

Oxford City Schools

Proud of our past  *Preparing for the future*

THE NEW LOOK

VOLUME I ISSUE IV

SUMMER, 2010

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



Oxford High School's Class of 2010– Top Ten Students

Graduation is a milestone of life as students leave high school and enter the adult world. Two hundred fifty-six students walked across Lamar Field on Thursday, May 27, to receive their diplomas from Oxford High School principal, Mr. Trey Holladay. Success is not achieved in a single moment, but through many moments of planning and hard work. Administrators, teachers, parents, grandparents, friends, and the entire Oxford community played a vital role in preparing these students for their new venture. Oxford City Schools provided each graduate with a firm foundation to pursue future education, career opportunities, and become successful in the 21st Century workplace. Congratulations, graduates, on your success and achievements!

Celebrating the Creative Spirit



“Living Art , A Celebration of the Creative Spirit,” was the theme of the first art gallery opening at Oxford’s elementary schools. Each Kindergarten-4th grade student’s work was featured and displayed in a gallery showing. Under the direction of art teacher, Susan Goodwin, student exploration of artists, their techniques, and art style were evident in student compositions which ranged from realism to minimalism, as well as hand-made pottery.



Creativity was further encouraged during the gallery opening by offering hands-on activities such as mural painting, mosaic construction, pottery demonstrations, drawing, and wire sculpture creations. Guest artist, Peggy Mayo, inspired students as they observed an artist at work, demonstrating her skills of gourd carving and painting. The evening was truly a celebration of our budding artists!

OXS STUDENTS PLACE FIRST IN WORLD MATH DAY



Oxford Middle School was presented a check for \$2500 on Monday, May 24, 2010, for placing **first** among Voyager VmathLive schools who participated in World Math Day, an online math competition. Tracy Maxwell, Voyager representative from Dallas, presented the check to administrators and students. During the online competition, students from around the world competed against one another to answer the most math questions correctly in a 48-hour period. **Oxford Middle School students answered a total of 962,043 math questions correctly.** Oxford Middle School students were among 1,133,246 students and 56,082 schools from **235 countries** united to set a new world record by correctly answering 479,732,613 questions. There were 1,035 U.S. VmathLive schools that participated in this event. VmathLive students correctly answered 19,543,556 questions. Ms. Cheatwood's 8th grade algebra class finished 31st in the world, scoring over 205,000 points. In Mr. Fink's class, Joseph Midkiff, finished with the most individual points in the school with an astounding 25,792 points and Josh Lloyd earned "Hall of Fame" recognition ipod application. Congratulations, OMS students, for your diligent work!

"A DREAM"



Oxford Middle School's Health Fair became a memorable day for a charming eighth grader, Hannah Moon. As part of the

event, the Oxford Fire Department discussed fire safety procedures and allowed students to view a fire truck and the various firefighting equipment. Wheelchair bound, Hannah, was lifted onto the fire truck and sported a firefighter's hat and respirator...just like the firemen. To her surprise, Hannah was named an honorary firefighter in front of her classmates. She was presented an Oxford Fire Department shirt and fireman's hat from the firefighters. Hannah said, "Is this a dream, or is this for real?" We salute you, Hannah!

"At the Mall"

This year, Oxford Middle School formed a Drama Club under the direction of eighth grade language arts teacher, Ms. Natalie Hill. The Drama Club presented two performances of "At the Mall." A spin of the classic tale, Cinderella, "Wicked Cindy" was the feature presentation in the series of short skits that took place at a typical mall.



Ms. Penny Smith's 1st graders at CES read 3,844 books.

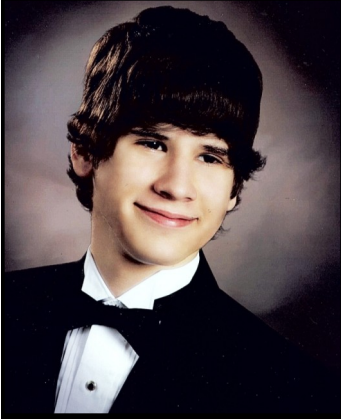
A WINNER'S SPIRIT



Oxford students were encouraged by cheers from parents, teachers, and students as they participated in the 2010 Calhoun/Cleburne County Special Olympics Track and Field Events. The Special Olympics focuses on the achievement and perseverance of individuals with multiple disabilities in athletic competition. Students from the Oxford City School System represented their individual schools with pride, all dressed in black and gold jerseys. The event began with two of our own, Hannah Moon (OMS) and Michael Greeson (OHS), leading the Pledge of Allegiance. The athletes participated in varying events including the softball throw, 50m and 100m sprint, 4 x 100 relay, long jump/standing long jump, motor-related events, and wheelchair races. On this day, opportunities for success are created and a winner's spirit is fostered throughout the body of participants and all who are involved. Each athlete in this event has worked very hard to overcome various obstacles. To see them give their very best is something amazing to watch and a true blessing to the heart. We are very proud of our students and applaud their efforts!



