

Highlighter

Issue 1 October 2011

From the Principal's Desk

October 2011

Dear ORHS Parents and Guardians:

It was a great summer, but it's good to be back in school. It always amazes me how quickly our students get back into the rhythm of school. In spite of a few warm days to start the academic year, students returned to school focused and ready to learn. We had a wonderful Spirit Week and Field Day and our freshmen seem to have acclimated to the building and become confident during the last few weeks. As we get into the year, it seems like a good time to remind you about some of the resources we have in place to support our students and help them engage in the academic process.

PowerSchool parent and student portals are up and running. This is a great tool to keep track of student progress, check student schedules and generally find out what is going on at ORHS. Everyone should have received parent and student log-in information through the mail. If you have had any issues accessing your PowerSchool account please contact the guidance office for assistance.

The Learning Lab is staffed throughout the day by a seasoned staff member who can help students with organization, research, projects, the writing process or daily homework. Students can be assigned to Learning Lab in lieu of Study Hall or free students can drop in for extra help.

The Homework Den is in the Learning Lab room after school from 2:30 until 4:00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Students can catch the late bus after receiving extra help in the Den, using the computers there, or completing a project.

Office Hours are scheduled every other week on Thursdays from 7:35 until 8:05. This is opposite Focus, our advisory program, which occupies a 30 minute period every other Friday. For students who are unavailable after school, this is an opportunity to meet with any of their teachers, schedule make-up work after an absence, get extra help or work in a study group with support from their teacher.

In addition to supporting students with their school work, we have developed programs that can be tailored to match students' interests. While these options are designed for juniors and seniors, younger students can begin planning for these programs as sophomores with the help of their guidance counselor.

Internships are guided, workplace experiences that are overseen by Ms. Seaman and Ms. Healy. Students keep a journal, engage in career exploration, and complete futures planning activities that are reflective of their experience. This semester or year-long commitment culminates in a project/exhibition that is developed collaboratively by the student workplace mentor.

Independent Studies can be developed for students who are not able to schedule a desired course or who have a specific interest that they would like to explore further. These experiences require a teacher who is willing to mentor the student and evaluate the students' work product.

UNH Courses are open to students who qualify for the CATS program at UNH. Students can apply to take one level 400 or 500 UNH course each semester during their junior and senior years free of charge. Go to unh.edu and search "CATS" for admission criteria.

Guidance: The Guidance Department has placed a tremendous amount of material about upcoming events, our programs, the college application process, career exploration and other guidance services on their website. Visit

<http://www.orcsd.org/orhs/> and click on "Guidance" for more information. There is a wide range of information ranging from the freshmen handbook to PSAT information to valuable information for seniors as they prepare for life post high school. Additionally, guidance offers services to support student's academic planning and to social/emotional needs. Important events from our Guidance Department are:

- October 15 PSATs
- November 15 Gap Year and Volunteer Fair
- November 15 Financial Aid Workshop for Senior Parents

I know I speak for the entire faculty when I say that we enjoyed meeting those of you who were able to join us at Open House on September 22nd. As always, please feel free to contact your child's guidance counselor if you would like to meet with your child's teachers to talk about his/her progress. If you have questions or need clarification about anything at the high school, please feel free to call me at 868-2375 x 1104.

Sincerely,
Todd Allen
ORHS Principal

PTO News

All members of the Oyster River High School community are always welcome to participate in the PTO in any capacity. Please join us for monthly meetings at 7 PM at ORHS Library. Mark your calendars and join us for discussions about interesting topics and presentations from school staff and students. More information on ORHS PTO website.

