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Middle School musical, "Aladdin Jr.," to be presented March 10-12

Pioneer Middle School students are hard at work preparing for this year's musical "Aladdin Jr.," which will be presented to the public on March 10, 11, and 12 in the middle school cafetorium.

The show is based on the Disney animated classic "Aladdin," which tells the story of Aladdin and Jasmine and how their lives are changed by the appearance of a magical lamp with a genie.

Co-directing this musical are Kim Higgins and Wendy Regan with Donna Brouse as accompanist.

The cast includes Jared Benkelman as Aladdin, Kayla Collins as Jasmine, Josh Andrezewski as Jafar, Kaitlin Myers as Iago, Justin Maher as Sultan,



"Aladdin Jr." cast members include these Pioneer Middle School students. Front row, from left: Kayla Collins (Jasmine), Jared Benkelman (Aladdin), and Alex Lewis (the Genie). Back row: Justin Maher (Sultan), Josh Andrezewski (Jafar), Kaitlin Myers (Iago), and Michelle Fyock (Razoul).

and Alex Lewis as the Genie.

The Friday and Saturday shows will be at 7:00 p.m., and the

Sunday performance will be at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$4.00 for adults and \$3 .00 for students and senior

citizens.

Come support the students as they embark on their journey to Agrabah!

Candidates sought for Pioneer School Board

In these challenging times for public education, school boards are seeking men and women who find excitement and satisfaction in tackling tough issues and working together to overcome them.

The nine-member Pioneer Board of Education is no different. A big factor in molding Pioneer into its position of high regard among Western New York school districts has been its ability to attract a diversity of quality school board members from the community.

In order to sustain its longstanding tradition of excellent lay leadership, Pioneer is urging community members to seriously consider running in the May 16 election. Two five-year seats are being contested; the first has been vacated by veteran board member Cindy Bradfield, and the other is that of board clerk Raymond Haberer.

The two candidates with the most votes will fill the seats.

The board of education is a uniquely American institution. It keeps the country's public schools flexible and responsive to the needs of the local communities. A board member takes on one of the most important responsibilities that can be assigned to any citizen — helping to plan the education of Pioneer's youth.

There are few legal requirements to being a member of a school board, but the qualities sought for effective leadership are many:

Effective

Communicator: Can describe what he or she

wants and describe what other want; a good listener.

Consensus Builder:

Capable of working toward decisions that all can support, and willing to compromise to achieve that goal.

Community

Participant: Enjoys meeting a variety of people, can identify the community's key communicators and reaches out to the community.

Decision Maker:

Knows his or her own decision-making style, as well as that of others; can support group decision-making.

Information

Processor: Can organize priorities and schedules to handle lots of verbal and written information.

Leader: Willing to take risks, be supportive of board colleagues, district staff and community.

Team Player: Helps promote the board's vision and goals.

Board candidates must be at least 18 years old, must be qualified to vote in the school district, and must be able to read and write. They must have been a resident of the Pioneer School District for one year before the election. They cannot be employed by the school board or live in the same household with a family member who serves on the same Board of Education.

The five-year terms served by board members are staggered so that all of the board positions are never open at the same time.

In order to run for school board in 2006, qualified candidates must submit a petition to the district office with the signatures

of 30 qualified voters of the Pioneer School District. The deadline for submitting petitions is Friday, April 14, at 5:00 p.m.

Among other things, Board of Education members help create a healthy environment for work and learning, enabling the Pioneer School District to progress through continuous improvement.

Individuals who wish to learn more about what it means to be a board member may call the Pioneer superintendent's office at 716 492-9304 to arrange for a tour and orientation with administrators and one or more current board members with a range of experience in boardsmanship.



Pioneer school board members like Robert Landahl have the satisfaction of witnessing firsthand the impact of education on the future of children.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS MARCH 6-17

Elementary schools in the Pioneer School District will hold kindergarten registration from March 6-17. A child must turn 5 years old by December 1, 2006 to be eligible.

Parents should bring their completed registration and health papers into the school office at either Arcade or Delevan Elementary, along with the child's birth certificate, proof of residence, custody papers if applicable, and foster placement papers, if any.

