



# PIONEER

School District



## N E W S L E T T E R

### THIS JUST IN:

The Pioneer High School Guidance Office is sponsoring prep classes for the new SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) geared toward college-bound students.

The classes will be held Monday, April 25, and Wednesday, April 27, at the distance learning room adjacent to the high school library media center. Time is from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Cost is \$20.00 per student, which covers the cost of the SAT prep book which is used in the class.

Space is limited, so students are asked to sign up early. Only students who pay at the time of registration will be considered for this class; no sign-ups will be accepted at the time of the class.

Deadline is April 8. For more information contact the high school guidance office at 716 492-9339.

## Common start/end time okayed for Pioneer Middle School

When the 2005-2006 school year starts at Pioneer, one of the biggest changes will be a single start and end time for all students at Pioneer Middle School.

The Pioneer Board of Education formally endorsed the change at its March 1 meeting. Since the middle school opened in 1975, 5th and 6th graders have started and ended their daily routines about an hour later than their 7th and 8th grade peers.

Middle-level and district-wide planning committees have been working on a common start time for grades 5-8 since last fall. Groups of parents, teachers, and administrators have been meeting to look into a unified middle school schedule, and in January recommended a common start and end time for all middle school grades.

The groups determined that a common schedule better corresponded with state Education Department guidelines for middle schools. Education advan-

tages included increased instructional time for grades 5/6, as well as the implementation of learning goals across all grades.

The district would save time and money in the area of transportation, and duplication and conflicts would be avoided in services and programs.

Under the proposal, students in grades 5-12 would be transported in a single run. Principal Ravo Root

said a survey conducted among area middle school principals indicated few problems with mixing middle and high school students on the same bus runs.

To address parent concerns about the changes, several recommendations have been built into the plan. These include having 5th and 6th grade students

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### Heart-y Visit to The Pines

Delevan Elementary students of Mrs. Debra Forkey and Mrs. Colleen Clester made a recent visit to The Pines in Machias, performing songs for the residents and presenting them with handmade Valentines.

sit near the front on buses, moving the start time for middle and high school students to slightly later, and maintaining after-school programs at the middle school to help parents deal with a shortened afternoon.

Mr. Root noted that a common start time for the middle school does not change the length of day for any students at Pioneer. He also stressed that the exact

start and end times for the schools have yet to be determined.

Not only will instructional time increase for students in grades 5 and 6, but there will be more time for those students to get academic help after school. With teachers on one schedule, there are more opportunities for them to meet by grade level and subject area.

The shift of the middle school to a common start

time will also help students avoid two transitions. Currently, students transition to grade 5, and face another adjustment when they reach grade 7.

The plan also means middle and high school students would start their days at a different time — perhaps 15 minutes later — than when they currently do. The elementary schedule would remain

similar to what is currently in place. This is due to the time saved by eliminating the bus runs between the elementary schools and the middle school.

"Students will benefit from the new time structure in so many ways — academically, socially, emotionally," said Mr. Root. "Parents played a key role in getting us to this point, and they'll play a key role in implementation."

## Annual Pioneer musical, "Oklahoma!", is April 8-10

One of America's all-time classic musicals will be staged by the Pioneer Music Department on April 8, 9, and 10, when Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" is staged at Pioneer High School.

Show times are Friday, April 8, and Saturday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 10, at 2:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students and seniors, with tickets available at the door.

"Oklahoma!" has been presented three times before at Pioneer — in 1970-71, 1981-82, and 1993-94.

When it debuted on Broadway in 1943, "Oklahoma!" was innovative in its use of drama, music, and dance to tell its story. It also marked the start of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein's collaborative relationship.

The musical is set in the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), during the land rush of 1907. Laurey (Paige Anderson), with the help of her Aunt Eller (Taylor Griffith), is managing the family farm. She has two suitors: charming cowboy Curly McLain (Adam Slocum) and farmhand Jud Fry (Jeremy Killingbeck). Though she favours Curly, to spite him she agrees



Pioneer High School seniors Paige Anderson (Laurey) and Tim Hager (Will Parker) rehearse for the music department's production of "Oklahoma!", coming up April 8, 9, and 10.

to let Jud drive her to the box lunch social.

