



Thursday, April 4, 2013

The Growler

Twilligear, OHS Science teacher, is resident Weather Man

By Annie Walsh

Allan Twilligear, Physics and Earth Science teacher at OHS, is known as the school's resident "Weather Man." Twilligear is often sharing his weather forecasts and predicting the next snow days with unusual accuracy.

Leslie Heimsoth, OHS Special Education teacher, said, "He is spot on. I always ask Mr. Twilligear about the weather, so I can make plans for snow days."

Twilligear said that he has always been interested in the weather because he grew up in Iowa where there were many thunderstorms and occasional tornadoes. Seeing the result-

ing damage from those storms piqued his interest in severe weather.

"I just really like how the weather changes from day to day. Thunderstorms are my favorite, but snow storms take a really close second," said Twilligear. He is mostly interested in severe weather, "The more lightning and thunder, the better," said Twilligear.

Twilligear noted that he gathers his information from all three of the major local networks, along with Intellicast, the Weather Channel and local radar.

"Local radar is the best. I can focus in on just the Odessa area and watch the storms develop

and move in," said Twilligear.

Along with weather, Twilligear was interested in the 2012 end of the world theory. "It was fun to talk about in class. Lots of students had questions, and I tried to have a little fun while debunking some of the stories. I'm glad it didn't end. I have lots of things on my bucket list to finish yet," said Twilligear.

As far as predictions for the future go, Twilligear thinks that the world will end, but not for billions of years! He also predicts that with global warming, the weather will become more severe bringing bigger tornadoes and hurricanes.

"The number of storms will decrease, but the intensity of them will increase. Snow storms will be like the past few years. The number of storms will decrease, but the intensity will be higher," said Twilligear.

**Fall, Winter, Summer, Spring,
If we need to know the weather,
we give Mr. Twilligear a ring.
He's accurate, he's friendly,
He keeps his eye on the sky.
That's why we call him "our weather guy"!**

—Lynda Mallott
OHS secretary

OHS to host Come Walk The Red Carpet Prom

By Michelle Morris

OHS Prom will be held April 13 from 8 to midnight at The Cotillion in Blue Springs. The theme is Come Walk The Red Carpet.

The decorations will be red, white, black and silver following an Old Hollywood theme. Party It Up Entertainment will deejay the event. Students can request specific songs by visiting <http://www.partyitupentertainment.djintelligence.com/request/odessahighschool-prom>. The group name is odesahighschool, and the password is odessa12.

Snacks will be provided, including potato skins, taquitos with salsa and sour cream, hot artichoke dip with chips and a chocolate fountain with dip-

ping items. There will also be a variety of soft drinks.

A raffle will be held the evening of Prom. Tickets will be available prior to and the evening of the dance. Prices for tickets vary depending on the item. Tickets to win the DVDs Pitch Perfect or The Dark Knight are .50. The chance to win two tickets to a movie of the winner's choice along with candy and popcorn are \$1.

Andrea Birdsong, said, "It wasn't that difficult to plan the Prom. We pretty much chose everything by vote of the students on the Prom committee."

Prom was moved from Arrowhead Stadium to The Cotillion because it was closer and more economical.

iPod touches used for learning at OUE

By Shania Janes and Ramey Buxton

Jill Langewisch, third grade teacher at OUE, recently purchased six iPod touches for her classroom to help children with math, science, social studies and communication arts.

Langewisch recently applied for a grant from Limeades for Learning, sponsored by Sonic. Even though the class did not receive the grant, her essay was seen on Donorschoose.org. A Sonic in Oklahoma City decided to pay a majority of the costs, and Langewisch made up the rest from her classroom budget.

Langewisch was inspired by other teachers who use technology to help their students

learn. She chose to use iPod touches instead of tablets because she could afford more of them.

Sami Sanchez, third-grader in Langewisch's class, said, "I like the math on the iPods because it is easier to concentrate on."

"I have many apps on the iPods and will add more as necessary based on the topics we are learning," said Langewisch. The students were enthusiastic about their new learning experiences, and the iPods are rotated daily. Parents with children struggling in school can download different applications on their devices at home to help students as well.



Allan Twilligear, OHS weather man and science teacher, checks the radar and formulates his snow predictions.

OMS holds Sweetheart Dance

By Heather Kopp

OMS Sweetheart Dance originally to be held February 10 was rescheduled to March 15 from 3:15 to 6 p.m. in the OMS gym. The date was changed due to inclement weather. OMS counselor, Hal Davis, was in charge of the event.

