Dear Parents/Guardians,

It’s hard to believe that half the school year is over. The second semester began on Monday February 1st. Report cards will be mailed to students in grades 3-10 beginning February 12th. Students in the primary grades will take home their report cards on February 12th. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Tuesday February 16th from 7:50 a.m. until 11:20 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. Teacher lunches will be from 11:20 – 12:30 p.m. No conferences will be scheduled during this time.

The Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle sponsored by the Olmsted Parent Teacher Organization is this Friday February 5th from 4 until 7 p.m. at the Olmsted Middle and High School. Tickets are $6.00 pre-sale and $7.00 at the door. Those who purchase pre-sale tickets will have your names registered at the door. No tickets will be sent home. wide variety of gift baskets will be on display and raffled off at the end of the evening. Tickets are 25 cents each or 5 for $1.00. Also, the Spring Candy Sale sponsored by OPTO is in its third week. Each student was given a packet on January 20th. The sale ends February 12th. Please support these endeavors if you can. OPTO does many great things in support of the school program and all children benefit from the funds raised.

Kudos to students, teachers, and staff at both Olmsted sites for their efforts in raising funds for Haiti.

A list of upcoming events for the months of February and March is found below:

February 5th…………………………Spaghetti Dinner  4-7 p.m.at OMHS
February 12th………………………………Candy Sale ends
February 15th…………………………President’s Day (No School)
February 16th…………………………Parent Teacher Conferences
February 18th ...................... Excellence Assembly  Grades - PK – 2, 9:00 a.m.
February 19th ..........................Excellence Assembly  Grades 3 & 4, 9:00 a.m.
March 10th ..............................Early Release Day
March 29th-31st .........................Music in Our Schools

Sincerely,

Michael Gruber
Principal
Hello Olmsted Families!

I’m sure a lot of you have noticed by now that the olmstedschool.org website is no longer available. We have been working on a new OPTO website with the help of Jennifer Maxian, our computer teacher. It will be up and running very soon. It will be a link that you will be able to connect to from the buffaloschools.org website. In it there will be many things of interest including the Olmsted Parent Handbook, pictures of events, a parent survey, ways to become a volunteer, and much more! Please be patient with us while we build this website. We are hoping to have it completed by the end of February. Make sure you check it out!

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Laura Sommer for taking on the very ambitious task of everything involved with getting your student directory to you. We know it was a great deal of work and we appreciate your time and efforts! Thank you also to Deanna Roeger for sorting and submitting the Boxtops For Education. This year we collected over 200 dollars worth of boxtops! Thank you to all those who took the time to bring them in.

Your Volunteer Partners,
Jennifer Cornacchio and Kolette Kreuzer

OPTO Board Meetings

The meetings of the OPTO board will be held from 7:00-8:00 PM at Lafayette Presbyterian Church at Elmwood and Lafayette Ave.
If you have any concerns you would like to discuss, you can request to have some time put aside for you at a meeting. We just ask that you email or call Kolette Kreuzer at 871-1410, by the Friday prior to the meeting so that we can put you on the agenda.

Upcoming meeting dates are:
February 8th
March 8th
April 12th
May 10th
June 14th

The Fifth Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on February 5th!

Sponsored by your OPTO

Please try and attend this wonderful night with many of our Olmsted families! Along with our delicious spaghetti dinner, we will also be serving desserts provided by our very own baking committee and holding a basket raffle with over 30 baskets! Please see the attached flyer for more information. For those of you who have already purchased tickets, please note that we will not be providing tickets for you in advance as we have in the past. Rather, we are asking that you check in at the door the evening of the dinner. Hope to see you there!
Library Corner

By Ellen Klock

The new award winning books were announced last week at the Midwinter ALA Conference. Have you heard of any of these titles?

