presented gifts on "SRP Day" in November

The OA district recognized "School Related Professionals Day" on Nov. 18. This day provided a wonderful opportunity for teachers to let aids, secretaries, cafeteria workers, custodians, cleaners and bus drivers know how much their hard work is appreciated.

The Owego Apalachin Teachers Association presented SRPs with appreciation bags, which were filled with candy and small tokens, each item symbolizing one important contribution that SRPs make each and every day.

OAMS students, faculty fill shoe boxes for Christmas

Over the past few weeks, students and faculty have been filling shoe boxes with small gifts for children around the world, as Owego Apalachin Middle School is again participating in Operation Christmas Child.

This year, 7.8 million shoe boxes will be delivered to boys and girls from 95 nations worldwide. These children live in desperate circumstances, and these shoe boxes filled with treasures bring them great joy.

The OAMS students are proud to be a part of this global project.



A Tour of the Mine

Fifth-graders at Apalachin Elementary School visited the Lackawanna Coal Mine in Scranton, Pa., on Oct. 31. The tour guides shared information about the hard life of a miner in the early 1900s. Did you know that children as young as 5 years old were often found working 12 hours a day, earning pennies in the dark mines?

The fifth-graders all enjoyed the cable car ride into the mine, as well as the tour itself. Shown above is Cheryl Paquette's fifth-grade class. At left is one of the mine tour guides.



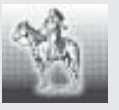
Photos provided



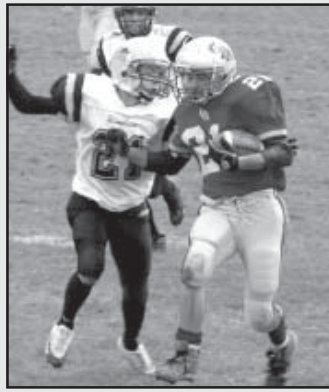
Photo provided

Shown here are some of the OAMS students who have been participating in Operation Christmas Child.

Indians in the post-season

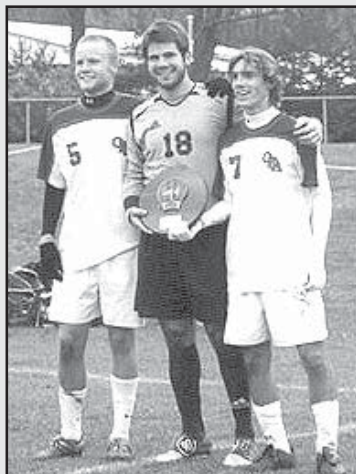
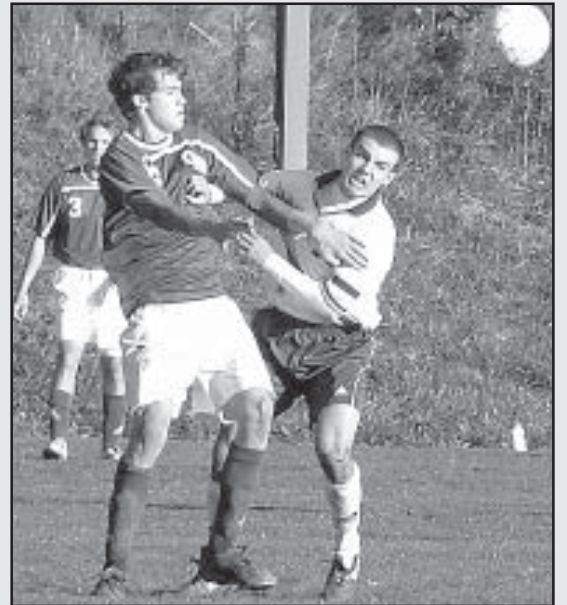


OFA football went to the second round of sectionals, bowing to powerhouse Chenango Forks.



