

Highlighter

Issue 1 October 2012

From the Principal's Desk- October, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Since this is our first Highlighter of the year I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school. Things have gotten off to a great start. As I write this we are in the final weeks of the 1st quarter and as always students and teachers are actively engaged in the learning process.

I had the pleasure of sitting in on a panel discussion with Pam Raiford's sociology class the other day. The class was made up of all seniors. In the class we discussed the topic of education and what makes a great school. In this class of 22 students there were a number of great ideas suggested for how to make school more engaging. The element of choice was very important to the students. In particular, they really valued the elective system that ORHS offers. In addition they commented on the fact that they really feel that their teachers know and like them. They believe that this type of relationship is critical for student success in school. It was nice to hear that the students value our elective system and class sizes as much as the teachers do.

As the school year moves along I think it is important for me to remind you of the supports we have in place for all students here at ORHS. One of the things I am most proud of as principal is the fact that we had a 100% high school completion rate last year. This success is in part due to the wide range of student-centered supports that we have in place. For students who need extra help they have a variety of options. All of the programs mentioned below are available to all students who choose to access them.

1. We have Office Hours every other Thursday morning from 7:35-8:05. This is a time for kids to check in with their teachers and get clarification or assistance. This opportunity is built into the school day because we want to make access to teachers easy for students.
2. Teachers are available during their planning periods to offer direct assistance to students. All kids need to do is make an appointment with their teacher.
3. After school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we offer Homework Den from 2:30 to 4:00. This is staffed by a teacher and student tutors. Homework Den is available to provide homework assistance to students who choose to access it. On any given day there are 10-15 students taking advantage of Homework Den. A late bus is offered at 4:00 on those days for kids to get a ride home if needed.
4. During the school day we offer a program called Learning Lab. This is a structured study assistance program that is offered 7 periods a day and can be accessed by being assigned there instead of a study hall or by just dropping in for help.
5. The library is open after school Monday through Thursday until 3:30 for students to study or access library resources and technology. Many students utilize this service on a regular basis.

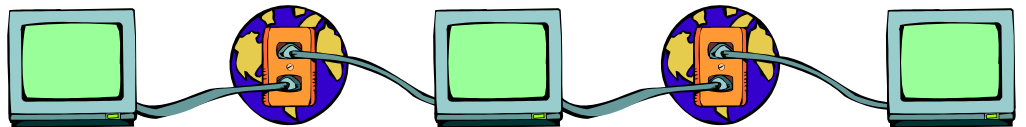
Changing the subject, I would also like to a moment to explain a change that we have made to our attendance policy. In prior years the policy has been that if a student had 6 absences in a quarter then they could be given an "excessive absence" failure regardless of their actual grade for the class. What this meant in some cases was that a student could have an A average but fail the course for too many absences. This year we have changed the policy to eliminate "excessive absence" failures. The intent of this change has been to make grades based more on competency instead of seat time. This does not mean that we are saying that

attendance is unimportant. Students will still receive a zero for any work expected during an unexcused absence and disciplinary consequences will be given to students who skip a class or are chronically tardy. The message we intend to send to students and parents is you're your grade is based on your demonstrated proficiency in the class. Hopefully students will take away the message that if you work hard and do the work for a class you will be rewarded for it and that regular attendance to class is valuable in achieving that success. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy please feel free to call or email me.

I mentioned earlier the fact that we had a 100% high school completion rate last year. As I said above, part of this is due to the programs we have in place to support students but a large part of this is due to the level of parental and community support we enjoy. Without involved and supportive families ORHS would not be the engaged learning community that it is. Thank you to all for helping us get this year off to such a successful start.

Sincerely, Todd Allen

Get Connected!



Did you know that ORHS has its own Facebook page and Twitter feed? If you regularly communicate using either (or both) of these social media tools please make sure to include ORHS as a part of your community! They are both great outlets for the school to communicate daily announcements and special information about events at the high school. Find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/OysterRiverHighSchool . Follow us on Twitter: @OysterRiverHS

News from the ORHS Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Please join the HS PTO for our monthly meetings. It's a great opportunity to meet HS staff and learn about school activities and events. The meetings are held at the HS Library on Mondays and start at 7:00PM.