NEWBERY
Winner: When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead, (A time travel reminiscent of Wrinkle in Time)
Honor Books:
Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose
The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Rodman Philbrick

CALDECOTT
Winner: The Lion & the Mouse illustrated and written by Jerry Pinkney
Honor Books:
All the World illustrated by Marla Frazee
Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski

CORETTA SCOTT
Winner: Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
Honor Book: Mare’s War by Tanita S. Davis

PURA BELPRE (Illustrator): Winner: Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children’s Day/Book Day; Celebreamos El día de los niños/El día de los libros,” illustrated by Rafael López
Honor Books: Diego: Bigger Than Life illustrated by David Diaz
My Abuelita illustrated by Yuyi Morales
Gracias Thanks illustrated by John Parra
PURA BELPRE (Author):
Winner: Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez,
Honor Books: Diego: Bigger Than Life by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand
Federico García Lorca by Georgina Lázaro

Frederick Law Olmsted Libraries
School #56  816-4320
School #64  816-3424

CAUGHT READING !!
How do you feel when someone says, “Thank you,” “Please,” or smiles and greets you, sends you a handwritten thank you note, or offers a helping hand to open a door or to lessen your load? Are you surprised? Grateful? Ready to reciprocate? Suspicious?

Manners, according to the American Heritage Dictionary, refer to the socially correct way of acting; etiquette; the norms of society. Many people, adults and children alike, strive to be good, civilized people. Then, why do people ignore others’ morning greetings? Is it so hard to make eye contact? Has texting, e-mail and Facebook replaced verbal conversations? When did good sportsmanship take a back seat to scoring the most points? What happened to patience and putting others before yourself? Do we hear or are we truly listening when others are talking?

Thanks to Emily Post, Whoopi Goldberg (“Whoopi’s Big Book of Manners”), Jacqueline Whitmore (“Business Class: Etiquette Essentials for Success at Work”), and Norine Dresser (“Multicultural Manners: Essential Rules of Etiquette for the 21st Century”) manners matter very much. With an ever-changing, global society, it has become easier to communicate. People need to adapt to this “flattening world” (Tom Friedman). At the same time, we need to be mindful of respecting others and their differences.

In order to address some of these issues, I am offering a three-part Type I for Kindergarten students that will cover manners at school, in public and at the table. At an early age, children learn to model the behavior of those who surround them most—parents, siblings, classmates, and teachers. This is the perfect opportunity to combine a series of children’s picture books by Carrie Finn on the topic of manners, with hands-on activities. The goal is to promote respect, kindness, empathy, and gratitude for now and into the future.

When children learn good manners and practice them daily, they become better collaborators, appreciate differences in themselves and others, and earn the respect of others more easily. Such attributes develop 21st century skills and nurture winning, productive citizens—locally and globally.

Excerpted from George Washington's Rules of Civility:

“In the presence of others, sing not to yourself in a humming voice, nor drum with your fingers nor feet. Do not be eager to gossip. When your elders speak to you, listen and do not speak or laugh. Associate with others of good reputation, it is far better to be alone than in bad company. Do not be nosy in the private affairs of others. Say nothing negative of others. Do not mock or make fun of others. Do not promise what you cannot carry out. Keep your promises.” - from www.forbetterlife.org
Counselor’s Corner

News from Mrs. Kathy Sciolino, Olmsted Middle and High School Counselor

Announcing: Kohl’s Kids Who Care Scholarship Program

Kohl’s Stores are offering a program to recognize and reward young volunteers who have helped to make their community a better place.

Eligibility: Two age groups, 6-12 and 13-18 years old (must not graduate high school until after 3/15/10). Students may be nominated by parents.

Volunteer efforts must have occurred in the last year and be above and beyond what is normally expected of a child of his or her age.

Scholarship awards: 2,100+ will receive a $50 Kohl’s gift card; 200+ will be awarded a $1,000 scholarship, and 10 national winners will receive a total of $10,000 in scholarships each and Kohl’s will donate an additional $1,000 to a nonprofit organization on each national winner’s behalf.

Go to www.kohlskids.com for official rules and to nominate. Nomination deadline is March 15, 2010.

Attention High School Students & Parents:

You are invited to attend the Buffalo Public Schools Scholarship Fair
Saturday, February 6, 2010, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, at Bennett High School, 2885 Main Street, near Hertel Avenue. The Fair includes:

   College Goal Sunday,
   FAFSA Completion Seminars,
   College and University Representatives.

