

Community Connections



School District of Oostburg Newsletter

The mission of the School District of Oostburg is to prepare students to be productive and positive contributors to our society and the world.

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Oostburg
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“There is no
substitute for
excellence.”

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Big East Conference Honors Concert

The Big East conference hosted its second honors band and choir concert on January 5, 2017. There were 100 students participating in the concert from the 15 Big East conference member schools. Oostburg students were nominated to participate by their high school directors, Rebekah Mueller and Jenna Howell. Each group had two days of rehearsal. The first took place at Manitowoc Lutheran High School, and the second was at the performance site - the Manitowoc Civic Center.

The Choral Director was Dr. Zack Durlam, the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Durlam related well to the students by modeling vocal techniques as well as adding a bit of humor to his lessons. He taught a vocal technique master class to the choir students.

The band was led by Dr. Charlie Mengheni who is the Director of bands at VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. The students really enjoyed working with Dr. Mengheni, and they learned a lot! He gave a master class on musicality.

The concert was a huge success! Oostburg was fortunate to have the following students selected to participate in this event:

Choir participants: Sopranos - Claire Hoffmann and Angie Wieskamp; Altos - Marissa Herro and Jade Paswaters; Tenors - Nick Schinner, Addison VanEss, Joshua Ludens, Isaac Otte and Tadeo Maier; Basses - Willem Swart and Drake Harmeling.

Band participants: Clarinet - Marissa Herro, Mikayla Burmesch, and Joe Minneci; Bassoon - Morgan Dulmes; Alto Sax - Claire Hoffmann; Trumpet - Nick Schinner and Julia Kwiatkowski;



Oostburg High School's Representatives for the January 2017 Honors Band and Choir with OHS Directors Mrs. Howell and Mrs. Mueller

French Horn - Ben Loomans; Trombone - Addison Van Ess and Angela Wieskamp; Percussion - Jake Daane.

Dr. Mengheni chose the following songs for the band portion of the concert: *Declaration Overture*, *When Spring Rains Begin To Fall*, *Allied Honor*, *Simple Gifts: Four Shaker Songs*, and highlights from the *Music Man*.

The choral repertoire, selected by Dr. Durlam, included: *Dies Irae* from *Requiem*, *She Walks in Beauty*, *Finnan Haddie* (men's feature), *No Time* (women's feature) and *Dubula*.

Congratulations to all who participated.



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From the Superintendent's Desk

Greetings!

During their November meeting our school board unanimously approved our 2017-18 school calendar. This calendar follows a similar format to recent years including a full week for both Christmas and spring break, along with early release one time per month. The calendar can be viewed on our website at: <https://goo.gl/VHzQY4>.



Kevin Bruggink

School calendars have been a common topic for discussion, particularly in recent weeks, as Senator Alberta Darling and Representative Jim Ott have proposed legislation which would allow local school districts to determine their start date. Several years ago Governor Tommy Thompson, under pressure from the tourism industry, included a provision in the state budget which stripped local districts of the right to set their start date. Since that time, local school boards and officials have been advocating for a repeal of that law, which now prevents schools from starting prior to September 1st.

There are several specific reasons that school districts feel strongly about local control in setting their calendar. First and foremost, student learning is negatively impacted by statutory requirements to start school after September 1st. Many state and national assessments take place in early to mid-May including all Advanced Placement exams. As a former Advanced Placement Biology teacher, I know first hand that an extra week of instruction prior to the exam was critical to student achievement. The same thing can be said about other significant benchmark assessments such as the state report card's Forward exam and the ACT. In a competitive school environment where private schools do not have to follow the start date legislation, our students are at an academic disadvantage when considering days of instruction prior to comparative accountability tests.

Requiring schools to start after September 1st also has financial implications for public school districts. Since private schools don't have this requirement they universally choose to start the week before September 1st. Public school districts are required to provide and pay for transportation of all private school students in their districts. This means that when Oostburg Christian (OCS) and Sheboygan Christian Schools (SCCS) set their calendars to begin in late August our taxpayers are covering the cost for bus routes which must run to pick up a very small number of students, even though public school cannot be in session. We have worked to align calendars with both OCS and SCCS, but they recognize the educational benefits of beginning school prior to September 1st and have therefore maintained their start during the last week in August.