SKILLS-USA STATE WINNER



Jaron Bennett, 2010 Oxford High School senior, recently competed in the Alabama Skills-USA Competition in Birmingham, Alabama. Jaron, is one of two Oxford High School students who participated in the Anniston Army Depot Cooperative Education Program. He represented Oxford High School and Anniston Army Depot in the Electronics Technology Competition. Jaron won first place in the competition and will represent Alabama in the national Skills-USA competition in Kansas City.

Jaron is an Honors Diploma graduate with a Career Technical Completer degree in Collision Repair. Jaron stated, "This competition was applying the skills I learned at school and on-the job training. I'm ready for the national competition."

LANGUAGE ARTS OLYMPIAD



The Oxford Middle School Language Arts Olympiad won first place in the annual competition held at Jacksonville State University. In addition, 20 of the 23 team members won one or more individual awards for their outstanding work. This marked a record individual award win tally for the school. It was the first time the OMS team had captured the first place win in four years. "We won by one of the biggest margins ever

seen," stated sponsors Chris Pope and Andrea Cheatwood. Students took part in a number of individual and group English themed competitions during the day-long event. They were judged by teams of JSU English professors and others whose background is in the area of writing, speaking, and grammar. Among the events in which students participated were public speaking, a spelling bee, poetry interpretation, essay writing, and several grammar themed contests. Several students won first place awards for their efforts both in individual and group presentations.



Twenty-three C.E. Hanna students traveled to their first ever Language Arts Olympiad. Directed by Cindy Lynch, the Hanna team garnered a remarkable third place finish. Individual winners were: Reagan Payne -2nd Place Public Speaking, Anna Beth Mellon -3rd Place Poetry Interpretation, Laura Davenport -2nd Place Essay Competition, Ashleigh Goodwin, Trinity Houston, and Keaton Borelli -2nd Place Skits, Emily Robertson and Christopher

Jarmon -1st Place Homerun Heroes, Jacob Smith and Logan Nails - 3rd Place What's in a Name?

OHS College and Career Fair

Oxford High School once again opened its doors to more than twenty-three colleges and universities and career representatives from across the state for its *Spring College and Career Fair*. All juniors, seniors, and their parents were invited to attend this very successful event. Representatives met with students and parents to discuss college admissions; financial aid and scholarships; programs of study; as well as, residential life and other issues surrounding students. The colleges, universities, and career organizations represented were as follows: Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, Birmingham-Southern College, Gadsden State Community College, Jacksonville State University, Samford University, Talladega College, Troy University, University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Alabama at Huntsville, University of Montevallo, University of South Alabama, University of West Alabama, Alabama Career Center, ITT Technical Institute, Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Army National Guard, and JSU ROTC. Oxford High School will host a *Fall College and Career Fair* in September 2010.



Pi Day

Mu Alpha Theta honor society increased student interest in mathematics by



celebrating *Pi Day*. Students prepared activities and decorated the school with *Pi* posters and banners. *Pi* activities included reciting *Pi* digits, measuring the circumference and diameter to calculate *Pi*, singing songs



about *Pi*, painting their faces with *Pi*, playing "Are you smarter than a 5th grader? - *Pi* version," throwing a Frisbee through *Pi*, and a *Pi* scavenger hunt. Students had fun and were actively engaged in mathematics as they celebrated *Pi Day*.

"Rock the Test"

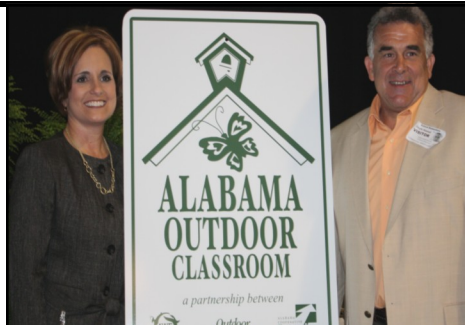
Numerous rock stars visited Oxford Elementary School the day prior to high-stakes testing. Walking the halls, offering encouragement, motivation, and team-building were stars such as Elvis Presley, Miley Cyrus, Black Eyed Peas, Cindy Lauper, and Bob Marley (or maybe it was "Dress Like a Rock Star" Day). Nevertheless, the students were "rockin'" with enthusiasm and confidence! Kindergarten through second grade students and faculty filled the gym for the "Rockin' Assembly." Third and fourth grade students entered to cheering and were then entertained by the Oxford Elementary staff as they presented versions of various rock groups, skits, and cheerleading. In addition, third and fourth grade classrooms were adopted by a kindergarten, first, or second grade classroom. The adopters did special things such as decorating their adoptee classrooms, providing them with notes of encouragement, and making various gifts or treats. Oxford Elementary School students were groomed with a "rock star" attitude and eager to take the high-stakes tests this year.



