



Happy New Year!

NEWS

A Publication of
The Owego Apalachin School District



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

Gingerbread Visions

Kindergarteners at AES listened to the story of "The Gingerbread Man" before creating their own gingerbread men in George Van Houten's art class recently. For more photos, see Page 5.

Stephen P. Jensen photo



2 veteran educators join OA through June

The Owego Apalachin Central School District Board of Education announced a series of personnel moves at an "emergency" meeting held Dec. 14, 2005.

William Riddleberger, OA Board of Education president, made the primary

See Interim Page 3

A Holiday Lesson

Students Learn the Secrets of Native Americans



Just prior to Thanksgiving break, students in Suzanne Peacock's second grade class at Owego Elementary School gave presentations about their research into four Native American tribes. Other OES students, some pictured here, came to Peacock's classroom to listen and learn more. To see more photos and read about the lesson, see Pages 6-7.

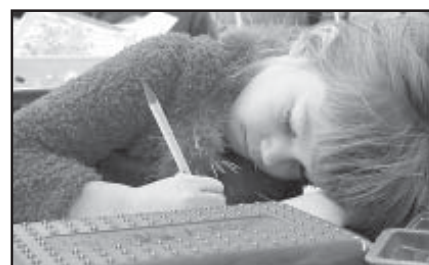
Stephen P. Jensen photos

Literacy Collaborative takes hold at OES

Ask Denise Fabrizio what she sees as the biggest difference between her 2004-2005 training year at Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass., and her first year as the coordinator for the K-2 Literacy Collaborative program at Owego Elementary School, and her response might seem a bit ironic.

"I'm the teacher," she'd say.

See Literacy Page 4



The goal of Literacy Collaborative is to help children in grades K-2 become competent, independent readers and writers.

Stephen P. Jensen photo

How to reach OA



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BAC meetings under way

Advisory group takes a look at zero-based approach for next budget

The budget season officially kicked off with the first Budget Advisory Committee meeting being held Dec. 12, at which a timetable for future BAC meetings was set, and last year's process was reviewed.

According to Laura Lindsley, Owego Apalachin business official, members of the BAC were forthright in their critiques of last year's process, citing not only the positive aspects of the group's 2005-06 work, but the shortcomings as well.

"As for my goal for this year's Budget Advisory Committee, it's simple," said Gene Cvik, OA board member and BAC chairman. "To continue with this board's commitment to keeping the community informed on all issues of the district, as best we can.

"Given the problems we've had over the last four years passing a budget (down three out of four times on the first pass), even with a BAC last year," Cvik said, "we obviously need to obtain our community's trust and support. I see the BAC as our best means of doing that."

Bill Eschler, who was a member of last year's BAC, is back again and at the Dec. 12 meeting volunteered to co-chair the group, alongside Cvik.

At the first meeting, Lindsley explained the "zero-based budget" approach the district is taking this year, and by-and-large, the concept was embraced by members of the BAC.

The general concept of the approach is for the district to look at long-range solutions in all areas of concern, as they're brought forward by members

BAC meeting schedule

- ♦ January 2
- ♦ January 16
- ♦ January 30
- ♦ February 13
- ♦ February 27
- ♦ March 6
- ♦ March 13 (if necessary)

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.

of the community. The largest areas of cost are being addressed first, with transportation, health insurance, retirement and field trips being mentioned as primary concerns by the BAC.

"A zero-based budget requires each manager to justify his or her entire budget request in detail, and from scratch," Lindsley said. "It shifts the burden of proof to each manager to justify why they feel they should spend any money at all.

"But zero-based budgeting is more than just starting from scratch," Lindsley added. "It incorporates a number of management concepts."

Those include:

- ♦ Cost-benefit analysis
- ♦ Problem-solving
- ♦ Systems analysis
- ♦ Decentralized decision-making
- ♦ Accountability/project management

- ♦ Management by objectives

"Essentially, we're now focusing on the 'what, why and how' issues, as well as the 'how much' questions," said Lindsley.

Becky Goodrich, OA Board of Education member, said at the first BAC meeting that her goal throughout this year's process is to have the board hear from the community and to have the budget pass the first time.

"During the first meeting of the BAC, we discussed what was done last year and we got the perspective of former BAC members," said Goodrich. "It's my hope, through the zero-based budget approach, that our administrators will have the opportunity to begin to analyze their building budget needs and perhaps creatively challenge themselves to be more cost-effective.

"I'm hopeful that we will be able to reduce the amount of transferring between budgets that has occurred since the last budget was approved," said Goodrich. "In this respect, we'll be better able to see where our costs are."

Jack Legg, a BAC member last year, is back on the committee again this year.

"Regarding my experience, and others who served last year, it will be extremely helpful for this year's budget," Legg said. "We will be able to get to the particular areas of the budget without having to have a crash course about school budgets.

"We can also help the new members of the BAC understand some of the nuances of what goes on. Of course, I still have more to learn, but I feel we have an outstanding person in Laura (Lindsley) to help us get the answers to any questions that we may have."

Legg agreed that a zero-based budget approach is the way to go for the 2006-07 district financial plan.