Here are the dates and topics of the upcoming meetings:

- November 5, 2012 – Tackle sports with the school nurse Danuta Richards, the HS Athletics Director Corey Parker and trainer Mike Feld.
- December 10, 2012 – Meet the teachers from the HS Science Department
- January 7, 2013 – ORHS graduates will join us for discussion about life in college.
- February 11, 2013 – Local Police/Drugs and Alcohol.
- March 11, 2013 – Driver's Education.
- April 8, 2013 – Nutrition and Wellness at the ORCSD.
- May 13, 2013 – Graduating seniors will join us for discussion about the life after ORHS

Watch out for the Ghost Tea PTO Fundraiser!! Arriving in your mailbox around Halloween. Thank you for your support!



Election Day Bake Sale and iPad Raffle to Benefit Students' Spring Trip to France

Be sure to bring your appetites and holiday shopping cash when you come to vote on November 7 at ORHS. *Bake sale* will start at 7 am and go until the food is gone! There will be baked goods, tea and coffee. The *iPad Raffle* will be from election day, Nov. 7 until December 7. The first prize winner will win the iPad, the second place winner a \$50.00 itunes gift card and the third place winner will receive a \$25.00 seafood gift certificate. Tickets will be sold for \$10.00 each or 6 for \$50.00. It is time to start your holiday shopping!

Congratulations to the winners of our fall Lobster Raffle:

First place winner of the Lobster Trip for 6: Diane Nicole

Second place winner of a gift certificate to Café Mirabelle: Melissa Garvey

Third place winner of 6 lobsters and a \$25.00 gift certificate for fish: Cheyane Milano

Felicitations à tous!

French Club.... Le Cercle Français

We had our first meeting of Le Cercle Français. We chose our officers for the coming school year:

La présidente: Becca Hoff grade 12

La vice-présidente : Erika Ireland grade 10

La secrétaire : Lydia Beller-McKennagrade 12

The students are discussing fundraising activities and fun activities for the upcoming year. Officers will meet on Mondays in room T112 but any French student is welcome to attend. All activities are open to all French students!

bienvenidos.
somos spanish club

Spanish Club is off to a great start! Our officers for this year are: Presidente: John Parsons, Vice-Presidente: Laurel Gibson, Secretaria: Emily Croot and Tesorero: Reilly Webb. We plan to meet once a month to practice our Spanish skills, plan activities for Spanish students and raise funds for various community service projects. Our first efforts go towards helping with the school nurse's Thanksgiving baskets and holiday gift giving efforts. Starting next week, Spanish club members will be taking orders for poinsettias from Wentworth Gardens in Dover. Last year the plants were absolutely gorgeous! If you would like to order a plant, please see a Spanish club member or email Mary Beaton at mbeaton@orcsd.org Payment of \$10.00 (medium) or \$16.00 (large) is requested with your order. Checks or cash accepted. Plants will be delivered to the high school for pick up prior to Thanksgiving.

Some plant orders will be taken at FESTIVAL which takes place this year on Thursday November 8th. (Please see announcement below)



The 24th annual World Language Festival will take place on Thursday November 8, 2012 from 6:30-8:30. Students from French and Spanish levels 3,4 and 5 will perform their favorite fairy tale skits and original plays while authentic French and Hispanic foods will be served buffet style. Drinks are also available for purchase. Families and friends invited. Please consider purchasing a holiday poinsettia from the Spanish Club. (Level 1 and 2 students will perform at Spring Festival in March)

Trip to Costa Rica

Mr. Bromley and Sr. Hausmann, will be traveling to Costa Rica in April. If you want to secure a spot please pay the \$350 deposit by Nov. 1 email Tom Hausmann at thausmann@orcsd.org for more info.

Itinerary for Costa Rica Eco-Adventure:

Day 1 – Flight from Boston to Costa Rica. Transfer by bus to lodging near Arenal Volcano National Park. All breakfasts and dinners included during the trip. Lunch arranged by group.

