

ONTEORA

Winter/Spring 2019

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

DEAR ONTEORA COMMUNITY,

We are well on our way to spring. With a little bit of luck, we won't use all of our snow days, and Spring Break will remain as scheduled. I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on some important initiatives happening in our District.

DEVELOPING A DISTRICT-WIDE PLAN

We are continuing to work on our Board Goals for this year. We are currently searching for a consultant to help us navigate the process of developing a long-term, District-wide plan. The process for creating the plan will be one that engages and includes as many stakeholders as possible. We want to include all staff members, parents, and community members. We have not made any decisions, and discussions of our ultimate configuration have not yet started at the Board table. We have identified several potential consultants, and I will be introducing them to our District Wide Shared Decision Making Committee. I will then make a recommendation to the Board on a finalist to hire. This process is not one that will be quick, and it will certainly be done publicly, with opportunity for input. There have been many rumors already circulating about the plan, but I need to reiterate that no plan has been discussed or developed yet.

COMMUNICATION

We are also working to ensure that we are communicating in the most effective ways for our school community. We will be conducting a survey in the near future to find out what types of communication are working well for everyone and what we can do differently or additionally to improve. Your participation will be very important to helping set the direction of future communication initiatives.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Phoenicia Students Explore Pond Life



Phoenicia Grade 2 teacher Jane Wolfrom helps student Soe Moe Kan Tun scoop out a pond creature from a tank provided by the Mohonk Preserve.

THIS DECEMBER, PHOENICIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL teacher Jane Wolfrom's Grade 2 classroom was home to a "pond" teeming with aquatic life.

The pond – actually a 10-gallon aquarium provided through the Mohonk Preserve's Environmental Education department – was stocked with a variety of creatures typically found in local waters, including crayfish, tadpoles, snails, and caddisfly and dragonfly nymphs.

An environmental educator from the Preserve's Pond Keepers initiative visited the classroom twice, once to introduce the program and again at the program's end to help the students discuss what they had learned.

Over the course of two weeks, Mrs. Wolfrom led the children in a variety of hands-on learning activities. Using nets, they scooped up and examined the various life forms inhabiting the aquarium. They also learned how these creatures had adapted to life in a pond.

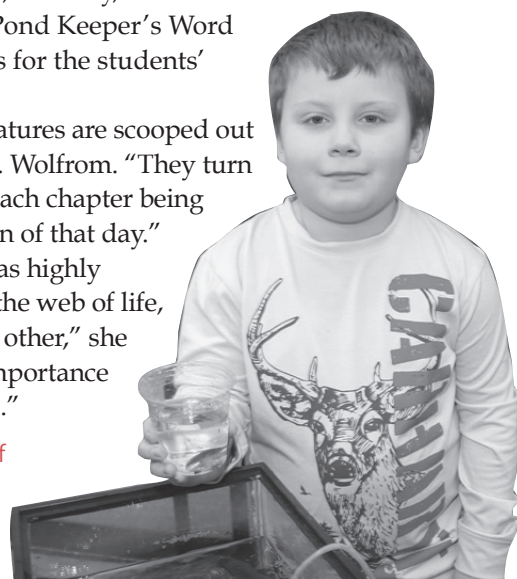
During a recent school day, one student excitedly shared how water scorpions breathe by using their tails like straws. "They have to stick it out of the water to get oxygen," he explained. Another student commented that a backswimmer insect is like a scuba diver, because it carries an air bubble as it swims through the water.

The students also picked up, and practiced, a host of new vocabulary words, including camouflage, locomotion, mimicry, and macroinvertebrate. With each passing day, the classroom's "Pond Keeper's Word Wall" grew in size, providing more words for the students' scientific observations.

"The kids take notes each time the creatures are scooped out and put into tubs for observing," said Mrs. Wolfrom. "They turn their notes into an 'All About' book, with each chapter being about what they had observed as the lesson of that day."

The experience, said Mrs. Wolfrom, was highly educational. "The students learned about the web of life, and how we're all interdependent on each other," she explained. "They also learned about the importance of ponds and aquatic life to our watershed."

Phoenicia Grade 2 student David Cobey shows off a tadpole he is studying during a Pond Keepers learning unit.





