

Highlighter

Issue 2 December 2012

From the Principal's Desk: December 2012

December is an enjoyable time of year at Oyster River High School. Every year during this season there are always so many wonderful activities going on and this month is no different. The spirit of the season that permeates the entire school focuses all on doing things to help others.

At ORHS our school nurse, Danuta Richards, organizes us all to provide support for those in need. Just before Thanksgiving, holiday food baskets were prepared and distributed to families in need. Students in C period classes at ORHS were challenged to collect all of the items needed and as a result of their efforts we were able to assemble 10 holiday food baskets to go to needy families in our community.

As we have moved into the holiday season the focus has continued to be on providing for needy families in our school community. Danuta Richards has organized "Project Festive Flamingo" to involve our school community to support needy families around the holidays. For those of you who haven't visited the high school nurses office yet, Danuta Richards is well known for decorating her area in a "Pink Flamingo" theme. For Project Festive Flamingo the wall outside her office is decorated with pink tags with holiday gift requests from families in our community. Teachers across the building are organizing their advisory groups to contribute to the cause. Many private individuals are also contributing to the effort. In the end "Project Festive Flamingo" will benefit dozens of families in the Oyster River Community. Our thanks go to Danuta Richards and all of the other nurses in the district for making things like this happen.

Students at ORHS are not only giving during the holiday season but are very charitable year-round. Our Community Service Club is made up of about 20% of our student body and is active throughout the year. ORHS Service Club members work at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen, Crossroads House, Kirkwood Corners and the Cocheco Valley Humane Society. The Community Service Club students also run a 5th grade mentoring program and are in the process of organizing the "Relay for Life" to support the American Cancer Society. Beyond the fact that hundreds of kids are involved in these activities, what makes Community Service Club at ORHS so remarkable is that these are all student lead initiatives. Kathy Pearce and Susan Wilkinson are the adult advisors to the club but the organizational work to make these activities happen is all student-centered. Our students really care about their community.

In addition to the Community Service Club we also have our National Honor Society students involved in a variety of service related activities. Recently NHS students participated in the "Kathy for the Cure" fundraiser to fight cancer. Additionally, dozens of NHS students provide tutoring for classmates through the Learning Lab and Homework Den. Community service is also imbedded in the curriculum with class projects like the "Power of One" in Freshmen World Cultures, the Forensic Science classes created a simulation for Moharimet kids and Environmental Science students are aggressively working to make our school a more

“green” place. The bottom line is that the ORHS Community is a very caring and giving place to learn and work.

If you would like to learn more about clubs and activities at ORHS please feel free to email or give me a call. My email is tallen@orcscd.org. and I can be reached at 868-2375.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a joyful holiday season and a very happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Todd Allen

ORTV News is here!

Have you seen the November episode of ORTV News?

In this 3rd episode we examine small class sizes at ORHS, we talk about bullying at the high school and middle school level, we show you how students participated in the presidential election this year and we take you behind the scenes at the HS Fall play "Noises Off".

Next month we are working on pieces about the Middle School's Sea Perch Project, class rank at the high school, and the district's music program.

Tune to DCAT Channel 22 Thursday through Saturday at 7:30pm. Also view online at the high school and district websites.

For past episodes and all ORTV videos visit <http://vimeo.com/orcscd>

For more information, or to comment about ORTV News or to get involved contact Kathleen Young kyoung@orcscd.org

ORTV news is for and about the Oyster River School community. Entertaining as well as informative, ORTV provides interesting insight into issues and events affecting our community.

“Resources for the River”

Think about this:

Maya Angelou said, “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Check out this website:

www.sparknotes.com/testprep

It will help you prepare for SAT, ACT, and subject tests. They give a diagnostic test to let you know areas to focus on. You can read the SAT book online. It tells you all that you’ll need to know. It gives test taking strategies and secrets! It also gives some practice tests.

Download this app :

Evernote- take notes, record lectures, sync to your other devices and computers using their cloud storage! **Evernote Peek** is great for making flashcards and study guides!

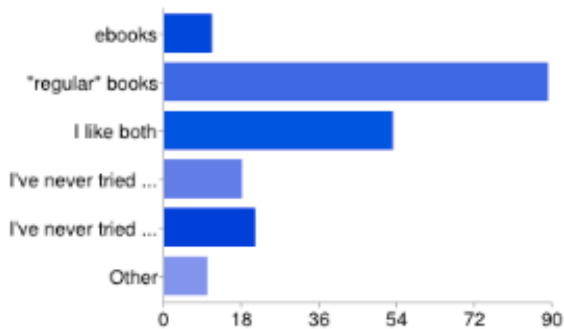
Library News: E-book lending on the horizon, but student attitudes toward digital books might surprise you

Despite what you may hear in the media about today's generation not reading anymore, we know that ORHS students are readers. Our book circulation has increased by 47% over the past five years, and it continues to climb. Many teachers are now assigning independent reading as part of their coursework, and we have a steady stream of voracious readers stopping in regularly to get the next book in their favorite series or check out what's on the "new arrivals" shelf.