David G. Boland photos

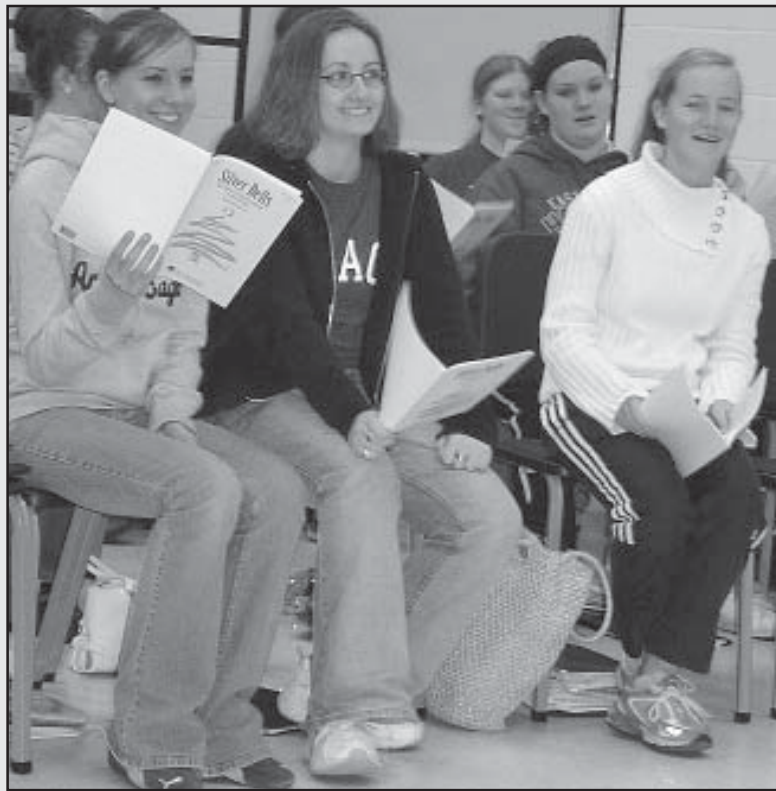
The boys' soccer team made it to the state Final Four before dropping a close playoff match.



Photos provided by the OFA soccer program



One day in rehearsal ...



One afternoon in mid-November, several rehearsals for OA musicians and groups were under way simultaneously, as shown here in this photo montage. The district's Music Department is gearing up for a handful of holiday and winter concerts. For a listing of what's coming up, see **NOTES** on Page 2.

Also, for the district's **elementary schools' holiday concert listings**, please check "**Important Dates ...**" on Page 7.

OFA's Vos, Catlin nominated for "scholar-citizen-athlete" award

This Heisman awarded in conjunction with football's top honor

Owego Free Academy's Andrew Catlin and Stephanie Vos have been nominated for the coveted Wendy's High School Heisman Award. Given in conjunction with the collegiate Heisman, this program celebrates the nation's top high school seniors who best exemplify a well rounded "scholar-citizen-athlete."

OFA Principal Ron Pierce nominated Catlin and Vos for their academic aptitude, athletic talent and exceptional commitment to their communities.

"We believe it's important to celebrate success in all facets of life," said Pierce. "The Wendy's High School Heisman is the ultimate way to showcase students' diverse achievements for all to see."

Created in 1994 through a partnership between Wendy's and the Heisman Memorial Trophy, the program has rewarded youth excellence for 12 years.

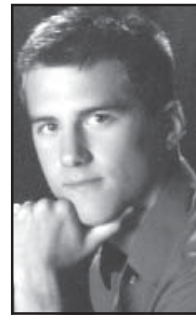
Vos and Catlin were nominated for this program based on the following accomplishments:

Catlin has a cumulative grade point average of 91.4. His civic involvement includes Volunteer life-guarding and care for the elderly. He has been a member of the OFA boys' varsity swim team since his freshman year, and has competed twice at the state level.

