

Oak Hill Academy January 2013 Newsletter #3

Headmaster's Message Joseph A. Pacelli

Hitting the Mid-Point

In checking with the teachers, it seems that most classes have almost caught up for lost time as a result of missing days caused by Hurricane Sandy. As we approach the mid-point of our school year, we realize how much we have accomplished and how much our students are learning, as well as how good they feel about their newly acquired skills.

A few weeks ago I had the occasion to ask the teachers to provide me with those things in their curriculum that addresses multiculturalism and diversity. Every grade level responded with an overwhelming amount of material. These topics reach into almost every phase of our work. We are currently putting together a booklet that we will share with all when complete.

Mrs. Larkins Director of Development

Spread the Word

We will be having a special open house for families interested in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade during the school day on Friday, February 24th. Attendants are to arrive at the Scire Student Activities Center at 9:00 a.m. The morning will include an information session, classroom visit, tour of campus, and performances by some of our Oak Hill students. Please spread the word to any family that you know might be interested in OHA.

Also note that Oak Hill Academy will continue its financial aid program to benefit our current students as well as prospective applicants. Information has been sent home and is available on our website. Thank you in advance for your continued help.

"Eat, Drink, and Party Chic" Cash Raffle and Ad Journal

"Eat, Drink, and Party Chic" was chosen as the 2013 theme of this year's annual cash raffle, dinner dance/auction, and ad journal.

The cash raffle is part of the school's major fundraising event of the year. The cash raffle itself is a wonderful opportunity to win sizable amounts of money. This will be the 21st year of our progressive 50/50 cash raffle whereby three cash prizes are awarded. The FIRST PRIZE is 70% of the winning 50/50 share up to \$17,500. The SECOND PRIZE is 20% of the winning 50/50 share up to \$5,000. The THIRD PRIZE is 10% of the winning 50/50 share up to \$2,500. Tickets are \$50 each are limited to the first 1,000 sold.

Each current Oak Hill Academy family will receive a raffle packet containing four raffle tickets. For every four tickets sold, you will receive, in turn, an incentive ticket qualifying you for our incentive prize, a beautiful sapphire and diamond necklace valued at \$1200!

The winners of the cash raffle prizes and incentive prize will be drawn during the April 20th dinner and auction at the lovely Addison Park. It should be an evening to remember and we hope you can join us.

Please encourage friends, relatives, co-workers, etc. to take a ticket. Why not take a chance....like they say...you never know!!! (and you will be supporting a worthy cause!)

We will continue the tradition of the OHA Ad Journal in conjunction with our Cash Raffle. It is a wonderful opportunity for a business to advertise to our local school community and a nice place to send a personal message to your child, teacher, etc. Ad forms will be mailed home shortly.

Proceeds from all these events will continue to support teacher professional development, upgrade the school facilities, and expand school technology. Please participate at any level and help us prepare for an even brighter future for our children.

Mrs. Misson Business Manager

This is just a reminder that Re-Enrollment contracts are due Friday, February 8, 2013. Please make sure that both parents have signed the contract/s and that your payment accompanies the signed contract/s. Please include your completed transportation form/s as well. **This form is a requirement even if you DO NOT intend to avail yourself of bus transportation.**

Miss Murray Director of Personnel/Administration

Admissions

Our first entrance test was given on Saturday, January 5th. Over 15 children were tested for entrance into grades one through eight. Our kindergarten testing has also begun this month. The PreK is accepting applications for the 5 and 3 day programs.

Hoop Shoot Update

On December 2nd, Oak Hill Academy students took top honors at the Red Bank Elks Hoop Shoot held at OHA! Each contestant shot 25 foul shots. There were three age groups for the girls and boys: 8-9; 10-11; 12-13. The first place winners advanced to the District Level competition in Old Bridge on Jan. 12th. Coming in first place for the girls and boys were: Samantha AbdelBarry and Brandon Klatsky (8-9yrs.), Erin Gilfillan and Lucas Bruckmann (10-11 yrs.) and Josie Larkins and Alex Klatsky (12-13yrs.).

On January 12th, Brandon Klatsky shot 19-25 to win the 8-9 year age group! Lucas Bruckmann shot 21-25 to win the 10-11 year old age group! Both Brandon and Lucas will now advance to the State Finals in South Plainfield on February 10th! Good luck Brandon and Lucas!! Great job by OHA hoopsters!

