

Echoes from the Valley

MISSION STATEMENT: The Otselic Valley Central School community will encourage decisions that give all students the opportunity to achieve their highest level of learning in preparation for a challenging tomorrow.

Goals Drive Our Direction, Part 2



We recently helped to plan and completed one of the first Chenango County vaccination clinics designed to protect our children from the H1N1 virus. Proudly, I can report that the clinic ran very smoothly on all levels.

You may wonder what the clinic has to do with the title of this message. In the last newsletter I focused on our district goal of offering rigorous programs in a safe environment. This time I'd like to draw your attention to the second important goal: becoming more resource efficient.

The H1N1 clinic is one illustration of how organizations can maximize their resource potential, and especially in a time when resources are scarce. On their end, Chenango County Health received a number of doses. They had staff to provide the service, but not the capability to organize the public. That's where we came in. We began with a team of principals Nancy Gallaher and Scott Poreda and school nurses Stacie Morse and Becky Ashton. They acted as contacts with the health department, planned for space, dates, and time logistics, surveyed parents, prepared permissions, and engaged a very cooperative instructional and custodial staff.

Afterwards and as an unexpected bonus, Chenango County Health and our nurses then worked with our friends at the Madison County Health Department to provide the second dose to eligible children (below age ten). Parents will be receiving information on that event soon.

We sometimes take these efforts for granted. We often assume that a single person nods and the job is done to visionary standards. In these trying times we can't forget that the resources which are keys to success often lie with a variety of people and organizations.

When those people recognize their important single piece of the whole, and offer it in a cooperative spirit, important work can be done in a speedy, cost effective and valuable manner.

There are other examples that I can relate to you. At the instructional level staff is always seeking non-local funding resources. Recent mini-grant recipients include Julie Hammer, Lori Youngs, Sue LeBlanc, and Kris Clark. They and others have taken advantage of outside resources to enhance the learning of our children. Similarly, Sherry Grello's efforts have also contacted outside resources, but she additionally utilizes some of her own personal equipment to create and expand an in-house student television station. Principals Poreda and Gallaher have taken advantage of federal resources to provide their staff with professional development materials which, in turn, help us to work on the goals described in the last newsletter. All of these examples lower the burden to local taxpayers.

Our non-instructional teams also approach each day with an eye towards maximizing our human and material resources. We have tied certain work jobs to custodians based on their unique talents. We have mixed those work teams at different times, maximizing their capability to get the work right the first time. Our aides have expanded our capacity to support as many students as is appropriate. Their care and effort has allowed us to get the most out of teachers' direct instruction to students.

It does not stop here, and I apologize to my colleagues for not having the space to fully tell the tale. We take this goal of efficiency very seriously. Each day we seek ways to manage our resources more effectively while gaining ground for our children. In a time of scarcity and uncertainty, we can do no less.

—Larry Thomas, Superintendent

FFA's October Fun

FFA President **Karl Graham** and Vice-President **Nathan Stark** attended the 54th Annual Chenango County Farm Bureau Meeting on October 20, at the Silo Restaurant in Greene. Karl and Nathan presented the Agricultural Education/FFA Resolution. This resolution asked that the Chenango County Farm Bureau reaffirm its support for the state-wide Agricultural Education Outreach Initiative, and its components of Agricultural Literacy, High School Agricultural Education, and FFA. This resolution also looked for Farm Bureau support to maintain State funding for State Agricultural Education.

During the week of October 18-23, **Ryan Mason** represented the OV chapter FFA in Indianapolis, IN at the 82nd National FFA Convention. In addition to attending the many business sessions of the convention, Ryan attended the Career Show, workshops in Career Development, and also visited The Indianapolis Zoo. During the convention sessions, two young organic farmers representing Organic Valley presented a workshop titled, *An Introduction to Organic Farming and Gardening*. According to Organic Valley Farm Outreach Manager, Joe Pedretti, "One of the big misconceptions is that organic is trying to promote itself as better than other types of agriculture. But really what we want to show folks is that it's an alternative . . . it's another option." Preston Green, former Wisconsin State FFA Officer, said that "Just because organic agriculture is different, doesn't mean it's not agriculture. I want to see the stereotype broken that organic is against conventional. We're all farmers." Sarah Holm, another college student in Wisconsin said



that "It's kind of like we're taking the best of what our grandparents and great-grandparents had and then applying some modern technology to do a completely new thing, but it is based a lot on traditional farming."

