



# Willmot wins Woman & Youth Award

*OA home school coordinator honored by Boys & Girls Club*

Sue Willmot, home school coordinator for the Owego Apalachin Central School District, recently was awarded the "Woman & Youth Award" by the Tioga County Boys & Girls Club. The honor came as a complete surprise, said Willmot.

"Betsey (Bacelli) called me about a month or so beforehand," Willmot said, "and she asked if I'd talk about what I do for the district at the executive board's dinner.

"She said 'I'll buy you dinner,' and that hooked me," Willmot added, laughing.

— See Willmot Page 2



Stephen P. Jensen photo

*"I never know, when the phone rings, is it going to be someone saying, 'Sue, we need to investigate a home to see if we should make a hotline call. We don't like to make (those calls), but we're not afraid to make them.'"*

- Sue Willmot

## In Style: Celebrating Valentine's Day



### A Heart-y Breakfast at OES

Friends in Nancy Jackson's third-grade class at Owego Elementary School celebrated Valentine's Day in style. As she does each year, Jackson hosted a formal breakfast for her students, who clearly enjoyed the special treatment. Shown here are several of Jackson's students, while in the photo at bottom-left, Jackson dishes out what Dan Whippo considered to be a few too many pancakes. (For the record, Whippo made her take a couple back.) To see more pictures from Jackson's Valentine's Day breakfast, see Page 3.



Stephen P. Jensen photos

## OAMS auction set for March 11

*Registration opens at 8; event under way at 10*

The Owego Apalachin Central School District will hold its auction of items at the old middle school beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 11, at the school gymnasium, 100 Elm St., Owego.

Auctioneer Howard W. Visscher, of Nichols, will conduct the auction, which will continue throughout the day until 4 p.m.

According to Visscher, anyone who wishes to register for the auction may begin doing so as early as 8 a.m. March 11. Registrants will need to show a valid driver's license or some other valid form of photo identification to be allowed to bid on items during the auc-

— See Auction Page 3

## BAC to present recommendations to BOE March 9

The Owego Apalachin Budget Advisory Committee has met on a nearly weekly basis since the beginning of January to review the 2006-2007 OA district budget preparation process.

The committee, comprised of members of the community, interacts with school district officials and members of the Board of Education to review zero-based budget presentations from all major components/departments (including maintenance, transportation, instruction, special education, athletics, computer services and administration).

The BAC has shared questions, answers, ideas and concerns in many candid discussions along the way, and after its final meeting, scheduled for March 6, the group will present its recommendations to the OA board at the regular BOE meeting on Thursday, March 9.

Participating community members of the BAC this year are: Frank Allen, Bill Eschler, Jack Legg, Bill Paradis and Doug Watson.

## How to reach OA



### Administration

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

**Joseph Sever**  
Interim Superintendent  
Phone: 687-6224  
E-mail: severj@oacsd.org

**Bernard C. Dolan Jr.**  
Associate Superintendent  
Phone: 687-6223  
E-mail: dolanb@oacsd.org

**Thomas Comerford III**  
Dir. Pupil Personnel Services  
Phone: 687-6226  
E-mail: comerfordt@oacsd.org

**Laura Lindsley**  
Business Official  
Phone: 687-6215  
E-mail: lindsleyl@oacsd.org

**Michael Melamed**  
Interim Coord. of Instruction  
Phone: 687-6227  
E-mail: melamedm@oacsd.org

**Apalachin Elementary**  
405 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Apalachin, N.Y. 13732

**Joseph DiCosimo**  
Principal  
Phone: 687-6289  
E-mail: dicosimoj@oacsd.org

**OA Middle School**  
3 Sheldon Guile Boulevard  
Owego, N.Y. 13827

**Robert Devan**  
Principal  
Phone: 687-6248  
E-mail: devanb@oacsd.org

**Sheila Bertoni**  
Dean of Students  
Phone: 687-6250  
E-mail: bertonis@oacsd.org

**Owego Elementary**  
1 Christa McAuliffe Lane  
Owego, N.Y. 13827

**George Thearle**  
Principal  
Phone: 687-6261  
E-mail: thearleg@oacsd.org

**Owego Free Academy**  
1 Sheldon Guile Boulevard  
Owego, N.Y. 13827

**Ronald Pierce**  
Principal  
Phone: 687-6230  
E-mail: rpierce@oacsd.org

**Dean of Students**  
**Willard Davis**  
Phone: 687-6231  
E-mail: davisw@oacsd.org

**Tom Bryant**  
Athletic Director  
Phone: 687-6232  
E-mail: bryantr@oacsd.org

## Willmot Continued from Page 1

Willmot, who acts as liaison between the school district and the homes of some of the district's students, described her job as one in which she "helps with communication from home to school, and back and forth."

