

The Spotlight

March 2018

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The Spring Musical: Who, What, Where and When

Emma Andrus

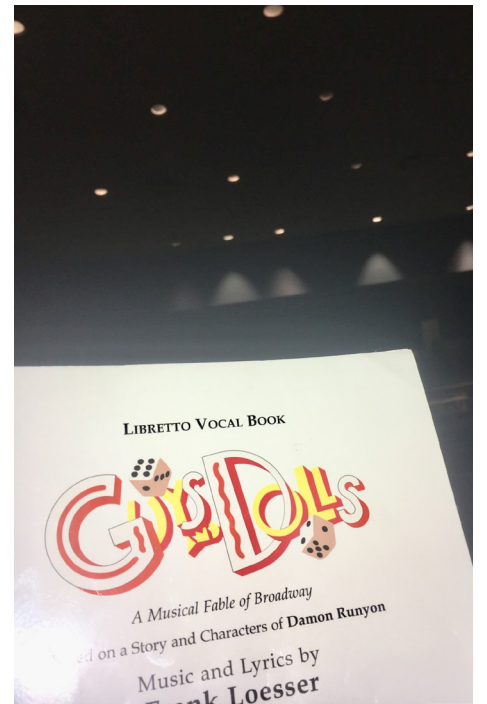
Students involved in the Masquers program have been working diligently to memorize countless lines, lyrics, and dances since auditions for the musical *Guys and Dolls* occurred in January. *Guys and Dolls* is a dynamic comedy set in 1930s New York. The plot revolves around the storyline of gamblers Nathan Detroit and Sky Masterson, who balance taking risks with money and taking chances with their own respective relationships, which plays into the style of this overall quirky and lively musical. The tale evolved from short stories written by Damon Runyon, made its way to Broadway, was adapted into a film, and will be taking center stage at Olmsted Falls this spring.

The cast includes Daniel Fidler as Sky Masterson, Jake Wrege as Nathan Detroit, Cole Zehe as Nicely-Nicely Johnson, Bill Wendling as Benny Southwest, Joe d'Aliberti as Arvide Abernathy, Michael Hollenbeck as Rusty Charlie, Colin Clark as Big Jule, Alex Holm as Harry the Horse, Alex Bolton as Lieutenant Bran-

nigan, Mason Adams as Angie the Ox, Sean Weiland as Joey Biltmore, Zach Zdanowicz as Calvin, Elizabeth Gonzalez as Sarah Brown, Autumn Knierim as Miss Adelaide, Lizzie Vukovic as General Matilda B. Cartwright, Katie Cutts as Agatha, Kai Falcone as Allison, Meredith Gardner as Vernon, Cassie Urry as Ferguson, and countless other students who are a part of the cast and crew.

Senior Meredith Gardner, who will be playing the flirtatious character of Vernon, is looking forward to being involved in a production with such a talented group of students: "I honestly love musicals, so I'm looking forward to being able to sing, dance, and just overall be a part of one."

The cast will also be joined by a select group of students in the pit orchestra that will provide the instrumental music for the performance. Senior Andrew Barnard, who will be playing trombone, anticipates an enjoyable atmosphere surrounding the preparation and performance of the musical, saying, "I'm really excited about



playing great music with a great bunch of people."

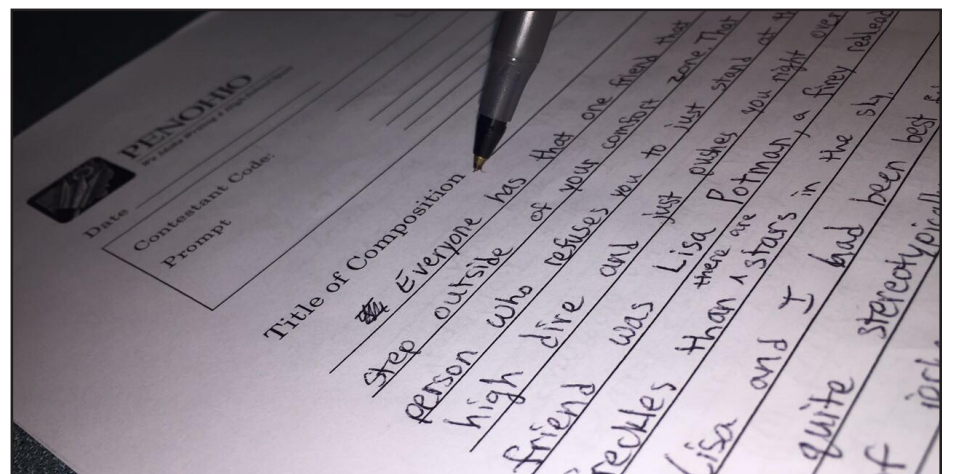
Students, residents, and lovers of musical theater alike can look forward to seeing a fantastic performance on Friday, April 13th at 7:30 and Saturday, April 14th at 7:30. Ticket costs will be \$7 for students and \$10 for adults. Please save the dates for these performances and come out to support this large group of extraordinarily talented students.

