OXFORD – Oxford robotics team TORC #2137 along with its alliance partners, Clarkston’s team Rush #27 and Marine City’s team Robosapiens #4779, took first place among the 40 contending teams in the FIRST Robotics Waterford Competition March 17-19. The road to the win was very exciting! During the playoff matches, TORC’s alliance broke the world record for “Highest Scoring Match” twice, once in the quarter finals with a score of 452 and again in the finals with a score of 465. In addition to bringing home a winner’s banner, TORC also earned The Gracious Professionalism Award for the second time this season (the first was achieved at the Southfield competition on March 4). The Gracious Professionalism Award is awarded to the team that encourages high-quality work while emphasizing the value of others with respect and kindness. According to the FIRST description of the term Gracious Professionalism, “it is a team where knowledge, competition, and empathy are comfortably blended… one can add to society and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing one has acted with integrity and sensitivity.” TORC also received the distinguished Industrial Safety Award at the Southfield competition. According to the FIRST award definitions, this honor “celebrates the team that progresses beyond safety fundamentals by using innovative ways to eliminate or protect against hazards.” Congratulations TORC 2137!

SPRING 2017

Please complete the Oxford Community Schools Survey - http://survey.k12insight.com/k/RQsSVQYYsQXsPsPsP
Oxford Community Schools was honored to host House Education Committee Representative John Reilly on March 6, 2017. Superintendent Tim Throne toured Reilly through both the Oxford Virtual Academy and Oxford High School. Reilly was able to see first-hand the vast opportunities our district offers our students.

Representative Reilly shared on social media:

“I had an excellent visit with Principal Janet Schell at the Oxford Virtual Academy, a new type of school that teaches children outside the confines of a traditional brick-and-mortar classroom. Oxford Virtual Academy provides options for on-line learning, seated classes, dual enrollment, and college classes in partnership with local businesses, home school groups, and others. It’s part of Oxford Community Schools and has thrived since it first opened in 2011. I also visited Oxford High School to see all of the great things they’re helping students achieve, including their DECA program, their extracurricular robotics program, and their amazing auto shop where students learn automotive repair first-hand. I had a productive sit-down with Oxford High School Principal Todd Dunckley and Superintendent Tim Throne after the tour. It’s wonderful to see all of the innovation in education happening right here in our North Oakland County communities!”

Thank you, Representative John Reilly, for taking time to visit our district.

Oxford has had several musicians earn distinguished invitations to play at the next level this year. Students Luke Sittard, Tristan Measel, Isaac Ossege, Gio Paese, Tyler Dulinski, Luke Auchter, Joe Legault, Jack Brodeur, Trent Evans, and Clayton Hill were privileged to play at the MSBOA District 3 Honors Jazz Bands. Band students Trent Evans, Brittany Farrar, Carla Jawadzki, and Tyler Dulinski were esteemed to play in the MSBOA District 3 Honors Band. Both Trent Evans and Kaylie Seeling were also chosen to play in the Albion College Honors Band in February. Oboist Hayden Franke is now a member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Civic Youth Orchestra program. He will have the opportunity to perform with students from throughout Metro Detroit with this prestigious organization. Hayden Franke and Trent Evans have also been invited to perform with the Michigan State University Spartan Youth Wind Ensemble for their 2017-2018 concert season. Congratulations on all of your outstanding accomplishments, Oxford musicians!
The Oxford School District received its Michigan Public School Accountability Scorecard from the Michigan Department of Education on January 20, 2017. The district scored “Yellow” under the color-coded guidelines. Of the districts in the state, 81% of them scored in the Yellow and Lime range. The results are based on the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) test scores students took last spring combined with graduation rates, educator evaluations, attendance data, and compliance with state and federal laws. The scoring is divided into five color ranges lowest to highest: Red, Orange, Yellow, Lime, and Green. Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Ken Weaver is pleased with the scores overall. “Our staff is doing excellent work. It’s encouraging to see the proficiency marks are being met.” Oxford Schools Early College scored a perfect 100%. Although in the Oxford District, Crossroads Day School scored in the Red, Weaver said much of that is due to the unique population of those students and standardized tests are not the best measure of at-risk students.

