Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School celebrated spirit week during the last week in September. Students dressed to several different themes, participated in a hallway “color war” and attended a pep rally to round out a week full of “Oriskany Proud” students and staff!
Dear Parents, Guardians, Families, Students and Community Members,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy, safe and in good spirits. As the summer distances itself into our rearview mirror and the fall brings to us a change in season, cooler weather and beautiful foliage, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone for all the support you have shown our District since we welcomed our students back to in-person learning for the start of our school year in September.

Seeing all of our students and staff back in school has been simply wonderful, if not awe-inspiring. The return of excited faces and cheerful laughter, exemplified and exhibited by our students and staff, continues to provide the positive energy and spirit needed to promote all of our learning activities within the District, foster our continued focus on positive relationship building amongst all staff and students, and support the many holistic, extracurricular opportunities and activities we offer for all of our Oriskany students.

Please know, our success is very much attributed to the collaborative efforts of everyone working together to achieve our goal of keeping our schools open and providing these enriching opportunities for all of our students each and every day. Your support has been unwavering and very much appreciated.

As the school year progresses, please continue to access our District webpage and social media feeds to keep up-to-date on all of the celebrations, recognitions and important notices going on throughout the year.

District website: www.oriskanycsd.org
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OriskanyCSD
Twitter page: twitter.com/OriskanyCSD

Proposed Capital Project Information
Within this newsletter, I would also like to draw your attention to our next proposed Capital Improvement Project for the Oriskany Central School District for your consideration. Please see pages 5-6 of the newsletter for more detailed information regarding this project. On December 14, 2021, the District will be looking for your support as you vote upon a Capital Improvement Project for the Oriskany Central School District. After careful and considerate long-term planning, please know the proposed Capital Improvement Project requires no additional taxes to our community and maintains its emphasis on an environment conducive towards student learning, student and community safety and well-being.

The scope, goal and focus of it will address many areas within our buildings, including infrastructure upgrades and 21st century modernizations for student-occupied spaces for both the Jr./Sr. High School and N.A. Walbran Elementary School. Additionally, the improvement project will provide for the construction of a new transportation facility that will address the continued servicing and repair of our buses, aligning with our safety priorities for our students, staff, athletes, coaches and transportation personnel. Our buildings, grounds and facilities crew has done an outstanding job in the upkeep and maintenance of our existing facilities. However, a recent five-year building condition survey required by the New York State Department of Education, has highlighted a number of critical needs within our District’s facilities. This proposed project will address those needs.

Much of the project addresses the infrastructure within these buildings to ensure and support the continued 21st century learning environment, safety and well-being of our students. Together, we have worked diligently and passionately to provide the best available learning opportunities and maintain an excellent learning environment for our students. Moving forward, we will need to additionally focus our efforts on the upgrades and modernization of our facilities to improve the safety, efficiency and functionality of our campus for generations of learners to come.

We respectfully ask that you come out to support our Capital Improvement Project by voting on December 14, 2021 from 12:00-7:00 p.m. at the high school bridge entrance.

Thank you, again, for all you do in support of our students, staff, families and Oriskany community. It is together that we will continue to be the “building blocks” of setting yet another example of our mission to educate and provide our students, families and community with a safe place to nurture, grow and learn.

It is an honor and privilege to work with such a passionate and supportive community that places students first.

Thank you everyone. Be well, be safe and, as always, be ORISKANY PROUD!

Respectfully,

Timothy Gaffney
Superintendent of Schools
Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

In light of the events of the past year, we are very grateful to have spent every day since the beginning of school in live, in-person instruction for all of our students. What a difference a year makes. We have been able to hold our Back-to-School Night, decorate our hallways for Spirit Week, participate in sporting events and generally see our students smiling and happy to be here, on-site in Oriskany. Speaking of Spirit Week, special thanks to teachers Mrs. Amy Piersma, Mrs. Erin Cortese and our new athletic director Mr. Dave Buck for their combined efforts. It was incredible seeing students at their creative best, participating in events such as “anything but a book bag day,” “dress as your favorite salad dressing” and “favorite sports jersey day.” The week culminated with an all-student assembly to recognize and promote school spirit. Thank you to our teachers, students and parents for all of their support this year in helping to make this possible.

The Jr./Sr. high school academic enrichment program is underway for any student who wants extra help in any academic subject. This program takes place from 3:00-5:00 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday in the Jr./Sr. high school library. Food is provided and there is a late bus at 5:00 p.m. As always, there is also the student activity period from 2:30-2:55 p.m. each day for any student who wishes to pre-arrange support from one of their teachers. We hope that students take advantage of these supportive programs.

