

OUR



# SCHOOL REPORT

Olmsted Falls School District

www.ofcs.net

Winter 2012/2013

## OLMSTED FALLS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT EARN SOAR AWARDS FOR HIGH ACADEMIC PROGRESS



Olmsted Falls Intermediate School staff gather to celebrate their building's 2012 SOAR Award.

Congratulations to Olmsted Falls Intermediate School, and Olmsted Falls School District as a whole, for receiving prestigious Battelle for Kids' 2012 SOAR Awards. These annual awards are designed to acknowledge Ohio schools and districts participating in the SOAR, Battelle for Kids' school improvement collaborative, for their academic progress in multiple grade levels and subjects over the last school year (2011–2012).

Olmsted Falls Intermediate School was recognized for exceptional academic growth with students in multiple grades and subjects over the 2011-2012 school year and was presented with the 2012 SOAR Award for High Progress.

The Olmsted Falls School District as a whole was also honored with the 2012 SOAR Award for Significant Progress.



Olmsted Falls Intermediate School Principal Don Svec (middle) accepted the SOAR award on behalf of his staff from Acting State Superintendent of Public Instruction Michael Sawyers (left) and Senior Vice President of Human Resources for the Battelle Memorial Institute Tom Snowberger (right).

“We are very proud to have received two of this year’s SOAR Awards,” said Superintendent Dr. Todd Hoadley. “These outstanding achievements for both our District as a whole and our Intermediate School are a direct result of the dedication and commitment of each and every staff member in our District, the hard work of our students and the strong partnerships fostered between school and home.”

## 2013-2014 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION BEGINS IN FEBRUARY

The process of registering a kindergarten student at the Olmsted Falls Early Childhood Center (ECC) for the upcoming 2013-2014 school year begins well in advance of the start of school in August. The early registration and screening process is important in determining class assignments and programming. The process of registering new kindergarten students for the 2013-2014 will get underway next month (February 2013). This year’s registration process will include an on-line enrollment component. Children must be five years old by August 1st to enroll for kindergarten classes in Olmsted Falls School District.

**Information on Kindergarten Registration will be available beginning Thursday, February 7th.** Parents/guardians of incoming kindergartners should stop by the Early Childhood Center, located at 7105 Fitch Road, to begin the registration process which will include on-line enrollment as well as a formal registration appointment (*in mid-March*) and an individual screening appointment (*in early May*.) Additionally, **parents/guardians of incoming kindergartners should plan to attend the annual ECC Kindergarten Information Night scheduled for Thursday, February 28th @ 7:00 p.m.** For additional information or questions, please contact the ECC office at 440-427-6360.

## DISTRICT ENGAGED IN COLLABORATIVE PROCESS FOR LATEST EVALUATION AND UPDATE OF BUILDING SAFETY PLANS



***District administrators, local safety leaders, elected officials and parent representatives gather at the kick-off meeting for the review and updating of District safety plans.***

endeavor seeks to further enhance the existing plans utilizing the expertise of PLE Group in collaboration with local safety forces. One important component of the process will be a series of safety surveys targeted to parents, faculty and staff.

In mid-December, links to a detailed on-line parent survey about the safety and security of each of our school buildings were distributed to parents, and also made available on the District website and blog. Additional survey links designed specifically for staff members were also distributed prior to the Winter Recess. Thoughts and opinions gathered from these surveys will be a valuable resource in the updating process. Thank you to all of those parents and staff members who have taken the time to complete the building-specific surveys.

School safety and security is on the minds of many. Keeping students and staff safe is the top priority of Olmsted Falls School District. Regular evaluation and updating of school safety plans is certainly a best practice to be followed by all school districts, and is also required by law.

Earlier this school year, Olmsted Falls School District contracted with an outside security company, PLE Group, to conduct a detailed and formal evaluation and updating of all building safety plans across the District. A project kick-off meeting was held by the District in early November to provide District administrators, local safety leaders, elected officials and parent representatives with an overview of the process the District will be undertaking.

Each District building, as required by law, currently has a detailed safety plan in place. This year's

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## MONTHLY BOARD MEETING HELD AT COLUMBIA PARK SOCIAL HALL

In an effort to better share important school district information with the community at large, the Olmsted Falls Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting for November at the Columbia Park Social Hall.

Local residents were invited and encouraged to attend to learn about what's happening in the Olmsted Falls School District. The Board and Administration of Olmsted Falls School District extends sincere thanks to the residents of Columbia Park and Park Manager Vicki Gibbons for their hospitality.



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## VOLUNTEERS FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER HONORED



Each week, our District's littlest bulldogs look forward to special visits by their neighbors from Columbia Park. It was a pleasure for the Board of Education to be able to honor five dedicated volunteers who help out at the District's Early Childhood Center on Fitch Road.

These dedicated volunteers spend time reading to students and helping out in the classrooms. Many, many sincere thanks to Meg Henrich, Gale Koliha, Mary and Bill Kubat, and Sally Stacho for their hours of volunteer time at the Early Childhood Center.