"I will be available to anyone who has questions or wants additional info," he said. "I feel that the public will see that we are serious about putting up a good budget with everyone's best interests in mind."

Tioga Adult Learning Lab lists class offerings

The Tioga Adult Learning Lab, also known as TALL, has announced its schedule for the upcoming months, beginning Jan. 9. The lab, held in Room 279 at Owego Free Academy, 3 Sheldon Guile Blvd., Owego, re-opens after the holiday break at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 3.

TALL, a program of Literacy Volunteers of Broome/Tioga Counties, Inc., holds open lab times, classes and workshops in OFA's Room 279. The following is the upcoming schedule:

- Jan. 3** – Lab re-opens at 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 3, 4, 5** – Open lab time 5:30

to 9 p.m. (walk-in or by appointment)

Jan. 9 and 11 (Mon-Wed session) – "Internet Basics" class

Jan. 10 and 12 (Tues-Thurs session) – "Internet Basics" class

Jan. 16 – Lab closed, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 17, 18, 19 - Open lab time 5:30 to 9 p.m. (walk-in or by appointment)

Jan. 23 and 25 (Mon-Wed session) – "PowerPoint Basics" class

Jan. 24, 26, 30 and Feb. 1 - Open lab time 5:30 to 9 p.m. (walk-in or by

appointment)

Jan. 31 and Feb. 2 (Tues and Thurs session) – "PowerPoint Basics"

Feb. 6, 8, 13, 15 (Mon-Wed session) – "Excel Basics" class

Feb. 9 – Lab closed, yearly staff event

Feb. 20, 21, 22, 23 – Lab closed, winter break

Call the Literacy Volunteers office at 748-5478 to sign up for a class, schedule a one-on-one tutoring appointment or for more information about any upcoming offerings.

Important Dates On The Owego Apalachin Calendar

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 Theater - 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 16
Schools Closed
Martin Luther King Day

JANUARY 18
8th Grade Parent/Student Program

OAMS – 6:30 p.m.

JANUARY 25
Early Release Day
District Wide

JANUARY 26
Board of Education meeting
District Office – 7 p.m.

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.

Interim Continued from Page 1

announcement that Bernard C. Dolan Jr., who recently accepted the position of interim superintendent of schools, has stepped down in that capacity, citing a need to concentrate on recovery after recent extensive back surgery.

At the same time, two education professionals have stepped into interim positions at OA, as each began working in the district just prior to the holiday break.

Filling the role of interim superintendent during the district's search to permanently fill that position is Joseph Sever, who retired as assistant superintendent of instruction for the Whitney Point district. Sever has experience in several interim roles with other districts, and at various levels of administration, from elementary to the superintendent slot.

Also joining the OA administration in an interim capacity is Michael Melamed, who retired from the position of assistant superintendent of instruction with the Binghamton City school district. He most recently worked as interim assistant superintendent at Susquehanna Valley, filling that role from January to the summer of 2005.

Melamed steps in to replace Deborah Pichette, who recently accepted the position of director of curriculum and



JOE SEVER



MIKE MELAMED

staff development with the Lansing Central school district. Pichette's last day with OA was Dec. 19, 2005.

Dolan had been named interim superintendent Oct. 20, 2005.

According to Riddleberger, Dolan will return to the district in his role as associate superintendent of schools following his recovery. No definite date has been established for Dolan's return.

"My initial impression of the Owego Apalachin district is of its caring employees," said Sever, who spent most of his day Dec. 20 touring the school buildings with Melamed. They also spent time that day at the district transportation facility. "Everyone's been very cooperative. This is a district where Mike and I will fit well. People have been most helpful."

"I find that what's happening in

the buildings is very exciting," Melamed said shortly after his tours. "The district is clearly focused on students and my impressions are that the administrators, teachers and members of the support staff are very dedicated and committed."

Sever said his management style is inclusive, as he will look for input when decisions are to be made.

"I seek opinions and I operate with a great deal of communication," Sever said. "I'll be honest and give reasons why I make certain decisions, and worst-case scenario, I hope we'll agree to disagree."

"But all of my decisions will be based first on what's in the best interest of students, followed by what's in the best interest of the district, and then the staff members. We're here for the kids. They have to be our focus."

Sever began his education career as a French teacher and spent 22 years, in various positions, with the Union-Endicott district before making the transition to Whitney Point. He spent the next "13 or 14 years" there before his retirement.

Sever, who lists being a grandfather among his most cherished accomplishments, is a golfer, enjoys boating and water skiing, and in the winter, is known to challenge a mogul now and again.

"I've been fairly successful (as an interim)," said Sever. "I come in without an agenda. I'm looking to get input from those around me and to help this district continue to move ahead."

Superintendent search

With January brings the dissemination of a "search brochure," intended to attract applicants to the OA permanent superintendent position.

Deadline for applications for the OA superintendent position is Feb. 17. A tentative date in mid-March will be solidified later for the OA Board of Education to meet for candidate selection.

The first round of interviews for the next OA superintendent is scheduled for March 28, 29 and 30. Final interviews are scheduled for April 10, 11 and 12. Those dates are subject to change.