"I also help some families who need additional services hook up with those entities," she said.

Willmot, who is in her 25<sup>th</sup> year employed by the OA district, maintains her office at Owego Elementary School, but she travels often.

"I spend morning at OES on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Monday afternoons at Apalachin Elementary School, and on Thursday, I start at AES with child study. Tuesdays and Thursday I'm also at the middle school."

In her fifth year as home school coordinator, Willmot has worn various hats for the district. She started working for OA as a lunch aide, then became a kindergarten aide, followed by a stint as a pre-first-grade aide. Next came service as a math and reading lab aide, and finally, while she was back in college, she also worked as a clerk-typist at OAMS.

She received a two-year degree from TC3, then acquired her bachelor's degree in human services from Binghamton University.

"All the while, I continued to work and be a mom," she added.

While she was surprised by the honor, which was bestowed upon her on Feb. 8, she said she understood why she was honored, not only with the title, but with a nice statue.

"I think (members of the execu-



tive board) know that I try to bring something positive to children's lives," Willmot said. "I try to be aware of the kids who need coats and clothes and to make sure parents are signed up for free-and-reduced lunches, so all our kids have at least two nourishing meals a day."

While Willmot talked about her work, the phone in her office continued to ring. She took every call.

"I never know, when the phone rings, is it going to be someone saying, 'Sue, we need to investigate a home to see if we should make a hotline call (to the New York State Hotline for physical abuse, sexual abuse, guardian neglect or any other reason),' " she said. "We don't like to make (those calls), but we're not afraid to make them."

She said that a phone call could also signal a need for her to drive out to

a home where the parents don't have phone service.

"Maybe a child is sick at school and needs to go home," Willmot said. "So I go check to see if a parent is there before we make moves to get that child home."

Willmot also must pay close attention to hygiene issues in homes she visits, as well as attending to special needs situations.

"We may have a physically or emotionally handicapped child, or a learning disabled child, and we try to assist in getting them outside services," Willmot said. "In some cases, they may not have heard of a situation where they can get a special respite. Maybe have someone come in for just an hour or so and sit with the child, so the parent can go out to the store without having to take the child out.

"Sometimes we have to nudge them to take the first step," she said. "You can usually tell when a parent is beginning to get overwhelmed."

Last year, Willmot was also appointed "homeless liaison" for the district.

"In the Owego area we don't have a lot of homeless on the streets," she said, "but we have situations where families are 'doubling up,' where you'll have two families staying together.

"Or with high school students, they might refer to it as 'couch surfing.' We try to help out with situations like those.

"And, of course, part of my job is to track down kids and find them."

## NOTES

### Junior Planning Program scheduled for March 22

Owego Free Academy juniors and their parents/guardians should mark their calendars for OFA's annual Junior Planning Program, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, in the high school cafeteria.

The program's focus is to provide juniors and their parents/guardians with an overview of the college admission process for two- and four-year post-secondary institutions, both private and public.

