
The OCS Quarterly

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Are We Still Oriskany?

By Josh Macera

It is no doubt that most schools will change over the course of six years. Our school is no exception to this rule; however, looking back, it is sometimes hard to fathom that the school we're in now is the same school it was way back in 2014. When the current senior class was just starting out in seventh grade, this place looked a whole lot different.

For one thing, an entire section of the school that exists today was unimaginable six years ago. The hallway that currently leads to the atrium once led to Mr. Lallier's technology room, which was very far behind technologically in contrast to the current technology room. What we now know as the atrium, unisex bathrooms, and concession stand was once just a lowly vestibule where students would hang out after school until it was time for practice or games. It was not much bigger than the vestibule by the bridge entrance, and it had a set of doors which led out to the basketball courts and rear parking lot. A tiny little door led out of this vestibule and into the original weight room, which looked much different compared to our current fitness room.

The lockers, which are now a lovely shade of maroon to show Oriskany pride, were once a tan, bland color that was quite hard on the eyes. They were also somewhat rusty in places, colored over from decades of student graffiti, and they jammed much more frequently. The carpet that exists in certain hallways today wasn't even a thought in those days. In fact, there used to be two different sets of lockers entirely; one down the math wing and one down the special wing where Mrs. Cortese's room is located. The rooms did not have the accented walls they do now, and to make a long story short, the school of today is much more colorful than the more institutional colors of 2014.

Back in those days, there was a different superintendent, a different principal, a different president of the Board of Education, and different teachers. The higher up you go on the administrative hierarchy, the fewer people you'll find who remember what this school used to look like when the class of 2020 just entered these halls.

This should serve as a message to the current seventh graders of today - don't take this place for granted. Many of the luxuries and accessories we have in our school today were nonexistent when the seniors of today were just starting out. Overall, this school has become a much better place; it is more colorful, has more up to date technology, and is more conducive to a welcoming learning environment. The shift from the bland, industrial-esque school of 2014 to the beautiful, luxurious school of 2019 was an incredible one. The shift was such a great upheaval that the question "Are we still in Oriskany?" could very well be asked.



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OCS Welcomes Mr. Grimshaw

Samantha DeFabio

In September, Mr. Grimshaw came to Oriskany High School as our new permanent Principal. Mr. Grimshaw grew up in New Mexico, New York-near Lake Ontario. He went to SUNY Brockport for his undergraduate degree and then attended SUNY Cortland for his grad work. He taught Health and Physical Education in Syracuse, and he also taught in Charlotte, North Carolina for 10 years. Then he taught at Red Creek High School, northwest of Syracuse, and he coached both boys and girls basketball at these schools.

Mr. Grimshaw got his Administrative degree from LeMoyne College, and became Assistant Principal at Red Creek High School, right before coming to be the Principal here in Oriskany. His goal was to become a principal because he wanted to impact students overall, and he wanted the ability to oversee his own building.

He currently lives in Syracuse with his wife, three children, and two dogs. His oldest daughter is a sophomore at Niagara University, where she plays basketball. He also has a son, who is a freshman at Liverpool High School, and another daughter, who is in 6th grade at Liverpool. Their family also consists of two dogs: Bailey, a Dalmatian-Pit mix, and Budderz, a Pit Bull. He says Oriskany is a very traditional, close-knit school, and that all the staff and students are very nice.



NHS Induction



New Faces at Oriskany

By Alivia Franz

Mr. Vedete

Mr. Vedete is the new Math 8 and Geometry teacher here at Oriskany Jr. / Sr. High School. He is a graduate of Onondaga College and previously attended MVCC and New Hartford High School.

He came to Oriskany because he heard that it was a good school and would be a good fit for him. Mr. Vedete has enjoyed his time here, so far and says that the students and faculty have been very helpful.

Getting to know and support the students in what they do is something Mr. Vedete enjoys about teaching. He stated that the days go by very quickly here in Oriskany due to the fact that the students have so many different personalities and that makes for a very exciting classroom experience.

When asked what age group Mr. Vedete is partial to teaching, he responded that he likes working with all age groups and would go wherever the school needed him to go. Math was always a favorite of Mr. Vedete's. He enjoys data and numbers and especially their connection to baseball, a sport he enjoys.

Ms. Bostic

Ms. Bostic is the new school counselor here in Oriskany. She grew up in Whitesboro, and had the opportunity to see that Oriskany was a great community, and therefore chose to come here.

She enjoys that Oriskany is a small school, and loves getting to know everybody. Ms. Bostic attended Suny Cortland and Russell Sage College. Ms. Bostic hasn't always wanted to be a counselor, she went to college for communications and went into public relations, and then realized that she was meant to be a counselor, as many people had told her.

Ms. Bostic's favorite aspect of her job is watching kids figure things out while she supports them and they find success. She is currently working with

Although Mr. Vedete has always known he wanted to be a teacher, he tried out different careers prior to teaching. First, he has worked in academic advisement, then in a bank, and finally as a foreign exchange investigator. He found that he did not enjoy sitting at a desk all day, and decided to be a teacher.

