



# NEWS

A Publication of  
The Owego Apalachin School District



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



**BEAMING** - Owego Apalachin Middle School student Kaylee Bodnar is shown here competing at a recent state-level gymnastics meet. To read more about her competition, see Page 6.

## OES's Olevano top 5 for state's "Teacher of Year"

Tracy Olevano, a special education teacher at Owego Elementary School, was one of five



finalists for New York State Teacher of the Year. She's scheduled to attend a ceremony June 20 at the State Education Department

in Albany, at which time the winner will be awarded. To read more about Olevano, see Page 6.

### Stay in touch with OA

If you currently do not receive e-mail updates from the school district, but would like to, please contact Stephen P. Jensen, OA's public information coordinator, at [jensens@oagw.stier.org](mailto:jensens@oagw.stier.org) and you'll be added to the e-mail list.

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**OA is Academics,  
Arts & Athletics**

# Voters get second option

OA residents asked to make decision on Tuesday, June 21

### What's different this time?

**The first budget:** 4.35% increase, and a 9.53% projected levy increase.  
**This budget:** 3.25% increase, which equals a 6.94% projected levy increase.

On Tuesday, June 21, voters in the Owego Apalachin Central School District will have the opportunity to vote on the 2005-06 OA budget a second time.

The original budget was defeated by a vote of 1,174-to-1,050.

A breakdown of the vote, by polling place, showed that at Owego Elementary School, 627 voters favored the budget as opposed to 586 who did not.

See Vote Page 6

## Transportation Facility Open House: Sunshine, Snacks & Smiles



Hundreds enjoyed great weather, a few snacks and the sparkling new OA Transportation Facility May 5. To see more photos from that day, see Page 8.



# Seniors have had the "time of their lives"

By Stephanie Mills

Anyone who enters through the front doors of Owego Free Academy will notice the landmark "senior benches," as permanent a fixture in the lobby as the OFA Indian himself. In the final

### Graduation Day

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. Saturday, June 25  
**WHERE:** OFA Stadium  
**IN CASE OF RAIN:** Graduation will be held in the high school gym.



Emily Stiles, far left, and Cassandra Howard topped this year's graduating class. Styles is valedictorian, Howard is salutatorian.

Photos of the Class of 2005, Pages 4-5

See Grads Page 2

## How to reach OA

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## Grads Continued from Page 1

weeks of school each year, however, the benches disappear in preparation for finals, signaling a time to buckle down. It also means it's the beginning of the end for the seniors.

In tribute to the Class of 2005, here are a few notables and recognitions worthy of attention as the class prepares to move on. The world beyond Owego should anticipate varied contributions in many fields and occupations as these seniors pursue future interests.

Included are seniors such as Keren Coghill, who will attend Daniel Webster College in New Hampshire, majoring in aviation flight operations. Coghill was also the only female member of the OFA wrestling team.

Mark Dobransky will attend Eastern Carolina University to major in pre-med, following in the footsteps of his father, Dr. Dobransky.

Leslie-Morgan Frederick recently returned from Japan to walk with her graduating class. Overseas, she was a Rotary exchange student this school year. She'll attend Maryland Institute and College of Art, majoring in fine arts and Web design.

Two who will attend Nashville

***"Another turning point, a fork stuck in the road ... time grabs you by the wrist, directs you where to go ... so make the best of this test and don't ask why ... it's not a question but a lesson learned in time ... it's something unpredictable, but in the end it's right, I hope you had the time of your life."***

- **Billie Joe Armstrong (Green Day)**  
Lyrics from the OFA senior class song

Auto-Diesel College are James Rogers will major in auto body restoration and custom building, and Dayton Coney, who will pursue diesel mechanics.

Jon King, notably "The Beast" in this year's OFA musical "Beauty and the Beast," will attend Wheaton Conservatory of Music in Illinois. King has played piano for various school functions and in the community for many years.

A senior making what may be the longest trek Jon Gage, who'll attend the University of California at Davis to major in pre-law and history.