He has received recognition in "Who's Who in American High Schools" the past three years and was National Science Merit Student as a freshman.



VOS



CATLIN

At OFA, Catlin has been involved in a variety of clubs, including: National Honor Society (11 and 12); Yorkers (9 through 11); Varsity Club (9 through 11); and, yearbook (11). He was class representative during his freshman year.

Vos has a cumulative GPA of 97.58. Her civic involvement includes American Cancer Society (Relay for Life), church youth group and volunteering in the community.

She has been a member of the OFA girls' varsity track & field team since freshman year, girls' tennis (10) and girls' varsity swim team (11 and 12).

Vos has been given the distinction of being a New York State Scholar Athlete throughout her high school career. She was a New York state track & field qualifier last year and competed in the 2005 Empire State Games last year, where she placed fifth.

She also has been named in the "Who's Who in American High Schools" the past three years and was

invited into the National Honor Society as a junior.

Vos has also been involved in an array of clubs, including: Spanish Club (9); Key Club (10-12); SADD (10) and Varsity Club. She has held the following positions in OFA clubs: National Honor Society member (11); captain, girls' track (11 and 12); captain, girls' swim team (12).

"These students are truly in a league of their own," said Archie Griffin, program spokesman and the only two-time Heisman Trophy winner while a running back at Ohio State University.

"Each student nominated for the award has gone above and beyond expectations to help those in need, enhance their education and pursue their dreams."

To track a student's progress throughout the competition or to find out more about the program, please log on to www.wendysheisman.com, or call (800) 244-5161.

The Wendy's High School Heisman Program is comprised of five phases – nomination, state finalists, state winners, national finalists and national winners.

Twelve national finalists are invited for an all-expense paid trip to New York City on Dec. 9-11 to participate in Heisman weekend festivities.

ESPN2 will feature all 12 national finalists during the Wendy's High School Heisman Awards Ceremony that will air Dec. 11.



Stephen P. Jensen photos

OA students Kemmerling, Chang take top prizes in poster contests

Two Owego Apalachin Middle School students were recently announced as winners of different poster contests.

Eighth-grader Eric Chang won the Apalachin Lions Club annual Peace Poster Contest.

For placing his poster entitled "Peace Without Borders" first, Chang received a \$50 savings bond, and his poster was sent to the district level for judging.

Susan Anderson, OAMS art teacher, has helped students become involved in this contest for the past several years, with great success.

Another winner named recently was Jessica Kemmerling, OAMS sixth-grader.

Her win, which she entered when she was a fifth-grader last spring, came at the state level in the New York State Association for Pupil Transportation annual Safety Poster Contest.

The theme for the transportation poster contest was "I see the driver, the driver sees me."

Kemmerling's poster was judged the best in New York at her entry age level and according to Tony Quaranta, OA transportation supervisor, her poster then went to Austin, Texas, where it was judged at the national level.

Kemmerling is the first OA district student to win the statewide award in this particular contest, said Quaranta.



Stephen P. Jensen photo



Photo provided

Above, Jessica Kemmerling (third from left) was duped by her parents, who put on frowns outside OAMS as she approached for this photo. As she drew nearer, the frowns were replaced by smiles as she was told of her winning poster entry. Her parents, Audra and Kurt Kemmerling, are shown at left. Joining them were Bob Devan, OAMS principal (far right), Pam Bird, co-chairperson of the OA SAFE Committee (front right) and Tony Quaranta, OA director of transportation (wearing the hat).

At left, Eric Chang shows off his winning entry, "Peace Without Borders," at OAMS.

Technology *Continued from Page 1*

teachers to access updated averages on a daily basis, print out reports for students and their parents and, with the click of a mouse, automatically download all grades onto a report card.

"E-schools makes my life so much easier because at the end of the quarter, I can just press a button and all my grades just pop into the report card spots," said Kristal Clement, one of OAMS's new teachers who's made use of the grading program.

