



A Publication of  
The Owego Apalachin School District

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

## OA schools serving more than just a healthy lunch

*All our schools have nutritious breakfast offerings*

In previous months, we've heard plenty about the Owego Apalachin district's farm-to-table healthy choice options for lunch in our schools.

Betsey Bacelli, supervisor of food services, was featured in a New York Times feature, and following, she appeared on National Public Radio to dis-

cuss how OA is a nationwide leader in this area. Local media outlets then further lauded Bacelli and the program.

But what about breakfast? We've been told since we were children that it's the "most important meal of the day,"

— See **Breakfast** Page 3



### Children can get lunch ... and breakfast at OA

*"Parents should know what great offerings we have for our breakfast program, at all our schools. More whole grains, more fresh fruits. And we're toying with the idea of offering a bonus meal. For example, if parents were to buy in lots of 10 or 20, they'd get a bonus meal."*

- Betsey Bacelli  
OA supervisor of food services

Stephen P. Jensen photo

### Spotlight On: OA Maintenance



## What do they do?

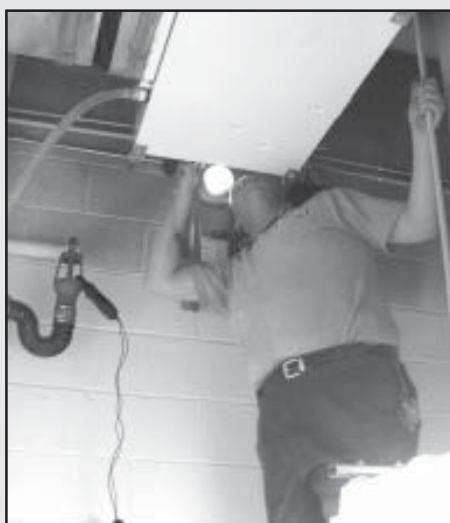
*You'll be amazed*

Ever wonder what it's like to maintain all the properties in the Owego Apalachin Central School District?

Let's say you and nine of your closest friends bought 371 houses, average size 1,800 square feet. You split up the work. Some of you handle plumbing issues, some tend to the heating and cooling needs. The rest make sure the grounds are all mowed and trimmed in warmer months, and in the winter, that snow and ice are always cleared.

Every day.

— See **Maintenance** Page 7



Stephen P. Jensen photos

*Pictured at top, OA maintenance mechanic Ron Bieber (left) and Kurt Thomas, maintenance department foreman, look over the specs for a heat pump that malfunctioned recently at OAMS. Above, Bieber troubleshoots, working to remedy the problem with the pump. There are 108 such pumps in the new middle school, providing heat (and in the warmer weather) air conditioning as water from the district's geothermal field flows through them.*

## Apalachin's Traci Gibson recognized for "Traci's Hope"

### AES parent receives WBNG's Jefferson Award

Traci Gibson of Apalachin was presented with the Jefferson Award by WBNG reporter Kerri O'Hara on Jan. 6. It was a complete surprise to Gibson, the mother of three young boys in the Owego Apalachin district.

Gibson founded "Traci's Hope" as a grassroots outreach organization aimed at helping women who have fought the battle against breast cancer. That venture spurred consideration and eventually, presentation of the Jefferson Award, according to O'Hara, who presented the award in the Gibsons' cabin-in-the-woods spacious living room. Gibson's "dream home," as she described it, was built by her husband Brian.

"I didn't realize it was as big a deal as it is," Gibson said. "It means a lot to me that people think that I'm doing so much for the community because that's what I want to do."

The Jefferson Awards were founded in 1972 to establish national recognition for su-



Stephen P. Jensen photos  
TRACI GIBSON

perior community and public service, according to the WBNG Web site. Recipients are individuals who recognize and give new meaning to the old adage "one person can make a

— See **Traci** Page 4

## Transportation department gets a "refresher"

The Owego Apalachin district held a refresher course/seminar of sorts in January, entitled "Bus Stop Safety is a Team Effort." Exemplifying the very tenet of its name, the gathering pulled together students, parents, transportations reps, district bus drivers and educators.

Why the refresher? Faye Waxman, of the OA transportation department, explained.

It is mandated by the New York State Education Department that all school bus drivers in the state at-

— See **Refresher** Page 4

Left to right, Pat Scanlon, Jillian Strauss and Peter Franz comprised the student segment of a panel assembled for the recent transportation department "refresher."



