



NEWS

A Publication of
The Owego Apalachin School District



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



Saying goodbye to the old middle school

Far left, teachers wave as students leave the old middle school for the last time June 22. Left, Bob Devan, OAMS principal, says goodbye to two students as vacation begins. More photos on Page 3.

Best of luck, Class of 2005



Smiling faces were everywhere June 25 as OFA seniors graduated. Tommy Woodburn, top, was surprised by his brother Matt, who was home on leave from Iraq. Nicole Alvarez, above, receives a handshake from Dr. Mychael Willon, superintendent of schools.



Photos by Stephen P. Jensen

More About Our Graduates

Pages 4-5, Color photos of the Class of 2005

Page 7, Dollars for Scholars awards \$15,000 to OFA grads

Page 7, Dr. Willon's commencement message to the Class of 2005

Page 8, More color photos from the June 25 graduation ceremony

Community pool expected to re-open in mid-August

The swimming pool had two problems during late April and early May. The first involved the air exchange units which control the humidity and temperature of the air in the swimming pool area. The second was an impeller.

The air exchange units have been repaired and are functioning well. One was purchased to keep on reserve.

Unfortunately, impellers are created to the specific design of each pool. Therefore, the OA replacement part must be hand-crafted. This item pulls water through the filtration unit.

The district has purchased two of these, too. As of July 1, the anticipated time for the new impeller to arrive is mid-August. Installation takes about a week.

**OA is Academics,
Arts & Athletics**

AES pavilion dedication and annual "field day"



Carrie Wilson, president of the Apalachin Elementary School parents' group, presented certificates of appreciation during the dedication of the AES pavilion a few days before the end of school.



Photos by Stephen P. Jensen

Above and left, AES students enjoyed the annual "field day," with contests and a water slide. More photos on Page 6.



How to reach OA

Administration

36 Talcott St.
Owego, N.Y. 13827
(FAX 687-6313)

Dr. Mychael C. Willon Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 687-6224
E-mail: mwillon@oagw.stier.org

Bernard C. Dolan Associate Superintendent

Phone: 687-6223
E-mail: bdolan@oagw.stier.org

Thomas Comerford III Dir. Pupil Personnel Services

Phone: 687-6226
E-mail: tcomerford@oagw.stier.org

Deborah J. Pichette Coordinator of Instruction

Phone: 687-6227
E-mail: dpichette@oagw.stier.org

Stephen P. Jensen Public Information Coordinator

Phone: 687-7214
E-mail: jensens@oagw.stier.org

Apalachin Elementary

405 Pennsylvania Ave.
Apalachin, N.Y. 13732
(FAX 625-5811)

Joseph DiCosimo Principal

Phone: 687-6289
E-mail: jdicosimo@oagw.stier.org

OA Middle School

100 Elm St.
Owego, N.Y. 13827
(FAX 687-6259)

Robert Devan Principal

Phone: 687-6248
E-mail: bdevan@oagw.stier.org

Sheila Berton Dean of Students

Phone: 687-6250
E-mail: bertonis@oagw.stier.org

Owego Elementary

1 Christa McAuliffe Lane
Owego, N.Y. 13827
(FAX 687-6268)

George Thearle Principal

Phone: 687-6261
E-mail: gthearle@oagw.stier.org

Owego Free Academy

1 Sheldon Guile Blvd.
Owego, N.Y. 13827
(FAX 687-6253)

Ronald Pierce Principal

Phone: 687-6230
E-mail: rpierce@oagw.stier.org

Dean of Students Willard Davis

Phone: 687-6231
E-mail: davisw@oagw.stier.org



Photos by Stephen P. Jensen

Governor George E. Pataki recently stopped in Waverly, where Owego Elementary School's Justin Arnold was awarded second place in the "Name the State Park" contest. Arnold is pictured, above, shaking hands with the governor, who presented the fourth-grader with a certificate.

Justin meets the governor



OES 4th-grader places 2nd in contest to name newest state park

Owego Elementary School fourth-grader Justin Arnold shook hands with Governor George E. Pataki and took home a nice certificate last month, as the governor was on hand at New York's newest state park, situated in Waverly.

Arnold's involvement in the ceremony was due to his runner-up placement in a "Name the New State Park" contest. Arnold was one of 150 to submit essays in the contest to name the new park, and Nathan Zimmer of Tioga came away the winner, naming the park "Two Rivers State Park."