Day 2 – After breakfast plenty of outdoor activities await you. Spend the morning hiking along park trails while enjoying the closest legal panoramic views of Volcan Arenal. In the afternoon take a horseback ride to the magnificent La Fortuna waterfall where you'll have a refreshing swim in the waters of this breath-taking 200-foot cascade.

Days 3 – Explore the park a little more along a marked trail– maybe even see an eruption if you're lucky! (Dawn is the best time.) Take a look at Lake Arenal. Lunch on your own before heading to San Rafael. A special visit to an organic coffee plantation is arranged for you by your teachers. It's an on-site lesson in commodity economics!

Day 4 – Morning departure for the incredible Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. Thrill to the zip-lines and towering bridges through & above the forest canopy as well as a guided hike with a naturalist where you'll see unusual birds, insects, flowers and mammals in their natural habitat.

Day 5 – You will leave your imprint in the forest by doing a volunteer project at Santa Elena Cloud Forest Reserve adjacent to the Monteverde. How cool is that!

Day 6 – Depart for the beautiful Pacific shores of the Nicoya Peninsula. Playa Avellana will be your home base where you can take time to explore your surroundings and relax for a quiet day on the beach.

Day 7 – Today we're going to Playa Grande just up the coast where we will visit a school for an intercambio with local students. Later on there will be time to take in the sights of the small community, walk on the beach or go for a swim. Watch for some baby leatherback turtles on the beach! They will be the stragglers since the hatching season is winding down by April.

Day 8 – On your last day in Costa Rica you'll be going to Marino Las Baulas National Park where you will explore by kayak this area eco-rich in marine conservation land. Choose a surfing lesson or snorkeling for your afternoon activity.

Day 9 – Morning transfer to the airport for your return flight home. ADIOS, Costa Rica

Tom Hausmann, Oyster River HS Spanish Teacher

603-868-2375, 55 Coe Dr. Durham, NH 03824

[“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!

Computer Science Students at Work

Submitted by Computer Science Teachers Pam Carr and Debbie Sheldon

This semester has started off strong in the computer science department. In Advanced Programming students have mastered using the BlueJ IDE to create programs with the Java programming language and are on their way to creating larger scale projects. Currently Advanced Programming students are working on individual programs that will showcase all of the skills they have learned this quarter; we have students creating games and other functional applications for many different types of users.



The Video Game Development students have been hard at work learning the basic concepts of programming. They have mastered using Python in a structured programming format and will soon move on to using object oriented programming with Python; this will prepare them for Advanced programming if they choose to move on to a more challenging course in programming. Currently students have been asked to create a Tic Tac Toe game from scratch; they are amazed at how much thought and work has to be done to create such a simple game!

Students taking Computer Essentials have already learned advanced features in Microsoft Word like using styles, working with tables, and managing resources (for MLA or APA styles) in documents. They have honed their skills in PowerPoint and will continue to work with other application software like Microsoft Excel and Publisher as well as working in the cloud with Google Apps for Education. The high point of the semester will be when students create video essays that combine narration, music, digital video, and digital images to communicate an important message to their audience.

Adobe Illustrator students are learning to draw with the Bezier curve-pen tool, and are presently drawing an item to spray in their artwork. They have completed their house project and mastered drawing with basic tools.

Web Page Design students are working on a hero project and learning to incorporate fonts from outside sources. They are posting their projects on Jabry.com and validating their work with W3C web site.

Project Running Start is alive and well in the Computer Science Department. This semester a total of 30 students are earning college credit through Project Running Start at Great Bay Community College. Eight students from Computer Essentials, 6 students from Advanced Programming, 1 student in Web Page Design, 9 students in Illustrator, and 6 students in Photoshop. This is an excellent opportunity for students to get a head start on their college studies!