Meanwhile, Will Parker (Tim Hager) has returned from Kansas City where he has won \$50 in a steer roping contest and plans to claim man-crazy Ado Annie (Lindsay Bucholtz) as his bride. Her father, Andrew Carnes (Jeff Cannon), has told him that if he ever had that much money she would be his. Unfortunately, Will has spent the money on presents, and is broke again. Carnes insists Annie marry Ali Hakim (Jeff Dorfman), the peddler who has been pursuing her. Ali

Hakim is not interested in marriage.

Curly visits Jud and tries to discourage him, but the rivalry intensifies. Laurey, believing in the "Elixir of Egypt" bought from the peddler, sniffs it and has a dream that helps her make up her mind.

At the box lunch social, while farm people and cattle folk socialize, Ali Hakim goes to great lengths to ensure that Will is once more worth \$50. Jud and Curly engage in a bidding war in the auction for Laurey's lunch basket (and her company at lunch)

and Curly proves his love by selling everything he owns to win.

Later, at the dance, Laurey spurns Jud's advances, which provokes a confrontation that results in Jud's dismissal and banishment from her ranch. She and Curly admit their love and they agree to marry.

Ado Annie and Will, with Ali Hakim out of the picture, reconcile and promise to be true to each other.

Laurey and Curly marry, and during the shivaree that follows, Jud returns and provokes a fight. In the scuffle, he is killed with his own knife. Curly is tried on the spot, pleads self-defence, and is acquitted.

"Oklahoma!" features such familiar musical numbers as "Oh What a Beautiful Morning," "The Surrey With the Fringe on Top," and the title song. About 150 Pioneer students from all grade levels are involved in the production, which is directed by Wyn Roll, Ron Tyrrell, and Liz Wascak.

A special senior citizen performance of "Oklahoma!" happens Wednesday, April 6, at 4:00 p.m. Admission is free, and refreshments will be served.

# Career and technical training suits these high school students just fine

Whether its criminal justice, conservation, diesel mechanics, or cosmetology, about 70 Pioneer High School juniors and seniors are getting a taste of careers while earning the academic credits they will need to graduate.

These students attend the Career and Technical Education Center at Ellicottville, part of Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES. Pioneer is one of 22 C-A BOCES component districts.

Every school day, Pioneer's BOCES students take a half-hour bus ride to the center. There then spend about two hours getting the specialized vocational training for which BOCES has long been famous.

**Scott Bartz** of Strykersville is a senior who is finishing his second year in BOCES' conservation program. He is the son of Allen and Debbie Bartz.

"Coming to BOCES helps me get better at things I already know, such as



Already familiar with driving a dump truck through his conservation studies at BOCES, Scott Bartz would like to find a job matching those skills following graduation.

running equipment," Scott said. "The instructors, Mr. Sonner and Mr. Steinbroner, are friendly and willing to help."

Scott, whose brother and sister also attended BOCES, would like to drive a 10-wheeled dump truck for a living, and possibly start his own business some day.

As a diesel mechanics student, senior **Gary Beres** already has a leg up on his future plans of attending UTI Technical College in Chicago. He will study auto, diesel, and industrial mechanics.

"My teacher, Mr. David Thiel, helped me decide



Pioneer senior Gary Beres is enrolled in diesel mechanics at the Ellicottville BOCES center, and anticipates furthering his education in Chicago next fall.

that this is the direction I'd like to take," said Gary, who plans to be a mechanic some day. "I like BOCES because we get to work on things."

Gary has an internship through BOCES at Mike's

cer in her future work. She has been enrolled in the criminal justice program at Ellicottville for two years.

"My teacher, Mr. Tim Emley, is awesome," said Heather. "He teaches us about penal law and sketching and photographing crime scenes. 'CSI' is regular viewing in our class."

Heather, the daughter of Robert Mosher and Dale Kruse, said she appreciates the smaller class size and one-on-one attention BOCES provides.

Perhaps the longest distance BOCES relationship belongs to **Lindsay Gebauer** of Bliss, who lives nearly 40 miles from the Ellicottville center.

A senior, Lindsay is a daughter of Pat Gebauer and Mark Gebauer. She



Cosmetology students Jessica Peziol, left, and Lindsay Gebauer proudly represent Pioneer at BOCES.

Transmissions in Machias, where he spends up to 10 hours a week putting his classroom training into practice. Gary is the son of Gary and Sandy Beres of Machias.

If **Heather Mosher** of Arcade has her way, she will be a parole or probation offi-

is a cosmetology student, learning skills she can fall back on if her plans to become an X-ray technician are delayed.

"I enjoy coming to BOCES because my classmates are so friendly," Lindsay said. "This type of learning is a better fit for me."