Bittner and Stiles have offered classes to teachers interested in learning how to use new technology in their classrooms. Each classroom has a built-in overhead projector which is connected to a VCR, the classroom's computer and DVD player. The VCR can broadcast 12 educational television stations and can broadcast to the entire building through a broadcasting cart stationed at OFA.

Teachers also have access to a machine called the ELMO. Unlike standard projectors, which require transparencies, you can place any sheet of paper, a photograph or object on an ELMO and an image of the item is projected.



Students in Chris Mahon's middle school science class use laptop computers during a recent lesson.

Stephen P. Jensen photos

And now OAMS has access to the Smart Board, and interactive white board that acts as a giant computer screen allowing teachers to write on the board, saving the work to their computers, which can then be accessed the following day.

Some technology is not as necessarily new, but the use of it has become

more widespread.

For example, Black Board is a Web site where teachers can maintain pages, uploading homework assignments so students can print them, constructing discussion threads and leaving announcements that both students and parents can access.

Digital senders e-mail documents

to teachers' accounts, which can then be posted on Black Board.

"I scan all of my homework into the digital sender, and then post it on Black Board" said Christina Bangel, OAMS social studies teacher. "Kids can see what we did in class each day, and print off homework assignments, and even class notes. It's great."

The OACSD has a need for substitute nurses at all of our schools

If you have the proper nursing certification, the Owego Apalachin Central School District needs your help. For more information, please call the district personnel department at 687-6223.

What does the Owego Apalachin Central School District want in a superintendent?



Let your voice be heard at one of two public forums being hosted by the OA Board of Education. Let the members of the board know what attributes you find most important in a leader of our schools.

1. Monday, December 5, 2005, 7 p.m. at Apalachin Elementary School
2. Tuesday, December 6, 2005, 7 p.m. at Owego Elementary School

Attention, members of the 2005-2006 Budget Advisory Committee



The first meeting of the year has been scheduled.

The BAC will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, December 12, 2005 in the Board Room, 36 Talcott Street, Owego.

Are you interested in serving on the OA district's Audit Advisory Committee?

What will the Audit Committee do? The OACSD Audit Committee will help the district understand and manage the annual audit process. New state law requires that districts establish an audit committee of at least three members by January 1, 2006. The role of the committee is advisory and its responsibilities include:

- provide recommendations regarding the appointment of the external auditor
- meet with the external auditor prior to the beginning of the audit
- receive and review the draft audit report and management letter
- make a recommendation to the board on accepting the annual audit report
- review any corrective action plans developed by the district

Who can serve on the audit committee? The committee may be comprised of the entire board, a subcommittee of the board or a separate committee. Any separate committee may be composed in part (or even entirely) of non-board members if such membership is advisable to provide accounting and auditing expertise. These members cannot be employees of the district but can be non-residents of the district.

Anyone interested in serving on the Audit Committee should call Marcy Hill, clerk of the board, at 687-6215 or send her an e-mail at hillm@oacsd.org.



Have a news item for us? Here's who to contact in our schools:

<p>At OFA Stephanie Mills millss@oacsd.org</p>	<p>At OAMS Christina Bangel bangelc@oacsd.org</p>	<p>At AES Erin Ripic ripice@oacsd.org</p>	<p>At OES Reathe Woodburn woodburnr@oacsd.org</p>
<p>At the District Office Stephen P. Jensen, Editor jensens@oacsd.org Phone: 687-7124</p>		<p>At the District Office Barb Dornblaser, Associate Editor dornblaserb@oacsd.org Phone: 687-6224</p>	

Owego Apalachin Board of Education

The Owego Apalachin Board of Education meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays each month, unless otherwise indicated. The meetings are held at the Administration Building, 36 Talcott St., Owego. For more information, call 687-6215.