Writers Find Their Niche

Lauren Gumeny

Almost every Ohio school has multiple sports teams. Football, basketball, soccer, baseball, volleyball; you name it, schools have it. What about a writing team? PenOhio makes that possible.

PenOhio is a writing league made up of public, private, and parochial schools in Ohio. At the Regional and State tournaments in the Spring, teams of talented writers compete to write the best fictional narrative they can within a forty minute time limit based on the prompt given. Judges grade these creative narratives, looking specifically for certain elements, such as how it addresses the prompt, descriptive language, and character development. The highest scoring stories win awards, including scholarship money and a chance to get published in the PenOhio book of winners.



This is the first year that Olmsted Falls High School has had a PenOhio team, since there was a lot of interest this year. Teams are split up by grade, with freshman and sophomore writers on "Junior Varsity" and junior and senior writers on "Varsity." The Junior Varsity team is coached by Ms. Arnold. JV is comprised of two freshmen, Emma Barnard and Carly Edmonds, and three sophomores, Justin Andrews, Nicole Latona, and Elizabeth Trainee. The Varsity team is led by Ms. Harrington. On the Varsity team are junior writers Emma Andrus, Lauren Gumeny, and Jared Brancatelli and Varsity Alternate Dylan Reines. The senior writers include

Camryn Hassel, Jake Wrege, and Nicole Egel. The teams will face St. Joseph Academy, St. Ignatius, and Fairview High School. The teams are training twice a week for the competition and are eager to put their skills to the test. Varsity member Emma Andrus says, "I'm very excited about this group of writers because they've created a really encouraging environment of positive feedback. The schools we'll be competing against should be pretty worried because this team is so strong." Wish your bulldog writers good luck as they travel to Oberlin College on March 10th for the North Central Regional tournament!

The Band and Choir Go To Contest

Ellie Goetz

The upcoming contest for the band and choir classes can be very stressful for the musicians, but it is also exciting. Contest is a competition where bands and choirs from the area prepare pieces to perform in front of judges. Each judge has a copy of the music that the group will perform and makes comments throughout the performance about what they are hearing. The groups are not competing against other schools, but are instead trying to be better than they previously have been. The judges will rate the group on how they play according to a scale of one to five, one being the best and five being the worst. Groups receiving a composite score of a one will move on to the state contest.

The choir's contest is the weekend of March 2nd and 3rd. The ensembles going are the top two groups, Chorale and Bel Canto. Chorale will be singing the pieces "A Red, Red Rose" by Mulholland, "Vox Populi" by Svilainis, and "My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord" by Hogan. Bel Canto will be singing "Doraji" by Muhn, "Goin Up" by Franklin, and "The Violet" by Patterson. Along with singing the prepared pieces, the groups will also have to sight read a piece and then sing it to the judges.

Sight Reading is a component of the competition where the students receive brand new music and are then asked to perform it with minimal errors and without practice. Choir director Mrs. Kiedrowski explains, "I am excited to have these kids show off their hard work and ability. It's a great learning experience for them to prepare to sing for distinguished judges and get feedback on how to grow." Sophomore Lexy Jensen, a member of Chorale, shares in these feelings, exclaiming, "I'm really excited because we've been working on not only pieces that are challenging and have allowed us to grow musically, but also a wide variety of genres. At the rate we are improving, we are bound to succeed at contest."

The band contest is also the first weekend of



March, at Westlake High School. The classes that will be performing are the top two groups, Wind Symphony and Wind Ensemble. Wind Symphony is playing in the class AA, and is planning on playing the pieces "Armenian Dances part 1" by Reed, "Vanish Army" by Alford, and "Chester" by Schuman. Wind Ensemble is playing in class B and will play "The American Red Cross" by Panella, "American Barndance" by Saucedo, and "At Dawn They Slept (December 7th, 1941)" by Bocook. Each class will also have to sight read music to play to the judges in a process similar to choir. Both ensembles have been perfecting this music since the fall and hope their dedication is rewarded. Band director Mrs. Budd expresses, "I am so proud of our students for their personal hard work and commitment to Music Education. It is an honor to share music with students and audiences and to work with such talented young musicians." Senior Hope Burkhart, who plays percussion in Wind Symphony, states, "I'm very excited for contest and I think everyone will do great this year." If you know someone who will be competing in contest this weekend, make sure to wish them luck!

