



# School Matters

Issue 3

December & January 2018-19

## Special points of interest:

- *From the Director*
- *Dates to Remember*
- *What Parents Can Do*



### From the Director of Schools:

Our Winter break is just around the corner and so is the Christmas season and holidays. I remain extremely proud and humbled by the generosity of our Oneida Special School District Community during the season of giving! I want to thank each of you for all your donations this Thanksgiving season! The list goes on and on of ways that you help families who experience tragedy, children with no hope of a Christmas, food baskets/drives, angel trees, or just a kind word of encouragement to someone going through a difficult time. The kindness shown by our parents, students, and staff isn't just evident during the holiday season, but it is expressed all year long. We had a great start to our school year and our excitement and enthusiasm continues as we close out the 2018 year. There is so much learning going on in the Oneida Schools. Our students have been working extremely hard on their academic skills. We are so proud of them and are happy for all their successes thus far. At this time of year, we remember how lucky we are here at Oneida. We remember how fortunate we are to have great students and talented teachers. We are also fortunate to have incredible parents who support our work and help in many different ways. Thanks to all you wonderful parents who are helping your children succeed!!! December is a hectic time of the year. Students are preparing for EOC exams and semester tests. We have just completed our drama presentation and our band concert is right around the corner. Please take the opportunity to enjoy the many talents of our staff and young people. Middle and high school basketball teams are beginning their seasons. So, there's something for everyone.



I hope that you can attend these events and support our young people (and coaches and sponsors). Hours of practice and preparation have gone into these activities.

Again, the best of Holiday Greetings to you,

*Dr. Jeanny Hatfield*

## Dates to Remember:

*December 1-12 NWEA testing*

*December EOC Testing (see OHS schedule for specific dates)*

*December 6 Band Concert 7:00*

*Abbreviated Day: December 19*

*No School December 20-January 2*

Parents + Schools = Success



# How Can Parent Continue Your Child's Education Over Christmas Break?



**1. Do family crafts together:** Pinterest or Google sites have some great ideas.

**2. Reflect on the semester gone by:** Take out a sheet of paper and answer these three questions:

What did I do well in the past semester?

What did I not do so well in the past semester?

What will I do differently in the coming semester?

**3. Set process goals for the coming semester:** Set process goals for the coming semester instead of performance goals, because process goals are far more effective. What's the difference between the two types of goals?

Process goals are what you intend to do, while performance goals are what you intend to achieve. Here's an example.

Performance goal: Get an A for math next semester.

Process goal: Do three extra math questions every day after dinner.

By setting process goals, you're more likely to take action than if you only set performance goal. So take some time and set 5 to 10 process goals for the coming semester.

**4. Watch educational YouTube videos:** Here are a few of my favorite educational YouTube channels:

ABC Phonics (great for learning sounds)

MinutePhysics (all kinds of cool physics)

CrashCourse (history, chemistry, astronomy, and much more)

**5. Watch documentaries:** You can watch thousands of high-quality documentaries for free at Documentary Heaven.

**6. Find a cause you care about:** The school holidays are a good time to give back. Find a cause you care about, and start thinking of ways to support that cause. Then read this article, which lists 10 ways to support a good cause.

**7. Improve your physical health:** You have more time during the school holidays. So this is a great opportunity to start sleeping well, exercising regularly, and eating healthily.

**8. Have your child read independently or read with or to your child:** Great resources in our local library

Or you could think big like these 12 kids, who have built million-dollar businesses in arenas like app development, online advertising, fashion, and hair products.

**9. Improve your vocabulary:** Students' success in school and life is linked to the size of their vocabulary, the research indicates. I'm sure you want to be successful, so use these three resources to improve your vocabulary:

Vocabulary.com

EnhanceMyVocabulary.com

MyCollegeSuccessStory.com

**10. Improve your writing skills:** Writing skills are important for academic success, and they're even more important for career success. So work on your writing skills this school holiday. Read this excellent article on how to improve your writing. Next, read at least one of these books and put into practice what you've learned:

The Elements of Style by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White

Writing Tools by Roy Peter Clark

On Writing Well by William Zinsser

**11. Learn about your family history:** By doing this, you'll discover interesting things about your family.

Not only that, research indicates that people who know their family history tend to have higher self-esteem too.

**12. Learn time management skills:** Get started with these three resources:

Entrepreneur.com

TopUniversities.com

GoodLuckExams.com

**13. Watch Khan Academy videos:** This school holiday, brush up on your math, science, and humanities by watching Khan Academy videos.