Thank you to Mr. Santomassino and the entire high school facilities team for the outstanding job of keeping our school safe and clean as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 cases in our schools. I thank Mrs. Maryruth Stopera, our school nurse, for her assistance as we do our best to work hand-in-hand with the Oneida County Department of Health. We continue to employ universal mask wearing in school as well as set up lunches in a socially distanced manner. Our entire custodial team at the Jr./Sr. high school does an outstanding job of keeping our school safe and clean at all times and deserve our thanks for the work they do day in and day out.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will be closing in on the end of the first marking period. In addition to taking advantage of the programs listed above, be sure to stay in regular contact with your teacher and/or school counselor: Mr. Christopher Williams (grades 10-12) or Ms. Brandi Bostic (grades 7-9). Academic success is a partnership between home and school, and we are here to extend a hand where possible and help our students find success.

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 315-768-2063.

Sincerely,

Mark Ranieri

Jr./Sr. High School Principal

On September 23, Principal Ranieri joined a group of students for a quick basketball game.
Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

Many thanks for the collaborative effort at N. A. Walbran Elementary School as we near the first 10 weeks of the school year. It has been a welcome change this year for our teachers and staff to welcome back our students and our school community. Our teaching staff has been focusing on the academic and support needs of our students as we navigate the day to day pacing of our curriculum and learning activities. Students are now engaged daily in their learning focused classrooms and the interactions with their classmates in class and during lunch and recess, where they get to enjoy and expend their never ending energy.

Our N.A. Walbran PTA continues to support our students and school community. By the time you read this newsletter, we will have completed our masked and socially distanced annual trick-or-treat night at our elementary school. This program is always a community event and we have 22 staff members and numerous PTA members who help make this event such a success.

Our students, teachers, parents and school community members will also have an opportunity to participate in our PTA annual book fair program. This event will provide leveled reading materials to our students. This is a great opportunity to purchase some reading surprises for your children as we approach the holiday season. We would like to thank Mrs. Tuttle for allowing us to use her room during this year’s book fair.

We are also planning with the PTA our annual Pick a Reading Partner (PARP) program, coordinated by Mrs. DeFabio and Ms. Franz along with our entire participating staff. This annual event is one of the favorite activities for our students, parents and the school community. A special “shout out” to our parents who have been picking up their children at 3:00 p.m. using the first driveway to the school. This process has been going very smoothly with the help of our teachers and staff. Resource officer Mr. Blovat is also a critical member of our team as this format allows for proper social distancing during the pandemic.

Our COVID response team has been diligent in addressing any positive tests as well as working with our students who are quarantined. Most of our quarantined students have been exposed to the virus outside of our school day. When students are quarantined, we are doing our best to provide academic material and support to them. We also have a limited supply of tutors that can assist students when available.

Additionally, our November calendar will include individual school pictures and a Veterans Day celebration featuring our music department and our Oriskany CSD Veterans; either presently serving in our armed services or that have been discharged from their service to our country. Thanks to Therese Hanna for helping to plan this event.

We are also asking parents to sign up for our upcoming parent/teacher conferences. They will take place over three days; November 17-19. These conferences are very important, as the communication that takes place will help your children and our teachers to provide optimum learning opportunities for them.

In addition to the help that our teachers, staff and students provide to myself on a daily basis, I am especially thankful to you, our parents and guardians. Whenever we need information or have to address a situation, you are always there communicating and collaborating with us as a team to best serve the needs of your children and our students.

I look forward to your children’s continued success at our N. A. Walbran Elementary School. If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at jvanwormer@oriskanycsd.org or by phone at 315-768-2149.

James Van Wormer
Interim N.A. Walbran Elementary School Principal

On October 27, elementary students paraded around the bus circle in costume followed by trick-or-treating throughout the school.
QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS:

The qualifications necessary for voting on the Capital Improvements Project are:

1. Citizen of the United States
2. Eighteen (18) years of age
3. A resident of the school district 30 days prior to the vote

Proof of residency may be required, i.e., a document showing the address of your permanent residence.
WHY VOTE?
The District is looking to upgrade and modernize student occupied spaces, address aging building systems, replace deteriorating building finishes and improve the energy efficiency at both academic buildings.

The District is also looking to construct a new Transportation Facility/Bus Garage at the District Office site. By acting now, we take advantage of State funding that pays 81.7% of the cost.

There will be NO TAX INCREASE

MISSION STATEMENT
To educate, engage, & empower students to excel in an ever-changing world. We are committed to our tradition of personal attention, positive relationships and an innovative climate for learning.