The Construction Saga Continues: What's Happening Now?

Olivia Benton

When the 2017-2018 year began, Olmsted Falls High School went under construction to make architectural changes that would be beneficial for students, staff, and the community. New classrooms will be added, boys and girls locker rooms will be updated, and much more.

What is being put into place right now is a new wing of classrooms. These classrooms will be added in the courtyard near the south edge of the cafeteria. Four art classrooms and nine brand new science classrooms will be added. Although classrooms are taking the place of the current courtyard, once the new building is here, there will be two new smaller courtyards. One of them will be located between the cafeteria and new science rooms, and the other will be located between the new art and science classrooms. As the temperature rises and snow begins to melt, construction more visible to students will start taking place.

Other plans to update OFHS include expanding the music areas. Because the band and choir programs are rapidly growing, an expansion is much needed and will be highly appreciated. Included in this are larger classrooms, more in-

strument storage, and additional practice rooms. Additionally, Masquers will benefit from a green room for storage where props and other materials for school plays will be placed, including a scene shop. Furthermore, a new business wing will be added on to the school. Four new classrooms will be dedicated to the business program, one being a FAB lab. This is a workshop with machines that will allow students and teachers to digitally create objects that will then be made tangible. This FAB lab will be one of five in the Cleveland area.

Rounding out the project is the remodel of the Bulldog Cafe and kitchen. The Bulldog Cafe will become separate to give a wonderful advantage



for students and/or other visitors to purchase drinks and food after school hours. Changes to the media center may appear minor, but they are vital and will be beneficial to students and teachers. Private meeting rooms and enclosed study areas will be added as well as making the media center more open in design. A lobby will be installed at OFHS plus new entry ways that will be large, open and modern. The exterior building will change minorly as well. On the front side of the building (facing Bagley Rd.), a window extension will be added to make the appearance of the building seem taller in height. It will be located above the main entrance by the new parking lot that has been made already. The window extension will have lights hanging from the high ceiling. From the outside, these lights will be able to be viewed by anyone passing by the school or coming inside. At night, the lights will be illuminated to show the bold features and pride the high school carries. As the new building is on its way, the lengthy process will be worth it because the high school will be host to many more exciting opportunities for the teachers, students, and community.

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Say Goodbye to The Chief

Ainsley Allen

Chief Wahoo has been a statement of Cleveland for years. Used since 1947, the long-standing logo depicts a grinning, red-faced cartoon with a feather headband, and during Ohio's warmer months it's not uncommon to see a family or group of friends walking through the streets of the city, heading toward Progressive Field, donning the well-known caricature on t-shirts and baseball hats. As of 2019, however, there will be a major change in the way Cleveland fans cheer on their team.

Over the past few years many debates have been sparked over the logo's racial insensitivity toward Native Americans. Groups such as the American Indian Education Center and the American Indian Movement of Ohio have been protesting the mascot for a while now, using signs and powerful lines such as, "We are not honored," and "Our children are not mascots." They see the logo as a racist caricature that degrades a group of people who have been suppressed for decades. Sophomore Justin Andrews agrees, saying, "I think they made the right choice in getting rid of the logo. It was offensive and demeaning." Protesters argue that Chief Wahoo depicts a past in which derogatory depictions of a whole race of people were made in good fun. The Native Americans are demanding their respect now. During the 2016 World Series the Indians faced major pushback from the public regarding the matter. During the playoffs, the club was faced with a lawsuit while playing in Toronto to have the team's name and logo banned from Canadian TV. While the judge dismissed the case, the publicity surrounding it put the Indians and their mascot under considerable scrutiny.

Coming in 2018, significant pressure was placed on the team due to the current controversy, and after a

discussion between Indian team owner Paul Dolan and MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred, it was decided that the logo should be changed. They announced the decision on January 29th with Manfred making a statement: "Major League Baseball is committed to building a culture of diversity and inclusion throughout the game," he also said that the logo, "is no longer appropriate for on-field use."