Stephen P. Jensen photo

## How to reach OA



### Administration

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## Diploma Requirements Based on June 2005 Board of Regents Action to Phase in the 65 Graduation Standard on Required Regents Exams

*Note: The Regents Competency Test safety net for students with disabilities will continue to be available for students entering grade 9 prior to September 2010. Students using this safety net will receive a local diploma. The low-pass option of scoring between 55 and 64 percent on the required Regents exams to earn a local diploma will continue to be available for students with disabilities, without local option.*

Entering Freshman Class	Local Diploma Requirements	Regents Diploma Requirements	Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation Requirements
2005	Score 65 or above on 2 required Regents exams and score 55 or above on 3 required Regents exams. Earn 22 units of credit.	Score 65 or above on 5 required Regents exams. Earn 22 units of credit.	Score 65 or above on 8 required Regents exams. Earn 22 units of credit.
2006	Score 65 or above on 3 required Regents exams and score 55 or above on 2 required Regents exams. Earn 22 units of credit.	Score 65 or above on 5 required Regents exams. Earn 22 units of credit.	Score 65 or above on 8 required Regents exams. Earn 22 units of credit.
2007	Score 65 or above on 4 required Regents exams and score 55 or above on 1 required Regents exam. Earn 22 units of credit.	Score 65 or above on 5 required Regents exams. Earn 22 units of credit.	Score 65 or above on 8 required Regents exams. Earn 22 units of credit.
2008		Score 65 or above on 5 required Regents exams. Earn 22 units of credit.	Score 65 or above on 8 required Regents exams. Earn 22 units of credit.

## Board of Regents implements changes

### Diploma requirements altered, based on June '05 moves

Parents and guardians of students in New York state should be aware of changes for graduation requirements that will impact all students in the very near future.

In June 2005, the New York State Board of Regents phased in changes in what are acceptable grades for passing Regents examinations. Through last school year, students receiving a grade in the range of 55 percent to 64 percent could receive credit for passing an exam, but it would only apply toward a local diploma.

With the majority students at Owego Free Academy will go on to college, they need to have grades of 65 percent or higher to gain entrance. Mastery performance is en-

couraged for all students to strive for at least 85 percent or higher in all academic areas.

The plan by the Board of Regents is to do away with the current range of 55 percent to 64 percent. The changes illustrated in the accompanying chart begin with the freshman class of 2005. Parents and guardians are also encouraged to discuss these changes with their student(s).

If you have any questions of concerns, please contact the OFA Guidance Office to speak with your student's counselor 687-6253. You can also consult the State Education Department Web site at [www.emsc.nysed.gov](http://www.emsc.nysed.gov).

- **Stephanie Mills**



### Sticky science

Students in Stephen Ferraro's fifth-grade class at Owego Elementary School had fun with this hands-on science lesson recently. Said Ferraro, "After learning about plant and animal cells, students made cell models using Jello, Skittles and other tasty treats." How many cell parts can you name?



Photos provided



**WBNG Educator of the Week: OFA's Barb Melby**



OFA science teacher Barb Melby, pictured at far left, was named WBNG's Educator of the Week during January. Channel 12's morning new anchorman James Wilcox is shown here visiting Melby's class and interviewing a few of her students for the weekly feature.



Stephen P. Jensen photos



Photo provided

MIA GATTO

BECKY DuVARNEY

**OFA's DuVarney, Gatto selected for 2005-2006 U.S. Dance Team**

OFA senior Becky DuVarney and sophomore Mia Gatto were recently selected as members of the 2005-2006 United States Dance Team. The OFA students were chosen from more than 1,000 dancers at the United States Tournament of Dance National Competition in Atlantic City.

Then students performed at Madison Square Garden last September for a New York Lady Liberty game, and performed at a New York Knicks game in January.

DuVarney and Gatto will also perform in Atlantic City at the nationals, where Gatto was third runner-up Miss Dance of the U.S. in 2004, and where DuVarney was third runner-up last July. They also were scheduled to dance at Universal Studios in Orlando and Disney World at the end of January.

**U.S. Marine, now serving, visited sister's AES class during the fall**

The students in Stephanie Dilmore's first grade class at Apalachin Elementary School had the pleasure of meeting her brother, Ben Hodgson, during their fall party.



Hodgson is the man they'll recall painting their faces and making them laugh.

Now he's known as Lance Corporal Hodgson, and he's on active duty with the United States Marine Corps

with his Infantry Division serving at Al Asad Airbase, Iraq.

To show support for the men and women serving in the U.S. armed forces in Iraq, Dilmore's class wrote letters and sent a care package to Hodgson and others in his company. Dilmore shared her story about her brother with the rest of the AES staff and invited others to join in writing letters.

The response from AES was wonderful, and Dilmore and her class shipped many letters and the package full of items, thanks to the generosity of the students and staff.

**Breakfast Continued from Page 1**

and today, that hasn't changed. And perhaps shoved to the background when lunch became the star at OA was the extensive, nutritious breakfast program provided here.

"There are studies out there that say eating a good breakfast helps to improve student performance in certain areas," Bacelli said, pointing to a copy of the School Breakfast Report Card, an annual status report published by the Food Research and Action Center.

Research shows that students who eat a school breakfast show a general increase in math and reading scores, according to the report.

"Studies also find that children who eat breakfast at school - closer to class and test-taking time - perform better on standardized tests than those who skip breakfast or eat breakfast at home," the report said.

