

OUR



SCHOOL REPORT

Olmsted Falls School District

www.ofcs.net

Spring/Summer 2013

BOARD OF EDUCATION NAMES NEW SUPERINTENDENT

The Olmsted Falls Board of Education officially named the next superintendent of schools during its regular monthly meeting held April 18th at Falls-Lenox Primary School. The Board voted unanimously to approve the hiring of Dr. James Lloyd to serve as the 25th superintendent of Olmsted Falls School District effective August 1, 2013, when he will officially take the District's helm. Dr. Lloyd is currently assistant superintendent for the Olmsted Falls School District, a position he has held for the past six years. He will replace current superintendent Dr. Todd Hoadley, who will become superintendent of Dublin City School District effective August 1, 2013.

"We have known Dr. Lloyd for many years and he has been an incredible asset to our District," said Board of Education President Jim Weisbarth. "We are pleased to have been able to secure him as our next superintendent and are confident he will continue to lead our District on its path of excellence."

Prior to serving as assistant superintendent for Olmsted Falls Schools, Dr. Lloyd was director of pupil services for neighboring Westlake City School District for nine years. Dr. Lloyd actually began his career in education here in Olmsted Falls School District where he served as a school psychologist from 1995 to 1998.

"I am honored to serve as the next superintendent of this outstanding District," said Dr. Lloyd. "It will be a pleasure to continue to work with our exceptional staff, hardworking students and supportive parents in this new capacity."

Dr. Lloyd holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Ohio Wesleyan University, a Master of Arts degree in School Psychology from the University of Akron and a doctorate from Ashland University in Educational Leadership. Dr. Lloyd has served as an adjunct professor for Ashland University and Bowling Green State University as well. He has his Administrative and Superintendent Certificates from Cleveland State and Ashland respectively.

He and his wife, Rhonda, have relocated to the Olmsted Falls School District community with their three children – Mason (10th grade), Tommy (7th grade) and Maggie (4th grade). All three children will attend Olmsted Falls Schools. If you see Dr. Lloyd out in the District, please join us in congratulating him and welcoming his family to the Olmsted community!



A warm Bulldog welcome to new Superintendent Dr. James Lloyd and his family!

BOARD OF EDUCATION EXPLORES BOND ISSUE TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OLMSTED FALLS HIGH SCHOOL



Four modular trailers house eight classrooms for OFHS students at the edge of the west parking lot.

The safety and security of students and staff is the top priority of Olmsted Falls School District. The recent community phone survey, conducted on behalf of the Olmsted Falls School District by Rocky River-based Triad Research Group, provided an opportunity to discuss school safety, among other topics, with a broader community audience – beyond our staff, students and parents. The data gathered reinforced that our community shares our District's desire to continually look for ways to maintain and improve upon school safety.

INSIDE: We invite you to read about our process, feedback received, community phone survey data and next steps.

BOARD EXPLORES BOND ISSUE continued from cover...

Our Process and the Feedback Received

Prior to the community phone survey, Olmsted Falls School District contracted with an outside security company specializing in school safety, PLE Group, to conduct a detailed and formal evaluation and updating of all building safety plans across the District. Also participating in this process, which took place throughout the course of last school year, was a committee including local elected officials and safety force leaders, parents and staff. Following a very comprehensive process including on-site audits and review of online safety survey data gathered from staff, parents and students, PLE Group made a number of commendations and recommendations. Many of these recommendations were able to be implemented immediately.



Members of the District Safety and Security Committee met with PLE Group three times.



New buzzer entry system installed at Falls-Lenox.

Work also got underway to install new secure buzzer entry systems at the main entrance doors of Falls-Lenox, the Early Childhood Center (ECC) and the High School. The Falls-Lenox system was completed and operational before the end of this school year. The front entry security upgrades at the ECC and Olmsted Falls High School will be completed over the summer and will be fully operational for the start of the 2013-2014 school year. Funds from the Permanent Improvement Levy (passed in November 2011) are being used for these important improvements to building safety.*

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Olmsted Falls School District has learned that there may also be grant funding made available by the state for school districts this fall to address these types of school security upgrades. Always seeking*

alternate streams of revenue to maximize our local tax dollars, our District will be investigating these possible grant funds to reimburse our costs retroactively, thereby restoring these funds to the P.I. Levy for other important improvement projects.

One of the primary safety concerns expressed in the PLE reports involved the four modular classrooms (trailers), which currently house eight classrooms outside the building (*see photo on front cover*). With Olmsted Falls High School currently over-capacity in a number of areas and in need of expansion, eliminating the external modular classrooms is beyond the scope of the Permanent Improvement Levy. (OFHS was originally constructed in 1967 to house 815 students; an expansion project in 1996 increased capacity to 1,022 students; current enrollment at OFHS is 1,200 students.)