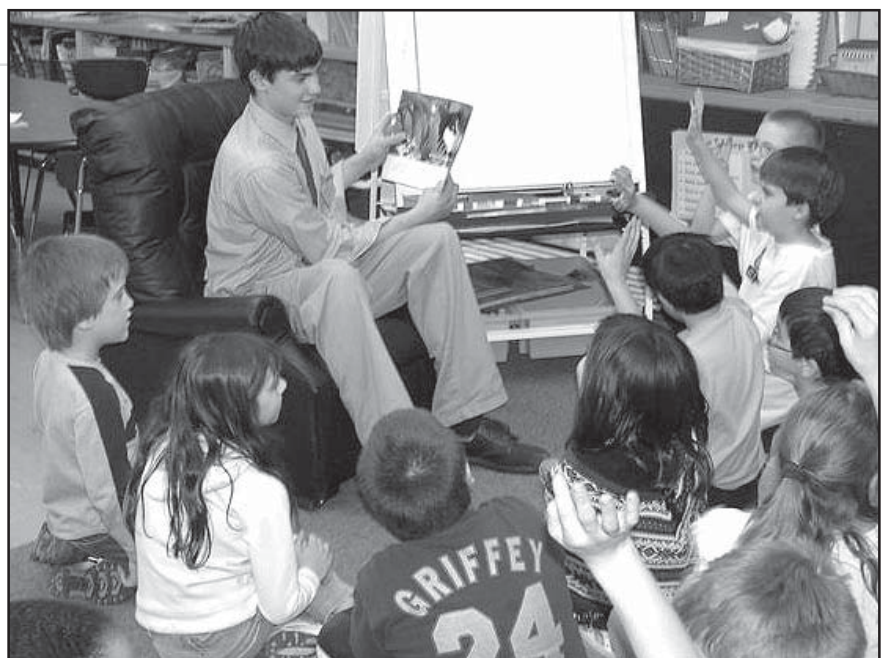
Area admissions representatives will be on hand to present current information, as well as to answer questions.

### OAMS science students share books at OES

Forty-four seventh-graders visited OES on Feb. 17 to share storybooks they had written in OAMS teacher John Heath's science classes. Students wrote children's books describing physical and chemical changes in matter. They produced books that accurately described the topic and met all of the project requirements.

"I think this was a great way to recognize these students for the time and effort that went into producing unique and creative books," said Heath.

"It demonstrated their understanding of this difficult topic. This activity proved to be a great experience for the seventh-graders, as well as the elementary students who had recently been introduced to these concepts in their science classes as well."



During the celebration of PARP (Parents at Reading Partners), OFA junior Andy Marzo read to Toni Shierloh's OES class. For the program, OES invited some of the OFA student-athletes to read. Marzo, who plays soccer, basketball and baseball, read the books "Dogzilla" and "Katkong."

### Dance for the ages at OAMS March 24

The OAMS student council is preparing to "Dance Through the Ages" on March 24. Students will be encouraged to learn dances from the 1920s, '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s and today and then dress to reflect one of the periods of time. Eighth-grader will also draw parallels between history, outfits and dances of the 1920s through social studies.

DJs will play music reflecting the different eras and students will be encouraged to come forward in the special lights and dance. Some parents and grandparents have already been involved, sewing poodle skirts and offering decorating and food ideas.

Any family or community member interested in helping is

encouraged to call Sheila Bertoni at 687-6250.

### OAMS students' poetry to appear in publication

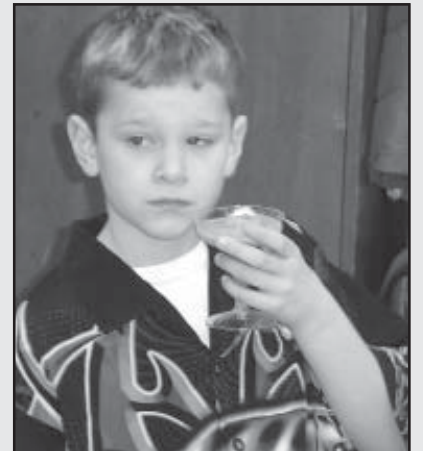
Colleen Koprevich's OAMS students last fall completed a poetry unit, and the results were impressive.

Several of the students had their work selected to appear in "A Celebration of Young Poets." The students will share their works at an upcoming Binghamton University Poetry Day.

These students had their poetry published: Nicole Bergmann, Alysah Berwald, Chrissy Carlson, Amanda Cordi, Aaron Francis, Jessica Kemmerling, Tyler Kwiatkowski, Courtney Malia, Jacob Mendelson, Seana Porter, Katelyn Simpson, Mike Steidle and Stephen Yanchus.



Stephen P. Jensen photos



**MORE FROM THE FEAST** - Here are some more scenes from Nancy Jackson's Valentine's Day breakfast (which became lunch, and over the next few days, leftovers for the kids).

## Sophomores can attend Career Expo on March 15

What's it like to be a chef, an architect, an animal trainer or a journalist? Students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade will be finding out more about those and other areas of interest from people who are actually in these careers fields when they attend "Career Expo 2006," scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 15 at Binghamton University.

Career Expo is a one-day career awareness event sponsored by BOCES School-to-Careers Partnership of Broome & Tioga counties, the Broome-Tioga Counselors'

Association, Binghamton University's School of Education and Human Development, and local organizations. It is a community-wide effort to encourage career awareness among young people.

