

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you receive this issue of the Titan Tradition the school year will be almost over. From the highs of celebrating the successes of our students to the lows of struggling with making cuts to the budget, we have had quite a year. Each year is filled with ups and downs but we continue to work toward our goal of educating all of our students.

It is amazing to me the number of activities and programs our students are involved in. Most people are aware of the athletic and music programs that the school district provides but there are many other groups that students are involved in. We have students in quiz bowl, musicals, mock trial, chess club, stock market club and many others. I commend our staff members for taking the time to work with our students in a variety of activities to help them develop and display their talents.

In the treasurer's article in this issue of the Titan Tradition, you will read about some of the budget cuts we will be implementing in the upcoming school year. If you have been reading the newspapers lately, you will see that many schools are in a similar situation. In March, there were over 200 schools (out of 612) on the ballot. Why is this happening? Did all of these schools suddenly become mismanaged? Aren't our legislators claiming that they have fixed the school funding problem? The answers are: it is happening because we have serious flaws in our school funding formula. Schools are not suddenly being mismanaged, but House Bill 95 had a serious negative impact on most school districts, and yes our legislators are claiming they fixed the problem, but they didn't.

Since the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the way schools are funded in Ohio is unconstitutional, legislators have tried to fix the problem by increasing funding levels. But, this did not correct the problem. The court ordered them to eliminate the overreliance on property taxes and to have a

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The commitment of the Ottawa-Glandorf Schools, in partnership with our families and community, will provide superior educational opportunities for all children, to establish a foundation for a life of learning and personal success.

complete overhaul of the funding system. By not fixing the system, schools are still forced to go back to the voters every three to five years for more money. There is no inflationary growth built into the system so the "buying power" of each levy is diminished over time. Fortunately, a task force has been formed to try to develop a solution to the problem. We should be hearing from this committee in the next few months to see what they have come up with.

Congratulations to the Ottawa-Glandorf Titan Basketball Team on winning the Division II State Basketball Championship! Coach Dave Sweet's team proved the old basketball saying that defense wins championships. Each player, coach, manager and cheerleader will take with them some great memories from this experience. This was a great event for the Ottawa-Glandorf community to enjoy.

The next issue of the Titan Tradition will be mailed in August. If you know of a district resident that is not receiving the Titan Tradition, please contact my office. It is also available on the district web site. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions about this publication. Also, if you have any questions or concerns about the school district, please contact me. The telephone number is 419-523-5261 and my e-mail address is og_supt@noacsc.org.

Sincerely,
David Lewis
Superintendent

Non-Profit Organization
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Ottawa-Glandorf Schools
360 N. Locust Street
Ottawa, OH 45875

"Home of the Titans!"

<http://og.noacsc.org>

CURRENT RESIDENT

Please feel free to contact us with questions, comments or suggestions for future issues.