***Pictured are (Front Row: L to R) Sally Stacho, Meg Henrich and Mary Kubat; (Back Row: L to R) Board of Education President Jim Weisbarth, Gale Koliha, ECC Director Melinda Brunner and Bill Kubat***

## RETIRED STAFF GATHER FOR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



The Olmsted Falls Alumni Association hosted its annual holiday luncheon for retired bulldog staff members at OFIS in early December. More than 50 retired bulldogs were in attendance at this popular event, sponsored by the Olmsted Falls Board of Education.

Retired staff in attendance enjoyed a gourmet hot lunch prepared by Food Service Director Denise Tabar and her wonderful staff. The lunch was expertly served by Mr. Ryan's OWA students from OFHS. Guests were also treated to a special preview of an upcoming Christmas concert performance by the 4th and 5th grade choral students, led by Music teacher Kelly McClellan. Schuster's Greenhouse on Columbia Road provided the beautiful poinsettia table decorations.

## OFHS LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SPONSORS ANNUAL APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Olmsted Falls High School held its annual Local Scholarship Sponsor Appreciation Breakfast in early December in the High School Media Center. Guests were treated to a buffet breakfast and enjoyed a special holiday performance by the High School's Vocal Jazz Ensemble.

In addition, Bulldog alumnus Nick Sword (seen on video screen in photo at right) made a special appearance at this year's event via a recorded video message to express his thanks and appreciation to the local scholarship sponsors. Nick is currently studying at John Carroll University.

Last year, a total of 71 local sponsors provided nearly \$121,548.62 through 241 scholarships for members of the Class of 2011. Our District extends its continued gratitude to all of these individuals, businesses and organizations, for their generous support of our Bulldog graduates!



*Bulldog alumnus Nick Sword (on video screen) made a special appearance at this year's event via a recorded video message to express his thanks and appreciation to the local scholarship sponsors.*

The 2013 Local Scholarship Program is getting underway. For information on sponsoring a scholarship, please contact Mrs. Tommye Laut in the High School Counseling Office at 427-6116.

## VETERANS RECOGNIZED AND HONORED THROUGHOUT DISTRICT

From school-wide ceremonies to guest speakers in classrooms, Olmsted Falls Schools celebrated Veterans Day with local heroes. Having these programs each year is both a valuable educational experience, and a special way to show appreciation for our veteran's service and for their sacrifices.



*Falls-Lenox honored nine local veterans during ceremonies including two Falls-Lenox staff members, Dave Weeks and George Elioff, as well as community members Jim Carroll, Don Cunningham, Jerry Gobble, Hal Hastwell, Pete Kathrein, Paul Knapp and Rich Lini. Guest musician, Miss Emily Laycock, played "Taps" on her bugle.*



*BM1 Kevin Morran, 8th Grade US History teacher Sandra Cibulskas, and Commander Mark Bobal (retired) at Olmsted Falls Middle School.*



*Major Raymond Benisek and his son Ray Benisek - pictured with the flag that has flown over Afghanistan and was presented to the Olmsted Falls Middle School.*

# VETERAN COACH JIM RYAN RETIRES AS BULLDOG FOOTBALL COACH AFTER 25 YEARS

Olmsted Falls High School Head Football Coach Jim Ryan has announced he will retire from his head football coaching position after twenty-five years. Wanting to spend more time with family and take a step back from the program as head coach, Ryan stated it is time for another person to begin a new era within the Bulldog Football program.

“I feel very blessed, fortunate, and proud to have served as the Head Football Coach at Olmsted Falls High School for 25 years,” said Coach Ryan. “I would like to thank the Olmsted Falls City School District for allowing me to serve the district as the head football coach for the past 25 years.”

Coach Ryan added, “The Olmsted Falls community is a special place with an extremely supportive school administration, staff, parents and student body.”

Ryan graduated from Olmsted Falls High School in 1976 and from Findlay College in 1980 with a BA in Accounting with a minor in Education. He earned his Master’s Degree in Education at Cleveland State University. While at Findlay College, Ryan lettered three years in football, starting at linebacker on the 1979 National Championship team. He was also recognized as 1st team HBC and District 22 selection at linebacker. He was nominated as an academic All-American following his senior year. In addition, Ryan was a four year letterman as an infielder on the “Oiler” baseball team. In October of 2008, Ryan was inducted into the University of Findlay’s Athletic Hall of Fame.

His coaching and teaching career began in 1980 at North Olmsted High School, where he taught business and was the Defensive Coordinator on the football staff as well as the Head Girls Basketball Coach. In 1982, Ryan returned to his high school alma mater to teach and has coached a number of Bulldog sports including: Girls Fastpitch Softball, Girls Basketball, Baseball, Middle School Wrestling, and Football. In 1988, he was hired as the head football coach, compiling a 180-92 won-loss record through the 2012 season. Coach Ryan’s teams have qualified for the OHSAA state playoffs 11 times (1995, 96, 1999-2003, ’05, ’06, ’10, ’11) and have been SWC Champions on 7 occasions (1988, 92, 96, 99, 2000, 2002, 2010). The Bulldogs were State Champions in 2000 and advanced to the State Semi-Finals in 2002 and the Regional Finals in 2010.

