

Highlighter

Issue 4 March 2014

From the Principal's desk

Dear ORHS parents and community members,

If you have read many of my previous "Letters from the Principal's desk" you have probably figured out by now that I like to brag about the accomplishments of our students here at ORHS. This month is no different. At February's PTO meeting the topic of the evening was community service at ORHS. Four of our student community service coordinators presented the various projects they were involved in this year. We heard about "Relay for Life", 5th Grade Mentors, holiday gift wrapping for the Salvation Army and visits to Kirkwood Corners. The students spoke with such passion and enthusiasm for the service projects they were coordinating. It was very impressive to see. Susan Wilkinson, the Service Club advisor, also talked about the 7 other student lead service projects being taken on by members of the club this year. She pointed out that more than 170 students from ORHS are actively involved in a project through the club. These numbers mean that 25% of our student body is involved with some form of voluntary community service. Add to this level of involvement the 100s of hours of community service done by our National Honor Society, Interact club, Sustainability Club, Student Senate, world language clubs, and many more student organizations and you can really see how involved our students are in their community.

On February 26th the Oyster River School District will be launching its own cable television station. Starting next week Cable Channel 97 will be ORTV. This is exciting for 2 reasons. First, it will be a great way for the community to stay informed about all things happening in the Oyster River School District. There will be 24/7 broadcasts of ORCSD programming. The second exciting thing about our new TV station is that opportunities for ORHS students in video production are going to dramatically increase. Our students are already hard at work preparing for the launch of the TV station on February 26th. Students have developed a web site for staff to submit video production ideas and to manage outside requests to cover school district events. In the coming months and years we at ORHS are thrilled with the possibilities of what can be done now that we have our own TV station. Be sure to tune in on the 26th of February to witness OR history being made with the launch of the station.

Another exciting topic relating to ORHS I would like to mention this month is the proposed Barrington Tuition Agreement. Barrington students have been attending ORHS for years and have been contributing positively to our school culture sense they first arrived 6 years ago. The proposed tuition agreement solidifies the presence of Barrington students at the high school level for years to come. This arrangement will allow us to have a clearer sense of student enrollment numbers and student needs into the future. From an ORHS program perspective it will allow us to maintain programs that have been successful but have had lower enrollments and to consider expanding programs that meet student needs. I hope that the community is as

excited and supportive of this proposed agreement as I am. Please plan to vote in the school district elections on March 11th.

At the February 12th school board meeting Corey Parker and I made a presentation on the need for an athletic field upgrade here at ORHS. We feel that this proposed upgrade is a long time coming. You will be hearing a lot more about this concept in the coming months but our hope is to build a turf field, surrounded by an all-weather track with reconfigured baseball and softball fields. If all goes according to plan I would like to be hosting games and meets on our new fields by the fall of 2015. The concept design is on display in the high school office. Come check it out.

Finally, I would just like to remind parents and families of our planned extended absence procedure. In the event your child is going to be out for a planned absence of 3 or more days we request that you contact the main office at least 2 weeks prior to the trip so that we can plan accordingly. Once the absence has been approved our guidance counselors will facilitate communication with teachers. From an academic perspective extended absences are undesirable as students can miss significant chunks of curriculum. When an extended absence from school occurs the best scenario for a student's success is proactive communication with the school. Our extended absence procedure can be found in our student/parent handbook.