Community Phone Survey Data

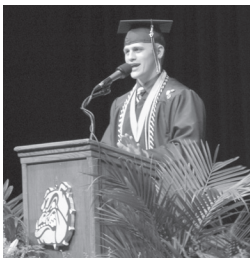
In May, Olmsted Falls School District gathered feedback from the greater community in two ways. The first way was through small community forums facilitated by Dr. Jim Lloyd and Board of Education members. The second was by using Triad Research Group to conduct an opinion survey by telephone of 400 randomly sampled registered voters. The 400 survey participants provided the District with a great deal of information beyond student safety including opinions on educational programs and District communications. Of the 400 residents sampled, 63% of respondents had no children in the school; 62% of respondents were over 50; 96% said we need strong schools so our children are prepared; 81% rated us as Excellent or Good on safety and security; and 68% said they would be Very Likely or Somewhat Likely to put a bond issue on the ballot to remove the modular classrooms from the high school parking lot and add on to the high school by creating additional classrooms, thus improving building security.



Incoming Superintendent Dr. Jim Lloyd facilitating one of several small community forums.

Next Steps

The need to eliminate the modular classrooms at Olmsted Falls High School was one of the top recommendations for improving District safety made by PLE Group, and the phone survey results obtained through Triad Research seemed to indicate that the greater community concurs with the importance of doing something about the modular classrooms. **Based on the feedback and data gathered throughout the year, the Board of Education voted to submit a bond issue request to address the safety, security and overcrowding issues at Olmsted Falls High School. Discussions are continuing this summer. The bond issue would go before voters in November 2013.**



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2013

Congratulations to the 274 members of the Olmsted Falls High School Class of 2013! Parents, family and friends gathered at Cleveland State's Wolstein Center on the evening of May 31st to celebrate Commencement. Class of 2013 President **Christopher Fox** (pictured at left) and Phi Beta Kappa **Megan Doherty** (pictured at right) were featured speakers, along with School Board President Jim Weisbarth, Superintendent Dr. Todd Hoadley and OFHS Principal Mrs. Holly Schafer who marked her first commencement at the helm of Olmsted Falls High School.



RETIREES DEDICATED MORE THAN 230 BULLDOG YEARS TO DISTRICT

Olmsted Falls School District bid farewell to nine dedicated staff members who retired this year. Their combined service to Olmsted Falls Schools totals 231 years!

This year's retirees include:

Mrs. Maureen Brock, Falls-Lenox Secretary (26 Bulldog years)

Mr. Pat Donahue, OFHS Science Teacher (24 Bulldog years)

Mr. David Godfray, OFHS Health/Fitness Teacher & Trainer (35 Bulldog years)

Mr. Doug Hugel, Falls-Lenox Head Custodian (18 Bulldog years)

Mr. Tom Lanning, OFHS Math Teacher (35 Bulldog years)

Mrs. Linda Maloney, OFIS Cleaner (24 Bulldog years)

Mrs. Mary Mariotti, Falls-Lenox Teacher (28 Bulldog years)

Mrs. Betsy Volchko, Falls-Lenox Teacher (24 Bulldog years)

Mr. David Weeks, Falls-Lenox Custodian (17 Bulldog years)



Fellow Bulldog retirees (L to R) Doug Hugel, Linda Maloney, David Godfray and Mary Mariotti pause for a photo at the annual Records Day breakfast.

On behalf of the Olmsted Falls Schools and the Olmsted communities, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all of this year's retirees for their commitment to the education and well-being of our children. These valuable individuals, and their impact on the District, will be greatly missed. *Congratulations to each of them, and best wishes for a happy, healthy retirement!*

OLMSTED FALLS KIWANIS CLUB EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Olmsted Falls Kiwanis Club President **Mr. Chris Parker** congratulates this year's Kiwanis Employee of the Year winners (L to R): Falls-Lenox teachers **Mrs. Mary Mariotti** and **Dr. Karen Kolozvary**, and OFMS Librarian **Mrs. Terri Tantanella**.



Staff members are nominated annually by fellow colleagues through a written nomination process. Nominations are reviewed and selected by a special committee of Kiwanis members. Congratulations to the 2013 Employees of the Year, and thank you to the Kiwanis Club for their continued support of the Olmsted educational community.

VOLUNTEERS HONORED WITH 2013 FRIENDS OF EDUCATION AWARD



(L to R): Karen and Jim Polcar with OFHS Social Studies teacher & OFEA President Jeff Kho

Congratulations to Olmsted Falls Athletic Boosters volunteers **Jim and Karen Polcar**, and Early Childhood Center volunteer readers **Bill and Mary Kubat** on receiving this year's "Friends of Education Award" presented by the Olmsted Falls Education Association. The Polcar's were honored for their dedication and commitment to the Olmsted Falls Athletic Boosters and the students of Olmsted Falls. The Kubat's were recognized for their ongoing commitment to our littlest Bulldogs at the Early Childhood Center, whom they read to each and every week! Congratulations again and much gratitude to both of these fantastic couples!



