Principal Notes
November 17, 2021
(November OUUSD Meeting has been cancelled, but here are some notes for the board to look at)

Highlights:

Veteran’s Day Assembly -
On November 11th, fifteen local Veterans attended an assembly at Oxbow, a long standing tradition honoring the local veterans. Students - Matthew Hayes, Xavier Beaudin, and Maggie Ellsworth gave heart warming speeches. Following the indoor assembly, the student body, veterans and staff gathered at the flagpole where Darcy O’Connell and Barry Emerson recognized about one hundred and fifty Oxbow/Riverbend staff and alumni by reading their names from the plaque. We want to give a special thanks for Ted Pogacar and Barry Emerson for organizing this event. Barry, an honored veteran at Oxbow, enlisted in 1988. He came to Bradford in 1991 and joined A Co. 2/172 Tank battalion. In 2005-06 the unit deployed for a year to northern Kuwait and Iraq for a security force mission. In 2010 they were deployed again for a year as Combat Engineers in Bagram Afghanistan. Barry retired in 2014 as the First Sergeant (E8) of the company with 25 years of service.
Oxbow students participate in the Vermont Student Athletic Leadership Conference - After a year of not being able to take students to the leadership
conference because of covid-19 Oxbow athletic director Derek Cipriano and physical education teacher Barry Emerson took five students to a modified conference this year. (one day instead of two) Oxbow students Matthew Corti, Chase Lund, Makenna Simmons, Will Ilsley, and Abagail Carson were chosen to attend this year's athletic leadership conference in Burlington. They were split up as soon as they arrived and spent a majority of the day with a small group of student athletes from other schools in Vermont. They listened to dynamic speakers and discussed in their groups some of the challenges that schools face in athletics, on sports teams, and in school in general. The solutions they came up with for some of the challenges schools face were incredible. I hope they will take what they learned and use this opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas with the Oxbow community. It was a great day. If leadership was easy, everyone would be a leader.

Oxbow starts a Drama elective: The first semester of the Drama elective course is midway through our work together and we have really done some excellent work. This class not only focuses on the elements of drama and it’s impact culturally, but moreover the objectives aim to bolster foundational skills such as voice and diction when public speaking, verbal and non verbal information sharing, memorization/improvisation techniques, and understanding the dynamic aspects of characterizations in theater and literature. These are attributes students will need as they progress through life and proceed to taken their biggest roles yet, on the stage of the adult world.

Our most recent project focused both on individuals and the larger collective, and posed the question, “Why, as we age, do we lose our innate creativity so clearly present in childhood?” Exploring and challenging our assumptions of ourselves as creative beings, student were asked to consider their outward selves and identify “The Best part of Me” (them) and connect it to a written assignment exploring all the reasons why the selection was made. We all know adolescents sometimes hesitate to speak kindly about themselves, but through this creative exercise students were able to compose a poem to highlight their perceived best quality and create an accompanying visual element as well. This activity helps students define their personal connections with creativity as it relates to personal expression.
Mr. Fisher’s 7th grade Social Studies- World Geography students are using a storyboard to summarize important events and accomplishments.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Winter Sports Season - Opens on Friday, December 10, 2021. Our girls basketball team will be home against BMU; boys basketball team will travel to White River Valley. For all athletic information, visit Oxbow High School or go to https://oxbowhighschoolathletics.bigteams.com/

OTHER BITS OF INFORMATION:
Facility Director’s Report
11/16/2021

- We continue to have parts and equipment shortages as well as extended lead times due to covid. We have also found contractors are short staffed and taking longer to complete tasks for us. Everyone has been understanding and patient and we appreciate it.
- The heat has been turned on to the building and everything seems to be functioning properly. We found 2 unit heaters that needed new transformers and that repair has been done.
Installation of the Point of Service lead water filters is complete. The report has been submitted to the state and we are waiting for the state to send us bottles for retesting. If all passes we will be able to use the sinks again.

The upgrade of the boy’s locker room showers is 99% complete and the girl’s locker room showers project is still in process. We had a piece of hardware shipped wrong and are awaiting the replacement. Although we hope to have them complete/useable by basketball season, it is unlikely.

We had 2 instances of strange smells in the science rooms that was suspected to be LP gas. Perry’s gas came right away each time and thoroughly leak and pressure tested the system. No leaks were found. It seemed to happen 1st thing in the morning when the kitchen staff turned on the vent hood. Each piece of kitchen equipment was isolated and tested. We are working on scheduling a tech to come and clean the Blodgett convection ovens and the Market Forge steamer.

As a result of the investigation into the LP smells it was determined that most of the original connections and valves need to be replaced and brought up to code. In addition, Room B216 needs cabinet doors fabricated for access to the valves in case of an emergency.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Cromack
Facilities Director

Principal Notes
October 25, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, October 29, 2021 - The Halloween march will be held during 1st period on. All costumes must comply with dress code regulations. Students will go to their first period class for attendance and travel together to the gym for the march at 8:15.

