



# O'NEILL HIGH SCHOOL

## Winter 2019 Newsletter



### From the Principal

Dear Members of the O'Neill High School Community,

By popular request, we have been working to reinstate a Newsletter for O'Neill High School. Tentatively, we are planning for quarterly publications beginning with this late-winter edition. We hope that you enjoy our introductory effort.

Please also feel free to send us any comments and/or recommendations regarding the newsletter content c/o:

[ohsnews@waltoncsd.org](mailto:ohsnews@waltoncsd.org)

We will examine your feedback and endeavor to make whatever changes we can to improve the newsletter.

Regards,

Mark R. Dupra  
Interim High School Principal

### Upcoming Events

March 13 – Junior College Night – 6-7 pm

April 9 – SAT Exam

April 13 – ACT Exam

April 15-19 – Spring Recess

April 24 – Freshman Orientation – 6 pm

June 1 – Junior/Senior Prom –  
Carriage House, Oneonta

### Welcome Mr. Cutting – High School Science



My name is Nate Cutting. I have always loved living things and natural places, and I love being able to share my knowledge and experiences with students.

I attended high school at Afton Central School. After graduation, I enrolled in the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, NY. There I earned a B.S. in Conservation Biology. Post-college, I worked for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources surveying gopher tortoises.

Eventually, I returned to New York and began substitute teaching at Afton C. S. There, I discovered how much fun teaching can be. Subsequently, I applied to enter graduate school at SUNY Binghamton. There, I additionally earned an M.A.T. in Biology: Adolescence Education.

My first professional job in education was as a Teaching Assistant in a special education classroom in Falconer, NY. That experience led to a biology teaching position at Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton C. S. Presently, I am very happy to be here at Walton C. S., am looking forward to a great experience teaching in the District.

## Valedictorian and Salutatorian Named for the Class of 2019

The Walton Central School District has named its Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the Class of 2019. The Valedictorian is Olivia Harby. The Salutatorian is Vincent Escobar. As tradition demands, each will speak at the annual, Walton C.S., Commencement Ceremony on June 22.

**Valedictorian** – Olivia is a diligent student, who juggles responsibilities of academics, clubs, and athletics. She also serves as the senior class vice – president and additionally is the president of both the National Honor Society and Varsity Club. She is also an active member of Student Council and participates in ski club and orchestra.



Academically, Ms. Harby is well decorated, earning scholastic achievement in pre-calculus, calculus, AP biology, trigonometry, Regents chemistry, anatomy, forensics, US history and government, health, orchestra, geometry, Earth science, and global studies. Additionally, Olivia scored 100 percent on the ELA Regents, Algebra 1 common core Regents, and geometry Regents. Finally, Ms. Harby has been on the Superintendent's list throughout high school.

Olivia is also an athlete, having participated in soccer, basketball and track & field. Of distinction in athletics, Ms. Harby scored her 1,000th point this past basketball season, and has been a Mid-State Athletic Conference All-Star in soccer and basketball. She also served as captain of both teams and earned scholar-athlete honors from the league in soccer, basketball, and track.

Olivia Harby is the daughter of Jay and Amy Harby. She has not decided where she will attend college, but she has been accepted at Boston College to major in Biochemistry.

**Salutatorian** - Vincent is an acutely focused student. As such, he stays active with academics, clubs, and athletics and serves as the vice president of student council. Mr. Escobar is also a member of the National Honor Society and is an active participant in school musicals.

Vincent also has acquired an academic record that is impressive. He is a National Hispanic Recognition Scholar, and a QuestBridge National College Match Scholar. Vincent also earned scholastic achievement in Spanish II, III, and IV, Global I and II, AP literature, pre-calculus, forensics, communications and broadcasting, health, natural disasters, Regents chemistry, and biology living environment.

In athletics, Mr. Escobar competed on the soccer and wrestling teams and earned MAC scholar-athlete awards for both sports. Vincent is also a member of the Varsity Club.

Outside of school, Mr. Escobar is a purple belt in Tae-Kwon-Do, and works within his church youth group.

Vincent Escobar is the son of Kathleen Cuomo and will attend Princeton University to study mathematics with a minor in finance.