"We have a consistent elementary school breakfast calendar (which can be seen online at [www.oacsd.org](http://www.oacsd.org), then click on "cafeteria" toward the bottom of the screen)," Bacelli said, adding that there are daily offerings at the high school as well. The middle school also has a breakfast program available.

"We do over 200 breakfasts a day at the high school," she said. "That's unheard of for a high school."

With "National School Breakfast Week" scheduled for March 6-10, and the annual tradition of our elementary schools reading "Green Eggs & Ham" on St. Patrick's Day, Bacelli said a brighter spotlight will soon be on breakfast in schools. But despite bringing in local dignitaries, police officers, firefighters and others to eat breakfast with children during the special week, Bacelli added, "The children don't want to eat



Stephen P. Jensen photo

green eggs most other times."

The importance of parents making sure their children have a balanced breakfast can't be overemphasized, said Bacelli. If for any reason, such opportunities don't exist at home, parents should consider the school.

"Studies not only show that hungry children have problems in the classroom," the School Breakfast Scorecard said, "but that school breakfast can help. Students who participate in school breakfast have lower rates of absence and tardiness and exhibit decreased behavioral and psychological problems.

"In addition, children who eat school breakfast have fewer discipline problems and visit school nurses less often."

The School Breakfast Program can also serve as an important preventive measure in our nation's battle to improve child nutrition and reduce childhood obesity," Bacelli said.

Breakfasts served as part of the School Breakfast Program are required to provide one-fourth or more of the key nutrients children need every day, according to the scorecard, and they contain no more than 30 percent of calories from fat and 10 percent of calories from saturated fat.

Research also indicates that children who participate in

school breakfast eat more fruits, drink more milk and consume less saturated fat than those who do not eat school breakfast or who have breakfast at home.

"The availability of a breakfast program in our schools ensures that students who, for whatever reason, do not eat breakfast at home can still start the day with a nutritious meal," Bacelli said. "In the short term, this means that they will not be as hungry for the rest of the day and thus will not be tempted to overeat at other meals or snack on high fat, high sugar foods before lunch.

"In the longer term, the availability of school breakfast can help build a lifelong breakfast habit that has the potential to contribute significantly to good health in adulthood."

**Charge it at OA**

The OA district this year continues its program whereby parents may put money on student accounts using MasterCard and Visa. Parents can follow links from the district's Web site ([www.oacsd.org](http://www.oacsd.org)) to fill out the order form on a secure site.

Parents may also put money on a student's account by mailing a check or sending cash with students.

To charge food services, go to the district's site and click on "Cafeteria - Online Store" at the bottom of the home page. From there, click on "OAFood Service" and follow directions from the page.

To pay by check, make them payable to "School Lunch Fund" and either send them to school with your child, or mail that payment to: Owego Apalachin School District, Food Services Department, 100 Elm Street, Owego N.Y. 13827.

More info: Betsey Bacelli or Nancy Ruiz at 687-6284.

- Stephen P. Jensen

**Traci Continued from Page 1**

difference.”

“I want to help people,” Gibson said. “It means a lot that my friends think so much of me and would nominate me. It makes me proud to know that they’re proud of me.”

It was actually Gibson’s mother, Mary Shiner of Ross Corners, who nominated her for the award. Gordon Shiner, Gibson’s father, was also in on it.

“They’ve been right here for me all along, helping me with everything,” Gibson said of her parents, alluding to the unfortunate genesis of “Traci’s Hope.”

**Six years ago**

“I was diagnosed six years ago with Stage IIIB breast cancer, and by the time we found it, it had spread to the lymph nodes,” she said. “The prognosis was that I had less than a 5 percent chance of five years survival.”

Adding insult to injury, Gibson said that a year and a half later, the cancer had invaded her bones.

“I’m always on treatment of some kind, and I’ll always be on some chemotherapy, unless someone comes along with a magic wand, which I’m always open to,” she said, flashing her resilient flare. “The chemo is to try to contain it and keep it from getting worse. It’s been a little worse lately, a little aggressive lately, so we’ve had to change our chemo and I’m getting better results now.”

Gibson explained why there’s a need to change her treatments from time to time.

“It’s like the cancer gets smart and it changes – it mutates,” she said. “So they have to change the chemo for a while until the cancer starts to progress, and then they change it again.”

“It’s never really gone away.”

**“Hope” is born**

Traci Gibson beat the odds. When she passed the five-year mark, she said she wanted to throw a party.

“I wanted to celebrate the fact that, you know, we did it,” she said. “But then it changed and I grew my thoughts as we started to plan my party. First it was a party, then I wanted ev-



Top, Traci Gibson and her mother, Mary Shiner, point to one of many family photos Mrs. Shiner had made into a quilt for the Gibsons, as friends gather around on Jan. 6, the day Traci Gibson received the Jefferson Award.

