Cheering on our State Soccer Champions - Aardvark fans are the best!

NEWS FROM JORDAN ELLIOTT, HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL

We are excited to welcome students back from Thanksgiving break. I hope that all of our community members had a restful and rejuvenating time away from school.

Congratulations to our Girls’ and Boys’ Soccer Teams for both winning this year’s state championship - an awesome achievement for all involved.

The coming weeks will be focused on preparing for final assessments (December 16-19, detailed schedule below in Calendar of Upcoming Events). Do make note that exams begin at 9:00 am Tuesday through Thursday, December 16-18, and that parents can excuse students from the final exam that corresponds with their open block by calling or emailing Alison Nugent (usattend@oes.edu).

The 2014 calendar year ends with our annual St. Nick’s Chapel. The event begins at 1:30 pm in the OES Gym. Parents are welcome. Please note that the final assessment on Friday, December 19 begins at 10:00 am.

Follow me on Twitter for updates of what’s going on in the Upper School and for trends in education: @OESheadUS.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1-11 Giving Tree, Great Hall
December 2 Books & Breakfast, 8:00am, Platt
December 4 Advent Service, 6:30pm, Chapel
December 5 Art Sale, 8:00am, Main Lobby (details below)
December 7 Guatemala Winterim Student mtg, 1:00-4:00pm, Rm 60
December 10 Tech for Parents: Social Media, 6:30pm, MS Commons
December 16-19  US Assessments  
Dec. 16 - 9:00-11:00am G, 1:00-3:00pm F  
Dec. 17 - 9:00-11:00am E, 1:00-3:00pm D  
Dec. 18 - 9:00-11:00am C, 1:00-3:00pm B  
Dec. 19 - 10:00am-12:00pm A

December 19  St. Nick's Alumni Pizza Party, 12:00pm, DVR  
St. Nick's Chapel, 1:30pm, OES Gym

December 19  Winter Break!

January 20-January 4  
January 5  Classes Resume  
9th Grade PAL, 8:00am, DVR

January 12  10th Grade PAL, 8:00am, DVR  
Speaker - Dr. John Medina, 7:00pm, Chapel

January 16  NO US Classes

SCHOOL NOTES

(NEW) Give Cereal  
For the 15th consecutive year OES is collecting cereal for The Community Transitional School, a school in NE Portland serving homeless youth. This is a busy time of year for all of us, but if you have a spare box of cereal to share with some kids who would not otherwise have breakfast it would be greatly appreciated. Just have it delivered to the door of the US Office. Thanks so much and Happy Holidays!

(NEW) Dorm News  
Welcome back from Thanksgiving Break! It is great to see all the Dormies happy, rested and ready for school. There are only two weeks of classes before final exams, and then we celebrate the beloved Winter Break! To celebrate the holiday season, we have several trips planned, including Marius Petipa's ballet, The Nutcracker, a service opportunity at Clay Street Table, as well as several trips for shopping and unique cultural events around Portland.

Honeywell Instant Alert  
Winter is here! It is important to be ready for what nature throws our way. OES contracts with an emergency announcement calling service that will notify families of school delays and closures and other emergencies. In order to receive these announcements, you must register with Honeywell Instant Alert. Learn more.

Dr. John Medina & Brain Rules  
OES is bringing New York Times bestselling author, Dr. John Medina to our campus on Monday, January 12th. Plan to join us from 7:00-9:00 p.m. for a humorous, energetic and informative presentation on Dr. Medina's book, Brain Rules. The evening promises to give insight into how our brains work and what we need to know in order to strive at home, work, school and in raising our children. Questions? Contact Kristin Bradley.

Volunteer Needs - Giving Tree gift wrapping volunteers needed! Click here.

OES Dining Hall News  
Do you want to keep up on what's happening in the OES dining hall? Are you interested in the Bon Appetit story or how Bon Appetit stumbled into sustainability? Check us out on Facebook at Bon Appetit @ OES.

OES Nut Policy Reminder  
As everyone is aware, OES has chosen not to serve nuts or nut products in our dining halls as one measure to help keep our community members with life threatening allergies safe. In regards to OES bus transportation, we also request that your student(s) refrain from bringing or consuming nuts or nut products on our OES buses in order to minimize risk for our students. Questions? Contact Elaine Elliott.

Attendance  
Please remember to call or email in advance if your child is going to miss school or be late for any reason. Doing so will help us keep your child safe. Email USattend or call US Attendance Coordinator, Alison Nugent, at (503) 768-3169.

(NEW) ADMISSIONS

SIBLING APPLICATIONS
Parents: if you have a child ready to join the OES community in the 2015-16 school year, the application deadline is January 20. We are offering a **reduced application fee** of $50 if you **apply online** by December 15. You will use your parent portal password to log into the online application. Visit [OES Admission](#) for an application checklist and all forms.