Photo provided

Lockheed Martin engineers step into OFA class, presenting new challenges

Lockheed Martin engineers Brian Szymaniak, Michael Slavetskas and Dominic Baratta gave Mike Oddo's 11th grade Computer Integrated Manufacturing class a set of specs that outlined a design problem.

The design specification is for an enclosure to house two circuit card assemblies that generate flashing lights for an emergency vehicle. Two enclosure design options for students to consider are either an interior-mounted enclosure (dashboard or windshield mount) or an exterior-mounted enclosure (roof or front grill mount).

The class was divided into five competing groups that are all bidding on the design contract. Upon completion the Lockheed Martin engineers will pick the best design that most closely meets the design specifications.

A prototype of the winning design will be created on a Lockheed Martin Rapid Prototyping machine. A visit to Lockheed Martin is scheduled for the groups to present and evaluate their designs. Throughout the activity, the Lockheed engineers have made themselves available for questions about the design problem.

"I think having Lockheed Martin engineers guide my students through an activity like this is like Peyton Manning (quarterbacking) our high school football team," said Oddo.

The activity came about with the creation of the Project Lead The Way Partnership Team. The team is a school advisory group composed of members from the school and the business/industrial/higher education community to assist teachers in the technology program in problem-solving, in supporting teachers in the instruction of the curriculum, and in enhancing the program through mentoring and assisting in enrichment activities.

The partnership team is comprised of Ron Pierce, Owego Free Academy principal, the three Lockheed Martin engineers, and the three OFA technology teachers (Oddo, Tom Larson and Mark Kmetz).

As part of Project Lead the Way, a school partnership team is an essential piece in linking the school technology program with the community. More important, once formed, the team can become a teacher's first community resource in many areas.

Preparing for "the new math"

OA addresses new state standards

New York state has implemented new learning standards for mathematics for grades pre-K-12. Students at all levels are now required to solve problems and explain how they solved them - in writing.

There is now a great deal of problem-solving within the new standards that integrates writing, reading and math vocabulary skills. No longer is it simply enough to give the correct answer.

The world today is highly dependent upon the use and application of mathematics. To help provide students with the knowledge and understanding of math necessary to function, three main components are being taught.

Instructionally they are: conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and problem solving (NYS Learning Standards for Mathematics Document January 2005).

◆Conceptual understanding involves the understanding of math ideas, procedures and the knowledge of basic math facts.

◆Procedural fluency is the skill of carrying out procedures accurately and efficiently. It includes the step-by-step routines needed to perform arithmetic operations, and to being fluent with procedures from other areas of math, such as measuring angles by using a protractor.

◆Problem solving is the ability to formulate, represent and solve mathematical prob-

lems. Most of the problems students will encounter in the real world are multi-step or process problems. Students need to have a general understanding of how to analyze and choose the most useful strategies for solving a problem.

The new math standards are broken down into Process Strands (problem solving, reasoning, reasoning and proof, communication, connections and representation) and Content Strands (number sense and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement and statistics and probability).

The Process Strands tell how the content is going to be taught while the Content Strands describe the content that the children should learn.

Students will become successful in math only if they see mathematics as a whole and not as small individual facts and skills. As part of these new learning standards, math curriculum at each grade level has changed as the standards have been raised.

Another change is that yearly state math testing will now take place in grades 3-8. The staff in the Owego Apalachin School District has been busy writing math curriculum, receiving training on the new math standards, and meeting with their school and district math committees to insure that the new math standards are being understood and followed.

- Erin Ripic

Literacy *Continued from Page 1*

Fabrizio now coaches (or teaches) her K-2 teachers to use all of the best practices for teaching language arts that she learned during her training year.

OES participates in the Literacy Collaborative partnership with Lesley University.

Being a Literacy Collaborative school provides the OES staff a working relationship with the university to support high-quality teaching in language arts.

The program is designed to help schools achieve successful literacy education for all students, using research-based, child-centered best practices.

The partnership with Lesley provides for the training of a literacy coordinator whose responsibility is to train all K-2 teachers, special educators and reading teachers in the three-block language and literacy framework.

The framework consists of daily reading workshops, writing workshops and language/word study. Each of these components has a variety of reading, writing and phonics activities which are connected.

The partnership also monitors the progress of all students through on-going systematic assessment, data collection and analysis, with the goal of helping each child to become a competent, independent reader and writer in all areas of their education.

The successful implementation of Reading Recovery as a safety net for first-graders who have difficulty reading and writing led the Owego staff to search for a way to use "good literacy" research to support all students in the classroom.

After extensive research, the OES staff, with the help of a grant from Broome-Tioga BOCES, joined Lesley University.

The Literacy Collaborative is different than programs typically purchased in that it helps teachers refine and reflect upon their teaching practices. It also utilizes a variety of instructional methods and materials.

The goal is to individualize instruction to meet the needs of all students.

Fabrizio conducts bi-monthly classes in which she teaches her staff how to implement the reading, writing and language/word study components. The teachers then use this knowledge to teach their students.

Fabrizio often models the instructional practices, then she observes her teachers to help them



At left, George Thearle, OES principal, reviews Literacy Collaborative materials with Denise Fabrizio. Other photos show OES teachers and students working on different aspects of the program.