Bravo, Bennett Music teachers and instrumental students! Eighteen students were accepted into the All-County Elementary Band and 16 into the All-County Orchestra. The students were accepted based on their performance of three scales, a solo, and a sight-reading excerpt. Pictured with the students are Music teachers Corinne Bouchard and Karen McKenna (far left) and Harvey Boyer (far right).

NEW REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-K STUDENTS



Onteora students enrolled in the Pre-K program administered by First Steps Preschool performing during a holiday concert.

Onteora is implementing an online registration process for the 2019-2020 school year for Kindergarten and Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) students. To access the online forms, go to the District website and click on Departments, Registration & Residency. **UPK online registration** forms must be completed between March 1 and March 29, 2019. When your child is registered, their name will be added to a list from which our UPK students will be chosen. **Kindergarten online registration** forms must be completed between March 18 and April 12. After your child is registered, appointments will be made for Kindergarten screening. Kindergarten screening will be centralized this year, and will be held at the Central Administration offices in Boiceville during the week of May 6-10. Kindergarten parent information nights will be held at Woodstock and Phoenicia schools in mid-June. Please call 845-657-3320 with any questions.

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In addition to a communication survey, we are hoping to implement a culture and climate survey this spring. This survey would be administered to our students in Grades 3 through 12, as well as to our families and our staff.

BUDGET PROCESS

The annual budget process is under way, and we will be sharing information in as many ways as possible. All of our presentations can be found on the School Board page of our website, and links to our budget presentations will be shared on Facebook following each Board meeting. We are also regularly attending PTA meetings to keep parents informed at the building level.

Our largest cost increases are projected to be in employee and retiree health insurance benefits, the District's mandated contribution into employee retirement systems, and this year, our transportation contract. Our five-year transportation contract is expiring this year in June, and our initial estimates indicate that we could experience a 30 percent increase for the coming school year. We had a very competitive price when we awarded the expiring contract five years ago, but recent transportation contracts are being awarded at much higher costs. We are continuing to work to ensure the best possible contract can be achieved.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

We are currently looking at a number of facilities upgrades to present to the voters as a separate proposition in May. We are working with our architects to strategically build the project to minimize any possible tax increase associated with the work. We will be leveraging State Aid and using funds saved in our capital reserve. Some of the work will also be funded within our annual operating budget as we have been doing for a number of years.

Repairing the drainage on the field hockey and baseball fields, repairing the roof at Bennett Elementary School, making improvements to complement the press box and bleacher work at the Middle School/High School (MS/HS) campus, repairing sections of the MS/HS roof, and investigating the drainage under the football field and track to determine if this can be made into a more multi-purpose athletic field are all being considered. We will also be proposing work at the MS/HS to make the locker rooms and some of the bathrooms handicapped accessible.

To see a complete list of the projects being contemplated as well as the methods of funding, please review the presentations on the budget page of the website. If you have any questions regarding these projects, please contact our Assistant Superintendent for Business, Monica LaClair, at 657-8499.

Sincerely,

Victoria McLaren
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Maple Syrup:

A Seasonal Teaching Tool at the Elementary Schools

HOW SWEET IT IS! This winter, Onteora's Elementary School students have been learning about the science behind one of their favorite foods: maple syrup.

Physical Education teacher Patrick Burkhardt has been traveling to Bennett, Woodstock, and Phoenicia schools in recent days, demonstrating how to tap some of the maple trees located on school grounds. The best time to tap, he explained, is when daytime temperatures are rising above the freezing point, and nighttime temperatures are falling below freezing. "That's when the sap is flowing," he said. The freezing-to-thawing cycle creates pressure within the closed system of the tree, he explained, causing the sap to move.

"This is the 10th year I have been showing the kids how to make maple syrup," said Mr. Burkhardt.

After drilling a taphole into a maple tree, he inserted a spout and attached rubber tubing that allows the sap to drip into a big plastic container. After the sap has been collected from the trees, Mr. Burkhardt will return to the schools to boil it. Boiling will cause water in the sap to evaporate, concentrating the sucrose (sugar). Foam – including minerals that have solidified during the cooking process – will be skimmed from the sap as it cooks.