Dec. 2nd results:

Boys 8-9 Years Old

1st Place - Brandon Klatsky (15)
2nd Place - Andrew Ferguson
3rd Place - Louis Petrosino

Girls 8-9 Years Old

1st Place – Samantha AbdelBarry (7)
2nd Place – Amanda Adams
3rd Place – Brooke Tackett

Boys 10-11 Years Old

1st Place – Lucas Bruckmann (19)
2nd Place – Stephen Braunstein
3rd Place – MJ Wright

Girls 10-11 Years Old

1st Place – Erin Gilfillan (12)
2nd Place – Mary Mahoney
3rd Place – Abigail Cieri

Boys 12-13 Years Old

1st Place – Alex Klatsky (19)
2nd Place – Corey Palazzolo
3rd Place – Nick Robertson

Girls 12-13 Years Old

1st Place - Josie Larkins (12)
2nd Place - Salma AbdelBarry
3rd Place - Sydney Hixenbaugh

Jan. 12th results:

Boys 8-9 Years Old

1st Place – Brandon Klatsky (19)

Boys 10-11 Years Old

1st Place – Lucas Bruckmann (21)

2nd Place – Stephen Braunstein

Girls 10-12 Years Old

2nd Place – Mary Mahoney

Boys 12-13 Years Old

4th Place – Alex Klatsky

Girls 12-13 Years Old

2nd Place - Josie Larkins

Lip Sync

The 24th Annual Lip Sync will continue with the two-night format! In a change from previous years, the third grade will perform on the first night; therefore, PreK-3rd grade will perform on Thursday, February 28th at 6:30pm. Grades 4-8 will perform on Friday night, March 1st at 6:30pm. The faculty acts will perform on both nights. Songs need to be less than three minutes in length. Details will be coming in February. Practices will be starting on February 19th.

Parent Basketball Game

The Annual Parent Basketball Game will be played on Sunday, March 17th at 12:00 noon. The Lower School parents will compete against the Upper School parents. There will be a practice on Sunday, March 10th. Look for details in the upcoming month!

Eighth Grade American Scholastic Challenge

This will be the fifth year that our eighth graders will be competing in the American Achievement Scholastic League's Scholastic Challenge on February 24th at 2:30.

This 100 question online test will cover the following subjects: Language & Literature, Geography, History, Science, Mathematics and General Knowledge (i.e., food, art, sports, music, current events, entertainment, mythology). Results will be calculated as a school and as an individual. The contest will take one hour to complete. At the conclusion of the test, the students will convene in the Scire Student Activity Center for pizza and a movie!

M.A.S.T. Jeopardy Tournament

A small group of eighth graders (and possibly seventh graders) will be chosen to compete in the Marine Academy of Science and Technology Jeopardy Contest on Friday, March 8th! Oak Hill

students have done very well in this competition in years past!

Mrs. Livingston Lower School Guidance

Gr.1-3 - We started off the New Year sharing the story entitled Heartprints written by P.K. Hallinan. The book defines heart-print as "the impression left behind by a deliberate act of kindness." Throughout the story many examples of ways that we can leave heart-prints behind were given. It was also pointed out that the heart-prints we give out make us happy too. Needless to say, it is a win-win situation. So we are encouraged to start out this New Year (2013) by making a deliberate effort to leave heart-prints behind each day.

Gr. 4 - This month I shared an Indian tale of speaking kindly entitled "The Prince and the Rhinoceros." In this story the Prince and Great Joy, the rhinoceros were great friends. One day, wanting to pay back the Prince for taking care of her, Great Joy suggested that she compete in a contest of strength against the town's strongest bulls. The reward was gold. The prince, selfishly thinking only of the prize, spoke unkind words to Great Joy to encourage her to go faster. Great Joy, feeling very hurt, dug her feet into the ground and would not move. Later in the story, the prince hung his head in shame, realizing that the friendship that he and Great Joy shared was far more important than the prize. This story opened up many themes for discussion. Among them are kindness and friendship, conflict resolution, greed, and apology and forgiveness.

Mrs. Weikes, Director Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Grobelny Pre-Kindergarten

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2013 to all of our Oak Hill Academy students and families. We hope that everyone enjoyed a memorable and joyful holiday season.

Students eagerly returned to school and welcomed in the New Year with a unit on hibernation. Mrs. Wood's students brought in favorite Teddy Bears from home and created individual caves for the bears. Future lessons will include discovery of Sink and Float and predictions on which objects will float or sink, and why? Mrs. Cahalane exposed the students to birds and their habitats including the graphing of animals that migrate and those that hibernate. We love science!

During Creative Kids with Mrs. Weikes, author Jan Brett's story The Mitten came to life as students acted out this wonderful story stressing inclusion and friendship. The students wore puppet masks and climbed under a white blanket to represent the mitten. The children then rolled across the floor as the huge bear in the story sneezed. What fun!