# 1st graders stage message of peace in words and music

The Arcade Elementary School 1st grade presented a musical program entitled "Teaching Peace" on Feb. 17.

The performance consisted of poems and songs that taught children and adults about the importance of getting

along and helping each other feel special. The children made decorations for the stage and the hallway near their classrooms, and consisted of children's faces, peace signs, and multicultural children holding hands. Students from

the classes of Mrs. Carol Bojanowski, Mrs. Pam Kaminski, Mr. Mark Kehl, and Mrs. Kathy Vetter joined together in such songs as "These are Places of the World," "Hooray For the World," "I Think You're Wonderful," and "Say Hi." The song "See Me Beautiful" was accompanied by a touching Powerpoint presentation showing all of the 1st grade children. The slideshow was compiled by Mrs. Vetter, and the musical direction was conducted by Mr. Kehl.



"Teaching Peace" was presented live on stage as the annual 1st grade play at Arcade Elementary School.

## High school names Top 10 seniors

Kristina Conroy is the valedictorian and Katherine Bailey is the salutatorian of the Pioneer High School Class of 2005.

Kristina is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Conroy of Java Center, and Katherine is the daughter of

The remainder of the top 10 seniors in alphabetical order:

Paige Anderson, Amanda Czesak, Leticia Czesak, Cameron Fraser, Thomas Koepf, Brennan Payne, Elizabeth Simon, and Lydia Zientek.

# Arcade students get lesson in healthy eating

Several classes at Arcade Elementary School enjoyed a tasty classroom activity recently, designed to get students thinking about nutrition in the things they eat.

On Feb. 10, representatives from the Healthy Community Alliance — a coalition of which Pioneer Central School is a member — held a program about the benefits of healthy snacking. Students heard a story and took part in a discussion, then sampled several healthy snacks.

Some of the taste treats included fresh fruits and vegetables, low fat yogurt and dips, and water. Students were reminded to try to include five to nine servings of fruits and vegetables in their everyday diet. Parents can help by allowing their children to assist in preparing these foods for snacks or meals, and to teach them to read nutritional labeling on food packaging.



Students in the Arcade Elementary School primary team classroom of Mrs. Cheryl Galvin take part in a Fit & Fun healthy snack tasting program sponsored by the Healthy Community Alliance.

# 'Edwina' serves up laughs, advice at Middle School



This year's Pioneer Middle School musical, "Dear Edwina," was a tuneful "tour-de-fork" that thoroughly entertained the large crowds who attended a trio of performances. It also spotlighted the many talented cast members who proved they have enough acting and musical ability to warm hearts and steal the show.



## Maintenance report complete

The Pioneer Board of Education recently received a report on a study of the district's maintenance operations.

At the March 1 board meeting, George Perry and William Gorgos of the New York State Association of School Business Officials (NYSASBO) presented a summary of a study they conducted on Pioneer's maintenance operations. The report contained detailed profiles on the cost of maintenance on a per-square-foot basis throughout the district's facilities, and provided comparisons on staffing levels based on the size and types of buildings at Pioneer.

The report concluded that all Pioneer facilities are within a favorable range of maintenance staffing, based in part on state Education Department formulas for those criteria. It also stated that building occupants are generally pleased with the cleanliness and upkeep of Pioneer facilities, and that the maintenance program is supported with state-of-the-art systems and equipment.

The report recommended several areas of improvement, and Board of Education members were provided with a full version of the study on which to base any future decisions in this area.

A summary of the study is available at [www.pioneer.wyric.org](http://www.pioneer.wyric.org)



## Afghanistan Bound

Delevan Elementary kindergarten teacher Jan Simons helps students Breanna Haley, Christopher Flood, and Julianna Davis stack 93 boxes of school supplies destined for Afghanistan. U.S. Army Spc. Ed Rung, a former Delevan student, has worked toward starting a school in the war-torn country, and the entire community has responded with donations over the last several months. Federal Express agreed to ship the items overseas.

# Honors lab aims to boost 8th grade achievement

Pioneer Middle School 8th grade students on the merit or honor roll who have not received a disciplinary referral during the current month are eligible to attend the new Honors Learning Lab in the cafeteria.

The honors lab is designed to reward those students who have acted responsibly both academically and behaviorally. Because the lab is in the cafeteria, students are able to spread out and complete their work in a manner that is conducive to learning.

