

Volleyball Team is NTL Champion!



The Girls Varsity Volleyball squad celebrates after winning the NTL Championship on October 22 at Port Allegany.

Congratulations to the Girls Varsity Volleyball team, whose 18 – 1 record took them all the way to the Northern Tier League championship and a third place finish in District IX. The team's stellar efforts netted them the League Championship with two matches remaining in the season, posting a record of 12-0 that could not be surpassed.

"What a great season," said Coach **Mary Gibbs**. "Our captains demonstrated true leadership through every practice and every game. The girls really rallied around one another and stuck to a team goal they made last season – that this year would be the best year possible."

The stand-out team also had several players named to the NTL All-Star Teams. Senior **Taylor Thomas**, who was named the League's Most Valuable Player, was a unanimous choice to join Junior **Spryce York** on the 1st Team and Junior **Taylor Palmer** was named to the 2nd Team. In addition, Spryce and Taylor Thomas were named as members of the District IX 3rd Team. For her efforts, Coach Gibbs was named NTL Coach of the Year.

Winning wasn't the only thing on the team's mind. The girls also made sure they did something to give back to the community. In October, as part of a Senior Project organized by Taylor Palmer and Spryce, they hosted a "Dig Pink" match against Smethport to support breast cancer awareness. Smethport was thrilled to be a part of the event and brought the team pink warm up shirts and a \$100 donation. In addition, **Jim Minard** donated pink game shirts, the **Music Boosters** donated half of their proceeds from a "Soup's On" dinner, the **Sports Boosters** donated the 50/50 money, the school donated over \$350 from the gate, and the 50/50 winner, **Jack Jeannerette**, donated his winnings to the cause. The girls raised over \$1,000 for the Side Out Foundation and earned certificates and an achievement plaque for their efforts.

Congratulations to Coach Gibbs and each member of the team for being winners in every sense of the word.



Team Keeps Campus in Tip-Top Shape

Imagine cleaning up after more than 700 children – and doing it every day with pride. That's the story of the Otto-Eldred custodial and grounds crew, a team of nine professionals who make it their business to keep the school campus looking its best. "People in our community are always complementing me on our buildings," said **Robert Falk**, Superintendent. "They appreciate that the campus is well-maintained and that it always looks good. I tell them it's not me – it's the effort of a great group of men and women who are committed to the kids and want to make sure they're learning in a safe, clean environment." So the next time you see a crew member shoveling the snow, painting an exterior or mopping the floor, feel free to tip your hat for a job well done!



Rick McClain, Greta Edminster, Michelle Sanderson, Carl Templin and Mike Ogilvie are part of nine-member team that keeps the O-E campus looking great. (Elementary custodians were not available for photos.)

How to Reach Us
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Calendar Highlights

- 1/18 Martin Luther King Day – No school
- 2/4 SAT registration deadline for 3/13 test
- 2/12 Presidents Day – No school (Possible snow make-up day)
- 3/5 ACT registration deadline for 4/10 test
- 3/12 – Spring Break
- 3/15 (Possible snow make-up day)
- 3/13 SAT
- 3/24 End of 3rd marking period
- 3/25 SAT/Subject Tests registration deadline for 5/1 test
- 4/7 – PSSA (Reading/Math) – Grades 3 – 8, 11
- 4/16 ACT
- 4/15 – Kindergarten registration
- 4/16
- 4/19 – PSSA (Writing) – Grades 5, 8, 11
- 4/23 4/26 – 4/30 PSSA (Science) – Grades 4, 8, 11
- 4/28 – Pre-school registration
- 4/29
- 4/29 SAT/Subject Tests registration deadline for 6/5 test
- 5/1 SAT/Subject Test
- 5/7 ACT registration deadline for 6/12 test
- 5/31 Memorial Day – No school
- 6/3 Last student day of school
- 6/4 Graduation
- 6/5 SAT/Subject Test
- 6/12 ACT

Otto-Eldred School District Board of Directors

A. Joe Bennett *President*
 Cynthia Murphy *Vice-President*
 Kary Rhinehart *Treasurer*

Stephen Bell	Russell Hartzell
Denise Coast	Paula Schenfield
Carl English	Jay Tennies

the Bulldog Edition

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Winter 2010

New Elementary Reading Program in Place

Students at Otto-Eldred Elementary School are doing much more than reading during Reading class. Thanks to the new *Treasures Reading Series*, adopted this year, students are also strengthening their spelling, grammar and vocabulary skills.

Students read, review and study the components of a new book each week. Hands-on activities can include small teacher-guided work groups, independent learning as students complete workbook assignments at their own pace, or online activities that complement the story and its academic objectives. At the end of each week, students are tested on comprehension, vocabulary, spelling and other content related to the story.