But despite all this, there is one population of readers that has been slipping away--those students and teachers who own their own e-reader devices and download books from other places. We currently offer a large collection of reference materials in ebook format, but have not been able to lend pleasure reading titles to students and staff to be downloaded to their own ereaders and tablets. This year, we hope to change that.

In order to make an informed decision, we surveyed teachers and students who consider themselves to be readers and asked them about their preferred formats and the devices they use if they read ebooks. The results were surprising.



When asked what format of books they preferred, a whopping 44% of respondents said that they prefer "regular" books. Even when eliminating responses from faculty, this number remains nearly unchanged with 42% preferring print. Twenty-six percent of respondents said they liked both traditional and ebooks, and only 5% preferred ebooks over print.

Most surprising was the 10% who answered, "I've never tried ebooks and I never want to." One respondent said, "I prefer holding a book in my hand knowing that the battery will not die. I also like holding the paper and the effect of turning the

page to read on." Another commented that "fake books" are not of interest. This is not what we expected to hear from the so-called "Millennials."

While some students don't want technology to get in the way of their reading experience, others recognized that when it comes to convenience, sometimes ebooks can be a valuable tool. Several commented that they would consider reading an ebook if the print copy wasn't available, and others said they might read an ebook, "depending on what the book was."

So, why move forward with ebook lending? Well, in spite of the reluctance of some students, we also learned what we thought we would: many people expressed strong interest and excitement in the idea of downloading books from the library. Sixty-nine percent of the students and staff we surveyed said they own devices that they can use to download books, and 35% said they would download books from the library if they were available. This is a large segment of our population, and it will probably grow larger as ebooks become more accepted among younger readers.

As we have looked at various e-book lending platforms, our priorities have focused on getting something that is cost-effective and able to work with all kinds of devices, and something that offers a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction of interest to high school students. It's important that this collection be accessible to all,

whether they are using their own devices, or borrowing a Nook from the library. We are close to making a final decision and are excited to offer this new service to students and faculty soon. So if your holiday shopping list includes a new ereader or tablet for your high school student, stay tuned for a rollout of our new e-lending platform sometime after the first of the year.

GRANITE STATE CHALLENGE

From a testing-field of over 50 high schools and prep schools statewide, Oyster River High School's Quiz Bowl team has qualified as one of the top 16 teams for this season's Granite State Challenge. The team will be back on New Hampshire Public Television Sunday, February 10th, when the 29th season of GRANITE STATE CHALLENGE premieres. Through spirited competition and questions that align with state curriculum standards, the series is an entertaining and educational program that generates school pride.

New Hampshire's top high school academic team sport went on hiatus in 2011 after NHPTV lost all its state funding, which helped support the popular, long-running program. Now, thanks to the generosity of lead sponsor Unitol Corporation, GRANITE STATE CHALLENGE will return in February to challenge high school students and viewers.

Look for exciting new angles to the games this season, including a Granite State vs. Bay State match between the winners of the GRANITE STATE SUPERCHALLENGE and the WGBH Boston High School Quiz Show. Also new this year is an interactive, online quiz version of GRANITE STATE CHALLENGE where individuals can take the Challenge and play against each other in real time.

ORHS WORLD LANGUAGE NEWS



The Spanish Club Poinsettia sale was a big success. Thanks to those who supported our efforts to raise money for the nurse's holiday fund. We raised enough money to make a significant contribution to the gift fund!

We will be hosting a holiday party on December 13th after school. New members are always welcome! Our next event will be a movie night for Spanish students. Listen for an announcement in all Spanish classes.

The French club is planning a Holiday Fête in the next few weeks. Details will unravel soon. Students will hear about these plans in class, so be sure to ask them about the time and place! We will also be taking part in the Nurse's Festive Flamingo fundraising campaign and French classes will be asked to donate spare change during the next few weeks. The French club members will purchase the items and we will donate to a family in our community for the holidays.



Sign-ups for the National Spanish Exam and the National French Exam (le Grand Concours) will take place in December and January. Students may sign up in their Spanish or French classes. A small processing fee is charged by the Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese and the Association of French Teachers, the sponsors of these exams. ORHS language students traditionally do very well and many receive awards for high placement at both state and national levels. The exam itself will be administered during the school day in the spring of 2013.