After this seasonal science lesson is completed, the students will get to taste the delicious results!



Physical Education teacher Patrick Burkhardt shows Bennett Elementary School students how to tap a maple tree.

At Woodstock Elementary School, D is for Dog

WHAT'S A FOUR-LEGGED, TAIL-WAGGING BUNDLE OF FUN DOING AT WOODSTOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL? Becoming a valuable, well-loved addition to the school community, of course!

Tank, a 22-pound certified therapy dog owned by Onteora Occupational Therapist Michele Darling, began visiting the school in January. On his first day of school, the ebullient Boston terrier was the guest of honor at several grade-level assemblies. "First we talked to the students about how to introduce yourself to a dog and to let him sniff you to get to know you," Ms. Darling recalled. "Then we talked specifically about Tank."

Ms. Darling, who adopted Tank in June, had him certified through TDI (Therapy Dogs International) to ensure he would interact safely with children. "He had to pass a test, and I had to pass a written test," she explained.

In addition to being friendly, patient, and gentle, therapy dogs should not startle easily, she noted. Tank, she reported, passed the TDI test with flying colors. "He loves kids, and he loves people," she said. "He also loves to ride on my motorcycle."

When Tank is at school – approximately once a week – his presence is announced by a poster emblazoned with the message "Tank is in the house!" (The message on the flip side of the poster says "Tank is home resting.") The excitement in the building on the days when Tank is visiting is palpable, Ms. Darling said.

So far, most of Tank's appearances outside of the Occupational Therapy room have taken place during

recess or at lunchtime. "We also use him as a reward for good behavior, and to comfort children if they need it," Ms. Darling said. When a child recently tripped and fell, for example, Tank quickly managed to banish the student's tears.

Grade 3 student Katie Ostrander is one of Tank's

many fans. "He's so adorable!" she exclaimed while petting the pooch during a recent visit with Ms. Darling. Katie, like the rest of the student population, has learned that when Tank is happy, he makes a low guttural sound – much like a purring cat. "The kids love it when they pet him in just the right spot and get his happy sound!" Ms. Darling said.

Proof of Tank's popularity is also evidenced by the many dog-inspired drawings displayed near Ms. Darling's room.

Many children who had

previously been afraid of dogs now count Tank as a friend, according to Ms. Darling.

Therapy dogs have been shown to have a range of benefits in educational settings, Ms. Darling noted. Among these benefits are helping to reduce stress and anxiety, and increasing children's excitement about attending school.

"We are still new at having a therapy dog so we don't know what direction we will go with him, but right now the main thing that I can say is that he definitely puts a smile on the kids' faces when they walk in the door," Ms. Darling concluded. "I can also tell you that Tank loves to come to school and is always in a good mood (but exhausted) after a school day."



Grade 3 Woodstock students Persaea Bowler (left) and Rosalie Gordon hugging Tank, a certified therapy dog who makes regular visits to Woodstock Elementary School. The Boston terrier belongs to Onteora Occupational Therapist Michele Darling.

Woodstock and Phoenicia Students Learn that Stories are Everywhere!



Woodstock students listening to a story-telling concert.

ALL CHILDREN LOVE A GOOD STORY, BUT ADD MUSIC TO THE TALE AND IT MAKES FOR A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE. Kindergarten students at Woodstock and Phoenicia Elementary Schools recently experienced the power of stories brought to life through music, thanks to an assembly organized by Library Teacher Shelley Savatgy and led by musician (and retired substitute teacher) Maria Oakley.

The musical events were the first in a series of storytelling assemblies that will take place at both schools in the coming months.

Ms. Oakley’s approach of singing narratives ignited a spark in the young music lovers, who eagerly lent their voices to a host of ballads written for children, including “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” “Little Blue Engine,” “Harvey the Hippo,” and “In the Freezer.”

According to Mrs. Savatgy, the Storytellers program was designed to show students that stories are everywhere, not just in books. “Storytelling is an essential part of a child’s journey to literacy,” she suggests. “It is what connects us to our humanity, and it is the oldest form of education.”

Like storytelling, music is an ancient vehicle for learning, she explains. “Both storytelling and music have been present in all cultures throughout history. Connecting these powerful art forms allows students to experience the benefits of, and synergy between, them. Maria and I are so glad that we can witness the children’s wonder and share in their joy.”