Pre-K discovered Ms. E and completed an alphabet review of all letters and sounds introduced to date. Rhyming is an ongoing Pre-K skill; while word families and curriculum-generated sight words have now been introduced.

In preparation for 100 Days of School, students are practicing counting to 100. You may also observe the students counting by 2's, 5's and even 10's.

We are graphing, sorting, classifying objects and strengthening our basic shapes and geometric shapes. Lessons on telling time to the hour, coins and correctly forming numbers to 20 are being highlighted throughout January. Our iPads provide us with numerous Apps and opportunities to strengthen and reinforce reading and math skills.

Our character trait for January is perseverance. Ask anyone in Pre-K what perseverance means and you will get a clear answer. Students developed a meaning for dedication and hard work and have easily transferred these concepts to Martin Luther King, Jr. and his effort for peaceful change and civil rights. Students placed stockings over their hands to see if they felt different when shaking a friend's hand. Their responses reaffirmed children possess wisdom beyond their years.

Literature included: I Knew You Could, and Martin's Big Words. Students also listened to portions of M.L. King's "I Have a Dream" speech and illustrated pictures detailing their own hopes and dreams. To culminate the lesson, each student traced their handprint in various skin tone colors creating a friendship wreath which included the handprints of other classmates. Coinciding with Martin Luther King Day our author of the month for January is Ezra Jack Keats. Students were amazed to learn that Keats classic tales, "A Snowy Day" and "Whistle for Willie" were the first children's books to depict an African American boy named Peter.

Some of the highlights for Pre-K during the next several weeks will be the weekly scheduled swim and play in the OHA pool. Students cannot wait!

On February 12th our Chinese New Year celebration highlighting "The Year of the Snake" will begin with some festivities in the Scire Student Activities Center including a Lion Dance parade, Chinese writing on rice paper, crafts and a sampling of various Chinese foods. The parents of Sophia Gao and Julianne Wong have generously offered to help Pre-K celebrate this happy time of year. We wish all of our families celebrating the Lunar New Year, "Gung Hay Fat Choy."

During Music and Movement classes, with Mrs. Weikes, children will work on strengthening gross motor skills and begin preparing for our 2013 trip to the Sunrise Assisted Living facility in February to present "Love Songs for Seniors." Students will complete valentines and plan a party for our senior friends. Exploring our neighborhood and transportation is stressed in our Language Arts curriculum. Our Valentine's Day Tea will be held on February 14th when the Pre-K moms will be in attendance for a fun-filled afternoon in their honor.

Once again, Happy New Year, and with this recent blast of cold weather we invite you to "Think Spring."

**Mrs. Schwartz/Mrs. Caprara
Mrs. Colbert/Mrs. Gilfillan
Mrs. Lambert/Mrs. Shaw
Kindergarten**

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We are thrilled to start 2013 in Kindergarten and to reflect on all of the exciting things we did at the end of 2012! December was a truly festive month in our classroom. We learned how the holidays are celebrated around the world by leaving a shoe outside of our classrooms for St. Nicholas and his horse and preparing cinnamon buns for Santa Lucia Day. Our class holiday party included a surprise visit from Santa who distributed gifts to all of the children. What fun to have the Kindergarten parents come in to help decorate individual gingerbread houses! Each and every house was so unique and we're sure just as delicious to eat.

No month would be complete in Kindergarten without a field trip. In December we visited Woodfield Christmas Tree Plantation. We learned a great deal about different types of trees and were treated to hot chocolate and candy canes.

We are so excited about beginning this New Year that we celebrated with a special New Year's party complete with hors d'oeuvres and watching the ball drop in Times Square. Wednesday has become such an anticipated day in Kindergarten with special snack. The parents are doing a great job-thank you!

In Math the children have learned how to identify geometric shapes, patterns and how to measure the length of objects using items other than a ruler. They're realizing that math is a part of their everyday lives which makes it easier for them to relate to the concepts.

The Letter People continue to join our Kindergarten family. We have welcomed Ms. P, Mr. B, Mr. Z and Ms. S. With Letterlights I and U we are able to make so many more words!

The children have begun our Writing to Read program. We are so impressed with the progress they are making thus far. They are now starting to apply their sounds and sight words into writing stories. The children will soon be given journals to write in at home. This is a great opportunity for them to further fine tune their writing skills.

We are gearing up to celebrate the 100th day of school in February and look forward to what the rest of the year has in store for us!

