

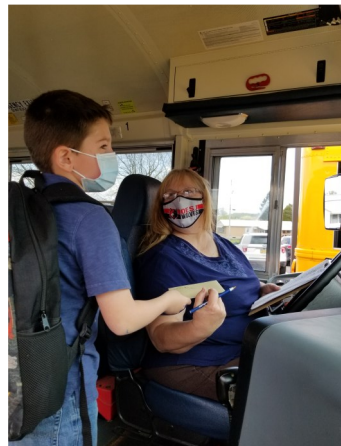
### Third Graders Raised Butterflies

The Third grade classes studied how to raise Painted Lady butterflies. The classes received butterfly larvae and watched them grow. The larvae grow very fast. They like to eat thistle, mallow, hollyhock and sunflowers. The larvae will molt several times as they grow. The Painted Lady larvae will attach to things and form a “J” shape. Then, they will enclose themselves into a pupa called a chrysalis. After about 7-10 days they will



emerge as butterflies. Their wings will be wet a few hours before fly. This is when you feed them sugar fresh fruit. Each their butterflies in at school. The students had a great time doing this. Some students even got to let a butterfly land on their hand. We got to witness the complete life cycle from the larvae to chrysalis to butterfly to new eggs and finished with new larvae. What an amazing educational experience for everyone!

The second graders worked on letter writing in May. They decided to write thank you notes to their friends, family, and some of the staff in our building. The students brainstormed, wrote, illustrated and distributed their thank you notes to their bus drivers, nursing staff, cafeteria ladies, friends and families!



The 6th grade teachers and students participated in a two-day event in Nature’s classroom. The event took place on the fields at the OESJ Elementary School. Students engaged in the dissection of a small shark, built their own parachutes to launch an egg and learned about the natural environment in the nearby woods. Classes also learned how to work as a team to gain a higher respect for each other. On another day students had the opportunity to spend time outside with friends and peers by building relationships through a variety of outdoor activities.



### Nurse’s Notes

Another school year is coming to an end. Preparations are being made for the start of the upcoming school year. Here are some things to consider when scheduling doctor appointments for your child(ren) this summer: Physicals are required for student in PreK, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. Physicals are also required for students enrolling in the district for the first time and for those participating in sports at OESJ. Letters will be sent home in the next week or two, if your child(ren) need a physical on file. A physical form will be included that is required to be used for recording the physical results by your child’s healthcare provider, unless they are using an electronic version of the 2020 form. Immunizations are required to enroll in school. Students in PreK, Kindergarten, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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 in the next week or two. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the health office at 518-568-2014 extension 2136.

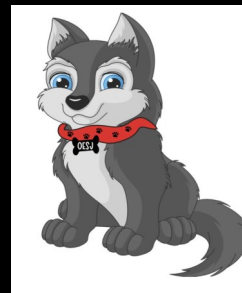
With the summer break upon us, here are a few tips to help keep your child(ren) safe this summer:

- If your child(ren) are going to be outside for extended periods of time, don’t forget to apply sunblock to prevent sunburn.
- When your child(ren) have been outside playing, remember to check them for ticks when they come inside.
- Stay hydrated. Encourage your child(ren) to drink plenty of water everyday, especially when the weather is hot and humid.
- Continue to wash hands to keep the germs away.
- Remind your child(ren) of safety measures when near a road and riding their bicycles.

Enjoy the summer. We look forward to seeing the children in the fall.

# The Howler

## OESJ Elementary



MAY/JUNE 2021

To All OESJ Elementary Families:

In August of 2013, I was offered the opportunity to work my “dream job” at OESJ Elementary School. Back then, there were many challenges facing our brand new district. With a lot of sweat and teamwork, we worked through those challenges and created a culture conducive to learning in order to effectively educate your children. Although the particular challenges back then were nothing compared to the challenges of the last year and a half, they helped lay the groundwork for what we were facing with Covid-19. The pandemic has taken its toll on the education of our children and our life as we know it. It has been a long, hard road but we have survived and hopefully, we will be smarter, safer and stronger for it. We owe our families and children our gratitude for working with us and supporting us and each other through a very difficult time.

Having said that, and after much reflection and serious thought, I will be retiring from education effective September 1, 2021. It’s time to pass the baton to the person lucky enough to be the next principal at OESJ Elementary. I’ve been fortunate to have one of the best teaching staffs in the area so I know I leave the children in good hands. It has been a privilege to serve our families and especially our children. I thank you for all your support over the years. I will look back fondly at my time at OESJ and wish you all the best in the years ahead.