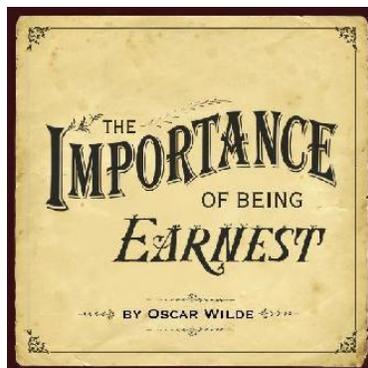
- October 17 - ORHS Student Senate
- November 14 - Superintendent Leon Levesque
- December 12 - Recent graduates of ORHS
- January 9 - ORHS Guidance Director Heather Machanoff
- February 13 - Director of Curriculum and Instruction Phyllis Schlichter and ORHS Teacher Brian Ryan
- March 14 - School Resource Officer Holly Malasky and Kevin Towle of Towle Driving School
- April 9 - Pam Raiford and the ORHS Social Studies Dept.
- May 14 - Current ORHS Seniors

Oyster River HS Drama Department Presents

"All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. No man does. That's his."- Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

The Oyster River High School drama department will be performing **"THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST"** on November 17, 18 and 19 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 for students and \$8.00 for adults.

Oscar Wilde's madcap farce about mistaken identities, secret engagements, and lovers' entanglements still delights theatergoers more than a century after its 1895 publication and premiere performance. The rapid-fire wit and eccentric characters of *The Importance of Being Earnest* have made it a mainstay of the high school curriculum for decades.





DEMERITT HILL FARM

PRESENTS the 2011



HALLOWEEN STORYBOOK HAYRIDE

October 22 – 23

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come support the ORHS Class of 2012

A specially designed event for Elementary School children featuring **Oyster River HS students** as **Snow White, Cinderella, Superman, Belle** and more. Listen to enchanted stories while on a fun hayride through the apple orchard. After the hayride each child will receive Halloween goodies and a pumpkin followed by a story given by Mother Goose and face painting. The hayride is approximately 30-45 min long and departs every hour on the hour.

Reservations are strongly recommended.

Please call 868-2111 to reserve your spot today!

Please be advised that this is designed to be a non-frightening event for the children.

Admission: \$12.00 per CHILD, \$6.00 per ADULT

For more information visit us at www.demeritthillfarm.com 66 Lee Road, Lee, New Hampshire 03861, Conveniently located on Route 155 (1/2 mile east of its Intersection with Route **155A -toward Dover**)

PEP News (Preschool Education Program)



The Preschool Education Program (PEP), operated by Strafford Learning Center, is now in its second year at Oyster River High School. We continue to be grateful for the continued support offered to us by administrators, faculty, staff and students alike.

This semester we have three high school interns working in our classrooms at varying times each day. We are thankful to Heather Healey and Kim Seaman, HS faculty members, for organizing this. We strive to provide the HS students with an enriching experience as they work alongside teachers, related services providers, paraprofessionals and young children to gain insights into varying aspects of early childhood development and special education.

Our three to five year old students benefit greatly from their time with high school students as they are exposed to different “teachers,” and different teaching styles. They have quickly learned at what times to expect the interns and typically greet them with an enthusiastic welcome into the classroom. This experience has helped to integrate the preschool into the greater high school community and we look forward to working with more interns during future semesters.



Greetings from Guidance

We would like to share with you an upcoming event and one current program that are part of the Guidance Department.

Please join us for our 5th Annual Gap Year Fair On **Tuesday, November 15th from 5:30-8:00.**

5:30 – Keynote Speaker: Center for Interim Programs, is a nationally known authority on the gap year experience. (HS Multipurpose Room) 6:00-8:00 – Fair (HS Cafeteria)

We will have a variety of programs and organizations attending; over 35 in all! Whether you are looking for a semester abroad, a post grad year, a summer enrichment program, or a gap year experience, there will be many options to explore. This event is for all students grade 9-12 (not just seniors), as some of them are specifically for students who are still in high school.

You may ask ‘what is a gap year?’ While some might refer to it as a year off, it is intended to be a year on; a chance to experience and/or explore an interest before heading off to college. While the general perception is that students are choosing not to attend college, the truth is that many are only deferring attendance for one year. Gap year opportunities can be focused on volunteer service, adventure and travel, or can be educationally related. The gap year can be helpful if a student is still exploring potential career paths.

A current program that we would like to highlight is the **ORHS internship program**. This program continues to grow in size and scope. Over the past few years, students have been placed at a wide variety of sites and we have found the experiences to be mutually beneficial. Our goal is to provide students the opportunity to explore careers while gaining real world experience, as well as high school credit. Currently, internship sites are established when a student expresses interest in a specific career or situation. We then work to coordinate a match for that particular interest.