**Mrs. Klopacs/Mrs. Quagliato
Grade 1**

HAPPY 2013 to our first grade families!!! We are all back and hard at work. We have been learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his pursuit of peace, love and harmony. The book "Martin's Big Words" by Doreen Rappaport, beautifully tells the story of Dr. King. United Streaming has a video to go along with the book, and we really enjoyed seeing it.

Our Character Education unit tells the story of Abraham Lincoln and discusses dependability, self-control, and self-discipline; emphasizing the importance of accepting the consequences of one's actions. We also read about and discussed the topics of honesty, trustworthiness, and loyalty. The children also learned the importance of keeping one's word and exercising good judgment.

In Social Studies, we are learning about the seven continents and the four oceans. We are able to locate the continents and the oceans on our individual classroom atlases and globes. Ask your child to sing "We've Got the

Whole Globe in Our Hands" and "The Oceans" song!

We had a wonderful FUN-FACTORY gathering in the Scire Center to celebrate our Singapore Math program. Parents and students made games to practice addition and subtraction facts. Our "Math Quilt" was enjoyed by all as well as the creative visors we decorated and wore during the games. Refreshments were enjoyed and we left the activity with a greater grasp and knowledge of our facts----- and IT WAS SO MUCH FUN!!!!!!!

**Mrs. Buchner/Miss Colson
Mrs. Connell
Grade 2**

We would like to start out saying how thankful we are for the safe return of all our families after Hurricane Sandy. Yes, we had some major and minor inconveniences, some property losses, but we all came back with many stories to share and were anxious to get back into our second grade routine while other children are still displaced. We wish and hope they too can return to their schools soon.

The greatest excitement we had this past marking period was getting ready for our "Math Arcade" day which was on January 18th. The first thing we had to do was to finish publishing a math book which had a deadline date of less than two weeks after we returned from Hurricane Sandy. The children worked diligently writing and rewriting their math problems from their book. After they were satisfied with their written problems they became illustrators. They drew and colored beautiful full-page pictures of their math problems.

After the book was completed, we still had a lot of work to do to prepare for the big day. We had to practice three very challenging math games that we would be playing at the "Math Arcade." Our opponent would be a family member.

The games were: Add Three, Think Big, Pig and the big surprise was Dice Bingo because Mr. Pacelli was to be the caller on the actual day.

Finally, our day for the "Math Arcade" came. Everyone was so excited. The children were ready to "let the games begin!" The afternoon went very well and everyone had a wonderful time.

We are now looking forward to February where we will watch to see if the groundhog sees his shadow, discuss Chinese New Year, celebrate Valentine's

Day, Presidents' Day, and learn about some famous African Americans as we move into Black History month.

We hope you and your families have a very healthy Happy New Year!

**Mrs. Alexander/Mrs. Hunter
Mrs. Pampel
Grade 3**

Happy New Year to all our families! We are pleased that the majority of the third graders have mastered their multiplication and division facts.

In social studies, students are studying American pioneers as they moved Westward with the reading of Kirsten Learns a Lesson. Students are learning facts the way they did in 1854 with lots of memorization and recitation. They are also learning about the impact the pioneers had on the Native American Indians.

In novel studies, we just completed reading our third book, The Indian School and each child will be responsible for completing a culminating activity on this book. More details will be forthcoming.

Our first series of three books in book club will be ending soon. We're pleased at how well the students are able to discuss their ideas and insights.

We have been learning about the life of the Native Americans that inhabited The Great Plains. Much lively discussion has been generated by the fiction and non-fiction materials used. We are now getting ready for the final activity which will be a Pow-Wow Day on February 5 celebrated with our parents! Thank you for all the useful materials that you have sent in.

**Mrs. Crouse/Mrs. Roehrig
Mrs. Tolleth
Grade 4**

Many thanks to our fourth grade room mothers for a delightful Christmas party. We appreciate your efforts at such a busy time of year.

The fourth graders had a phenomenal time in the Pine Barrens in historic Whitesbog Village on December 5th. We attended a program called Lenape Living. We had beautiful, cool December weather and we experienced life, as close as it could be, to the way the Lenape lived. We spent most of the day outside. In clans of four or five we thatched a wigwam made just as we

learned. We ground corn into corn meal and added cranberries and maple syrup to fat being heated over an open fire. We were making pemmican, which we got to eat after it chilled in the cold air. We made herbal medicines and learned their uses, and played Lenape games made of bones, stones and string. The students took part in a couple of Lenape stories. We experienced the life of these people who lived in Scheyechbi (Lenape name for New Jersey) for over 12,000 years. We learned from them that we need to respect our earth and all that it gives us. Our instructors showed us how the Lenapes' respect for land and life ties into our lives and the need for respecting people, resources, and our earth. Reduce, reuse and recycle are not modern ideas. The Lenape did it for thousands of years.

