



Congratulations, Retirees!

Pictured (back, left to right) Ray Bomeli, Lori Augustine, Rick Palmer, Bob Augustine, Kitty Hayes, Pat Vemich-Burgwald, Anita Lawson, Denise Gray, Jan Honsberger, Sue Raven, Cheryl Morrissey, Julie Bonnette, Ruth Hansen, Mary Shepich, Jane Adams, Art Roberts, Mark McMillin, (front, left to right) Al Redder, Sue Newkirk, Pam Marlett, Sara Parlow, Kathy Chmielewski, Barb Wolverton and Donna Parr.



From the Superintendent

Dennis M. Patzer, Superintendent of Schools



Energy Savings Benefit the Entire District

I realize I like to talk about “going green” and conserving energy every opportunity I get, but I feel it is that it is an important topic. An organization the size of Otsego Public Schools needs to be a good role model when it comes to saving valuable resources like energy. We all need to be responsible users of natural gas, electric and water supplies.

Approximately six years ago, we embarked in a partnership with Energy Education. This partnership has focused on reducing our energy consumption and ultimately our costs for utilities. It has really been a transformational program for all our buildings and several staff members have taken this concept and applied it to their home environments as well.

Districtwide participation in Energy Education has been so successful that we are spending significantly less than we used to for utilities. Perhaps you’ve seen Energy Star ratings while shopping for new appliances. We just received word that all five of our major school buildings have achieved Energy Star ratings. This means that our buildings are preventing greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy-efficiency specifications set by the government.

Energy Education manager Tom Gilmer said the process to gain Energy Star ratings was challenging, but very worthwhile. We can now show all of the five main buildings to be so efficient that they are far exceeding Energy Star requirements.

In the end, we’re not only helping to save the environment, but retaining more funds in the district budget. For example, during the 2004/05 school year, our electrical, natural gas and water costs for seven facilities was \$462,435.75. During construction and building renovation, our energy costs temporarily increased, but have continued to decrease. Last year we spent a total of \$450,492.33 on electricity, natural gas and water to run seven facilities and the football stadium. Overall, we’ve added 150,000 square feet of buildings that we’re maintaining and operating and yet we spent \$12,000 less last year than we did in 2004/05. This takes into account inflation, increased space, air conditioning, and rate increases from the electric, gas and water companies. I think this is a remarkable point resulting from a combination of our facility upgrades and changes in our personal behavior. By partnering with Energy Education, we have created a culture of conservation rather than unchecked consumption.

Congratulations and thanks to all staff who made this possible.



100 Miles at Washington Street Elementary

Congratulations to the Washington Street Elementary 100 Mile Club! (Back row, left to right) Brady Hutchinson, Sammy Moran, Cortland Hill, Jordan Myers, Noah Khanfar and (front, left to right) Jessica Powers, Roni Powers, and Matthew Wieber all walked 100 miles this school year.



Curriculum Corner

Dan Bushouse, Director of Instruction & Curriculum



In this time of education funding uncertainty, the Otsego Board of Education is reaffirming their commitment to continuous improvement of our schools. At their July 12th meeting, the Board approved almost \$150,000 for curriculum items and equipment. This is an amount that is larger than what has been spent in each of the past two years. The need for materials in some areas had been put on hold, but the reality continued to be that some materials were worn out and had to be replaced. In other areas of the curriculum, the need to update materials to meet the requirements from the State dictated that materials needed to be ordered.

Throughout this past school year, teams of teachers have worked on several areas of our curriculum. Recommendations from those teams of teachers were presented to the Otsego School Improvement Council (OSIC) in April. OSIC serves as an advisory committee to the Board of Education for curriculum and school improvement issues. In May, OSIC recommended several items to the Board of Education for inclusion in purchases of curriculum materials for the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

In the area of social studies, it was recommended that we purchase materials for third grade to enhance the teaching of Michigan History at that grade level. These materials are needed to address revisions in the State's grade level expectations. Also, new materials will be purchased for middle school social studies and for many of the high school courses in that department.

Elementary and middle school science teachers in grades 4 to 6 will receive new materials to better meet their revised state grade level expectations.