To add to the excitement of the convention, former Oklahoma FFA member Toby Keith performed a concert in Lucas Oil Stadium. Great American Country (GAC) brought a number of young country singers to perform at the Career Show. Among those artists were Lonestarlets, Lane Turner, Katie Armiger, Mallary Hope, and past Florida FFA member Easton Corbin.

In 1969 the national FFA membership voted to admit women into the FFA. Today half of all leadership positions in FFA are held by women—the same women that comprise 41% of the organization. On October 22, the U.S. Senate adopted a resolution celebrating the 40th Anniversary of women's admittance into the FFA and the contribution they've made to the organization.

Respectfully submitted,
Jake DeRochie
 FFA Reporter

Sophomore Class to Host Winter Ball Semi-Formal

Attention all students from grades 7-12

The sophomore class will be sponsoring a *Winter Ball Semi-Formal* to be held on December 5 at the High School. Admission is \$5 for singles and \$8 for couples. There will be a photographer taking pictures. Photo packages will be given out a week before the ball. Please come support the class of 2012 and *have a ball!*



National FFA and Tournament of Roses Parade

A press conference at the 82nd National FFA Convention detailed the partnership between the FFA and RFD-TV in creating a float for the January 1, 2010 Tournament of Roses parade. The float features three large statues of members working with science implements, blueprints and agricultural products. In addition to the FFA emblem, it will contain a number of symbols important to the organization, including the owl and plow. The far end of the float will feature a barn, skyscrapers and a satellite to incorporate the diversity shown throughout the organization. The float will measure 30 feet tall, 18 feet wide and 75 feet long. All six of the National FFA officers, the four Stars over America winners and National FFA CEO and Advisor, Larry Case, will be riding on the float. The float will be flanked by walking state representatives from all 50 U.S. States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

RFD-TV will do an hour long feature before the parade on the building of the float, which will encompass the construction, application of flowers and adding the final touches. Following the special, they will air the entire parade. RFD-TV wants the main focus of this float to portray FFA being an organization for new age agriculture. Not only is FFA a group for farmers, but for all agriculturalists and enthusiasts of leadership development.

We hope that on New Year's Day 2010, you will join us to relax, gather with family and wake up and smell the roses with FFA and RFD-TV. Information from Andrew Walker, www.ffa.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Jake DeRochie
FFA Reporter

Yearbook Website

Do you need an order form? Want to know when pictures will be taken for a specific group? Check us out at www.ovcs.org/yearbook for all your yearbook information.



A Live Connection

Today we are all suffering from information overload with digital, cable and satellite news bombarding us 24 hours a day and commentators offering their opinions on TV, blogs and social networking sites like Facebook®.

While all of this technology can be good, many social scientists and education specialists are worried that we are losing our ability to communicate on a human-to-human basis. It seems as if people do not really talk to each other anymore, they just twitter their thoughts to other computers and cell phones. Some observers are concerned that the rise of non-personal communication, like texting and social networking, is actually leading to more isolation at a time when we need more human contact.

So maybe it's time to introduce some antidotes to the potentially toxic information age. Below are a few things you can try at home and at school.

At school, some teachers have recognized that we are losing our ability to have *normal* conversations without electronic devices. These teachers have introduced elements of social conversation into some of their classes—not just public speaking, but talking and the art of conversation. Other teachers and school boards have brought in text-free days once a month when students (and teachers) are asked to give their thumbs a rest so that they actually talk in real time to each other. Still others have taken to bringing a newspaper with them to school and asking their students to take the time to read an article and then have a discussion about it, without chattering opinions coming at them from commentators or blog posters.

Home is also a great place to build an antidote to information overload. Meal times at the kitchen table are ideal opportunities to rekindle human connections and allow both children and adults to talk a little about their daily lives, as well as the latest news. These conversations at the dinner table do not have to be deep or profound to be meaningful, but they do have to allow time to have a human interaction without too much background noise.

The new information age has given all of us some tremendous opportunities to share ideas with our friends, neighbors, and strangers. But we should never forget that as much as we need information, we also need that human touch.

Reserve Your Elementary Yearbook Now!

K-6 Yearbooks may be reserved from now until February 1, 2010. The price of the book is \$21 (this includes 8% sales tax). Please pay in full when making your reservation. Books ordered after March 1 will cost \$25. If you do not pre-order we cannot guarantee you a book.

