

Habitat Unit Study in PreK

Pre-K classes spent several week studying habitats, including the woodland, farm, desert, ocean, and pond. During the course of the unit they learned about the plants and animals that live and grow in each habitat through a series of books, videos, and presentations. Students also had the opportunity to make models, design collages, write reports, and enjoy craft projects that coincided with each habitat. The ocean was everyone's favorite habitat to learn about! The class spent extra time learning about individual ocean animals such as sharks, dolphins, whales, and octopuses. In addition, they enjoyed playing in a sand and water sensory box and touching several ocean objects such as conch shells, sea stars, sand dollars, sea biscuits, coral, and barnacles.



Lucas Buck & Carson Smith



Natalie & Molly Cook



Rosaleigh Nagell
Jacob Herringshaw



Leah Murray
Emma Pierce



Literacy Department
School of Education

SUNY Cortland Summer Literacy Tutoring Program 2021

April 19, 2021

Dear Families, Teachers and Administrators:

This year the SUNY Cortland Summer Literacy Tutoring Program, which is part of LIT 693: Literacy Capstone and Practicum, will be held online.

We are recruiting both elementary school students (entering 1st grade to entering 5th grade) during a one-hour time slot between 8 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m. as well as middle and high school students (entering 6th grade to entering 12th grade) during a one-hour time slot between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The SUNY Cortland Summer Literacy Tutoring Program will begin Monday, June 28, 2021 and will end Thursday, July 29, 2021.

Because the State Education Department of New York requires that graduate students fulfill a specified number of tutoring hours, all children recommended for the SUNY Cortland Summer Literacy Tutoring Program must be able to attend all tutoring sessions and may be recorded for the purpose of graduate student supervision only. Technology and reliable internet access must be provided. There is no fee for this program.

Please share this information widely. If you know of interested families, please have them return the Registration and Family Permission Form by June 1, 2021. Here are the links to the forms.

- Elementary Form (entering 1st grade to entering 5th grade): https://sunycortland.formstack.com/forms/2021literacytutoring_elementary
- Middle/High School Form: (entering 6th grade to entering 12th grade): https://sunycortland.formstack.com/forms/2021literacytutoring_middlehigh
- Program Website: <https://www2.cortland.edu/summer-literacy>

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Katie Silvestri at katarina.silvestri@cortland.edu.

Sincerely,

Katie Silvestri, Ph.D.
Coordinator, SUNY Cortland Literacy Tutoring Program

Michele Gonzalez, Ph.D.
Chair, Literacy Department, SUNY Cortland

Cornish Hall, Room 1303 o P.O. Box 2000 o Cortland, NY 13045-0900
Phone: (607) 753-2705 o Fax: (607) 758-5006

COMING SOON ART EXHIBITION AT OESJ



TUESDAY MAY 18, 2021

The art exhibition gives OESJ an opportunity to show the creativity of our students in grades K-6. Many students have been busy at school working on their artwork, however, if your student is a remote learner and would like their artwork represented, please have them drop it off in the office by May 12, 2021. The artwork should have your child's name on the back along with the teacher's name and grade level. If your child has taken some artwork home, they would also like represented you could also send them in. Please do not send in drawings or paintings larger than 8 1/2 x 11 as we do not have the room to display larger pieces. The exhibition will take place during the School District and Board of Education Vote from 12pm – 8 pm. We look forward to seeing you!

If you have any questions please contact Mr. Cannon at kevin.cannon@oesj.org or lori.vanalstyne@oesj.org. You can also call the school at (518) 568 - 2014

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 5/3-5/14 - Math State Exams (4-6)
- 5/11 - Voter Registration (Elem. School Lobby)
- 5/18 - Annual Budget Vote/BOE Election - 12 - 8 pm - Jr/Sr High School/Elem. Auditorium
- 5/31 - No School - Memorial Day
- 5/27 - 6/4 - Virtual Book Fair
- 6/2 - BOE Meeting - Jr/Sr High School Auditorium—6pm

PLEASE DO NOT
LEAVE VEHICLES
IDLING ON SCHOOL
PROPERTY!