**Prospective Parent Information Receptions – open to the public**
Tuesday, December 9, 6:00pm – Oswego Lake Country Club

(NEW) **WINTERIM 2015**

The full catalogue of course options for Winterim 2015 can be found by clicking [here](#). Students have been encouraged to talk with parents about their options – Winterim is a great time to try something new! On the right side of the Winterim webpage are links for the online registration form and the financial aid application. Once students submit their online registration they will receive an email that they need to print out and get signed by both a parent and their advisor. **Signed registration forms are due to the US office by 3p.m. on Wednesday, December 3rd.** Questions? Please contact Tna Meyerhoff, Director of Winterim.

(NEW) **ADVENT SERVICE & AFTERGLOW**

Everyone is invited to the annual OES **Advent Service of Lessons and Carols** in the chapel on Thursday, December 4th 6:30 – 7:30pm. Enjoy beautiful music and readings presented by 3rd – 5th grade choirs, middle school choirs, US choir, and the 5th grade handbell choir directed by Jeri Haskins, Amy Rheingans and Adam Steele. All are invited afterwards to **Afterglow at 7:30pm in the Great Hall** to hear more music and have some cookies.

**Afterglow Annual Holiday Art Sale - Dec. 4 & 5**
Join us after Advent Service for our Annual Holiday Art Show!

Thursday Dec. 4, 7:30-8:30pm, in the Great Hall
Friday, Dec. 5, 8:00am-3:30pm in the Main Lobby
10% of proceeds sold will benefit an organization selected by the US Student Art Sale Committee to help prevent teen homelessness.

We will have a drawing for a beautiful quilt handmade by Debby Schauffler featuring horses and lovely designs & colors!

For more information contact Nancy Teskey.

(NEW) **TECH FOR PARENTS: SOCIAL MEDIA**

Wednesday, December 10th 6:30-8:00pm MS Commons

The OES Upper School would like to cordially invite you to a **night of information, discussion, and Questions & Answers around Social Media**. As online activity continually becomes more social and interconnected, the challenge for parents is in determining how best to be involved with and help guide the development of our students’ digital lives.

This event will present a framework for understanding the different social networks, and some of the important considerations around profiles, privacy, and location-based services. We’ll discuss prescriptive approaches that can inform your individual family policies, as well as cover policies here at OES. And finally, we’ll field specific questions that will form the basis for an online resource for families to use when considering social media choices in the future.

We hope to see you there!
Amanda Weber-Welch (Upper School Counselor) & Ed Cecere (Upper School Ed. Tech. Coordinator)

(NEW) **SCHOOL STORE**
(NEW) OES SERVICE LEARNING

It’s Giving Tree Time!

Join us in this important and joyful OES tradition of service to our local community...

Students of the Service-Learning Action Committee, Community Board, Spirit Squad, and AASK Student Advisory Council coordinate the collection of new clothing and gifts for about 25 families from our AASK partner, Whitford Middle School. Counselors at Whitford carefully identify families that especially need support at this time of year. OES is honored to be part of a collaborative effort that relies on the participation of a number of businesses, churches, and service agencies.

Upper School students and parents can pick up gift tags from the Giving Tree in the main lobby beginning today (12/1). Gift items must be placed under the Giving Tree, NOT wrapped, and with gift tags securely attached, by Thursday, December 11. Each Whitford family member will receive socks, a shirt or sweater, pants or jeans, and a gift item. Choose the items that you would most like to give!

Questions? Contact Myra Clark (503) 768-3193, Gisela Walitzki (503) 416-9394, or Robin Schauffler (503) 416-9308.

Volunteers are needed to help wrap gifts and supervise students wrapping gifts. If you are interested please sign up on VolunteerSpot: Giving Tree Gift Wrap.
Questions? Contact Gisela Walitzki.

Many agencies have special events during November-December: preparing natural areas for winter, helping warm and feed those in need during the holidays, providing extra cheer to elders and children, etc. It’s a special "use your power for good" time of year! For holiday Service-Learning ideas, go to the Service-Learning Opportunities Page and see what you can find - activities for Upper School students, and for the whole family.

Students in 10th grade should be looking for ways to fulfill those 20 OFF-campus hours before the end of January … Now’s the time!
You will also find full details on the Service-Learning Requirement page.

SENIORS need to be making progress on their Service-Learning Requirement—May is much sooner than they think! If you have a senior in your house, please ask him or her what plans have been made for SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS!!

Go to Hands-On-Portland and find date-specific volunteer events at a variety of
places all over town, or CLICK HERE for the OES Service Learning website's list of projects and agencies that always welcome volunteers, anytime.