And don't forget to floss, or Lindsay Majka will know, as she will attend Broome Community College's dental hygiene program.

The school choices and majors for

these seniors, and the choices ahead for the entire class, will certainly lead to vast contributors and high achievers across so many areas of society.

Toward the year's end, the senior class officers, along with OFA advisers Joan Beck and Terri Brown, planned many great activities, enjoyed by everyone. Congratulations to senior class officers Anne Bollinger (president), Kate Woodburn (vice president), Kelli Halliday (secretary) and Megan Marzo (treasurer).

The Class of 2005 senior prom was June 3, followed by the "chem.-free" after-prom party June 4. Seniors danced away the evening and elected Green Day's "Good Riddance (The Time of Your Life)" as their class song.



**IN APPRECIATION** - In May, some of the Owego Apalachin district employees enjoyed an "Appreciation Cookout" at the new Transportation Facility, above. Pictured at right, the department's Jerry Hyatt prepared chicken on one of three grills that were fired up for the event.



## Two OFA jazz bands strike gold at NYSSMA

The Owego Free Academy Jazz Band and Jazz Band II each recently struck gold.

The bands, conducted by Daniel Fabricius, were evaluated on May 20 at the New York State School Music Association Festival, held at Windsor High School, said Fabricius.

"The Jazz Band II received many positive comments from the two adjudicators and was awarded the Gold Division rating for a concert performance of music at Level 5 difficulty," he said.

Jazz soloists for this evaluation were Kyle Lounsberry (trumpet), Jarin Veasaw (tenor saxophone), Josh Malia (soprano and alto saxophones), Chris Perry (baritone saxophone), Ian McPhail (piano) and Ryken Ruuspakka (guitar).

While the festival ran behind schedule, pushing the OFA Jazz Band to an 11:35 p.m. conclusion, "they still did a great show," said Fabricius.

This group was awarded the Gold With Distinction rating for a concert performance of the most difficult music (Level 6).

"(This rating) is the very highest rating awarded by NYSSMA, and is reserved for only the most exceptional performing groups," Fabricius said.

"This was the seventh consecutive NYSSMA Gold rating for the OFA Jazz Band and the third time for Gold With Distinction."

Comments from the judges included, "...this is a very sophisticated and well trained high school ensemble. In fact, you sound more advanced than high school."

Jazz soloists for this evaluation were Eric Hernandez (trumpet), Stephanie Barner (baritone saxophone), Karl Jantz (alto saxophone), Josh Westbrook (guitar) and Jon King (vibraphone).

### Superintendent's Message

## Teacher Center courses embrace collaboration

At the Owego Apalachin Central School District, our Teacher Center encourages staff to pursue professional development, much as a research and design department would accomplish in industry.

As an educator, I value lifelong learning and know that the members of our staff have a lot to share with me and with each other about their successes and failures in the classroom.

By facilitating professional dialogue and coupling that conversation with research from the Educational Testing Service, we are able to learn what "best practices" work, then go on to improve instruction in the classroom.

Ben Frisbie, our Teacher Center Director/Mentor Coordinator, surveys our staff to see which topics they're most interested in studying. He then establishes courses/classes that address those needs.

He shares those topics with me and we then set a timeline for a given school year to make sure we have an offering for each of them.

As superintendent of schools, I've enjoyed working with our staff this year, getting to know them on a more personal and professional level as they share their vast knowledge and teaching experience.

We have a staff at Owego Apalachin that combines the best of all worlds - a deep history, mixed with many younger teachers who bring their different perspectives to the fray - and I'm proud of their ongoing pursuit of excellence in their craft, and looking forward to more collaborative work through the Teacher Center in the years ahead.

*Siempre,*  
**Mychael**

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Pictured at left, Lorraine Braman Barbaras posed with her father, who also nominated her for induction. Barbaras graduated from OFA in 1971 and worked here as a teacher, coach and administrator.