Arnold chose the name Shepard-Hallet State Park and for placing second, he received two Empire Passports, which are state parks season passes.

Governor Pataki opened Tioga County's first state park, joined by Arnold's classmates, as well as those of Zimmer. The new state park offers outdoor recreation on the property situated above the Chemung and Susquehanna rivers, said the governor, who also announced a 73-acre acquisition that will expand the new state park property to a total of 553 acres.

"On behalf of all New Yorkers, I'd like to congratulate all the fourth-grade students who participated in our park-naming contest," Pataki said, "as well as their teachers, families and school officials, who together have shown their commitment to New York's natural heritage and their community."

"I hope each of our students and their families will remember and cherish the role they played in the opening (of this park) and will visit it often to enjoy all that this beautiful new park land has to offer," added Pataki.

Above, Governor George E. Pataki stands with Tioga's Nathan Zimmer and OES's Justin Arnold. Directly above, Arnold holds up the certificate he was given by the governor. Above right, the governor speaks to Arnold prior to the unveiling. At right is a close-up view of Arnold's certificate.





On June 22, students at Owego Apalachin Middle School spent much of their last day of school engaged in outdoor activities, including kick-ball, Frisbie football, soccer and various other games and competitions.

By the end of the morning, Bob Devan, OAMS principal, was joined by teachers who lined the sidewalk as the buses rolled up to take the students home for the summer break.

The district plans to open school this fall at the new middle school, which would mean June 22 was the last hurrah for the old middle school at the end of Elm Street.