Above, a framed photo of Traci, her husband Brian and their boys (Jeffe, Nathan and Shane) sits atop the quilt of photos.

Right, Traci Gibson is pictured as the 15-year-old Miss New York U.S. Teenager from Ross Corners.

Stephen P. Jensen photos

everyone who helped me along the way to come.

“And then it really grew from a back yard barbecue, and we decided to create some fun and come invited people to come and help us help others.”

And “Traci’s Hope” was born.

“We had our second annual ‘Traci’s Hope’ barbecue in October (2005), and we’ve raised quite a bit of money,” Gibson said. They sell t-shirts and bracelets and packaged coffee, and all the proceeds get turned around into grants to help others suffering from breast cancer, she said.

“It could be a medical bill, but I like to help with other, more personal items,” she said.

“The medical bills will always be there. They never will go away. But if someone needs help with a NYSEG bill, or a car payment or gas cards or mortgage. It just depends on the person,” Gibson added. “We bought a dishwasher for a woman who was just too tired to do dishes for her family.”

Facing such a challenge, many would ask Gibson why she’d undertake such a high-energy venture.

**Changing focus**

“It’s something helpful to

do for others, and I can focus on their problems versus my own for a while,” she admitted. “It makes it easy to understand and sympathize with their troubles because I’m going through it myself. And I know how important it is to just have those simple things taken care of.”

Simple things, or perhaps somewhat larger gestures of kindness and appreciation, such as another surprise the Gibsons received just prior to Christmas.

**Surprise trip**

The parents group, faculty and staff at Apalachin Elementary School presented a

one-week trip to Disneyworld to the Gibsons.

“I know there were a lot of people involved in it and I’d hate to leave someone out,” Gibson said. “They know we’ve been through so much. They came up the week before Christmas and started singing Merry Christmas to me.”

The arrangements were all made for the Gibsons, and everything from plane tickets, a Holiday Inn stay in Florida and tickets to various theme parks were paid for through contributions and donations, Gibson said.

“They took care of everything,” she said, as she took a break from packing the day before she, Brian and the boys (OAMS seventh-grader Shane, AES fifth-grader Jeffe and AES first-grader Nathan) headed out for their mid-January getaway.

“I wish I could send every one of them to Disney,” Gibson said of those who made the trip possible for her family. “No matter how much I do, someone does so much more for me.”

**A legacy**

On the day she received the Jefferson Award, Gibson stood with friends in her dining area, chatting and looking at family photos.

Gibson’s mother had brought along a large, framed photo of a 15-year-old Vestal High girl who’d been crowned Miss New York U.S. Teenager.

“Yes, that was me,” Gibson said later, laughing.

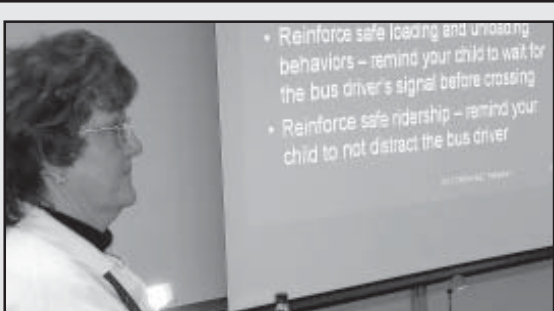
She explained that she had won a local competition, then moved on to a state-level event in Albany. Asked if there was a talent portion of the competition, Gibson pointed out that it was optional and that a separate award was given for such things.

“I opted out,” she said, still laughing. “I had no talent.”

But now, she has a Jefferson Award, and others have “Traci’s Hope.”

“I hope the legacy I leave my kids is what it’s like to help others,” she said, “and to look outside yourself and see what others are going through.”

- Stephen P. Jensen



Stephen P. Jensen photos

**Refresher Continued from Page 1**

tend a minimum of two hours of refresher instruction in school bus safety at least two times a year.

“The benefit of the refresher training is just that,” Waxman said. “They are meant to refresh the drivers, to revitalize them. It’s a time to come together to discuss and address issues, incidents and special topics enabling drivers to continue to provide the best, safest transportation they can to our

district’s future, our children.”

The January refresher focused on bus stop safety. A panel was assembled, including educators, parents and student leaders.

“I believe the panel members were appreciative of being included,” said Waxman, “and the parents were very interested in the part they can, should and will play on the in the team’s effort to continue to provide

safety to our children. Working together, we can achieve more.”

The panel for the refresher: students Pat Scanlon, Jillian Strauss and Peter Franz; parent reps Johnna “Sissy” Johnson (OES) and Nancy McQueeny (AES); Willie Davis, OFA dean of students; Karen Vinti, school resource officer; and transportation reps Pam Baker and Debi Ferguson.

