Books! Books! Books! The Gifts That Keep Giving
This fall, the Oxford Community Schools Board of Education approved the purchase of new state-of-the-art classroom libraries for grades K-5. Teachers began receiving their grade-level libraries called the Classroom Library Project in December and will continue to receive them throughout the new year. This purchase gives all elementary students access to a rich variety of awe-inspiring, mind-bending, deeply engaging texts to encourage them to read books all year long.

The effort to create the Classroom Library Project was spearheaded by Columbia University's Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP). Lucy Calkins, a best-selling educational author, a professor of Children's Literature and the co-director of the Literacy Specialist Program at Teachers College, Columbia University, directs this project. Each classroom library contains hundreds of books that have been evaluated and chosen by over 800 literacy specialists, teachers, librarians, and children's book authors from around the nation. These literacy champions volunteered hours of research to compile these cutting-edge classroom libraries.

Calkins described the libraries as a collection of books that would make a difference in the lives of children as readers and learners: “Kids who have access to great books become readers.” Calkins stated, “The research on reading achievement is clear and long-standing. The most important finding is that reading leads to EVERYTHING. According to a global research study initiated by the International Literacy Association (ILA), students’ attitude toward reading, the frequency of leisure reading, and the diversity of reading materials were significant variables in not just reading achievement, but also academic achievement as measured by grade point averages,” (http://readingandwritingproject.org/resources/tcrwp-classroom-libraries).

The books in the classroom libraries were selected for their high-interest topics and abundant literary qualities. They aim to introduce as many authors and genres as possible. The libraries have books at a variety of reading levels and include multiple topics to meet the needs of diverse learners. Some of the books will support learning across content areas and provide opportunities for book clubs and research projects.

Students and teachers alike are extremely excited for their classroom libraries. According to Oxford's Literacy Coach Maureen Magdaleno, “Kids who have access to great books become readers. Teaching reading becomes much easier when kids are engaged in reading high-interest books. Nothing lifts reading skills higher than the act of reading. Giving students access to a collection of truly amazing books will inspire a love for reading.”

First-grade students have written thank-you letters to show their gratitude for the books they have received to Superintendent Tim Throne, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Ken Weaver, and to the school board. In their letters, they pledge to take care of their treasured books so that many future classes will be able to enjoy them.

As the infamous saying goes, “With great privilege also comes great responsibility.” It is no small task to organize what could be as many as 500 books in just one classroom. It takes time for teachers to systematize their classroom libraries and create a process for students to check out the books. Parents can support their children's schools by volunteering to help organize and label books. If you do not have time to volunteer, know that the most important way everyone can support the new Classroom Library Project is by helping to ensure that the books your child borrows from his or her classroom are well taken care of and returned in a timely manner. The goal is for all students to have access to great books to read, both at home and at school.

Author Stephen King says, “Books are uniquely portable magic.” A little magic can take you a long way. Lucky for our elementary students, their new classroom libraries magically put the world at their fingertips.
Oxford Community Schools became the first International Baccalaureate (IB) school district in the state of Michigan in 2014. It was a four-year process to get all of the district schools (elementary through high school) authorized as IB World Schools. Our IB authorization allows our students to receive a rigorous, high-quality education that takes into account the whole child, giving students the skills to make a difference in the world around them.

This past year Oxford Elementary was the first in the district to complete reauthorization. OES participated in its initial authorization process in 2012. Over 100 IB practices under six category standards were evaluated: Philosophy; Leadership and Structure; Resources and Support; Collaborative Planning; Written Curriculum; Teaching and Learning; and Assessment. which is a tremendous accomplishment. OES IB Coordinator Rita Flynn shared, “Overall, the “self-study/reauthorization” was a wonderful time for us to reflect and celebrate the work we do at Oxford Elementary School and in Oxford Schools. We are proud to connect to the world around us by sharing our knowledge and making a difference with the knowledge we have gained from our remarkable teachers, staff, parents, and community members. We cannot do this alone, and we are grateful we have one another to share this education journey. Being an IB school encourages us to not only be ourselves but to work together. Together we can do anything.”