Tickets bought in advance were \$2, and tickets bought the day of the dance were \$3. Concessions included hot dogs, chips, soda and candy. Berry Good Light and Sound provided the music and light show.

Alan and Angela Berry were the deejays for the dance. Ber-

ry Good promises that it will always provide a "high fidelity sound and state of the art light show." OMS students voted on songs they wanted the deejays to play and sent their requests in a few weeks prior to the dance.

Members of the dance committee prepared for weeks creating red and pink decorations and hanging up posters around the school. Sixth grade committee members were Alexia Barker, Nathen Pardee, Chase Cogdill, Haley Parcel, Maddie Murry, Zoe Spoon, Lynza Garcia, Alice Callahan, Jazmine

Floyd, Ashly Harrison, Ryann Blacketer and Candice Thompson. Seventh grade members were McKenzie Gawf, Abby Mosher, Makenzi Waddell, Jessica Callahan, Britnee Godsby and Journey Baldwin. Eighth grade members were Abby Harrison, Suzanna Young and Ginny Sullivan.

Rylan Buxton, seventh-grader, attended the dance with some of her friends. "My favorite part was just hanging out with my friends for the night. The deejay was good and entertained everyone at the dance."

Susan Snyder receives Foundation Grant

By Makayla Lang

Susan Snyder, fourth grade teacher at OUE, received a Foundation Grant. The grant, "Keeping Tabs on Learning," was very competitive.

Snyder will be purchasing six iPad tablets for her students and others to use with the grant money. Having the iPads will benefit the students by expanding technology usage in the classroom and by addressing individual students' weaknesses and strengths.

The iPads will have educational apps which will help create extra time for independent learning, practice and review. Snyder plans on using the iPads each day during Target time and also to provide enrichment when a student progresses beyond the goals for that day or unit.

"The students are very excited to have a new responsibility and a new way of learning coming to the classroom," said Snyder.

McQuerry Families participate in One School, One Book Program

By Nicole Conn

McQuerry Elementary is participating in the One School, One Book program designed to create a shared reading experience within a single elementary school community. Each McQuerry family received a copy of Betty Birney's book *The World According to Humphrey* on February 19.

In this special project, a chapter book is chosen, every family in the elementary school receives a copy, and every family reads that book at home over the course of a single month. Activities at school coordinate, promote and enrich the shared reading experience.

McQuerry's PTO funded the purchase of the books for each family. *The World According to Humphrey* is about a hamster, known as Humphrey, who is the classroom pet of Room 26 at Longfellow School. Humphrey tells the story from his point of view as he creates memories with the students, staff and the families of his new friends.

To kick off the event, McQuerry had a pet store set up in the hallway and an assembly. Each classroom even has

a "stuffed" Humphrey for students to take home. McQuerry also has its own Humphrey, a live hamster, who is visiting classrooms daily and journaling about his experiences on the school website. On March 15, Humphrey wrote about the experiences he had with the 23 kindergartners in Tami Grubb's class.

Grubb read the class a book called *Bartholomew and the Oobleck* by Dr. Seuss. After reading, she let the boys and girls make Oobleck. Humphrey included the fun recipe in his journal along with information about his new friends. To make Oobleck, Humphrey learned to mix 1 cup of water, 1 ½ to 2 cups of corn starch, and a few drops of green food coloring together.

Humphrey made note that the boys and girls got messy and that his custodian friend would have to scrub the floor extra well that night. More of Humphrey's experiences are included online at the school's website www.odessa.k12.mo.us.

Larry Hol, principal, is enjoying the program and has even been seen sporting a hamster tie at McQuerry.



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McQuerry's own Humphrey, a live hamster, visits classrooms daily. Journals about his experiences are on the school website.

R-7 Sports

Boys Baseball C Team opener at Holden cancelled

By Hanna VanLanker

Boys' baseball C Team opener at Holden on March 22 was cancelled due to inclement weather. The team is coached by Ryan Robinson, OHS history teacher, and Derick Barker, OMS At-Risk paraprofessional.

"They are very promising as a team. They play hard, and they are crisp and positive," said Robinson. Due to the snow, players had to have several practices in the OHS tile

gym. "It was as successful as it could be, truly a testament to Coach Shaw's ingenuity," said Robinson.