March Wolf Awards

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Kindergarten: William McGuire, Abby Matis, Allana Brooker

1st Grade: Lucas Barnes, Blake Battisti, Levi Carpenter, Richard Miller

2nd Grade: Frankie Heiser, Hunter Reese, Emma Higgins, Autumn Hugel, Bethany Weaver

3rd Grade: Ryan Clifford, Elliana Handy

4th Grade: Caleb Douglass, Jessica Everette, Mya Countryman, Abigail Leibowitz,

5th Grade: Callie Gray, Isabella Alvarez, Audrina Polidori

6th Grade: Chase Eakin, Sophie Kadle, Katelyn Smith, Hailey Dickson

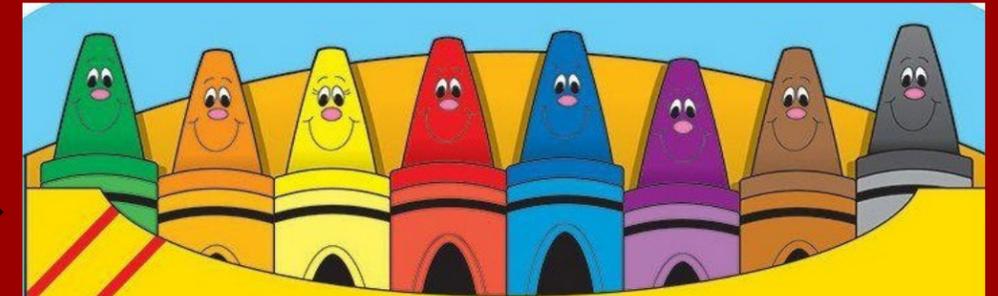


The Howler

OESJ Elementary



APRIL 2021



REMINDER: PK/K SIGN UPS ARE GOING ON NOW @ OESJ!!!

If you have a child that will be 4 years old by December 1st 2021, please call Julie Taylor at 568-2014 to sign them up for prekindergarten. A completed packet will need to be returned to Julie Taylor by Tuesday, May 25th in order for your child to be scheduled for screening.

If you have a child that will be 5 years old by December 1st 2021, please call Julie at 568-2014 to sign them up for Kindergarten. A completed packet will need to be returned to Julie Taylor by Monday, May 3rd in order for your child to be scheduled for screening.

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A message from the SCHOOL NURSE

It's that time of year when we start thinking of the upcoming school year. Here are some things to consider when scheduling doctor appointments for your child: Physicals are required for student in PreK, Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grades. Physicals are also required for students enrolling in the district for the first time and for those participating in sports at OESJ. There

is a physical form that is required to be completed, please contact the health office for the form.

Immunizations are required to enroll in school. Students in PreK, Kindergarten, 6th, 7th and 12th grades have specific immunization requirements. You will receive a letter regarding your child's immunizations that are required for the start of the 2021-2022 school year prior to summer break. If you have any questions feel free to contact the health office.

Just a reminder, if your child is absent from school, please contact the health office to inform us of your child's absence. Remember to send in a note when they return to school regarding the absence to make it an excused absence. If your child goes to an appointment to the dentist, doctor or other provider, please ask for a note from their office to send into school, as their excused absent note.



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Mrs. Hazzard's Kindergarten class enjoying crazy hair/sunglasses day and bright colors/tie-dye day with silly eggs!

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART - 2021

During the month of March, students at OESJ Elementary participated in the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser to benefit the American Heart Association. Students jumped during P.E. class and gathered donations from friends and family outside of school. The students at OESJ Elementary are proud to announce that they raised **7,758.53!!!!** Coach Hart and Coach Barnes are so proud of all of the students that participated in this very important fundraiser. Students learned the importance of community service and joined together in helping other kids with special hearts. They learn how to develop heart-healthy habits while being physically active, while they learn jump rope skills they can use for the rest of their lives.