In the area of math, OSIC is recommending that we purchase Algebra materials for use in 8th grade math classes. This will provide students with an opportunity to get a solid start on the pre-algebra skills needed to be successful with Algebra in the ninth grade.

The other major portion of curriculum expenditures will be for elementary physical education. Teachers of that subject reported that much of their equipment was nearly worn out and needed to be replaced. In addition to replacement items, some equipment is being purchased to enhance the elementary JumpStart programs.

One new high school course was recommended by OSIC for next fall. Basic Statistics was approved several years ago, but was not offered due to low student interest. This has changed now due to the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirement that students take one full credit of math during their senior year. The Basic Statistics class will be an elective class for one trimester that will be worth one-half credit to students.

Guest Speakers Help Middle Schoolers Explore Career Options



Auto mechanic Jon Griffin's car held students' attention during his career fair presentation.

A total of 28 community members visited Otsego Middle School during the building's 2010 career fair. Students could learn about jobs in arts and communications, business, management, marketing and technology; engineering, manufacturing and industrial technology; health sciences; human services; and natural resources and agriscience. The jobs represented included auto mechanic, police officer, judge, pharmacist, artist, writer, librarian, psychologist, dental assistant, and many others. Students attended four different 30 minute sessions.

Awards and Scholarships

Top Ten Seniors:

Hannah Beard, Ian Burleigh, Chelsea Campbell, Matthew Darnell, Mina Hirzel, Meagan Kennedy, Reed Moyer, Ruben Saucedo, Sara Weyenberg, and Katherine White

National Honor Society:

Riley Anderson, Jonathan Crosby, Patrick Sutherland-Alway, David Back, Brian Dardis, Samantha Walters, Kathryn Baranoski, Matthew Darnell, Sara Weyenberg, Hannah Beard, Reed Moyer, Katherine White, Ian Burleigh, Daniel Schwartz, Colleen Zimmerman, Chelsea Campbell, Kevin Stelzer, Julee Campbell, Hannah Stevenson

Otsego Rotary Club Scholarship: Julee Campbell and Colleen Zimmerman

Otsego Chamber of Commerce Scholarship: Julee Campbell

Rod Morrison Scholarship: David Back

Leo Watters Award: Patrick Sutherland-Alway

Comet Scholarship: Julee Campbell, Alice Huang, Cairn Reisch, Hannah Stevenson, and Katherine White

Victors Scholarship: Ian Burleigh

Robert Stewart Memorial Scholarship: Benjamin Wolf

Otsego Public Schools Foundation Scholarship: David Back, Brian Dardis, Reed Moyer, Kevin Stelzer, Patrick Sutherland-Alway, Sara Weyenberg, and Katherine White

Charles and Wilma Cushman Scholarship: Daniel Schwartz

OEA Scholarship: Olivia Dennis and Nathan Hubbard

Student Council Scholarship: Julee Campbell

Red Cross Scholarship: Riley Anderson and Brian Dardis

Departmental Awards:

Art: Samantha Walters

Business: Hannah Stevenson

English: Katherine White

Graphic Arts: Dustin Cramer

Instrumental Music:

John Philip Sousa Award – Julee Campbell

Arion Award – Nathan Hubbard

Life Management:

Kathryn Baranoski

Mathematics: Reed Moyer

Physical Education:

Jay Cook

Science: Benjamin Wolf

Social Studies: Samantha Walters

Vocal Music: Jonathan Crosby

World Language:

Alice Huang

Allegan County Technical Education Awards:

Red Cross Scholarship in Health Sciences program:

Jennifer Boyett

Tiger Tales Design Award in the New Media program:

Samuel Town

Otsego Athletic Boosters Scholarship:

David Back, Hannah Beard, Ian Burleigh, and Reed Moyer

Athletes of the Year:

Female : Kelsey Kuipers

Male: Derek Klein

Otsego Public Schools Foundation “O-Zone” Scholarship:

Veronica Guinyard

Perrigo Scholarship: Jonathan Crosby and Mina Hirzel

Friends of the Otsego Library Scholarship: Julee Campbell

VFW Post 3030/Ladies Auxiliary of Otsego Scholarship:

Chelsea Campbell

Don Knight Memorial Scholarship:

David Back and Hannah Stevenson

Otsego Elks Award: Reed Moyer and Patrick Sutherland-Alway

The Barry Community Foundation Scholarship: David Back

Patti Sholler-Barber “The Power of One” Scholarship:

Jordan Casarez and Brian Dardis

Otsego Running Club Scholarship:

Matthew Darnell and Schuyler Mattern

The Harry Stout Foundation Scholarship:

Matthew Darnell and Sara Weyenberg

O.H.S. Leadership Award:

Kathryn Baranoski and Jonathan Crosby

United States Army ROTC Scholarship: Seth Rohr

National Merit: Patrick Sutherland-Alway

Students Entering Military After High School:

Matthew Baker, Andrew Burley, and

Trevor Morris



for the Class of 2010

David Back: Grand Valley State University – Award for Excellence Scholarship and Award of Distinction Faculty Scholarship, Northern Michigan University – Scholars Award

Kathryn Baranoski: Western Michigan University – Deans Scholarship and Housing Award

Hannah Beard: Grand Valley State University – Award for Excellence Scholarship, Hope College – Presidential Scholarship

Ian Burleigh: University of Michigan – Regents Merit Scholarship

Chelsea Campbell: Grand Valley State University – Award for Excellence Scholarship, Hope College – Distinguished Scholar Award, Calvin College – Dean’s Scholarship and Heart and Mind Scholarship

Julee Campbell: Alma College – Trustee Honors Scholarship, Distinguished Trustee Scholarship and Instrumental Performance Scholarship

Matthew Darnell: Grand Valley State University – Award for Excellence Scholarship and Award of Distinction Faculty Scholarship

Erica Immekus: Oakland University – Geographic Region Award and Academic Achievement Award

Sarah Meyerink: Central Michigan University – Board of Trustees Elite High School Graduate Scholarship

Adrianna Misner: Ferris State University – Ferris Achievement Scholarship

Reed Moyer: Grand Valley State University – Award for Excellence Scholarship and Award of Distinction Presidential Scholarship, Hope College – Presidential Scholarship

Cairn Reisch: Central College – Central Heritage Award, Community Service Award and Dean’s Scholarship

Daniel Schwartz: University of Dayton – Dean’s Merit Scholarship

Kevin Stelzer: Central Michigan University – Board of Trustees Elite High School Graduate Scholarship, Hope College – Presidential Scholarship

Hannah Stevenson: Northern Michigan University – Outstanding Achievement Award

Patrick Sutherland-Alway: University of Iowa - Tuition Scholarship, Provost’s Scholarship, National Scholars Award, Old Gold Scholarship, Presidential Scholarship and the National Merit University of Iowa Scholarship, Rosa Parks Scholarship Elk’s Most Valuable

Samantha Walters: Grand Valley State University – Award for Excellence Scholarship, Ferris State University – Dean’s Scholarship, Aquinas College – Monsignor Bukowski Honors Scholarship

Sara Weyenberg: Grand Valley State University – Award for Excellence Scholarship, Oakland University – Geographic Region Award and Presidential Scholarship, Western Michigan University – Dean’s Award, Alma College – Trustee Honors Scholarship, Ripon College – Pickard Scholarship, Carthage College – Highest Honors Scholarship, University of Wisconsin (Oshkosh) – Oshkosh Chancellor’s Academic Scholarship

Katherine White: University of Michigan – Regents Merit Scholarship



Schwartz Completes Research at WMU Greenhouse

When Otsego High School student Dan Schwartz decided to study Environmental Science independently, he probably didn't realize that he'd become very well acquainted with aphids.

For a paper entitled, "The Population dynamics of aphids (*Aphis nerii*) and its influence on milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) chemical defense, he did research in Western Michigan University's greenhouse

and in Dr. Steve Malcolm's lab before presenting his findings at a science symposium at Grand Valley State University.