Reathe Woodburn photos

continually improve their teaching.

The Literacy Collaborative does not provide one manual to teach all areas of reading and writing. In order to meet the needs of individuals, teachers

continually change instruction.

Implementation of the Literacy Collaborative is very labor-intensive, but worth the effort. Data shows that schools with full implementation of the K-2

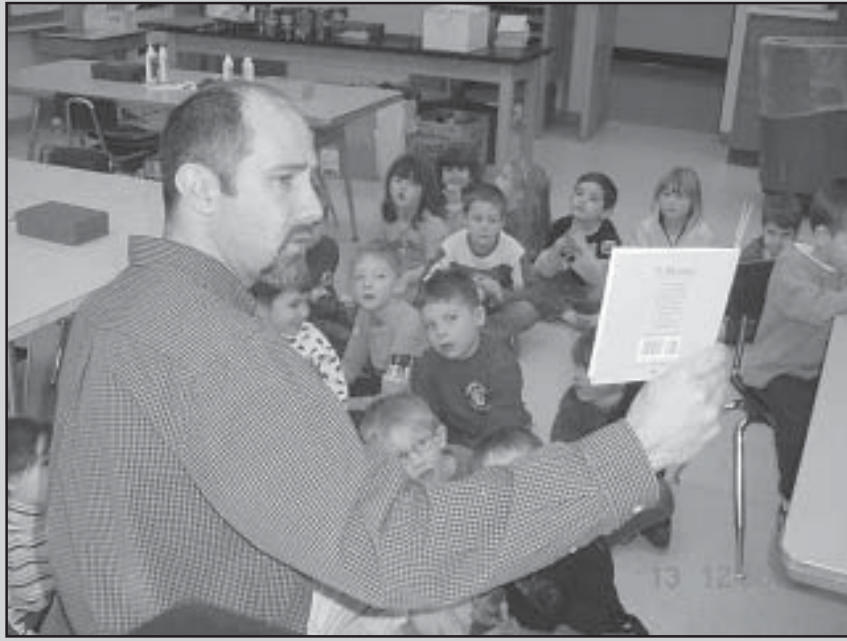
model have a strong pattern of increasing test results across multiple measures, including standardized tests.

Fabrizio said that teachers are excited about the positive changes they are observing in their students,

and the children are excited about reading and writing, taking responsibility for their learning, making connections with their reading and writing in all areas of the school day.

- Reathe Woodburn

You can't catch him, he's the ...



In George Van Houten's art class, just before the holidays, some of Apalachin Elementary School's younger students came to class ready to create their own gingerbread men. But before they began drawing, cutting and pasting, their teacher broke out a 5-minute book on their subject, "The Gingerbread Man." Shown here, students in one AES first grade class listen intently as Mr. Van Houten tells the story.

Stephen P. Jensen photos

523 OAMS students take part in "Career Day"

December wouldn't feel right without the annual Owego Apalachin Middle School Career Day program, and this year 523 students participated.

There were 39 members of the community, three businesses, 21 OAMS staff members, 18 OFA students and a few high school guidance counselors presented workshops.

Sixth-graders worked on building interpersonal skills through teamwork. Seventh-graders attended workshops on resisting peer pressure and on bullying. Both groups explored hobby or career workshops and did a personal interest inventory.

Eighth grade students explored two career workshops or visited one of three local work sites, and had sessions on college admissions and a quiz bowl to check their knowledge of the world of work.



AES Mathletes

The Apalachin Elementary School Fifth Grade Mathalon team competed at Waverly High School on Nov. 19, 2005, placing third out of all fifth-grade teams competing. The annual Mathalon is a mathematics competition involving schools from Tioga County. It's sponsored by the Coalition for Better Schools. Team members for AES are: Kara Springsteen, Ciarra Bodnar, Diedre Nolis, Justin Leonti, Kyle Card and Nigel Deakin. AES teacher Brad Lewis is their coach.