OESJ Elementary SRO Tom Oare agreed to be "slimed" if the students reached their goal of raising \$3000.00. They more than doubled that goal and Officer Oare kept his word!



Winners of the Jump Rope for Heart Competitions

- Overall Jump Rope Champion - Myles Hayes
- Most Money Raised - Caleb Douglass (\$1231.00)
- Kindergarten Jump Rope Champion - Ava Miner
- 1st Grade Jump Rope Champion - Adriana Elwood
- 2nd Grade Jump Rope Champion - Frankie Heiser
- 3rd Grade Jump Rope Champion - Elliana Handy
- 4th Grade Jump Rope Champion - Dylan Gray
- 5th Grade Jump Rope Champion - Clara Wichman
- 6th Grade Jump Rope Champion - Myles Hayes
- Longest Jump Roper K-2 - Frankie Heiser
- Longest Jump Roper 3- 6 - Myles Hayes
- Most Improved Jump Ropers - Frankie Heiser & Adriana Elwood



I took the challenge to Be Kind!

Fourth grade student, Caleb Douglass raised \$1,231.00! Great job Caleb!

Prevention Corner

By Noelle Smrtic, Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery Counties

Every week at the OESJ Elementary School the students in fifth grade attend a Social and Emotional Learning Class. What is Social and Emotional Learning and why is it important? Social and emotional skills are the tools both children and adults use in social interactions and to manage every day emotional responses. Things like social awareness, setting goals, and taking responsibility for oneself are important for maintaining healthy relationships

Mrs. Noelle Smrtic, a counselor at school, leads the class and provides instruction and experiences for our students to acquire the knowledge, attitudes and skills that will help students to better understand their thoughts and emotions. With knowledge and skills, our students will be able to manage stress, recognize how thoughts, feelings and actions are interconnected, and have understanding and empathy of others around them. This will help them to make responsible decisions to build positive relationships with others. Stronger social skills have proven to enhance confidence within oneself, improve academic performance, show less behavioral problems, and promote positive social behavior.

In class, Ms. Smrtic has shared different techniques for students to store in their "toolbox" for when they encounter different situations where emotions and feelings may present conflict. Meditation is one technique students practiced to increase calmness and physical relaxation. Students also have learned to do grounding exercises using the five senses. Grounding is used to help bring your thoughts back to the present moment. Students practiced grounding by listing five things they see, four things they hear, three things to touch, two things they can smell, and one thing they can taste. Another technique students can use is called progressive muscle relaxation. Students have learned by tensing and relaxing their muscles they can relax their emotions. All of these exercises are known to release endorphins in the brain. This natural chemical will help our body to release the stress and anxiety that is being experienced. All techniques can be used by students at any place or any time they are experiencing a strong negative feeling.

Our fifth grade students can be shy about sharing some of their thoughts and emotions but are well aware of when these are impacting their life. When faced with a challenge, students can remember Mrs. Smrtic's advice, "Changing thoughts can change feelings. Get rid of those "stinky thoughts"! Going forward, our hope is



that our students are more self-aware of their own emotions. Students will be equipped with tools that help provide and establish a positive mindset and healthy, rewarding relationships.

Third Graders Study Japan

The three third grade classes just completed a study of Japan. They began with the story The Kamishibai Man, by Allen Say. Along with this, they incorporated social studies. They learned about the continents, the geography, customs, cultures and other important facts about Japan. One of the topics they really liked was Mount Fuji. They were able to write a haiku poem and print it out in technology, fold an origami wolf, make a paper lantern and make a carp kite. One of their favorite experiences was the Tea Ceremony. The students got to attend a tea ceremony where they ate white rice and fried noodles. They got to try using chopsticks to eat. They also got to drink green tea. When entering the tea garden, they had to remove their shoes, enter quietly, sit cross-legged by the low tables and enjoy the ceremony. To complete the unit the students enjoyed watching Raya and the Last Dragon. This was a wonderful and exciting experience for the students.

Orange Tulips

Color of the sun
Big field of orange tulips
Brighten up the grass.

By Keonie Lamphere