Parents should bring in a copy of their child's latest physical exam.

When they come into the office, parents will also be asked to sign their child up for kindergarten screening, which is tentatively scheduled for July 12 and 13.

Pioneer students cooking up careers at BOCES

There are many advantages to training for a career in the food service industry – working with people, learning how to cook for friends and family.

And getting to eat your mistakes.

At the Ellicottville BOCES Center, four Pioneer juniors are enrolled this year in the Culinary Arts class of instructor Dan Langdon.

For Stephanie Wilson of Java Center, BOCES is a family affair. Her older brother Tom is a Pioneer senior enrolled in Heavy Equipment at Ellicottville.

“I became interested in BOCES after attending an open house with Tom,” said Stephanie. “So far it has lived up to my expectations.”

Stephanie, who said she has always been interested in baking, makes dinner twice a week at home since starting at BOCES.



Pioneer High School students Stephanie Wilson, left, and Ashley Haynes are among four juniors enrolled in the Culinary Arts program at the Ellicottville BOCES Center.

“The material seems to be a good balance between classroom learning and the hands-on experiences,” said Stephanie. “Mr. Langdon

is pretty casual, but we’re learning a lot from him.”

Stephanie said she would like to attend cooking school after graduation, and perhaps open a bakery some day.

“My favorite part was making chocolate chip cookies,” she added.

Classmate Ashley Haynes cited her father as the inspiration for wanting to

attend BOCES. She has already been on the honor roll in her brief time at BOCES.

“Cooking is something I’ve always been interested in,” she said. “We have been baking quite a bit, but salads are also fun to make.”

Ashley is also cooking more at home since joining BOCES. She is also considering attending college and perhaps owning her own restaurant some day.

Joining Stephanie and Ashley in the Culinary Arts classroom are fellow Pioneer students Amanda Jones and Leigh Lambert.

BOCES not only provides the career focus students are looking for, but can also keep them on track for graduation with support in core subject areas.

Before departing, they also take part in internships and career development training.

For more information about BOCES Career and Technical Education programs, please call the Ellicottville center at 716 699-2382.

Erie I BOCES to host Career Fair on March 23

The Niagara Frontier Industry Education Council is sponsoring Career Fair 2006, to be held Thursday, March 23, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The site is the Erie I BOCES Education Campus, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca.

Career Fair is aimed at both middle and high school students and features many hands-on career activities. Over 160 job fields will be represented.

This regional career fair is designed for students and their parents to investigate

career opportunities by speaking directly to career consultants. Qualified people will be available to discuss apprenticeship programs, job service options, civil service opportunities, military careers, job placement, resume writing, employment-seeking skills, volunteer work opportunities, and employment opportunities in Western New York.

Career Fair 2006 is supported by counselors from area school districts, including Pioneer Central School.



Baked goods are just some of the yummy things that BOCES students Amanda Jones, left, and Leigh Lambert learn about in their Culinary Arts studies.

Athletic Department readies Wall of Fame

Athletes, teams, coaches, and boosters will be enshrined for posterity on a Wall of Fame that the Pioneer Athletic Department is preparing to unveil.

After several years of planning, the Athletic Department has formed a blue ribbon, six-member Wall of Fame committee to consider the inaugural class of nominees for induction.

Athletic Director James Graczyk said the Wall of Fame has several purposes:

- To help preserve, strengthen, and add distinction to the athletic program at Pioneer;
- To honor and perpetuate the memory of those individuals who, either through participation or support, have made outstanding

contributions to the Pioneer athletic program;

- To recognize individuals who have demonstrated, both in school and in succeeding years, the worth of athletics, who have well-defined goals, who have provided mature leadership, and who have had a positive impact on society.

Honorees can be individual athletes or teams, coaches, and boosters.

For athletes and teams, there is a five-year waiting period from the date they graduated before they can be considered for induction. Coaches and boosters will have a five-year period from their initial contributions to Pioneer athletics.

Consideration will be based on both the

nominees' success while at Pioneer and subsequent contributions in athletics, career field, and community service.

Nominations can be made by calling the Athletic Department at 716 492-9351. The committee will decide the number of inductees for any given year. Induction requires a majority vote of committee members.