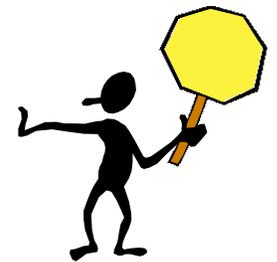
Additionally, when schools are forced to extend their calendar into the second week of June our students are at a competitive disadvantage in finding summer jobs. Students are typically energized and engaged in early Fall. A large majority of our students are already back on campus for fall sports and other extracurricular activities, and beginning school during that time simply makes sense for them. As we reach June, students are ready for their summer break and less engaged in their learning experiences. We have also heard from our area youth pastors that it can be difficult for them to find an early summer week prior to July 4th for mission and youth retreat events. Giving them the extra flexibility of scheduling during the first week in June is another positive.

Senator Luther Olsen, chairman of the Senate Education committee, represents Wisconsin Dells. That has him positioned firmly against this legislation. This is unfortunate as we simply do not feel the state of Wisconsin should be dictating when Oostburg Public Schools can begin their academic year.

Kevin Bruggink

Crossing Guards

During the week of January 16th, the state of Wisconsin honored crossing guards. In Oostburg, our crossing guards play a crucial role in ensuring that students get to and from school safely. These crossing guards provide a valuable service by stopping traffic, helping kids get across busy streets, and making sure the environment is safe for students.



The crossing guards for Oostburg School district are **Mark Awe, Jen DeMaster, Pat Koeser, Scott Navis, and Kathleen Rose**. Our crossing guards are out before and after school each day, regardless of the conditions and temperatures. In addition to being a crossing guard, Mark Awe also helps to supervise Kindergarten and 1st grade lunch and recess times. Oostburg students created some cards and letters to share their appreciation for our crossing guards during this special week.

OSD Students in TYA

Congratulations to Oostburg students **Josh Ludens, Jade Paswaters, Bella Szyman, and CeCe Szyman** for their fantastic performance in Theater for Young Audiences production of *The Little Mermaid*. Theater For Young Audiences is a non-profit theater company serving Sheboygan county schools and families since 1989. Over the years, many Oostburg students have participated in TYA as they entertain with top quality shows. Oostburg's theater department continues to build on the talents our students bring to the stage, and it is exciting when those talents provide opportunities with outside organizations as well. Great job Josh, Jade, Bella and CeCe!

*To left, Students practice for their TYA production of *The Little Mermaid*.*

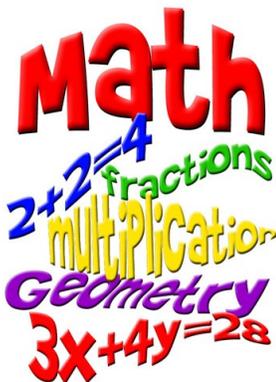


Annual PTO Fun Fair Coming to OES



Plan now to attend the annual Fun Fair. The Fair will be held **February 17, 2017, from 5pm - 8 pm at OES**. Come and enjoy games for all ages, prizes, lots of great raffle baskets, a silent auction, face painting, tattoos, a bounce house and more. Tickets can be purchased before the fair - 5 tickets for \$1.00, or at the fair - 4 tickets for \$1.00. To purchase tickets, send checks payable to "Oostburg PTO, Inc." in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and homeroom. Tickets are good for games, food and raffle baskets only.

Money raised will be used to help provide classroom supplies and enhance teacher resources through PTO mini-grants. Attend the Fair and help the PTO support the staff and students of the Oostburg School District.



Lakeland University Math Meet

On November 7, 2016, forty students from Oostburg Middle School participated in the Lakeland University Math Competition. Oostburg Middle School had four teams of ten who competed against other schools from Sheboygan County. Sixth Grader **Karli Swart** was the top scorer from Oostburg. The students had a blast hanging out with other students from different schools and practicing their math skills.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in this competition.



Karli Swart

No person may be denied admission to any public school in the district or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, co-curricular, student services, recreational or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, handicap or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability in the educational programs or activities operated by the School District of Oostburg.