### Scorecard Comparison of all Schools in the District

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<th>Building</th>
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<tr>
<td>District</td>
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<td>Lakeview</td>
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<td>Leonard</td>
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<td>Oxford Elementary</td>
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<td>Oxford Middle School</td>
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<td>Oxford Crossroads Day School</td>
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<td>Oxford Virtual Academy</td>
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<td>Oxford Schools Early College</td>
<td>Green</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxford High School</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
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</tbody>
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On the whole, the results do not determine the overall value of Oxford Schools and its programs, but they do serve as a great tool to continue to improve education for our leaders of tomorrow.

The state also released their Top to Bottom School Ranking list. Some of the highlights include:

- Clear Lake Elementary ranked in the 91st percentile of all schools in the state.
- Leonard Elementary ranked in the 89th percentile of all schools in the state.
- Oxford Elementary ranked in the 85th percentile of all schools in the state.
- Oxford Middle School ranked in the 82nd percentile of all schools in the state.

Comprehensive details on the Accountability Scorecard and School Ranking can be found at mischooldata.org site under the Dashboard & Accountability Scorecard button.
**THE PETER PAN MUSICAL DELIGHTS**
**CROWDS OF ALL AGES**

Oxford Theater presented J.M. Barrie’s classic tale of “Peter Pan” at the Performing Arts Center March 22-26. Over 75 students brought the fairy tale to life under the direction of Christopher Card and Krista Price. Tory Spring played the part of Peter Pan - the flying, free spirited, mischievous boy who never grows up. In the premise of the story, Peter Pan flies Wendy Darling (Rachel Baker) and her brothers to the island of Neverland. The production, rich with incredible music from the pit orchestra, took the audience on an adventure as the group interacted with Pan’s arch-nemesis Captain Hook (Josh Krol) and his crew of pirates, fairies, Native Americans and the Lost Boys. Audiences of all ages were entertained by this magical musical.

**OMS DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS**
**“HOW TO KISS A GIRL”**

OMS Drama Club facilitator Jack Gray produced and directed “How to Kiss a Girl” at the end of January that starred OMS students. In the summary of the story, the main character Ken Beardsley was getting ready for his very first date. He decided to download audio advice on his smartphone from across the centuries in order to impress his high school crush. The date quickly spirals out of control as he simultaneously tries to follow dating tips from a swashbuckling pirate, a sweet southern belle, a puritanical pilgrim, and a communist-fearing nationalist from the 1950’s. Poor Ken realizes that if he really wants to win his date’s heart, he will need to tune out his smartphone and tune into his own instincts before it is too late.
Oxford High School Travel Club experienced a part of American history this January. The students and chaperones made their way to Washington, D.C., to witness the 45th Presidential Inauguration. The group also visited historic sites such as the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Pentagon Memorial, Newseum Museum, a walking tour of the national monuments, Arlington National Cemetery, and the National Archives Building.

**OHS TRAVEL CLUB ATTENDS PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION**

The Travel Club in Washington, D.C. at the 2017 Presidential Inauguration.

**PLAYHOUSES for a Purpose**

**Live Playhouse Auction**

May 13th | 3:00 pm
Lake Orion Flower & Art Fair

Join us at Playhouses for a Purpose live auction during the Lake Orion Flower & Art Fair! Three different custom playhouses will be auctioned with 100% of the proceeds going to three local nonprofits focused on children. The nonprofits include The Daisy Project, Love INC of North Oakland County, and Oxford Early Learning Center. Each of these nonprofits is creating a unique playhouse and will benefit 100% from its sale.

**CATCHING UP WITH AN OXFORD ALUM...**

John Ward (‘10) is not only an Oxford Alumni but he is also a valued Oxford employee. He became the Technology Specialist for Lakeville and Leonard Elementary in September of 2016 and has been a tremendous addition to Team O. John was recently nominated by Lakeville Elementary for the Oakland County Support Person of the Year. Nominees are members of a local school district’s support staff who go above and beyond the call of duty in creating a supportive learning environment. We asked John to reflect on how his Oxford experience has influenced him and to share his advice for current Wildcats.

“I graduated from Oxford High School in 2010, and am still very humbled by the rippling impact that being a Wildcat had on my life – both personally and professionally. Among all my classes and wonderful experiences, I still fondly remember the opportunities and responsibilities I received as a member of the school’s choir program.