Think spring,

Todd Allen, ORHS Principal

Project Graduation

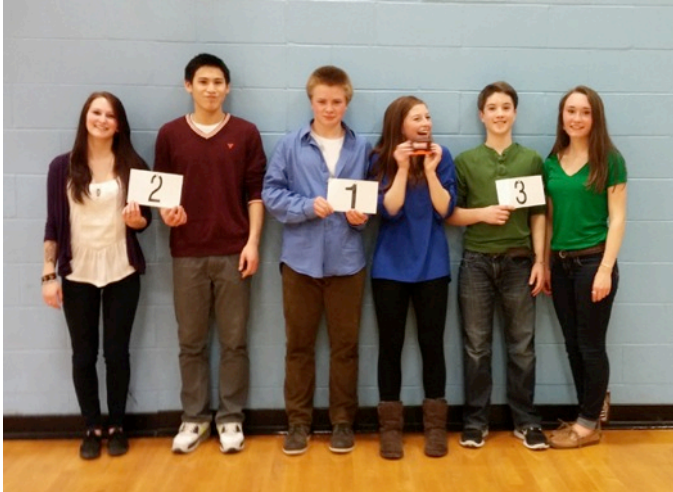
Raffle tickets on sale!! Please support Oyster River High School 2014 Project Graduation. Project Graduation is a tradition whereby the parents and the community come together to provide a fun, safe, and substance free night to the Oyster River graduates. We are selling raffle tickets for a month-long calendar of donations from local businesses (\$10 per ticket), as well as raffle tickets for two tickets to a pre-season Patriots game - Section 129, Row 31 Seats 1 and 2 (\$10 per chance) or two tickets to a Red Sox game Infield Grandstand seats (1 chance for \$5 or 3 chances for \$10). Please contact Fran Mandeville (fmandeville@comcast.net) or any ORHS senior parent for more information.

Snow White Ballet Shows at Oyster River High School

By popular demand, Northeastern Ballet Theatre is proud to return to Oyster River with the beauty and forest enchantment of 'Snow White'. Performances will be on Saturday, March 29 at 7pm and Sunday, March 30 at 2pm at the Oyster River High School auditorium After the Sunday matinee, children are welcome to meet Snow White and other cast members. Come enjoy another professional and spectacular performance right in your own backyard!



Oyster River families can enjoy a special discounted \$12 per ticket group rate. Please go to this web site to purchase ticket at the group rate: <http://www.northeasternballet.org/groupsales>



AND THE WINNERS OF FRESHMEN CLASS DANCE CONTEST ARE:

Period G

(l-r) – Cyrus Hull, Emma Sassaman, Daniel Sole-Barber, Sierra Carpenter, Helen Cupp, Liam McNamara

Period C

(l-r) – Leo Foulds, Fiona Grove, Al Piedmont, Rachael Deptula, Lydia Ahlstrom, Skyler Bagdon

Period D

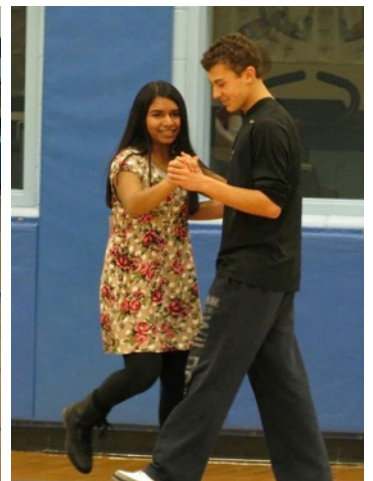
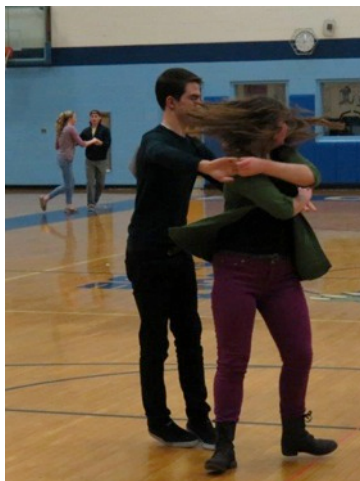
(l-r)-Mike Donovan, Lydia Concannon, Holly Hoag, Justin Clothier, Keerthi Onkaram, Ben McDonald

Period B

(l-r) Andrew Hardcastle, Emily Haight, Nick Murphy, Sophia Merritt, Cammie Waterhouse, Chris Lazar

Period F

(l-r)Taryn April, Darnell Saravong, Kevin Kerrigan, Bella Saputo, Alec Rogers, Jenny Healy



Oyster River High School English Department News

Poetry Out Loud Semi-Finals

The English Department is proud to announce that Marina Schwadron will represent ORHS in the Poetry Out Loud Semifinals at **UNH's Johnson Theatre at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 4th, 2014**. As first runner up, Fiona Grove will serve as alternate. The public is welcome to attend this event.

Advanced Writing Application Portfolio:

Requirements for Advanced Writing Portfolio: Due March 3rd. Submit your portfolio to your English Teacher.