Mrs. Kawryga

### April Wolf Awards

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

**Kindergarten:** Callie Smith, Channing Logan-Hazzard, Anthony Compton

**1st Grade:** Chloe Cogan, Harleen Kelly-Quinzel, Carlo Nicotera, Riley Powell

**2nd Grade:** Brayden Bormann, Audrey-Rose Shaut, Wesley Herringshaw

**3rd Grade:** Kahlan Crozier, Aleah Mastenbrook

**4th Grade:** Adam Rachon, Joseph Youker, Patrick Schoff, Brady Brown, Jonathon Miller

**5th Grade:** Raymond Charboneau, Alyvia Richards

**6th Grade:** Andrea Thayer, Hunter Comstock



### Prevention Education Corner HAPPY SUMMER!!

It has been an interesting school year to say the least! I am happy to report that the students in the OESJ Elementary building haven't missed a beat when it comes to social emotional learning. All students K-6 have wrapped up the Second Step program. This evidenced based program focuses on a few key areas of social emotional learning, including skills for learning, empathy training, emotion management, problem solving, and playing fair. Grades 4, 5, and 6 also learned about bullying. It is important to celebrate each individual child and their success using the skills they have learned. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the students with a job very well done!

To our departing 6th graders... please remember to listen with a kind heart, consider others perspectives and point of view, and of course wait until you are calm before you address others in an uncomfortable situation! You all have personal power, choose to use it to make a difference. Good luck! Sincerely, Mrs. Smrtic



The sixth grade students have been learning about ancient Egypt in Mrs. Weakley's Social Studies class. We learned about the Nile River, important pharaohs like Ramses II, the Great Pyramids, the Sphinx, King Tut, gods and goddesses, hieroglyphics, mummies and what the ancient Egyptians ate and drank. We learned how to write our names in hieroglyphics. We made posters showing the eight steps of mummification. We made and painted papier-mâché mummies. For extra credit, some of us even made pyramids! Below are some fun facts about the ancient Egyptians:

The Nile River is the longest river in the world. It is 4,132 miles long. Most boys went to school from age 5-15 then went to help their fathers in the field. Girls were expected to stay home and learn housekeeping skills from their mothers. King Tut was the youngest king at age nine. The number five was considered bad luck.



The 6<sup>th</sup> graders are learning what life was like in Ancient Egypt. Mrs. Vanalstyne & Ms. Baker's class joined in by dressing up as Ancient Egyptian Characters. Pictured is Mrs. Baker as Queen Nefertiti, Zackary Zea as King Tut, and Thompson Souza as a King from Upper Egypt.



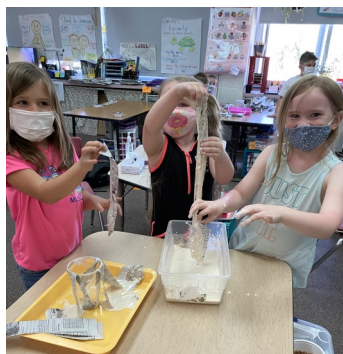
Congratulations to all of the students who participated in the NYSSMA Solo Festival this year. Students had to prepare a solo, videotape themselves performing, and send it in to be scored by a judge. All participants scored excellent or outstanding! Congratulations to the following students; Thomas Weaver, Jackson Polidori, Brooke Boyer, Kate-lynn Smith, Peyton Frere, and Makena Richards.



## We are Scientists!

The first grade classes just finished a unit called The History of our Earth. During that unit, we learned about geologists and paleontologists. We also learned about the importance of heat, pressure, and time. These three have an amazing impact inside and on the surface of our Earth. As a culminating project, each student created a mountain from clay. Then, created a magma chamber so that a volcano could erupt. We had a blast when they erupted!

We really enjoyed our Virtual Field Trip to see the AWESOME Dinosaur Hall in the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles. Our STEM challenge was to become a paleontologist and dig for dino bones. We used chocolate chip cookies as our rocks. Each student had to uncover as many chocolate chip "bones" as possible without breaking them. We learned that it is hard work being a paleontologist. You need to be careful and patient.