Prior to coming to Oriskany, Mr. Vedete was a long term substitute in Herkimer, Little Falls, Westmoreland, and Whitesboro. When asked where he sees himself in five years, Mr. Vedete said he hopes to still be at Oriskany.



middle schools here in Oriskany. She enjoys working with this age group because they are starting to figure out who they are, and she describes the students at Oriskany as respectful, welcoming students that advocate for themselves. Prior to coming to Oriskany, she worked in Canastota as a counselor, as well as being a long term sub for many districts.

Ms. Bostic hopes to still be here in five years, making a difference in her new forever home, being someone the students can come to and trust.

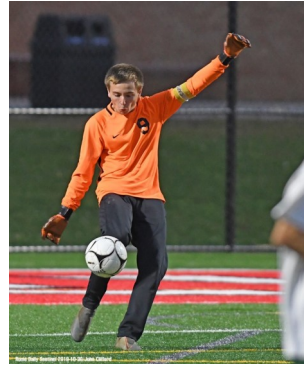
Two Schools— One Team

Cara Waterman

This past fall, former rivals, Westmoreland and Oriskany merged for football due to the dwindling number of players from Oriskany. The boys' soccer and modified football teams merged in years prior, but this year, all boys' sports teams are combined Westmoreland-Oriskany teams.

Mr. Meiss stated, "We were at a point where we couldn't field a team, and we wanted to give kids the opportunity to play football". The varsity football team is currently 3-4, defeating Jamesville-Dewitt, Adirondack, and Notre Dame. Football player Kegan Kreager says, "It has been great working with the guys", and they enjoy working with guys from different schools. There is one game left for the football team against Holland Patent.

The boys varsity soccer team is currently 11-5-1, entering their sectional games with a winning record. Soccer player, Christian Uvino says, "Our schools work great together", and he feels that the season is going well. The schools look to better expand the programs for years to come.



I Spy– Fall Sports



Computer Programming

Olivia Balfe

Have you ever wondered how computers, video games and cell phones work? Well, it's simple, they are created through programming. Without programming these things wouldn't exist.

Computer programmers write and test the code of computer programs that allow them to function. They also expand on the code of existing programs and test for errors. Computer programming is a good job for people who like to work alone. Programming may seem like a difficult job, but it really isn't that hard to learn, anyone can learn to program! The average salary of a computer programmer in New York State is \$71,122.

Computer programming uses many programming languages that each help the computer programmer in different ways. The types of programming used are Javascript, HTML, Python, C++, Ruby and more. Javascript is a programming language that is used to create and control website content. HTML, which stands for Hyper Text Markup Language, which is text based and tells a web browser how to display text, images and other forms of multimedia. Python can be used to build about anything and is great for backend web development, data analysis, artificial intelligence and scientific computing. C++ is used for networking, gaming and device drivers for computers. The final programming language, Ruby, is used for web applications, standard libraries and servers.

Some of the other things computer programmers do are front and back end programming. Front end programming is where the programmer analyzes the code, designs and debugs applications along with making sure users don't have any problems when using their computer. Back end programming focuses on how the site works and also is used to update and change the site.

You might be wondering why you should care about computer programming and the answer is, you don't have to. But learning about computer programming can help broaden your understanding of computers and looking into computer programming will give you future career options.

Poetry by Ms. Eden

The Land of The Unwanted

I wake from a dream
With nothing but a scream
By wonder and horror
Love and true terror
Of the Land of The Unwanted

Of old friends
With sad ends
Old drawings and stories
With no glories
In the Land of The Unwanted

A child queen of ice
A tween all spice
Oh, this tween is a girl
Who lost her whirl
By the Land of The Unwanted

Witches, Snow White
Fairies both dark and light
To me, forever untold
With their future on hold
Thanks to the Land of The Unwanted

There is a monster we fight
In the sorrow of night
Her name is Maria VanJoy
Who thinks the world is a toy
In the Land of The Unwanted

For I hold great magic
For love and all things tragic
With a magic #2 pencil
Which makes such a wrestle
In my Land of The Unwanted

Put Me In

Put me in Coach! Let me score!
Let me win and let the crowd roar!
Please, oh please let me in,
Let me score and let us win!

Put me in Coach, with such style
That every school team fears for miles
Let me kick, let me swing
And I won't stop until spring!

Put me in Coach! I'll win the game
I'll give us a better name
Crushing scores and stealing dreams
As the whistle screams!

Put me in Coach, but before I go
I just want to let you know...
Think for the cheerleaders, the girls
Winning for them, with an easy whirl!

No More Darkness

No more darkness taking over
No more trying to find cover
It's over, this nightmare
But now, there is nothing there...