Cover Letter: Why would you like to take AW? Why would you be a strong candidate for such a course? What would you bring to a writing workshop? Discuss the forms of writing you enjoy most, and the genres you'd like to focus on if you were accepted into the course.

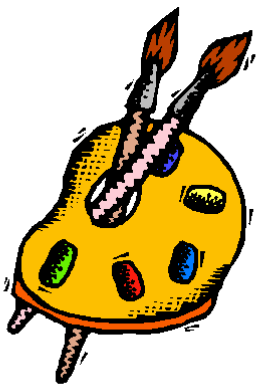
Sample Pieces: Include at least one major analytical paper, and at least three other creative pieces that you feel reflect your very best work.

Your portfolio should be organized, bound, and should reflect your best efforts as a writer and a student. Acceptance to AW will be based on your portfolio, performance in other English classes, and the purview of English Department members who have had you in class.

We will notify you of your acceptance status by April 1st.

Save the Date! April is poetry month, so plan on attending the annual **Spring Poetry Night at the Durham Public Library**. Oyster River High School students, ORHS English department members, Poet Laureate, Azabeth Lapham, The Literary Arts Magazine, and the Durham Public Library collaborate to present an evening of poetry on **Wednesday, April 30 at 7:00pm**.

Kids Art & Pizza Night!



Reserve spots now for your children!

Drop your elementary or middle school age children off at the ORHS Art Department for an evening of fun art activities hosted by high school art students and teachers. Pizza included!

When: Friday, March 28th from 5-8 PM

Cost: \$20 per child

Bring: A smock or clothes that can get messy!

There is limited space so email high school art teacher Maria Rosi (mrosi@orcscsd.org) to reserve your spots!

Proceeds will help fund future high school art department field trips.

Thanks for your help!



Mrs. Carr – Computer Science Department

Each student at ORHS must take at least one half credit of computer science as a graduation requirement. I have listed the courses that I teach to give parents and students an idea of their choices. If you have any questions please contact me via email: pcarr@orcscd.org

Computer Essentials – This course is a little bit of everything. Students will become well versed in all of the Microsoft Office software programs including advanced use of Word, Excel and PowerPoint and introductions to Access databases and Publisher. Students also learn how to use digital cameras (still and video), scanners and other peripheral devices to create Movies and Podcasts in class. Students are also introduced to distance learning concepts and skills by using the Moodle course learning environment. Juniors and Seniors can earn college credit through the Project Running Start program.

Introduction to Programming – This course teaches students the beginning phases of how to write a computer program. Using the Python programming language students will learn the fundamentals of programming while making interactive games and programs that work on the computer. Strong math skills and a desire to create programs are necessary to be successful in this course. This course is a prerequisite for Advanced Programming. Juniors and Seniors can earn college credit through the Project Running Start program.

Advanced Programming – Students will use the knowledge of programming they developed in Introduction to Programming to program in the Java programming language. Students with the desire to study Computer Science, Information Technology, Programming, Mechanical/Electrical Engineering or Video Game Development at the college level should take this course. A strong math background is also necessary to be successful in this course. Juniors and Seniors can earn college credit through the Project Running start program.

Introduction to Adobe – This intermediate course allows students to explore two high-end ADOBE software packages: Photoshop and Illustrator. Illustrator is a drawing program which uses a variety of tools including the Bezier curve to create vector graphics. Photoshop explores the various ways to manipulate and edit digital photographs. Juniors and Seniors can earn college credit through the Project Running start program.

Project Running Start - Project Running Start is the dual enrollment program offered by the Community College System of New Hampshire. This is a tool used by the system to offer high school students college credit for courses offered by their local school district. For a course to be considered for this dual credit option, certain conditions must apply. For example: The teacher must meet or exceed the hiring qualifications for faculty, and the course work and materials must meet the college level content standards. Students are eligible for credit in 11th and 12th grade only and pay \$150.00 tuition per course.



Save the Date!

The Noche Mexicana Fundraiser

Support ORHS Classes of 2015 and 2016

Monday, March 17



Celebrate your Irish with some Mexican
and support our students at the same time.

For a coupon, email Junior class advisor, Mr. Lord
at slord@orcscd.org or Sophomore class advisor
Mr. Pappas at mpappas@orcscd.org.