Photo provided

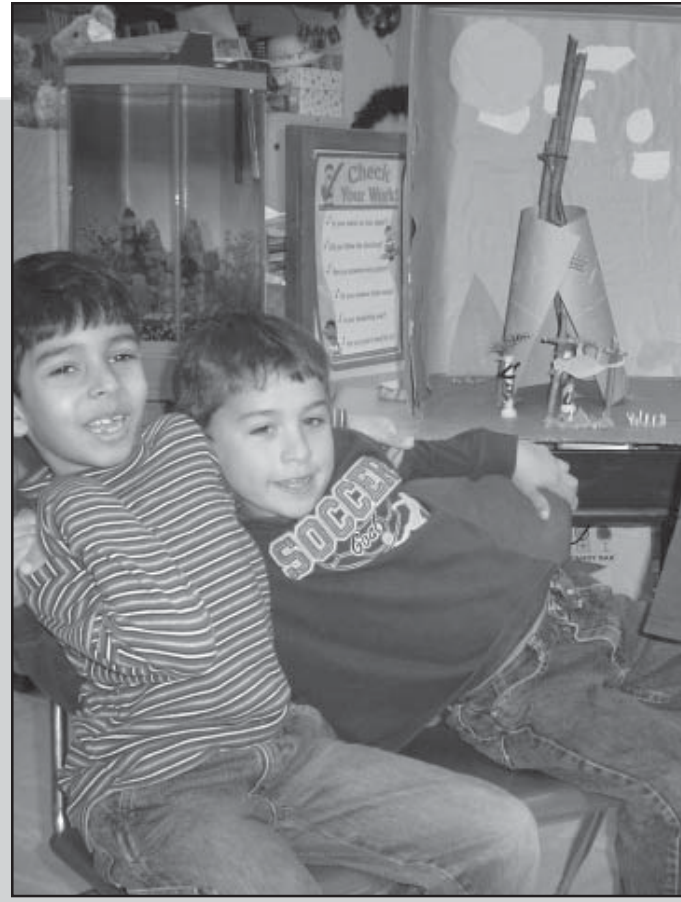
Native American

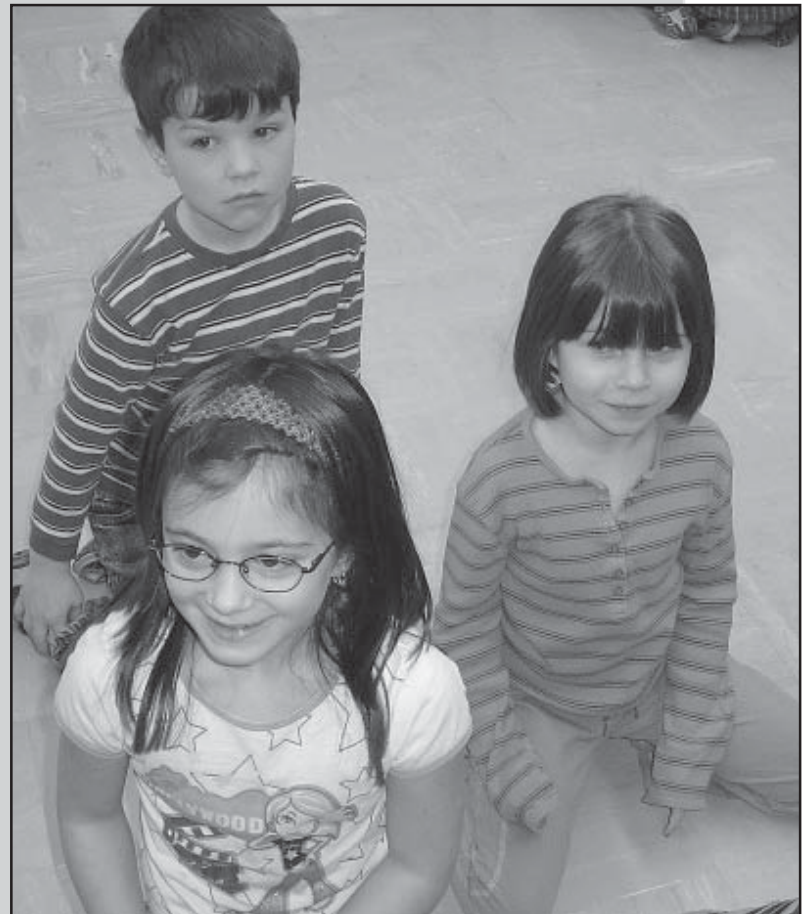
K

- build own shelter
- spear animals
- eat corn and vegetables
- use fish in the soil
- eat animals
- use animal skins for clothes
- make own weapons
- live in long houses
- build fires

W

- Where did they live?
- What state?
- Where they find animals?
- How did they make houses?
- What do they do?
- What rooms do they have?





4 tribes celebrated at OES

During our lesson, just prior to Thanksgiving vacation, we learned about four Native American tribes: the Anasazi, the Makah, the Mohawk and the Sioux.

The class divided into four tribes, each one making a large diorama depicting the following elements: the environment, shelter (home) and food source(s) of the tribes.

When finished, we had a Native American village showcase, during which all classes grades K-2 at Owego Elementary attended, as well as teachers, administrators and members of our students' families.

Another aspect of the unit included learning how to weave, and students' individual weavings were also on display.

**- Suzanne Peacock,
Second grade teacher, OES**

Stephen P. Jensen photos



Building to learn



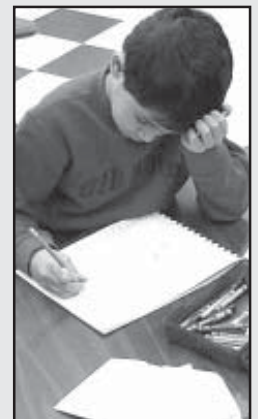
In Julie Grinnell's fourth grade class at Owego Elementary School, students built long houses as they recently studied Native Americans and early people of New York state.



Pictured, from left to right, are Grinnell and Devon Gilbert with his creation; Louie Coppeto shows off his long house project; above, Grinnell poses with Michael Yanchus, holding his project; and at far right, Martha Wolfe displays her work.



Stephen P. Jensen photos



Author! Author!