See www.buffaloschools.org for more information or call Mrs. Sciolino, Olmsted Guidance Office, 816-4326.
This year’s theme, *Babel Comes to Olmsted*, takes Just Buffalo’s renowned *Babel* series—bringing the best writers from around the world to Buffalo—as its inspiration. This season’s *Babel* roster includes:

- A.S. Byatt, *Possession* (Great Britain)
- Ha Jin, *Waiting* (China)
- Salman Rushdie, *Midnight’s Children* (India)

Inspired by Ha Jin’s homeland, 4th grade students worked with professional writer Sherry Robbins, to create poems inspired by Chinese themes and concepts. Receiving one-on-one attention from a professional writer gives students a unique opportunity to strengthen their writing skills. Under the guidance of book artist, Monica Angle, students created their own personal symbols based on Chinese ideograms and experimented with printmaking techniques. These symbols now grace the covers of their handmade books.

On their field trip to the WNY Book Arts Center, students created dragon books, learned how to make *lai see* envelopes for Chinese New Year’s wishes, and printed keepsake posters on a 19th-century Vandercook letterpress.

What students had to say about the field trip:

“Today I had the time of my life. The field trip to the B.A.C. [Book Arts Center] was awesome….”—Jeremias

“Today I had a wonderful time. The place was very nice. When I went to the basement it was fun and I mean fun….”—Cara

“I loved the activities, especially when we made the dragon books. I liked how they were bouncing around and they were so colorful….”—Julia
On January 25th, Olmsted’s Fourth Grade students held an assembly to showcase their poems for the entire school. Children read their poems aloud, and performed a Chinese New Year song taught to them by music teacher Mrs. Donna Seier. It was a wonderful celebration of the students’ achievements. Many thanks to Mrs. Barbara Cole of Just Buffalo Literary Center for her guidance. Here are some selected poems from the project.

**Fire and Earth Poems******

**Water Moon**

*by Benjamin Kreuzer, Gr. 4*

I am Water Moon
Always active and fast flowing
I am always wanting to stay awake
and sometimes very tired
Wanting more time to play
and sleep
and stay awake
Always outside
and when I get tired
I just lay on the grass
and watch everyone else play
Try to sleep in
on school days
But, wake up early on weekends
to have more time
to be running around
I am Water Moon.

**King Lion**

*By Megan Greico, Room 304*

He is the center of the world
He is much too generous
He can make the wind stop
He has the roar of power
He feasts on delicious food every day
He is kind King Lion.

**Moon Eye**

*By Caleb Valeri, Room 202*

It falls from the moon
Into the wide open space
Floating toward Earth
So strong it doesn't disintegrate
In the atmosphere
So powerful no human or animal
can harm it
It falls into the strong sea
It's eyes land, it rolls toward town.

**Super powers Nature**

*Cut out...stormy weather*

*Cold hot windy not*

*I wish she would be*

*Forever.*

*By Douglas Bausenwein*

*Room 111*
The Shady Side
By Kyra Ingram, Room 303

In the desert stands a tree
High, strong and mighty
But every day comes a fly
Bringing light to the shady side.

Falling Down
By Ani Fisher, Room 306

Falling down dragon
Falling gracefully
Dragons falling
Head first falling near the ground
Dragons falling up again
Then down.
On January 5th, students in the Dual Language Spanish Immersion program at Olmsted 64 put on a play written and directed by Mrs. Rio to explain Three King’s Day, a Hispanic holiday celebrated in Spanish speaking countries.

Three King’s Day is celebrated every year on January 6th. Here are a few pictures from the play.
Junior Varsity Basketball

The JV Boys Basketball team is off to a great start, with a 10 and 1 record thus far. Over the break the team won the Holiday Hoops Classic by defeating City Honors and Buffalo Academy Charter. The team is lead by Robert Grant who averages 13.7 points and 10.8 rebounds per game. Dequan Anderson runs the point and adds 11 points. The team has offensive help from its outside shooters of Najee Peoples and G. Dante’ Oden. On the defensive end Tyree Tyson powers the team averaging 4 blocks and 8 steals a game. Jaleen Schumaker and Jeru Dade-Simpson add the guard pressure to help the team’s pressure defense. With a fast-paced young team, the Owls look to continue their success. The boys Owl Hoopsters have five games remaining.