Sophomores from Broome and Tioga county schools are eligible to participate. They sign up for the Expo at their home school by selecting three career fields from 41 career categories.

For more information, call Patty Gonz at 763-3481 or write to her at [pgonz@btboces.org](mailto:pgonz@btboces.org).

### Auction *Continued from Page 1*

tion. Registration will end at 10 a.m., as the auction commences.

"Terms of sale will be cash, or a good check," said Visscher, who joked that by a "good check," he meant one that "has the money behind it. We don't take credit cards, so folks will have to make arrangements ahead of time."

Visscher added that buyers will pay the amount that they bid on an item, plus appropriate sales tax.

"There will be no buyer's premium (some auctioneers will charge \$110 at the cash register for a winning bid of \$100)," Visscher said. "We don't do that. As auctioneers, we call that buyer's penalty. We work for the sellers and try to get the most value for the merchandise, and those profits go to the seller."

Under the terms of his agreement with the OA district, Visscher will advertise in the

Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin, the Pennysaver and "a few other papers" in the area, he said, prior to the auction.

At its regular meeting on Feb. 23, the OA Board of Education voted to accept the agreement with Visscher to conduct the auction at the old OAMS.

While the auction will be conducted in the school's gym, Visscher said that anyone bidding on larger kitchen items, such as stoves, ovens and serving lines, would relocate to the kitchen area to conduct that bidding.

Among additional items to be offered at the March 11 auction: basic furniture and fixtures; classroom desks, tables, chairs and file cabinets; and more.

For more information, contact Marcy Hill in the OA business office at 687-6215, or Stephen P. Jensen, OA public information coordinator, at 687-7124.

# Around OA *Brief stops th* ...



## M.O.R.E. students chart Torino Games

Back in December, the students in M.O.R.E. started charting the path of the Olympic torch, following it on its way to Torino, Italy.

The M.O.R.E. students spent January researching the different events that would take place during the Olympics, and they logged on to look at [www.nbcolympics.com](http://www.nbcolympics.com).

They watched video and researched the events and different athletes to compete in the Olympics, then wrote reports. They also charted the medal count on Excel spread sheets as the Olympics progressed last month.



## PARP stormed through AES in February

February was "Parents As Reading Partners" (PARP) month at Apalachin Elementary School. The theme for this year's PARP was "Blizzard of Books." The goal was to have each parent (or another adult) read at least 15 minutes a day with their child.

For each book that was read, a snowflake with the book's title was placed on the child's classroom door to create a blizzard about books around the school.

To help kick off this "Blizzard of Books," AES students were read and sung to by Mrs. McPuppet during an assembly at the school (shown in the photos here).

As her name implies Mrs. McPuppet uses fabulous puppets that come in all shapes and sizes to immerse children in the world of literacy in a fun and meaningful way. She even got the teachers involved in the retelling of Jan Brett's "The Mitten," as they took to the stage, helping with props and some interaction from the audience.



**FRENCH SIG**  
letter-of-inten  
level. Picture  
Scott Snyder  
accept it," sai  
took place in

# throughout our district in the month of February.

## Hats off: Mr. Shambo's class

OES teacher Joe Shambo recently hosted a Hat Day in his classroom. Children brought their own hats from home. They could choose any hat they wanted. It could be their father's hat, their mom's hat, or it could be one of their own. The only catch was that the kids had to be able to talk about the hats for the fashion show.

Shambo explained how things went: "Here is an example of what they might tell me: 'My hat is red with the number eight on it. It is a Junior (as in, Dale Earnhardt Jr.) hat. He drives a race car. My dad bought it for me at the store. I like my hat. It is nice.'"

The students also read the book "Caps for Sale," as well as spending some time practicing for their fashion show. Parents were invited to attend, and the show lasted about 15 minutes.



**SIGNING** - Owego Free Academy senior Leah French, on Feb. 10, signed a contract to play basketball at Houghton College, which plays at the Division 2 level. Here are French and coach of the OFA girls' varsity basketball team, Coach Snyder. French received a quality scholarship offer and excitedly decided to play for Snyder. French was also joined by her parents for the signing, which was held in the OFA lobby.