Middle School Scientists Prepare for Science Olympiad

Beginning in October and continuing into winter, the Middle School Science Olympiad team has been meeting once or twice a week after school, preparing for the March 2 Lower Hudson Science Olympiad competition.

“We’ve had students working on a glider, car, roller coaster, and a circuit lab, along with studying for test events such as herpetology, fossils, and meteorology,” said Science teacher Kathleen Van Baren, who coaches the team with assistance from fellow teacher Alyssa Babcock and student teacher Lindsay Woodard. “In all, the team preps for 21 different events.”

Grade 7 students Beckett Ratcliff and Oscar Espinoza have been collaborating on a roller coaster. “The basic idea is to build an adjustable track for a marble to run down,” explains Beckett. Timing is important, adds Oscar, who notes that the team will need to adjust their structure to meet the target times set by the event supervisors at the tournament.

Grade 8 students Auden Stellavato and Eleanor Schackne-Martello have been partnering on a Potions and Poisons event, which focuses on the chemical properties and effects of various toxic and therapeutic chemical substances. “We both really like Science, and this is a cool club to belong to,” enthuses Auden.



Auden Stellavato and Eleanor Schackne-Martello practicing for the Potions and Poisons event.

ONTEORA JUNIOR PLANS AVIATION CAREER

Onteora junior Mia Quick, who is enrolled in the Ulster BOCES Aviation program, says that her future profession is definitely going to be in the clouds. “I want to fly commercial [airplanes] or helicopters,” she asserts. Anyone thinking about a career in aviation would be wise to look into the Ulster BOCES program, she suggests. “It makes it affordable, and when I get into a plane I know where the controls and gauges are.”



High School Hosts Poetry-Recitation Contest

HARRY SIMON AUDITORIUM WAS FILLED WITH THE SOUL-STIRRING SOUNDS OF POETRY on December 14, as 12 Onteora High School students competed in the school's annual Poetry Out Loud competition.

Winners of this year's contest were seniors Marissa Gaylin and Jules Schauffler. Marissa recited "Sonnet 18: Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" by William Shakespeare and "To Myself" by Franz Wright. Jules recited Emily Brontë's "Often rebuked, yet always back returning" and Carmen Giménez Smith's "Bleeding Heart." The two winners each received a \$25 gift certificate to the Golden Notebook bookstore.

Honorable mentions were awarded to Grade 10 reciters Ori Jordaan-Grady and Alana Wood, who received \$15 gift certificates to the Golden Notebook. All the reciters received T-shirts.

"Poetry Out Loud is a national program that encourages high school students to learn about poetry through memorization, performance, and competition," explains English teacher Laura Loheide, who serves as Onteora's Poetry Out Loud advisor. "Poetry Out Loud gives students an opportunity to master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage."

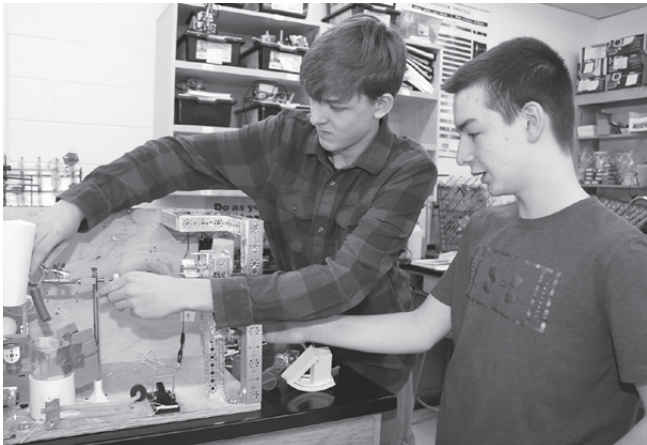
Mrs. Loheide expressed thanks to the Onteora Teachers Association, which sponsored the T-shirts and gift cards, as well as to the volunteer judges. This year's judges were: Dr. Bill Birns (a former Onteora English teacher who has published three books on the Catskill Mountains); Derek Furr (a literature professor at Bard College and director of the Master of Arts in Teaching Program); J.D. Louis (a former Onteora teacher who currently teaches English at the Woodstock Day School); and Sophie Strand (an Onteora grad, Poetry Out Loud alumna, poet, and freelance ghostwriter).