Music had always been very important in my life and the staff all throughout my time within Oxford schools only helped to nurture and fan that flame. The respect and care offered by teachers such as Mrs. Mueller in elementary school, Mrs. Flynn in middle school and Mr. Card in high school, truly benefited me. Each teacher helped me to accept my talents, find confidence in performance, and to learn humility reminding me, ‘Never sell yourself short, and stop worrying about people who are better than you. There will always be someone better – so learn to celebrate your own talents. You may be more unique than you think.’

In my time as an Oxford student, it was easy for me to see that the teachers and staff were really trying to move me forward and prepare me for the future. All the hours spent after school working on musicals or music, or just spending additional time with students of similar interest will always be treasured memories of mine.

After graduation, I began working in the tech field and I am honored to be the current Technology Specialist here at Oxford Schools. However, I still utilized the lessons that all my music teachers lovingly taught, and I am also the lead for my church’s worship team. If I could offer any advice to current Wildcats it would be to simply be kind to others. You don’t know what someone else may be going through in their life. Sometimes a simple smile can go a long way to brighten someone’s day. More often than not people may end up being in a similar position as you. Be positive, be kind, and be loving. Make and cherish friendships, because if you make a good friend, you can sometimes have a friend for life. And remember – your teachers want to see you succeed. Your teachers don’t want to give up on you, so don’t give up on yourself. No matter what field you end up in, you can always find a way to pursue your dreams.”
WINTERFEST
2017 WINTERFEST COURT

KING & QUEEN
Ray Luvine & Kaitlyn Romano

SENIORS
Tanner Saxon & Grace Johnson
Emily Carion & Collin Thompson
Spencer Petoskey & Satara Fountain

JUNIORS
Emily Butkiewicz & Jack Smalley
Kaitlyn Bean & Jacob Donovan

SOPHOMORES
Garritt Mahoney & Adaline Bird

FRESHMEN
Ella Erskine & Scott Masterson

PRINCESS & PRINCE
Caden Woodruff & Tessa Glass

2016 King Jared Dymond & Queen Amy Moll escort this year’s prince and princess

Winterfest photos taken by student Michael Stublensky
HOSA HOSTS DOC MCSTUFFINS CLINIC FUNDRAISER

Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) is a student organization for those who are planning a career in the medical field. Oxford High School’s HOSA program currently has 60 members who will compete in the Michigan State Leadership Conference in Traverse City where they demonstrate skills in nursing, dental science, veterinary medicine, emergency medicine, and physical therapy. In order to offset the cost for competing in this event, HOSA students developed a Doc McStuffins Clinic and Mini-Medical School Fundraiser inspired by the popular Disney Jr. series.

In the clinic, the students became Toyologists and practiced their patient interaction skills by doing check-ups on stuffed animals or toys. During the check-up (which includes taking vitals, measuring height and weight, observing the ears and throat, and giving a vaccination), the Toyologists explained what they were doing in terms the children could understand. The Toyologists also provided recommendations for the toys such as to eat fruits and vegetables, get exercise, and to brush their teeth twice a day. The goal was to educate children about what goes on in a doctor’s office and to hopefully reduce anxiety that can be associated with going to the doctor. A Mini-Medical School was also set up where the children could participate in health-related games and activities so they could become Toyologists themselves.

LEONARD IS HOOKED ON BOOKS

March 1st was the kick-off of March is Reading Month. Leonard Elementary’s theme this year was “Hooked On Books.” During the kickoff assembly the staff engaged the children with a skit based off of the book Peter Pan.

Tinkerbell (Lisa Wells) was reading a story to the students when Captain Hook (Principal Paul McDevitt) stole the books from the treasure chest and with the books went Tinkerbell’s voice! Peter Pan (Sarah Ashley) came to help the students get the books back so Tinkerbell could read aloud once again.

Throughout the month students used clues to find books Captain Hook would hide from them. Students earned gold coins by reading at home and at school. So much fun was had by all during Reading Month!
Oxford High School welcomed a group of guest students and teachers from Chongqing, China, from January 23 to February 3, 2017. The visiting students were each paired with a Leadership peer mentor at the high school for an authentic cultural immersion experience. Having grown up in a warmer climate, our guest students were also excited to see snow for the first time!

**OVA STUDENT LAUNCHES HIS OWN COMPANY**

“Sometimes the bad things that happen in our lives put us on the path to the best things that will ever happen to us” - Nicole Reed.

