

# OCS NEWS

JUNE 2024

No.6

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!!

These are exciting days at OCS—four of our students are looking forward to 8th grade graduation, and ALL of our students are excited about our upcoming field trip to the Camas Recreation Center in Usk! This trip is the reward for having met the school-wide **Reading Challenge of 1000 hours in 100 Days!** K-2 students read (or are read to) a minimum of 5 hours, the intermediate class contributes at least 10 hours per student, and the middle schoolers have a minimum of 20 hours. The tally as of May 31st was 1,041 hours, so it seems quite a few students read well over the minimum! The value of field trips, especially those that expand our students' recreational and physical education experiences, are reflected in their responses to our reporters' interviews below.

We had the chance to interview our 8th grade graduates and we asked them these questions: What has been your favorite experience/memory while going to Onion Creek School? And, what are you looking forward to going into high school? There was a lot of agreement about both questions.

**PAYTON** says the teachers, and the whole staff at OCS are pretty great, but so was snowboarding for the first time at 49 Degrees North. He's looking forward to making new friends in high school.



**NEWT** enjoyed playing soccer with Rabbit and his classmates. He'll be happy when Rabbit gets to high school so that he can see him again.



OCS  
2024  
GRADS



**ISAAC** likes going on field trips, especially the Camas Center in Usk trips. He wants to be part of a bigger school.



**ALEX** enjoyed all field trips in general. He's looking forward to doing more socializing in high school.

## CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATES!

Onion Creek School 8th Grade graduation will be **June 10th at 12pm**. Please join us!

## CELEBRATING OUR STAFF AND ANDY JAMES!

On May 10th current and former Onion Creek school board members gathered to recognize our stellar staff for their hard work during this year and our enduring appreciation for their commitment to OCS! We also had the honor of celebrating Andy James for his 33 years of service to our school and community.



Andy has helped our board through his knowledge of the Legislature and his persistent work on issues surrounding K-12 education in Washington state. Representative Shelly Short sent a letter of thanks to Andy for his help in understanding how legislative decisions affect our local schools. In addition to this important work, Andy has helped out on many projects at OCS including his direct work with students and his commitment to civics education while modeling active and visible school leadership.

Joining us to thank Andy for his service were former OCS Superintendent, K Frizzell, Dr. Michael Dunn, retired Superintendent of ESD 101, and Cindy McMullen, school director in the Central Valley School District, previous President of the Washington State School Directors Association and former member of the Washington State Board of Education. THANK YOU, ANDY! We look forward to your continuing involvement in the life of Onion Creek School!

## GRANTS WILL BRING FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS TO OCS

Onion Creek School has been awarded two grants that will mean big changes for our campus. One of three grants Dayna Molina has been successful in receiving was funded by the Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools initiative and will result in the addition of a greenhouse to our school garden to increase access to fresh produce (and lifelong learning) for our students.

We also received news that we have been awarded a grant under the Small District Modernization program from the State. These funds will improve overall efficiency and operation of our classrooms. Projects include replacement and upgrading of HVAC systems, replacing windows, doors, and lighting, and refinishing building exteriors. These projects will be managed by McKinstry, an energy services company, but our Maintenance Director, Hugh Humes will provide oversight and coordination on campus as this work proceeds over the next year and a half. We are also lucky to have Dan Read leading our district as his work in the past two years heading the effort to replace the burned down Almira School gives him valuable current experience in school construction.



A total of 8 Middle School students have helped publish this news flyer during the past year. We all learned a lot and hope our community members did as well. Elliot Miller and Payton Landry deserve special recognition for their ongoing commitment and enthusiasm! Also noted is the long distance editorial assistance of Kate Ashworth, and the help and guidance provided by Alyson Clendenen. We plan to continue the OCS News Flyer as a way of informing you of events and activities happening at Onion Creek School, and we encourage you to visit the OCS webpage ([ocsd30.org](http://ocsd30.org)) and our Facebook page to get additional details and information about our students' learning adventures!

Thank you for your interest and support,  
Elissa Dyson for the Onion Creek School Board