The balance must be paid in full by May 1, 2010 or your reservation will be canceled. All reservations will be conducted through the High School. To order books please complete the form below, detach, and mail to:

Mrs. Osowski, Yearbook Advisor
Otselic Valley Central School
P.O. Box 161
South Otselic, New York 13155

The number of books available is limited so reserve your book TODAY! **Now available! Order your yearbook online at www.org/yearbook.**

Reserve Your High School Yearbook Now!

7-12 Yearbooks may be reserved from now until February 1, 2010. The price of the book is \$54 (this includes 8% sales tax). A non-refundable deposit of \$20 is due for each book reserved. Books ordered after March 1 will cost \$60. If you do not pre-order we cannot guarantee you a book.

The balance must be paid in full by May 1, 2010 or your reservation will be canceled. All reservations will be conducted through the High School. To order books please complete the form below, detach, and mail to:

Mrs. Osowski, Yearbook Advisor
Otselic Valley Central School
P.O. Box 161
South Otselic, New York 13155

The number of books available is limited so reserve your book TODAY! **Now available! Order your yearbook online at www.org/yearbook.**

Elementary Yearbook Sale Order Form

Please Print Clearly

Name of person receiving/picking up book: _____

Deliver to: Elementary High School

Teacher (elem. only): _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to OVCS Yearbook. Do not send cash through the mail.)

Address for receipt: _____

Order Today!

High School Yearbook Sale Order Form

Please Print Clearly

Name of person receiving/picking up book: _____

Deliver to: Elementary High School

Teacher (elem. only): _____

SENIORS ONLY: Name Stamp \$6 (due with deposit) *Sorry, no nicknames.*

Name: _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

(Please make checks payable to OVCS Yearbook. Do not send cash through the mail.)

Address for receipt: _____

Red Cross Blood Drive

On December 17 the OV FFA will host a Blood Drive from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the High School Multi-Purpose Room. To make donation appointments, contact Betty Robinson, FFA Advisor at 653-7218.

Despite the current swine flu situation, the American Red Cross encourages all healthy blood donors to keep their blood donation appointments. American Red Cross blood drives will continue as scheduled unless local authorities cancel a drive as a precaution. It is important that we continue to collect lifesaving blood at this time. If a drive is canceled, we will notify scheduled donors.

If you have the flu, have a fever, have developed a new cough, runny nose or sore throat over the past two days or are the primary caregiver of someone who has the flu, please do not give blood. If you are not feeling well and have an appointment to donate blood, please contact us to reschedule for when you are feeling better.

People should follow basic public health practices, such as covering your cough/sneeze with a tissue, frequent hand-washing, visiting a doctor for flu-like symptoms and staying home when sick.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jake DeRochie
FFA Reporter

Career Days

On October 14 and 15, Mrs. Sutton's Money 101 class hosted speakers from the school and the community to come in and speak to us about their careers and their career paths. Some of our speakers knew what career they wanted to pursue as early as their high school years but most did not. Some have changed careers but all learned from past experiences, both the good and the not so good. We would like to say a special thank you to Mr. Thomas, Mr. Springer, Dr. Evans, Mr. Lott, Ms. Wentworth, Mr. Gorman and Mrs. Yafchak for taking time out of their busy schedules to come speak to us.

Thank you.
Mrs. Sutton

8th Grade Social Studies News



The 8th grade students learned about the Civil War and Reconstruction. Their culminating project for reconstruction was a variety of activities including a story book, newspaper, poster, time line, rap song or letter writing. They enjoyed presenting their hard work in front of the class. The next project they will tackle will be becoming an immigrant and experiencing their journeys coming to America. They can include food from their country for their classmates to share.

— Mrs. Morse



Help for Your Struggling Student

Lots of children need special help in school, whether it is because of Attention Deficit Disorder or dyslexia. Following are ways you can help your children develop skills at home that will help them in the classroom.

1. **Make directions specific and simple.** Break complicated tasks into small steps. Limit your child to short subjects and activities, and reward persistence with praise and encouragement.
2. **Help your child become organized.** Have a place for everything, and require that things are always put back where they belong. Establish routines for doing daily chores and activities, and provide work charts or checklists as reminders for complicated tasks.
3. **Repeat learning experiences.** Don't assume that once your child has learned a skill or task, such as spelling his or her name or tying shoes, he or she will retain the knowledge. An hour later, the child may seem to have forgotten it completely. Repeat directions, perhaps using different words.
4. **Cooperate with the school.** Request conferences with the teachers, and ask them to inform you about methods you can reinforce or additional activities you can do with your child at home.
5. **Establish clear rules and consequences.** Talk about and agree upon consequences with your child. Write them down as a sort of formal agreement, and post them where every member of the family can see them easily. Then be consistent about enforcing the rules that you decide upon.