Writers of tomorrow begin their day by logging entries into their journals in Alyce Hallstead's first grade class at Apalachin Elementary School. On this particular mid-December day, the kids wrote about (and drew pictures of) their breakfast, their families, Christmas trees and the strange man with a camera, lurking in their classroom that early morning.



Stephen P. Jensen photos



Pichette says goodbye to OA, takes position with Lansing

Long-time Owego Apalachin educator, union representative and administrator Deborah Pichette has left the district to become director of curriculum and staff development with the Lansing Central school district. Pichette's last day with OA was Dec. 19.

Pichette held the position of coordinator of instruction K-12 at OA from 2004 on. Previously, she worked as a colleague teacher from 2002-2004, and from 1997 to 2002, Pichette was the district-wide mentor coordinator.

She began her teaching career at Apalachin Elementary School, where she was a classroom teacher from 1980 to 1992. In her 26 years with the OA district, Pichette also held positions as multi-age first/second grade/inclusion teacher, and "School Within a School" coordinator.

"I owe a lot to (the faculty, staff) and the students of this district for allowing me to perfect my craft of teaching and learning for 26 wonderful



DEB PICHETTE

Open House

An Open House reception will be given by friends and colleagues in honor of Deb Pichette's 26 years of service to the OA district from 3 to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13, at the Owego Treadway Inn. All are invited.

years," Pichette said. "The people of Owego Apalachin welcomed and accepted me as an integral part of this community. The teachers who worked (alongside me) were always an inspiration.

"My OA experience was a springboard for my pursuit to the next level of my career," she said. "Without my experience here, I would never have be-

come a director in the Lansing School District."

While employed by the OA district, Pichette was also been involved in a variety of activities outside the classroom and board room. Included in those were:

- ♦ Designed the Owego Apalachin Teacher Center
- ♦ Established the Teacher Mentor Program

♦ Implemented Summer Reading Camp for K-2 students
Pichette also held the following positions and was involved with these activities while with OA:

- ♦ Teacher Association president from 1998 to 2004
- ♦ Teacher Association vice president from 1990 to 1998
- ♦ Directed the creation of

the Owego Apalachin Foundation for Excellence in Education

♦ Coordinated the establishment of the Owego Apalachin Teachers Benefit Fund

"I leave with a heavy heart," Pichette said just prior to her final day at OA. "There will be a place in my heart forever for the staff and students of OA. One thing I learned from OA was that the emphasis can't only be on 'reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic.' The most important three R's in education are relationships, rigor and relevance.

"It has been most rewarding to watch students you have taught grow from kindergarten to 12th grade to college to their careers," Pichette added. "One life I touched in second grade - Christen Lombardo Baumbach - is now teaching Owego Apalachin students and leaving a legacy of her own.

"When I see red and blue, it will always remind me of the treasured friendships and why we are here - for the children."

57 children benefit from AES staff generosity

At Apalachin Elementary School, faculty and staff played the roles of angels during the holidays.

Teachers were asked to submit the names of children in the school who may be in need of holiday cheer, or in need of basics, during the holidays, according to Joe DiCosimo, AES principal.

"We contacted 62 parents, and out of the 62, 57 said they did need help," DiCosimo said. "We asked the parents how we could help, and most of them said they could use assistance with clothing."

The AES staff responded. "I estimate that we spent in the area of \$2,000," DiCosimo said. "You're talking



The "Angel Tree" at AES is shown here in mid-December. As the calendar neared Christmas, the presents multiplied and filled the principal's office.

about 90 percent of the staff that participated, so that 57 children would have a better Christmas."

NOTES

Helping "After-Prom"

If you like to shop online, and you'd like to help out with the OFA After-Prom fund-raising efforts, there's a Web site just for you.

If you shop at any of the more than 300 companies listed on the site www.krymus.com/540, a commission will be paid to the OFA group.

GED opportunity

Thinking about getting your GED? Broome-Tioga BOCES offers Owego Apalachin residents who are seeking their GED two free study programs.

One is for adults 18 and over held in OFA's room 248 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m.

The second for adults 21

and over who are at least at an eighth-grade reading level. The GRASP/GED Home Study program provides study packets to students with individualized study materials. Packets are picked up and dropped off at the OA District Office, 36 Talcott St., Owego.

Information: 762-6037.

Soldier visits OFA

U.S. Army Private 2nd Class Matthew Ellis, a 2005 OFA graduate, visited English 11 classrooms on Dec. 14, 2005, to share his experiences during Army training in Georgia.

Ellis enriched the reading experience for the juniors currently enjoying "Fallen Angels," by Walter Dean Myers. The novel explores a young soldier's story in Vietnam.



Giving Trees

The kindergarten classes at Apalachin Elementary School focused efforts on giving to those in need during the holidays.

To accompany the celebration of giving, the classes collected mittens and hats to hang on "giving trees" set up in each of the rooms. Just prior to Christmas, the hats and mittens collected were donated to various local charities.

Because of the children's generosity, more children will be a bit warmer throughout the winter season, which brings the kindergartners a lot of pride.