Saying goodbye to the old middle school



Photos by Stephen P. Jensen



Jennie Allyn



Nicole Alvarez



Tom Baileys



Patience Banas



Gianina Barillaro



Timothy Barrett



Susan Beaudoin



Rachel Bedell



Joseph Behil



Aditya Bhavani



Ockie Camin



Santo Caracciolo



Joshua Carlini



Allsa Carpenter



Christi Carter



James Carretani



Joshua Champaign



Michael Ciotoli



Keren Coghill



Dayton Coney



Kevin Domanico



Kyle Dougherty



Richard Eberly



Jolene Edwards



Harry Eldridge



Matthew Ellis



Andrew English



Liam Eschler



Ian Fairlie



Emily Ferencik



Donna Gilligan



Ray Godfrey



Marian Grechka



Amanda Gregg



Kandy Griffin



Laura Guagliardo



Robert Gunn



Melissa Hall



Kelli Halliday



Charles Haupt



Daniel Kata



Jeff Kelley



Jonathan King



Seth Klees



Erin Knaul



Colleen Komar



Daniel Krall



Benjamin Kuhlman



Caitlin Lauback



Kerri Lavender



Tara Maslin



Ryann McCarty



Amber McManus



Nathaniel Miller



Pamela Morgan



Lydia Morris



Cody Morrison



Whitney Morse



Jennifer Nagle



Kyle Olevano



Matthew Rhodes



Kristen Riveras



James Rogers



Kathleen Sachman



Ashley Salerno



John Scanlon



Angela Serino



Joshua Skellett



Courtney Slavy



Michael Soltis



Ryan Stewart



Emily Stiles



Patrick Strope



Courtney Taft



Jocelyn Tanco



Kyle Tassey



Ryan Telfer



Teddi Thorpe



Joe Tirinato



Katherine Trivisonno



Ashley Ward



Megan Warner



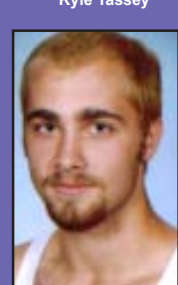
Samantha Watkins



Caitlin White



Adam Williams



Justin Williams



Christina Winterstein



Kate Woodburn



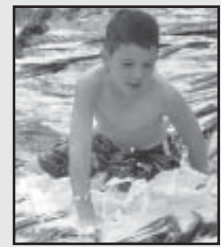
Thomas Woodburn



Mallory Worthing



Charles Bilbrey	Brianne Bilbrey	Nicholas Boccasini	Anne Bollinger	Natassja Bowman	Joshua Bradley	Rachelle Brisson	Amanda Brown	Kaitlin Brown	Glenn Bucknam	
Darcy Cornell	Angela Costantini	Nicholas D'Abbracci	Whitney Darpino	Jason Davis	Craig DeLap	Scott DeMichiel	Erik DeMichiel	Allen Detrick	Mark Dobransky	
Bethanie Fiori	Jared Foran	Christi Ford	Jessica Ford	Matthew Foster	Katie Fortorny	Leslie-Morgan Frederick	Jonathan Gage	Jesse Garrett	Christopher Gillfillan	
Eric Hernandez	Corey Hillman	Christina Hobbs	James Hopkins	Brittany Horton	Michelle Housworth	Cassandra Howard	Matthew Jackson	Karl Jantz	Ryan Johnson	
Meagan Lockett	Eric Long	Edward Lurcock	Megan Lynch	Stephanie MacDonald	Lindsay Majka	Marissa Majka	Sara Martin	Megan Marzo	Erica Mash	
Katie Page	Chad Pass	Bobby Patelunas	Jessica Plew	J. Brett Poffenbarger	Brandon Potter	Lindsay Rapp	Brian Reynolds	Renate Reynolds	Seth Reynolds	
			<h1>Congratulations</h1> <h1>Seniors!</h1>							
Erica Stephens	Ashley Stewart	Amber Johnson								
Steven Truman	Kristina Verdejo	John Pullano								
Andrew Yoko	Cara Zampi									



AES CELEBRATION - On June 17, Apalachin Elementary School officially dedicated its new pavilion, which was built and donated to the school by the AES parents' group. Many of the group's members were on hand for the dedication, and they're pictured in the top, left-hand corner of this page.

Carrie Wilson, president of the group, posed with Joe DiCosimo, AES principal, in the lower left-hand corner of the page. Above is a photo showing the pavilion, which is situated alongside the AES playground behind the school.

After the morning dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony at the pavilion, AES students were treated to the annual "field day," pictured throughout this page, which featured a huge water slide along the hill behind the school, games, contests and competitions for the school's children.



Photos by Stephen P. Jensen

OA Dollars for Scholars awards \$15,000

Owego Apalachin Dollars for Scholars recently announced the awarding of \$15,000 in scholarship money to 30 graduates of Owego Free Academy during the school's May 25 Awards Night.

This year's gift pushes the total amount given to OFA students over the last 14 years to \$115,000. Dollars for Scholars is a non-profit volunteer organization that provides financial assistance to help students pursue higher education. It is locally administered.

Graduates receiving Dollars for Scholars scholarships were: Gianina Barillaro, Brianne Bilbrey, Anne Bollinger, Natassja Bowman, Santo Caracciolo, Whitney Darpino, Jason Davis, Matthew Foster, Leslie-Morgan Frederick, Donna Gilligan, Kelli Halliday, Brittney Horton, Jeffrey Kelley, Jonathan King, Maegan Lockett, Megan Marzo, Erica Mash, Jennifer Nagle, Johnathon Pandich, Lindsay Rapp, Kathleen Sachman, Ashley Salerno, John Scanlon,

Emily Stiles, and Ashley Ward.

Additionally, the following student scholarships received funding from various organizations within the community. Michelle Housworth and Cassandra Howard received their scholarships from the Charles H. Bassett Foundation; Ryan McCarty was awarded his scholarship from Scott Smith & Son, in memory of Betty Smith; Erica Stephens' scholarship was funded by Owego Agway; and Kate Woodburn received the Drug

Prevention Advisory Board (formerly DARE) scholarship.

Scholarships have been funded by Owego-Apalachin Dollars for Scholars various fund-raising efforts, donations from the school and various local agencies, and the generous pledges during the Spring 2005 Phone-A-Thon. Scholarship awards are based on academics, school involvement, community service, employment, along with continuing education plans.

All graduating seniors

who planned to continue their educations at an accredited school were eligible to apply for the Dollars for Scholars Awards.

The OA Dollars for Scholars committee would like to thank this year's contributors and congratulate this year's scholarship recipients as well as all of the graduates of Owego Free Academy. Anyone interested in learning more about the organization or in volunteering, please contact Fran Tirinato at 625-4548.

Students and their chairs: in top photo, left to right, are Angela Serino, Caitlin Lauback, Marissa Majka, Courtney Slavey, Michelle Housworth and Cody Morrison.



Pictured in the second photo are, left to right, Robert Gunn, Natassja Bowman, Lindsay Majka, Bethanie Fiori, Brandon Potter and Jolene Edwards.



AP art students present chairs to Danielle House

The Owego Free Academy AP art class recently was given the assignment to create pieces of art that could be given to the community. The final result of their work produced chairs that were presented on June 15 to Danielle House in Binghamton, and that will be used in a fund-raising effort.