Destiny - More than Books

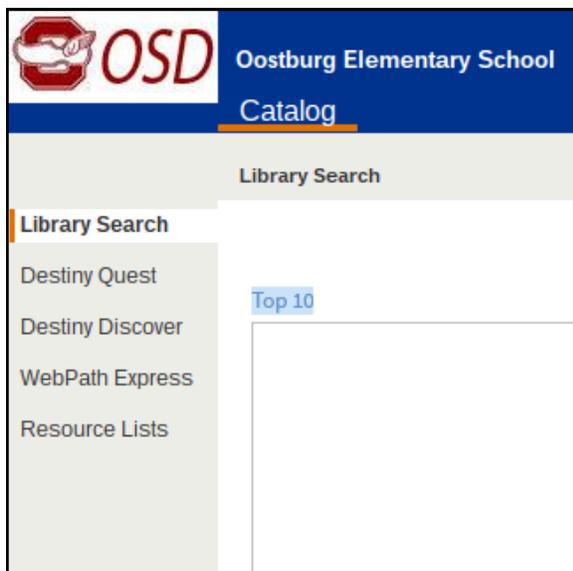
Oostburg School District uses Destiny as our online library catalog. Destiny is used on a daily basis for students to search and locate library books. However, Destiny offers more resources than just books for our students.

It can be challenging for students and parents alike to navigate through so many websites when doing an internet search. How do you know which ones are appropriate for your children? Destiny has several features that the district subscribes to and that can take some of the guessing out of finding a useful and relevant website for a school project or homework.

“WebPath Express is a safe, credible and fun educational search tool for PreK-12 students and teachers. WebPath Express integrates more than 85,000 trustworthy, relevant websites into your library catalog while filtering out questionable and irrelevant content.” (taken from <http://www.follettlearning.com/technology/products/library-management-system/webpath-express>)



Mrs. Janna Heinen



Another resource offered through Destiny is Destiny Discover. This resource combines both the Library Catalog and WebPath Express functions of the catalog. In addition, it also offers additional resources that range from videos to websites to ebooks.

The next time your child has a project or homework to complete and needs some resources, try Destiny which can be found on the Oostburg School District's website under Student Resources or go to destiny.oostburg.k12.wi.us. If you have any questions, please contact me at 564-2392, ext. 3300 or at janna.heinen@oostburg.k12.wi.us.

To left: A screen shot of the OES Library Resource page highlighting Destiny Search Tools.

Youth Apprenticeship Participation Up From Last Year

Oostburg juniors or seniors are provided an opportunity to further explore their careers of interest by participating in a one or two year youth apprenticeship program provided by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. These opportunities immerse students in career related workplace standards while students work with a mentor at a local business. Students also receive high school credit, free credit opportunities from Lakeshore Technical College of up to three college credits per semester, and a paycheck for the work they complete. Career pathways exist in many career fields so students have a variety of options to explore. OHS currently has 27 students participating in this program with placements ranging from IT-Software to Industrial Maintenance and everything in between.

For additional information, check out LTC's YA page at: <http://www.gotoltc.edu/future-students/high-school/ya/>. If anyone has any questions about this program, please contact either Mr. Poppe or Mr. Cole.

OHS Student/Parent Information

ACT Test Dates: All Juniors will take the ACT at OHS during school hours on February 28, 2017. We are encouraging all other interested students to take the test in April. Registration for the April 8 test date can be completed until March 3, 2017. The next scheduled ACT test date is June 10. Please register before May 5, 2017. Registration can be completed online at: www.actstudent.org. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Cole in the HS Guidance Office at 564-2346 x1007 or via email at josh.cole@oostburg.k12.wi.us

Scholarship information for seniors can be found on the Guidance Weebly page under the scholarship tab at <http://oostburghighschoolcounseling.weebly.com/>.