Goals for the year are to win ball games and develop players. Team leaders, according to Robinson, are Josiah Bennett, Morgan Miller, Alec Maple and Zach Pulliam, freshmen.

Recent home games were on March 26 against Excelsior Springs; March 28 against Grain Valley; and on April 2 against Harrisonville.

JV boys Golf Team competes in Grain Valley

By Sarah Beard

JV boys' golf team competed on March 19 at Adams Pointe in Grain Valley. Andrew Walquist, junior, led the team shooting a 55. Zach Mitchell, sophomore, shot a 63, and Ian Scott, sophomore, shot a 70. Dakota Hook, senior, and Dylan Smith, freshman, were unable to finish the ninth hole due to darkness on the course.

The twelve athletes on the varsity and JV teams are coached by Kirk Gross, OHS health teacher. The JV team has ten matches scheduled this season.

Gross said that overall, the team is a strong, veteran group of athletes. Many of the varsity members are returning

players and are good examples to the others.

Due to snow and poor weather, the team hasn't had enough time on the golf course, and Gross said this is a weakness due to the lack of practice. Gross hopes to work on consistency with the team.

Gross' goals for the season are to focus on getting in the top three at conference and to get as many kids to qualify for sectionals/state as possible.

This is Gross' first year coaching golf, and he said that he has had a lot of fun so far and is looking forward to seeing improvement among the team. Gross also coaches wrestling at OHS.

OHS Boys Tennis team ends up 2-2 with Knob Noster

By Elizabeth Comstock

OHS JV boys' tennis team had their first game on March 19 at Knob Noster ending 2-2. The team continues to practice every day Monday through Friday after school to prepare for upcoming matches.

The teams includes 15 players total with nine playing JV. JV members are Austin Wilson, Corbin Kleoppel, Trenton Makings, Ty Wagner and Wade Lynn, freshmen; Evan Dick-

meier, Kyle Jensen and Colby Nickels, sophomores; and Parker Cox, junior. Jensen is a returning player.

According to Kyle Barkley, OHS PE teacher and tennis coach, it is still early in the season, so as an inexperienced team, players are learning new skills with each practice. He noted that the weather has not been cooperating with spring sports so far!

OHS One Act Advances to State

By Ramey Buxton and Shania Janes

OHS's One Act and Readers Theater teams competed in district competition on March 1 at State Fair Community College in Sedalia, Missouri. One Act and Reader's Theater are both part of the Speech and Debate Team. Sarah Esser, OHS speech teacher, is the team's coach.

The One Act is titled *The Remarkable Susan* and is directed by Paige Bradbury, junior. The production takes place in a courtroom and is based on the trials of Susan B. Anthony. One Act placed second at districts and will be progressing on to state April 19.

Readers Theater is titled

Variations on a Theme and is directed by Lesley Kleyh as part of her senior project. The story is about the different members of a band and how they help each other grow with music.

Kleyh said, "It's a very cute piece, and I am immensely proud of how well my cast performed. The most difficult part of directing the piece was the staging. It was also hard to select students who were both strong readers and actors."

Esser, supervisor of both productions, said, "I am very proud of both girls and all the actors who participated. The groups did a wonderful job, and they both worked very hard."



Diana Copenhagen, freshman, Tristin Kesemann, junior, and Samuel Haley, sophomore, act out a scene in their Reader's Theater performance.

OHS JV Track Postponed due to Weather

By Cory Smith

OHS JV track members planned to begin the season March 21 at Warrensburg, but the meet was cancelled due to cold weather. The second scheduled meet on March 23 at Warrensburg was also cancelled due to inclement weather. The events will be rescheduled at a later date.

Allan Twilligear, head coach and OHS science teacher, said that he is looking forward to the season starting and watching the kids work hard to compete.

"They have a very good work ethic, and all of them have positive attitudes," said Twilligear.

The season also started out with snow, causing the team to have to improvise. "We had a lot of inside practices and worked on core exercises while the snow was on the track," said Twilligear.

Christian Siewert, long distance runner, is in his second year of track. "I like running track because it's a challenge for me." Siewert also said he is looking forward to seeing how his times improve as the season progresses.

The next JV meet is at 4 p.m. on April 9 when Odessa will be the host site for the Wellington Invitational.

Good Luck Bulldogs!