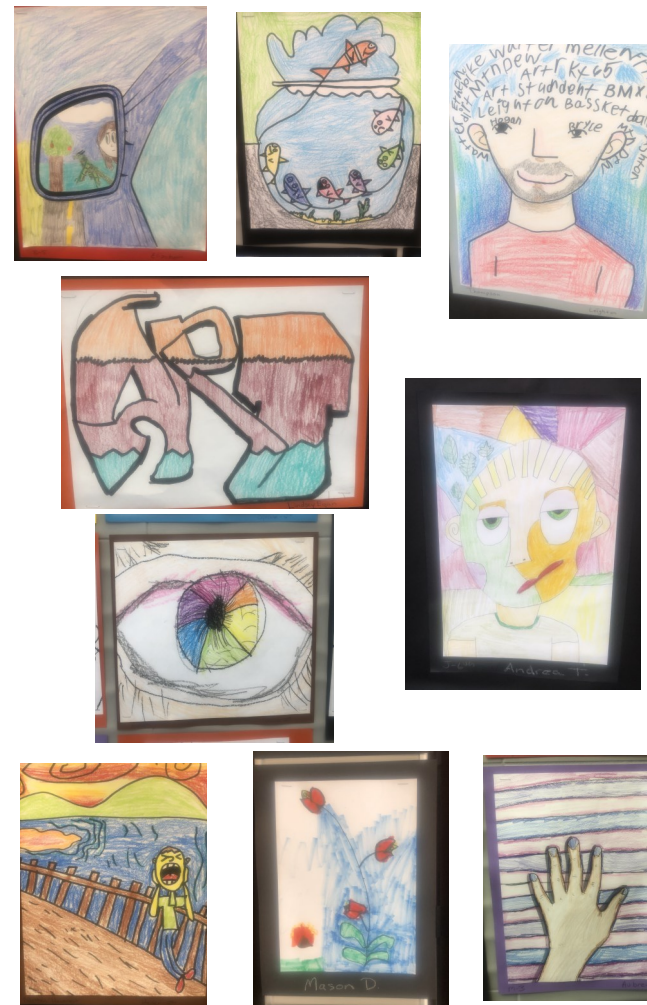


## Fifth-Graders Choose Kind

Throughout the past few weeks, the fifth graders have been reading the novel Wonder by R.J. Palacio in their ELA class. The story is about a boy named Auggie that is born with a facial difference that has prevented him from going to school--until now. The novel tells the story of his journey in fifth grade through his perspective as well as from his sister and a few of his classmates. By having the chance to read different perspectives, the fifth graders at OESJ have been able to have great conversations about connections and lessons that they have learned while reading. The reading of Wonder is an annual tradition in fifth grade and at the conclusion of reading the novel the entire grade gathers to watch the film. This year we had the added bonus of getting to view the film in our new auditorium!

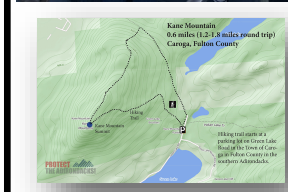


The OESJ Elementary Art Exhibition was a success. Students should be very proud of the work they accomplished. They showed a variety of styles and mediums displaying their talents. Images included Picasso's abstract drawings, the artistic conventions of symbolism through graffiti, depth, object distance and their own creativity. Examples of student's artwork can be seen below.



## 6th Grade Hikes Kane Mountain

Kane Mountain is a mountain in the Adirondack Mountains region of New York. It is located north of the Hamlet of Canada Lake. The Kane Mountain Fire Observation Station is located on top of the mountain.



## Mr. Q and Miss U are Married!

Mrs. Yoder's Pre-K classes would like to announce the nuptials of Letter People, Mr. Q and Miss U. When Mr. Q arrived at school he was so quiet that he never made a sound, let alone spoke to the kids. No one could figure out why he would not talk! Finally, the children realized that Mr. Q needed a friend by his side to help him make a sound. Miss U volunteered for the job! In order to ensure that Mr. Q always has Miss U by his side in all of his words, the Letter People decided to get married. With the assistance of the class, the letters promised to stick together like quicksand through reading and spelling. Mr. Q promised to lead Miss U in all of his words and Miss U promised to always be by Mr. Q's side. In the AM class Miss U was assisted by Natalie Cook and accompanied by bridesmaids Molly Cook, Sydney Lang and Harper Brown, as well as flower girl Chloe Rumrill. Mr. Q was assisted by Caleb Nicotera and accompanied by groomsmen Lucas Buck, Carson Smith, and Thatcher Hogan. In the PM class Miss U was assisted by Kinley Whiteman and accompanied by bridesmaids Leah Murray and Emma Pierce, as well as flower girl Aaliyah Servidone. Mr. Q was assisted by Jacob Herringshaw.