OES went through a procedure called “self-study.” Over two days, IB evaluators visited the school and observed classrooms, reflected on student work, reviewed school artifacts, and interviewed all stakeholders including staff, student leaders, parents, community members, board members, administration, and the superintendent.

A great deal of positive feedback was returned by the evaluators and OES did not receive any “Matters to be Addressed,”

**DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICES RECEIVES SNAM PRESIDENT’S AWARD**

Karen Bissett, the Director of Nutrition Services of Oxford Community Schools has continued to innovate with an entrepreneurial spirit to serve the students in the best way possible. It is this spirit of innovation that has earned Karen the President’s Award at the School Nutrition Association of Michigan (SNAM) Conference. The award was presented to her by SNAM president, Marla Moss, who chose Karen from over 1,500 SNAM members throughout the state. The award is earned by one who has provided exemplary leadership and commitment to his/her organization. “She takes her visions and makes them reality. Her leadership includes work and positions at the National School Nutrition Association level,” explained Marla.

Karen certainly provides exemplary leadership to Oxford Schools. The Nutrition Services Department operates on its own budget, as typical in most districts. Under Karen’s direction the department has always generated a profit which has been generously reinvested back into our schools. The department’s past profits have funded renovations in several of the schools kitchens and is currently funding the renovation of the OHS cafeteria. The changes at OHS will allow a greater number of students to be served in a more expedient fashion. It will also expand students healthy options with the addition of a daily stir-fry line. Furthermore, the Food Services Department has purchased a new cappuccino machine which is expected to pay for itself in approximately one year’s time, soon becoming an additional profit center for the department.

During the 2015-16 school year the Nutrition Services Program contributed just under $100,000 to the district’s general fund.
AQUA SWIM CLUB NAMED TOP-200 SWIM PROGRAM IN THE U.S.A.

For the second consecutive year and just three years after its founding, AQUA Swim Club has been awarded a Bronze Medal ranking in USA Swimming’s Club Excellence Program. This honor recognizes the highest performing swim organizations across the United States in the development of athletes 18 years and younger. The Bronze Medal ranking defines AQUA Swim Club as one of the Top-200 swim programs in the United States. AQUA Swim Club is one of only three programs in Michigan to earn this honor.

“Our entire staff is humbled and overjoyed by the announcement. Being recognized as a Bronze Medal Club by USA Swimming’s Club Excellence Program fuels our passion, enthusiasm, drive, and dedication for swimming. The continual emphasis on our culture, our attention to detail in swimming, and our commitment is what makes AQUA Swim Club the most unique program in the region. It shows we are more than just swimming,” stated Nim Shapira, two-time Olympian and AQUA Swim Club Team Leader.

Oxford’s AQUA Swim Club coaches represent over 100 years of swimming and coaching experience in four countries and include a former Olympic Team coach, a National Team coach, and an ASCA Level 4 coach. AQUA Swim Club coaches have competed in two Olympics, won NCAA D1 Championships and earned medals at numerous other local, national and international competitions.

AQUA Swim Club has graduated over 1,000 students from its Learn to Swim program taught by its highly qualified coaches and talented swimmers. Swimmers have competed at jr. nationals, nationals, Zone Championships, sectional, state championships, and Junior Olympics and have won jr. nationals (Best Swimmer 18 & under in the USA) and state championships!

If you are interested in learning from the best, schedule your FREE SWIMMING lesson by contacting AQUA Swim Club at info@aquaswimclub.com. You may also visit www.aquaswimclub.com for more information.