# '91 OFA grad making his way as stand-up comic

*Morrissey misses date with "Ellen," but Wendy's contest was invaluable experience*

Paul Morrissey, who graduated from Owego Free Academy in 1991, late last year had the opportunity of a lifetime. Morrissey, making the rounds as a standup comedian, had been a part of the Wendy's Comedy Challenge.

The winner of the competition was to have appeared on the "Ellen" weekday morning talk show, and with momentum, Morrissey made a nice run at the prize, placing in the final five comedians for the event.

However, a recent e-mail from Morrissey revealed the bad news: "For those wondering, it's true. Of the five finalists in the Wendy's Comedy Challenge, I was not chosen by Ellen DeGeneres to perform on her show," Morrissey said.

But from there, the e-mail picked up considerably.

"Just from that weekend, I'll be appearing on TBS, HBO and ESPN Hollywood in the future," he said, "so that's not too shabby. And this experience will be invaluable if I'm lucky enough to perform at the other big comedy festivals in Aspen and Montreal."

For the Wendy's competition, the winner was picked by Ellen herself, after she watched video tapes.

"It was a lot of work trying to come up with the perfect, clean, TV-ready five minute set," Morrissey said. "I can't say my set was 'perfect,' but it was good. And while Ellen DeGeneres



PAUL MORRISSEY, OFA Class of '91

Photo provided

didn't pick me to appear on her show, I won't take it personally. Maybe I'm not her cup of tea. I can't get discouraged just because one person doesn't like my

comedy. If that was true I would have quit after my first show. So I can't take it personally.

"Well, that's not true," he went

on to say.

"I've got to take it a little personal. After all, she didn't choose me. I have to at least stop watching her show, right? Wait a minute, I don't even watch her show and I'm getting off track. The point is, I did have a good show and got some great exposure out of being at the festival.

"I've taken great strides in the last few months of my comedy career and I'm very confident that lots of good things lie ahead for me."

Morrissey made the final five in the competition as a result of an Internet poll. Viewers could log on, view competitors' comedy routines, and vote.

"I can't thank everyone enough who voted and supported me in this," he said. "I'm hopeful that sometime in the future I'll be funny enough to be on TV and you'll see me, smile and say, 'I got a mass e-mail from that guy a couple of times."

"Hey, is he wearing my shirt?"

Morrissey said his fondest – and most abundant – memories of high school are of basketball.

"I pretty much lived in that OFA gym and the Boys Club playing hoops night and day," he said.

"One of the highlights, thanks to entire community, especially my dad and your current varsity coach Chris Evans (who was also my freshman coach at Owego), we raised money to send our varsity team to Ireland in 1990 for a 10-day tour, playing against club and national teams."

To view Morrissey's Web site, log on at [www.paulhasawebsite.com](http://www.paulhasawebsite.com).

- Stephen P. Jensen

## OAMS Auction Details Coming Soon

*A detailed list will be available after a date has been set to auction items at the old middle school.*

*Here are just some of the numerous items that will be available at the upcoming auction:*

- ◆ Stereo equipment
- ◆ Speakers
- ◆ Wooden tables
- ◆ Metal tables
- ◆ File cabinets
- ◆ Copy machine
- ◆ Rolling carts
- ◆ Plastic and wooden chairs
- ◆ A weight machine
- ◆ Many teacher desks
- ◆ Book shelves of various sizes
- ◆ Cots
- ◆ Storage units
- ◆ And more

## OA kindergarten registration is Feb. 7, 8 and 9

Pre-registration for children who will be attending kindergarten for the first time will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m. on Feb. 7, 8 and 9 at Owego and Apalachin elementary schools.

Parents and guardians whose children are on the school census list have been sent individual letters informing them of the school to which they should report for this preliminary registration.

The school a child will attend will depend upon transportation routes, which are modified after the school cen-

### Questions?

Call Michael A. Melamed, OA coordinator of instruction, at 687-6227, or send him an e-mail at [melamedm@oacsd.org](mailto:melamedm@oacsd.org).

sus has been completed and the number of children registered at each school is determined.

Parents who are unable to register their children at these times should contact the school principal to arrange a time that is convenient for both parties.

### NOTES

Sgt. Corey Coyne visited Owego Apalachin Middle School on Dec. 22, 2005, to present Bob Devan, OAMS principal, with a flag that had ceremoniously flown over Coyne's base in Iraq.

Coyne, who is a 2000 OFA graduate, served in Operation Iraqi Freedom from March through December 2004 in Balad, Iraq.

The flag now flies over OAMS every day.

Students from OAMS and OES wrote Coyne many letters and cards.

They also collected supplies for students in Iraq. OAMS faculty and staff



Stephen P. Jensen photo

Corey Coyne, right, presents the flag to Bob Devan in December.

shipped seven boxes of school supplies, books, toys and clothing. A captain from Coyne's unit delivered the supplies to a school that they helped to rebuild.

He is the son of Tari Coyne-Horton, counselor at OAMS.

Children who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2006, are eligible to enter kindergarten for the 2006-2007 school year.