Margaret Walsh, pictured at left, spoke about 2005 inductee Julie Jenkins, an outstanding OFA graduate, athlete, coach and educator. Walsh in a 2004 inductee.



Pictured above and left, Crystal Beauter nominated her father, Tom Beauter, Class of 1955. Tom Beauter also worked for the district from 1980-1988. Bernie Dolan, above, OA associate superintendent, was emcee and presented certificates of induction.



At left, Paul Bartlow was inducted this year. He graduated OFA in 1961, was a teacher and coach and served on the BOE for 19 years. Below, Marilyn Ochs was one of the people who nominated Bartlow.



Pictured above are 2005 inductee Bob Fenton and Francine Reynolds, who nominated him. A teacher of physical education and a coach, Fenton worked for OA from 1959-1991.



Pictured at left, OA's Sheila Bertoni, left, and Marilynn Ochs ushered in 2005 inductee Bob Merrill with song and verse.

Above, Bob Merrill's son, Darin Merrill, accepted the award for his father, who was not in attendance due to recent knee surgery. Bob Merrill worked for OA from 1961-1991 as a teacher, coach and administrator.

At right, Lewis Bradley was inducted by his wife, Imogene. Lewis Bradley graduated Class of 1946 and worked for OA from 1959-1991 as a teacher, coach and administrator.



Above, Ben Frisbie and Linda Frisbie ushered Douglas Hurley, Class of 1984, into the Hall. Hurley, a NASA pilot and astronaut, was unable to attend the ceremony.



At left, Bernie Dolan speaks about inductee Jerry Lockwood, who was unable to attend the ceremony. Lockwood graduated Class of 1953 and worked for OA from 1959-1993, spending time as principal of his alma mater.



Dr. Keith Nichols, left, and Sharon Ash, below left, inducted Elsie Nichols, Keith Nichols' grandmother. Elsie Nichols worked for OA from 1916-1963 as a teacher of Latin, Spanish and German.



Bob Rowland, far left, and John Luckhurst, left, inducted Joan Burnet Luckhurst, Ph.D., pictured center in photo at left. Joan Luckhurst graduated Class of 1970 and worked for OA from 1974-2004 as a teacher and researcher.



Pictured at right, Rose Winters, left, and Pat Gage inducted Bob Gage into the Hall. Bob Gage graduated Class of 1961 and worked for the district from 1976-1990 as a driver and mechanic.



Pictured at right, Emma Sedore, Tioga County historian, inducted Capt. Franklin F. Shellenbarger, a Class of 1936 graduate. Shellenbarger was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and Merchant Marines and crossed the North Atlantic 85 times.

# OA Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony



The photos appearing here are from the May 13 ceremony at OFA, during which 13 new members were enshrined on the Wall of Fame.



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								
Steven Truman	Kristina Verdejo								
Andrew Yoko	Cara Zampi								

# Olevano made top 5 for "Teacher of Year"

Tracy Olevano, a special education teacher at Owego Elementary School, was one of five finalists for New York State Teacher of the Year.

An application nominating Olevano was submitted by George Thearle, OES principal, along with supporting letters from students, parents and teachers.

Olevano was interviewed May 13 in Albany and is scheduled to attend a ceremony June 20 at the State Educa-

tion Department, at which time the five finalists will be honored and the winner will be officially awarded.

"Tracy Olevano is a teacher who focuses on the needs of her students and their families, helping each child to develop to their full capabilities," Thearle said. "She's always learning and helping new staff to apply best-practice techniques of teaching."

Thearle said that Olevano is part of the team of teachers that work to-

gether at OES to provide students with quality instruction by targeting children's individual needs.

"Most of all, Tracy Olevano knows that schools are about people," said Thearle, "and she treats each person in a caring, respectful manner."

"All children can learn, but like in life, learning is a journey and not a race," Olevano said, "and each step along the way has a great impact on who, and what, our students will become."

"Given the right tools and encouragement, all students will arrive at their destination, but not at the same time," she said.