## Christiano grant goes to reading program

Sue Christiano, OES first-grade teacher, offers her class a program called "The Reading and Writing Round-Up," an evening program for her students and their families.

During each session, reading and writing strategies are reviewed and practiced. Participants are happy to complete homework assignments each week.

Christiano received a grant from the Owego Apalachin Technology Resource Teacher Center to purchase a set of "Frog Family Fun Pack of Reading Games" to use during the "Round-up."

Winning the game is fun for the children, but win or not, it's always educational.



## New chess club an AES sensation

There is a new after-school club at Apalachin Elementary School that's causing quite a sensation, thanks to the dedication of two parents. Mr. and Mrs. Ratway are generously volunteering their time and expertise to teach students in grades three through five the game of chess.

The club meets every Thursday, and during club time, the basic skills and strategies of chess are being introduced to many eager students. The response to the chess club was so great that the Ratways will be offering a second 10-week session later this school year.



## Five at OES selected for "Space Day" t-shirts

Students from Deidre Jones' fifth-grade class at Owego Elementary School participated in the Lockheed Martin "Space Day T-Shirt Contest."

Five students - Katrina Chang, Erin Gunther, Chris Lapinski, Katherine Kiballa, and Surbhi Kumar - had their ideas for the t-shirts selected to be on display at the National Space Day celebration event being held in Washington, D.C., on May 4.

Everyone who participated in the contest received a certificate and a "Space Day" pin from Lockheed Martin.

George Thearle, OES principal, presented the certificates and pins at a ceremony in their classroom. These students submitted ideas for t-shirts: Olivia Bishop, Katrina Chang, Erin Gunther, Dakota Delaney-Hammond, Elleanor Howard, Derek Hicks, Katherine Kiballa, Surbhi Kumar, Chris Lapinski, Mariah Osterhaut, Nick Riegel, Kyle Schreiner, Kasey Vought and Graham Wiles.

## Varsity Sports Calendar ... Through April 29

### MARCH 3

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

### MARCH 4

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

### MARCH 7

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

### MARCH 9

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

### MARCH 17

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

### MARCH 24

- ◆Boys Lacrosse @ Ithaca, 4:30 p.m.

### MARCH 27

- ◆Boys Lacrosse @ Binghamton, Alumni Stadium, 7 p.m.

### APRIL 3

- ◆Baseball @ CV, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Girls Lacrosse @ Corning West, 7 p.m.

### APRIL 4

- ◆Boys Lacrosse @ Whitney Point Keibel Field, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Boys Track Non-League Triangulars @ CV, TBA
- ◆Girls Track Non-League Triangulars, TBA

### APRIL 5

- ◆Baseball vs. U-E, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Boys Tennis vs. M-E, 4 p.m.

### APRIL 6

- ◆Girls Lacrosse @ M-E, 4:30 p.m.

### APRIL 7

- ◆Boys Lacrosse vs. M-E, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Baseball @ JC Green Field, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Softball @ SCC, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Boys Tennis @ Oneonta, 4 p.m.

### APRIL 8

- ◆Boys Track Invitational, TBA
- ◆Girls Track Invitational, TBA

### APRIL 10

- ◆Baseball vs. M-E, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Softball vs. Whitney Point, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Boys Tennis vs. Johnson City, 4 p.m.

### APRIL 11

- ◆Boys Lacrosse vs. CV, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Girls Lacrosse vs. Corning East, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Boys Track @ Norwich, 4:15 p.m.
- ◆Girls Track @ Norwich, 4:15 p.m.

### APRIL 12

- ◆Baseball @ Binghamton Conlon Field, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Softball @ CF, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Boys Tennis @ SV, 4 p.m.

### APRIL 13

- ◆Baseball vs. CV, 1 p.m.

### APRIL 15

- ◆Boys Track Invitational, TBA
- ◆Girls Track Invitational, TBA

### APRIL 17

- ◆Baseball @ Ithaca, 2 p.m.

### APRIL 18

- ◆Girls Lacrosse vs. U-E, 4:30 p.m.

### APRIL 19

- ◆Boys Lacrosse vs. Elmira Notre Dame, 5 p.m.
- ◆Baseball vs. Vestal, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Softball vs. Windsor, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Boys Tennis @ SCC, Rec Park, 4 p.m.
- ◆Boys Track Division Duals, TBA
- ◆Girls Track Division Duals, TBA

### APRIL 21

- ◆Boys Lacrosse vs. CF, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Girls Lacrosse vs. Binghamton, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Softball @ SV, 4:30 p.m.

