Omak High School Students Travel to Denmark

Earlier this month five OHS students traveled to Stovring, Denmark on a two week exchange program. While in Denmark, students stayed with Danish students and Mr. Simmons, their advisor stayed with a Danish teacher. Also, students went to the gymnasium, the Danish version of high school, where 11, 12 and 13th graders go to school.

All of the Danes spoke English, very well, some better than others according to Mr. Simmons, but still very fluently.

Some of the five students that went to Denmark did presentations on American health and education, two topics that the students of Denmark were very interested in.

Also, the group, which consisted of seniors Noah Braley, Kyle King and Yuremi Lopez, junior Andrea Reyes, and sophomore Erika Swan, went on field trips, one day they went to a boarding school, and later they spent a week in Copenhagen, acting as “city rats,” Mr. Simmons jokingly commented.

This is the second successful year of the Denmark student exchange program where Omak Students travel to Denmark for two weeks, and then Danish students come to America a few weeks later for two weeks. The trip is planned for August of next year, which will allow next year’s participants to do some things past travelers have not got to experience.

Omak Knowledge Bowl Qualifies for State

On February 21 the OHS Knowledge Bowl team traveled to Wenatchee High School to participate in the regional meet. The group of six have nicknamed themselves “The Smartans: Defenders of Knowledge” and qualified for the state meet to be held on March 26 in Spokane. This is the third consecutive year that the Knowledge Bowl team, under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Ridenour, has gone to state. “What makes it better,” says team member Alexis Olmstead “is that none of us expected to make it. Someone actually said ‘it’s been nice working with you guys.’ But this year we placed higher than ever before and we’re going to state. We are all very excited.” Alex Love, stunned that the team qualified, just repeated the phrase “We’re going to state. We have medals. We’re going to state.” The team consisted of Captain Alex Love, Daniel Pecha, Alexis Olmstead, Caitlyn Law, Gus Rose-Witt, and Daniel Hatfield.
One of the goals of Gear-UP this year was to have 100% of the senior class apply to colleges. While this was not an easy task to undertake, by the end of the first week of March every senior in the graduating class of 2011 will have applied to a college somewhere around the state.

And these kids aren’t just applying to one college either, they are applying wherever they can. One girl has applied to seven colleges, all of them prestigious in one way or another.

As more and more seniors apply to college, more and more students are getting accepted as well, and some have already begun to apply for interschool scholarships. Gus Rose-Witt, who was accepted to University of Idaho, auditioned for a spot in the music programs band and was accepted into one of three trumpet spots, before the audition process was fully completed. Students have been accepted to colleges all over the Pacific Northwest, including Whitworth, University of Idaho, University of Washington, Pacific Lutheran University, Wabash University in Indiana, Washington State University, and Embry Riddle Aviation School.

Starting on February 28, Omak and Okanogan’s eleventh graders will combine at the Agri-plex to learn about marketing, production and all the basics that go into running a business. The endeavor will last one week, in which students will be grouped up with students from both schools to create a business, come up with a product, and produce it. Every day the companies will decide on whether to build new plants, whether or not to hire employees, and work through any obstacles that occur. Each day, winners are announced based on whose business is doing the best. At the end of the week students present their products and businesses to judges who will then determine the best overall business.

Business week is a valuable learning experience for the juniors, and many enjoy it.

Business Week
Omak, Okanogan Juniors join forces to learn basic marketing skills

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Spring Sports Offered at OHS:

- Tennis
- Track and Field
- Baseball
- Softball
- Golf
- Boys Soccer

Spring sports are starting up at Omak High School, so prepare for a busy Season from our Pioneers! The boys tennis team was academic state champion last year, and hopefully they repeat their performances both academically and on the courts. Tennis, Track and Golf all send participants to state each year, and 2011 looks to be no different than any other year, with many talented athletes turning out.

As a side note, tryouts for the Omak High School 2011-2012 Football and Basketball squads will be occurring in May, more information will be announced later. The Omak High School cheerleaders are coached by Laura Moomaw.

Center Stage
Pioneer Players Prepare for Their Spring Musical

Under the direction of the PAC’s newest director, and Omak High School’s newest theater tech and drama teacher Nicole Pearce, the Pioneer Players will be performing Leader of the Pack: The Ellie Greenwich Story later on this spring.

Auditions began a week after Winter Vacation and Rehearsals began soon after. As of February, the show, with the Drama Club firmly in command, has been preparing for its fast approaching opening night on April 15.

Leader of the Pack follows the life of Ellie Greenwich (played by Alexa Gee), a song writer in the late 50’s and early 60’s. Narrated by Darlene Love (Gus Rose-Witt), the audience will be transported back to 1963 and enjoy songs written by Greenwich and her one time husband, Jeff Barry (Christian Menendez).

Come enjoy hits from the 60’s, such as Leader of the Pack, Chapel of Love, Hanky Panky, Wait till My Bobby Gets Home and many more April 15th and 16th at 7:00 in the Omak PAC.

We would like to bid Mr. Vanderstoep, Omak High School’s art teacher a very fond farewell. At the end of this year, Mr. Vanderstoep and his wife will be moving to Mongolia. Vanderstoep has worked his hardest to instill a love of art in his students for the years that he has worked here and he will be dearly missed. Thank you for everything you have done. Love, the Gear UP Staff.
Show ‘em How to Wrestle…
Pioneer Wrestling Returns Home With a Champion

At the end of February, the Omak Wrestling Team traveled to the Tacoma Dome for the State Championships. Each year, the Omak team does progressively better, and this year was no different. With 4 year state veteran Jordan Velasco coming home a state champ, many would think that the weekend couldn’t get much better. But it does. Many of the other wrestlers that went placed as well, winning Omak fourth place overall in the 2A division. The wrestling team also took regionals for what has been deemed a threepeat, and they also placed first in league. The team has done well everywhere they have gone this year, even placing at a tournament in Florida. Congratulations Boys, you’ve earned it.