OHS WRESTLING EARNS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

On Saturday, December 18, the Oxford Varsity Wrestling Team claimed the 57th Oakland County Championship title. A total of 46 teams competed. Oxford brought back home the championship trophy for the first time in fifteen years with a total of 268.5 points. Senior Byron Schlickenmeyer, sophomore Devin Trevino, and sophomore Trent Myre each earned first place in their weight divisions. Second-place finishers were junior Sergio Borg, junior Ryan Miller, and junior Daltan Myers.
The Oxford High School Equestrian Team earned its third state championship on October 16, 2016. The Oxford team consisted of eight riders, which placed it in the Division B competition in the Michigan Interscholastic Horsemanship Association. The top ten teams in the state competed for the championship which covered 17 classes over four days. By the end of day two, the Wildcats were in third place but rallied for a comeback. On day four, the Oxford team finished in first place with 313 points to runner-up Grand Haven with 291 points.

The Oxford Equestrian Team is a young team this year without any graduating seniors. All eight Oxford riders will be returning to the team for the 2017 season and are already planning for next year. Any high school riders interested in joining the equestrian team may contact head coach Dee Shepard at 248-894-0157.

Donna (Hasse) Hanson, Oxford High School alum, is a partner at Plante Moran, one of the nation’s largest public accounting firms. She also serves on the Board of the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants. But her road to success started right here as a Wildcat.

A Leonard native, Donna graduated from Oxford High School in 1989. During her junior and senior years at Oxford, she worked a co-op job in the office at Clear Lake Elementary. She attributes establishing a solid work ethic and interest in accounting to that experience. Donna shared, “That was my first experience working with spreadsheets!”

Donna continued her education at Oakland University and graduated with a degree in accounting. After college, Donna worked to earn a Certified Public Accountant designation, or CPA and simultaneously started her career at Plante Moran, where she has quickly risen through the ranks. “My time as a Wildcat really prepared me and has had a lasting impact on who I became as a professional, and my teachers had a lot to do with that. Don’t underestimate the influences your teachers can have on you. I remember U.S. History with Mr. Smith. His passion for the subject in the classroom made a huge impression on me and ever since, I’ve been fascinated with history. And then there was Mrs. Boyle’s literature class, which opened my eyes to different types of writing that helped influence me to become an avid reader today.

And of course, the high school experience isn't complete without a close network of friends. It can't be said enough: friends are so important as a high school student and later in life. Many of my closest friends today are friends I made as a Wildcat. My advice to current Wildcats is to appreciate the time you have together. You will treasure the memories your entire life.

High school might seem like it lasts forever, but you’ll be graduating before you know it. Experience everything, as much as you can. Try new things and take advantage of opportunities where and when they present themselves. Pursue what you enjoy and turn it into a career. Ask questions; always be curious. To my fellow female Wildcats: participate! It’s so important for you to have a voice and make your own opportunities.

To all of you on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat – use social media responsibly! Future employers really do check.

Finally, I’d like to give a shout out to my two favorite Wildcats, Jack and Tom! You’re the BEST! Go, Wildcats!”

Oxford High School Choirs have found a worldwide audience with their YouTube channel. It has received more than one million views over the past ten years. “Oxford High School Choirs have been blessed to find recognition on the international stage through viewers on its YouTube channel,” said Director of Choirs Christopher Card.

Card likes to post the best work of the choirs on the Oxford Choir channel. The most popular Oxford Choir YouTube video is the 2009 performance of “You Raise Me Up,” which has over 439,000 hits. According to YouTube analytics, 51% of the Oxford Choir views are from the United States. The other 49% are from viewers in Germany, Canada, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and 18 additional countries.

“Everyone in Oxford knows that the arts are alive and well with so many talented students in our schools. It is great for the world to see that as well through this YouTube channel,” said Card.
Oxford Middle School students held their second annual Penny Wars for charity in December. Collectively, the students voted to raise funds for the Wounded Warrior Project. From December 13 to 16, students brought in coins for the battle during their advisory classes. Although the classes may have been pitted against one another in the Penny Wars, the final goal was one of unified and determined hope to help America’s war veterans. In total, the students raised $6,194.67. On December 22, OMS held an assembly to present the gift to the Wounded Warrior Project and take time to honor all of those who serve and protect our country. Students shared banners they created, sang patriotic songs, and touchingly explained why they chose to support this cause. Veteran Nick Koulchar gave an inspirational message that reminded students to find their purpose, set goals to reach their purpose, and overcome all obstacles that get in their way.