Fifteen-year-old OVA student Spencer Kelly experienced just that when early last summer he had his bike stolen while he was at an area restaurant. His father Steve used the situation as a teachable moment in responsibility. Steve replaced his son’s bike with the condition that Spencer would repay him.

Spencer was soon presented with a business opportunity that would allow him to not only repay his father but would open a whole new world for him. Spencer was given a chance to sell artisan soap. He jumped at the opportunity seeing the product as one with built-in demand, “Everyone uses soap.” He planned and prepared for his new business venture for two months and in August 2016 Spencer founded *The Expedition Soap Company, LLC*. The soap is an all natural product made with base ingredients of coconut, olive, hemp, corn, and soybean oil along with organic shea butter. Since its launch on September 1, 2016, the Expedition Soap Company has sold over 2,600 bars of soap.

Spencer is part of every aspect of the business from making the 65 different varieties of soap to creating the soaps labels for packaging. When the demand is high he has been up until the wee hours of the morning wrapping soap to ship to online customers. Spencer attends vendor shows to sell his product face-to-face as well. This has been one of the most challenging yet rewarding aspects of business ownership for him. Spencer has Asperger Syndrome, an Autism Spectrum Disorder. The vendor shows have helped him to overcome the social awkwardness associated with Asperger Syndrome. He is determined not to let anything, especially Asperger Syndrome, get in his way of success. Spencer is a firm believer that a person’s physical, emotional or mental challenges should not prevent them from pursuing his or her dreams.

Spencer’s business strategy includes growing his business and giving back a portion of his profits to help others. Each April, in honor of National Autism Awareness Month, Spencer plans to make a donation to the US Autism & Asperger Association. The non-profit organization’s mission is to “Provide the opportunity for everyone living with Autism, Asperger Syndrome and other related disorders to achieve their fullest potential, by enriching the Autism and Asperger communities with education, training, accessible resources, and partnerships with local and national projects.”

We wish you well in your entrepreneurial adventure Spencer!

**DA STUDENTS SHOW THEY CARE FOR THEIR COMMUNITY**

The IB Programme encourages students across the world to become active, compassionate, lifelong learners. In February, Mrs. Phillips second grade class at Daniel Axford Elementary studied about community as part of their IB social studies unit. Within their lesson, students learned about different aspects that make up our Oxford Community including the retirement complex Independence Village. The class chose to “take action” to make someone in its community “happy” for Valentine’s Day. The class created 153 valentine gifts with beads donated by Pam’s Bead Garden for residents at Independence Village. Mrs. Phillips class received a thank you note from the residents sharing how they “enjoy their special beads.” What a creative and kind way to share love in your community, second graders!

**WE WANT YOUR INPUT**

We want input from ALL community members, not just those with students in the district. Please complete the Oxford Community Schools survey at: [http://survey.k12insight.com/k/RQsSVQYYsQXsPsPsP](http://survey.k12insight.com/k/RQsSVQYYsQXsPsPsP)

**OHS HOSTS STUDENTS FROM CHONGQING**

Oxford High School welcomed a group of guest students and teachers from Chongqing, China, from January 23 to February 3, 2017. The visiting students were each paired with a Leadership peer mentor at the high school for an authentic cultural immersion experience. Having grown up in a warmer climate, our guest students were also excited to see snow for the first time!
David Berney was one of the most versatile athletes to wear an Oxford uniform. In the early 1990’s, David was a three-sport athlete competing in football, basketball, and track & field. During his OHS football career, he was a starting safety and a three-year tight end for the Wildcats. His sophomore season, David won his first state championship as a leg in the 1600m relay. As a junior, David’s relay team set the Oxford record for the 1600m relay with a time of 3:22.3. This record stood for twenty years.

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David completed his career with an impressive list of Flint Metro League track championships: one individual and five relays. He also won the 1600m relay State Championship (1989) and was a member of the 1991 MHSAA Class B Track and Field Team State Championship. As a captain during his senior year, David received the team MVP award and the George Prince Award as Oxford’s Outstanding Male Athlete. In his career at Oxford High School, David earned a total of nine varsity letters, the Agnes Jewell Award, and a scholarship to Eastern Michigan University to play football.