First Marking Period Honor Roll

7th Grade

High Honor

Elwood, Miranda
Hayner, Crystal
Jackson Jenkins, Cashmire

Neal, Justine
Neal, Matthew
Ossont, Jessica

Honor

Allen, Aspen
Elwood, JulieAnne
Foster, Thomas
Horvath, Angel
Lidell, Jordan
Liuzzo, Jonathan
Plummer, Madeleine
Puccio, Joseph
Reynolds, Austin
Rhoades, Jennifer
Thornton, Brandon
VanVoorhis, Colby

Merit

Bower, Jonathan
Collins, Matthew
Kelly, Dakota
O'Hara, Christopher
Olin, Jason
Selinsky, Samantha
Smith, Connor
Stone, Tyler
Strong, Jason
Witt, Danielle

8th Grade

High Honor

Harris, Lauren
Korb, Amanda
Morse, Elizabeth
Petersen, Elyse

Honor

Armstrong, Tyler
Brown, Hayley
DeLee, Kesshia
DeRochie, Nicholas
Garey, Tyler
Graham, Susan

Marshall, Dustin
Parshall, Briana
Pierson, Alexis
Stone, Carly

Merit

Brown, Benjamin
Cortez, Karl
Davies, Madeline
Lyon, Jonathan
Marshall, Darnell
Robinson, Peter

9th Grade

High Honor

Elwood, Kenneth
Harris, Rachael
Lyon, Esther
Manwarren, Kayleena
Marston, Trevor
Monroe, Amber
Stone, Eva

Honor

Agren, Allyzza
Davis, Kaitlyne
DeLee, Kayla
Hamlin, Sydni
Huntley, Brandon
Hutchins, Brandon
Mikula, Karalee
Mott, Aletha
Muller, Zackary
Olin, Nikole
Plummer, Marlea
Reynolds, Hope
Scanlon, Emily
Straight, Howard
Witt, Michael

Merit

Clapp, Dillon
Loomis, Andrew
Pitts, Ashley
Rasmussen, Brenton
Rhoades, Minnie
Smith, Laura
Stith, Chantal
Stone, Dalton

10th Grade

High Honor

Bishop, Charles
Carsten, Logan
Cross, Jacob
Cross, Joshua
Graves, Angela
Larkin, Michael
Lewis, Alan
Loomis, Jessica
Monroe, Adam
Moyer, Bradley
Oliver, Santo
Quick, Kara
Reichard, Elisabeth
Stone, Corey

Honor

Bassett, Kyleigh
Brown, Marina
Gieger, Katherine
Hillman, Crystal
Lyon, Gabrielle
Jaycox, Amanda
Mesko, Desiree
Minor, Alexis
Morgan, Cody
Roalef, Elyse
Sergent, Autumn
Strong, Leah
DuBois, Gregory
ManWarren, Sheleen
Mikula, Kameron

Merit

11th Grade

High Honor

Day, Douglas
DeRochie, Jacob
Graham, Karl
Kelly, Bianca
Lewis, Bethany
Marshall, Dalton

Seager, Brittany
Stark, Nathan
Wood, Jenna

Honor

Beesmer, Stephen
Bencke, Jessica
Centner, Lana
Davis, Dustin
DeVinnie, Kimberly
Kelly, Robert
Kelly, Robert
Marshall, Angie

Merit

Batchelor, Chelsea
Davis, Benjamin
Ellis, Coleman
Forrest, Zachary
Fox, Joshua
Heintz, Robert
Pittsley, Jefferson
Rowland, Zachary

12th Grade

High Honor

Monroe, Taylor
Reichard, Naomi
Sawyer, Michael

Honor

Larkin, Daniel
Littler, Travis
McAuley, Christian
Neal, Christopher
Schloth, Weylin
Thorp, Nathan

Merit

Carver, Teresa
ManWarren, Brian
Marston, Chase
Mason, Ryan
Rounds, Ethan
Williams, Matthew

*Congratulations
Everyone!*

Veterans Appreciation Day

Veterans Appreciation Day has become an annual event at the Otselic Valley Elementary School. On Monday November 9, the students and staff were privileged to welcome many of our local veterans to Morning Program. The gym was filled with music as the anthems of each branch of the service were sung by the students and the veterans introduced themselves to the audience.

