

OES PTO Newsletter

Growing Together at OES

November 2010

Peter Catalanotto Visited OES in October

The OES PTO had the pleasure of hosting Peter Catalanotto, an author and illustrator, for the Family Reading Night on Oct 21. Peter's lively presentation centered on his everyday life experiences that end up becoming book topics. He encouraged others to do the same. One experience he shared stemmed from his daughter coming home and telling him that she had several students in her elementary class with the same first name. This inspired Peter so much that he decided to write a book about this and thus the birth of "Matthew A-B-C". He highlighted how many of his books came to fruition and gave the audience a behind the scenes look in to the steps involved in writing, illustrating and publishing a book. Before and after the presentation, Peter signed many books for those in attendance. In addition to presenting at the Family Reading Night many classes at OES were given the chance to work with Peter.

Here are some lessons learned from Peter's presentation.

1. Two important words: What if...?

Take an ordinary event and then answer the question "What if...?" By thinking about what if... ideas, you can make the event more interesting when you write about it in your story.

2. Mistakes lead to great ideas, so don't erase.

Keep all of your thinking visible as you never know what great thinking it will spark. Write and/or draw lightly so you can change it without erasing while you write and draw.

3. Don't worry about making mistakes.

Move through your first draft or attempt at writing/ drawing quickly to get your ideas on paper. You can then come back and make revisions to make your story more interesting and ready for publication.

4. Use a storyboard.

Draw out your book with all of the pages on one big piece of paper so you can see what is happening in the whole story at once. This way you can see if your story makes sense, if things occur in the right order, etc. Once you have the storyboard complete, you can then work on each page of your final copy to create your book.

5. Being an artist means trying something new.

Try seeing things in new ways. Look at your classroom, your house, etc. and ask "What if...?," or "I wonder what it would look like if...?" Use your imagination!

Important Dates

- Nov 19: Wacky Hair - Spirit Day
- Nov 19: Half-day - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nov 23: Half-day - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nov 24 - 26: No School
- Dec 3 - Red & Blue Spirit Day
- Dec 9: PTO Meeting at OES 3:30pm
- Dec 15: OES Concert at OA Theater
- Dec 15-17: Holiday Shoppe
- Dec 17: Comfy - Spirit Day
- Dec 17: OAFFEE Doug's Fish Fry @Tops
- Dec 23-31: No School

Owego Apalachin Music Booster Club - Annual Holiday Craft Fair

The craft fair will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2010 from 10am - 3pm. It will be held at the Owego Elementary School. There will be many crafters displaying their wares for your home and holiday ideas. There will be food and beverages from local eateries available in the cafeteria. Join us for a fun day and get your Christmas shopping done too!

Principal's Corner

Since this month is the month of Thanksgiving, I just want to take a moment to say thank you to the OES PTO. Our PTO members work endlessly to support our students. They volunteer time, raise money for events and supplies, organize activities, and help out whenever they can. Just this year so far, they have provided a welcome back treat for staff, published newsletters, run a book fair, organized school pictures, and provided an author/illustrator (Peter Catalanotto) for assemblies for our students and parents. In addition, many PTO parents helped out with parties on our Parade of Good Books day. We are excited about the new sign that PTO sponsored going up at our entranceway. Just last week, the PTO provided flags for the Student Council to place in the ground along the driveway for Veteran's Day. Besides all of this, PTO is providing grants to individual teachers for supplies, speakers, field trips, etc., to enhance our classroom programs. Thank you to all of you in our PTO. If other parents have been thinking of joining, please do. You will get to be part of a great group of parents who really make a difference in our school.

~ Laurie McKeveny

Holiday Shoppe

As a service to the OES students, the PTO is sponsoring a Holiday Shoppe December 15-17 during school hours. This is a chance for students to do some holiday gift shopping for immediate family members. All items will be priced \$1 or less. You can help with the Shoppe by donating unused items to "regift". As you start decorating for the holidays, you may find those gifts you received last year that you will never use, consider donating the items to the Holiday Shoppe. We also accept handmade items (scarves, beaded jewelry, hats, mittens, etc.). Donated items can be placed in the box in the OES inner lobby. Items will be collected until December 13th. Volunteers are also needed to help set up and work at the Holiday Shoppe. Contact Kathie Arroyo (760-3318 Kathie@oespto.org) if you can help or have questions.

Box Tops For Education

Thank you to everyone who submitted box tops this fall. We earned almost \$680! A big thank you to Chris Twoey and Kristin Felice for taking care of this fundraiser for PTO. Continue to collect box tops (and trim them closely) the next formal submission will be in February.

Price Chopper Tools for Schools

Thank you for signing up for Tools for Schools at the Price Chopper. We have 52 new members this year. We appreciate your help! If you haven't signed up, please sign up at Customer Service in the Price Chopper. Sign up your AdvantagEdge card to Owego Elementary School (#39399). OES will automatically earn tools for the school every time you shop.

E-Labels For Education with Price Chopper

Register your Price Chopper AdvantEdge card with Labels for Education and any items you buy that are associated with Labels for Education will earn points for our school. Go to www.PriceChopper.com/eLFE and register your Advantage card and select Owego Elementary school.

Help Students Fill Their Buckets

The Character Education program at OES is accepting donations of colored cotton balls to use to fill buckets when students do something positive. See the November PTO meeting minutes on the PTO website for details of the program that will be added to each classroom. If you can donate a bag (or bags) of colored cotton balls, please send them to school attention Mrs. Darrah or Mrs. Tiranato.

See the OES Reference Guide and website for all of the items that the PTO collects for fundraising.

Volunteers Needed

Science Fair

OAMS is trying to coordinate a local K-12 science fair. Please contact OAMSPTSA@gmail.com if you are interested in participating or mentoring students.

Winter Ball Coordinator – This person would plan the dance in January. (DJ, Food, Decorations, Donations, etc.) We have some volunteer helpers, but need a person to head the committee. Contact traci@oespto.org if you can help.

Come to the PTO Meeting December 9th to learn about the Owego Apalachin Foundation for Excellence in Education (OAFEE).

OES PTO Contacts:

Co-President: Jennifer Dove 687- 5564 Jennifer@oespto.org

Co-President: Kathie Arroyo 760-3318 Kathie@oespto.org

Treasurer: Sharon McFarland 765-4700 Sharon@oespto.org

Secretary: Traci Potter 687-2472 Traci@oespto.org

www.oespto.org

**Meeting Minutes, Calendars, Contacts,
Volunteer Needs, Event information, Community
Links, Forms & Newsletters.**

School Holiday Pass – Owego Apalachin Schools

Owego Bowl Taylor Road 687-5631

2 Games of Bowling, shoe rental, hot dog or French fries, and small soda \$7.00 per child

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____

School: Owego Elementary School

Valid any School Holiday for the 2010-2011 school year. Not valid after 6pm or Friday or Saturday.

For every coupon redeemed, Owego Bowl will donate \$1.00 to the PTO.