

CREATING MATHEMATICAL THINKERS

Mary Jo Williams
Director of Special Services

In an effort to boost student achievement in mathematics in the early grades, the Ottawa-Glandorf Schools has made some important changes in curriculum. We knew that we needed to improve in the areas of problem solving and conceptual development based on our Ohio Proficiency Test results. For the past two years we have explored and studied a number of programs for consideration, and decided to adopt Everyday Mathematics. We have implemented the program in grades K-2 this year, and the program will eventually be used up through the fifth grade at both Ottawa and Glandorf Elementary.

Everyday Mathematics is a rich and varied program that enables and encourages elementary students to learn more mathematical content than traditional textbook programs. Program materials were developed by the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project and were funded by the National Science Foundation. In an extensive review of mathematics programs nationwide, the U. S. Department of Education's Expert Panel rated it very highly.

Parents are encouraged to be partners in their child's learning through "Home Links", which are the Everyday Mathematics version of homework assignments. Each lesson has a Home Link that is reviewed in class the next day. They consist of active projects and ongoing review problems and serve as follow-up and enrichment.



FALL SPORTS

Al Laubenthal
Athletic Director

Volleyball	Freshmen	17 - 1
	JV	22 - 0
	Varsity	16 - 6
Boys Soccer	Fourth in WBL and District Semi-Finalists	
	JV	11 - 1 - 3
	Varsity	12 - 3 - 4
Girls Soccer	Second in WBL and District Runner-Up	
	JV Team	7 - 3 - 1
	Varsity	18 - 2 - 1
Cross Country	WBL Champs and Regional Semi-Finalist	
	Girls Team	73 - 26
	Boys Team	65 - 35
Football	Fifth in WBL	
	Freshmen	4 - 2
	JV	5 - 4
Girls Tennis	WBL Champs and Regional Quarter-Finalist	
	Varsity	6 - 9
	Sixth in WBL	
Golf	Fifth in WBL	
	Varsity	9 - 4

Because they look different from more traditional math homework, parent letters are frequently sent home to explain concepts and procedures, and children are often asked to explain their in-class learning to parents in the evening. Children enjoy being the "teachers" at home at times!

We are extremely confident that this program is helping our younger students to develop important critical thinking skills and concepts necessary to understand mathematics and perform at high levels in and out of the classroom. The program demonstrates the use of mathematics in our everyday life, and children truly enjoy their learning. Math is becoming a favorite subject for many of our students.



Justin Vorst is demonstrating his fishing ability as part of the Cosi on Wheels "What's Wild" program.

DISTRICT FINANCES

Michelle Ellerbrock
Treasurer

Many questions have arisen with regard to the impending closing of the Ottawa LG Philips plant. As with the rest of the community, this closing will affect the District both directly and indirectly. The direct impact will be felt through a reduction in the District's income tax receipts. Ottawa-Glandorf residents employed at LG Philips are estimated to make-up approximately \$87,000 or 11% of the District's annual income tax collections.

With regard to real estate taxes, LG Philips and Philips Display Components currently make up approximately 12% of the District's collections. After the Philips location is vacated, the county auditor will reappraise the value of the plant. Real estate taxes will continue to be assessed to the owner of the facility. The value of the property in a school district directly impacts the amount of funding that the District receives from the state school foundation. As property values rise, state funding decreases. As a result, over time the decrease in the District's valuation related to a business closing is made up by the state school foundation.

As always, during these difficult economic times, we will continue to try to utilize the resources available to the District in the most efficient manner possible.

UPDATE ON RENOVATIONS

Kevin Brinkman
Director of Business and Educational Affairs

Since the passage of the bond issue last May, several Ottawa - Glandorf School personnel have been working diligently on designing an addition to the high school and making appropriate plans to ensure a completely renovated high school which will meet the total needs of all the students and the entire community. Included in the new addition are four science classrooms, two computer labs, a production studio (Titan TV), art classroom, vocal music room, and library. Also included in the 25,000 square foot addition is an expanded student dining area and kitchen area, which includes space for food preparation and a serving line. A new rear entrance to the building off of State Route 15, and a student and staff parking lot will also be developed to improve the safety of the traffic pattern.

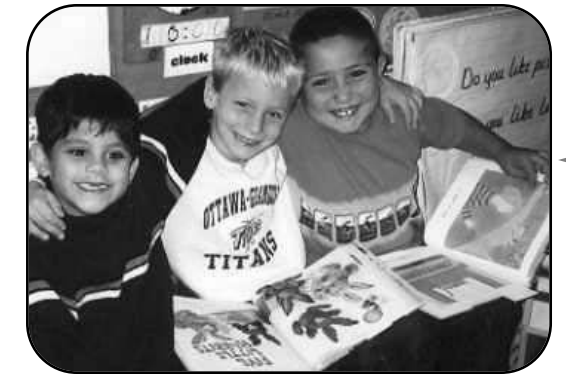
The existing high school building will undergo many changes during the renovation stage of the project. Many current services will go through a complete revamp by installing new electrical panels, fire alarm devices, plumbing, security systems, and heating and air-conditioning systems. Also scheduled to be renovated are the floor coverings, ceilings, interior furnishings, sealing and tuck pointing of the brick, and a new roof. The existing science classrooms will be completely remodeled by removing walls and other furnishings. By doing this, we were able to gain one additional regular classroom upstairs.

Once the new construction and renovations are completed, the high school will look like a new building. The biggest challenge during this construction/renovation part of the project will be scheduling classes and other events while

Danielle Scott, father Mark Scott, and Grandma Scott enjoy Special Visitors' Day at Ottawa Elementary.



Ottawa Elementary Teacher Sue Bice models phonics lesson for Matthew Garber, Josh Garrick, Carl Seitz and Adam Meyer.