Although many people are in favor of the abolishment of the mascot, there are also a great number of fans who do not support the change. Many are dedicated to preserving Chief Wahoo because they see the logo as a vital part of the city's history, which is in reference to the mid 1990s when Cleveland opened Jacob's Field, later renamed Progressive Field, and the Indians made the World Series for the first time since 1954. Fans are desperate to hold on to Chief Wahoo, considering him a symbol of the city they are so proud of. Junior Jack Spellacy voices his opinion on the matter, stating, "I think that that's the Indians symbol, that's how people recognize them. It represents the Indians, and it's been around for so long, I really would've liked it to stay."

If you are not completely ready to let go of the mascot, however, the club will still be selling merchandise with the Chief on it. This is in order to hold on to the trademark they have on the cartoon, which prevents others from using the symbol as they please.

Regardless of any opinion or backlash, the official switching of mascots will take place coming into the 2019 season with the logo coming off the team's jersey sleeves and caps. So be ready to go out and support your Indians as they sport a brand new look.

The Unsung Heroes

Sara Tonissen

Each school in Olmsted Falls has a large staff to help every school day run smoothly. Bus drivers, principals, and teachers all play their part in making sure that every student's school day, from beginning to end, goes well. However, there are two groups of people that some students may forget about. Without these hardworking staff members, teachers and students alike would be lost and hungry in a dirty school. To show how much they are appreciated, the custodians and cafeteria workers have been asked a few questions about what it is like to work at OFHS.

The jobs the custodians do in the school are very important because they ensure that everyone will have a safe school day. The most common job that students think the custodians take care of is cleaning, but they do so much more like making sure that the heat works to keep everyone warm and they make sure that everything is safe to use. Maintenance is very important and not everyone can do it because there are many different safety licenses that are needed to work with the different equipment. When the custodial staff isn't making sure that everything in this school is working properly, they are spending their time outside of school with their families and working on their various hobbies like Tim and his love for golf. Custodian Ms. Donna Livingston says that her favorite part of working at OFHS are all of the "friendly people and my bestie Tim T."

The cafeteria ladies also have many important jobs that they do in order to keep every lunch period running efficiently. Without the lunch ladies, many students would

be leaving their lunch periods hungry because every staff member in the kitchen is needed to make and serve the food without incident. One of the most important jobs that the lunch ladies do is make detailed menu production sheets to avoid wasting paper while making sure that everybody knows what is for lunch for the week. All of lunch ladies are alumni of Olmsted Falls and they love talking to the kids every day. Cafeteria Manager Ms. Carrie Schaefer mentions, "The kids and staff make our jobs fun; we feel like family in the cafeteria."

The custodial and cafeteria staff are made up of extremely hard working people who deserve to be noticed all around our district. Many of them work here because of the amazing students that they meet, and they feel like part of a family with their fellow workers. Nikki Egel says, "The custodians and lunch ladies at OFHS are so gracious. I'm sure they have a lot they could complain about with all of us running around, but they don't. They're always happy to see you and they work so hard at what they do. This school would fall apart without them. I'm so thankful to have built a relationship with many of them." The jobs that the custodians and cafeteria ladies do are very important because they help everyone have successful school days. Their jobs may not cross very often, but both groups are made up of strong, trusting teams that make the lives of every student and staff easier. If you have the time, please thank one of these wonderful people for all the work they do for us because they deserve the same appreciation as any other staff member working in this amazing district.

Spring Break: Cleveland Style

Kelley Shiltz

Spring means many things: warmer weather, flowers, and most importantly, Spring Break! From March 26 to April 2, some students from Olmsted Falls will travel out of the country or to somewhere warm, but many students will be staying home. Even if it may seem anticlimactic, there are many fun activities to do during the break.

A great way to start break is to go to the Cleveland Art Museum. General admission to the Museum is free, with the exception of certain special exhibits. The Cleveland Art Museum was founded in 1913, and since then the Museum has been renovated and there have been many additions made to the building. From paintings to knight exhibits, to clay and modern art, the museum has a little bit of history and beauty for everyone of all ages. To keep their artwork up to date, the museum has new and upcoming exhibits to look for which include Eyewitness Views: Making History in Eighteenth Century Europe, Recent Acquisitions, and Danny Lyon: The Destruction of Lower Manhattan. If you get hungry while admiring the artwork, the museum has a cafe, the Provenance. Also, only a few miles away from the Art Museum is Little Italy. Little Italy is a neighborhood that to this date holds the deep culture and heritage of the Italians that lived in the town. Have a

taste for pizza? Presti's Bakery and Cafe has a delicious menu of fresh baked pizza, gelato, panini, salad, and coffee. Right down the street is Mama Santa's, established in 1961. This restaurant has homemade pastas, sauces, and dough that creates the amazing pizza. After your meal, treat yourself to dessert at Corbo's Bakery and Cafe. For over fifty years, Corbo's has had award-winning cakes and pastries. They are also known for their award-winning cassata cake and cannolis. Sophomore Annie Lindley is a fan of what Little Italy has to offer: "I have eaten at Mama Santa's and Trattoria, and have been very pleased with my food. The pizza at Mama Santa's is delicious, and the pasta dishes at Trattorias are out of this world. The environment at Little Italy is beautiful, and it is a perfect place to take someone on a date or to just treat yourself."