Candidates must be nominated by April 1 each year, with induction to take place at the year-end Pioneer Sports Recognition Night in June.

Inductees will be presented with a photo plaque, with a duplicate to be displayed in the east gymnasium hallway at Pioneer High School.

6TH GRADER SELECTED FOR ELEMENTARY ALL-COUNTY BAND

On Saturday Jan. 7, five 6th grade Pioneer Middle School students took part in Erie County Solo Festival.

Solo Festival is a competition in which music students play a solo for an adjudicator. It serves as the audition for the All-County Band and Orchestra. This year more than 4,500 Erie County music students in grades 5 and 6 took part in the audition.

Pioneer Middle School band students who participated in this year's festival were Mikaela Connelly, Jennifer Conrad, David Dytschkowskyj, Allison Gilbert and Zachery Hyman.

"This year our students played more difficult music than in the past and scored higher than ever," noted music teacher Jared Burch.

One student, Zachery Hyman, made it into All-County Band. He was one of 204 clarinetists who auditioned.

"The last Pioneer student to make the elementary All-County was Kyle Conroy in 2001," said Mr. Burch. "This is the highest honor any music student can earn because of the large number of students auditioning and the competitive nature of Erie County."

As part of the 2006 elementary all-county band, Zach will perform with his Erie County peers at Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo. The concert is on Saturday, March 4, at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the door.



Zach Hyman

Pioneer Learn to Swim programs aimed at children

The Pioneer Middle School swimming pool will be a busy place again this spring as Learn to Swim programs are held for children.

• Ten Saturday programs are scheduled from March 4 to May 20, and are available in five levels from beginners to advanced. There is no cost for the lessons.

• Toddler Swim Lessons are scheduled on Friday evenings from March 3 to March 31. Session A is for children from six months to 18 months, Session B is for

children aged 2 to 3 years, and Session C is for 4- and 5-year-olds. Cost is \$10 per child, and children must be accompanied by an adult.

Participants in Pioneer's Learn to Swim programs are required to be residents of the Pioneer School District. All classes are taught by American Red Cross-certified instructors.

For more information or to register, please call the Pioneer Athletic Department at 716 492-9061.

STUDENTS GET TASTE OF COLLEGE

On Jan. 6, Pioneer High School was pleased to welcome back 11 graduates to share their experiences at college with an audience of 53 current high school students.

The Pioneer alumni represented a variety of colleges and universities. These included Niagara University, SUNY at Buffalo, Alfred State, Wells College, Boston College and St. Bonaventure University. The seminar-like presentation was open to any National Honor Society members, juniors who have taken the PSAT exam, and seniors who have already submitted a college application to the guidance office.

Guidance Department Chair Tim Breen was pleased with the insight the graduates were able to give.

"These graduates speak from experience," said Mr. Breen. "It's not an admissions person or even a counselor telling them what college will be like. It is people they know, trust, and have been in the same hallways with. Plus, the graduates were also able to share what helped them while they were in high school."

Many of the alumni suggested taking at least three years of a foreign language in high school because it exempted them from having to take it in college. Another common theme was the need for students to challenge themselves academically during high school because it makes the transition to a heavier



Seniors Joe Haskell, left, and Kyle Armstrong attend Pioneer High School's recent College Survival Seminar.

workload a bit easier.

The ex-Pioneer students also recommended that students try to become more independent now with regard to schoolwork and assignment deadlines. "College is about time management and personal responsibility," said Drew Antkowiak, a Pioneer grad who attends Canisius College.

In addition to discussing transitions to college, the audience was given firsthand accounts of what a day-to-day schedule is like, regardless if students commute or live at school. Several graduates encouraged students to get involved in extra-curricular activities at Pioneer as it made it easier to do the same once they began college.

"[The seminar] helped me to see what the whole college experience was like – the workload, dorms and the transition from high school to college," said Pioneer junior Aleah Zimpfer. More importantly, Zimpfer also added that she looks forward to returning the favor in two years once she is in college.

"I'll definitely come back to share my experiences," she said.

Three from Pioneer named to BOCES Tech Honor Society



Three Pioneer High School students who attend Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES' Career and Technical Center in Ellicottville have been inducted into the National Technical Honor Society.