Developed by McGraw-Hill, the *Treasures* program helps students meet and exceed state academic standards related to Reading

and Language Arts. In addition, it keeps learning fresh by giving students a wide range of learning activities.

Through weekly assessments, teachers can also identify students who may need a bit of extra help, reducing the likelihood that these students will fall behind.

"*Treasures* is a solid addition to our reading program," noted **Terry Stanley**, Principal. "It gives our kids a well-rounded Language Arts experience while helping us meet our objective to develop a curriculum that meets state standards. It also allows students to work at a pace that meets their needs. If children



Second grader Madison Coffman is all smiles after meeting her goals through the new *Treasures Reading Series*.

grasp a concept, they can work independently or move on to the next lesson. But if children need extra help, our teachers have the time to work with them in small-group settings."

The *Treasures Reading Series* is in place in Grades 1 – 6. For more information, please visit www.mhschool.com/reading.

New Board Members Begin Terms

Otto-Eldred School District is pleased to welcome three new members to its Board of Directors.

Denise Coast, **Paula Schenfield** and **Jay Tennies** were sworn in as Board members during the December 7 Board meeting. They will assume the seats vacated by **Kathleen Cooley**, **Tina Crandell** and **Max Milliron**, longtime members who retired from the Board this year.

The new members, all parents of current or future O-E students, are united in their goal to give back to the community by helping O-E continue its tradition of educational excellence.

"We're happy to have Mrs. Coast, Mrs. Schenfield and Mr. Tennes on the School Board," said **Robert Falk**, Superintendent. "As parents and business leaders, I'm confident they will bring important perspectives to the opportunities and challenges we face as a school community."

The new members are ready to embrace their new roles and work with their Board colleagues to strengthen several District programs, including classroom-based technology initiatives, the Dual Enrollment program, and strong test scores in the Elementary School and beyond. At the same time, they are aware of district challenges, including the need to retain students and striking a balance between academic excellence and budget realities.

Mrs. Coast and Mr. Tennes will each serve a 4-year term. They may seek re-election in 2013. Mrs. Schenfield was appointed to the Region I seat vacated by **Stephen Bell** and will be able to seek re-election during the next general election. The Otto-Eldred School District extends its many thanks to Mrs. Cooley, Mrs. Crandell and Mr. Milliron for their years of dedication and service, and wishes them well in their new endeavors.

Denise Coast, *Coder Consultant, Humana Health System*
 "I'm really looking forward to doing what I can to provide the best opportunities for our students."

Paula Schenfield, *Continuing Day Treatment Counselor*
 "The exceptional test scores in the Elementary School are building blocks that can be carried through the children's higher grade levels."

Jay Tennes, *Museum Director*
 "As a Board Member and parent, I want to make sure our schools continue to be places of learning and growth."

Educational Foundation Moves Forward

The O-E Board of Directors has officially approved the formation of the Otto-Eldred Educational Foundation, a non-profit organization that will support District fundraising efforts to strengthen students' educational experience.

As an independent organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, the Foundation will strive to meet at least three objectives:

- to reward exceptional academic achievement among District students and educators through college scholarships, grants and other financial gifts;
- to encourage the local business and civic community to strengthen their involvement with O-E schools; and
- to bring additional educational opportunities to students and faculty, such as technology investments or professional development for teachers.

"We are in the early stages of development and we expect that it will be several months

before the Foundation will be operational," explained **Robert Falk**, Superintendent. "It's a lengthy process that includes developing our mission statement and bylaws, working with the state and the IRS on tax-exemption matters, and recruiting community leaders to join the Board of Directors."

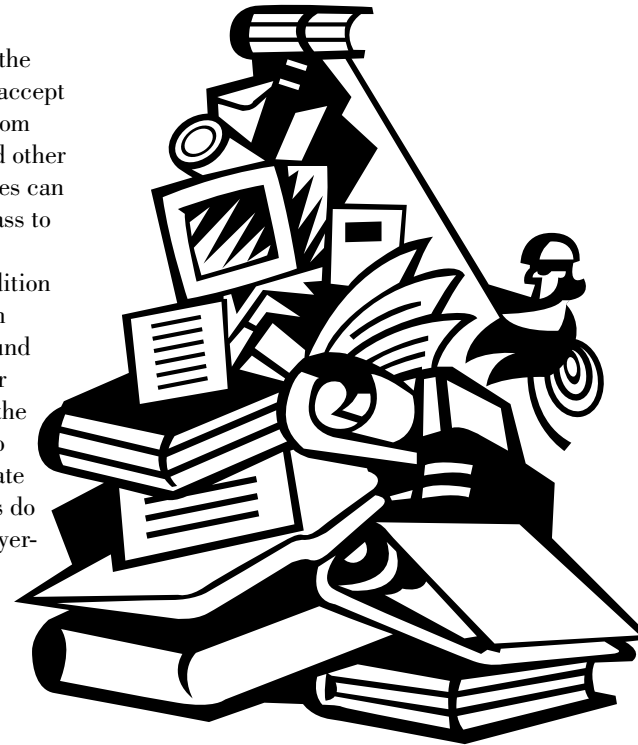
Once it is up and running, the Foundation will be able to accept tax-deductible donations from individuals, businesses and other organizations. Past graduates can even come together as a class to establish a scholarship or other targeted fund. In addition to scholarships, Foundation donations will be used to fund