Fitness Center hours to change Jan. 7

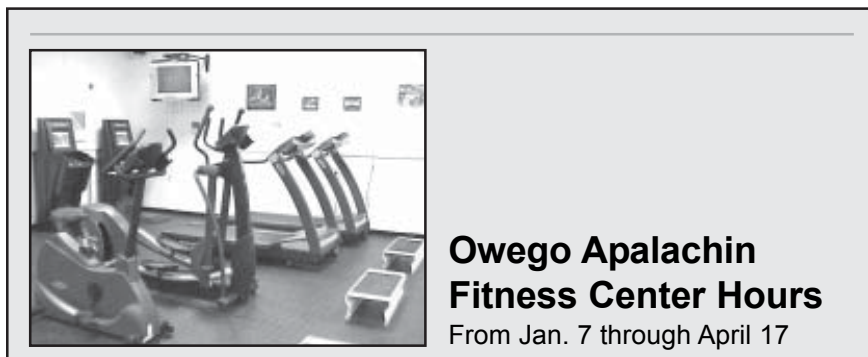
Beginning January 7, 2006, the hours for the Fitness Center located at Owego Free Academy, will be slightly altered, as Todd Birchard, fitness center teaching assistant, continues studies as a graduate student at Elmira College.

Birchard, a 1999 OFA graduate, has supervised the fitness center since it opened in 2003.

With these new hours, it affords members of the Owego Apalachin community an opportunity to avail themselves of the facility, and now, as proposed by Birchard, the community will have an opportunity to use the facility on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon, at least through April 17, 2006.

Whether you're a student, a member of our faculty and staff or a member of the community at large, the OA fitness center has something for you. Inside are treadmills, elliptical trainers, stationary bikes and a full weight system for physical training.

Birchard, a former OFA athlete who said he began working out with



Owego Apalachin Fitness Center Hours

From Jan. 7 through April 17

MONDAYS: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
TUESDAYS: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
THURSDAY: 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
FRIDAYS: 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
SATURDAYS: 9 a.m. to noon

weights when he was 13 years old, incorporated several weight-training and fitness courses into his degree, earned from Binghamton University in 2003.

Birchard is on site at all times

when the fitness center is open and is available to answer questions and assist students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the community in their workouts.

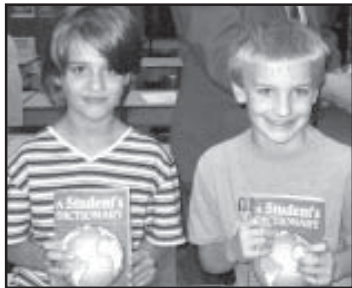
OAMS Mathletes place second

The OAMS sixth-grade Mathalon team finished second in the recent Mathalon Contest, sponsored by the Tioga County Coalition for Better Schools. The competition was held at Waverly High School.

Sue Georgia coached the six OAMS team of: Brendan Bloodnick, Alex Van Hall, Felicity Ratway, Chris Matt, Aaron Francis and Jake Mendelson.

The team practiced twice weekly after school, honing their skills and becoming comfortable with the competition format. In addition to the cool backpacks, caps and calculators that all participants received, the OAMS students also got \$20 Barnes and Noble gift cards for placing second.

Georgia treated the team to ice cream sundaes after the event.



Reathe Woodburn photos

Owego Elks Club provides dictionaries for students

For the second year at Owego Elementary School, members from the Owego Elks BPOE No. 1039 distributed new dictionaries to the third grade students.

Emil Kotasek, the exalted ruler for the Elks Club, along with Bernie and Bob Banker, members of the, were the presenters.

This project began locally last school year.

In the fall, it also became a national program.

The trio also visited St. Patrick's Elementary School, Apalachin Elementary and Zion Lutheran School with dictionaries.

Save The OFA 3-Meter Diving Board Fund-raiser

WHERE: Glen Mary Inn

WHEN: 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22

WHAT: A barbecue - prime rib eye, lobster tails, etc.

COST: \$35 per person

More information: For reservations, call John Spencer at 687-4094 or Jan Nolis at 687-4317.

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:

<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.

The board is:

William Riddleberger
President

E-mail: riddlebergerb@oacsd.org

Gene Cvik
Vice President

E-mail: cvikg@oacsd.org

John Crosby

E-mail: crosbyj@oacsd.org

Lee Dunham

E-mail: dunhaml@oacsd.org

John Gatto

E-mail: gattoj@oacsd.org

Rebecca Goodrich

E-mail: goodrichb@oacsd.org

Ruth Ann Smith

E-mail: smithra@oacsd.org

Joseph Sever
Interim Superintendent of Schools

E-mail: severj@oacsd.org

Marcy Hill
Clerk of the Board

E-mail: hillm@oacsd.org

Peter Franz
Student Representative

E-mail: franzp@oacsd.org

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

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

Varsity Winter Sports Calendar, Includes Events Through Feb. 28



Stephen P. Jensen photos

By the numbers

In Brad Lewis' class at Apalachin Elementary School, fifth-graders get competitive over their mathematics. In these photos, taken one day in mid-December, Lewis broke out decks of cards and dice, pitting his students in math races. The object of the games: flip two cards and the first student to multiply the numbers correctly wins the cards. Roll the dice, and the same goes for those two numbers. While the fast-paced lesson fine-tunes the kids' multiplication skills, there is, of course, no wagering allowed.