The inductees, along with their parents, attended a Jan. 25 dinner and ceremony at the Ellicottville center.

Seniors are nominated for NTHS induction by their teachers based on performance at BOCES, achievement in core subjects, and Regents exam scores. They are also judged on attendance, character, citizenship, and leadership.

Shown with Pioneer High School principal Sharon Huff (left) are Phillip Rivera (Computer Systems Technology), Flavel Bucklaew (Criminal Justice), and Kattie Osborne (Medical Assisting).

MUSIC DEPARTMENT TO HOST JUNIOR SOUTH ENSEMBLE FEST

Pioneer School District will again host the Erie County Music Educators Association (ECMEA) Junior High South Ensemble Festival on March 17 and 18.

The event takes place at Pioneer High School. Approximately 700 band, orchestra and choral students from all over Western New York will be participating. These students were chosen to represent their school districts based on the scores received at solo festivals held in January.

Rehearsals are scheduled on the afternoon and evening of Friday, March 17. On Saturday, March 18, the first concert is at 1:30 p.m., and includes the orchestra and SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) chorus. The 4:00 p.m. concert will feature the symphonic band and SSA (soprano 1, soprano 2, alto) Chorus.

No issue too tough for HS leadership council

Pioneer senior Jeff Dorfman has no shortage of things to do after school — he plays trombone and piano, is active in the high school musical, and can often be seen on his unicycle in and around school.

But on a recent afternoon, he could be found with a half-dozen fellow Pioneer students in the Board of Education room, helping to map the future of the high school.

This year, Pioneer High School principal Sharon Huff and assistant principal Robert Coniglio have been heading up a new leadership council. The council consists of 15 students, who have met with administrators four times since its formation to discuss school improvement initiatives.

“It’s unique in that even the students who are graduating soon are interested in helping make things

better for underclassmen,” said Mrs. Huff.

In a recent meeting, the council’s agenda items included parent involvement, student behavior, and a possible academy or “career-focused” structure for the high school.

The Leadership Council is an initiative suggested by Karen Lesinski, a former Springville-Griffith Institute high school principal who has been mentoring Pioneer administrators for several years. A major goal of the program is to give students a greater chance to take on leadership roles in the school.

Since 2000, Pioneer High School has activated and sustained a series of programs designed to bring about positive changes in the learning environment. These have included PBIS (positive behavioral

interventions and support), Safe School Ambassadors, Please Stand Up, A-OK, and Natural Helpers. Some of the aims associated with these programs include reduced bullying, providing alternatives to risky behaviors, and enabling peer-to-peer counseling.

As the most recent Leadership Council meeting progressed, discussion turned to ways of making the school’s student handbook more user-friendly, and the pros and cons of homerooms.

“Can we tackle all of these issues this year?” asked Mrs. Huff. “Probably not. But it’s a start. And we’re encouraged by the students’ interest.”

MUSIC NOTES

- A group of student-musicians from Pioneer’s freshman class traveled to Orchard Park Central School on Jan. 14 to compete in the Erie County Junior High Solo Festival.

Students are required to memorize scales, prepare a solo, and do sight reading for the competition. It takes many hours of practice to polish and perfect a solo.

There were over 4,000 students from Erie County who participated in these solo festivals. The Pioneer band students were then eligible for the Erie County Junior High Music Festival to be held at Pioneer High School on March 17 and 18 (see page 5).

Participants were: Kelsie Banks, Alycia Dryja, Nick Carton, Val Walden, Katelyn Howell, Kayla Cornell, Kyle Dash, Emily Sheer, Angela Conrad, Brynn Darling and Aaron Sechrist

- Pioneer musicians in grades 10 - 12 traveled to Alden Central School, along with 4,000 other area students, on Jan. 21 to compete in the Erie County Senior High Solo Festival.

All of these musicians competed at the Grade VI level of music, which is the highest possible at this festival. The band students listed below were then eligible for the Erie County Senior High All-County Band. Only the top musicians from Erie County are selected for this ensemble.

Kyle Conroy, Charlie Quinn, Jessica Perkins, Mack Pierce, Mark Smith, Ian Moltrup, Kris Wright and Jeff Dorfman.

