

## **THIS IS ONEIDA A HISTORIC SNOW DAY**

Last March I told you about a two-hour delay we had to one of our school days due to ice, snow and the treacherous condition of our campus roads and sidewalks. That delay was unusual for us. Although I am uncertain if we have had any snow days in our school's 115 year history, I do know for certain the snow day we took on Tuesday, February 17 was most unusual.

Just after we began our day on Monday, February 16 the predicted winter storm began dumping snow on our campus. Our crew worked hard to clear our roads and sidewalks, but for the duration of the day they fought a losing battle. As soon as they cleared an area and looked back over their shoulders, the area was nearly covered again. All totaled we had over a foot of snow. Due to concern for the safety of our staff and students, I made the decision around 4:30 p.m. to cancel school for the following day.

As you can imagine, this was exciting news for our students and teaching staff. The flip side of that is that this news meant a tougher day of work for our houseparents.

Since the kids would be in the dorms all day, our houseparents had to make some adjustments. They passed this test with flying colors. Most of our kids slept late and later played in the snow. They also enjoyed "free time," which is where boys and girls can hang out together under houseparent supervision. Free time is quite the social experiment, but also a way for our students to unwind a bit.

Several of our kitchen workers had come to campus on Sunday evening so they could be at work after the storm hit. We were a little short-handed in the kitchen, but in spite of the challenges, our staff made sure we were all well fed.

When school commenced on Wednesday, more snow was pelting our roads and sidewalks. I watched as several of our staff assisted in areas in which they don't usually work. As a matter of fact, I watched from my office window as our campus locksmith shoveled my van out from under the mountain of snow. I am always amazed by God's provision for this place, and often times His provision is manifested through the work and spirit of his servants in this place.

Of course our students (and staff in more subtle ways) have continually begged for another snow day, which they will be hard pressed to find, but then again I did not ever imagine I would have cancelled even one day of school.



**Larry A. Gritton, Jr.**  
**OBI President**

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