The Kubat's during one of their weekly reading sessions with children at the ECC

WELCOME NEW OFHS HEAD FOOTBALL COACH TOM DELUCA



New OFHS head football coach Tom DeLuca and his wife Cassandra with Board President Jim Weisbarth.

Former defensive coordinator at Westlake High School, **Tom DeLuca**, has been hired to take over the Bulldog football program for twenty-five year veteran head coach Jim Ryan. A 1999 graduate of Norwalk High School, DeLuca has been the defensive coordinator at Westlake since 2008. DeLuca attended Baldwin-Wallace College, where he played football for four years and was elected captain his senior year.

“I look forward to the opportunity to continue the great Bulldog football tradition,” stated DeLuca in a press release following his official hiring. “It is an honor to follow Coach Ryan as the next head football coach at Olmsted Falls High School.”

“We are very pleased to announce Tom DeLuca as our next head football coach,” added Rob Coxon, Director of Athletics. “He brings passion and experience that will serve our student athletes well and, as a local resident, Tom also possesses a strong understanding of the Bulldog culture.”

DeLuca will teach Health/Physical Education at Olmsted Falls High School. He resides in Olmsted Falls with his wife Cassandra, who teaches first grade at Falls-Lenox Primary. The Olmsted Falls Board of Education officially approved the hiring of Tom DeLuca in March, and his official duties begin with the start of football camp in August!

OFMS STUDENTS RECOGNIZED IN MIDWEST TALENT SEARCH



Seventeen Middle School students were honored for their achievements in Northwestern University’s Annual Midwest Academic Talent Search competition at last week’s Board of Education meeting. The Midwest Academic Talent Search enables students to participate in ACT and/or SAT tests that are typically taken by college-bound juniors and seniors in high school. Middle school students who achieve a score of 21 or above on the ACT and/or a score of 980 or above on the SAT are recognized as top performers.

OFMS students recognized in this year’s national competition are: **Isaac Baillis, Joseph Bertrand, Julie Calaway, Ashley Clark, Adrien Curtis, Kyle Erickson, Miranda Gibel, Bennett Graham, Megan Green, Casey Komar, Jacob Krucek, Joseph Linder, Thomas Narvaez-Legeza, Thomas Slater, Natalie Sommer, Elijah Tomasch, and Emily Walchanowicz.**

Congratulations to each of these students and to their families! Additionally, we want to recognize our teachers who worked with these exceptional students along their path up to this point. It is the great education provided at each level, coupled with support in the home, that prepared these students for this achievement, and that will continue to help them thrive in the future.

PTA RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS & STAFF AT ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Congratulations to Middle School PTA President **Ann Simon** for receiving this year’s PTA Volunteer of the Year Award at the annual PTA Volunteer Celebration and Installation Dinner held in May at Olmsted Falls Intermediate School. Also honored at the event were PTA Educator of the Year **Dan Largent**, an OFMS Social Studies teacher, and PTA Helping Hands Award winner **Kim Petrina**, Director of Communication for Olmsted Falls School District.

Thank you to each of these award recipients and all of our PTA volunteers for your unending work on behalf of the students and families of the Olmsted Falls School District!



PTA Council President Rebecca Gawsyszawski, PTA Volunteer of the Year Ann Simon and PTA member Katie Fiddler.



PTA Council President Rebecca Gawsyszawski, OFMS PTA President Ann Simon, PTA Educator of the Year Dan Largent, and fellow OFMS teacher Chris Odon, who assisted with the award presentation.



PTA Council President Rebecca Gawsyszawski, PTA member Linda Parkowski, and PTA Helping Hands Award winner Kim Petrina.

DISTRICT RANKS IN STATE'S TOP 10 FOR STUDENT GROWTH

Olmsted Falls School District is proud to report to our community that in the Ohio Department of Education's official release of the latest value added scores and Local Report Card ratings for all public schools (including charters), our District's value added score ranks in the top 10 in the entire state of Ohio! 832 school districts are represented. The value added score is a measure of student growth over the course of one academic year. Additionally, Olmsted Falls School District once again achieved the top rating of Excellence with Distinction on the Local Report Card. These results are a testament to the hardworking students, dedicated teachers, and supportive parents and residents of Olmsted Falls Schools – all working together toward the common goal of providing our students with an excellent educational experience. **These results are made all the more impressive when one considers that these achievements come from a district with the second lowest cost-per-pupil rate in Cuyahoga County! Of all school districts in Cuyahoga County, Olmsted Falls School District continues to maintain the second lowest expenditure level in terms of cost-per-pupil.**



OLMSTED FALLS TEACHERS HONORED IN COLUMBUS

Congratulations to Olmsted Falls Intermediate School teacher **Elaina Tzolakis** and Olmsted Falls Middle School teachers **Sarah Reisner** and **Susan Chaplin** (pictured L to R), who were recently honored as members of the 2013 Class of Distinguished Educators through Battelle for Kids' Celebrate Teaching initiative. The criteria used to select teachers included principal feedback and value-added data showing they consistently achieved above expected growth with their students over the last two years. These teachers were honored at a special ceremony in Columbus in mid-June and were also recognized by the Olmsted Falls Board of Education this summer! Congratulations again!