The Erie County Senior High Music Festival will be held here at the State University at Buffalo on March 24 and 25.

SCOUTS EXTEND HELPING HAND



Arcade Elementary School 3rd grade student Ben Kubik is shown demonstrating a slant board similar to those recently made by Boy Scout Troop 56 of Strykersville. Two boards were constructed by 12 scouts who were working toward a merit badge. The project was headed by scout leaders Patrick Hager and Kyle Palmateer, and was coordinated through Pioneer special education staff. Scout fathers also assisted, and material donations came from Mr. Hager and Sixt Lumber’s Gary Smith.

Student-artists featured in Wyoming Co. exhibit

Several dozen Pioneer School District student-artists will have work on display at the annual Elementary Art Exhibit of the Arts Council of Wyoming County.

An opening reception is scheduled for Friday, March 10, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the Arts Council gallery, 31 South Main St., Perry.

The exhibit will be on continuous display at the gallery from 9:00 a.m.

to 5:00 p.m., each weekday through March 31.

The following Arcade Elementary School students will be featured:

Grade 4: Cheyenne Dell, Ryan Merlau, Brianna Ronan; **Grade 3:** Chantel Willis, Erin Kirsch, Kaley Herring; **Grade 2:** Trevor Owens; **Grade 1:** Kayla Edmunds, Katelynn Rogers, Jeffrey Callahan;

Kindergarten: Katelyn Eigenbrod, Grace Clouse.

Pioneer Middle School has sent work from the following artists:

Grade 5: Alana Isaacs, Stevie Moran, Kala Esposito, Savannah Delude, Kayla Morey; **Grade 6:** Julia D’Rosario, Dylan Eckert, Megan Sheer, David Lawrence, Chris Fleck.

Even Start program seeking families

The federally funded Even Start Family Literacy Program has operated in the Pioneer School District for 14 years. Over 200 families have received adult literacy support and readiness programs for pre-kindergarten children.

Now as federal dollars that support the program get tighter, the program eligibility requirements have become more restrictive. “Our Even Start funding is provided to families that are the most ‘in need’— that is, at the federal poverty level, with an adult in need of a GED or life skills education, and children age birth to 8,” said Even Start director Terry Grajek.

This year, Pioneer has partnered with Franklinville School District to provide Even Start services.

For more information about Pioneer’s Even Start program, call 716 492-9436.

PARENTS ASKED TO STRESS STUDENT SAFETY NEAR ROADWAYS

Pioneer School District is concerned for the safety and well-being of students, even when they are not physically in school. Because of this, district officials are asking parents and guardians to encourage students to keep safety in mind while waiting for buses and when walking alongside roads

“The wintry weather has made roads slick, and sometimes the roads are unplowed or partially plowed,” said Pioneer superintendent Jeffrey Bowen. “Students tend to wear dark clothing and seem oblivious to traffic - actually in the roadways or in parking lots.”

Parents should urge students to wear bright and visible clothing, and to stay off to the side of roads when walking.

“If sidewalks or roads near the school are not fully plowed, please let the school know so we can contact the relevant town or village highway supervisor to let them know of concerns,” said Dr. Bowen.

Another critical safety problem involves students waiting for buses. Often they will walk out into the road to get the attention of bus drivers.

“The students need to be reminded that the buses will stop,” said Dr. Bowen. “There’s no need for them to take a needless risk like stepping in front of a bus.”

AT THE HOP



Delevan Elementary’s kindergarten class held its annual hopathon on Feb. 14. Each student hopped 100 times, and gathered pledges based on their totals. Proceeds benefit the Variety Club telethon for Children’s Hospital. All 4th grade students and a group of 2nd graders helped the hoppers make sure they stopped at the century mark. The following day, kindergartners marked the 100th day of school.

Science Olympiad = fun with a purpose

A group of eight Pioneer High School pre-engineering students recently competed with students from 22 other schools at the New York State Science Olympiad competition at Clarence High School.

Instructor Donald Kress said it was Pioneer's first time at the competition. "All in all I was very pleased with our finish."