Tonight, there is no more monsters,
somehow
No one was here, at least not now
I am here to protect you
I will see it through

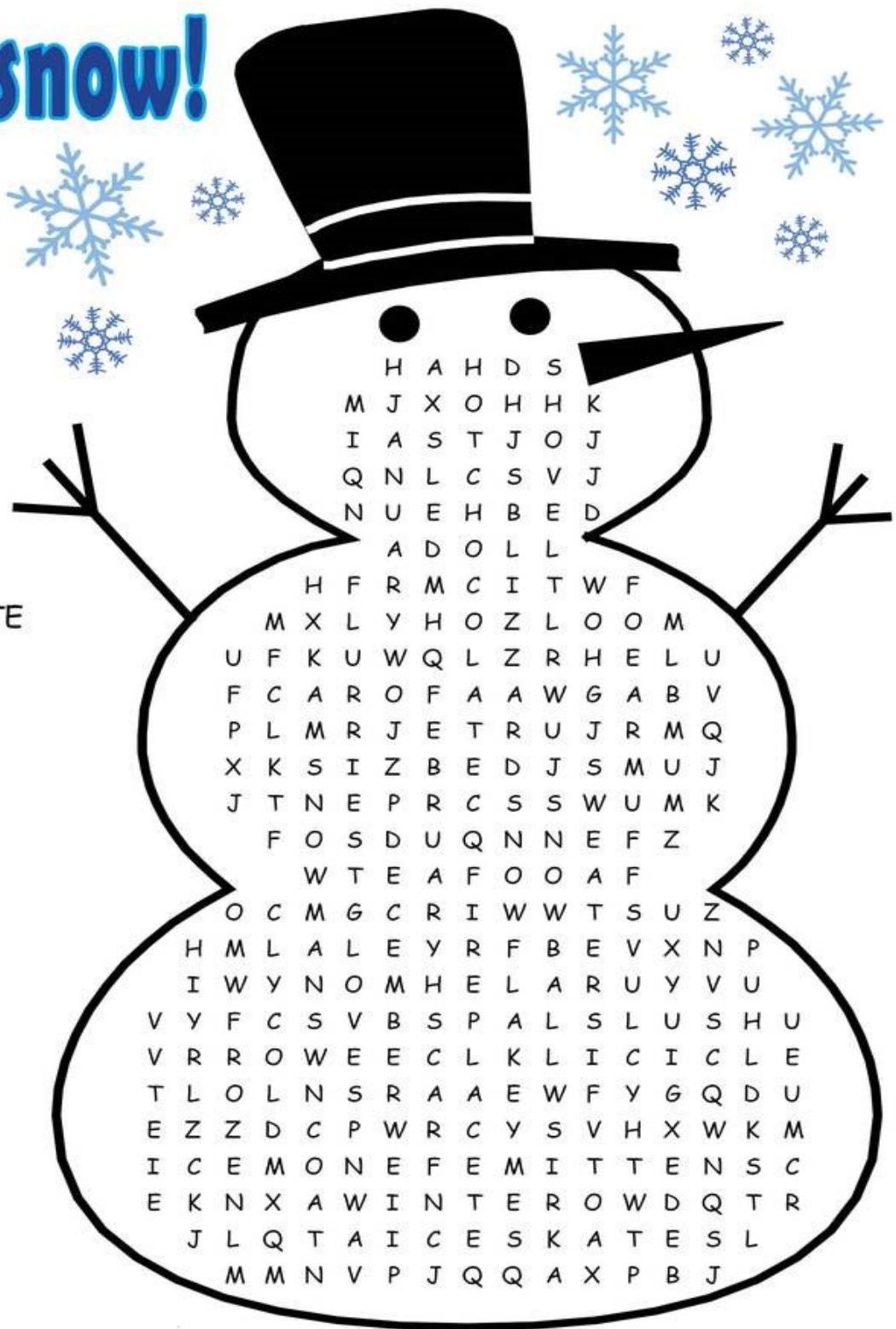
But turn away from nighttime
Turn away from the evil chime
Turn away from your fear
When I am near

I will protect you from death
You will live every breath
No one will claim your life, ever
The terror is over, forever

Say, will you dream with me?
Say, will you travel and see
That we belong to the light
And abandon all forms of night

Let it snow!

BLIZZARD
COAT
COLD
DECEMBER
EARMUFFS
FEBRUARY
FIREPLACE
FLURRIES
FROZEN
GLOVES
HOT CHOCOLATE
ICE
ICE SKATES
ICICLE
JANUARY
MITTENS
SCARF
SHOVEL
SLED
SLUSH
SNOWBALL
SNOWFLAKE
SNOWMAN
SWEATER
WINTER



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The OCS Quarterly is a student run newspaper. Each issue covers stories that the OCS Quarterly staff chooses to write about.

If any student has an idea for an article or wants to have an article printed in the newspaper, please feel free to join the OCS Quarterly staff.

Student ideas are always welcome!

See Ms. Cronauer or Ms. Valente for more information.