Students are allowed to bring snacks, work in small groups, or listen to their portable music as long as they do not

disturb others.

"The idea is to provide students with a relaxed, enjoyable, studious environment for them to complete their work in," said principal Ravo Root. "It is easy to spend all of your time and effort on those students not exhibiting positive behaviors or effort. We will continue spending time and effort acknowledging those students who excel academically and behaviorally."

"By acknowledging positive behaviors, we hope to encourage more and more students to achieve excellence

both behaviorally and academically," Mr. Root added.

Supervision of the honors lab is provided by administrators, guidance counselors, the school resource officer, and a social worker. The lab provides an opportunity for staff to interact with and get to know the students as they complete their work. It also reduces the number of students in classrooms during learning lab time. This allows team teachers the opportunity to provide students with a greater amount of individual assistance as they complete their work.

## *Pioneer again schools WNY maple producers*

by Molly Bliaa, Pioneer FFA Reporter

Despite the terrible snowstorm that plastered the area on Jan. 22, 100 people from near and far traveled to Pioneer High School in Yorkshire to participate in the Annual Western New York Maple School.

Throughout the morning and afternoon, maple producers were given the chance to listen to numerous guest speakers and presenters, as well as participate in workshops related to maple production. Courses covered a wide range of topics — from media and communication techniques to cost management and improving syrup quality.

Pioneer FFA members and advisors were very busy throughout the day, ensuring the success of the event. Members helped with setup, registra-

tion, and assisting the participants in finding their workshops. Several FFAers stayed busy in the former Home and Careers kitchen all day, cooking and serving the guests a pancake lunch. The maple syrup for the lunch was provided by the Western New York Maple Producers Association. At the end of the day, FFA members were even given the opportunity to participate in a maple candy-making demonstration.

Pioneer FFA and the Western New York Maple Producers send heartfelt thanks to all of the maple producers and other guests who "braved the elements" and traveled out in the weather. Once again, just like its previous four years at Pioneer, the Western New York Maple School was a great success!



Members of the Western New York Maple Producers Association attended Maple School at Pioneer Jan. 22.

## Middle school debuts Student of the Month program

Beginning in February, Pioneer Middle School started designating approximately 20 students as Students of the Month.

Teachers from every core subject area team and special area department (Music, Technology, Health, Family Consumer Science, Art, Foreign Language and Physical Education) in grades 5-8 select 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 will be read during morning announcements, and each student's name will be listed on a Student of the Month display board next to the main entrance of the building. Selected students will also receive a certificate and a free lunch from our cafeteria.

"This provides an opportunity to promote character traits and positive behaviors that promotes success in life," said principal Ravo Root. "It is also one more way to acknowledge those students who do an outstand-

ing job every day, or it can be a way to acknowledge a student who has 'turned it around' recently.

February's Students of the Month were: Garth Boldt, Triana Coen, Kayla Cornell, Samantha George, Jared Hallock, Kasandra Heppner, Allen Herrick, Katelyn Howell, Jesse Kalbach, Shayne Kelly, Jennifer Klimeck, Jennifer Knight, Kaitlyn Norgren, Lynette Owens, Regina Perry, Jordan Roth, Elizabeth Sheer, Richard Snyder, Nicole Souter, Allen Talley, Brittany Zavarella.

# The TREK

Technology Resources Enhancing Knowledge  
Pioneer Central Schools



With the NCLB legislation and its emphasis on increased school accountability, the Pioneer Central School District is relying more and more on the use of educational technology to enhance the learning environment and to create 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. To further help school districts attain these goals, the International Society of Technology in Education has crafted the National Education Technology Standards (NETS) for students, a series of grade-level specific performance indicators for technology-literate students.

Listed among the NETS competencies is the recommendation that students should be able to use technology tools, including digital cameras for communication, and illustration of thoughts prior to the completion of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade!

## Digital Cameras in the Elementary Classroom

Arcade students in Mrs. Byers' and Mrs. Galvin's multi-age classrooms (grades 1 and 2) have recently completed a project that addressed that very standard. The digital camera use was incorporated within a math lesson centered on the students' ability to recognize and identify common geometric shapes.

After a brief lesson on the use of the school's digital cameras, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders were separated into small groups and sent throughout the school building to find naturally occurring geometric shapes in their every day world. Once a student identified a geometric shape, another student in the group used a digital camera to photograph the student pointing out the shape that they found and identified.