The students who attended included Brennan Brauen, Nicholas Girdlestone, James Krueger, Ryan Machus, Donald McKerrow, Eric Petit,

Jonathan Rabey, and Kurtis Welker.

Pioneer registered and competed in the following events:

- **WRIGHT STUFF** - Jonathan Rabey and Ryan Machus flew their rubber-powered airplane for 80 seconds to earn second place.

- **TOWER OF POWER** - Kurtis Welker and James Krueger built a balsa wood tower with an efficiency score of 422, good for 12th place.

- **STORM THE CASTLE** - Eric Petit and Donald

McKerrow designed a trebuchet that hit its target within a meter, winning 15th place.

- **SCRAMBLER** - Brennan Brauen and Nicholas

by the National Science Olympiad, a national nonprofit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing interest in

Middle School recognition celebrates good character

Pioneer Middle School identifies 20 Students of the Month across grades 5 through 8. Each grade level team and special area teacher selects a student who models and regularly displays the following character education traits; Kindness, Helpfulness, Self Control, Cooperation, Honesty, Respect for Others, and Acceptance of Others.

Student of the Month names are read during morning announcements, and each student's name is listed on a special display board next to the main entrance of the building. Selected students also receive a Student of the Month certificate and have the opportunity to make their own ice cream sundaes during lunch.

"The program provides an opportunity to promote positive character traits and behaviors that lead to success in life," said principal Ravo Root. "It is meant to acknowledge the majority of our students who display positive character traits regularly, or it can be a way to acknowledge a student who has recently turned his/her behavior around."

The January 2006 Students of the Month:

GRADE 5: Wesley Darling, Amanda Pauly, Kody Wolfer;
GRADE 6: Carlene Heineman, Kelsey Johnson, Jacob Moore;
GRADE 7: Nicole Bauder, Elaine Foster, Taylor Janosz; GRADE 8: Ryer Becker, Jeffery Close, Jeffrey Whitaker; ART: Nicole Souter;
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES: Jacquelyn Carter; PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Kayla Prevorse; HEALTH: Bradi Hopkins; MUSIC: Kelly Pingrey; TECHNOLOGY: Kyle Clever; FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Caitlyn Chiari.

The December 2005 Students of the Month:

GRADE 5: Kayla Prevorse, Ryan Slocum, Emily Zielinski; GRADE 6: Tyler Robinson, Jennifer Sanders, Nathan Smith; GRADE 7: Dylan Chmiel, Chelsey Currie, Alyxis Mitrowski; GRADE 8: Kaleigh Domster, Jessica Eckel, Donald Smith; ART: Myra Reardon;
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES: Chelby Rogers; PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Robert Battaglia; HEALTH: Connie Draper; MUSIC: Britanee Jaquish; TECHNOLOGY: Scott Fisher; FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Chelsey Smith.

A correction from the September-November Student of the Month listing in the Winter 2006 newsletter: Alexandria Shanahan (Foreign Language).



Pioneer Principles of Engineering students attended the Science Olympiad on Feb. 4 at Clarence High School. From left: Eric Petit, Brennan Brauen, Nick Girdlestone, Ryan Machus, Kurt Welker, Mr. Donald Kress, Jonathan Rabey, Donald McKerrow, Jim Krueger.

Girdlestone built a weight-powered vehicle with an egg for a bumper. It came within a meter of the designated wall and earned seventh place.

The Science Olympiad involves teams of students from public and private schools, and ranging from middle school to high school age. Competitions follow the formats of popular board games, Olympic games, and TV shows.

These challenging and motivational events are well balanced among the various science disciplines of biology, earth science, chemistry, physics, and technology. There is also a balance between events requiring knowledge of science content, concepts, processes, skills, and applications. The tournaments are overseen

science, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education to students and teachers.

For more information, visit <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/mst/Olympiad.htm>

Pioneer Central School is in compliance with the U.S. Civil Services Rights Act of 1964 and the Title IX Education Amendments of 1972, Part 86. The District provides equal employment opportunity to all individuals and does not discriminate on the basis of color, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age or handicapping condition. The 504 compliance officer can be reached at 716 492-9435. The Title IX compliance officer can be reached at 716 492-9351.