Joey Alfaro, Jared King, and Julian Hinojosa love to read!

construction is occurring. With all this construction going on, the typical school day next year will not go without disruptions. Even community events that normally have taken place in the high school in past years may be affected. During this phase the safety and well being of all students, staff, and community members will be of the utmost importance. With everyone working together, however, we will still be able to provide a safe and effective education to our high school students.

The school district and our architects (SSOE Studios out of Toledo) are currently working on the "design development" phase of the project. During this phase very detailed documents are developed which outline all architectural, structural, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical elements of the project. At this point we are working on a very tight schedule. We are hoping to go to bid sometime in late March or early April. If bids come in at or below budget, which we fully anticipate, the construction phase should begin in early June with completion in August, 2004.

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.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Keith Alt, President
Janice von der Embse,
Vice-President

Ronald Horstman
Theresa Kuhlman
Joseph Uphaus

Meeting Highlights

- ▶ Approved 2003-04 school calendar. (see <http://og.noacsc.org/calendar.htm>)
- ▶ Approved over 50 volunteers at Glandorf and Ottawa Elementary.
- ▶ The monthly board agenda can be viewed at <http://og.noacsc.org/ogboard.htm>

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Since you are reading this article, I can assume you have taken the time to read the first issue of the Titan Tradition. I hope you found the newsletter to be informative. This is a work in progress and we would appreciate input from you about what you liked and what you didn't like about the publication. The idea behind this newsletter is to get information about our school district out to all members of the Ottawa-Glandorf community. Each of the buildings has their own newsletter but it is only sent to parents of the students. We want our entire community to be informed about the good things happening in our schools.

Currently, our plan is to produce an issue of Titan Tradition every other month. Each issue will have articles from Mary Jo Williams, Director of Special Services, Kevin Brinkman, Director of Business and Educational Affairs, Michelle Ellerbrock, Treasurer, and myself. These articles will provide information about curriculum, our high school renovation project, and district finances. In addition, we will have pictures and highlights of achievements by our students and staff from each of the buildings. We feel this will be a good way to keep you up to date on some topics that people have questions about but may not know who is the right person to ask. After reading these articles, if you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact these people.

The first few months of the school year have gone very well. Our students have performed well both academically and in extra-curricular activities. As I visit the schools, I see teachers and students working together in the classroom. I have attended concerts and a musical and was impressed by our students' talents. The fall sports season


was especially successful and was highlighted by the football team winning the Western Buckeye League Championship for the first time in school history. Congratulations to all of our players and coaches.

Academically, it appears Ottawa-Glandorf will achieve 22 out of 22 performance criteria on the district report card. This report card is generated annually by the Ohio Department of Education and is used to "rate" school districts as either excellent, efficient, continuous improvement, academic watch or academic emergency. The criteria used are proficiency test scores, student attendance rate and graduation rate. We will have more information for you regarding the report card in the next issue of Titan Tradition but, obviously, we are very proud of our "excellent" rating.

Even though we are going to be rated as an excellent school district by the Department of Education, we are not going to be satisfied. Our staff is moving forward with implementing new ideas and innovative teaching styles and incorporating technology into their classrooms. The successful teachers are the ones who have been able to adapt their teaching style to meet the ever-changing needs of their students. You are invited to visit our classrooms any time.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions about the Titan Tradition. Also, if you have any questions or concerns about the school district, please contact me. The telephone number is 523-5261 and my e-mail address is og_supt@noacsc.org.

Sincerely,
David Lewis
Superintendent

 Ottawa-Glandorf Schools
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CURRENT RESIDENT

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



TITAN TRADITION

Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools



December, 2002

Happy Holidays!

DID YOU KNOW.....

- ... Glandorf Student Council, through its Christmas cotton ball sales, recently donated money for the construction of the new Putnam County YMCA, Ronald McDonald House, and the Champions Equestrian Center.
- ... Our district has been identified as having disciplinary incidents significantly below the state average. The state average is about 20 incidents per 100 students. Ottawa-Glandorf has less than 5 incidents per 100 students.
- ... Over 400 canned food items were recently donated to the Ottawa Food Pantry by Glandorf Elementary students as part of their annual Christmas food drive.
- ... Coach Dave Sweet has 392 wins and will be going for his 400th win this basketball season.

- ... In 1967, The State Department of Education required only 16 units of credit for graduation.
- ... Mrs. Schortgen's first grade class at Ottawa Elementary averages reading 50 books per night for their take home reading program.
- ... Recently 21 members of our Glandorf Elementary JEDI group made classroom presentations on Drug and Alcohol prevention.
- ... Over 66% of Glandorf Elementary 7th and 8th grade students are participating in either basketball or cheerleading this winter.
- ... Ottawa Elementary students are offered technology instruction beginning at the kindergarten level with keyboarding and general instruction and advances throughout the student's education to Microsoft Office, movie creation, web page design, graphic enhancements and advanced research techniques.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ **December 23, 2002 - January 1, 2003**
NO SCHOOL - *Enjoy the Holidays!*
- ▶ **January 7, 2003**
Board of Education Meeting - 5:00 p.m. - OGHS
- ▶ **January 8, 2003**
Glandorf Elementary P.T.O. Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
- ▶ **January 16, 2003**
Ottawa Elementary P.T.O. Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- ▶ **January 17, 2003**
NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service
- ▶ **January 20, 2003**
NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Day

PLEASE NOTE: Titan T.I.K.E.S. Preschool and S.P.P.S. will also be closed on this date.



••• Mickayla Stant, Liz Wagner, Derek Ebbeskotte, and Megan Hoehn take a limo ride to Pizza Hut as part of Glandorf's magazine sales •••

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