

## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

On Friday, October 31, I had an opportunity to do something I hadn't done since 1997. I taught a full day of classes. How did this happen? I was talking to Mr. Brad Leis, who teaches American Government to all seniors, and he mentioned that many of them are registered to vote. We decided it would be a good idea if I would come in and teach them some of the basics of school funding and explain how tax levies and property taxes are calculated. This would provide them with some information to help them become educated voters. I didn't just tell them to vote "yes", but instead tried to give them the facts they needed to make their own decision.

My experience in the classroom that day was great. After I taught the lesson, there was time for discussion. The students were very attentive and asked many interesting questions about different school-related issues. Since these questions are also questions that community members might ask, I thought I would summarize them in this article.

### Why are school districts always trying to pass levies?

School districts are not always trying to pass levies but it appears that each school is on the ballot more and more often. There are several reasons for this. One is that state funding has recently been cut. The Ottawa-Glandorf School District relies on receiving approximately fifty percent of its funding from the state. When that funding is reduced, either services must also be reduced or more local money must be raised. Fortunately, the district hasn't had to try to raise more local money for operations recently, but it is important to continue to renew the levies that are currently being collected.

### Is it true that there is going to be a fountain installed as part of the building project?

I have had many people ask me this question. In fact, every class I taught on October 31 asked. I'm not sure how the idea got started, but there is no fountain in the plans for the

building project. The area in question is at the back of the building by the gym addition. That area was previously parking area. Because of certain codes, we were no longer permitted to have parking against the building. After developing several different drawings of possible parking areas, none of which resulted in more than five additional parking spaces, it was determined that the area could be better served as a commons area. The area will have benches for students to use while waiting for rides and some landscaping to dress it up a bit, but no fountain.

### When is the new addition going to be ready?

As long as we stay on schedule, the new addition will open in March. In the new addition there are science classrooms, an art room, choir room, library/media center, and computer labs.

### Who makes the decision to cancel school?

This was the second most common question that was asked. Mr. Kevin Brinkman makes the initial check on the road conditions. Mr. Brinkman then contacts me and together we make the decision.


My day back in the classroom was very enjoyable. We are fortunate at O-G Schools to have such good students. Thank you for trusting us with educating your children and thank you for your support of the permanent improvement levy.

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 419-523-5261 and my e-mail address is og\_supt@noacsc.org.

Sincerely,  
*David Lewis*  
Superintendent

Non-Profit Organization  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
Ottawa, OH 45875  
Permit No. 26

## CURRENT RESIDENT

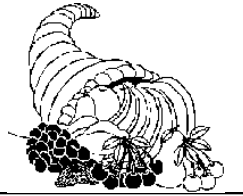


Ottawa-Glandorf Schools  
360 N. Locust Street  
Ottawa, OH 45875



Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools

# TITAN TRADITION



November, 2003



**Jaimie Maas, Kris Kindle, Derek Campbell** display a project for Language Arts class. The students built a loghouse after reading the book, The Indian in the Cupboard.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 24 and 25, 2003  
*Kindergarten Registration for 2004-05*

November 25, 2003  
*Parent/Teacher Conferences  
NO SCHOOL - Elementary Buildings  
Preschool Open House*

November 26, 2003  
*Parent/Teacher Conferences  
NO SCHOOL - All Buildings*

November 27 and 28, 2003  
*NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break*

December 3, 2003  
*Glandorf Elementary P.T.O. Meeting - 8:00 p.m.*

December 4, 2003  
*Glandorf Elementary Christmas Program - 7:30 p.m.*

December 8, 2003  
*Ottawa Elementary Christmas Program - 7:00 p.m.*

December 9, 2003  
*Band Christmas Concert, 7:00 p.m.*

December 14, 2003  
*Choir Christmas Concert, 2:00 p.m.*

December 23, 2003 - January 2, 2004  
*NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break*

## DID YOU KNOW. . . . .

This is the fifth year for the Peer Mediator Program at Ottawa Elementary. Peer mediators help students resolve their own personal conflicts.

During lunch recess, students in grades 7-8 at Ottawa Elementary can participate in the stock market club, junior achievement businesses, chess club, and egg drop car competition, to name a few.

Glandorf Elementary recently was awarded the Governor's Award for Excellence in Youth Science Opportunities.

Ottawa and Glandorf Elementary Student Council recently participated in a leadership conference sponsored by the Putnam County Educational Service Center.

Over 500 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students from Glandorf Elementary, Ottawa Elementary, and S.P.P.S. participated in the Civil War Encampment.



## A LOOK INSIDE

Report on "No Child Left Behind"	Page 2
Financial Report	Page 3
Athletic Department Update	Page 3
Letter from the Superintendent	Page 4

**NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND:  
What This Means for our Schools, Part II**  
*Mary Jo Williams*  
Director of Special Services

In addition to changes in the state accountability system that were discussed in an earlier article, The No Child Left Behind Act requires that all teachers of core academic subjects be "highly qualified". Core academic subjects include English, reading, language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics, government, economics, arts, history, and geography.

The timeline for meeting this requirement is contingent upon two elements: the date of employment, and whether the teacher is working in a program supported by Title I funds. If a teacher was hired after the beginning of the 2002-03 school year, and works in a Title I funded program, they had to meet the "highly qualified" definition upon employment. No teachers in the Ottawa-Glandorf Schools fall into this category. In fact, the Ottawa-Glandorf Schools are not receiving any Title I funds this school year due to low numbers of poverty cases as reported during the 1999 Census.

