



Amy Poeppelman, former Ottawa Elementary student and O-G graduate, gave a motivating speech to our fourth graders on passing the proficiency test.



Glandorf Elementary First Grader Kiale Koch received first place in a bus safety coloring contest sponsored by the Ohio Highway Patrol.



# TITAN TRADITION

Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools

February, 2003

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Janice von der Embse, President
- Theresa Kuhlman, Vice President
- Keith Alt
- Ronald Horstman
- Joseph Uphaus

## 2003 COMMITTEES

- Building, Grounds and Equipment**  
Keith Alt and Joseph Uphaus
- Personnel, Policy and Transportation**  
Ronald Horstman and Theresa Kuhlman
- Insurance and Finance**  
Keith Alt and Janice von der Embse
- Curriculum and Student Programs**  
Ronald Horstman and Joseph Uphaus

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe we are already over halfway through this school year. Fortunately, the weather has cooperated (so far) and we haven't had to use many delays or cancellations. These situations can be inconvenient for you and cause our teachers to lose instructional time with their students, but they are sometimes necessary to insure our students are able to get to school safely.

The difficulty with making the decision to delay school is that the buses leave much earlier in the morning than the students who drive to school. Our first bus leaves at 6:30 a.m., so a decision must be made prior to that time. Our decision is based on the current road conditions and speculation on what might happen in the next hour while the buses are on the road. These decisions are never easy but student safety is always the top priority.

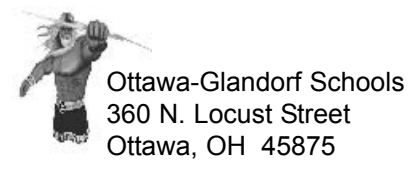
Each year the Ohio Department of Education creates a report card for every school district in the state. The districts are rated as excellent, effective, continuous improvement, academic watch, or academic emergency, based on twenty-two criteria. Twenty of the criteria are passage rates on proficiency scores at the fourth, sixth, ninth, and tenth grade levels and also include graduation rates and attendance rates. Schools that score either 21 or 22 are rated as "excellent". This year, Ottawa-Glandorf achieved a perfect score of 22 out of 22. We are very proud

to be one of 109 schools in the state that earned this rating. A copy of the report card will be mailed to parents of students in early March.

Achieving such a rating is a combination of many things. Obviously, it is important to have hard working students. But, it is also crucial to have a dedicated staff, parent involvement and community support. It is very clear to me, that we have all of these. This is why our school district is so successful. This rating is not only a reflection of our students, staff and school but a reflection of the entire Ottawa-Glandorf community.

The next issue of the Titan Tradition will be mailed in early May. If you know a district resident who 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 newsletter. 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



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

Non-Profit Organization  
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## CURRENT RESIDENT

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 5, 2003**  
Glandorf Elementary P.T.O. Meeting - 8:00 p.m.
- February 11, 2003**  
Board of Education Meeting - 5:00 p.m. - OGHS
- February 17, 2003**  
NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day
- February 20, 2003**  
Ottawa Elementary P.T.O. Meeting - 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting will be held in the gymnasium.

## DISTRICT FINANCES

*Michelle Ellerbrock*  
Treasurer

Property owners in the Ottawa-Glandorf School District recently received their real estate tax bill for the first half of 2002. Most residents saw an increase on this bill due to the passage of the bond issue in May of 2002. In addition, every six years, the county auditor physically reappraises the value of all property in the county. Property values are also updated for inflation every three years in between the six-year reappraisal period. 2002 was an update year which means your property may have increased in value for tax purposes when comparing 2001 to 2002.

The School District currently makes up 29.88 mills on this tax bill. Of this 29.88 mills, 20 mills are used for day-to-day operations. Approximately 80% of the district's operating expenses are salaries and benefits.

The school district has two emergency levies which are also used for operations. These levies were originally passed in 1980 and most recently renewed in 2000. The emergency levies are set at a fixed amount to be collected. Currently, these two levies total 2.68 mills generating approximately \$464,000 for the general fund.

Next, the school district is currently collecting taxes on two bond issues. The first is a 0.5 mill issue for the 1986

## DID YOU KNOW.....

- ▶ There are 161 eighth graders from Ottawa Elementary, Glandorf Elementary and S.P.P.S. who will be going to Washington D.C. for a three-day tour of our nation's Capitol in April.
- ▶ Twenty-one seventh and eighth grade students at Glandorf Elementary recently participated in the Maumee Valley Math test in Defiance.
- ▶ The 8th grade students at Ottawa Elementary have set aside February 28 as Remembrance Day. In collaboration with the Ottawa Senior Citizens Center, our students will spend the day sharing memories of the past with the senior citizens.

renovation at the high school. This 1986 bond issue will be paid off in 2009. The second bond issue was passed in May of 2002 to be used for the addition and renovations to the high school. The first half 2002 tax bill was the first time this was collected. The 2002 bond issue represents 5.2 mills. 5.2 mills increases the annual taxes on a \$100,000 home by \$159.25.