All registered children will be screened in the areas of speech, language, vision, hearing, fine motor and gross motor skills.

This screening is required by the New York State Department of Education and will help the district identify any special needs a child may have.

Parents or guardians should bring their child's birth certificate or its equivalent.

They are reminded that New York state laws require written proof that all students have immunization against polio, measles, diphtheria, mumps and rubella or medical verification of any of these illnesses.

Apalachin Elementary School is located at 405 Pennsylvania Avenue, Apalachin. Owego Elementary School is located at 1 Christa McAuliffe Lane, Owego.

Joseph DiCosimo is principal at AES and can be reached by phone at 687-6289. George Thearle is principal at OES and can be reached at 687-6261.

### OAMS cast chosen

Auditions for "You Ain't Nothin' But A Werewolf" were held recently at Owego Apalachin Middle School, and 105 would-be thespians auditioned, with 31 winning speaking parts. Another 45 will be on stage singing and dancing in the opening and closing numbers of Acts I and II. The rest of the students were offered a chance to participate behind the scenes.

Under the direction of teachers Susan Georgia and Robin Seward, the cast and crew will prepare for their March debut.

The following middle school students are involved in

the play this year:

Victoria Barton, James Mead, Holly Berg, Jake Mendelson, Rachel Berryman, Morgan Phelps, Alysah Berwald, Jordan Schreiner, Corrine Capelli, Rachel Scott, Nev Chandrica, Paul Shotwell, Aundraya Dancy, Elizabeth Skovira, Joe Davis, Kathy Smith, Kendra Dewey-Wright, Jillian Strauss, Tim Duffy, David Swenton, Mackenzie Ellis, Jessica Trotman, Keegan Evans, Morgan Vail, Marina Fargnoli, Emily Warfle, Jonny Gatto, Dylan Wyrrough, Amanda George, Marisa George, Rachel Grant and Corinne Grenier.

## Varsity Winter Sports Calendar, Includes Events Through March 17

### FEBRUARY 2

◆Bowling vs. M-E  
@ Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 3

◆Boys Swim vs. Norwich, 5:30 p.m.  
◆Girls Basketball vs. M-E, 7:45 p.m.  
◆Boys Basketball vs. M-E, 7:45 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 4

◆Volleyball @ Oneonta, 1 p.m.  
◆Wrestling Section IV  
Class Meet

### FEBRUARY 6

◆Volleyball vs. M-E, 7:45 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 7

◆Bowling  
@ Norwich Lanes, 3:40 p.m.  
◆Girls Basketball  
@ Norwich, 7:45 p.m.  
◆Wrestling @ Ithaca, 6 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 8

◆Volleyball STAC  
Division Tie-Breaker, TBA  
◆Boys Basketball  
vs. Norwich, 7:45 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 9

◆Bowling STAC  
Semi-Finals  
@ Midway Lanes, 3 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 10

◆Volleyball  
STAC Semi-Finals, 6 p.m.  
◆Girls Basketball  
STAC Division Tiebreaker, TBA  
◆Boys Basketball  
STAC Division Tiebreaker, TBA  
◆Wrestling  
Section IV Finals, Arena, TBA

### FEBRUARY 11

◆Wrestling  
Section IV Finals, Arena, TBA

### FEBRUARY 13

◆Volleyball STAC Finals, 6 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 14

◆Bowling STAC  
Finals @ Laurel Bowl, 3 p.m.  
◆Girls Basketball  
STAC Semi-Finals, Arena, TBA  
◆Boys Basketball  
STAC Semi-Finals, Arena, TBA

### FEBRUARY 15

◆Boys Swim  
Section IV Championships, TBA  
◆Girls Basketball  
STAC Semi-Finals, Arena, TBA  
◆Boys Basketball  
STAC Semi-Finals, Arena, TBA

### FEBRUARY 16

◆Volleyball  
Section 4 Tournament, TBA

### FEBRUARY 17

◆Boys Swim Section IV  
Championships, TBA  
◆Bowling Section 4  
Championships  
@ Midway Lanes, 9 a.m.  
◆Girls Basketball  
Semi-Finals, Arena, TBA  
◆Boys Basketball  
Semi-Finals, Arena, TBA

### FEBRUARY 18

◆Boys Swim  
Section IV Championships, TBA  
◆Bowling Section 4  
Championships  
@ Midway Lanes, 9 a.m.

### FEBRUARY 21

◆Boys Basketball  
Section IV Tournament, TBA

### FEBRUARY 22

◆Girls Basketball  
Section IV Tournament, TBA

### FEBRUARY 24

◆Wrestling  
State Championships, TBA

### FEBRUARY 25

◆Bowling Section 4  
State Qualifier  
@ Midway Lanes, 9 a.m.  
◆Volleyball  
NYSPHSAA Games, TBA

### FEBRUARY 28

◆Volleyball STAC  
Senior Showcase  
@ M-E, 6 p.m.