All teachers in the Ottawa-Glandorf schools are required to meet the "highly qualified" definition by the end of the 2005-06 school year. At the elementary school level, this means that teachers must hold at least a bachelor's degree and full state certification (provisional certificate). In addition, they must have passed the examination approved by the State Board of Education, hold a graduate degree in the teaching

assignment, have advanced certification (professional or permanent certificate), hold National Board Certification, or achieve 100 points on the Ohio Highly Qualified Rubric. This rubric is used to verify a pattern of coursework and staff development activities over the past 10 years that demonstrate that the teacher has continued to develop in content knowledge and teaching skills, regardless of when they were first certified.

Teachers at the secondary level (grades 7-12) must hold at least a bachelor's degree and full state certification (provisional certificate). They must also have passed the examination approved by the State Board of Education, have an academic major in their teaching assignment(s), hold advanced certification (professional or permanent certificate), hold National Board Certification, or achieve 100 points on the Ohio Highly Qualified Rubric.

In September, all teachers completed the required reporting documents to verify their current status to the Ohio Department of Education. In doing this, we found that over 97% of our teachers already meet this requirement. In a few cases, teachers are currently teaching in an area for which they do not hold an academic major. These teachers have made arrangements to take the courses they need to hold majors in these areas prior to the 2006 deadline.

The Ottawa-Glandorf Schools take great pride in our teaching and support staffs in our schools. We work hard to insure quality instruction, to provide appropriate staff development opportunities, and to work with staff members to improve in areas of deficiency when problems arise, which is the exception. We will continue to do all we can to bring only the most qualified teachers into our school system in the years to come.



**Amy Schmiedebusch, Kialee Koch, Stephanie Hemfling, Mickayla Stant, Kelly Schmitz, and Jason Schnipke** take a limo ride to Pizza Hut as part of Glandorf's magazine sales.

**THANK YOU**

Many thanks to the more than 100 parents and community members who attended Dr. Mike Thomson's presentation on October 28, 2003. His wit, humor, and sound advice will certainly help us to "save our sanity" while parenting.

Thanks, also, to the Putnam County Educational Service Center which provided part of the funding necessary to bring this quality program to our school district.

**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.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

*Michelle Ellerbrock*  
Treasurer

With the recent election, there has been a lot of press devoted to school finance. Several area school districts had new operating levies on the ballot in November. These districts were threatening large layoffs and cuts to extra-curricular activities. This is due, in part, to major reductions in state funding due to the passage of the State Budget Bill (House Bill 95) this past June.

House Bill 95 contained several provisions that had detrimental effects on school districts. For Ottawa-Glandorf, the impact is as follows:

- ▶ *Elimination of the three-year averaging of ADM (Average Daily Membership)* (\$152,813)
  - ▶ *Reducing the increase of the per pupil amount from \$5088 (HB 94 law) to \$5058* (52,574)
  - ▶ *Special Education funding adjustment* 1,705
  - ▶ *Parity aid % funding decrease from 60% to 58%* (9,338)
  - ▶ *Phase out of state reimbursement for exemption on first \$10,000 of Personal Tangible Property Tax* (3,255)
  - ▶ *Acceleration of the phase out of the Inventory Tax from 1% to 2%* (3,589)
- Total impact of HB 95 for 2003-2004 (\$219,864)**

Ottawa-Glandorf will receive \$219,864 less than they would have under the previous biennial budget. Over the three year period from 2003-2006, these reductions total \$862,221 less in state funding for our school district. The impact is even greater for larger school districts. You may review the impact that these changes have had on Ottawa-Glandorf and other local school districts by accessing the five-year forecast at

<http://fyf.oecn.k12.oh.us/fyforecast/>

This website also includes the assumptions used to prepare the financial forecasts.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Ottawa-Glandorf's five-year forecast, 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.

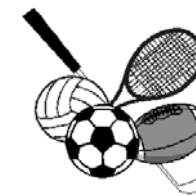
**BASKETBALL SEASON TICKETS**

*Al Laubenthal*  
Athletic Director

Due to the high demand for season tickets, we are only offering season tickets to individuals that purchased them last year. We appreciate your support of Titan basketball, but in order to have tickets for the students of Ottawa-Glandorf, season tickets need to be limited to 1390 tickets.

Parking at the High School for home games will be limited due to construction, therefore, car pooling is advised. Please be considerate to others when parking. Hopefully, the parking situation will improve next year when most of the building project is complete.

Ottawa-Glandorf High School will also be participating in Flyin'-to-the-Hoop Tournament. We are scheduled to play Dayton Northmont on Monday, January 19, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at Vandalia-Butler High School. Tickets can be purchased at the High School as that date gets closer. We get credited for ticket sales at our school, so please plan ahead and buy your tickets here. Your tickets will get you into a set of games. Teams from around the country will be gathered there to showcase basketball talent.



**FALL SPORTS**

*Al Laubenthal*  
Athletic Director

<b>Volleyball</b>	15 - 3	Freshmen
	18 - 5	JV
	21 - 4	Varsity
	<b>Fourth in WBL, District Finalists</b>	
<b>Boys Soccer</b>	9 - 4 - 2	JV
	12 - 4 - 2	Varsity
	<b>Second in WBL</b>	
<b>Girls Soccer</b>	10 - 2 - 1	JV
	14 - 7	Varsity
	<b>Fourth in WBL, District Finalists</b>	
<b>Cross Country</b>	53 - 45	Girls
	77 - 22	Boys
	<b>Third in WBL</b>	
<b>Football</b>	3 - 6	Freshmen
	6 - 1	JV
	2 - 8	Varsity
<b>Girls Tennis</b>	5 - 8	Varsity
	<b>Fourth in WBL</b>	
<b>Golf</b>	11 - 2	Varsity
	<b>Fifth in WBL</b>	