We finished up our novel study and hated to say goodbye to our *All-of-a-Kind Family* by Sydney Taylor. We gained lots of insight into character traits and literary techniques as we enjoyed this story. Upon our return to our *Treasures* reading book, we were entertained with a folk tale and the timely biography of Martin Luther King, Jr., which was written by his sister. This story brought to light the injustice of racial segregation. The other selections shared lessons of perseverance and working together.

In English, we finished our unit on verbs and tried a poetry format which combined words and math. Look for our Mathematickles in *Early Reflections* this spring. We visualized cold, snowy weather to help spark our creativity as we wrote another poetry form, the cinquain.

The fourth grade had their first Writer's Celebration where their personal narratives were enjoyed by our guests. Students had their stories out for others to pick up and read. After enjoying the wonderful stories, guests and students left the author a comment about their work. How exciting for the authors to see who enjoyed their work and realize their writing had an audience!

We are now focused on examining the components of what makes a good paragraph. We have been figuring out what the main idea is and then creating supporting details and sentences that would make for an interesting paragraph. When we finally accomplish our task our next challenge is to identify a correct closing sentence that allows the reader closure. We are continuing to work hard at developing our writing crafts with the inclusion of sensory and transitional words in our paragraphs. Our study will

continue on as we have some fun and interesting methods to learn this difficult skill.

**Mrs. Reago/Mrs. Bordiuk
Lower School PE**

In the third marking period part of the children's grades are based on their swimming skills. In the pool we have been working on specific skills since September. The children are tested on these skills and then graded. There will be no more swim classes until March or April. A note will be sent home informing you when your child will swim.

Now that swimming classes have ended until March, we are having health class once a week for grades 1-4. The subjects we will be covering are safety (stranger, fire, bike, automobile, etc.), hygiene, nutrition, and drugs. In the area of drug education we will be introducing the gateway drugs of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana. Also in the third and fourth grades we will be touching on harder drugs (cocaine and heroin).

In the P.E. classes we have started our jump rope clubs. Once or twice a week, the children will be working on their jump rope skills. Each student is given a card with the skills they need to accomplish to pass a certain club. A child starts in the green club and then continues to yellow, red, blue, silver, and gold. At the end of the year, everyone who passes a club is recognized at an award assembly and is presented with a certificate. Children passing the silver or gold club are presented with a trophy.

In March we will be re-testing for the presidential challenge. I hope all of the children have been practicing to improve their fitness. The U.S. ranks first in the world for having the most overweight and unfit children. Fast foods and computer games have turned many children into overweight couch potatoes. Please encourage your children to be active and to achieve the awards we offer. Also try to keep them away from fatty and sugary snacks.

**Mrs. Cahalane
Lower School Science**

Students in PK have been learning about ocean animals and rainforest animals. They enjoyed the interactive whiteboard lessons using our classroom's "magic pen!" Kindergarteners have been doing color chemistry experiments. Using plastic labware, they were chemists making predictions and testing their ideas. First grade students completed a unit on anatomy. They created Q-tip

skeletons and learned about the major bones in their body. We assembled an entire skeleton using real X-rays. Second graders have been doing chemistry experiments and they learned how to "erupt" our classroom volcanoes. Students in third grade completed a unit on Cabbage Chemistry. Red cabbage is an acid/base indicator and it is a colorful way to learn about different household chemicals. Students in fourth grade learned about DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) and completed a unit called Alien Genetics. They also successfully extracted DNA from strawberries and after the experiment, everyone got to take home a DNA necklace!

Mrs. Vacca **HO HO (Heads On, Hands On)**

Students are learning so much about this wonderful state of TEXAS. The Kindergarten class has been brainstorming about transportation, 1st graders have been decorating ponies for their pony express, 2nd grade students designed their favorite boot and are having fun creating clay pretzels, 3rd graders are learning about the wildlife in the panhandle and 4th graders have been working on a booklet about the Chihuahua desert wildlife while researching on the ipads.