The total time requirement for an internship is 90 hours over the course of a semester, which averages to approximately 4.5 hours per week. The hours are met either during or outside of the school day, whichever works best for both the work place and student. There is a school based component to the internship as well, which is coordinated and monitored by teacher, Heather Healy.

This semester we have students completing internships at the following sites:

PEP program
Families First Health and Support Center
UNH Football Program
Oyster River Youth Association
Federal Savings Bank - Marketing and Public Relations Department
Oyster River Middle School
Rehab 3
Wild Miller Gardens at Tuckaway Farm
UNH-Hubbard Center for Genome Studies

Internships are available to any student and all are encouraged to participate. It’s a great way to begin and/or continue the career exploration process!

If you are interested in learning more, contact Kim Seaman in the Guidance office kseaman@orcsd.org or at 868-2375 x2214



Oyster River High School World Language Department

The Oyster River High School World Language Department welcomes French and Spanish teacher Leslie Gelsomini. Leslie comes to us from Dover High School and brings experience, a wealth of knowledge and youthful vigor to the department. We are happy and very lucky to have such an enthusiastic and competent teacher as an addition to our department.

Over 450 students are enrolled this year in levels 1 through 5 in both French and Spanish. Our program is strong, due in part to the hard work and dedication of our colleagues at the Middle School, who give our students a solid foundation in the four core components of language: reading, writing, listening and speaking. As students either continue or begin language studies at the high school we base instruction on standards which we fondly call "The 5 C's": Communication, Cultures, Comparisons, Community and Connections. These standards guide us as we work collaboratively within our department to create meaningful and realistic lessons for our students.

French and Spanish Clubs met on September 27 to organize and plan activities for the fall. Both clubs plan to host a movie night in October when students of all levels watch a popular movie in the target language. Some movies shown in the past have been UP, Harry Potter and Le Valet. Another successful club activity is hosting a food drive and donating Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in the community. All language students are welcome to join!

Members of the French and Spanish National Honor Societies will be available to tutor students starting the third week in October. Students may sign up to work with a peer tutor through their language teachers.

English Department Notes

College Essay Help: The English Department is offering three college essay help sessions in the Homework Den at 2:45 on October 11th, 12th, and 13th. Teachers will be available to provide feedback on essay drafts, and to offer helpful tips for getting started with the essay writing process. Additionally, during the months of October and November, students seeking feedback on essays may seek any English teacher during office hours on block Thursdays. Unless a student reserves a time in advance, conferences will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Oyster River Poet Laureate: For the fourth year, the Oyster River High School English Department has collaborated with the Durham Public Library to name a "Poet Laureate" of Oyster River. Students interested in representing Oyster River High School as our Poet Laureate for the 2011-2012 school year should pick up an application from any English teacher.

On Wednesday, October 26 at 7pm the Durham Public Library and Oyster River English Department will present a special evening of poetry. Student candidates from the high school will read their poetry to audition for the Oyster River High School Poet Laureate position.



2010-2011 Oyster River High School Poet Laureate, Abby MacGregor, receives her Poet Laureate designation from Durham Public Library Trustee, Ann Windsor. Abby will hand off her role and "hat" to a new Poet Laureate on Wednesday, October 26.

Class Notes

Miss Kendra Guay, who is interning with Ms. Yatsevitch, is holding an Art Opening as an activity with her 9th grade *Essentials of English class*. Ms. Guay's class is finishing *Speak* and will be using this activity to connect with the main character's love of art.

Mrs. Engstrom's *Essentials of English class* will be participating in a panel discussion to connect with the book, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

Ms. Sullivan's *Expository Writing classes* are working on a college application essay unit. Recent college graduates came into class to talk with students about their experiences writing college and graduate school essays.

Save the Date

The ORHS English Department will once again be hosting Poetry Out Loud on Tuesday, January 10 (snow date: January 11). Shawn Kelly is the contact for the English Department.



<http://www.orcsd.org/school/orhs/>

Next issue of ORHS Highlighter will be published December 5, 2011. Questions, comments?
Email hbartos@comcast.net.