For a different option, every Monday, the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo has free admission to all Cuyahoga County residents. Just some of the animals seen at the zoo include armadillos, bats, bears, a koala, cheetahs, elephants, foxes, lions, gorillas, monkeys, tigers, and hundreds of other amazing animals. Also, if it gets a little too cold for walking around in the zoo, there is a rainforest that includes many warm-blooded animals and a cafe for when you get hungry.

Recently, the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo revealed that they are breaking ground to build a new Asian Highlands Exhibit that will include an amur, which is an endangered descendant of a leopard, red pandas, snow leopards, and more. The exhibit size will be just about an acre and will have special viewing glass that will allow visitors to see the animals up close and personal.

Also in Cleveland, the West Side Market provides a unique experience to try, smell, and taste over 100 types of food ranging from vegetables to chocolate covered jalapenos. Ever since the West Side Market opened to the public in 1912, many vendors of different ethnicities and cuisines have shared their tastes with Clevelanders. The market is open year round, and the hours are Monday and Wednesday, 7-4, Friday and Saturday 7-6, and Sundays 10-4.



Morgan and Annie's Sports Report

Morgan Ciolek and Rhiannon Lloyd

Boys Basketball: The Olmsted Falls varsity boys basketball team has dominated the conference during the 2017-2018 season, maintaining a 14-1 record and tying with Lakewood. The boys have been a frontrunner all season, taking over the SWC and clinching win after win. The Dogs faced their first conference loss of the season against the Lakewood Rangers on January 30th. After a tough beginning, the Bulldogs eventually fell to the Rangers 67-57. Juniors Eric Hanna and Braden Galaska led the team in scoring with 14 points each. However, the team quickly made up for this loss on February 2nd with a 60-58 victory over the North Ridgeville Rangers. The Dogs led in points throughout the game until the fourth quarter when the Rangers nailed a 3 to bring the score up to 56-55. Hanna responded to this with a 3 of his own, and senior Tom Lloyd went to the free throw line knocking out both of his shots, solidifying the win for the Bulldogs. This difficult win on the road brought the Dogs back after their loss and gave them the confidence to continue their winning streak against the Amherst-Steele Comets and the Berea-Midpark Titans. The February 9th game against the Titans was also Coach Delisio's 100th career win as the Olmsted Falls head coach. The varsity team traveled to Berea, and defeated the Titans 54-41. The team was led in points by Galaska with 19 followed by junior Chuck Backus with 10 points. The Bulldogs only have 3 conference games left before they begin their road to the playoffs. Junior Michael Fritz exclaims, "We've had a strong season so far and we are continuing to grow as a team and as individuals. With play-off season coming up, if we continue to play hard and play together and have fun, I've

got confidence that we can do something real special!" The varsity team will host the winner of John-Marshall and Berea-Midpark for the first playoff game on March 3rd.

Girls Basketball: The varsity girls basketball team has continued to be a leading team in the SWC conference for the remainder of their season. The girls finished their conference season 14-4 and second overall. Their final win of the conference season came from a 56-48 win over Bagley Road rival, Berea-Midpark. The Dogs outscored the Titans in 3 of the 4 quarters and were led in points by senior Sarah Balfour. Balfour dominated the court scoring 20 points overall. Sophomore Danielle Stevens was named a Morning Journal Player of the Week on February 2nd after her incredible showings this season. Stevens had 10 points against Amherst and 18 points against the North Ridgeville Rangers. As the lady Bulldogs continue into their postseason, the stakes are raised and the girls are more determined than ever. Junior Shannon Carr explains, "We're really excited to go into the postseason after finishing off with a 14-4 conference record. Our district is full of talented teams that we need to take seriously. Our biggest goal is to focus on playing each and every game with more energy and effort than the other team and to pull out a win as a team!" The girls hosted their senior night on February 14th for their last regular season game against the Strongsville Mustangs. Balfour had an incredible showing for her senior night, leading in scoring with 22 points before fouling out. The ladies will begin their playoff season shortly in the month of February.