News from Oyster River High School

National Honor Society

Submitted by Advisors Celeste Best and Pam Carr

Once again this year the members of the ORHS National Honor Society will be selling Thanksgiving Pumpkin pies as our annual fundraiser. Students will be taking advanced pie orders from October 18 until November 7. Cost of the pie is \$10 and donations are also welcome. Students will make the pies they sell and deliver them by Tuesday, November 20, just in time for Thanksgiving! All proceeds from the pie sales will benefit Kathy for the Cure and Beyond the Rainbow. Kathy for the Cure is a fun-filled day of exercise that will be held on November 3 at ORHS by Durham resident Kathy Kerrigan. This event raises awareness for breast cancer and raises money for Exeter Hospital's Beyond the Rainbow fund which provides critical assistance to local cancer patients in need. If you are interested in purchasing a pie, students will be at the Kathy for the Cure event taking orders



One Million Bones Project



ONE MILLION BONES

The Oyster River High School World Cultures classes will be participating in a national event to raise awareness about genocide and the current conflicts in Somalia and the Congo. The project is being organized by Global Nomads Group and Students Rebuild and will be held during the school day on Monday November 5th.

We will need a lot of newspaper for this project so please contact me at praiford@orcscd.org if you are able to donate some. If you are interested in participating, please join us on November 5th or see the website for more information.

Here is some more specific information about the project, which was taken from the website, <http://www.onemillionbones.org/>

One Million Bones is a large-scale social arts practice, which means we use education and hands-on art making to raise awareness of genocides and atrocities going on around the world, this very day. We are collecting artwork bones for a collaborative installation of 1,000,000 bones on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in the spring of 2013. This installation will serve as a collaborative site of conscience to remember victims and survivors, and as a visible petition to raise awareness of the issue and call upon our government to take much needed and long overdue action.

We offer two ways to create a bone. You can sign-up to create your own bone(s) in the Students Rebuild challenge, A Path Forward. Every bone created through this initiative generates a \$1 donation, up to \$500,000, to CARE for their work on the ground in Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These funds are generously donated by the Bezos Family Foundation.

You may also have a bone made in your name for a donation of \$5. These bones are either handmade of clay or will be made of biodegradable material. We will create the bone for you and place it in your honor on the National Mall.

We never cease to be amazed at how many people have only the most vague notion of what genocide is, and how many more have no idea it's happening now.

At One Million Bones we are committed to leveraging the power of art to inspire activism. As artists and activists ourselves, we feel the most powerful thing we can do to effect change is to use art as a means of introducing people to the issue and offering actions related to it.

ORTV News is here!

Oyster River's very own television news program is producing monthly episodes for and about the Oyster River School community. Entertaining as well as informative, ORTV provides interesting insight into issues and events affecting our community. In the latest episode we sit down at Young's restaurant with school board member AL Howland to discuss the district budget process. We talk to the student school board representative John Parsons We learn about the HS ski club, the HS Fall Athletics and Mast Way's fairy house event. 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/orcsd> For more information, or to comment about ORTV News or to get involved contact Kathleen Young kyoung@orcsd.org

English Department Notes October 2012

Oyster River High School Poet Laureate: On Wednesday, November 14 at 7:00 the Durham Public Library and Oyster River English Department will collaborate to 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. The evening will include the current Poet Laureate, Daniel Belshaw, who will hand off his title to our new lucky Poet Laureate. Please contact Kara Sullivan at KASullivan@orcsd.org. Students interested in representing Oyster River High School as our Poet Laureate for the 2012-2013 school year should pick up an application from any English teacher.

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.

Student Publications

Yearbook News: Students have until the beginning of November to order yearbooks at an early-bird, discounted rate. After November 4th, students may still order books, but the price will increase. For your convenience, orders will be taken online only. Log onto ybpay.lifetouch.com and enter code 8482913.

Senior Baby Picture Ads: Parents who wish to purchase a baby ad for their seniors may place orders by December 5th. Baby ads offer parents the opportunity to purchase space in the yearbook to celebrate their seniors' accomplishments. Order forms will be arriving via snail mail in late October.