Coach Ryan is very active in the Greater Cleveland Football Coaches Association (GCFCA) having served as president (1994-95) and league representative (1992-2010). He chaired the Golden Deeds Awards for 15 years and is currently the association’s Treasurer. He has been an assistant in the GCFCA East-West All -Star game three times (1990, 94, 99) and served as the head coach in 1992. He has been named the GCFCA “Coach of the Year” twice (1999 and 2000). In the spring of 2011, Coach Ryan was honored with the GCFCA “Golden Deeds Award”.

In 1999 and 2005, he was selected to serve on the Big 33 (Ohio vs. Pennsylvania All Star game) Coaching Staff and in 2008 was Ohio’s head coach. In addition, Ryan serves on the board of directors for the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association (OHSFCA) representing Region 3.



“Olmsted Falls has been truly fortunate to have Jim at the helm of our football program for the past 25 years,” said Superintendent Dr. Todd Hoadley. “On behalf of the District, I want to extend our sincere thanks to Jim for his many years of dedication to our student athletes.”

“Over the course of his coaching career, Jim has inspired countless youth to be the best that they can be – both on and off the field,” added Dr. Hoadley. “He leaves behind him a lasting positive impact on his athletes, on Olmsted Falls High School and on our local community, and he will be greatly missed.”

Olmsted Falls High School Athletic Director Rob Coxon stated, “Jim has had a tremendously successful coaching career at Olmsted Falls High School. For the past 25 years, his knowledge and passion for football, have contributed to his many successes and the successes of his student athletes.”

Jim Ryan and his wife of 33 years, Terry (nee Presnell), have two children, Meaghan (31), a graduate of Cleveland State University, and Ben (26), a Kent State University graduate.

## OFHS INDUCTS 70 STUDENTS INTO FIRST RHO KAPPA NATIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES HONOR SOCIETY CHAPTER IN STATE



The Olmsted Falls High School Social Studies Department has chartered a new chapter of Rho Kappa National Honor Society – making OFHS the first high school in the State of Ohio to do so. The purpose of Rho Kappa is to honor excellence in Social Studies and to stimulate a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of all the academic disciplines comprising the social studies curriculum. In November, Honors Social Studies students were invited to apply for Rho Kappa membership. Thirty-six juniors and thirty-four seniors were selected for membership in this inaugural group of honorees.

On December 10th, guests gathered as these 70 students were honored, and formally inducted into the first Rho Kappa chapter in the state, for their superior work in Social Studies classes as well as their participation in school or community service. Congratulations to all!

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## OFHS NAMED TO NATIONAL AP HONOR ROLL, TEACHERS HONORED



*Pictured are (Front Row: L to R) Lidia Soto-Kacik, John Mercer, Christie Cutarelli and Lisa Whitney with OFHS Principal Holly Schafer; (Back Row: L to R) Board of Education President Jim Weisbarth with AP teachers John Gaba, Blake Johnson, Jeff VanArnhem and Donna Langenderfer.*

Congratulations to Olmsted Falls High School for being named to the National AP Honor Roll. From 2010 to 2012, the high school increased the number of students participating in AP courses from 124 to 159 while still enabling more than 70% of students to earn AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

High School AP teachers Lisa Whitney (Chemistry), Lidia Soto-Kacik (Spanish), Jeff VanArnhem (Calculus and Computer Science), Christie Cutarelli (Language Arts), John Gaba (Language Arts), John Mercer (History), Tracey Blake (History), Blake Johnson (Biology), and Donna Langenderfer (Statistics) were recognized at the November Board of Education meeting for their efforts in making this achievement possible.

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## OLMSTED FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL HOSTS WEB REUNION

8th grade WEB leaders invited more than 350 6th grade students to participate in the 2nd annual reunion! During this time, 6th graders shared their favorite classes, information about how they are feeling as a middle school student and all while enjoying breakfast with their original WEB Leaders.

The WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) program at OFMS is to help 6th grade students with the transition into middle school.

Thank you to the Music Boosters for their help with Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, OFIS Cafeteria Staff and OFMS Cafeteria Staff, The Transportation Department and OFMS teachers for all of your help!



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**THANK YOU FOR  
COMING!**



Thank you to the many Olmsted residents who stopped in to see the newly renovated Olmsted Falls High School Auditorium during the Open House event in December!

A steady stream of visitors took time to come inside the new auditorium, hear the new sound system and learn more about one of the biggest renovation projects to date made possible with funding from the new Permanent Improvement Levy (passed in November 2011).

**ASBESTOS HAZARD EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE ACT**

In an effort to comply with Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), Ohio Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), the Asbestos Abatement Contractors Licensing Act, and the Ohio Public Employment Risk Reduction Act (PERRA), the Olmsted Falls School District recognizes the responsibility to maintain a program of periodic surveillance and inspection of facilities containing asbestos. To that end, Olmsted Falls Board of Education provides a "Notification of Progress of Asbestos Related Activities" report for review in all District buildings.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Olmsted Falls School District publishes a weekly blog on-line during the school year.

**All residents are invited to visit  
<http://ofalls.wordpress.com>**

to catch up on all the latest news from Olmsted Falls Schools.