Otsego High School science teacher Mrs. Heather Kortlandt oversaw Dan's progress and was impressed with his efforts. "I have had Dan in a few classes throughout his high school career," said Mrs. Kortlandt. "Dan is a very bright young man with a promising future. He has an aptitude for math and science. He approached me last year about an independent study in Environmental Science and I told him that the deal was that he would have to do a real research project and present at the Michigan High School Math and Science Symposium."

Dan worked independently on the project during second and third trimester. He grew plants in the greenhouse, cleaned pests off them, monitored the reproduction of aphids and harvested them.

"It was work, but it was a good experience and I learned a lot," he said.

In addition to presenting at the symposium, he read and wrote reviews on related journal articles.

He knows he's better prepared for college as a result. "At the undergraduate level, I'm probably more capable than most," he said. He plans to study Biosystems Engineering at Michigan State University.



Outstanding People for Education Winners



Amy Nieuwenhuis, Liz Lincoln, Karin Laws and Denny Patzer.

Washington Street Elementary teacher Amy Nieuwenhuis, Otsego Middle School teacher Elizabeth Lincoln and Otsego High School paraprofessional Karin Laws were this year's recipients of the district's Outstanding People for Education awards. Award recipients were honored at the Allegan County School Board Association's June 9 dinner meeting. Anyone who makes a difference in education in Allegan County may be nominated for the award. The apple sculpture awards were created by students at the Allegan County Technical and Education Center and the wooden book bases were made by wood shop students in Martin.

Otsego Public Schools Superintendent Denny Patzer is pictured with Otsego's 2010 recipients.

John Kubiak is Otsego's New Athletic Director



Otsego High School teacher and varsity football coach John Kubiak has been hired to serve as the district's High School Athletic Director. He will replace Mike Garvey, who is going to Hackett High School in Kalamazoo after four years with the district.

Last fall, under Kubiak's direction, the Otsego High School varsity football team experienced its best season since 1983. Superintendent Denny Patzer said Kubiak is an outstanding leader. "In three short years, he made Otsego one of the top programs in the Wolverine Conference," Patzer said. "He's a positive role model and a class act."

Kubiak has taught physical education and art for the district. He and his wife Christine have two children and live in Kalamazoo.

"I think this is a great opportunity to be in a leadership role," Kubiak said. "To be the Athletic Director and still coach football is kind of a dream job."

Kubiak praised his predecessor. "I think Mr. Garvey did an excellent job. I'm looking forward to continuing what he's done and to help improve our kids athletically and academically. Otsego's a great place to work. It's a great community with great support and great coaching staff."

Fall sports sign ups begin Aug. 2

Fall sports sign ups begin Monday, August 2 in the high school athletic office. Student athletes must provide proof of physical health screening dated after April 15, 2010, signed parental consent, emergency contact information, transportation forms, and pay a \$20 activity fee to begin practice. Fall sports teams will officially begin practices on August 11, with exception of football which starts on Aug. 9.