Feb. 1 vs South Park @ Olmsted 4:15
Feb. 8 vs Middle College @ Olmsted 4:15
Feb. 10 vs Grover Cleveland @ Olmsted 4:15
Feb. 12 @ McKinley @ McKinley 5:30
Feb. 18 vs City Honors @ Olmsted 4:15

Michael Webster
Olmsted Athletics

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ANNUAL NIAGARA CANDY SALE ON RIGHT NOW!
The sale will run until February 12th. Please do your best to get as many orders as you can! As you know, the monies raised by this fundraiser helps to fund fieldtrips, teachers’ supplies and equipment and much more!
One of Olmsted’s #64’s third graders participated in a volunteer project in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. When the person she volunteered to help insisted on giving her a small payment, did she keep it? No, she brought it to school in the hope it could be donated to help the people of Haiti recover from the terrible earthquake. One act of giving leads to another.

As a result, Mrs. Kate Willoughby’s class collected money for Haiti each morning after announcements. Money collected was given to the Red Cross to provide medical care, food, water, and shelter for those in need.

We are very excited to announce that we collected NINE HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE DOLLARS for our Helping Hands for Haiti campaign. We would like to thank everyone, students, teachers, parents, and staff, who have contributed generously as world neighbors. We hope our giving will inspire others to help also. Thank you!

Students: Dominic, Jayda, Damere, Naomi, Nathaniel, Oren, Katie and Isabelle
OLMSTED STUDENT COUNCIL

SCHOOL SPIRIT WEEK

Sponsored By The School #64 Student Council

Monday, February 8th - Friendship Day
Tuesday, February 9th - Change Your Name Day
Wednesday, February 10th - Pajama Day
Thursday, February 11th - Sports Day
Friday, February 12th - Olympic Day

The Student Council will provide teachers and students additional information regarding each of these events.

Health Update — Karen Knapp, RN

It’s that time of the year when bitter cold arrives, and along with that you can get bloody noses, possible frostbite, dry skin, and chapped lips.

Frostbite can occur to exposed skin in about 30 minutes when wind chills are between –25°F and less time with children. Please make sure your child, and yes, even teen, has a warm jacket, scarves, boots, and gloves. Develop an emergency plan in case your child gets locked out of the house. Take action if your child is chilled or wet, if your child feels pain or numbness, especially on the hands, ears, nose or feet. Frostbite may feel or behave like a burn, and requires medical attention.

For dry skin, avoid hot baths, harsh soaps and detergents. Moisturize your skin, use warm water, take shorter baths, and use a humidifier. Apply chapstick to lips as often as needed.

Humidifiers can help prevent nosebleeds also. In case of a nosebleed, pinch the soft parts of the nose between your thumb and index finger. Press firmly for about 5 minutes. Lean forward slightly with your head tilted forward. Avoid leaning the head backwards, as that may allow blood back into the sinuses and gagging may occur.

Stay warm this winter!
Muhammed Ali
A Black History Month Report
By Allen Gary, Room 206
Muhammed Ali, born Cassius Clay, is considered by most as the greatest boxer of all time, and by some, the greatest sports figure that ever lived. Even though none of the students in my room were born when he finished his career, we all know his name. We have seen footage of fights, documentaries and movies about his life.

Ali was more than a boxer. He had charm and personality. He was a bragger and a boaster, but he also stood for something. After joining the nation of Islam, Ali changed his name from Cassius Clay. Converts to Islam were encouraged to change their birth names because they were considered their slaves names.

Ali refused to be drafted during the Viet Nam War. He was stripped of his heavyweight championship belt and banned from boxing. He finally got his boxing license back, regained the heavyweight title and went on to have many great fights. Ali went from being loved to being hated for his beliefs, but he is now admired again.

(Stop and see Alan’s weight belt on display near Room 206)

The Little Mouse Princess, an original fable
By Isabel Finkbeiner, Room 206

Once, a long time ago, there was a Mouse Princess. She was beautiful. She got word that the people in her kingdom, “Merry Mouseland”, were dying of starvation. So the princess decided to go to work to help them. She didn’t know how to work, but she tried her best.

No one else wanted to help her, but she went on and on. She was very persistent. Her job was to dig for food. She kept digging and finally found food. Back at the palace, she prepared a feast. All the other people asked about the food. She said, “You did not help me to work for the food.”

The people felt bad, so next time they helped the princess work and get food. The kingdom was heavenly ever after.

Math by Raymond Wasielewski

Math is hard and fun.
Awesome Math!
The equations are great!
Have fun!
BASEBALL
By Brianna Grine, Room 206
There are many people involved in baseball. There are the pitcher, the catcher, the outfielder, the umpire, the batter, shortstop and the center-fielder. To play, you will need a bat, ball, bases, and helmets. If you are interested in playing baseball or softball, you are going to join a league. My team is called the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. I am on Natasha Panepinto’s team. We play at Shoshone Park.