Preparations will be in full swing now that all the lower school students are meeting once a week for Ho Ho. Posters will be sketched as advertisement, Littletown houses drawn, along with stamps for the Pony Express Post Office, menus for the Cactus Café, clay pretzels for Buchner's Prairie Pretzels, and so much more. Final touches are being put on the Littletown Day invitations, thanks to Mrs. Griller and the third graders along with the design of the "tiny bucks" by the fourth graders. In February, a much detailed packet will be coming home about our annual event called **Littletown Day** which be held on Thursday, March 7, 2013. It is a half day and fun for all, so mark your calendars and encourage your child to continue earning those important "tiny bucks." Also, students should be writing mail to each other using the Littletown Day Address Book that will be going home at the end of the month. Students can also earn "tiny bucks" by submitting items for inclusion in the Littletown Press. Thanks to our new editor, Mrs. Harris for taking on this important job. The Ho Ho room is bursting with enthusiasm anticipating the upcoming event.

Mme Koar **Lower School French**

The first grades are enjoying learning the names of animals in French, many of which are already familiar to them. We have been playing Animal bingo and listening to a song entitled, "avec un gros nez," (with a big nose). This video/song can be viewed on my web page which is accessed through the OHA website.

Also there are a couple of worthwhile Apps for the I-pad to learn animal names, numbers and colors: Memo animaux, Boowa et Kwala, and Frenchie Teachie.

The second grade students are learning to count to 100 by 10's and practice telling time in French. Since many schedules in France are on military time, we organized our day according to the 24 hour clock. New vocabulary words such as "matin, midi, après-midi, le soir, et minuit" (morning, noon, afternoon, evening and midnight) will be introduced during this semester.

The third grades have been introducing their families to the class in French. Each student has had an opportunity to write the names of their family members on the board using the French names for father, mother, sister, etc. We include learning the names of their pets as well. The students are very proud of their families and enjoy presenting to the class.

Mme Simon **Grade 4 French**

In the fourth grade we have been studying some ER verbs and the conjugations. The students did a great job with their pronunciation, memorizing and mastering the subject pronouns and I saw a great improvement.

We are now practicing the use of the verbs in complete sentences and the children will soon learn the negative as well. This will allow us to create some conversations and dialogs. Our favorite game is, of course, AROUND THE WORLD, and the children love to compete.

The students can access my website and the "Quizlet." This can be used with a regular PC, iPad or Mac as well. Just click on the link 4th grade on my website: <http://ohamadamesimon.weebly.com>

It is a pleasure to see the enthusiasm of the children during our classes. EXCELLENT TRAVAIL !

Mrs. Scheuer **Upper School Advisor**

Current Events in combination with our Character Counts Initiative provided additional teachable moments in our daily lives. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the character of the Oak Hill Academy community was once again revealed and strengthened.

With our shoreline devastated, circumstance thrust regular citizens into leadership roles beyond the normal scope. Mrs. Curtin (Atlantic Highlands/Highlands), Mrs. Hixenbaugh (Bayshore), Madame Simon (Oceanport/Little Silver) and Mrs. Somers (Monmouth Beach, Sea Bright) and their families tirelessly served their storm-ravaged communities for weeks at food pantries and shelters. Their sacrifice, hard work and compassion at a time of great need truly defines heroism.

Equally remarkable was the Oak Hill Academy response to requests for supplies and donations. Food, clothing, diapers, cleaning supplies, gift cards poured into school week after week. The spirit of neighbor helping neighbor extended through the students desire to help others. OHA Helps Its Own and Others *Helping Hands* coordinated by Mrs. Feiler raised over \$6,000 for families and staff directly impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Simultaneously, charitable endeavors such as American Red Cross, Hat and Mitten Tree, Danita's Children in Haiti continued to benefit from Oak Hill Academy's generosity.

This same resolve guided our extended OHA family through the tragedy in Newtown, CT. With love versus hate, this community embodied the human spirit. As adults, it is difficult to explain the incomprehensible to children. We remind our students every day they are loved, safe and we are prepared in the event of an emergency. Security has always been a top priority. In response to this event, OHA accelerated our annual security review and adopted modifications to meet the needs of the times. Our school community is fortunate, our security team, faculty and parents work together to uphold and follow rules that ensure safety. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

It was a pleasure to participate in countless lessons throughout the Upper School pertaining to the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The classrooms were alive with role playing, video and audio excerpts of his speeches, stories as well as music and art projects. Dr. King's principles of fairness, equality and

education resonate throughout Oak Hill Academy. A famous quote of Dr. King's in Mrs. Williams room exemplifies our core values: "Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."

For fifth graders and students new to the school, exams presented a new experience for cumulative review. A round of applause for students and parents alike for instilling effective time management skills and the level of preparedness for mid terms. Congratulations to Upper School students for a job well done!

As we turn the page on the first semester, it provides an opportunity to reflect upon our student's accomplishments to date. This mid way point in the school year also provides renewed focus and energy for the start of the second semester and great anticipation for what the future holds!