"It is imperative that we never give up, allow for mistakes, teach compassion and understanding and always remember that everyone needs a little help sometimes."

"It is only by working together that we will make a difference in our students' lives and ultimately, in the world."

## Vote Continued from Page 1

At Apalachin Elementary School, however, there were 586 "no" votes cast, while 416 voters elected to pass the budget. Absentee votes showed a 7-yes, 2-no count.

This time when district voters go to the polls (which will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at both Apalachin and Owego elementary schools), they'll decide whether or not to pass a \$34,383,056 budget that reflects \$367,000 in cuts from the budget that was defeated May 17.

The new proposal represents a 3.25 percent budget increase and a corresponding 6.94 percent tax levy increase.

The revenue plan for this budget consists of \$1.4 million in fund balance and \$600,000 in reserves being applied to the levy.

If the second budget is not approved by OA voters, New York state law would require the district to enact a contingency budget.

A contingent budget would require an additional \$443,000 in cuts, translating to a 1.92 percent budget increase with a corresponding 10.85 percent tax levy increase.

The revenue plan under a contingency budget assumes \$1 million of fund balance being applied to the levy.

If the district is forced to go to contingency, the Board of Education could decide to use more reserves to reduce the levy.

Included in the cuts for the second budget are:

**Administrative costs:** There is a reduction to administrative costs, and an increase in BOCES aid, due to early retirement and other changes in organization (ie, moving the central business office to BOCES).

**Assistant coaches:** Three assistant coaching positions for three varsity sports (cross country, lacrosse and track) will be eliminated.

**Athletic fields (maintenance):** We will be doing less maintenance on our athletic fields and turf.

**"Blackboard" coaches:** The district has a strategic commitment to implementing Blackboard, K-12. The four Blackboard coach positions will be eliminated. The position of Computer Coordinator will be restructured.

**Bus driver:** One retiring bus driver will not be replaced.

**Cafeteria truck:** The cafeteria truck will not be replaced, as scheduled.

**Department chairpersons; grade-level chairpersons:** There will be a re-configuration of department chairpersons, grade-level chairpersons and other building leadership positions, which will lead to the reduction of 16 extra-duty assignments.

**District-funded field trips:** The district's financial support of field trips will be reduced. There will still be some field trips, but they may have to be self-

funded or otherwise scaled back.

**Elementary swim program:** This program will be restructured. Swimming instruction for elementary students may not occur at every grade level.

**Foreign language:** The elementary position scheduled for OES will not be filled until January 2006, saving half a year's salary.

**Japanese:** The position of a Japanese instructor will be eliminated.

**Library:** A retiring librarian will not be replaced. The district will work with the professional librarians to restructure library services.

**Library aides; teaching assistant:** The district will work with the professional librarians to restructure library services.

**Maintenance truck:** The 1987 dump truck used by the maintenance department will not be replaced, as previously planned.

**Mental health social worker:** Money budgeted for a county-provided mental health social worker will be eliminated.

**Mentors:** The district's mentor program will be reduced by 13. This is a program for supporting new teachers.

**Music teacher:** A music teacher, currently on leave, will not be replaced. No music teaching positions, currently at work in the classroom, will be eliminated.

**Network communications:** We will be removing a T-1 communications link from the Elm Street complex and replacing it with a less robust, more economical connection.

**Nurse:** A retiring nurse will not be replaced. The district will work with the nursing staff to restructure nursing services in the district. A nurse will be on site at each of the district's four schools.

**One-half year of "mothballing" OAMS:** We are going to attempt to accelerate the sale of the old middle school and to reduce the energy costs necessary for its maintenance, also referred to as "mothballing."

**Pre-purchase of athletic supplies:** Athletic supplies have been pre-purchased out of the 2004-05 budget.

**Pre-purchase of school supplies:** Classroom supplies have been pre-purchased out of the 2004-05 budget.

**Reduction in alternative education:** We have realized a reduction in BOCES services in the area of alternative education.