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President

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Gene Cvik
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John Crosby

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Ruth Ann Smith

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For more information regarding the OA Board of Education, check the Owego Apalachin web site at:

<http://oacsd/BOE/Index.htm>

Important Dates On The Owego Apalachin Calendar

DECEMBER 8

Board of Education meeting
District Office – 7 p.m.

DECEMBER 10

ACT Exams
OFA – 7:45 a.m.

DECEMBER 13

Winter Concert, AES
Apalachin Elementary School
7 p.m.

DECEMBER 14

Early Release – Districtwide
OAMS: 12:45 p.m.
OFA: 12:45 p.m.
Elementary: 1:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 15

OFA/OAMS Holiday Concert
OAMS Auditorium – 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 20

Winter Concert, OES
Owego Elementary School – 7 p.m.

DECEMBER 23 to JANUARY 2

Schools Closed – Winter Recess

JANUARY 4, 2006

Financial Aid Info Night
OFA

JANUARY 12

Board of Education meeting
District Office – 7 p.m.

JANUARY 12

OFA Choral Concert
OAMS – 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 16

Schools Closed
Martin Luther King Day

JANUARY 18

Eighth-grade Parent/Student Program
OAMS – 6:30 p.m.

JANUARY 25

Early Release – Districtwide

JANUARY 26

Board of Education meeting
District Office – 7 p.m.



Varsity Winter Sports Calendar, Includes Events Through Jan. 31

DECEMBER 1

♦Bowling @ Oneonta
Holiday Lanes, 3:40 p.m.

DECEMBER 2

♦Girls Basketball
@ Oneonta, 7:45 p.m.
♦Boys Basketball
vs. Oneonta, 7:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 3

♦Volleyball @ Binghamton, Roosevelt
Elementary, 12:45 p.m.
♦Wrestling @ Newark Valley, TBA
♦Boys Swim STAC Fast Times, 9 a.m.

DECEMBER 5

♦Bowling vs. Binghamton
Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.
♦Volleyball
vs. Chenango Forks, 7:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 6

♦Bowling @ U.E.
Ideal Lanes, 3:40 p.m.
♦Boys Basketball @ J.C., 7:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 7

♦Girls Basketball vs. JC, 7:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 8

♦Volleyball vs. Norwich, 7:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 9

♦Boys Swim @ Oneonta, 5:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 10

♦Girls Volleyball “Upstate Clash”,
CFHS, TBA
♦Wrestling @ Elmira, TBA

DECEMBER 12

♦Volleyball @ Sus. Valley, 7:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 13

♦Bowling @ M.E.
Laurel Bowl, 3:40 p.m.
♦Girls Basketball @ M.E., 7:45 p.m.
♦Boys Swim @ Windsor, 5:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 14

♦Boys Basketball vs. M.E., 7:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 15

♦Girls Bowling @ Windsor
Sunset Lanes, 3:40 p.m.
♦Boys Bowling @ Windsor
Sunset Lanes, 3:40 p.m.
♦Girls Volleyball vs. Vestal, 7:45 p.m.
♦Wrestling @ Norwich, 6 p.m.



David G. Boland photo

The Owego Free Academy football team made it to the second round of the Section 4 Class B playoffs this year before facing two-time defending state champions Chenango Forks. The Indians took the Blue Devils to the limit before Forks eventually won the contest, 25-13. After the game at Binghamton's Alumni Stadium, both teams came together in a sign of sportsmanship, shown here.

DECEMBER 16

♦Girls Basketball vs. Norwich, 7:45 p.m.
♦Boys Basketball @ Norwich, 7:45 p.m.
♦Boys Swim
@ Chenango Valley, 5:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 17

♦Wrestling @ J.C. Dual Meet
w/Windsor, TBA
♦Boys Swim Invitational, TBA

DECEMBER 19

♦Girls Volleyball @ M.E., 7:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 20

♦Bowling vs. ESS
Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.
♦Wrestling
@ Chenango Forks, 6 p.m.
♦Boys Basketball
vs. Chenango Forks, 7:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 21

♦Girls Basketball
@ Chenango Forks, 7:45 p.m.