Who to Call

Administration Office, 400 Sherwood Street, Otsego, MI 49078-1281	
Superintendent Dennis M. Patzer	(269) 692-6076
Director of Instruction Daniel Bushouse	(269) 692-6068
FAX.....	(269) 692-6074
Director of Business	(269) 692-6070
Accounts Payable	(269) 692-6078
Payroll	(269) 692-6079
Director of Technology	
Michelle Triemstra	(269) 692-6222
Transportation Office, 560 Washington Street, Otsego, MI 49078-1284	
Carrie Barnhart, Dispatcher	(269) 692-6245
Public/Media Relations & Information Please Coordinator	
Dawn Kemp	(269) 692-6073
Otsego High School, 550 Washington Street, Otsego, MI 49078-1271	
Principal Herve' Dardis	(269) 692-6166
Attendance.....	(269) 692-6170
Guidance Office	(269) 692-6175
Athletic Director John Kubiak	(269) 692-6163
FAX.....	(269) 692-6188
Otsego Middle School, 540 Washington Street, Otsego, MI 49078-1270	
Principal Bill Houseman	(269) 692-6199
Attendance.....	(269) 692-6203
FAX.....	(269) 692-6228
Special Education, 540 Washington Street, Otsego, MI 49078-1270	
Director Alice Beach.....	(269) 692-6233
FAX	(269) 692-6234
Otsego Community Recreation & Adult Education	
501 Grant Street, Otsego, MI 49078-1286	
Director Tim Syrek	(269) 692-6225
Alamo Elementary, 8184 N. 6th Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009-8808	
Principal Melissa Koenig.....	(269) 692-6150
Attendance.....	(269) 692-6148
FAX.....	(269) 692-6144
B.A.S.E. Supervisor Jessica Cramer.....	(269) 692-6140
Dix Street Elementary, 503 Dix Street, Otsego, MI 49078-1500	
Principal Mark Rollandini	(269) 692-6099
Attendance	(269) 692-6110
FAX.....	(269) 692-6130
B.A.S.E. Supervisor Lacey Stout.....	(269) 692-6114
O.S.R.P. Teacher	(269) 692-6140
Washington St. Elementary, 538 Washington St., Otsego, MI 49078-1279	
Principal Heather Badders	(269) 692-6069
Attendance.....	(269) 692-6080
Learn 'N Grow Preschool Teacher Kelli Pfefferman	(269) 692-6092
B.A.S.E. Supervisor Katie Boelman	(269) 692-6088
FAX.....	(269) 692-6123
Board of Education	
Renny R. Ransbottom, President	(269) 685-6993
James W. Herm, Vice President	(269) 694-5721
Donna M. Weeldreyer, Secretary	(269) 375-6116
Wendy E. Stafford, Treasurer.....	(269) 694-4291
Scott C. Sleeman, Trustee	(269) 694-6475
Michael L. Cronen, Trustee	(269) 694-3061
Bryon L. Campbell, Trustee.....	(269) 692-2820
OPS Website	www.otsegops.org
OPS Foundation website	www.opsfoundation.org

From: Otsego Public Schools
400 Sherwood Street
Otsego, MI 49078-1281

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Otsego, MI
Permit No. 23

To: Postal Customer

****ECRWSS****

Calendar of Events

September

6 Labor Day, Buildings Closed
7 First day for students

December

20 First day of Christmas break

January

3 Students and staff return to school

February

18 No students or staff, midwinter break
21 No students or staff, midwinter break

April

4 Spring Break Week, April 4 to 8

June

3 Graduation
9 All students, half day
10 All students, half day, last day

THE OTSEGO ATHLETIC BOOSTERS PRESENTS THE
**2ND ANNUAL
FALL SPORTS CARNIVAL**

BULLDOG STADIUM

Sunday, August 22, 2010 - 2:00-5:00p.m.

FREE ADMISSION!



**Fun! Food!
Games
for all Ages!**

Dunk Tank
3 Chances for \$1.00

**FREE
Carnival
Games!**

Everyone's A Winner!

Bounce House
\$1.00 - 3-4 min. turn

**Bring the Whole
Family and Meet
our Fall Sports Teams
@ 2:00 p.m.**

**Purchase Your
Family Sports Pass!**

**Bring Your Camera
For Photo Ops!**



50/50
Raffle
drawing at
4:00 p.m.

**Food Combos
\$4.00-\$5.00**

Includes your choice of - BBQ Chicken
Sandwich, Hamburger, Brat. or Hot Dog,
w/Chips, Cookies and Drink.



Information Please is published 4 times per year with printing by Premiere Printing Corporation, 720 N. Main St., Plainwell. It is distributed to all residents of the Otsego Public School district. Residents in the district who live north of "F" Avenue receive their newsletter via the Community Shopper's Guide. Residents who live south of "F" Avenue and residents with Allegan and Gobles addresses receive their newsletter via the U.S. Post Office. Changes of address, suggestions, questions and contributed articles should be signed and sent to Dawn Kemp, Information Please editor, Otsego Public Schools, 400 Sherwood Street, Otsego, MI 49078-1281. For more information, call Dawn at (269) 692-6073.

The Otsego Public School District complies with all federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, or physical or mental handicap. Upon request to the Director of Operations, the District shall make reasonable accommodations for a disabled person to participate in any building activity.