By the time the project was completed, each student was able to successfully find and identify a geometric shape, meeting the requirement of the math lesson, as well as being able to use a digital camera to photograph a classmate, satisfying the NETS competency.



*Taking measurements with science probes*

## Science Probes and Hand Held Computers

Students in Mr. Relling's High School Meteorology classes have been taking advantage of an entirely different classroom technology to help in the understanding of their curriculum. After attending a workshop on the use of handheld computers with science probes, Mr. Relling worked with the Office of Curriculum and Instruction and the Instructional Technology Services Department to procure a grant for a set of 10 Palm Pilot hand held computers along with a full complement of Science probes for use in his classroom.

A number of probes were purchased, including units for the measurement of temperature, air pressure, and acidity. Connected directly to the Palm Pilots, these probes afforded Mr. Relling's students instantaneous feedback in the form of raw data and real-time graphing of the readings recorded.

To demonstrate the

effects of altitude on air pressure, the Meteorology students attached an air pressure probe to a Palm Pilot, secured the unit to a book bag, and then raised it to the top of the flag pole located in the entryway to the High School. When the unit was lowered back to the ground, the software had recorded and graphed the changing air pressure as the book bag made its way to the top of the flag pole and back down against changes that were discernable even in the course of a few dozen feet of altitude.

In a more ambitious use of the technologies, Mr. Relling fashioned a number of sealed beakers, with access ports for a small air pump and temperature and pressure probes. Once the probes were activated, the students pumped air into the beakers, and watched the readout on the handhelds, which simultaneously measured and graphed the corresponding increased air pressure and temperature within the beakers.



*a Rectangle*

*A student-captured digital photograph*

# Students get 'owl' the facts on wildlife rehab

Pioneer Middle School 5th and 6th grade students recently received some firsthand insight into the study of nature through a visit from a licensed wildlife rehabilitator.

Sharon Tiburzi of Holland brought along three birds which are native to Western New York - the Northern saw-whet, the barn owl, and the great snowy owl. She spoke to a group of about 50 students in an hour-long program Feb. 18.

Ms. Tiburzi heads up Owl Facts, a live nature program for all ages that focuses on the owls of New York State. She is a state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitator, and only people with the proper permits from the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service may possess owls.

Along with displaying rehabilitated birds of prey, Ms. Tiburzi offers hands-on materials such as owl pellets, which are small grey or brown masses consisting of regurgitated matter — fur, feathers, bones, bills, claws, and teeth. These are bits which cannot be digested by the owl. By studying these pellets, people can learn what a particular owl eats.

"Most owls are creatures of the

## It's kindergarten registration time

Elementary schools in the Pioneer School District will hold kindergarten registration from March 7-18. A child must turn 5 years old by December 1, 2005, 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.

Physicals can be performed after June 9, and parents can bring in the completed physical form any time after that date.

When they come into the office, parents will also be asked to sign their child up for kindergarten screening, which will take place on May 11 and May 12.

Parents are reminded that enrollment at Pioneer is dependent on meeting the terms of the district's residency policy. Any new student must live in the district in order to enroll.

night," said Ms. Tiburzi. "Their eyes are huge, and like humans they have excellent binocular vision. However, because their eyes are fixed in the sockets, they must rotate their heads, up to 270 degrees, to look around."

Students enjoyed their close-up encounter with the three owls brought to the school by Ms. Tiburzi. A question-and-answer period followed her presentation. Teachers were provided materials with which they could facilitate follow-up discussions in their classrooms.

Ms. Tiburzi's visit was sponsored by Waste Management Inc., as a community service. Pioneer welcomes opportunities to work with local businesses in providing educational opportunities.

For more information, contact Ms. Tiburzi at 716 537-9664.



Wildlife rehabilitator Sharon Tiburzi displays a barn owl to Pioneer Middle School 5th and 6th grade students.



## For Art's Sake

Twenty-seven student-artists from Delevan Elementary School had artwork displayed at the Arcade Historical Society's Gibby House, as part of the Winterfest Art Show Feb. 12. According to their teacher Elizabeth Harrison, the works included painting, ceramics, wire and oil pastel. Some of the students are pictured above. Front row: Melissa Pinckney, Mercedes Cruz, Tristan McAfee, Nathan Schiener, Kyle Chapman, and Bobby Levy. Back row: Kayla Morey, Hannah Heineman, Brittany Pleace, Christopher Kline, Tristan Becker, Brayden Denk, and Ryan Moselle.