Finally, 1.5 mills are collected for permanent improvements. This millage has been used in the past for the purchase of buses, computers, boiler replacements, roof repairs, and other capital maintenance projects. The current permanent improvement levy is a five-year levy which was originally passed in 1979. The Ottawa-Glandorf Board of Education has taken the necessary steps to place a renewal levy on the ballot in May of 2003. The permanent improvement levy generated \$170,650 for capital projects during fiscal year 2002.

Thank you for your continued financial support of Ottawa-Glandorf Schools.

## A LOOK INSIDE

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## 2003 SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT CARDS

**PERFECT SCORE**

*Mary Jo Williams*  
Director of Special Services

A perfect score for last year!

As you may have read or heard in recent media reports, the 2003 report cards for local school districts have been released by the Ohio Department of Education. This is the fourth year report cards have been issued.

The Ottawa-Glandorf Schools are extremely pleased in achieving 22 of 22 state performance criteria for the previous school year, 2001-2002. The 22 criteria include a 75% passage rate on the 5 parts of the 4th, 6th, and 9th Grade Ohio Proficiency Tests, an 85% passage rate for sophomores on the 5 parts of the 9th Grade Test, a high school graduation rate of 90% or higher, and a student attendance rate of 93% or higher.

The staff and students at all of our schools have worked diligently to insure that our curriculum matches that outlined in the new Academic Content Standards issued by the Ohio Department of Education. We also worked to improve instruction each year to prepare our students to do well on the state assessments. The hard work and preparation have certainly paid off. Hats off to our staff and students alike!

In March our students will be again participating in the Ohio Proficiency Tests at grades 4 and 6 in addition to those high school students still needing to pass any portion of the 9th Grade Test. Additionally, sophomores will be taking the reading and mathematics portions of the new Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) scheduled to be a requirement in two years.

The Ohio Graduation Test will be replacing the current 9th Grade Proficiency Test and will assess the curriculum covered through grade 10. (The current 9th Grade Test only covers content completed by the end of grade 8.) Passage of all portions of the OGT will be a requirement for graduation beginning with current 8th grade students. We are already working to insure that our curriculum and instruction in grades 9 and 10 will prepare our students to do well on this more difficult test which will be required in future years.

While we are certainly pleased with our current report card, we cannot become complacent and rest on present laurels. We will continue to focus down the road and work to keep our achievement levels high as changes in the state assessments occur.

## Preschool Registration

*LaDonna Hoffman*  
Director

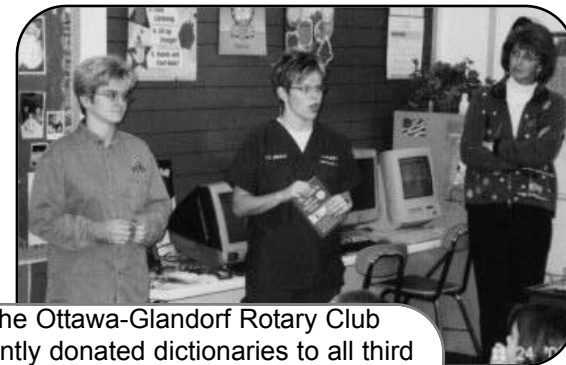


Titan T.I.K.E.S. Preschool (Totally Integrated Kids in an Educational Setting) has been in operation since 1990 and most of the teachers have been here since that time. We are located in the O-G Administrative Building at 360 North Locust Street. We offer morning (9:00-11:30) or afternoon sessions (12:30-3:00) for children who are 3-5 years of age. We currently have 93 children attending our preschool.

**OPEN REGISTRATION**  
**2003-2004**  
**Wednesday, April 9, 2003**  
**7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

Registration is limited to residents of Ottawa-Glandorf School District only. Please feel free to call the preschool office at 419-523-6464 for details. O-G Titan T.I.K.E.S. Preschool is funded by a grant through the Ohio Department of Education.

Tuition assistance is available. Please refer to the chart to see if you qualify. Applications for tuition assistance accepted after March 1, 2003.



The Ottawa-Glandorf Rotary Club recently donated dictionaries to all third grade students at Glandorf Elementary.

### FAMILY INCOME GUIDELINES

(figures based on 2002 guidelines, may change slightly)