**Reduction in BOCES special education lines:** A reduction of BOCES special education budget lines has been accomplished through some reorganization and other efficiencies. The district will continue to meet its legal obligations to children with special needs.

**Reduction in Board of Education conferences:** The money budgeted for staff development and training for board members has been reduced by 50

percent.

**Reduction in conference costs:** The money budgeted for conferences and off-site training opportunities for teachers and staff will be reduced.

**Reduction in curriculum development:** Money budgeted for the review and revision of our curriculum is being reduced.

**Reduction in Literacy Collaborative lines:** Literacy Collaborative is a program designed to improve student achievement in English language arts and statewide assessments. The program, currently being piloted at Owego Elementary, will continue, but will experience some budget cuts.

**Reduction in Reading Recovery text and supplies:** Funds budgeted for Reading Recovery texts and supplies have been reduced. Reading Recovery is a nationally recognized program designed for reading intervention at the first grade level.

**Reduction in SACI:** This program is used by the OA district to evaluate our instructional programs. Trained, outside observers look for strengths and weaknesses. Cost-savings are in place for 2005-06.

**Reduction of fund balance:** In the past, the district has set aside funds (called a fund balance) to pay for the bills that come in during the summer, as well as before we receive state aid. One-million dollars in budgeted expenditures that contribute to the overall fund balance have been reduced. In the future, it may be necessary for the district to borrow money to pay summer bills.

**Reduction in funding for musical:** The district will continue to support the spring musical. However, the financial support will be reduced by \$5,000.

**Restructure middle school ISD:** We will restructure the in-school detention program at OAMS.

**School nurse clerk/typist:** The position of clerk/typist (updates medical and pupil personnel records) will be eliminated.

**School resource officer:** The village of Owego has agreed to pay for one-half the cost of this program, which will continue in the 2005-06 school year.

**Secretary (personnel office):** An existing vacancy for a secretary in the Personnel Office will not be filled.

**Summer hours of colleague teachers:** Summer hours for colleague teachers will be eliminated.

**Summer music:** The funding for this program has been eliminated. It may be possible to maintain the program with self-funding by parents.

**Technology replacement now IPA:** Part of the annual instructional technology (computer) replacement plan will be accomplished through an Installation Purchase Agreement (IPA).

**Terra Nova testing:** Money committed for standardized testing and assessment will be reduced.

## KUDOS & NOTES



**ART EXHIBIT** - The OFA AP Art Show went on display June 1 and will remain through the end of the month at the Tioga Council of the Arts Gallery, 179 Front St., Owego. The show, entitled "30 Weeks," is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The photo above gives a glimpse at some of the work on display.

### OAMS 6th-grader gets 8th at gymnastics meet

Owego Apalachin Middle School sixth-grader Kaylee Bodnar (pictured on Page 1) recently turned in a standout performance at the Level 6 State Meet for gymnastics, placing eighth of 62 competitors in the uneven bar event.

Bodnar also finished 16<sup>th</sup> overall, missing a medal placement by just four rungs.

"Even though these kids don't compete for the school, per se, they still practice 20 to 25 hours each week and are positive representatives for their school," said Lisa Bodnar, Kaylee's mother and public relations representative.

Kaylee Bodnar competes for Aero Gymnastics of Vestal. The state competition was held April 30 in Orchard Park.

### OFA senior, Housworth, named trivia "all-star"

OFA senior Michelle Housworth has been recognized as a trivia "all-star" in the 2005 High School Trivia Challenge, held at Tompkins County Community College in March.



Trivia teams from many high schools competed, and although OFA did not place, Housworth earned her reputation as a fierce trivia competitor, answering a number of questions. Housworth will attend Cortland College this fall.

Adviser to the trivia team is OFA English teacher Stephanie Mills.

# OA Yorkers clean up at state meet

## OFA, OAMS teams win History Bowls

The Owego Apalachin Yorkers Club traveled to Corning in May to compete in the annual New York state competition. Both the OFA and OAMS teams took first place in the History Bowl competition, the final round of which was held at the closing ceremony in front of more than 500 people.