projects developed by teachers and other educationally beneficial initiatives. For the first time, the District will also be able to apply for grants from private and corporate foundations. Typically, these foundations do not accept grant applications from taxpayer-supported school districts.

"This will really supplement our activities," continued Mr. Falk. "It will give us unprecedented opportunities to

explore programs and technologies that are currently outside of today's budget. Perhaps best of all, it gives people a way to give back to the community. They can really see their dollars at work."

Look for updates on the Educational Foundation in future issues of The Bulldog Edition.



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Dual Enrollment = Head Start on College

When **Mark Beckwith** graduated from Otto-Eldred Junior-Senior High School last spring, he left with more than his diploma and great memories. He also left with a full semester of college under his belt thanks to O-E's participation in the Dual Enrollment Program.

The program, funded in part by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, enables motivated students to earn college credits while still in high school. The credits are typically accepted by universities across the country, helping to keep college costs down while exposing high school juniors and seniors to the challenges and opportunities of collegiate academics.

"The credits are extremely advantageous," Mark said. "I took several dual enrollment classes and was awarded 17 college credits. Now I'm on track to graduate a full semester

ahead of schedule." Mark is currently attending Slippery Rock University. Other O-E students are recognizing the benefits of the program, too. In fact, 71 O-E students are enrolled in Dual Enrollment courses this year – an impressive 20 percent increase from last year.

"Students can design a Dual Enrollment curriculum that fits their needs," explained **Matt Splain**, Principal. "Some students take several courses, while others may only enroll in one or two classes. Right now, we have 19 students who should earn 12 or more credits and an additional five students who will earn 20 or more credits. All of them will leave O-E with a solid head start on their college careers."

O-E has Dual Enrollment partnerships with the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford and Penn Highlands Community College.

Students can take a broad range of courses, including Business Microcomputing, Physics, Spanish, English Composition, Chemistry, Psychology, Calculus and US History.

"Our program and the credits that students earn are widely recognized by colleges and universities," continued Mr. Splain. "In fact, so far every school has readily accepted our Dual Enrollment credits. That tells us we're running a successful program."

Mark agrees. "Other Slippery Rock freshmen who took Dual Enrollment courses in high school tell me they were only able to transfer nine credits or less," he said. "With 17 transferable credits, I nearly doubled that. It was invaluable." For more information or to learn how your child can take advantage of this program in the 2010-2011 school year, please contact Mr. Splain at mattsplain@ottoeldred.org or 966-3212.



Preschooler Clayton Zetwick didn't seem to mind getting his H1N1 vaccine during a recent flu clinic at the Elementary School.

H1N1 – An Update

Although the H1N1 virus is no longer front page news, O-E administrators, teachers and staff continue to be vigilant in their efforts to keep the virus and other flu strains at bay.

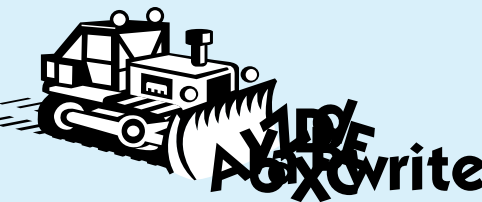
Students across all grades have been repeatedly instructed and taught to follow prevention guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control. In addition, they have immediate access to hand sanitizers in all classrooms. Teachers have also been trained to look for early flu signs. To keep illnesses to a minimum in your home, the CDC recommends the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Maintain a healthy lifestyle: consume a healthy diet, get plenty of sleep and be physically active.
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are sick. Avoid touching surfaces that may be contaminated by the flu virus.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth to reduce the spread of germs.
- Stay home if you or child is infected with the flu.
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve or cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze; throw the tissue away after you use it.

For more information about the status of the H1N1 virus, please visit www.cdc.gov/flu.

Special Education Notice Now Available

The 2009 Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs in the Otto-Eldred School District is now available at the following locations: O-E Junior-Senior High School, O-E Elementary School, Duke Center Post Office, Eldred Post Office and Rixford Post Office.



Renovations Planned for Elementary School

As part of its long-term strategy to maintain and improve campus buildings, the Otto-Eldred School Board recently approved the first stage of a planned Elementary School renovation project.