During his time at Eastern Michigan University, David earned three varsity letters. He graduated from EMU in 1995 with a B.S. in Construction Management.

David currently resides in Clarkston, Michigan, with wife Carrie and children Brooke, Rebecca, Luke and Drew. He is employed as a construction manager with Hydraulic Tubes and Fittings, LLC.

Erik Welch is one of the most accomplished middle distance runners in
Oxford history and one of the school’s fiercest competitors. Erik quickly became a star after being introduced to competitive running as a middle school student. Under the guidance of legendary Oxford coach Elmer Ball, he earned four varsity letters in track & field.

As a sophomore, Erik won his first Flint Metro League (FML) title in the 400m dash in a time of 50.67 and was part of the 1600m relay team that won the FML title with a time of 3:28. Erik’s junior year he continued to collect titles in the Flint Metro League and he advanced to the state finals taking third in the 400m dash with a time of 49.31, placing third in the 800m relay with the team finishing with a time of 1:31.9, and was part of the winning 1600m relay with a time of 3:25.5. As a senior, Erik continued to excel winning the 400m dash Oakland County Championship with a time of 48.6. He successfully defended his titles at the Flint Metro League Championships in the 400m dash, 800m relay, and the 1600m relay. He also added the 200m dash title to his resume with a time of 22.3. His success on the track led the Oxford team to winning the Flint Metro League Track Title in 1991. In total, Erik won nine Flint Metro League titles in his career competing for the Oxford Wildcats.

Erik saved his best for last at the 1991 MHSAA Class B State Finals. In one of the most impressive days ever seen by a Wildcat in any sport, Erik opened the day with a win in the 3200m relay with a time of 8:01.38 and continued to amass points in each event that he ran. Oxford won the 800m relay state title in a time of 1:29.99 and Erik sprinted to a win in the 400m dash with a time of 48.40. He finished the day by placing third in the 1600m relay in a time of 3:24.02. The Wildcats won the first team state championship in school history with a total of 40 points. Erik Welch captured first place victories in the 400m dash, 800m relay, and 3200m relay at the 1991 MHSAA Class B Finals. Erik went on to compete in the 400m dash at the 1991 Midwest Meet of Champions.

Currently, Welch and his family reside in Fraser, Michigan, where he is employed at Bolyard Lumber.

**VARIES WINTER SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS**

-Oxford’s boys basketball team had its BEST record in program history, finishing the season 16-4.

-The boys bowling team ended the season as OAA Red League Champions, Oakland County Champions and finished fifth in state.

-Oxford’s girls bowling team completed the season as the state runner-up

-Oxford’s competitive cheer team earned the OAA White League Championship.

-The Holly Oxford boys ski team placed ninth in the state.

-Boy’s swim team member Mitchell Mulligan placed 19th in the state diving finals.

-The Oxford wrestling team finished as OAA Red League Champions, District Champions, and Regional Champions. The team ended the season as state quarter finalist and had eight individual state qualifiers. This year marks the ninth time in the past ten years the Oxford varsity wrestling program has gone to state finals.

**IN MEMORY OF ELMER BALL**

This winter, Oxford lost a man who has left an everlasting legacy on our school community. Elmer Ball passed away on February 28, 2017.

Ball served Oxford Community Schools as the cross-country and track coach for more than three decades until 1992. During that time, his teams acquired numerous league championships, regional championships, and individual state championships. He was awarded the Oakland County Coach of the Year in both 1988 and 1991. Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association (MITCA) awarded him Coach of the Year honors in 1983 and again, in 1991. He also received MITCA’s Charles Sweeney Award in 1988 for his outstanding service to the sport of track and field, his school, his community, and MITCA. Ball was inducted as a charter member of the Oxford Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010.

Elmer Ball was a man of great, selfless character whose kindness and leadership was felt by anyone who knew him. We thank and honor Elmer Ball for the positive impact he has made on the countless students, parents, and staff during his service with Oxford Community Schools.
Oxford Township is updating its Master Plan which will guide and manage the Township’s future growth and development. The Master Plan is the guiding document for future decisions related to road improvements, land use, economic development, and capital improvement expenditures. It outlines the community’s vision and goals and provides strategies to realize the vision for a quality community and living environment.

Oxford Township wants your opinion for the 2017 Master Plan:  https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KX7S79H