### MARCH 3

◆Boys Swim  
NYSPHSAA Championships,  
@ Erie Community College, TBA  
◆Boys Bowling  
State Championships, TBA

### MARCH 4

◆Boys Swim  
NYSPHSAA Championships  
@ Erie Community College, TBA  
◆Girls Bowling  
State Championships, TBA  
◆Boys Basketball  
Section IV Finals, Arena, TBA

### MARCH 7

◆Girls Basketball  
NYSPHSAA Regionals, TBA  
◆Boys Basketball  
NYSPHSAA Regionals, TBA

### MARCH 9

◆Girls Basketball  
NYSPHSAA STAC Senior Showcase  
@ Binghamton, 6 p.m.  
◆Boys Basketball  
NYSPHSAA STAC Senior Showcase  
@ Binghamton, 7:45 p.m.

### MARCH 17

◆Girls Basketball  
NYSPHSAA State Championships  
@ The Civic Center, TBA  
◆Boys Basketball  
NYSPHSAA State Championships  
@ The Civic Center, TBA



Full sports schedules  
can be found on the  
Owego Apalachin  
Web site by going to  
[www.oacsd.org](http://www.oacsd.org), then  
clicking on "Athletics."

## Important Dates: OA Calendar

### FEBRUARY 9

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

### FEBRUARY 10

OFA Musical  
OAMS Theater – 7:30 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 11

OFA Musical  
OAMS Theater – 7:30 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 12

OFA Musical  
OAMS Theater – 2:30 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 16

Concert Band Showcase  
OAMS Theater – 7 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 20-24

NO SCHOOL  
Mid-Term Recess

### FEBRUARY 23

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

### MARCH 4

TCMEA All-County Concert  
OAMS Theater – 3 p.m.

### MARCH 9

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

### MARCH 10

NO SCHOOL  
Superintendent's Conference Day

### MARCH 11

TCMEA All-County Concert  
OAMS Theater – 3 p.m.

### MARCH 16

OFA Jazz Night – 7:30 p.m.

### MARCH 22

Junior/Parent Planning Night  
Owego Free Academy – 6:30 p.m.

### Remaining BAC meeting schedule

- ◆February 6
- ◆February 13
- ◆February 27
- ◆March 6

All meetings begin at 6 p.m.  
at the OA Administration  
Building, 36 Talcott St.,  
Owego. All meetings are  
open to the public. This  
schedule is subject to change.



### Owego Apalachin Fitness Center Hours

From Jan. 7 through April 17

- MONDAYS:** 2:30-5 p.m. (students, staff)
- TUESDAY:** 2:30-5 p.m. (students, staff)
- WEDNESDAYS:** 2:30-5 (students, staff);  
5-8 p.m. (students, staff and community)
- THURSDAY:** 2:30-5 (students, staff);  
5-8 p.m. (students, staff and community)
- FRIDAYS:** 2:30-5 p.m. (students, staff);  
5-7 p.m. (students, staff and community)
- SATURDAYS:** 9-11 a.m. (students, staff and community)

### The OACSD has a need for substitute nurses at all of our district's 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.



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

At OFA  
Stephanie Mills  
[millss@oacsd.org](mailto:millss@oacsd.org)

At OAMS  
Christina Bangel  
[bangelc@oacsd.org](mailto:bangelc@oacsd.org)

At AES  
Erin Ripic  
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At the District Office  
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Phone: 687-6224

**Maintenance** *Continued from Page 1*

Now you have a general overview of what it takes to maintain OA's facilities.

According to Tony Clark, OA supervisor of facilities, the district's total square footage of its buildings is roughly 667,561 square feet, 283,500 of that encompassing the high school and new middle school complex.

The maintenance department, with nearly all its employees titled as "maintenance mechanics," total just 10 people, said Clark.

"Four come out every day and work in the buildings, then there are three who work on the grounds," he said. "Kurt (Thomas) is the foreman, Jodi Lindhorst is the department secretary, and there's me."

An average day for Clark's department begins with employees covering any health and safety issues, district-wide, such as broken lights, slippery conditions, things of that nature.

"Anything that would cause slips, trips and falls," Clark said.

Then they check for emergency work orders, such as a situation where a classroom or office that has no heat.

"We have 187 classrooms in the district," Clark said, "and that's not counting band rooms, practice rooms, meeting rooms, offices, etc."

"Take one school, for example. At the high school, look at all the plumbing fixtures (there are 610 total, including toilets, urinals, drinking fountains, sinks, showers, faucets and more)," Clark said.

"That's one school. Even if you just look at one of the elementary schools, take Apalachin Elementary. That's 78,039 square feet (and 215 plumbing fixtures)."

Adding to the madness is an efficiently heated and cooled new middle school, thanks to a geothermal system.