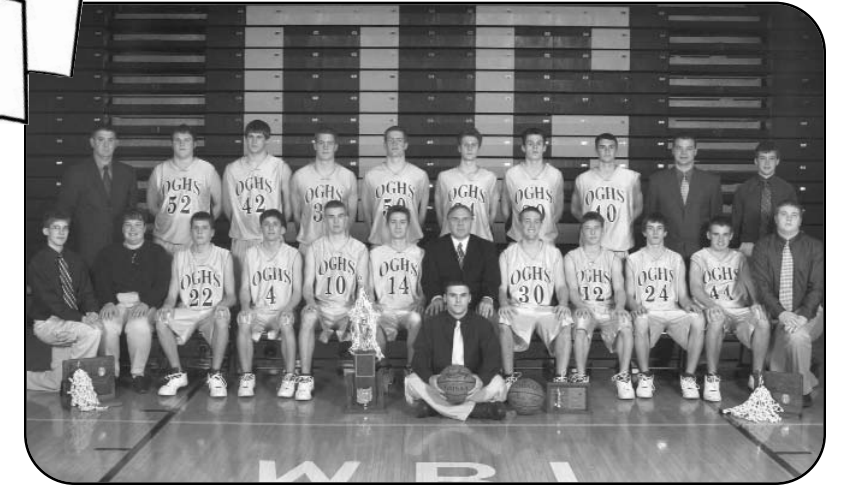
TITAN TRADITION

April, 2004

Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools



2003-04 Division II
Boys Basketball State Champions



UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 27, 2004**
Band Concert - High School
7:00 p.m.
- April 29 - May 1, 2004**
Senior Musical
- May 4, 2004**
Ottawa Elementary Honors Banquet
7:00 p.m.
- May 8, 2004**
High School Cabaret
7:30 p.m.
- May 11, 2004**
High School Honors Banquet
6:30 p.m.
- May 17, 2004**
Spring Choir Concert
7:30 p.m.
- May 20, 2004**
Glandorf Elementary Honors Banquet
6:30 p.m.
- May 23, 2004**
Graduation - Class of 2004
- May 25, 2004**
Ottawa Elementary Kindergarten Graduation
7:00 p.m.
- May 26, 2004**
Ottawa Elementary 8th Grade Breakfast
8:30 a.m.
- May 28, 2004**
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
- May 30, 2004**
Glandorf Elementary 8th Grade Breakfast
9:00 a.m.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Applications from non-resident students wanting to enroll in Ottawa-Glandorf Schools for the 2004-05 school year will be accepted during the month of May. Anyone interested should complete an application at the Administrative Offices located at 360 N. Locust Street, Ottawa.

Applicants are considered on a first come, first serve basis and must meet qualifications set by district policies and guidelines.

ADULT COURSES OFFERED

Millstream Career and Technology Center in Findlay offers vocational classes for students in Ottawa-Glandorf and other schools. Millstream also offers a wide variety of classes tailored for adults. Everything from computer classes at all levels, to job training for nurses aide and commercial driving occupations. Courses offered that are *just for fun* include quilting, cake decorating, and creative landscaping. All classes are at very reasonable prices and are offered at times that are convenient to working adults.

For your free copy of the current course catalog, or for more information, please call Millstream Adult Education at 419-427-5422.

A LOOK INSIDE

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Titan T.I.K.E.S. Preschool on the Move

Mary Jo Williams

Director of Special Services

The Titan T.I.K.E.S. Preschool has been operated by the Ottawa-Glandorf Schools since 1990. It is a public preschool, funded in part through a competitive preschool grant made available through the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). As a public preschool, it is guided by standards published by the ODE, and all teachers are licensed by the Department in pre-kindergarten education.

The Early Learning Content Standards (December, 2003) describe essential concepts and skills for young children. Based on research, these indicators emerge as the result of quality early learning experiences which occur in preschool settings and through family care. In addition, the standards are aligned to the K-12 Ohio Academic Content Standards which form the basis for curriculum and instruction in the Ottawa-Glandorf Schools. This combination of standards forms a seamless educational framework for students in our district.

Included in the Early Learning Content Standards used at Titan T.I.K.E.S., are indicators in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. The standards outline important skills and concepts that help to insure success in kindergarten and beyond. The focus in language arts is on language development including acquisition of vocabulary, beginning letter recognition, rhyming, and

phonics awareness. Children interact with the preschool environment and each other through hands-on activities to promote active learning, social interaction, and problem solving. They also have the opportunity for creative exploration through a variety of learning centers that vary monthly.

In mathematics, preschool children focus on an understanding of numbers and how they are used in their everyday world. Pattern development and concepts in measurement and geometry are also addressed. At Titan T.I.K.E.S., the Everyday Mathematics Program is used as the main curriculum. This is the same curriculum now used at Ottawa and Glandorf Elementary Schools, which is resulting in significant gains in student achievement. The Early Learning Content Standards can be reviewed on the ODE website (www.ode.state.oh.us) by clicking on "academic standards" under the "Topic" menu.

We will be holding classes next year at our new location at Ottawa-Glandorf High School in space that is being renovated especially for preschool. Preschool students and parents will use the former front entrance that will be used only for office staff and preschool. High school students will be using the new entrance off the student parking lot, as will buses for high school students. Preschool starting and ending times will be structured so that hallway traffic will not be an issue for preschool students and parents. An enclosed, secure courtyard will also be used for outdoor activities for Titan T.I.K.E.S students. We are excited about the move to the high school, and look forward to serving our smallest "Titans" again next year.