DECEMBER 22

♦Bowling vs. Chenango Forks
Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.
♦Girls Volleyball vs. JC, 7:45 p.m.
♦Boys Swim
vs. Chenango Forks, 5:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 28

♦Wrestling
@ Windsor (Tournament), TBA

DECEMBER 29

♦Wrestling
@ Windsor (Tournament), TBA

JANUARY 3

♦Bowling vs. SV
@ Brandywine Lanes, 3:40 p.m.

JANUARY 4

♦Wrestling @ SV, 6 p.m.
♦Boys Basketball
@ Windsor, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 5

♦Wrestling vs. Vestal, 6 p.m.
♦Girls Volleyball @ CV, 7:45 p.m.
♦Bowling vs. Horseheads
@ Paramount Lanes, 3:40 p.m.

JANUARY 6

♦Girls Basketball
@ CV, 7:45 p.m.
♦Boys Basketball
vs. CV, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 7

♦Wrestling @ UE, Dual Meet, TBA

JANUARY 9

♦Girls Volleyball @ JC, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 10

♦Bowling vs. CV
@ Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.
♦Boys Basketball
vs. SV, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 11

♦Wrestling vs. JC, 6 p.m.
♦Girls Basketball @ SV, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 12

♦Girls Volleyball
@ Whitney Point, 7:45 p.m.
♦Bowling vs. Oneonta
@ Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.

JANUARY 13

♦Girls Basketball
vs. Seton CC, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 14

♦Girls Volleyball
Marcellus Tournament, TBA
♦Boys Basketball
@ Seton CC, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 17

♦Bowling vs. Elmira
@ Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.
♦Girls Basketball
vs. Whitney Point, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 18

♦Boys Basketball
@ Whitney Point, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 19

♦Girls Volleyball
vs. Windsor, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 20

♦Wrestling STAC Tournament
@ Elmira, TBA
♦Girls Basketball
@ JC, 7:45 p.m.
♦Boys Basketball
vs. JC, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 21

♦Wrestling STAC Tournament
@ Elmira, TBA
♦Girls Volleyball
vs. Norwich, 11 a.m.

JANUARY 27

♦Girls Basketball vs. Oneonta, 7:45 p.m.
♦Boys Basketball @ Oneonta, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 28

♦Girls Volleyball
Mott Classic @ Windsor, TBA

JANUARY 31

♦Wrestling vs. ME, 6 p.m.
♦Bowling vs. JC
@ Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.

Student lunch account balances accessible online

Last school year, for the first time in the Owego Apalachin district, parents were able to add to their child's lunch account with a credit card by going through the district's Web site.

Now, through a combination of programs used by OA, parents can check their child's lunch account balance online as well.

In mid-October, the kinks were worked out and the service became available, said Betsy Bacelli, OA supervisor of food service.

"Now, parents can go to our Web site (www.oacsd.org), find the Cafeteria Online Store, at the bottom of the site, and click there," Bacelli said.

From there, parents should click the link for OAFoodServices. From there, they can click on any of the available options, which will present two

How it's done

- ◆ **Go to** the OA Web site at www.oacsd.org
- ◆ **Click** on Cafeteria Online Store, toward bottom of site
- ◆ **Click** on OAFoodServices
- ◆ **Click** on any of the Food Service dollar amounts
- ◆ **Enter** student last name and ID number
- ◆ **Click** on Check Balance icon

- For help, call 687-6284

boxes – one for the student's last name, the other for the student's four-digit identification number. Then, they can click the "check balance" icon at the bottom, left, on the screen.

"Our system is updated in real time," Bacelli said. "If a parent has put money on a child's account, and they come back in an hour, it should show."

Late-afternoon payments may be the exception, said Bacelli. Those balance updates will likely take until the following morning to register, she said.