Friends Forever
By Isabelle Finkbeiner, Room 302
By the smile on your face and the glow in my heart I know we will be friends forever. When a friend touches your heart, hand or soul, things will change forever. I know we will be friends forever.

Fly!
By Rachel Bartlett, Room 204
Fly! Birds flying
Fly! Birds flying in the air
Fly! Birds flying in the clouds
Fly to your nest, birds!
Fly and lay your eggs!
Fly! Fly! Fly!

Snow Snow
By Elizabeth Diina, Room 204
Snow snow let it snow.
All winter long
Snowflakes will fall
And lights will glow.
Snow snow come down on me
I am filled with glee.
Nature Poems
by Room 204
Mrs. Lucas

Winter
By Rachel Bartlett

Snowing, Snowing
Gently Blowing,
It is all over the ground
All over the town.
There is winter in the air.

My Birthday
By Milkay Teysir

My birthday, Oh hooray!
It’ll be the best day!
I will laugh and play, all day!
I can’t wait till my birthday!
Hooray!

FROGGIES
By Elizabeth Diina

“Ribbit, ribbit”, a froggie song
“Ribbit, ribbit”, all day long,
Listen to the frogs sing
In the pretty, warm Spring.

The Froggie
By Grace Graney
Little froggy! Little froggy!
Come and swim! All day long!
When it gets cold, hop home.
Then come back,
Then come back.
Hi, little froggy!
Seeing Santa
By Ellen Chapman, Room 305

It was late on Christmas Eve when suddenly I heard a big CLUMP! So I went downstairs. There he was, his pants and jacket were as red as a ripe strawberry, and his beard and moustache were as white as snow.

When I saw what he was doing, well, it was far beyond my imagination. He was stuffing a catalogue into Mom’s stocking! In my brother Ben’s stocking, he stuffed a toy sandwich and a toy airplane. In Dad’s, he put a newspaper for Dad to read. I looked sideways at Santa, for he had some crazy ideas. But I fastened up my robe and went back upstairs because I didn’t want to see my gifts. That was the best Christmas Eve ever! Well, at least I thought so!

Diet and Your Health
By Maia Dreishpoon, Gr. 3

Your diet is a matter of choice. You have to think about what you’re going to eat, and what you’re not going to eat. What you eat can affect your health. The things you should have on your dinner plate should be portioned like this:

1/2 should be fruits and vegetables
1/4 should be carbohydrates and
1/4 should be protein

Portion sizes are important to be fit. For example, a normal serving size of protein (meat) should be 3 oz. A serving size of fat is equal to the size of your thumb tip, or 1 tsp. When you eat a lot of fatty foods, stuff that is called cholesterol builds up in your blood. It can cause heart and breathing problems.

For staying fit you should exercise, play, do sports, walk more, and eat healthy. So when it comes to health, everything you do and don’t do matters!

Butterflies
By Elizabeth Diina

Butterfly, butterfly, fly away
Fly away from the chilly day
Come back when the sun shines
Butterfly, butterfly, fly away.
Dear Parents,

Please note the following update concerning your child’s lunches:

**Grades Pre-K-8th**

- **Full-Priced Meals**
  - $1.50 per day
  - 1 week for $7.50
  - 2 weeks at $15.00
  - 3 weeks at $22.50
  - 4 weeks at $30.00**
  **receive 2 free meals**

**Grades Pre-K-12th**

- **Reduced Price Meals**
  - $0.25 per day
  - 1 week for $1.25
  - 2 weeks for $2.50
  - 3 weeks at $3.75
  - 4 weeks at $5.00

**Grades 5-8th**

- Fruit, vegetable and white milk (free of charge)

**Grades Pre-K-4th**

- Cheese Sandwich and white milk

**Grades 9-12**

- No alternate meal available

Milk purchased alone is $0.45 cents. MILK CANNOT BE CHARGED!
You will be notified of charges incurred. NO personal checks will be accepted, only cash or money order.

If you have any questions, please notify the Cafeteria Office at 816-3421.

Camille DeMaria,
Cafeteria Manager