This yearly event offers us an opportunity to thank our veterans for the sacrifices they have made so that we can enjoy our freedoms. Our honored guests were Joseph Day, Kenneth Eaton, Rupert Pearson, Carl Goodrich, David Palmer, John Stewart, Logan MacFarland, Jeani Wilcox, William Mandeville, Gordon Kupiec, William Waltz, Jack Conklin, Richard Beckwith, Kenneth Sheldon, Stanley Yale, Charles Hathaway, Oswald Myers, Hugh H. Comfort, Louis Widger Jr., Hadwin Card, Greg Cobb and Earl Howell. Mr. Cobb and Mr. Howell, the color guard, presented the flag for the program.

We hope to see them all return next year along with those who were unable to attend this year. We thank you for serving our country.

Breakfast was served in the cafeteria after the program.

— Morning Program staff



*Thank you for
serving our country.*



Student Incentive News

During the school year, the Junior-Senior High School selects students on a monthly basis to receive the Otselic Valley Citizen of the Month Award. This award honored students who met the following criteria:

- Positive interaction with teachers;
- Positive interaction with peers;
- Satisfactory academic performance; and
- Adherence to rules.

October 2009

Grade 7

Rhoades, Jennifer

Grade 8

Pittsley, Courtney

Grade 9

Mott, Aletha

Grade 10

Stone, Corey

Grade 11

Kelly, Bianca

Grade 12

Sawyer, Michael

OTSELIC VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
Georgetown, New York 13072
South Otselic, New York 13155

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Dale Fox, Vice President
Gregory Brown
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"The Otselic Valley Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disabilities, marital or veteran status."

Contact person:

Lawrence A. Thomas, Superintendent, P.O. Box 161, 125 County Road 13A, South Otselic, NY 13155 (315) 653-7218.

Emergency School Closing Information

Should school be closed due to weather or other emergencies, we work to notify the following radio and television stations. Some of these stations have their own website, and the information is published there also.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS STATIONS

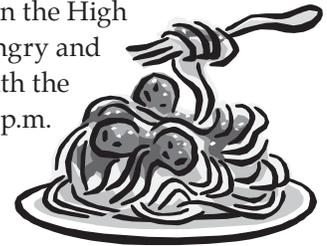
- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| WSYR-AM 570 | WNTQ-FM 93Q |
| WYYY-FM 94.5 | WNSS-AM |
| WBBS-FM B104.7 | WNBF-AM 1290 |
| WWHT-FM 107.9 | WHWK-FM 98.1 |
| WHEN-AM 620 | WWYL-FM 104.1 |
| WCHN-AM 97 | WAAL-FM 99.1 |
| WKXZ-FM 94 | WSTM-TV 3 |
| WBKT-FM 95.3 | WTVH-TV 5 |
| WZOZ-FM | WIXT-TV 9 |
| WDOS-AM 730 | WBNG-TV 12 |
| WSRK-FM 103.9 | NEWS 10 NOW |

Also, we work to place the information on our website, www.ovcs.org and we are now using a computerized, auto notification system that makes telephone announcements.

Finally, please note that given the diversity of our terrain and the weather patterns, there may be some roads upon which our buses cannot pick up children. In such cases, we will make efforts to contact you in advance.

Spaghetti Dinner Before K-3 Winter Concert

The class of 2012 is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday, December 3, in the High School Cafeteria. Come hungry and enjoy a homemade meal with the Holiday feel from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Donations are appreciated. Thank you from the Sophomore class.



Calendar of Events

December 2009

- 2 *Supe's On*, Elem. Café, 5:00 p.m.
- 3 Athletic Booster Club Mtg., 6:30 p.m.
Spaghetti Dinner, HS Cafeteria, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
K-3 Winter Concert, HS MPR, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 *Rumor Mill*, HS Cafeteria, 9:00 a.m.
- 10 4-6 Winter Concert, HS MPR, 7:00 p.m.
- 16 Board of Education Meeting, Elem., 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Blood Drive, HS MPR
7-12 Winter Concert, HS MPR, 7:30 p.m.

24-29 No School — Christmas Recess

January 2009

- 1 **No School — New Year's Day Recess**