We are proud of our Wildcats for reaching out to those in need and making a difference in this world!
OMS eighth graders traveled to Washington, D.C., to learn about our country’s history. Students found the name of veteran Roy D. McGee, an Oxford native, on the wall at the Vietnam War Memorial, a very emotional moment for these Wildcats.

On November 9, Leonard Elementary students honored, celebrated, and learned from United States veterans near and far.

Five hundred and fifty-five pounds of Halloween candy was collected by students this year to ship to U.S. soldiers overseas. Speech and Language Therapist Elizabeth Davis began this project in 2011. She shared, “This is the largest amount of candy ever collected.” Davis works in conjunction with the Desert Angels and the Ortonville Sewing Club to ship the candy overseas. The group holds packing parties year-round and everyone is welcome to come and help. The parties are the second Thursday of each month from 4 pm to 6 pm at the Oakland County Sportsmen’s Club at 4770 Waterford Rd., Clarkston, MI 48346. Please call 248-623-0444 if you would like to participate.
The Oxford High School Band had two students earn placement in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association High School All-State Band. At the end of October, juniors Trent Evans and Hayden Franke auditioned for the ensembles with over 2,500 students from all across Michigan. Trent plays the bass clarinet, and Hayden plays the oboe. All students who audition play a very challenging, college-level, required piece, and they all compete in scales and sight-reading. The audition material is then submitted to a judge for each instrument, and the band is selected. Trent was one of four bass clarinet players selected for the band, and Hayden was one of four oboe players selected. Both students traveled to Grand Rapids in the middle of January to rehearse and perform with the All-State Band at the DeVos Center.

In addition to playing bass clarinet, Trent also plays the b-flat clarinet and tenor saxophone. He studies clarinet privately and was one of the drum majors for the Wildcat Marching Band this fall. He plays in the Wind Ensemble, the Symphonic Band, the Jazz Band, and the Pit Orchestra for the high school musicals. Earlier this school year, Trent also represented Oxford High School in the Central Michigan University Honors Band. He hopes to be selected for the Albion College Honors Band as well.

Hayden plays multiple instruments: piano, alto saxophone and oboe. He plays the alto saxophone in the Marching Band and Jazz Band. Hayden studies oboe privately and performs regularly around the community with his teacher and other students from his studio. He is also a member of the Wind Ensemble and the Pit Orchestra. Hayden was one of five students that represented Oxford High School in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 3 Honors Band last year and is a regular member of the Oakland Youth Orchestra.

Congratulations to both of these young men on their tremendous accomplishments!

OMS ROBOTICS TEAM HEADS TO IOWA FOR SUPER-REGIONALS

The Oxford Middle School Robotics FTC Team TOWR 5291 is proud to be one of only 15 Michigan teams to earn advancement to the FTC Super-Regional Championship in Cedar Rapids, Iowa from March 30 through April 1, 2017. This time marks the first that an OMS robotics team has advanced past state competition.

FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) teams design, build, program, and operate robots to compete in head-to-head competition in an alliance format. Guided by adult coaches and mentors, team members build the robot and program it using a variety of programming/coding languages, such as Java.

At TOWR 5291’s second qualifying robotics event of the season in November at Kettering University, the team was awarded the top accolade, the Inspire Award. According to the FIRST Tech Challenge Judge and Judge Advisor Manual, “The Inspire Award is given to the team who is a strong ambassador for FIRST programs and a role model FIRST Tech Challenge Team. This team is a top contender for many other judged awards and is a gracious competitor. The Inspire Award winner is an inspiration to other teams, acting with Gracious Professionalism™ both on and off the playing field. This team is able to communicate their experiences, enthusiasm and knowledge to other teams, sponsors, their community, and the judges. Working as a unit, this team will have demonstrated success in accomplishing the task of designing and building a robot.”