### Remaining BAC meeting schedule

- ◆March 6

*This last meeting of the Budget Advisory Committee begins at 6 p.m. at the OA Administration Building, 36 Talcott St., Owego. The meeting is open to the public.*



### APRIL 22

- ◆Baseball vs. SV, 1 p.m.
- ◆Boys Track Invitational, TBA
- ◆Girls Track Invitational, TBA

### APRIL 24

- ◆Baseball vs. EFA, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Girls Lacrosse vs. JC, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Boys Tennis vs. CF, 4 p.m.

### APRIL 25

- ◆Boys Lacrosse @ Johnson City Green Field, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Boys Track @ Oneonta, 4:15 p.m.
- ◆Girls Track @ Oneonta, 4:15 p.m.

### APRIL 26

- ◆Baseball @ Corning West, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Softball @ CV, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Boys Tennis vs. CV, 4 p.m.

### APRIL 28

- ◆Boys Lacrosse @ SCC, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Baseball vs. Horseheads, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Girls Lacrosse vs. Corning West, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Softball vs. Oneonta, 4:30 p.m.
- ◆Boys Tennis @ Windsor, 4 p.m.

### APRIL 29

- ◆Baseball @ Waverly Dunn Field, 10 a.m.

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

## OA Calendar

### MARCH 4

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

### MARCH 9

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

### MARCH 10

Schools closed  
Superintendent's Conference Day

### MARCH 11

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

### MARCH 16

OFA Jazz Night – 7:30 p.m.

### MARCH 22

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

### MARCH 23

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

### MARCH 24

OFA Variety Show  
OAMS Theater – 7:30 p.m.

### MARCH 29

District-wide Early Release Day  
OAMS & OFA at 12:45 p.m.  
AES & OES at 1:45 p.m.

### MARCH 31 and APRIL 1

"You Ain't Nothin' But a Werewolf"  
OAMS Theater – 7:30 p.m.

### APRIL 4

Mason Warrington Orchestra Concert  
OAMS Theater – 7:30 p.m.

### APRIL 5

AES Open House - TBD

### APRIL 7

OFA Variety Show  
OAMS Theatre – 7:30 p.m.

### APRIL 13-18

Schools Closed – Spring Recess



### Owego Apalachin Fitness Center Hours

Through April 17, 2006

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

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

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



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

**At OFA**  
Stephanie Mills  
millss@oacsd.org

**At OAMS**  
Christina Bangel  
bangelc@oacsd.org

**At AES**  
Erin Ripic  
ripice@oacsd.org

**At OES**  
Reatha Woodburn  
woodburnr@oacsd.org

**At the District Office**  
Stephen P. Jensen, Editor  
jensens@oacsd.org  
Phone: 687-7124

**At the District Office**  
Barb Dornblaser, Associate Editor  
dornblaserb@oacsd.org  
Phone: 687-6224

# OA Foundation for Excellence presents grants

The OA Foundation for Excellence in Education is pleased to announce the following winners of our Winter of 2006 grant awards:

◆“Enhancing the Quality of Materials Used in Special Education,” Diane Tavelli from AES for \$500.

◆“Readingpen Personal Reading Tutor,” Theresa Heimbuecher, OFA, \$295.

◆“Apalachin Elementary School Red Knights Chess Club,” Michael Ratway, AES parent, \$500.

◆“Fossil Dig,” Christine

Wilde, St. Patrick’s School, \$143.

◆“Taking Off on Mother Goose’s Wings,” Sue Christiano, OES, \$500.

◆“NYSSMA Solo & Ensemble Music Library,” Dan Fabricius, OFA, \$500.

◆“NYSSMA Solo Library,” Andy Kearney, OAMS, \$400.

◆“Teaching literacy through meaningful text to text connections in the content area of mathematics,” Emily Crawford, AES, \$500.

◆“Comprehension in the

Primary Grades,” Amy Pritchard, AES, \$500.

◆“Using graphic literature to excite struggling and reluctant readers,” Sandy Stiles, OAMS library, \$500.

◆“Foreign Language Culture Festival,” Kathleen Vasilopoulos, Foreign Language Department (2-12), OA district, \$500.