At its November meeting, the Board gave **Superintendent Robert Falk** the green light to hire a project architect and instruct them to prepare drawings for project bidding. The District has retained Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates for the renovation. Crabtree, Rohrbaugh has been repeatedly recognized by the American Institute of Architects and others for its school-based design capabilities. The firm designed and completed recent renovations to the Junior-Senior High School.

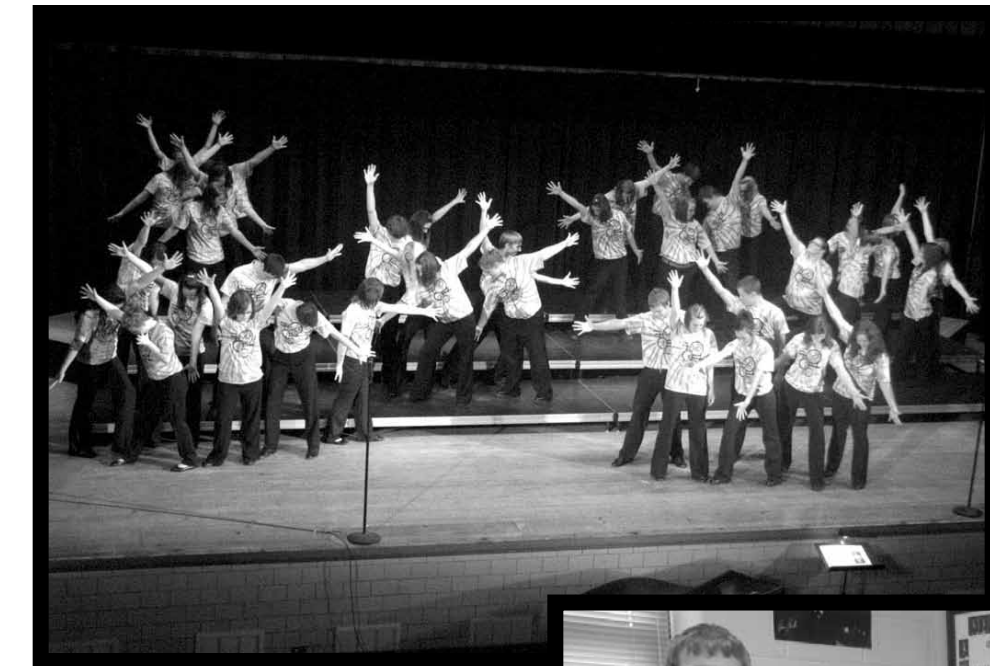
District administrators are currently developing project specifications. Likely components may include extensive infrastructure improvements, as well as the addition of a Technology Learning Center. This expanded classroom would transform an existing classroom into a larger space that would be used by all grades and equipped with "smart technology" to help build students' technical literacy at the Elementary level.

The school district administration will be providing information on the proposed project to community groups in the coming months.

A Round of Applause

Congratulations go out to O-E Senior **Cody Baxter**, who was recently chosen as a member of the prestigious American Choral Directors Association Men's Honor Choir. Cody was chosen from more than 400 talented singers who auditioned for a seat with the 130-member choir. The musical group is composed of high school students across 13 mid-Atlantic states. They are currently rehearsing for a concert that will be performed in Philadelphia in February. Bravo!

Students from across the District entertained friends, family and community members during annual Christmas concerts held throughout December. Elementary School students performed a variety of classic and contemporary songs, while the Junior-Senior High School Band and the Senior Chorus entertained their audiences with selections from movies and musicals. Our many thanks to the students for sharing their musical talents.



Congratulations to Girls Varsity Volleyball Coach **Mary Gibbs**, who was recently named Northern Tier League Coach of the Year. This is a first-time honor for Coach Gibbs, who was nominated for the award by coaches throughout the NTL. With an 18 – 1 record, Coach Gibbs took the team to the NTL Championship and capped the memorable season by bringing home the 1st Place trophy.

Several O-E singers and musicians were recently selected to perform as part of the District Band, District Jazz and District Chorus. Congratulations go out to **Jeffrey Kronz, Krystal Calkins, Alex Appleby** (front row, 1 – r) and **Cody Baxter, Rachel Wilcox, Beth Schwab, Emily Zapel and Derrik States** (back row, 1 – r).

Congratulations to 7th Grader **Auston Howard** and 8th Grader **Sara Drummond**, who were among 10 area students who placed first in the annual Friends of the Olean Public Library Poetry Contest. They were joined by 7th Grader **Taylor Triplett** and 8th Grader **James Baker**, who earned second place honors in the competition. More than 100 students from area schools submitted poems for the contest, providing them an opportunity to explore imaginative and creative writing. Congratulations to the students and to their teachers, who did an excellent job of preparing them for the competition.

