

# BULLDOG BULLETIN

**Olympus Jr. High**

**February 2009**

## **Congratulations Reflections Winners!**

### Visual Arts

7-8th grade: Emily Pinnock, Samuel Burton, Nathan O'Brien, Zoie Young



9th grade: Rachel Pinnock

Honorable mention: Alice Abrams, Monica Baer

### Photography

7-8 grade: Haley Tolman, Hannah Lunt, Rachel Dean, Zoe Jefferies



9th grade: Jennifer Nichols

Honorable mention: Grace VanDenBerghe, Justin Shelley

### Literature

7-8 grade: Samuel Burton, Claire Khodadad, Rachel Dansie, Allie Stapley



9th grade: Enory Martinez

Honorable mention: Paige Allred, Rhees Johnson

### 3D art

9th grade: Ben Burton



Honorable mention: Jamison Jones

### Musical Composition

7-8 grade: Stewart Houser, Grace Gardiner, Logan Nelson, Elizabeth Gorey



9th grade: Scott Hamilton

Honorable mention: Rachel Dansie

Congratulations to Stewart Houser who received an Award of Excellence at the Council level AND an Award of Merit at the Region level (way to go!) and to the following Bulldogs who received Honorable Mentions at Council: Logan Nelson, Grace Gardiner, Scott Hamilton, Haley Tolman, Zoie Young, Nathan O'Brien, Ben Burton and Samuel Burton. WOW!

David Akombo and friends will be in recital February 23, 2009 as part of Olympus Junior High's Chamber Series. Dr. Akombo, a native of Kenya, is an Assistant Professor of Music at Weber State University. His performances are full of drumming and songs using traditional African instruments and are always presented to packed audiences on the Weber State campus. The concert begins at 7:00 PM in the Choral Room (115) and these events usually last just over an hour. The Chamber Series is sponsored by a generous grant from the Olympus Junior High School PTA. Students may be given credit for attendance in their music classes. Family and friends are encouraged to attend.

"I Am The Difference" is the theme for our Olympus Jr. High PTSA this year. Way back in the day, teachers would have to rely upon a family or a rotation of families to give them room and board when teaching in a community. Now we are asked to volunteer in various ways to support our teachers and schools. The tradition of letting our incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders come for a half day and have the school to themselves & get practice on their lockers without 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> graders around started with the PTSA and is still carried out by the PTSA including providing them lunch. There are many things that may be considered an integral part of the Jr. High experience that could not happen if not for the PTSA. This is a heads up that we are putting together a nominating committee for our PTSA next year. We need a treasurer, a secretary, a newsletter editor, a president-elect, a vice president as well as other commissioners to head up individual projects. If you are interested in jumping in and having a say in what happens give Karin Wallace a call at 277-3110 and she will be happy : ) to write your name down as a nominee for the Olympus Junior High PTSA board.



The Olympus Jr. High Community Council will meet on Monday, February 9 at 3:15 pm in Room 314. All are welcome to attend. Meeting minutes and a copy of the school's SSAP are in the main office for public viewing.



Dear Olympus Jr. High Parents:

It's hard to believe that we've completed half of our school year. Where does the time go? I've enjoyed working with such fantastic students, staff and parents.

I'm fortunate to be able to meet with students who excel inside the classroom and beyond. Our luncheon with Reflection winners on December 17, 2008 is a good example. Each year the National PTA Reflections Program provides students an opportunity to express themselves in literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography and film/video production. Under the direction of Oly Junior Reflection Chairs, Susan Nichols and Becky Tolman, we had a large number of entries with some receiving award and monetary recognition. This is a huge undertaking on their parts for which we are extremely thankful.

Our extracurricular athletic programs continue to do well. Our music department continues to excel thanks to our fine teachers and musicians. And as of now, our Academic Team is undefeated! Everything we do fits in nicely with our PTSA 2008-09 theme of "WOW."

We want to thank parents again for your kind donations to our PTSA. Oly Jr. has teamed up with the PTSA to provide \$1200.00 grants for each department. PTSA Treasurer, Kris Erickson, has done a tremendous job with this program. Teachers are very appreciative of your financial contributions to our school.

Let's keep our positive momentum going for the last half of the year and "Go Bulldogs!"



Howard Sagers, Principal

**Dress Code Forum  
Thursday, February 5  
7 pm  
OJH Auditorium**

Written and spoken input will be taken by the Community Council regarding the OJH Standardized Dress policy.

Voting takes place March 3 and 4 at Parent / Teacher Conferences. One vote will be allowed per family of next year's 7th—9th grade students.

If you cannot attend, you can e-mail comments to [olybulldogs@msn.com](mailto:olybulldogs@msn.com) or leave written comments in the main office.

**Dress Code Specifics**

The current OJH dress code allows students to wear the following colors:

- Tops: White, Red, Blue, Forest Green and Gray
- Bottoms: White, Red, Blue, Fatigue Green and Khaki



Tops and bottoms must be of different colors. No sweats or jeans are allowed.

Allowable variations of the above colors are detailed on a chart found in classrooms and in the school directory. No logos larger than a quarter are allowed, except Olympus Jr. High and Olympus High school logos. On Fridays, students are allowed to wear jeans and any color, but logos are still not allowed.