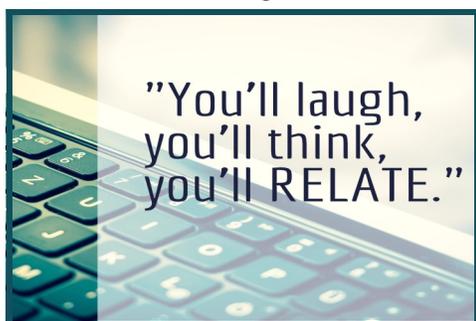
Screenagers - A Special Screening at OSD

Did you know:

- 77% of parents feel their child gets distracted by his or her devices and doesn't pay attention when they are together?
- One-third of parents and teens say they argue with each other on a daily basis about device use?
- Nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ of teens do not think watching television, texting, or using social media while doing homework has an impact on them?
- Kids spend an average of 6.5 hours a day on screens, not including classroom time?

Source: Common Sense Media (commonsensemedia.org)

Oostburg School District is excited to host a special community screening of *Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age*, a documentary about the biggest parenting issue of our time. Families are invited to watch this eye-opening, thought-provoking film and take part in a brief discussion afterward about important topics it raises. These include: social media and video games, brain science, school use, family action items, and solutions for finding balance. Parents will leave feeling more confident and equipped to establish balance around screen time. The filmmaker has provided many tools and resources (such as apps and contracts) to help us address our tween or teen's media use head-on.



“SCREENAGERS probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including the director's own, and depicts messy struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Through poignant, and unexpectedly funny stories, along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists, SCREENAGERS reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance.” (<http://www.screenagersmovie.com>)

The overall goal is to help everyone become more conscious of when and why we use technology and how it affects self-esteem, social skills, relationships, work, academics and more. A prevailing message is that families can work together to build trust and understanding so behaviors can change.

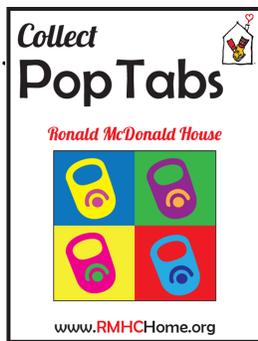
This special screening will take place on Monday, **February 20 from 6:00-8:00pm** in the High School Auditorium. **Tickets are free** of charge, but we ask that **you reserve them in advance** through the website bit.ly/ScreenagersOSD. With your online ticket reservation you will receive a free popcorn and soda. Childcare is available for children 10 and under - please make that request online. Tweens and teens are welcome to join in as well. All middle school students will be viewing and discussing this documentary in school later that week. High school students are encouraged to attend the evening screening.

We look forward to seeing you at this exciting and important event. Please invite your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. For more information, including the movie trailer and ticket reservation, please visit bit.ly/ScreenagersOSD.



Bits & Bytes

- For school closing info you will be contacted by the district's **Automated Phone** system.
- Monthly school calendars are available on the Oostburg District website at <http://oostburg.k12.wi.us/#calendar>
- Check out past newsletters at <http://oostburg.k12.wi.us/resources/district-newsletters/>
- Fitness Center hours: Check the current hours and available programs on the District website: <http://oostburg.k12.wi.us/community-connections/#fitnesscenter>
- We invite your comments and suggestions. E-mail your thoughts to: Karen.Leitzke@oostburg.k12.wi.us.



Please Help Us Save...

- ~ Campbell's Soup Labels
- ~ Box Tops for Education
- ~ Soda Tabs

Drop off locations at Oostburg State Bank, Mentink's Piggly Wiggly or any of the Oostburg schools.

Community Connections is published for the residents of the School District of Oostburg.
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 Karen Leitzke
 564-6514

Coming Up...

February	15	School Board Meeting, 6pm
	17	PTO Fun Fair, 5pm @ OES
	24	No School - In-service Day
March	7	OES Celebration of the Arts
	8	District Early Release
	10	Solo & Ensemble @ Cedar Grove
	11	Solo & Ensemble @ Cedar Grove
	15	School Board Meeting, 6pm
	16 - 18	Spring Play
	18	Destination Imagination Regional
April	23	End of 3rd Quarter
	24	District Early Release
	27 - 31	Spring Vacation
	3	School Resumes
	12	District Early Release
	14	No School - Good Friday
	19	School Board Meeting, 6pm
28	No School - In-service Day	



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Local Postal Patron