JR. / SR. HIGH SCHOOL
- Upgrade electrical power distribution system
- Replace boilers with high efficiency type
- Add air conditioning to Auditorium
- Provide new VoIP PA and phone system
- Upgrade/reconfigure cafeteria and kitchen suite
- Renovate/reimagine Library for 21st century learning
- Replace interior doors and other hardware
- Replace classroom ceilings and lights
- Replace windows in original building
- Improve ventilation in various rooms

NEW TRANSPORTATION FACILITY
- To be located on the same site as the District Offices and Bus Storage Barn
- Approximately 5,000 square feet in size
- Larger maintenance bay for busses
- Includes bus wash bay
- Relocates transportation & maintenance staff to Utica Street and off of Main St.

N. A. WALBRAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- Upgrade electrical service and power distribution system
- Replace boilers with high efficiency type
- Ventilation improvements to classrooms
- Provide new VoIP PA and phone system
- Replace aluminum doors and frame at main entrance, improve security
- Renovate / upgrade gym locker rooms for student use
- Create a STEAM Room / Maker Space lab for 21st century student engagement
- Replace interior doors and hardware
- Replace classroom ceilings and lights
- Replace hot water storage tank
Oriskany Holds Jr./Sr. High School Back-to-School Night

On September 1, incoming Oriskany Jr./Sr. High School students came together for a Back-to-School Night. An informational orientation was held for seventh and ninth grade students followed by an Open House where students were able to stop in their teachers’ classrooms, sign up for clubs and experiment with their lockers. Schedules and Chromebooks were distributed to all students in preparation of the first day of school.
Oriskany Holds N.A. Walbran Elementary School Back-to-School Night

On September 2, Oriskany elementary families with students in grades 1-6 came together for a Back-to-School Night. Students and their families were able to tour the school, visit and meet all of their new teachers as well as say hello to teachers of their past and friends.
High School Students Partake in Bicycle Education

If you’ve spotted a row of bikes traveling around the village during school hours, it’s Oriskany’s Jr./Sr. High School P.E. class! Mr. Meiss and Mrs. Pruckno began the school year with a bicycle education unit. Students in grades 7-12 have been given an option to ride a bicycle during their physical education classes. Students are learning the proper bicycling skills and safe traffic behavior. The bike rides range from 2.5 to four miles!

This unit aims to help students get active, allow them to have fun getting off of the school campus for a bit, and encourage students to use bicycling as a form of activity and transportation for a lifetime.

Oriskany Elementary Students Partake in Fire Safety Week

During the week of October 4, students at N.A. Walbran Elementary School participated in fire safety related events. This year’s theme was “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety.” Kindergarten students had a visit from the fire department to kick off the week, followed by a visit from the Central Oneida County Volunteer Ambulance Corps for grades four through six on Tuesday.

The educational week was wrapped up by a “hazard house” demonstration for third grade on Thursday as well as a puppet show for the second grade.

Students were taught to listen for fire alarms, crawl beneath smoke if exposed as well as to have a plan at home for escaping a fire.

Outstanding Education Nominations

Congratulations to teachers Mrs. Penny Mann and Mrs. Stacy DeFabio on being nominated as outstanding educators as a part of the Genesis Group’s 15th Annual Celebration of Education.
How long have you been a nurse?
“I have been a nurse for more than 24 years.”

What’s your favorite part of being a school nurse?
“My mother was a school nurse in the Syracuse City School District. She would always arrive home and tell us about her day of helping students. What especially stood out was when she would talk about the students who were not as fortunate as others. I truly believe she made a difference in their lives. I hope that in some way, I can as well.”

Why did you choose to work in the Oriskany School District?
“It was close to home.”

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?
“Being with my family. We enjoy going North and heading to the mountains. When it is warm outside; swimming in the lake, jet skiing and kayaking. If we aren’t in the Adirondacks, I enjoy traveling to different locations. My goal is to travel to Italy; visit my family and a riverboat cruise on the Rhine River.”

What advice would you like to give to students about staying healthy?
“Staying healthy is something I should practice myself. If I were to take my own advice and offer it to our students, it would be to eat right, exercise, get at least eight hours of sleep a night and drink plenty of water. Plus, limit the amount of screen time. If possible, try and communicate your hopes, dreams and feelings with someone that you are close to, whether it be a family member, friend, teacher or counselor. It is important to have someone to talk to and not keep things bottled up.”
Junior/Senior High School Enrichment Program

The Jr./Sr. High School after-school academic enrichment program began on October 12 and will run every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the school year from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the library.