High School Students Excel at Science Olympiad Competition

Congratulations to the High School Science Olympiad team, which earned 30 medals in an excellent team effort that led to a 4th place finish (out of 29 teams) at the Mid-Hudson Regional Science Olympiad Competition on February 9. The team will move on to compete at the New York State Science Olympiad Championships in Syracuse, where the best 56 teams in New York will put their skills and knowledge to the test.

Following are the results of the February competition: Angelina Cordero and Lindsay Voelker placed 4th in Designer Genes; Lucian McMenemy and Emily Salem placed 5th in Disease Detectives; James Davis and Satch Sumner-Waldman placed 3rd in Astronomy; Axel Roberts and Dylan Wiswall placed 6th in Mission Possible; Loic Roels and Lucian McMenemy placed 6th in Chemistry Lab; James Davis and Satch Sumner-Waldman placed 3rd in Sounds of Music; James Davis and Dylan Wiswall placed 2nd in Circuit Lab; Emily Salem and Yasmin Chefridi placed 2nd in Write It/Do It; Satch Sumner-Waldman and Loic Roels placed 6th in Fermi Questions; Ben Grinberg and Tobias Warnes placed 4th in Anatomy and Physiology; James Stala and Tyler Nguyen placed 5th in Boomilever; Zach Calinda and Axel Roberts placed 4th in the Wright Stuff; Kate Queen and Jazarah Shim placed 4th in Water Quality; James Davis and Loic Roels placed 1st in Mousetrap Vehicle; and Daniel Mintz and James Stala placed 5th in Thermodynamics.



Middle School Science Olympians Axel Roberts and Dylan Wiswall working on a Mission Possible structure.



Grade 11 student Yasmin Chefridi explaining her efforts to make a boomilever. The goal for this event is to create the lightest possible structure capable of supporting the heaviest possible load.

CYCLING WHILE STUDYING: Onteora's Bicycle Desks



Grade 7 students Dean Leonard (left) and Logan Storey take advantage of the stationary bicycle desks located in the library at Onteora Middle School/High School.

Where can Onteora students exercise their minds and their bodies at the same time? The Middle School/High School library!

Since November, students using the library have had the option of sitting at one of two stationary bicycle desks, which allow them to pedal away while reading or studying. Library Media Specialist Amy Weisz was inspired to ask for the special desks after noticing that some incoming Grade 7 students, who had been accustomed to having recess periods in elementary school, needed a way to burn off some energy without disturbing other students.

The desks, Ms. Weisz found, have other potential benefits. "I found a great deal of evidence to support the connection between exercise and improved academic achievement, not to mention emotional health," she said. "I also discovered that other school and university libraries have gotten in on this trend with very positive results."

The bicycle desks, she noted, are virtually silent. "Some students use them every day!"

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

DEAR ONTEORA COMMUNITY MEMBERS,

I've been incredibly fortunate during my first months at Onteora to have had the opportunity to work with many talented and hardworking administrators, teachers, and staff. In my time here, I have seen wonderful exemplars of best practices in teaching and learning, a strong commitment to our District and, most importantly, a deep devotion to the success of our students. We have a busy spring ahead of us, and I wanted to share some of the meaningful work that we will be focusing on in the coming months.

COMPUTER-BASED TESTING (CBT)

The New York State Education Department continues to transition to computer-based testing (CBT) as part of its commitment to meeting the needs of 21st century learners while improving test delivery, test integrity, scoring validity, and turn-around time on testing results. The Onteora Central School District has chosen to take advantage of this option for our spring 2019 testing in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. For CBT, there are six primary testing days for each subject area, English Language Arts (ELA), and Math. The testing window for ELA computer-based tests is Monday, April 1, through Thursday, April 11. The testing window for math computer-based tests is Tuesday, April 30, through Friday, May 10.

Every teacher responsible for students in Grades 3-8 who will be participating in CBT this year has received training. Teachers had the opportunity to explore the online exams and to create opportunities for students to engage with technology in new and innovative ways.