Remember, if your child is looking for a way to earn Service-Learning hours, design a Service-Learning Project, or use his or her Power for Good, the Service-Learning Opportunities Page is constantly updated with new options for ON and OFF campus hours and projects. Don’t let these opportunities go to waste! You will also find on the website all the details of the Service-Learning Requirement. Questions or suggestions? Contact Robin Schauffler, 503-416-9308.

AASK

AASK prepares for the winter session!

AASK's tutoring session will begin right after Thanksgiving on Tuesday, December 2 and run through Thursday, February 26 (as per the trimester change).

This is a super opportunity to make a difference. We work with English Language Learners who go to school in a completely different culture than their home culture, who have to be ready for high school in a completely different language than their own, and who can only do that with concrete support for their academic skills. AASK students are bright motivated learners and many high school tutors find that they learn as much from their tutoring relationships as their tutees learn from them academically. Join our team, and give our AASK tutees the tools they need for the educational success that every child should have.

Questions? Contact Myra Clark

COMMUNITY DIVERSITY LINK (CDL)

Books and Breakfast 2014-15

Have you ever wondered how personality informs the learning process in different (classroom) environments? Susan Cain’s book Quiet: the Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking brings these questions to the forefront for the Introverts among us, but here at OES faculty strive to create classroom environments suited to “all” personalities on the Introvert–Ambivert–Extrovert continuum.

Director of Studies (Pre-K-12) John Holloran will join CDL for our December 2 Books and Breakfast meeting to discuss Cain’s Quiet, and also to illuminate how faculty at OES structure their teaching environments so as best to support flow, optimal learning, in our students. Extroverts, Ambiverts and Introverts all welcome.

We look forward to seeing you!

US YEARBOOK - SENIORS!

There are several opportunities for seniors and their parents to contribute to the yearbook. Below is a description of these opportunities and their deadlines. We need to submit our pages to the publisher at certain intervals, so these deadlines are not flexible!

Please let us know if you have any questions. For more info - see the US Yearbook Home site.

1. MUG SHOTS: December 1st, 2014
2. SENIOR PAGES: January 10th, 2015
3. BABY PICTURES: March 1st, 2015
4. PARENT ADS: March 1st, 2015

MUG SHOTS: Sometimes students submit a studio photo to be used in place of their school photo for the yearbook. This is not required. Sending a digital photo to me is the easiest way to submit an image, or we will scan the photo and return it to the student.

SENIOR PHOTO GUIDELINES

Head and shoulders only
Print size – 3"X 3"
Quality - 300 DPI
Deadline – December 1, 2014

For more info, contact:
COLLEGE COUNSELING

(NEW) GAP Year Fair
Monday, January 26, 2015 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm @ Lincoln High School
1600 SW Salmon Street, Portland, Oregon 97205
Scheduled Speakers: Jane Sarouhan, Vice President. Center for Interim Programs

(NEW) Junior College Panel for Parents
Will be held on Monday, February 2 from 7:00-9:00 pm (location TBD). The panel will include two college admission officers and a parent of an OES graduate as speakers.
Topics: College options and how students learn about colleges / How colleges make admission decisions / The parent role in this process.
We hope you can join us as this is not an event that lends itself to handouts or PowerPoint slides. The college admission officers will talk with the juniors on Monday afternoon.

SAT/ACT Tests
Seniors, please note the following test dates and registration deadlines. Enter the school code when you register (380915) and if you are taking the ACT, it is important to include the optional writing test. There is a late registration deadline for each test date that requires an additional fee. See the testing websites for additional information.

SAT/ACT Dates and (Registration Deadline):

SAT Testing
December 6
January 24 (12/29, late 1/13)

ACT testing
December 13
February 7 (1/9, late 1/16)

CLASS NOTES

9th Grade PAL – Next meeting is on January 5th at 8am in the Drinkward Volunteer Center. Questions? Contact Jana Reddoch.
Upcoming meetings: February 2nd, April 6th, and May 4th.

10th Grade PAL – Next meeting is on January 12th at 8am in the Drinkward Volunteer Center. Questions? Contact Jane Langley.
Upcoming meetings: February 9th, April 13th, and May 11th.

11th Grade PAL – Next meeting is on January 20th (Tuesday) at 8am in Platt. Questions? Contact Kay Pinkava.
Upcoming meetings: February 17th (Tuesday), April 20th, and May 18th.

12th Grade PAL – Next meeting is on January 26th at 8am in the Drinkward Volunteer Center. Questions? Contact Jan Massaro.
Upcoming meetings: February 23rd, April 27th, and May 26th (Tuesday).

PAL meeting Calendar (all grades)