DISTRICT MUSIC PROGRAM AMONG BEST IN NATION

For the seventh year in a row, Olmsted Falls School District has been named one of the "Best Communities for Music Education in America" through a national survey sponsored by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation. The school districts named by the NAMM Foundation demonstrate an unwavering commitment to providing music education for their students – even during these challenging economic times. Congratulations to the staff, students, parents and community members who help make our music program a nationally recognized success!



DISTRICT BUS MECHANIC NAMED MECHANIC OF THE YEAR



The Olmsted Falls Board of Education extended personal congratulations and appreciation to Olmsted Falls school bus mechanic **Roger Urbanek** for being the first-ever recipient of the David E. Drum School Bus Mechanic of the Year Award.

The intent of this state-wide award, to be presented annually by the Ohio Association for Pupil Transportation (OAPT), is to recognize mechanics who exhibit outstanding cost-saving measures, cooperation and working relationships with school bus drivers and fellow employees, set high shop standards, and implement a preventative maintenance program.

OFHS MATH TEACHER RECEIVES REGIONAL AWARD

High School math teacher **Ms. Donna Langenderfer** was recognized by the Board of Education for winning the Outstanding Mathematics Educator Award from the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics (GCCTM).



OFHS TEACHERS TRAIN AT NASA

Five teachers from Olmsted Falls High School attended a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Workshop titled, "Spacefaring: The Radiation Challenge," at N.A.S.A. Glenn Research Center. Science teachers (pictured from L to R) **Carla Wible, Janet Gregg, Lynette**



Bock, James Yandell and Andrew Hoslar had the opportunity to explore N.A.S.A.'s educational resources and receive training on how to access resources online for use in their classrooms.

Olmsted Falls Board of Education
26937 Bagley Rd.
P.O. Box 38010
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Cleveland, Ohio
Permit No. 3288

OUR SCHOOL REPORT

IS PUBLISHED AS A LINE OF COMMUNICATION
WITH THE RESIDENTS OF THE OLMSTED FALLS
SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

James A. Weisbarth, President
Joseph T. Bertrand, Vice President
Rhonda McCrone
Greg Surtman
Michelle M. Theriot



*****ECRWSS*****
Local
Postal Customer

Dr. Todd F. Hoadley, Superintendent
Dr. James L. Lloyd, Assistant Superintendent
Mark Hullman, Treasurer/CFO
Timothy J. Atkinson, Director of Business Affairs

Kim Petrina, Editor (440) 427-6020

AROUND OUR TOWN: LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS HELP ENHANCE LEARNING



Olmsted Township Trustees, Mrs. Sherri Lippus and Mr. Scott Ross, partnered with Mr. Mike Schaffer's 5th grade math class to review students' annual "Park Projects." The Trustees were so impressed by the students' creativity - and math skills - that they showcased the projects at a Township Trustees meeting this summer.



Students at Olmsted Falls Middle School enjoyed a monthly Book Club led by Young Adult Librarian, Mr. Lee Ikimis. Interested students joined Mr. Ikimis in the OFMS Media Center to discuss selected books over lunch.



State Representatives Mike Dovilla and Nan Baker visited with students at Olmsted Falls Intermediate School, providing an overview of their responsibilities as elected officials in the state of Ohio.



Students from Falls-Lenox visited Olmsted Falls City Hall as part of their third grade social studies curriculum. A highlight of the visit included Mayor Blomquist speaking with students about how city government works.

ATTENTION PARENTS: IMPORTANT AUGUST MAILING!

Following the successful implementation of the District's new on-line enrollment system (for students new to the District) this past spring, Olmsted Falls Schools will begin using the new system for returning students this fall. The District's new InfoSnap system will enable parents to review and update all of the information for their student(s) on-line. **Parents of all Bulldog students who were enrolled in Olmsted Falls School District for the 2012-2013 school year will be receiving a letter via mail this August containing an important "Snap Code" which will provide them confidential access to review and update contact, family, and medical information for each student for the 2013-2014 school year. PLEASE WATCH FOR THIS IMPORTANT MAILING TO ARRIVE IN AUGUST!**

The Olmsted Falls City School District hereby gives notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in the educational programs and activities operated by the district.