However, in that school alone there are 108 "heat pumps" that supply heating and cooling throughout OAMS. From time to time, one may present a problem, and the me-



*Photos provided*

*In the Owego Apalachin maintenance department, four maintenance mechanics work in the schools, while three are assigned to work on the grounds.*

**Did you know?**

*The following items are literally just a small percentage of the items that may require attention from the OA Maintenance Department on any given day.*

Item	At OFA	At OAMS	At OES	At AES	4-school total
Faucets	239	76	69	57	441
Urinals	31	18	12	12	73
Toilets	63	45	49	33	190
Drinking fountains	10	12	48	12	82
Sinks	106	56	54	41	257
Showers	51	12	8	8	79
Exhaust fans	22	46	17	25	110
Doors & hardware	307	132	88	128	655
Windows	350	161	223	196	930
Light fixtures	1,715	1,389	928	857	4,889

chanics go to work, troubleshooting.

"The pumps are hooked into our geothermal field," Clark said. "The water from the field is being pumped through them to either heat or cool, depending on the climate out-

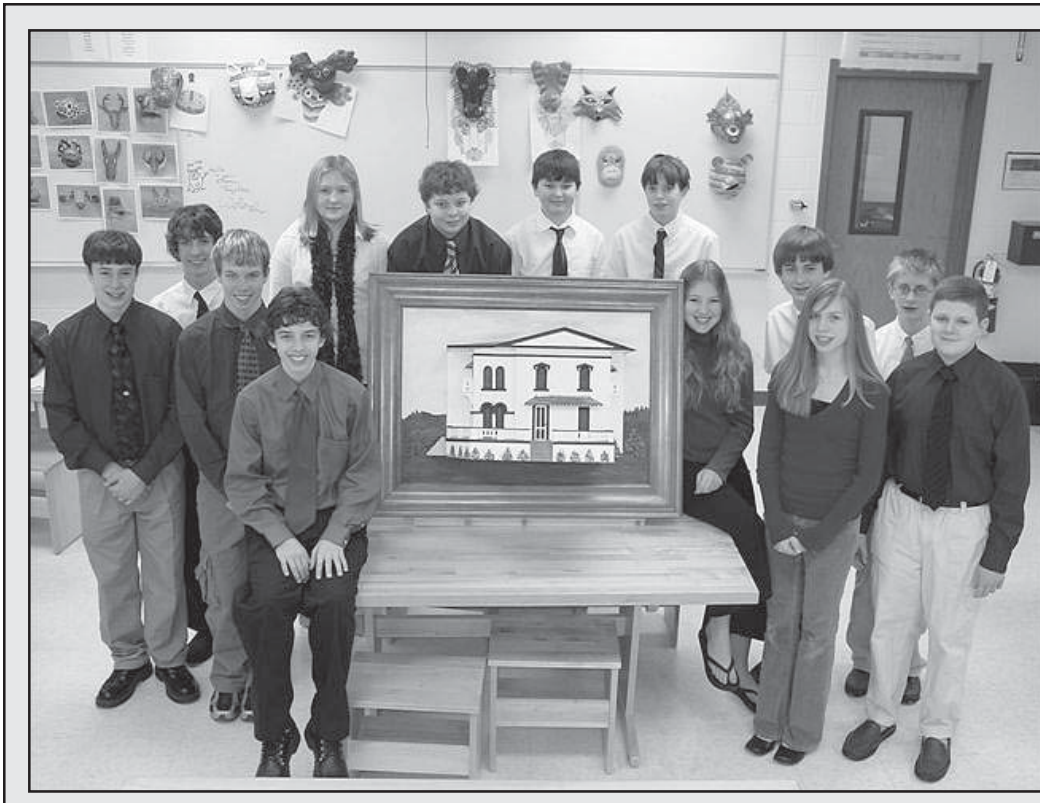
doors. "Another way we like to look at how we work here, we say that most people have two, three sinks in their home. They have a toilet, maybe two. Well, how would you like to fix 400 sinks? That's how I think of it, when we're explaining what it

is we do."

Clark revisited his example of the friends buying, then maintaining all those houses. Even if you only took the total square footage of the OFA/OAMS complex, at more than 283,500, that's still a mas-

sive housing project to look after. "If you divide that by the average house at 1,800 square feet, that puts us at 157-and-a-half house," Clark said. "Any way you look at it, we're busy."

**- Stephen P. Jensen**



*Photos provided*

**Our architects**

*Members of the "Architectural Awareness Program," a club at OAMS, recently participated in the annual showcase at Tioga Central to display their project, which was the Glenmary Inn of Owego. Don Schultz, OAMS technology teacher, and Sue Anderson, OAMS art teacher, are co-advisers for the club.*



Stephen P. Jensen photos



### Cutting edge

In December, students in the Owego Apalachin Middle School technology classes got together to build small, wooden toys for playing tic-tac-toe.

The students, under the direction of technology teachers Don Schultz and Nate Brown, then donated the toys to charity during the holidays.