This is the fourth straight year the OAMS team has won and the third time the OFA team has placed first.

Under the leadership of teachers Christina Bangel and Holly Stefanski, 57 students from OFA and OAMS competed, bringing home more than 70 awards in a variety of individual competition categories.

Yorkers is a history research club open to students in grades 6-12. The Yorkers Club is a part of the State History Interest Project (SHIP) academic organization. Students select from among 11 competition project categories and work on their projects throughout the year.

All Yorker projects must

be related to local, state or national history in some way. Project choices include Web page design, creative writing, musical performance, art, photography, exhibit, map drawing, video, political cartoon, and others.

The History Bowl component of the competition pits teams of four students from schools around the state against each other in a live question/answer competition format.

The following is a list of high school competitors (Merit = 3rd place; Special = 2nd place; Excellence = 1st place):

**History Bowl:** 1st place - Chris Gilfillan, Tom Dragon, Cassie Howard, Andy Catlin.

**Poetry:** Elise Thornley, Merit; Catharine Van Hall, Merit; Cassie Howard, Special.

**Short Story:** Samantha Townsend, Merit; Adam Majka, Special; Leah Mendelson, Special.

**Maps:** Kaylee Wold, Merit.

**Political Cartoons:** Denise Edwards, Merit; Adam Majka, Merit; Kimberly Burton, Special; Vivek Patel, Special; Leah Mendelson, Excellence.

**Oral History:** Duncan

Poe, Excellence.

**Debate Team:** 2nd place - Kristin Frampton, Nicholas Stevens, Darron Hall, and Adam Majka.

**Photography:** Elizabeth Leonard, Excellence.

**Video:** Jenna Holden, Dave Koczan, Brittany Ferencik; Darron Hall, Tom Dragon, Nick Stevens, Adam Majka, Excellence.

**Web Design:** Vince Skovira, Excellence.

**DBQ:** Kaylee Wold, Excellence

**Art:** (only merit or excellence possible) Merit: Kimberly Burton; Kristin Frampton; Denise Edwards; Katharine Mead; Katie Malia; Excellence: Andy Catlin; Steve Parsons.

**Research Paper:** Aja Lans, Excellence.

**Exhibits:** (Individual, Merit) Chris Gilfillan, Samantha Townsend, Adam Farabaugh, Nick Stevens, Nate Hills, Kristin Frampton, Catherine Van Hall, and Cassie Howard. (Special) Vivek Patel, Vince Skovira. (Excellence) John Conklin (two). (Group, Merit) Mike Morabito, Todd Monseur, Josh Hubman, and Duncan Poe; and, Elise

Thornley and Elizabeth Leonard. (Special) Samantha Townsend and Katie Malia. (Excellence) Katharine Mead and Kimberly Burton.

The following is a list of middle school competitors (Merit = 3rd place; Special = 2nd place; Excellence = 1st place):

**Team 1:** Reid Jones, Alex Jones, Jillian O'Rourke and Christina Rohrbach took first place in the History Bowl.

**Art:** Merit, Jennifer Murray, Audrey Hamilton, Cody Johnson; Excellence, Elizabeth Skovira, Adrian VanHall and Corrine Grenier.

**Performance:** Merit, Troy Forbes.

**Research Papers & Exhibits:** (Individual Projects, Merit) Alex Jones, Amber Brode and Brody Robinson; Special, Amy Czuhanych (two) and Elizabeth Skovira; Excellence, Jennifer Murray, Amber Brode, Reid Jones, Matt Webster and Alex Prince; (Group Projects, Merit) Cody Johnson and Danielle Johnson.