JANUARY 3
♦Girls Bowling vs. SV @ Brandywine Lanes, 3:40 p.m.
♦Boys 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.
♦Volleyball @ CV, 7:45 p.m.
♦Girls Bowling vs. Horseheads @ Paramount Lanes, 3:40 p.m.
♦Boys 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
♦Volleyball @ JC, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 10
♦Girls Bowling vs. CV @ Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.
♦Boys 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
♦Volleyball @ Whitney Point, 7:45 p.m.
♦Girls Bowling vs. Oneonta @ Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.
♦Boys Bowling vs. Oneonta @ Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.

JANUARY 13
♦Girls Basketball vs. Seton CC, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 14
♦Volleyball Marcellus Tournament, TBA
♦Boys Basketball @ Seton CC, 7:45 p.m.

JANUARY 17
♦Girls Bowling vs. Elmira @ Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.
♦Boys 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
♦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
♦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
♦Volleyball Mott Classic @ Windsor, TBA

JANUARY 31
♦Wrestling vs. ME, 6 p.m.
♦Girls Bowling vs. JC @ Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.
♦Boys Bowling vs. JC @ Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2
♦Boys Bowling vs. ME @ Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.
♦Girls Bowling vs. ME @ Owego Bowl, 3:40 p.m.

FEBRUARY 3
♦Girls Basketball vs. ME, 7:45 p.m.
♦Boys Basketball vs. ME, 7:45 p.m.

FEBRUARY 4
♦Volleyball @ Oneonta, 1 p.m.
♦Wrestling Section IV Class Meet

FEBRUARY 6
♦Volleyball vs. ME, 7:45 p.m.

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

FEBRUARY 8
♦Boys Basketball vs. Norwich, 7:45 p.m.

FEBRUARY 9
♦Boys Bowling STAC Semi-Finals @ Midway Lanes, 3 p.m.
♦Girls Bowling STAC Semi-Finals @ Midway Lanes, 3 p.m.

FEBRUARY 10
♦Volleyball STAC Semi-Finals
♦Girls Basketball STAC Division Tiebreaker
♦Boys Basketball STAC Division Tiebreaker
♦Wrestling

Section IV Finals, Arena

FEBRUARY 11
♦Wrestling Section IV Finals, Arena

FEBRUARY 13
♦Volleyball STAC Finals

FEBRUARY 14
♦Boys Bowling STAC Finals @ Laurel Bowl, 3 p.m.
♦Girls Bowling STAC Finals @ Laurel Bowl, 3 p.m.
♦Girls Basketball STAC Semi-Finals, Arena
♦Boys Basketball STAC Semi-Finals, Arena

FEBRUARY 15
♦Girls Basketball STAC Semi-Finals, Arena
♦Boys Basketball STAC Semi-Finals, Arena

FEBRUARY 16
♦Volleyball Section 4 Tournament

FEBRUARY 17
♦Boys Bowling Section 4 Championships @ Midway Lanes, 9 a.m.
♦Girls Bowling Section 4 Championships @ Midway Lanes, 9 a.m.
♦Girls Basketball Semi-Finals, Arena
♦Boys Basketball Semi-Finals, Arena

FEBRUARY 18
♦Boys Bowling Section 4 Championships @ Midway Lanes, 9 a.m.
♦Girls Bowling Section 4 Championships @ Midway Lanes, 9 a.m.

FEBRUARY 21
♦Boys Basketball Section IV Tournament

FEBRUARY 22
♦Girls Basketball Section IV Tournament

FEBRUARY 24
♦Wrestling NYSPHSAA State Championships

FEBRUARY 25
♦Boys Bowling Section 4 State Qualifiers @ Midway Lanes, 9 a.m.
♦Girls Bowling Section 4 State Qualifiers @ Midway Lanes, 9 a.m.
♦Volleyball NYSPHSAA Games

FEBRUARY 28
♦Volleyball STAC Senior Showcase @ ME, 6 p.m.



Full sports schedules can be found on the Owego Apalachin Web site by going to www.oacsd.org, then clicking on "Athletics."



Welcoming the holidays with music

On the morning of Dec. 13, members of the Apalachin Elementary School band and chorus helped gear up for Christmas, Hanukka and Kwaanza as they performed a variety of holiday songs for the entire student body. Joe DiCosimo, AES principal, disappointed many by not breaking into song. However, he promised he'd perform a medley of holiday classics ... next year.

Stephen P. Jensen photos



Stephen P. Jensen photo

Above, students at Apalachin Elementary School stand and sing the school's "AES Spirit Song" at a recent school gathering. Joe DiCosimo, AES principal, said he prompted Julie Tedone, the school's librarian, to pen the lyrics, and Barb Caucci, AES vocal music teacher, to write the music. "I thought it would be cool to have a school song," said DiCosimo. "Students have been practicing it since the beginning of this school year and we sing it whenever we have assemblies."

AES Spirit Song

*Hail to you, oh Apalachin
as we walk your
hallowed halls.
Growing as we
learn together,
our school days we'll recall.
Reading, writing,
art and music,
gym and library, too,
these fond memories
will be cherished,
AES, oh, we love you.*