Also, if a parent does not know, or has forgotten, their child's number, Bacelli said the food service uses the last four digits from the students' ID number, which is the number students were

issued upon their enrolment.

If parents still need help, Bacelli can be reached at 687-6284.

This balance-checking service is provided to parents due to requests that came to Bacelli.

"Parent requests – that's what's driving this," Bacelli said. "It took about a year to get it all coordinated."

Two district systems had to be made compatible in order for this to work, she said. They are RevTrak (the credit card system) and Nutrikids (the district's point-of-sale computerized system).

If parents cannot use the credit card system online, they are still free to send checks (made out to: School Lunch Fund) or cash to the school with their child, or to mail their payments to the main office of their child's school.



Sarah Macchiano photos

ZooMobile: A hands-on experience

As part of their science curriculum, the second-graders at Apalachin Elementary School have been busy learning about different types of animals. The students first studied mammals and are now involved in learning about various other animal groups such as amphibians, reptiles and birds.

To help further engage the students, the Ross Park ZooMobile visited as a culminating activity for the students' unit about mammals, and as an introduction into the other different groupings of animals.

AES kids learn the doubles rap

Tracy Olevano and Stacey Silvestri taught their second graders the doubles rap, which was written by Denise Fabrizio.

The students enjoyed reading and singing as others held up their "double" fact (shown at right). Learning strategies in math helps students think of how they came up with their answer ... then they discuss it.

Encourage your children to work the problems, but to also talk about how they got their answers.



Photo provided

Costs Continued from Page 1

the duration of the contract," he said. "That's what (IES) guaranteed.

"This district has hit 30 percent in the 18-month period, from May 2004 to the end of this October."

That translates to more than \$250,000 in cost avoidance for the district. And according to Kochis, now that the seeds of conservation have been planted at OA, he's optimistic that even more can be done to avoid future costs.

"Here's the cry for help to our staff – our gas prices have gone up 64 percent," Kochis said, "and our electricity prices have gone up 40 percent. So it's going to be a hard winter, and it's going to be even more important that our staff continues to do their part by turning off lights when exiting a room, shutting down their PCs and monitors every day, making sure coffee makers and the like are all off before they leave school each day."

"Members of our faculty and staff provide the eyes and ears in the classrooms and throughout the schools," said Bernard C. Dolan, OA superintendent of schools, "and we rely on their help in continuing this success.

"Just as our residents are plagued by skyrocketing utility costs, so are we as a district," Dolan added. "This program has been a huge success in avoiding unnecessary costs, as well as forcing us to tighten our belts and do more with less. The goal is to not only continue our trend, but to improve on it. There's always room for improvement."

Kochis praised IES for the company's strong support during the 18-month contract.

"As part of the contract, twice a month they'd send a representative here to help me conduct building audits, to train me, to help find energy leaks in our facilities," he said. "Now I will continue these activities with the training I've learned during the last year and a half."

And he'll continue to rely heavily on the solid efforts of the OA maintenance employees.

"The maintenance department already has a full plate, with opening a new school and closing down an old one," said Kochis, who's also been employed as the district's senior network specialist since 1993, "but their continued perseverance is the key to our energy-saving successes."

The program relies heavily on a company's, or in this case, a school district's buy-in, said Kochis. Any savings or cost avoidance directly affects how the people who work for the district comply with the program's suggestions.

"If a teacher walks out of his or her room for five minutes, by them turning off the lights, they save energy," Kochis said. "If a teacher walks past a room with the lights on and no one there, turning off those lights saves energy. Notifying maintenance of outdoor lights that are on during the daytime will save money.

"Much of our savings comes outside of a normal business day," Kochis added. "We don't want to affect the classrooms while students and teachers are at work, but there's no sense in heating a room to its warmest at 3 a.m."

Said Dolan, "We're seeing these large savings because everyone's doing their small part to help."