◆“Improving Fluency and Comprehension in Reading for Lifelong Learners,” Stacey Silvestri, OES, \$500.

The foundation is a community-run, not-for-profit orga-

nization in our area, providing grants for innovative and stimulating educational programs within the OA district.

The foundation has been able to fund more than \$48,000 in grants in our area.

Among past recipients of such grants are all the OA schools, as well as the Tioga County Boys & Girls Club, Zion Lutheran School, Coburn Free Library, Apalachin Library, Tioga Opportunities tutor program, St. Patrick’s School and Owego Police Department Youth Services Unit.

In 2002, the foundation started a scholarship program for graduating seniors.

In 2004, the Marzo family asked the foundation to be trustee of a scholarship program in memory of their father, Joseph N. Marzo.

Between the two programs, the foundation has awarded 11 scholarships for \$5,500 in the past four years.

For more information, write to the OA Foundation for Excellence in Education, P.O. Box 576, Apalachin, N.Y. 13732.

## OES PTO dips into savings, presents grants to school’s teachers



Sue Christiano is shown here, center of back row, with students from her class and representatives from the OES PTO.



Sharlee Montague accepted the kindergarten grant, as her students mugged for the camera.



John Fleischauer got some assistance when he accepted his grant award for the summer reading program.



OES PTO co-president Allison Hall, left, presented a grant to Denise Fabrizio.



Far right, Ruth Toal is shown with her class at OES after accepting a grant, while Carrie Luke is tough to find, posing with her students in the photo to the right. (Luke is toward the back, center-right.)



Far right, Stacey Sylvestri is shown with her class after receiving her “mentor text” grant, as Trevor McCloe (holding the envelope) is shown being presented his grant, flanked by members of the OES PTO and George Thearle, OES principal.



The Parent Teacher Organization at Owego Elementary School on Feb. 16 presented grants to nine OES teachers, the amount of the grants totaling \$5,227.

Last fall, the OES PTO voted to use a portion of its surplus funds to sponsor educational programs at the school. Grant criteria and applications were shared with OES faculty at the school’s November faculty meeting. Applications were due Jan. 31.

The following is a brief description of who won the grants, and what they won them for:

◆Trevor McCloe: \$850 for a whole school, 12 month subscription to [www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com).

◆Kindergarten: \$612 for a “basket of books” program.

◆Fourth grade: \$151 BOCES film unit.

◆Denise Fabrizio: \$489 K-2 Reader’s Theater Text Program.

◆Sue Christiano: \$237 for educational games.

◆Ruth Toal: \$608 for kindergarten literacy.

◆Stacey Silvestri: \$280 for mentor texts.

◆John Fleischauer: \$1,200 for a summer reading program.

◆First grade: \$400 for 100-Book Reading Challenge and ceremony.

For more information about the grants, or about the OES PTO, contact Allison Hall, OES PTO co-president, at 687-8826.

## Tom Davis to be featured during OA "Jazz Night"

The Owego Apalachin Music Department will present a high point of its performing year during "Jazz Night," scheduled for 7:30 p.m. March 16 at the OAMS Theater.

Representing OAMS will be the SOS Jazz Band and the Elm Street Jazz Band, both directed by Andrew Kearney. The Owego Free Academy Jazz Band and Jazz Band II, both directed by Daniel Fabricius, will headline.

The featured artist is trumpeter Tom Davis of Canadaigua.

Davis earned his undergraduate degree in music education from Ithaca College and his master's in Jazz and Contemporary Media from the Eastman School of Music.

His writing credits include the New Orleans Brass Quintet, the Eastman Jazz En-

semble, Wynton Marsalis and Sir Roland Hanna.

Davis will meet with OA students on March 15 and 16 to rehearse his music with all the bands.

He'll also coach students in jazz improvisation, and will meet with music theory classes to discuss composition.

"I find Mr. Davis' music to be very challenging to play, but also very appealing for the performers," said Fabricius, OFA director of bands.

"His compositional techniques are interesting, he uses a full range of instrumental colors, and his use of layered rhythms creates a great effect. The student feedback has been very positive so far, as they have begun learning Mr. Davis' compositions."

Admission on March 16 is free and the entire community is invited.



### All that jazz

During a practice last month, the OFA jazz band gets put through its paces under the direction of Dan Fabricius, OFA band leader.

Stephen P. Jensen photos

## Scenes from "Anything Goes"



Photos provided