National Honor Society

In November the Oyster River High School Chapter of National Honor Society held its annual pie sales fundraiser. This year the students worked with Kathy Kerrigan and her Kathy for the Cure fundraiser to benefit the Beyond the Rainbow Fund at Exeter Hospital which provides critical assistance to local cancer patients in need. The students look forward to presenting a check to Mrs. Kerrigan in the amount of \$1000 at our monthly meeting in December. We thank all of the parents and community members who make this fundraiser successful each year!



News from the Computer Science Department

Students in computer science are hard at work learning new skills in general computing, programming, digital imaging, digital graphics, and web design.

Computer Essentials students are working on multimedia skills by learning how to use sound editing software, digital still pictures, digital video, and movie creation with Movie Maker. They will end the semester by creating a video essay that will showcase all of the multimedia skills learned this quarter. In programming students are hard at work putting their knowledge to use by creating programs of their own. They will finish the semester by building a video game from scratch!

Note from the Social Studies Department

During the month of October, Mr. Pappas and Mr. Cangello's Citizenship Education classes at the high school participated in a mock election campaign focusing on the 2012 Presidential Election between Barack Obama and challenger Mitt Romney. It was a wonderful way to introduce the electoral process in the United States. Every student had a role in running the campaign, including campaign managers and staff as well as media, rally and election coordinators. On November 1st the campaign was celebrated with a rally that included speeches from all of the candidates with the HS Jazz Choir, led by Marc LaForce, starting things off with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner. Mrs. Young and her video production class covered the event from the beginning and their completed product can be seen in the November issue of ORTV News Episode 3. The event was also covered by the NH Union Leader and appeared in the November 4 2012 edition (link provided below). Following the rally, a mock election was held with President Obama winning with 67% of the votes. See below for full election results.

<http://www.unionleader.com/article/20121105/NEWS04/121109628/-1/news0605>

President		Governor		Congress	
Obama 67%	265	Hassan: 73%	271	Shea-Porter: 72%	265
Romney 27%	106	Lamontagne: 27%	101	Guinta: 28%	101
Ron Paul (write in) 6%	22				

Turnout among ORHS students:

Senior: 36%

Juniors: 50%

Sophomores: 71%

Freshmen: 67%



Students had the opportunity to go see President Clinton at a real political rally. While there they bumped into Governor-elect Maggie Hassan.

Donations to the PE Department

The Oyster River High School Physical Education department is looking for the following items:

- Ice skates
- Helmets, elbow pads, knee pads
- Cross Country skies, poles, and boots
- Snow shoes

We are hoping mother nature cooperates and provides us with enough snow to ski and snow shoe. An ice skating unit is an activity we'd like to offer possibly as early as this winter so we are collecting skates and pads. Please call 868-2375 x 6020 if you would like to donate any equipment. Thank you and have a great holiday season.

The ORHS Physical Education Staff

News from the ORHS Music Department

Four Oyster River High School students were accepted into the 2013 New Hampshire Music Educators' Jazz All State Festival. Seniors **Jenny Taylor**, **Nathaniel Spence** and **Allie Harris** were all accepted into the Honors Jazz Choir, which is the highest ranked ensemble; and senior **Jacob Smith** was accepted to play drums in the Jazz Band. The festival concert will take place on Saturday, February 9, 2013 at Pinkerton High School.

Contact ORHS Music Director Marc LaForce @ mlaforce@orcscd.org for more information.



Two Oyster River High School students were accepted into the New Hampshire All State Festival, which will take place at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord, NH on April 13th, 2013. Participating in the Mixed Choir will be Senior **Nathaniel Spence** and on French Horn in the Concert Band will be sophomore **Emily Sagnella** going to her first All State. Congratulations!

Oyster River High School English Department Announces Poet Laureate for 2012-2013

On Wednesday, November 20 the Durham Public Library and Oyster River English Department collaborated to present a special evening of poetry. Two student candidates from the high school read their poetry to audition for the Oyster River High School Poet Laureate position. The two candidates included Catherine Geiger and Emily Howard. Congratulations to Catherine who was named our 2012-2013 Poet Laureate. Look for Catherine at Poetry Out Loud in January.



The evening started out with a poem from Oyster River 2011-2012 Poet Laureate, Daniel Belshaw. Later in the program, Oyster River teacher, Trevor Garman, introduced each candidate and gave a brief history of the Poet Laureate program. Judges for the evening included Tom Madden & Lisa Kleinmann from the Durham Public Library, Shawn Kelly and Nate Cutting from the Oyster River English Department. Thanks to Tom Madden & Lisa Kleinmann from the Durham Library and members of the high school English Department for making this event such a success.

Left to right: Emily Howard, Catherine Geiger, and Daniel Belshaw.