Mrs. O'Connor **Grade 5 Literature/LA**

The fifth graders should be congratulated for successfully completing their first Big Test experience! They all worked hard to try to do their best. Now the students know what to expect in June as we start our second semester curriculum.

In Unit 4 of the Literature Series, we will experience fiction, nonfiction, and poems exploring insights from animals.

Unit 5 in Grammar will focus on capitalization and punctuation. We will write personal narrations relying funny experiences we had. They should be fun to share in the classroom!

Mrs. Daly/Mrs. Scheuer **Grades 5**

The fifth grade students are just finishing our first textbook, *Read for Real*, with great success. While practicing reading comprehension skills, students studied many fascinating topics ranging from the Wild West and the Pony Express to relocating wolves in national parks. The reading program taught students how to map out stories and themes while focusing on comprehension strategies. Our next series, *Voices in Reading*, introduces students to new skill units. These stories focus on specific moments in history that have made a difference in our world.

Students continue to enjoy the supplemental series, *Surprises*, and the monthly magazine, *Storyworks*. The fifth graders did well on the "Big Test" and they should be proud of themselves.

Mrs. Matson **Grades 5 & 6 Geography**

The results of Oak Hill's National Geographic Bee are in. The Final Round of the Geography Bee was held on Friday, January 11th, and Oak Hill's 2013 Champion Geographer is Aidan Picadio! Luke DeCresce achieved a very close 2nd Place, and the 3rd Place finishers were John-Gabriel Bermudez, Sofia DiAntonio, Jessica Abbott and William Walsh.

February 11th was a very busy afternoon for our intrepid geographers. First a "sudden death" tiebreaker Competition was held to decide which of the semifinalists would join the highest scoring students, who had already qualified for the final round. After a long competition, finalists Jacob Yatvitskiy, Gr. 8, John-Gabriel Bermudez, Luke DeCresce and Aidan Picadio, Gr. 7; and Dylan Servilla, Zach Basile, Bryan Soler and William Walsh, all Gr. 6 were joined by semifinal winners Matthew Misson, Aneesha Doshi, Matthew Prince, Sofia DiAntonio, all 8th Graders; 7th grader Willow Nicolaidis; and 6th Graders Bobby Mulligan and Jessica Abbott. The competition was fierce, but eventually Aidan was declared the winner.

The other semi-final Tie-Breaker Competitors were: Eighth Graders: Sarah Berger, Christian Corvisiero, Tad Lundborg, Jack Wilt, Miller Corrigan, Jasmine Shen, Shreya Bhatt, Rebecca Carmeli-Peslak, Alexandra Lupo, Morgan Molisani; Seventh Graders: Dylan Raskin, Harry Jain, Sydney Hixenbaugh, Megan Scafaria, Kristina Taylor, Luke Johnson, Logan Lukenda and Andy Thermos; and 6th Graders: Lucas Bruckmann, Alex Klatsky, and Arya Sharma.

Aidan took the State Qualifying Test on Friday, January 18th, and we all hope that he will be able to represent Oak Hill in the state competition in April. Good Luck, Aidan, and congratulations to all the participants!

Mr. Bruckmann **Grade 5 Math**

Math - Glencoe

We completed Chapter 4 as the unit concluded with using the metric system to understand mass and capacity and how our understanding of multiplying and dividing decimals was used in changing metric units.

The divisibility theme continued in the fifth unit as we looked into divisibility rules so that we could use prime factorization to help us find the Greatest

Common Factor (GCF) and thus simplify ratios and fractions more efficiently. Prior to Mid-term review began, the students picked up with the sixth chapter that built upon our exploration of fractions and our ability to find the LCM and GCF of numbers. The students used their estimation skills to round fractions and mixed numbers to find their sums and differences. They will progress to adding and subtracting mixed numbers and fractions with like and unlike denominators. Most recently we have been preparing for our first Math Mid-term (or BIG TEST) as an upper school student.

Chapter six will continue to bring to light the methods behind adding and subtracting fractions and what that means in terms of our number sense based on what fractions represent.

Math Workshop

The fifth graders have been very busy over the last marking period. They opened up the marking period finishing up a project involving Weigh-out Catalog Calculations where students will be calculating shipping weights for mail order purchases. They then progressed to a multicultural holiday project where they explored 12 different holidays from around the world and then combined their customs to see how math was intertwined within them during their presentations to the class. We have now moved on to using ratios of the student's height to the diameter and width of quarters, nickels and dimes to see which is worth more. Students also continue to work on Singapore math based warm-ups each class.