Wed., November 3, 2021 - Early Release Day. All students will be dismissed at 12:00 noon. Students will be provided with a bag lunch before leaving school. Staff will participate in an in-service for the afternoon. We will be analyzing data and building strategies to inform our instruction based on this data.

Wed., Nov. 3, 2021 at 6:00 PM - Parent/Community Forum on Zoom. Here’s the link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83541650904?pwd=VDl4YWM0amo0UjZtMThRbVQ5RnZyQT09
Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021, at 1:30 PM - Veteran’s Day assembly will be held in the gymnasium. If you know a veteran who would like to participate, please reach out to Barry Emerson for details. barry.emerson@oesu.org 1-802-5214 Ext. 162.

Thursday, November 11, 2021, 3:30 - 9:00 PM - Parent/Teacher Night - via Zoom - Bernadette Smith will be sending out information regarding the sign up process.

Friday, Nov. 12, 2021 - NO school for students.

PTO and Booster Club are looking for parents and community members to join their efforts. For more details, reach out to Jessica Gregoropoulos (802)222-5124, jessica.gregoropoulos@oesu.org

OTHER BITS OF INFORMATION:

Dress Code - Winter is upon us. A large part of our new dress code is SAFETY. Students should come to school dressed appropriately for the weather. Any families who may need assistance with clothing, please reach out to your child’s school counselor:

- Grades 7-9 Kathy Garone (802)222-5214 Ext. 190 kathleen.garone@oesu.org
- Grades 10-12 Lomond Richardson (802)222-5214 Ext. 151 lomond.richarson@oesu.org

Please do not allow your child to wear clothing or accessories that have language or graphics that could be offensive to others. An example - t-shirts that have language with implied meanings. If your child wears a shirt that falls into this category, they will be required to change into another or get clothes brought in from home. Multiple offenses or failure to comply may result in detention. We want our students to be free to express themselves as individuals; however, clothing and accessories cannot cause a distraction in school.

Academic Support -
There are many ways your child can access academic support.

1. Students are encouraged to reach out to their teacher to request extra support.
2. Set up time during advisory to meet with a teacher when they need extra support.
3. Attend HELP Nights on Wednesdays, 2:30 - 3:15. All teachers are available to offer extra academic help.

Grades - report cards will be mailed out during the week of November 8, 2021.

Detention is held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 2:30 - 3:15 PM.
The Student Council has been very active in advocating for the students at Oxbow. In September, they advocated for more time in between classes; laminated bathroom passes to save paper; and, sought permission for students to listen to music on earbuds when studying. The first two have been granted. The last request is being explored. Thank you Student Council for putting on our first dance of the year and planning for our Halloween march on Friday, Oct. 29th.

Athletics update:
Congratulations to all our middle school sports teams on successful seasons! Middle school cross country wrapped up their season last week with a fun race against the boys varsity soccer team. The boys soccer team battled hard against a very good Lyndon Town school in their final game, and the girls middle school team showed great fight and spirit as they competed at the Haverhill Soccer Fest. We are excited to see these young Olympians continue to grow in their athletic careers in years to come!

Congratulations to the boys varsity soccer team on a hard fought season. While they may not have gotten the results they would have liked, they are a group that competed hard for the entirety of the season. This was evident in their playoff game on Tuesday afternoon when they gave Peoples Academy a challenge for most of the first half. This group should be proud of all their hard work.

Best of luck to the girls varsity soccer team as they challenge Windsor on Wednesday afternoon at Oxbow in their first round playoff game. If they win, they advance to the quarter-finals at BFA Fairfax on Saturday. Regardless of the outcome this group of girls has made Oxbow proud all season.

Good luck to the Oxbow High School Country Team as they challenge the competition on Saturday at the Division 3 State Championship meet! They will travel to Thetford and look to continue the improvement they have shown all year. This is a hard working group that have all shown tremendous growth as runners over the course of the year.

Finally, good luck to the oxbow football team as they travel to BFA Fairfax for their quarter-final football matchup on Saturday afternoon. While they may have just played this team last week, we know the Olympian football team will give it their best effort, as they have each and every week.

Congratulations to all Oxbow Athletes on a great Fall season.

College and Career Counseling:
This year Oxbow has re-introduced an advisory program that runs along with call back for 30 minutes each day. During advisory, students are working on their personal learning plans - interest surveys, strengths inventories, matching interests with careers and exploring what they need to reach post-secondary goals.

In addition, we have re-structured our school counselor assignments:

Grades 7-9  Kathy Garone (802)222-5214 Ext. 190  
kathleen.garone@oesu.org

Grades 10-12  Lomond Richardson (802)222-5214 Ext. 151  
lomond.richarson@oesu.org

Here are a few shots of announcements around the school:
Reach out to the school counselor if you have questions about your child’s courses, grades, testing, college applications, work-based learning…

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Wheeler
Principal