Call for "Remember When" Photos: The yearbook staff is seeking group photos of seniors and their friends from preschool through high school to include in our yearbook's "Remember When" pages. We would also like to use these photos for a senior video. Please drop photos in the main office or send them to Shauna Horsley in the English department. If you'd like your photos returned, please make sure you label the back of each photo with a name and address. Thank you for your help!

The Mouth of the River

The Mouth of the River Publishes First Issue: The MOR staff has published its first issue, and for many writers this was the first chance to experience the stress and satisfaction of print journalism. Students look forward to building on the success of Issue #1 as they collaborate with ORTV and create an online presence before Issue #2's circulation date of December 11th. All of this work will serve the student-created MOR Mission Statement: "Mouth of the River strives to present the Oyster River community with a variety of engaging and informative stories that represent the voice of the student body. Please contact Mr. Kelly – skelly@orcscd.org – if you are interested in supporting the paper and receiving home delivery of all five issues this year.



The 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

Class Notes

Debate & Persuasion

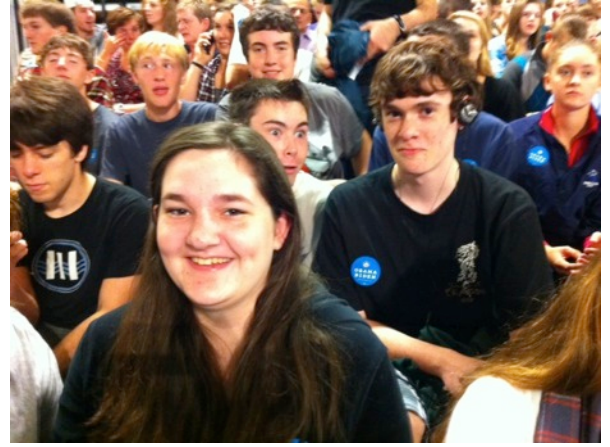
-- Ms. Sullivan's Debate & Persuasion class joined Mr. Pappas and Mr. Cangello's Citizen Education classes for a memorable field trip on Wednesday, October 3rd. Students arrived at the bustling UNH field house and stood in line to see President Clinton. The class enjoyed attending the former president's speech as he addressed the crowded field house. President Clinton was introduced by gubernatorial candidate, Maggie Hassan. Several students were interviewed before and after the event and senior Cody Kondratenko was quoted in Foster's Daily Democrat:

"While many UNH students turned out for the event, debate class students from Oyster River High School (ORHS) also came out.

'I am just really into politics,' Cody Kondratenko, an Oyster River High School senior, who is part of the school's debate class, said" (excerpted from the October 4, 2012 edition).



Seniors Cody Kondratenko and Sam Warach wait to see President Clinton.



Junior Kelly Murphy and Sophomore Josh Mosher join the crowd listening to President Clinton.

-- Members of Ms. Sullivan's Debate & Persuasion class have the opportunity to see Jeffrey Toobin, CNN Legal Analyst, speak at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Wednesday, October 25. Toobin, the prize-winning author of *The Nine*, will take the stage with his latest work, *THE OATH: The Obama White House vs. the Supreme Court*, a gripping insider's account of the momentous ideological war between the John Roberts Supreme Court and the Obama Administration. No one is better positioned to chronicle this dramatic tale than Jeffrey Toobin, a *New Yorker* staff writer and CNN's top legal analyst. Toobin's previous New York Times bestseller laid bare the inner workings and conflicts of the Court in meticulous and entertaining detail; his other works include *Too Close to Call*, *A Vast Conspiracy*, and *The Run of His Life*.

Issues in Literature

Issues in Literature is expanding its independent research component. Much the same way Mrs. Engstrom encouraged students to complete a ladder project in the past, Mr. Cutting is now continuing those efforts to help get more students using the library and reading for their own gain. All students will be reading several novels, non-fiction works, and also watching a film to prepare a presentation of their findings. These presentations will occur after Holiday break. The class looks forward to hearing about these important research topics.

Save the Date!!! The ORHS English Department will once again be hosting Poetry Out Loud on Wednesday, January 9 (snow date: January 10).