Gardens Grow Children

What began as a seed of vision in 2008 with the “Ponds for Kids” project grew to fruition on May 17 and May 18, 2010. Doyle Keasel, Alabama Wildlife Federation representative, recognized Oxford Elementary School and C.E. Hanna as official Alabama Outdoor Classroom Schools through the Alabama Outdoor Classroom Program. This makes them two of three schools in Calhoun County, and two of only twenty-eight schools in Alabama to receive this prestigious certification. As official Outdoor Classroom Schools, Oxford Elementary School and C.E. Hanna will serve as models for other schools in the Calhoun County area and Northeast Alabama, as well as across the state, who would like to develop an outdoor classroom site on their school grounds for inquiry based learning opportunities. The Outdoor Classroom Program provides hands-on, outdoor learning opportunities that allow students of all ages to utilize multiple-disciplinary skills, including math, science, history, geography, and language arts, in a fun and exciting environment.

At present, approximately 250 schools across Alabama are enrolled in the Alabama Wildlife Outdoor Classroom Program. Oxford Elementary School and C.E. Hanna enrolled in the Alabama Outdoor Classroom program in the fall of 2008. Their outdoor classrooms were developed to enhance and expand the children’s learning beyond what takes place within the traditional classroom to include the world outside. The outdoor classroom sites currently include a wide variety of outdoor learning stations and components: an aquatic studies area, several raised bed gardens, an amphitheater, bird houses, butterfly gardens, a weather station, and a sun dial. Catch a glimpse of Koi; perform experiments on pond water; take soil samples; collect data from the anemometer and barometer; listen and write about the sounds of nature; plant herbs, fruit, and vegetables; investigate animal tracts, recycle water to nourish the plants and animals...the outdoor classrooms provide learning opportunities for the children to grow in knowledge and appreciation of the environment!



*Every day is Earth Day,
If it's cold or wet or hot
Pitch in to save the planet
It's the only one we've got.
Taking care of planet Earth
Is what we like to do.
We won't pollute
We give a hoot.
Waste's a disgrace.
Keep litter in it's place.
Now—how about you?
The Earth is ours to enjoy
For every little girl and boy.
But we must always be aware
That all its beauty we must share.
With all the children yet to come,
Who want to laugh and play and
run
Around the trees and in the fields.
So we must keep our planet free
From messy trash and debris
With air that's clean and fresh and
clear
For all to breathe from year to
year.
We must never ever abuse
Our sweet Earth that's ours to use.*

IMAGINE



Olivia Howell, an OMS 8th grader, won first place and a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond in JSU's "Imagining the Holocaust," a writing contest designed to teach Holocaust history and its continuing influence in today's world. Olivia was invited to participate in JSU's annual Holocaust Memorial Commemoration at Stone Center Theater and will automatically be entered in the Alabama Holocaust Commission's State Days of Remembrance writing competition. Olivia remarked, "I feel very honored to have won the contest especially because of the importance of the theme." "Imagining the Holocaust" hope is that students will better understand not just a facet of world history but also the power they have as individuals to make changes by refusing to continue the discourses of prejudice.

Imagine the Holocaust

Imagine: For just a moment

Despair, Famine, Fear, Worry, Sickness, Confusion, Visualize

A spring with no vegetation; A summer with no warmth

A fence wrapping around; The perimeter of a grassless ground

As bloody hands reach through the links; And hungry faces peer up at you

Watch the ash of the dead; Fall from chimneys of the crematorium

And settle on the ground

As a small Jewish boy; Sits crying in a corner

His tears fall from his eyes; As each tear splashes over the ground

A small flower pushes itself out of the barren soil; Feel the winds of change

As you listen to the Prime Minister; Rally England for a war

And fill the boy with hope; Taste the victory

As a band of Allies; Ride over the horizon

And frees the prisoners; From the face of animosity

Now open your eyes; As the Earth rotates

And the stars and sun appear in the sky once more

Remember to never take freedom for granted again.

WRITER RECEIVES AWARD



Cloey Robertson was awarded first place in the "Alabama Letters about Literature" writing contest and was recognized at the Alabama Book Festival in Montgomery. Her letter is now in competition on the national level – winners will be announced by the Library of Congress. Cloey is an 8th grade student at Oxford Middle School.

TECH TEAMS

Congratulations to Oxford High School and C.E. Hanna Tech Teams. Both teams triumphed victorious at the Alabama Council for Technology in Education State Competition. There were 86 schools from across the state and 691 students participating, with 482 projects judged.

OHS winners:

Michael Roberts-1st place, web site construction (ohsgraphicdesign.com); Jerrod Finlay, Christopher Clowers, Daniel Gaffin, and Demetric Johnson-1st place, video production (The Zone); Michael Roberts-2nd place, information technology testing; Kyle Holland and Kyle Gordon- 3rd place, multi-media (Bullying)



C.E. Hanna winners:

Anna Livingston, Anna Bowen, and Brittany Lee-1st place, general applications (The Progress of Oxford); Andrew Muncher and Jordan Ramey-honorable mention, web site creation (Golf).



STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Oxford City Board of Education that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, disability, sex, religion, creed, national origin or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, activity, or employment.