Hockey: The hockey team has completed another incredibly successful season after

competing in the Baron Cup final on February 11th against the Amherst Comets. The team ultimately lost 5-4, but they did not give up easily. The Bulldogs surprised many after defeating top contender Orange in the semifinals of the Baron Cup and handing the Lions their first division loss of the season. The varsity team went into the finals hoping to defend their title and bring the Baron Cup back home to Olmsted Falls for the second year in a row. After a headstrong start the Dogs led the Comets 2-0 at the end of the first period. The team held out their lead for the rest of the game until the third period when Amherst tied the game 4-4, and eventually scored their final point to leave the game as champions. While the Dogs may not have been able to take home that title they represented Olmsted Falls well in the finals and demonstrated exactly what they were made of. Senior Angelo Hanson reflects back on the season, "Our end goal was to win the Baron Cup. We didn't quite win but I wouldn't want to have done it with another set of guys. I am so proud of what we accomplished this year. They are like a family to me. Hopefully next year they can bring the cup back to OF."

Wrestling: The Olmsted Falls varsity wrestling team has proved their worth this season with win after win on the mat. The Dogs have dominated the SWC conference remaining on top this season and taking down each team one by one. The team had their final SWC dual on February 8th against Westlake, defeating them 47-13. The Bulldogs also hosted their senior night on January 25th. The varsity team faced the North Olmsted Eagles and triumphed over them, winning 57-13. The Bulldogs 6 seniors all took home wins that night demonstrating the incred-

ible asset our seniors are to the team. Senior Jaden Mendeluk joined his fellow senior teammates Josh Jaekin and Michael Shaw in the Century Club on January 24th after clinching his 100th career win. As the Bulldogs head into the SWC championship rounds as a clear prospect to take the trophy home for the third year in a row, the boys begin their tough preparations. Junior Connor Atkins states, "We are really looking forward to going for our third straight conference championship and getting that three peat. With the hard work our guys are putting in now, I have confidence we'll be able to bring that championship home."

Bowling: Both 2017-2018 JV and varsity bowling teams have brought home significant wins and losses this month, the boys team running a winning streak, the girls pulling through extremely well. The teams finished 10th out of 12th in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day tournament on January 16th. It was a team effort, earning 6209 points overall. The girls team was led by junior Krislynn Katona, with a 459 series and junior Ashley Clark, with 382. The boys team was led by Kyle Kollm, with a 567 series, and junior Travis Green with 554. The boys varsity team came home with a win on January 20th against Westlake, 2900-2743, and Green led the team with a 568 series.

Swimming: The Bulldog swim teams swam extremely well this season, bringing home some wins and a spot in the SWC Championships. The boys beat Avon 89-91 on January 29th in a close meet. The first place finishers were junior Masen Collins with 200 free and 500 free, junior Connor White with 100 free, sophomore John Munoz with 100 breaststroke, and

senior Alex Bolton, Munoz, sophomore Jack Surtman and White finished the 200 free relay. The boys varsity swimming also grabbed 5th place at the SWC Championships, with the swimmers making the podium 6 times. The girls have had a great season as well. They swam hard and were able to grab 7th place in the SWC Championships this season with top 10 finishers. The Girl's Medley relay landed 8th place with seniors Joy Jacobs and Emily Andrews, sophomore Arianna Ponticelli, and junior Morgan White. The 200 freestyle relay won 9th place with Ponticelli, senior Natalie Moore, freshman Caroline Lockhart, and Jacobs. Lastly, the girls placed 9th in the 400 freestyle relay with White, sophomore Hannah Kho, Moore and junior Ally Rice.

Gymnastics: The girls gymnastics team had an extremely successful season this year. They finished their season at sectionals in 10th place out of the 24 competing teams, making Olmsted Falls proud. Freshmen Lindsey Lapinta and Annie Gutschow had great showings at sectionals along with juniors Abbie Larosa and Naomi Goldman. Although the Bulldogs are finished, they had many highlights this season that proved the girls' excellent gymnastics abilities. Goldman is proud of her team, "We have had some very successful meets this season, especially when we got 2nd at the Lakewood Invitational. Our last meet was sectionals, where we placed 10th out of 24 teams. It wasn't exactly the outcome we wanted since only the top 4 teams advance to districts, but I am still very proud of our team. It was a learning experience for all of us, and I cannot wait for us to be even better next season!"