DISTRICT FINANCES

Michelle Ellerbrock

Treasurer

On March 9, the Board of Education was presented with a reduction in force plan for the District. The reductions include eliminating the Dean of Students position at Ottawa Elementary, reducing one and a half elementary positions, one-half of an industrial arts position, two-ninths of a music position and the transportation secretary position. The District also expects to eliminate three other teaching positions through attrition. Further reductions to other non-teaching positions are still being worked on by the Superintendent and union representatives. The current savings resulting from the reduction in force and attrition is approximately \$376,000. The District will save an additional \$13,000 through attrition of custodial staff.

The goal was to cut \$500,000 out of the budget next year to offset deficit spending. As 20% of the budget is non-payroll items, the administration is currently working to cut \$100,000 out of this area. This includes the purchased services, supplies, capital and other expenditure line items

on the five-year forecast. Unfortunately, many of the non-payroll items are not easily reduced. Open enrollment, post-secondary options, vocational and special education are all services that the District is required to provide and the cost of these items are billed to the District. While the District does receive funding for some of these items, the costs often exceed the revenues. Some of the non-payroll items that are being targeted include copier expenses, performing routine maintenance on buses internally, reducing textbook purchases, elimination of rent on the Locust Street building, and reducing professional development.

These cuts are necessary due to a declining enrollment, reductions in state funding, the loss of Title I funding and rising healthcare premiums. Current enrollment projections indicate that the District's enrollment will drop by an additional 127 students over the next five years. This represents an accumulated decrease in state funding of \$2.1 million over the next five years. The District is currently projecting a \$2.5 million deficit in fiscal year 2008 after the above reductions are made. The District currently spends

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UPDATE ON RENOVATIONS

Kevin Brinkman

Director of Business and Educational Affairs

The moment that many staff members and students have been waiting for has finally arrived. We took possession of 90% of the new addition during the last week of March. The only area not yet completed is the library, which should be ready for occupancy in early May. It was very exciting watching the students and teachers as they walked into the new science rooms and computer labs for the first time. At this point it seemed like all the loud noises, construction dust, and other inconveniences were somehow worth the long wait.

I would like to personally thank all the teachers, staff members, and students for their cooperation during this construction period. I realize that the teaching and learning environment has not been the greatest this year, however, everyone seemed to pull together and help work through the process. The teachers are to be commended for their dedication to maintaining the best learning environment possible under these conditions.



District Finances
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\$1.2 million annually on health insurance premiums. This is expected to increase to \$2.0 million in fiscal year 2008.

With the State of Ohio in a financial downturn, the school's state funding could be cut further in the coming years. Due to these financial pressures, the District will have to continue to reduce expenditures to match this decline in revenues.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 419-523-5690 or og_treas@noacsc.org. Thank you for your continued support of the Ottawa-Glandorf Schools.

School Equipment/Furniture Auction Sale

The Ottawa - Glandorf Schools is conducting an auction to liquidate used school equipment and furniture that will no longer be needed at the High School. The Auction will take place on

Saturday, May 1, 2004 at 12:00 p.m.

located at the new back entrance to the High School off of State Route 15. This would be a great opportunity for district residents to obtain quality storage cabinets, filing cabinets, heavy-duty tables, metal and wooden teacher desks, office chairs, secretary chairs, and much more.

This sale is a necessity because of the renovation and addition to the high school. As part of the expedited local partnership program, which Ottawa-Glandorf Schools is participating in, the Ohio School Facilities Commission requires that new furniture and equipment be placed in classrooms and offices. Every classroom will have built-in casework along with new student and teacher desks and chairs. When possible, we attempted to use existing equipment that was relatively new, however, we were not able to accomplish this in all cases.

In order for the school district to liquidate this equipment/furniture we hope that many of you can attend this sale. For a complete listing and pictures of the items available, you can log on to

www.schroeder.homestead.com

A public notice will also be listed in the Putnam County Sentinel.

Taylor Kuhlman and David Beutler
make "Titan" ornaments during
Self Esteem Day at Ottawa Elementary.

David Recker
presented his project on "Germs" at the
Glandorf Elementary Science Fair.