The New York State Question Sampler is available online at <https://cbtsupport.nysed.gov/hc/en-us/articles/115000943046-New-York-Question-Sampler>.

ONGOING INITIATIVES

We have a number of initiatives we have been working on this school year! We will be spending time this spring revisiting and revising our District's Response to Intervention Plan, which we use to determine eligibility for Academic Intervention Services (AIS) as well as for documentation of interventions prior to Committee on Special Education (CSE) referral.

We have a wonderful partnership with the NYU Center for Strategic Solutions to offer professional development targeting equity and inclusivity in the Middle School and High School. We began the year with a full-day kickoff during our September Superintendent Conference Day. Faculty and staff have continued this work throughout the year and are in the process of exploring multiple viewpoints, addressing our own implicit biases, and developing a plan for working with students to have these difficult conversations. This work will continue and expand to the elementary buildings next year.

We have a number of committees meeting this winter/spring to engage in important work, including our Summer Skills Academy, the Professional Development Planning Committee, the Guidance Plan Committee, and a K-6 Mathematics Curriculum Audit Committee.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

At Onteora, we are dedicated to providing the best supports possible to our faculty and staff so that we can provide the best education to all of the children in our community. To this end, we have worked to provide a great deal of professional development this past fall that will continue into the spring. We have offered intensive literacy professional development so that every Grade K-6 reading teacher has had the opportunity to build common language and engage in coaching. We were fortunate to have Dr. Nikki Newton with us on in September to give a presentation on the Math Workshop Model to our entire elementary faculty. Teachers have also been given the opportunity to expand their understanding of the New York State Science Standards, the Inquiry Process, and the power of phenomenon-based learning in the classroom.

We will continue to make every effort to provide opportunities for our students that are meaningful and lasting. What we do matters, and our work with students is of such critical importance that it deserves thoughtful time and attention so that any plans developed have lasting success. I am fortunate to work with a team dedicated to this work and to our children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jodi M. DeLucia

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Middle School Student Government Making a Difference

GOVERNING ISN'T SOMETHING THAT ONLY TAKES PLACE IN THE CORRIDORS OF ALBANY OR WASHINGTON, D.C. It's also taking place at Onteora Middle School, which welcomed a new Student Government in the fall.

Students campaigned for their positions, writing their own speeches and then delivering them at grade-level assemblies. Elections were held, votes were tallied, and eight students (four per grade) won positions as officers for the 2018-2019 school year. Five additional candidates were named to Advisory Councils for their respective grades.

Madelynn Taylor, who serves on the Grade 8 Advisory Council, ran for office because she was concerned about bullying. "I wanted to enforce anti-bullying in school, and do more than just have anti-bullying posters," she said.

Lily Avery, another Grade 8 Advisory Council member, saw the Student Government as a way to bring about positive changes in the Middle School. "We got mirrors for the boys' bathroom, and we also held a Mix It Up Day," she reported. During the Mix It Up day, which was held in November, students were encouraged to eat their lunches with people they didn't ordinarily sit with – and to possibly make new friends in the process.

Sports motivated Grade 7 student Jack Longyear to run for office. "I played Modified Football, and I wanted more funding for Modified sports and equipment," said Jack, who serves as Vice-President of his grade.

Faculty Advisor Denise Maltese explained that the Middle School Student Government has three goals. "These goals are to provide a voice for the Middle School students and act as a liaison between students and teachers and administration, provide service to the school community by engaging students in social events, and provide service beyond the school community into our local area," she explained.

The Government's accomplishments to date include planning a holiday party for Middle School students, and collaborating with the National Junior Honor Society to wash and dry the clothing in the school's Lost and Found. The clothing was displayed on tables in the main hallway, with any unclaimed items being donated to charity. The students also wrote and administered surveys about the mid-terms to get feedback from the students.



Middle School Student Government members pose for a group photo.