The OJH standardized dress policy is constantly being reviewed by the Community Council and updates are made when necessary. We are required to hold a public forum prior to the vote every three years, where we will be interested to hear your opinions, concerns and frustrations. This will help us to finalize the details of the policy parents will vote on in March. We hope to see you there.

The OJH Community Council



Did you know that Granite School District offers a continuum of services for Gifted and Talented students? These include:

1. Talent Development
2. Differentiation with the Regular Classroom
3. Specialized Academic Grouping
4. Specialized Academic School Classes
5. Specialized District Wide Program



More details on each of these levels can be viewed at [www.granite.k12.ut.us/departments.main.html](http://www.granite.k12.ut.us/departments.main.html). Click on "Gifted and Talented Programs".

If you have questions, concerns or needs contact Sheri Sorensen, Gifted Coordinator for Granite School District at [sasorensen@graniteschools.org](mailto:sasorensen@graniteschools.org) or (801) 646-4620 or Annette Weed, Parent Liaison for Gifted and Talented Programs, Olympus Jr. High at [annetteweed@hotmail.com](mailto:annetteweed@hotmail.com) or (801) 272-5231.

Two organizations dedicated to meeting the educational needs of accelerated learners are:

GAGC (Granite Association for Gifted Children) [www.GAGCUtah.org](http://www.GAGCUtah.org)

UAGC (Utah Association for Gifted Children) [www.uagc.org](http://www.uagc.org)

Both provide networking, advocacy and information about gifted education.

Happy New Year! As your PTSA board, we're grateful to you who have volunteered here at Olympus Jr. High. We have achieved our goal to increase parent volunteer hours and we can always use more. Again, thanks to all those who have volunteered graciously their precious time.

We're finalizing the details of the Parent Center for teachers and will give you an update soon. Remember this is a room for teachers to have access to parents to have them help with copying, phoning home, emails, sorting papers and even help in the classroom. By utilizing this resource, the teachers will have more time to teach.

While walking with students down the hall after school last week, we noticed a cart full of book bags by the door. Upon entering the room, we noticed Mrs. Karren was instructing some students at the sewing machine. She shared with us the proceeds the classes made from the Bulldog Bistro are being used to make book bags for an elementary. Hopefully, we will have an article soon explaining in more details about this great project. She showed me one of the books and had the students write a message. I asked if I could share with you in the newsletter a message written in one of the books. The title of the book is "The Day It Rained Hearts" by Felicia Bond. The message is:

Dear First Grade Buddy:

My name is Taylor. I am in the eighth grade at Olympus Jr. High. Our class did a project called the Bulldog Bistro where we cooked food & sold it at lunch. All of the money we earned, we used to buy books. Then we got fabric and sewed together 100 backpacks which we are giving to you. This book is for you to enjoy. Don't forget how important it is to read!

Love Taylor

This project corresponds with the message from our new President, President Obama, who focused on reaching out to others in the spirit of service and how this strengthens the character of all involved. May we all work together to achieve a great junior high school experience and know we can't do this by doing nothing.

Let's continue our strong reputation of great students, teachers and great programs. Parents get involved.

Anne D. Monsen  
PTSA President

**Bulldog Bulletin**  
 Olympus Jr. High School  
 Granite School District  
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 Salt Lake City, UT 84115

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**February Calendar**



- 2 Boys' Basketball vs. Wasatch  
Girls' Basketball @ Wasatch
- 4 Boys' Basketball @ Westlake  
Girls' Basketball vs. Westlake
- 5 Community Council Dress Code Forum  
7 pm in auditorium
- 11 Boys' Basketball vs. Evergreen  
Girls' Basketball @ Evergreen
- 16 No School — Presidents' Day
- 18 Boys' Basketball @ Eisenhower  
Girls' Basketball vs. Eisenhower
- 23 Boys' Basketball vs. Churchill  
Girls' Basketball @ Churchill  
Chamber Series, 7 pm (see page 1)
- 25 Boys' Basketball @ Bonneville  
Girls' Basketball vs. Bonneville  
Midterm

**Upcoming:**

- March 2 & 3 Basketball Quarterfinals
- March 3 & 4 Parent / Teacher Conferences 4-7 pm  
Dress Code Election  
Community Council Election

**School Musical!**

Olympus Jr. High has begun rehearsals for this year's musical, Disney's *Mulan Jr.* Scores of students auditioned for the play, and all who wanted to be part of the cast are in it—that numbers 115 students! The directing team includes Mr. Tom Sparks as Music Director, Mr. Greg Peters in charge of Technical and Stage Crew, Mrs. Melony Hamilton as Choreographer, and introduces to our school as Stage Director Mr. Paul Walstad, a theater professional with credentials in Theater Education. Mrs. Cynthia Collier is executive director, and Mrs. Tammy Pinnock is the parent organizer, so if you haven't had a chance join with the many wonderful parents who have volunteered to help with this exciting production, contact Mrs. Pinnock today.

Mulan will be performed for the school on Tuesday March 10, and will run March 11-13. Put it on your calendar and plan to bring your family to this great event.

Two members of the Olympus Jr. High Community Council will not be returning next year, leaving two openings for their two-year terms. The Community Council administers the dress code and oversees the School Student Achievement Plan which allocates the Trust Land funds given to the school. This is a great way to be involved at the school and the time commitment is just one meeting a month. Candidates must have a student at the school at least one year of their term and cannot work for the school more than an average of 6 hours a week in a month. Applications are available in the main office and are due no later than February 18.