Danielle Stento was a senior at the University of Buffalo when she was hit by a car driven by a drunk driver. She suffered a traumatic brain injury and now lives with her parents in Binghamton, requiring 24-hour-a-day care.

Her parents, along with others, turned this tragedy into an opportunity and created a loving home atmosphere for families that need

a safe homelike atmosphere while their loved ones are in the hospital.

"That place is Danielle House, which is located across Riverside Drive from Lourdes Hospital.

"My students were touched by the thought of giving something back and elected the chairs as that venue," said

Sue Camin, AP art teacher at OFA. "The students proudly presented (the chairs) and talked about them to (the fund-raiser chairman) and to Diane Stento (Danielle's mother).

The chairs will be on exhibit in October at the First Friday Art Walk, along with other works.



Lindsay Majka, right, shows Diane Stento her creation.

Always remember: Nobody's perfect

The following is a condensed version of Dr. Mychael Willon's commencement message, delivered at the OFA graduation June 25.

We've all heard it said: "Nobody's perfect."

At first glance, the concept of perfection is pretty appealing. In fact, to strive for such a goal would likely be perceived by parents, teachers, bosses or loved ones as a worthy pursuit ... even as admirable.

The *Oxford English Reference Dictionary* defines perfectionism as the uncompromising pursuit of excellence, and we, in education, sometimes embody that tenet. For lack of a better way of putting it, we live in a world of report cards.

We're measured on charts and scales and we're tested frequently. And most of the time, like in daily life, we're judged NOT on a pass-fail basis, but in incremental degrees of success.

Our graduates have become proficient in the art of multi-tasking. They hold down roles as students, musicians, artists, athletes, employees, sons and daughters, boyfriends and girlfriends, brothers and sisters.

I'm here today to tell you that achieving perfection in each and every one of those roles ... is impossible. We're human, after all and, of course ... nobody's perfect.

So while I think we'd all agree that perfection is an unattainable goal, that doesn't necessarily stop that little voice inside our heads from setting us up for failure.

You can sometimes hear it whispering to you, "They're not going to like the way I look, the way I dress, the way I sound or what I have to say."

So my question to each one of you today is this: If we can never achieve such a lofty level of existence, then why try?

You have to get past this "perfect nonsense" in order to excel. First, turn off the little voice by placing the focus on the audience, where it belongs. Then, set realistic goals. We all instinctively know that perfection is impossible to achieve,

Superintendent's Message

but being your best is attainable.

Seeking perfection assures failure. Working toward being your best creates success.

Now, all this is not to say you should ever accept anything less than excellence. But aiming for perfection is a barrier to your best performance.

Consider the world of sports for a moment. By anyone's measure, Tiger Woods is an excellent golfer. He is NOT perfect. If he were, he'd have a hole-in-one every time. Do you think he would be heading for the Hall of Fame if shooting an 18 were his goal? No ... instead, he'd be heading for a breakdown.

Have you seen teams that play not to lose rather than playing to win? In order to avoid mistakes and reach for perfection, they play it safe. More often than not, it seems ... they lose.

Today I'm preaching progress, not perfection, recalling the proverb, "In great attempts, it is glorious even to fail."

The thing of it is, we don't need to try to be perfect. All we really need to do is to better ourselves each step of the way. It's a process, and it's the process of improving ourselves that is most important.

Be great. Push forward with everything you have. Stay grounded. Find a balance.

And through it all, remember that you can't get it ALL right, ALL the time. But you sure can try.

You've got to understand that even when you're imperfect, your parents and teachers are proud of you ... for everything you are today, and for the promise of what you'll do tomorrow.

Each one of you can achieve great things if you continue to learn every day, remembering all the while ... that nobody's perfect.

Siempre,
Mychael

Dr. Mychael C. Willon: 687-6224
E-mail: mwillon@oagw.stier.org

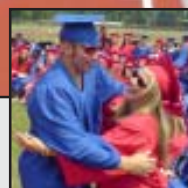
Attention Parents

Are you interested in helping shape the direction of our school district? If so, Dr. Mychael Willon, superintendent of schools, and members of the OA Board of Education would like to invite you to participate in a few meetings this summer to discuss the district's "strategic plan." If you're interested, please contact Barb Dornblaser at 687-6224.



Graduation Day

Scenes



Photos by Stephen P. Jensen