**Photography:** Merit, Dakota Hollenbeck; Excellence, Lindsey Schneider and Adrian Van Hall.

## Important Dates on the OA calendar

**JUNE 15**  
Breakfast With Dr. Willon, 9:30 a.m.  
Treadway Inn, Owego

**JUNE 21**  
Half day of school, grades K-8

**JUNE 22**  
Half day of school, grades K-8

**JUNE 23**  
Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.  
District Office, 36 Talcott Street

**JUNE 25**  
Graduation  
10 a.m., OFA stadium

**JULY 14**  
Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.  
District Office, 36 Talcott Street

**JULY 28**  
Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.  
District Office, 36 Talcott Street

## 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:

**Michael Bowen**  
President  
E-mail: bowenm@oagw.stier.org

**John Crosby**  
Vice President  
& Policy Committee Chairman  
E-mail: crosbyj@oagw.stier.org

**Gene Cvik**  
Budget Committee Chairman  
E-mail: cvikg@oagw.stier.org

**John Gatto**  
Legislative Representative  
E-mail: gattoj@oagw.stier.org

**Phil Kwiatkowski**  
Student School Board Chairman  
E-mail: kwiatkowskip@oagw.stier.org

**Dr. Keith Nichols**  
Leadership Council Representative  
E-mail: nicholsk@oagw.stier.org

**Ruth Ann Smith**  
Teacher Center Representative  
E-mail: smithra@oagw.stier.org

**Dr. Mychael C. Willon**  
Superintendent of Schools  
E-mail: mwillon@oagw.stier.org

**Cherie Soule**  
Clerk of the Board  
E-mail: csoule@oagw.stier.org

### Changing of the guard

The district wishes to thank Michael Bowen, John Crosby and Phil Kwiatkowski for their dedication to the Board of Education and the OA district throughout each of their distinguished tenures.

The district would also like to extend best wishes to OA's three new board members - Bill Riddleberger, Becky Goodrich and Lee Dunham - as they assume their posts July 1.

## Reminder: OA district notified of 2 new immunization requirements

The school district recently received notification from the New York State Department of Health of two changes in the immunization requirements for school attendance effective January 1, 2005.

One change is in the varicella (chicken pox) requirement and the second change is in the pertussis (whooping cough) and tetanus requirement.

The change regarding pertussis and tetanus requires that all children born on or after January 1, 2005 be immunized for these diseases prior to school attendance.

The varicella change requires the following:

♦All students born on or after January 1, 1994, and who enroll in sixth-grade at the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year must be immunized against varicella.

♦Students born on or after January 1, 1994, who are repeating sixth-grade at the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year are required to be immunized against varicella.

♦Those students born on or after January 1, 1994, and who transfer to a school in New York state from another state or country after January 1, 2005, must be immunized against varicella at the time of entry into the New York state school.

Exemptions from these requirements include the following:

### Questions?



If you have questions about these important changes, contact one of the OA district's nurses:

- ♦Sharon Tulsey  
AES, 687-6280
- ♦Megan Barnhart  
OES, 687-6260
- ♦Michelle Jenkins  
OAMS, 687-6251
- ♦Stacey Riddleberger  
OFA, 687-6240
- ♦Pat Brainard  
SNT, 725-3760

♦A history of the disease as documented by a health care provider.

(Parental recall of the disease is not sufficient and will not be accepted as proof of immunization. The school must have, in writing, from a health care provider, proof that the student had the disease.)

♦A medical exemption consisting of a written statement from a physician licensed to practice in the State of New York stating that there is a valid medical contraindication to the vaccines.

♦A statement of religious exemption written by the parents or guardian of the child stating that they hold sincere and genuine religious belief(s) which prohibit the immunization of the child.

♦Serologic proof (blood test) of immunity to varicella.

We are asking for your cooperation in assuring that the

school district is in compliance with the new state laws.

If your child has had varicella (chicken pox) in the past and this has not been verified to the school in writing by your healthcare provider, it is suggested that you contact the provider and ask him/her to provide the school with written proof.

If your child has been immunized against varicella, but the date of immunization has not been provided to the school, it is suggested that you contact the healthcare provider to verify the date of the immunization in writing.