R-7 Sports & More

McQuerry reveals new Climbing Wall

By Elizabeth Comstock

Matthew Klamm, McQuerry PE teacher, recently received a \$5000 grant and a \$2000 PTO donation to help purchase a climbing wall costing approximately \$7,500. The balance was covered with miscellaneous funding. The climbing wall was revealed to students at 2 p.m. on March 14 in the gym.

Klamm has wanted to purchase the wall for quite some time and is excited to be able to make his Physical Education classes even more fun for the students.

"All of the kids were excited and ready to play on the climbing wall," said Klamm.

In addition to being fun, the climbing wall can help students develop fine and gross motor skills, body awareness, fitness, balance, trust and numerous other positive factors. Students can enjoy over 140 different activities that are included in the information guide that came with the climbing wall. A few items include challenge courses, ball holders, flag toss and erase plates.

JV Boys Baseball team wins opener against Higginsville

By Hanna VanLanker

JV boys baseball team started the season out strong on March 19 with an 8-2 win at home against Higginsville. The team is coached by Darin Jackson, OMS paraprofessional, and Jarred Pinkerton assists Jackson.

"There is young talent, and I believe they will be good," said Jackson. Goals for the year are to develop the JV players into varsity level players for next year.

According to Jackson, this

year's team has deeper and stronger talent. Jackson said that all players are improving even if they haven't had as much practice and experience.

"Practicing indoors was difficult, stressful and hard," said Jackson. Leaders on the team, according to Jackson, are Hunter Palmer, Seth Smith and Tommy Hardin, sophomores, and Kobe Hardin, freshman.

The next home games will be at 6:45 p.m. on April 8 against Lexington and at 6:45 p.m. on April 9 against Oak Grove.

Gwodz, OHS Math Teacher, enjoys cooking

By Cole Courtway

Donna Gwodz, OHS math teacher, enjoys cooking in her free time. She has a favorite bread recipe and a favorite dessert recipe, both that she learned from family members.

Gwodz's favorite recipe is homemade rolls. She learned the recipe from her aunt and uncle. Gwodz said this is her favorite recipe because it turns out so well. "I'm not very good at making things with yeast, but I'm successful in making this."

Gwodz also said, "My family enjoys them (homemade rolls), and when I go to dinners, my rolls are what they want me to bring."

Gwodz's favorite dessert recipe is homemade cheesecake. She learned how to fix this from a relative. This recipe is significant because it is delicious and fun to make and not what you would expect from home. Gwodz said that she was pleasantly surprised because it turned out pretty well.



Donna Gwodz, OHS math teacher, enjoys making homemade rolls and cheesecake for her family.

Hot Rolls

2 pkg. yeast
2 cups hot water (I use warm water out of the tap at temperature recommended on yeast package)
¾ cup sugar
1 tablespoon salt
2 eggs
½ cup melted shortening or oil (I melt shortening in microwave and then cool it awhile so it's not too hot when added to the mixture.)
6 + cups flour

Mix yeast and hot water in large bowl. Add sugar, salt and beaten eggs, along with shortening or oil. Dump six cups of flour in at once and mix with a wooden spoon. Add approximately another cup of flour until the dough is just barely "tacky." Cover and store in the refrigerator or a cool/cold place overnight. It will rise, so don't cover too tightly. At least 5 hours before you want to bake the rolls, form into individual balls and place in a baking pan. I usually make them about the size of a golf ball and get about 24 in a 9x13 pan. Let rise. If you need to speed rise process, place in a warm spot. Preheat oven to 375°. Bake for 18-20 minutes until golden brown.

Dough may be kept in the refrigerator for several days. I've never tried them, but the recipe says it makes great cinnamon rolls. My aunt writes that "this recipe came from the Lone Jack Cafeteria cooks 100 years ago."

Cheesecake

1 cup graham cracker crumbs
½ stick butter or margarine
1 cup sugar, divided
2 lbs cream cheese
2 large eggs, slightly beaten
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 tablespoons corn starch
1 cup sour cream

Crust

Mix crumbs, 1 Tbs. sugar and butter. Reserve 2 Tbs. mixture for the topping. Press remainder into bottom and sides of 9" spring form pan. Chill in freezer while preparing filling.

Filling

Beat cheese and remaining sugar until smooth and light. Beat in eggs, vanilla and corn starch just until blended. Stir in sour cream. Pour into crust and bake at 450° for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 200° and bake 45 minutes. Turn off oven, open door slightly and allow to cool for 3 hours. Remove from oven and sprinkle with remaining crumbs. Refrigerate. Enjoy!!

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