Food will be supplied and busing will be provided at 5:00 p.m. Students may sign out earlier than 5:00 p.m. with a signed note from their parent/guardian.
UPCOMING EVENTS

**NOVEMBER**
- 11/17-19 Elementary School Early Dismissal Parent/Teacher Conferences, 11:30 a.m.
- 11/23 Emergency Go Home Drill
- 11/24-11/26 Thanksgiving Recess

**DECEMBER**
- 12/09 Elementary Holiday Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 12/16 Jr./Sr. High Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 12/23-12/31 Winter Recess

**JANUARY**
- 01/17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School
Girls Soccer Team Celebrates Senior Night

On October 11, Oriskany’s girls soccer team honored their seniors during a Senior Night.

Congratulations to our seniors:
Madeline Denison #3
Juliea Hindmon #21
Janae Reid #22
Ashley Burnop #24

WUTR Athlete of the Week, Madeline Denison

Congratulations to Oriskany varsity soccer player Madeline Denison on being recognized as the WUTR High School Athlete of the Week for the week of October 11.

Madeline was awarded a pizza party for her soccer team from Hot Off The Brick by WUTR Sports Director David Edelstein.

Madeline has scored 53 points on the season at the time of this recognition; consisting of 24 goals and four assists.

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER ALL-STAR ROSTER

2021 Section 3 All-Stars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madeline Denison</td>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CSC DIV 4 All Stars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madeline Denison</td>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaylee Burnop</td>
<td>Keeper</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Daskiewich</td>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CSC DIV 4 All Honorable Mention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kaylee Burnop</td>
<td>Def</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooke Matys</td>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alivia Rizzo</td>
<td>Mid</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State Ranked Girls Cross Country Team

Oriskany’s state ranked girls cross country team is made up of seniors Paris Welker, Gianna Welker, Jordyn Carlo and Alexis Lasher; junior Olivia Balfe and sophomore Kylie Thierry. The team is coached by Joe Pruckno and Geo Silvestri.

The Lady Redskins have been ranked in the top four of the state for Class D this season. Though plagued with some injuries, the girls have run and worked hard to maintain state rankings.

At each of their meets this year, four runners have finished in the top five. From early morning bus trips to Saratoga and developing a challenging and fun course at home behind Bernie Block Field, the girls cross country team has proved that if you have passion and determination, you can accomplish your goals and find success.

They continued their journey by participating in sectionals on November 6 and the state championship on November 13.

ORISKANY SUPERINTENDENT FEATURED AS MYSTERY ARTIST

Art teacher Mrs. Smith-Carone is featuring monthly displays of work created by local artists. For the month of October, the mystery artist was revealed to her students on October 27.

Superintendent Mr. Gaffney, October’s mystery artist, was there to greet students as they arrived. He talked with the class about his 12-year past in art education, his passion for teaching through art and how his love for comic books had spawned his interest in drawing.
Oriskany Hosts Blood Drive

On October 22, Oriskany’s Teen AIDS Task Force (TATF) sponsored a Red Cross blood drive. Several students generously donated their time, as well as their blood to help those in need.

SADD Seen Enough Tobacco Day

Students Against Destructive Decisions Club (SADD) members from Oriskany have joined Reality Check youth from across New York State in declaring October 13, 2021 as the fifth annual Seen Enough Tobacco Day, highlighting the need for communities to protect children from the billions of dollars spent on tobacco marketing in places where kids can see it. The 13th was selected to underscore the alarming fact that the average age of a new smoker in New York is just 13 years old.

Teens from Oriskany have taken a creative approach to bringing this to the attention of the community by placing red and white cups in the fence behind the high school to form the number 13. Reality Check is the youth-led affiliate of BRIDGES, working to increase support for a tobacco-free norm through youth action and community engagement. SADD partnered with BRIDGES’ Reality Check program for this activity.

While New York State’s recent ban on flavored e-cigarettes is a significant step toward reducing youth tobacco use, other flavored tobacco products, such as little cigars, chew and menthol cigarettes present an obstacle to decreasing tobacco use among young people and minority populations.

For more information on Seen Enough Tobacco Day or the Reality Check program please visit www.tobaccofreenys.org
Students in the Oriskany Central School District benefit every day from the leadership and vision of our school board. October 18-22 was School Board Appreciation Week in New York State, so please join us in thanking these dedicated school leaders for the countless hours they devote to representing the best interests of our students through leadership and support.

Oriskany Board of Education members include: President Brian Judycki, Vice President James Chase, Michelle Anderson, Carl Graziadei, Therese Hanna, Adam Kernan and Amy Mayo. Oriskany thanks its Board of Education members for their contributions and commitment to quality education for our students.