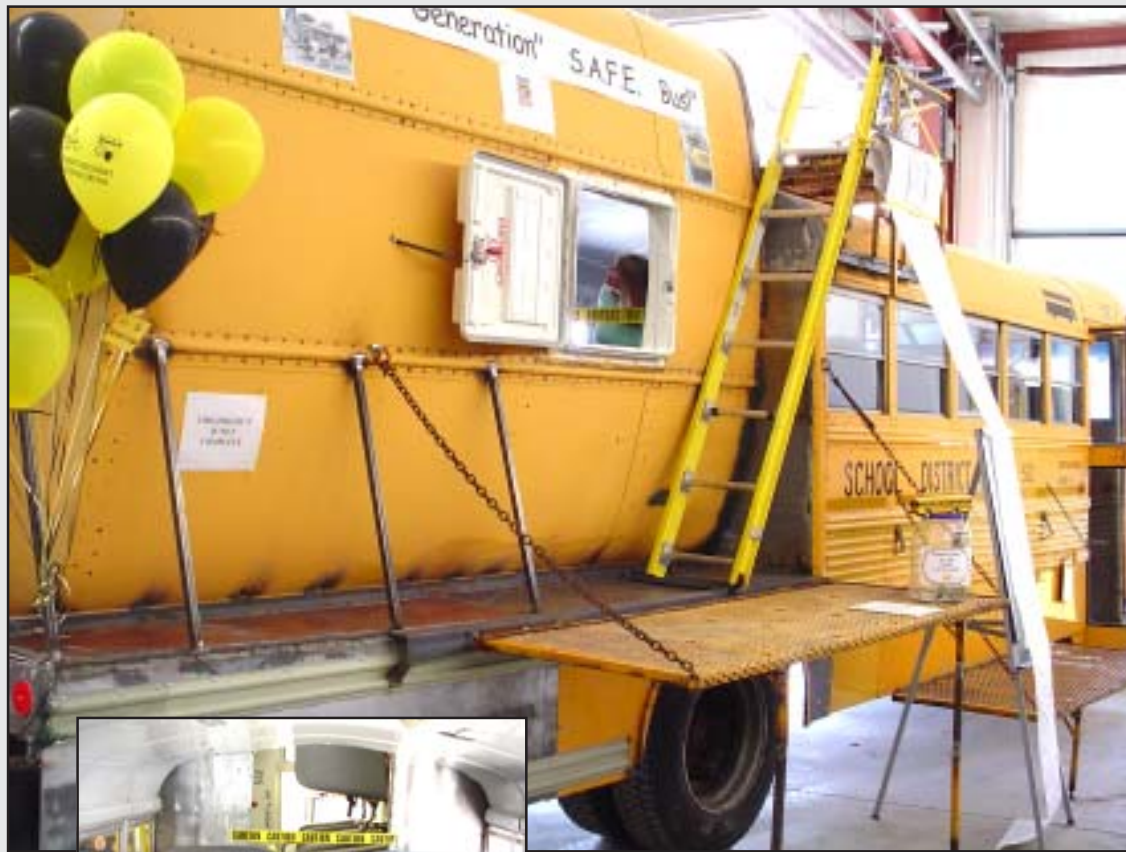
If your child was born on or after January 1, 1994, and will be entering/repeating sixth-grade in the fall of 2005 and has not had varicella disease or the immunization, please be sure to contact your health care provider so that they can receive the necessary immunization prior to the beginning of school.

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

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



**TRANSPORTATION OPEN HOUSE** - The Owego Apalachin Central School District welcomed members of the public to the new OA Transportation Facility at an Open House May 5. With perfect weather, hundreds toured the building throughout the spring evening, checking out the building's amenities and partaking of the festivities. At left, Tony Quaranta, transportation supervisor for OA, offered an interview with Channel 34. Above, plenty of goodies were on hand for everyone. Below, Dr. Mychael Willon, superintendent of schools, checked out the Safe Bus, from the roof of the vehicle. During the Open House the New York State Police offered a display, there was a puppet show, and awards were given to winners of the poster contest, and more.



Photos by Stephen P. Jensen