By winning the Inspire Award, the team qualified to compete in the Michigan FIRST State Competition on December 17 in Battle Creek, MI. At the state competition, not only did TOWR 5291 win the Control Award for programming, but out of 72 competing Michigan teams, it was chosen to advance to the FTC Super-Regionals in Iowa. Excellent job, TOWR! We will be cheering you on this spring.
On October 11, 2016, Oxford High School proudly inducted 57 of its students into the Freda Quayle Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). NHS is a national organization established to recognize outstanding high school students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Last year alone, the Oxford NHS chapter accomplished over 2,000 hours of community service with numerous activities including academic tutoring, donating toys for sick children, and doing yard work for the elderly in the community.

This year NHS students made an impact in the lives of 107 impoverished children during the holiday season. They packed boxes full of hygiene items, school supplies, and toys to send to children who live in remote villages, garbage dumps, and cemeteries around the world. This gift may be the first these children will ever receive, thanks to the generosity and kindness of the Oxford National Honor Society students. Continue your good work inside and outside of the classroom, Oxford students. You are tomorrow’s leaders!

### FIFTH-GRADER FOUNDS “SCARVES 4 COZY KIDS”

This winter, Oxford Elementary fifth grader Alex Van Haren has worked hard to help students stay warm while outside in the cold weather. Last year, Alex was concerned when he saw children playing outside at recess without hats, gloves and scarves. He decided to do something about it. With the help of his mom Nicole, Alex developed the Scarves 4 Cozy Kids program.

Last winter, the program provided more than 200 winter wearables to Oxford Elementary students. This year, Alex has set up boxes in all of the district elementary school offices. Each box contains 17 scarves, seven pairs of gloves and ten hats. If a child is in need of something warm to wear, he or she can choose from the articles of clothing in the box to use and keep. Scarves 4 Cozy Kids checks the boxes and keeps them stocked all winter long. Alex sets a great example of being the positive change he wants to see in the world. Way to Go, Wildcat!

### OHS STUDENT INTERVIEWS BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

Oxford High School junior Elizabeth Marshall recently added a fun and interesting twist to her job shadow project. Many fellow students in her business management class spent their job shadow day on-site at a workplace. Elizabeth’s dream career is to become an author. Since most authors work from home Elizabeth got creative with her approach to her project. She chose to be a risk-taker and e-mail her favorite writer, New York Times best-selling novelist Colleen Hoover, in hopes of a long-distance interview.

Shortly after sending off her list of twenty questions to the bestselling author, Elizabeth was delighted to receive a gracious response. She learned many interesting facts about Colleen Hoover, her occupation, and the processes of writing, editing and publishing her books, which take her stories from imagination to reality. The interview with Hoover has encouraged Elizabeth to continue working towards her dream of publishing a book. In the meantime, she plans to hone her writing skills by starting a writing club at the high school. Elizabeth believes, “As writers, we can help each other, and edit, and learn how to be better writers.”

There are no limits on your possibilities, Wildcats. Aim for the stars!
THE ARTS WERE OUTSTANDING THIS WINTER SEASON!

Here is a glimpse of just a few of the many performances....

OHS Theater production of Of Mice and Men

Many Moods Christmas Concert

OHS Theater production of Steel Magnolias

Daniel Axford Christmas Concert

We would like to introduce our 2017 Board of Education.

Top row - left to right:
- Tom Donnelly  Trustee
- Dan D’Alessandro  President
- Mark Stepek  Secretary
- Mike Schweig  Treasurer

Bottom row - left to right:
- Heather Schafer  Trustee
- Joyce Brasington  Vice-President
- Jennifer Guthrie  Trustee

Thank you for your service to our students and staff.

