

Happy  
New Year

# OCS NEWS

JANUARY 2024

No.4



Here at Onion Creek School we had a very busy end to 2023 and a brisk start to 2024! In December, along with all of our holiday activities, many of our students and staff enjoyed a bowling trip to the local Copper Bowl. January saw a wide range of temperatures from sub-zero to above freezing, causing school delays, cancellations, and extra work to thaw pipes and keep things operational on campus. We were very fortunate that many staff and community members chipped in to keep things running smoothly here at OCS. We also lucked out with a good snowfall the day before we took a field trip to 49 Degrees North Ski Resort. **It was a perfect day.** Many thanks to our ASB, staff, and community members whose hard work makes these extracurricular opportunities a reality!

Alyson Clendenen, Teacher/Principal

## OCS SANTA BASKETS

Our students and staff, along with members of the community, work together during November and December to create gifts for some of the people of Onion Creek who may need a little extra cheer during the holidays. On the last day of school before break, students join mixed age groups where they wrap gifts and handpick presents to ensure that each basket contains the care and kindness the students want to share with the community. Some students, and even some of the staff, dressed up for basket delivery day in Christmas outfits-even the Grinch showed up! Students, staff, and OCS volunteers drove around the community giving out the baskets of presents, and many recipients were very grateful. This community service project is a wonderful way to head into winter break.



Interviews for this issue were conducted and transcribed by Middle School Students Elliot and Payton

Watch the OCS Website for the News Podcast

--Student Interviews -- Upcoming Events -- All Things Onion Creek School--

Coming Soon!

# ONION CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT LEVY ELECTION FEBRUARY 13, 2024

At its November 20, 2023 meeting, the Onion Creek School District Board of Directors voted to submit a Replacement Educational Programs and Operation Levy to the voters on February 13, 2024. This levy replaces a levy that expires at the end of calendar year 2024 and will be used to pay for expenses of educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State of Washington. These expenses include, but are not limited to, the breakfast and lunch program, preschool, materials and supplies, insurance, building maintenance and operation, and unfunded personnel costs.

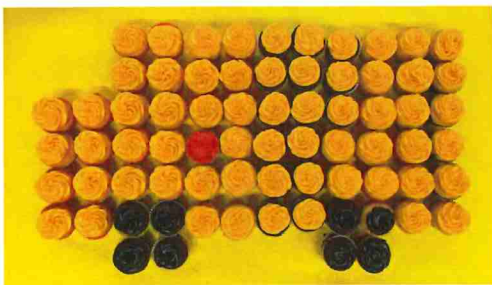
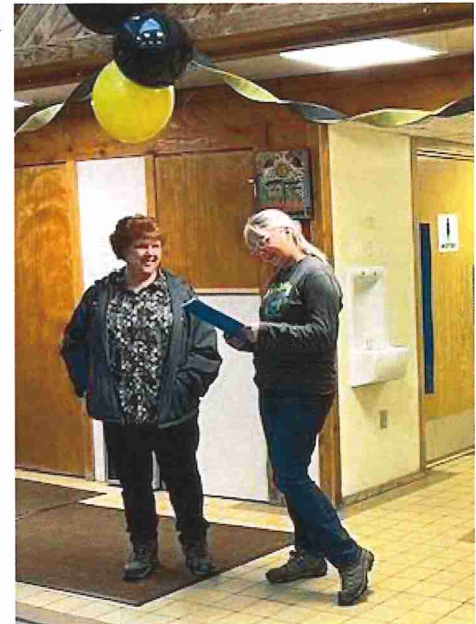
The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize the collection of taxes to provide up to \$98,500 each year from 2025 through and including 2028. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$2.14 per \$1000 of assessed value, the same rate currently charged. Exemptions from taxes are available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Stevens County Assessor at (509) 684-6161.

## OCS TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

For this issue, we learned about Onion Creek School's Transportation Department. We first interviewed Christine Zuber, Director and Driver. She shared some interesting facts about our three buses—this past year they traveled 23,000 miles and cost \$14,000 to keep their diesel tanks filled. They carry 35-40 kids to and from our school, as well as transporting students from Onion Creek into Colville for high school. The skill and dedication of our drivers should be obvious to anyone who drives our challenging roads.

Christine had been worrying about replacing Vivian Markham when her friend and coworker retired after driving for over 20 years. She was pleased to have Jakob Jones apply to replace Vivian, earn his CDL, and start driving, not only because he would make sure kids could keep getting to school, but because she remembers him as an Onion Creek student from way back in kindergarten!

We also had an opportunity to talk with Vivian who has enjoyed her career but is looking forward to having more free time for hobbies, including: picking mushrooms, painting animals, making jewelry and picking huckleberries. We celebrated Vivian at a great event where students, staff, and community members joined in thanking her for her many years of service to Onion Creek School.



Finally, Jakob is pleased to be contributing to a place that gave him a lot of good memories. He likes the way everybody works together and the structure of the work community. He also hopes to become a teacher someday.

Your Onion Creek School Board is working with our Middle School students to publish and distribute this news fly to inform you of events and activities happening at Onion Creek School. We encourage you to visit the OCS webpage ([ocsd30.org](http://ocsd30.org)) and our Facebook page to get additional details and information about our students' exciting adventures! Thanks also to Kate Ashworth for editorial assistance and Alyson Clendenen for guidance and inspiration.