English Department News

College Essay Help

The English Department is offering college essay during office hours every block Thursday. Teachers will be available to provide feedback on essay drafts, and to offer helpful tips for getting started with the essay writing process. Unless a student reserves a time in advance, conferences will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Poetry Out Loud

Please join us for an evening of poetry recitation in the high school auditorium! The ORHS English Department will once again be hosting *Poetry Out Loud*. This year's event has been moved to Thursday, January 10 (snow date: January 17). Students in Essentials of English and Poetry and Fiction will be participating in the semi-finals for our school-wide competition. Students who are not enrolled in one of these classes, but would like to participate in this year's event, please see Ms. Horsley in room 104 before December 10th. For more information on the Poetry Out Loud National Poetry Recitation Contest, visit poetryoutloud.org. This event is free and open to the public.

Debate & Persuasion

Ms. Sullivan's *Debate & Persuasion* class is finishing up their third round of Policy Debates. During this round, students engaged in heated debate over three topics: The Death Penalty in New Hampshire, NASA funding and The PATRIOT Act. Thanks to Mrs. Young's Video Production class, we were able to videotape debates and students will be analyzing and assessing their own performance.

Essentials of English

Kara Sullivan's *Essentials of English* class is currently reading *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. This book tells the story of a young boy named Christopher Boone. Like all of us, Christopher struggles with family, school and social relationships. However, Christopher has Autism. As a culminating activity for the study of this book, Ms. Sullivan's class is planning a panel discussion with members of the community, including parents with children on the Autism Spectrum and professionals who work with young children with Autism. If you are interested in the panel, please contact Kara Sullivan at Kasullivan@orcsd.org.

Genre Studies



Ms. Sullivan's *Genre Studies* class worked on a *Day of the Child* theme to generate ideas for their multigenre paper projects. This day of play included work with Legos, Play-Doh, floor puzzles, board games and card games. Students enjoyed the class period and generated ideas for their writing pieces called "Indelible Moments" and "I Am What I Am."

Student Publications

THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER

The Mouth of the River Issue #2: The MOR staff writers and editors are working hard to meet the December 11th circulation date for Issue #2. This issue will have 32 pages, as the staff looks to continue to improve on the 24 pages of Issue #1. Stories will include coverage of community service projects at ORHS, the Bully Project and its impact on the school, the senior class' budget, and the ORHS sports fan base. Please contact Mr. Kelly – skelly@orcsd.org – if you are interested in supporting the paper and receiving home delivery of all five issues this year.

Yearbook News:

The Trion Staff has just wrapped up their first 44 page deadline, and is chipping away at the next forty 44 pages of our full color yearbook. This month we're focusing on student life, and our spreads will feature stories and pictures of students' interests, activities, talents, and hobbies. Make sure you reserve your copy of our book! **Log onto ybpay.lifetouch.com and enter code 8482913 to place your order.**

Other reminders:

- Senior baby picture ads are due by **December 5th**. If you lost your order form, please email ORHYearbook13@gmail.com for another copy.
- Yearbook is seeking remember when photos of seniors. We'd prefer group shots, and photos can be from any age up to senior year. Please send jpegs to the email address above, or mail hard copies of your photos to the high school to the attention of Shauna Horsley, Yearbook Advisor. If you'd like your photos returned, please mark the back of each photo with your name and address.

Literary Arts Magazine

The literary magazine is headed towards another great year! There have been many changes already including a new advisor (Mr. Brewer) and new student editors. The staff's editors are also currently working on changes to the literary magazine's submission process that will hopefully result in more acceptances and benefit all. The staff is extremely excited to be able to read, see, and display the literary and artistic talents of the Oyster River High School. All students are encouraged to submit (with their name or anonymously) to their English teacher or to the Literary Magazine email orhslit@gmail.com.

Oyster River Athletics



Oyster River would like to congratulate our all-state fall athletes! At the conclusion of each sport season coaches from all divisions across the state nominate and vote for all-state selections for 1st, 2nd, and Honorable Mention. In soccer, **Corey Scarano**, **Connor Grover**, and **Zack Jones** heard Honorable Mention, while **Aidan Conrad** was voted to all-state 2nd team and **Kayli Igoe** and **Megan Comeau** were voted 1st team all-state. Three cross country runners were nominated in the "Top 10" of their division including freshman **Megan Doody** representing the girls' team and **Cam Barth** and **Thomas Caulfield** for the men's team.

Volleyball earned three slots in all-state, with **Brenna Walczak** earning Honorable Mention, **Sauna Bulger** 2nd team and **Katie Sylvia** gaining 1st team all-state. Congratulations on not only representing Oyster River but gaining state wide attention!

Corey Parker, CAA Oyster River Athletics
603-868-2375x2 @ORBobcats

Have a Great Holidays! Tis the season to be jolly!