Oxford High School Presents

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AND STRAIGHT ON 'TIL MORNING

MARCH 22-26

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Oxford High School’s strong and growing HOSA team (Health Occupation Students of America) had more students compete than ever before at the Regional HOSA Leadership Conference on December 3, 2016, in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Oxford entered 86 team members in the competition. A total of 967 students, representing 13 different teams, competed in the regional. Students were challenged in their knowledge and performance of skills in physical therapy, emergency medicine, nursing, sports medicine, dental science and veterinary science. The following sixty Oxford HOSA team members have earned advancement to the state competition in Traverse City, Michigan, in April:

**FIRST PLACE**
- Jacob VanBuler - Healthy Lifestyles
- Brooke Boger - Veterinary Science

**SECOND PLACE**
- Sarah Schaefer - Veterinary Science
- Madison McClear - Nursing Assisting
- Kendall Todd - Extemporaneous Poster
- Zack Acton and Brendan Crabtree - CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
- Nataleigh Muscott, Cade Bell, Emma Gordon, and Chloe Jones - Creative Problem Solving Skills

**THIRD PLACE**
- Keelin Jakey - Dental Science
- Monique Garrett - Clinical Specialty
- Sarah Buchan - Veterinary Science
- Kaylie Seeling - Physical Therapy
- Olivia Hubbard - Medical Photography
- Brennan Burrows - Biomedical Laboratory Science
- Jenna Carson and Kohli Johnson - EMT
- Olivia Clark and Elsa Clark - Career Health Display

**TOP 10 FINALISTS AND STATE QUALIFIERS**
- Katelyn Whitlatch and Madelyn Roop - Dental Science
- Bridget Grabowski - Pathophysiology
- Jordyn Zyngier - Sports Medicine
- Alyssa Percano and Lily Nicks - Extemporaneous Essay
- Joelle Ivory and Megan Klinger - Nursing Assisting
- Stephanie Heirman and Caillin Griffith - Physical Therapy
- Grace Cleland - Nutrition Knowledge Test
- MacKenzie Nichols - Medical Laboratory Science
- Vanessa Pariso and Elle Wright - Career Health Display
- Kaitlyn DeTone and Brendan Shea - Career Health Display
- Ana Gayton - Job Seeking Skills
- Mia McMahon and Josephine Kane - Veterinary Science
- Daniel Mitchell and Ashley Brandt - EMT
- Rachel Gubesch and Alexia Kingham - EMT
- Jordan Jarrett and Anna Ibarra - EMT
- Zain Khambaty and Rowan Edmonds - EMT
- Chloe Tiffin and Abby Trbovich - EMT
- McKenzie Miller and Jacob Sharpe - EMT
- Alex Mazurek, Andrew Richardson, Jonathon Rob, and Dylan Roivas - Public Service Announcement
- Jillian Beall, Micah Rolling, Alexa Schramm, and Grace Brenner - Community Awareness

**FIRST PLACE WINNERS - TEAM EVENTS**
- Michael Gula, Warren Maurer, Connor Waple, Gregory Martin - Video Production Team
- Katherine Sanchez, Makenzie Barnard, Hannah Schönfeld, Abigail Martin - Broadcast News Team
- Izaak Ossege, Alex Mazurek, Matthew Cruz, Philip Fietko - Economic Research Team

**INDIVIDUAL COMPETITORS**
- Danielle Kemp - 1st Place, Graphic Design Promotion
- Solomon Long - 1st Place, Computer Programming Concepts, 1st Place, C++ Programming
- Addison Wojciechowski - 1st Place, Visual Basic/C# Programming
- Dryden Calcaterra - 1st Place, Medical Office Procedures, 2nd Place, Parliamentary Procedures
- Gregory Martin - 5th Place, Fundamentals of Web Design

**BPA MEMBERS BOUND FOR STATES**

The Oxford High School members of the Business Professionals of America participated in the BPA Regional Competition on December 14, and they represented Oxford very well. According to their proud advisor Chaz Millard, “Our region is regarded as one of the most difficult of the nine in the state, with the state of Michigan being the most challenging to advance from.” Listed below are the students who will advance to the state competition in Grand Rapids on March 16:
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Thank You!

Oxford Community Schools would like to offer a BIG thank you to the 24TH STREET TAVERN for all of its donations to our sporting events and community fundraising efforts!

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