

**Vicki Otto,**  
teacher at Ottawa Elementary,  
reads to her students daily to model  
the importance of being a lifelong reader.



## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I would like to thank many of you for the positive comments I have received regarding the Titan Tradition. From the response we have received, it appears the newsletter is very popular in the community. Our plan is to continue providing you with the Titan Tradition four times per year. Hopefully, it will continue to be a valuable source of information for you.

At our April 8 board meeting, the Ottawa-Glandorf Board of Education approved a resolution to continue participating in the open enrollment program for the 2003-2004 school year. We will begin accepting applications on May 1. The purpose of this article is to explain the open enrollment program at Ottawa-Glandorf.

Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools have participated in this program for several years. The program allows us to accept students from other districts in the state. For many reasons, such as space limitations, not all schools accept other students. However, schools are not permitted to deny their own students the opportunity to attend other schools. This year at Ottawa-Glandorf, we accepted approximately 40 open enrollment students and have had 29 of our own students choose to attend school elsewhere.

Why would our school want to accept students from other districts? First of all, it might allow our district to maintain quality educational programs. Because of a slowly declining enrollment, certain course offerings could have been eliminated. The additional students brought in through open enrollment can justify maintaining these programs. This does not mean our classes have become overcrowded. Board policy restricts the number of students accepted on "per section" basis.

This year, open enrollment has been a benefit to our school district financially. We are funded at a foundation level of approximately \$5000 per student. For the 11 students that

Ottawa-Glandorf "nets" in open enrollment (40 accepted, 29 left for other schools), we receive a little over \$57,000 in state funding. Last year, the district lost approximately \$40,000 on open enrollment (21 accepted, 29 left the district). This is nearly a \$100,000 turnaround. In these tough financial times, this type of financial boost is very helpful. This data is available on the Ohio Department of Education web site at:

[www.ode.state.oh.us/school\\_finance/data/2003/foundation/SF3-report-FY2003.asp](http://www.ode.state.oh.us/school_finance/data/2003/foundation/SF3-report-FY2003.asp)

Students choose to attend Ottawa-Glandorf for a variety of reasons. It may be the quality education we provide, the outstanding programs we offer, or maybe their parents graduated from here. Whatever the reason, we are pleased to accept these students and provide them with the best education we can.

Have you logged on to our school district web site lately? It is undergoing a major renovation. Our technology staff got together several times over the past few months to design a web site that is "user friendly". It is our hope that you will find it much easier to find the information you are looking for. There is still a site for each of the buildings, but there will be more consistency in the format. Give it a try at <http://og.noacsc.org>.

The next issue of the Titan Tradition will be mailed in August. If you know of a district resident that is not receiving this newsletter, 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 the Titan Tradition. Also, if you have any questions or concerns about the school district, please contact me at 523-5261 or by e-mail at [og\\_supt@noacsc.org](mailto:og_supt@noacsc.org).

Sincerely,  
*David Lewis*  
Superintendent

Non-Profit Organization  
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Ottawa-Glandorf Schools  
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Ottawa, OH 45875

**CURRENT RESIDENT**



# TITAN TRADITION

Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools



May, 2003

## DID YOU KNOW. . . . .

The following article appeared in the February, 2003 issue of the UAW Local 211 News:

*"Heard at a recent O-G home basketball game vs. Shawnee: A large group of 4th to 6th graders, mostly boys, singing the National Anthem, competing with the Pep Band in volume, yet they knew every word. Not on the court with a microphone mind you, but standing proud, right hands over their hearts, in the stands. It was truly a great sight to see and hear, and proof that the younger generation has great potential, and a good patriotic future."*

Glandorf Elementary's sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students had the opportunity to participate in a variety of enrichment classes this year including sports trivia, cooking, genealogy, and war history.

The second grade class at Ottawa Elementary discovered that there are 112 moons in our solar system. Saturn has the second largest moon and it is named Titan!

Recently fourteen seventh and eighth grade students at Glandorf Elementary received a superior rating at the Putnam County Science Fair. Seven of these students had a perfect score.



Glandorf Elementary eighth grade student **Brent Diller** received a perfect score on his science fair project at both the Local and Putnam County Science Fairs.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6, 2003  
*Please remember to vote!*

May 6, 2003  
*Ottawa Elementary Honors Banquet - 7:00 p.m.*

May 7, 2003  
*Glandorf Elementary P.T.O. Meeting - 8:00 p.m.*

May 14, 2003  
*High School Honors Banquet - 6:30 p.m.*

May 16, 2003  
*NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service*

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

May 19, 2003  
*Spring Choir Concert - 7:30 p.m. - High School*

May 22, 2003  
*Glandorf Elementary Honors Banquet - 6:30 p.m.*

May 25, 2003  
*Graduation - Class of 2003*

May 26, 2003  
*NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day*

May 27, 2003  
*Ottawa Elementary Kindergarten Graduation - 7:00 p.m.*

May 29, 2003  
*Ottawa Elementary 8th Grade Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.*

May 29, 2003  
*LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - Enjoy the summer!*

June 1, 2003  
*Glandorf Elementary 8th Grade Breakfast - 9:00 a.m.*

## A LOOK INSIDE

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## LEAVING NO CHILD BEHIND

Mary Jo Williams  
Director of Special Services

As we reported in our last issue of the Titan Tradition, the Ottawa-Glandorf Schools achieved an "excellent" rating on the State Report Card by meeting all 22 performance criteria. While we are very proud of this accomplishment, we are hard at work this year trying to meet new criteria and standards which have come to us from the Ohio Department of Education and the new federal law (No Child Left Behind Act of 2001).