Student Government Officers 2018-2019

Grade 8

President: Clare Voelker

Vice-President: Hudson Turba

Secretary: Thea Millenson-Wilens

Treasurer: Jett Conti

Advisory Council:

Madelynn Taylor, Lily Avery,
Shannon Leiching

Grade 7

President: Sophia Odato

Vice-President: Jack Longyear

Secretary: Ada Helm

Treasurer: Ava Lamb

Advisory Council:

Augustus Luttinger, Logan Storey

Many thanks to all who helped make the Coaches vs. Cancer pasta dinner—hosted by the Onteora Varsity Girls Basketball team on December 13—a success! The West Hurley Hannaford store donated bread, the Boiceville Market contributed salad fixings, Onteora cook LeAnne Burns made the sauce, and the players' families provided the rest of the ingredients. Thanks also to the JV players, who sold tickets at the door, and to all the Onteora community members who came out to enjoy a delicious dinner and to support a worthwhile cause. Varsity Girls Basketball Coach Andrew Occhi reports that the event raised \$411.00 for the fight against cancer.



NON DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT The Onteora Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, weight, national origin, creed, religion, religious practice, ethnic group, political affiliation, gender (including gender identity, expression, or nonconformity to stereotypical notions of masculinity and femininity), marital status, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, or other legally protected status in access to programs and/or employment provided by the District. Inquiries to the District concerning discrimination or harassment based on sex or sexual orientation may be referred to Title IX/Title VI Compliance Officer Dr. Jodi M. DeLucia, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, at: Onteora Central School District, PO Box 300, Boiceville, NY 12412, (845) 657-6383, ext. 1023, jdelucia@onteora.k12.ny.us. Inquiries regarding discrimination can also be made to the United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005, (646) 428-3900, ocr.newyork@ed.gov.

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Victoria McLaren

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
Richard Bartsch
CLASS OF 1961

AFTER EXCELLING AT SPORTS AT ONTEORA AND IN COLLEGE, Richard (Dick) Bartsch forged a long, rewarding career in the field of athletics. Looking back, Dr. Bartsch (who holds a PhD in Anatomy/ Kinesiology/ Administration) credits Onteora with helping to lay the foundation for his professional success.

At Onteora, Dr. Bartsch played varsity football, basketball, and baseball. “My coaches, Paul Ryan, Al Byrnes, and Paul Jordan, were all instrumental in guiding me into my career in athletics,” he said.

His teachers also played influential roles. “I believe the faculty at Onteora was instrumental in my growth as a person by expecting more from those willing to go beyond the ordinary,” Dr. Bartsch declared. “Meeting expectations became a challenge and instilled a work ethic that carried over into my professional life.”

Dr. Bartsch attended Springfield College, graduating with a BS in Physical Education/ Coaching. At Springfield, he played basketball and baseball, and was captain of the baseball team.

After receiving an MS in Physiology of Exercise and Sports Management from Michigan State University, Dr. Bartsch returned to Springfield as an Instructor of Physical Education. He coached basketball and baseball at the college before accepting an instructorship at the University of Oregon, where he started working

towards an advanced degree.

In 1972, Dr. Bartsch moved on to Western Washington State College, where he taught, coached varsity baseball, and managed the intramural program. He received his doctorate from the University of Oregon in the summer of 1972.

In 1974, Dr. Bartsch accepted a position at the University of Arizona as an Assistant Professor and Director of Intramural/ Club Sports. He subsequently served as Director of Recreational Sports, Assistant Athletics Director, and Associate Athletics Director.

Retiring in 2006, he soon returned to the University of Arizona to accept a position as Event Manager for volleyball, women’s basketball, and softball. He retired – for the second time – in 2012.

During his tenure at Arizona, he officiated at many sporting competitions, including youth football, high school basketball and football, and women’s collegiate basketball. “I was privileged to work numerous state playoff games in both basketball and football, working four state championship games in football and two state finals in basketball,” Dr. Bartsch recalled.

After retiring from the University of Arizona, Dr. Bartsch and his wife Candace have remained in Tucson to be near their family, which includes two daughters and five grandchildren. In his spare time, he golfs, plays softball, and volunteers as an assistant to an athletic director at a local high school.

“I’ve never been one to ‘keep in touch,’ but I do have fond memories of my days at Onteora and reflect back often about crazy games and events with the guys and gals,” Dr. Bartsch concluded. “I’ll never forget my high school friends!”

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Cindy Bishop..... 657-3320

Universal Pre-Kindergarten
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