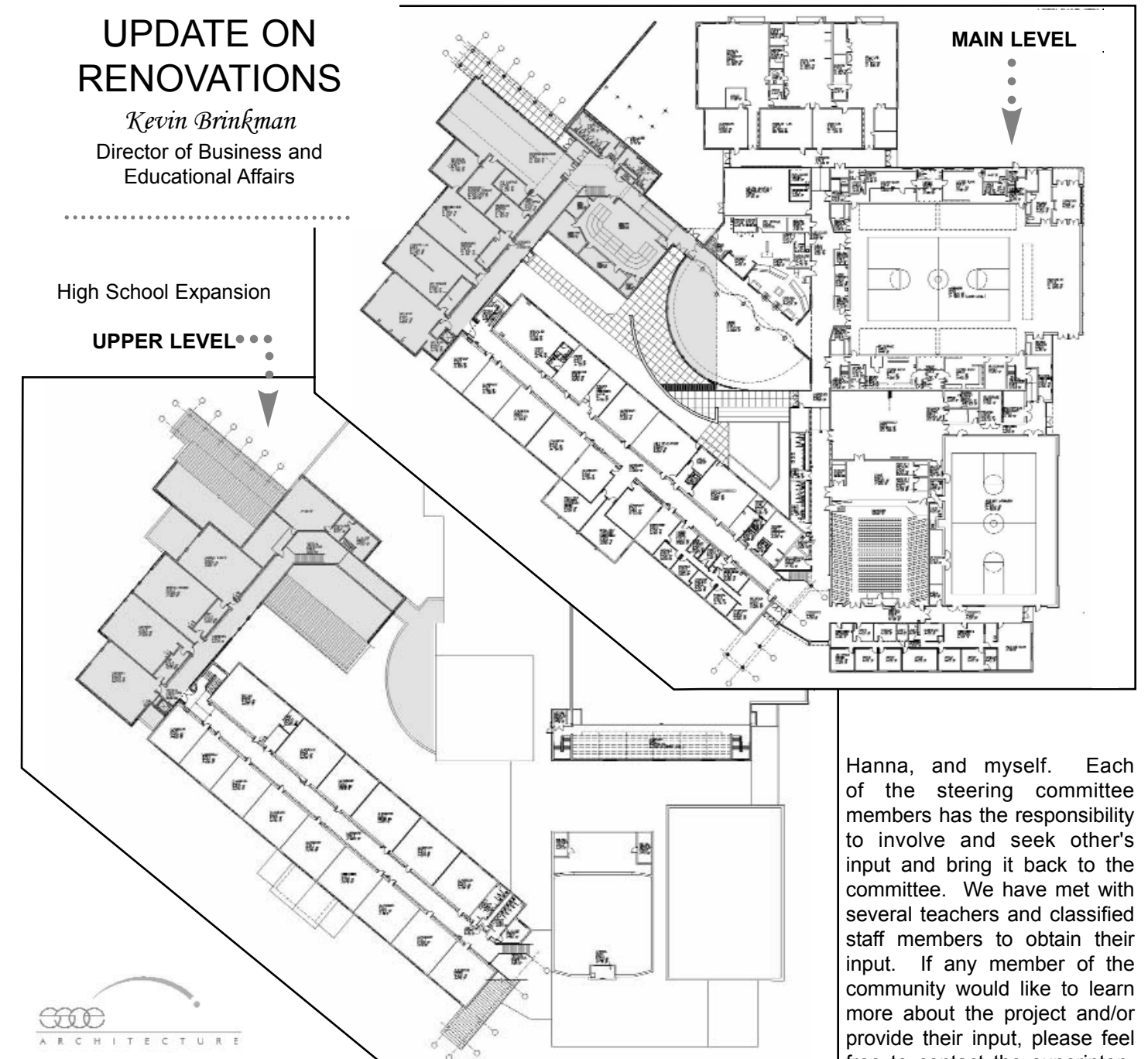
Household Size	Annual	Monthly
1	16,391	1,366
2	22,089	1,841
3	27,787	2,316
4	33,485	2,790
5	39,183	3,265
6	44,881	3,740
7	50,579	4,215
8	56,277	4,690
For each additional member add		+ 3,080

## UPDATE ON RENOVATIONS

*Kevin Brinkman*  
Director of Business and Educational Affairs

High School Expansion

UPPER LEVEL



Hanna, and myself. Each of the steering committee members has the responsibility to involve and seek other's input and bring it back to the committee. We have met with several teachers and classified staff members to obtain their input. If any member of the community would like to learn more about the project and/or provide their input, please feel free to contact the superintendent's office and we would be very happy to meet with you to discuss the project.

The High School addition and renovation project continues to progress on a very aggressive schedule. In the last issue of the Titan Tradition, I mentioned that the architects were working on the Design Development Phase of the project. The Design Phase is nearly complete with specific detailing given to the entire addition and renovation. The actual floor plan of the building has been finalized and the other major components (structural, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical) are nearly finalized.

In the next few weeks we will make several major decisions that will truly define the appearance of the interior and exterior of the building. In order to accomplish this task, a steering committee has been formed. The members of this committee are Janice von der Embse, Joe Uphaus, David Lewis, Michelle Ellerbrock, Mary Jo Williams, Bill

dent's office and we would be very happy to meet with you to discuss the project.

In order to have specific mechanical and electrical equipment on site shortly after June 1, we will prepare a bid package to go out for bid in mid-February. Items included in this bid package are hot water heating boilers, cold water chillers, unit ventilators, fan coils, and electrical equipment. As of now, the west side of the upstairs is scheduled for renovation as soon as school is out for the year. The east side of the upstairs will be renovated once the west side is completed. A temporary wall will be constructed on the opposite side of the hallway to allow classes to be held on the opposite side of the hallway being renovated. This is a preliminary schedule and a final schedule will be determined once a general contractor is awarded the bid.