By this spring we will have new Academic Content Standards provided by the Ohio Department of Education in all major content areas. These standards form the basis of what needs to be taught at every grade level. All state assessments will eventually be based on these new content standards.

One major change in assessment that we are preparing for is the new Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) which will be in effect when our current 8th graders are in high school. They will be the first students required to pass the OGT in order to graduate from high school. The OGT will ultimately replace the Ohio 9th Grade Proficiency Test.

The OGT covers state mandated curriculum through grade 10 and definitely "raises the bar" for students. It includes tests in writing, reading, mathematics, science, and citizenship, and students will need to provide written explanations of some of their answers on all five parts of the test. Excellent reading and writing skills will be a necessity in order for students to perform well.

The No Child Left Behind legislation is impacting our work in other ways also. This law includes many requirements for demonstrating accountability for student achievement. It requires that almost all students, including students with special needs, take the required state assessments such as proficiency tests and the new OGT. All students' scores will be included in the calculations for the State Report Card starting next year. Only those few students with severe disabilities will participate in some type of alternate assessment.

The one thing we are certain of right now is change. There will be changes every year for at least five years in the state assessments. Diagnostic testing will be mandated next year for students in grades K-2, and will be added in other grades in future years. Ohio 4th and 6th Grade Proficiency Tests will be replaced over the years by a series of achievement tests to be given in grades 3-5 and 7-8. We will also be studying our current curriculum materials and making needed changes to better meet the new Academic Content Standards. Although change can be difficult, we are committed to the hard work necessary to get the results all of us want.

Over the past five years, the levy has been used to support the following projects:

- Adding Computer Equipment District Wide*
- Roof Maintenance and Repairs*
- Bus Purchases*
- Locker Replacement*
- Maintenance and Repair of Plumbing, Heating and Electrical Systems*
- Boiler Replacement (OE)*
- Athletic Facilities on O-G Road*
- Resurfacing / Expanding Parking Lots*
- Replacing Doors (HS, OE, and GE)*
- Inclined Platform Lift (OE)*
- Cleaning and Resurfacing Track*

Funds generated from the renewal of the Permanent Improvement Levy will be used for continued roof maintenance, plumbing and heating maintenance, bus purchases, technology upgrades, possible relocation of the Glandorf Elementary bus barn and continued maintenance of the districts' athletic facilities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 419-523-5690.

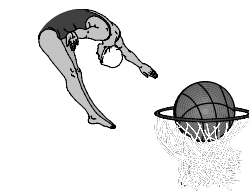
Thank you for your continued financial support of Ottawa-Glandorf Schools.

## UPDATE ON RENOVATIONS

Kevin Brinkman  
Director of Business and Educational Affairs

The time is quickly approaching that we will turn the first shovel of dirt on our new addition to the High School. Preparation for the High School addition and renovation project continues to progress very well and construction is still scheduled to begin in mid-May. On Wednesday, April 2, an advertisement for bids appeared in the Sentinel with the opening of said bids to be held on April 30. If everything goes well, we should be able to hire the general contractor during the May board meeting and have them on site within the next couple of weeks. The High School will be under construction during the entire 2003-2004 school year. This will be a challenge for everyone, as classes will be moved to the gym balconies, behind the new bleachers, and to a converted library. It is a challenge we will meet while maintaining the best educational environment possible and assuring the safety of all staff, students, and community members during construction.

The plans and specifications have been submitted to the State of Ohio for final approval. We feel very confident that the renovations and addition will add greatly to the educational process and to the visual appeal of the High School. This "new" building will be one that the community will be very proud to call their own and to show visiting schools, businesses, and new property owners in the district.



## WINTER SPORTS

Al Laubenthal  
Athletic Director

<b>Boys Basketball</b>	18 - 1	Freshmen
	15 - 5	JV
	22 - 4	Varsity
<b>WBL Co-Champs, Sectional Champs, District Champs, Regional Finalist</b>		
<b>Girls Basketball</b>	16 - 1	Freshmen
	19 - 1	JV
	22 - 2	Varsity
<b>WBL Champs, Sectional Champs, District Champs</b>		
<b>Swimming</b>	12 - 1	Girls Team
	<b>Fourth in WBL</b>	
	1 - 11 - 1	Boys Team
<b>Fifth in WBL</b>		
<b>Wrestling</b>	8 - 9	



Virginia Kirkendall, teacher at Ottawa Elementary, and student Megan Schimmoller work together on a classroom project.

We would like to thank the community for their continued support of this project and for their input to assure a quality education by providing the best possible learning environment for our children. As always, if you have questions regarding the building project, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Let the construction begin!

## TRANSPORTATION

During the month of May, we begin looking at bus routes to determine if changes need to be made for the upcoming school year. New kindergarten students will be added to existing routes which may cause certain buses to become overloaded, thus necessitating a route change. Placing kindergarten students on buses will occur during the summer months after May orientation. Placement of kindergarten students will be further explained at the orientation meeting.

If your children ride a bus to school and you know you will have a change of address for the upcoming school year, we would appreciate you letting us know of this change as soon as reasonably possible. This will give us an opportunity to plan ahead and provide a smooth and safe school transportation system. For the most part, routes will remain the same for next school year.

## OPEN ENROLLMENT

Applications from non-resident students wanting to enroll in Ottawa-Glandorf Schools for the 2003-04 school year will be accepted during the month of May. Anyone interested should complete an application at the Administrative Offices located at 360 North Locust Street, Ottawa.

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

Please read the Letter from the Superintendent for more details on open enrollment.