## Honor Graduates

Walton Central School is also pleased to announce its top honor graduates. They are as follows:

- Maranda Klinger, daughter of Priscilla and Butch Klinger
- Sophia Elston, daughter of Doug Elston
- Sophie Wagner, daughter of Robin and Dana Wagner
- Christian Vitek, son of Melanie Wezkiewicz and Cory Vitek
- Jordan Johnston, daughter of Nicole Johnston and the late Larry Johnston
- Alaina Tweedie, daughter of Terri and Jim Tweedie
- Thomas Maguire, son of Tim and Brigid Maguire
- Madison LeBarge, daughter of Wendy and Chris LeBarge
- Owen Pieper, son of Lenny and Angie Pieper
- Madison Graupman, daughter of Mirranda MacDonald, Jeremiah Graupman and Matthew MacGibbon
- Jose Mirabal, son of Jose and Julissa Mirabal
- Hunter McGonigle, daughter of Scott McGonigle and Teri McGonigle
- Ethan Wood, son of Paul Wood and Greta Wood
- River Reed, son of Michael Reed and Jessica Reed
- Madison Barnhart, daughter of Jennifer and Scott Barnhart
- Camberly VanValkenburg, daughter of Sam VanValkenburg and Tracy Stanton
- Brett Charles, son of Kevin and Erica Charles
- Christina Huntress, daughter of Sue and Ron Huntress
- Jordynn Palmatier, daughter of Brian Palmatier and Roberta Backus
- Samantha Layton, daughter Mike and Wendy Layton
- Olivia Haven, daughter of Nick Haven and Deborah Hughes

## High School Happenings

**Junior Class** – The Junior Class has been busy planning this year's prom, "Rustic Romance." The prom will be held in Oneonta on June 1 at the Carriage House (formerly Frazier's Gables). Recently, we sold strawberries with the Future Farmers of America. Orders will arrive in during the week of March 11.

**Drama Club** – The Walton Central School Music Department will present the musical *The Music Man* on Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30 in the High School Auditorium at 7:00 PM. Tickets for the shows will be \$8.00 for adults and \$6.00 for students. Advance sale tickets are available from Molto Espresso, Walton Music House, and from the Walton High School Office at a cost of \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students.

**Speech and Debate** – The Speech and Debate team has had a successful season so far! We have competed in seven tournaments this year, earning four top two finishes as a team. We have 6 students pre-qualified for states and nationals; Christian Vitek for oral interpretation, Chelsea Finch and Mara Little in duo interpretation, Celestine Mingle and Mario Rosario for original oratory, and Sohia Piro for declamation. These students will be travelling to Hofstra in April to compete in the NYS Tournament and Milwaukee in May to compete in the National Tournament. Best of Luck!

**Senior Class** – The seniors are making plans for their trip to Boston. They are also selling Gertrude Hawk chocolates for the next few weeks.

**National Honor Society** – Students are completing a variety of community service activities. They are beginning their fundraiser for the March of Dimes in the hopes of sending a student to camp this summer.

## High School Happenings continued....

### Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

Recently at WCS, the FBLA Club has been busy establishing a market for their merchandise. The goal of the club is to develop a school store front outside the high school office to provide students and community members fair-priced, quality, WCS clothing to boost community school spirit. The heart of the community is focused at the school. It is our mission to provide, on-hand WCS gear that anyone can come and purchase at their leisure. FBLA started selling merchandise at football games this past fall. We also plan to sell our gear during lunch periods, at Townsend family fun nights, arts and craft festivals and other community events. All of our products are priced low enough to just turn a small profit. This will help make our club successful. In that manner, we can build our store front and continue serving the community. FBLA is also looking to team up with "Sources of Strength" in order to orchestrate some kind of run/walk charity fundraiser for the community. We will also be visiting the financial district in New York City this spring.

### Freshman Class

The freshman class had great success with concessions at the Cuneen-Doane wrestling tournament. We will be doing another fundraiser this spring.

### Student Council

The Walton Central HS Student Council meets weekly and is open to any student in high school who would like to join. Our most recent endeavors included:

- "Get in the Spirit" Christmas Spirit week
- Decorating the HS hallways to promote holiday cheer
- Winter carnival (the day before winter holiday recess) STUCO organized a skit, movie, face painting, cookie decorating, reindeer games (crazy, Christmas-based obstacle course games), and a dodgeball tournament.
- Food drive to benefit the Walton Food Pantry
- Coffee fundraiser – Funds raised will be used towards the spring carnival
- Concessions at home basketball games and wrestling meets.

### Upcoming:

- Indoor Yard Sale
- Senior Send-off/Bonfire and Powderpuff Game
- Spring Carnival
- 2nd Annual Color Run