Mrs. Cotterell **Grades 5 – 8 Math**

5th Grade - Period 2

I cannot believe we are already at the midpoint of the year! We completed the first 6 chapters of the book and anticipate completing the remaining 7 by the end of the year. Our focus the last marking period was to complete the foundation for fractions by mastering concepts such as finding the prime factorization of numbers, calculating the Greatest Common Factor and Least Common Multiple and simplifying and employing these concepts while adding and subtracting fractions with like and unlike denominators with renaming. Now that midterm review is over, we will return to the text and continue our study of fractions focusing on multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers.

Overall, the mid-terms were excellent. I encourage all students to come after school and work through any questions answered incorrectly to ensure understanding.

5th Grade - Period 3

I am very pleased with the progress of this hard-working group of students. We work at a steady pace ensuring that everyone understands the topic at hand. We have been working on the foundation for fractions. We began with working on rules of divisibility, applying these rules to find the prime factorization of numbers, calculating the Greatest Common Factor and Least Common Denominator and simplifying. These are so critical since they are the framework for understanding fractions. We will complete Chapter 5 in the next few weeks and begin our study of fractions after that. Homework continues to play a very important role in the classroom. All efforts at home ensuring that homework is completed each evening are appreciated.

Overall, the mid-terms were excellent. I would like each of the students to come after school to correct each of the errors to ensure complete understanding of these very important concepts.

6th Grade

Algebraic equations and signed numbers were the key words in the 3rd marking period. While most of the students learned these concepts at the end of 5th grade we still spent several classes reviewing these very important concepts. The students did a great job solving and graphing their algebraic equations.

As we begin the second half of the year the students will be pleased to see that we will be learning many new concepts. The first half of the year is predominantly a review of prior year concepts. We will be using all of the topics from the first year throughout the second half of the year so mastery is critical. As the students receive their mid-terms back I encourage all students to come for after school help and correct all errors to ensure full understanding.

7th Grade

We spent the majority of the 3rd marking period on Geometry. Every lesson taught will be seen again in high school. I encouraged the students to not memorize our lessons but to truly understand them. It will only make high school geometry easier. The students learned about parallel lines and transversals, triangle congruency and the 3 theorems associated with that topic, the characteristics of quadrilaterals and how they relate to each other. We did lots of

practice at home and in class. I am very pleased to say the test grades and the mid-term grades on these topics were excellent. This was the first time the students were exposed to many of these concepts. Sometimes new lessons can be overwhelming, but they stayed with me and worked hard. I am very proud of them.

As the students receive their mid-terms back, I encourage all of them to spend some time after school reviewing any question they answered incorrectly.

8th Grade

Oh, this last math mid-term at Oak Hill for this hard-working group of students. Overall, grades were very good. The exam was not easy and was a very comprehensive assessment of the first 5 chapters. I encourage the students to stop in some time after school over the next several weeks to review any question they may have answered incorrectly.

We are beginning Chapter 6 which covers topics such as proportions, rates, ratios, percents, percent proportions, discounts, interest and percent change - all very important life skills. You need to understand unit rates to make an informed consumer decision; you need to calculate percents for tips or tax; one day when we start earning interest again, you will need to understand interest earned - or more likely - how to calculate interest owed on loans. After this chapter is complete, we are immersed in algebra. The students are not going to be happy at first since they will be leaving our comfort zone, but everything they learn and understand now will help them immensely next year.

Mrs. Schroeter **Grade 5 Science**

The Periodic Table of the Elements has been the main focus of the fifth grade this marking period. Topics included matter, elements, molecules, atoms and their subatomic particles (protons electrons, and neutrons), and the uses of the periodic table to determine metal versus nonmetal, atomic number, atomic mass, state of matter, and the chemical reactivity and stability of the 92 natural elements. Each student made a poster of his/her element of choice (now posted on the bulletin board in Room 18). One delicious lab for this unit was making element models using Fruit Loops to represent the subatomic particles. The second yummy lab was making "marshmallow" molecule models. Students were able to see the bonding of the atoms in each molecule (water,

carbon dioxide, methane). The next unit to be covered will include physical and chemical changes. The fifth grade has now successfully completed their first "Big Test" (Congratulations!), and a new semester has begun.

Mrs. Vacca **Grades 5 Tech & Math Workshop**

Tech

Students formed new groups and are now researching one of many National Parks in the U.S.A. An informative questionnaire needs to be completed as to the location of the park and how would you get there from NJ, a description of the park including size, what activities are there, what kind of living creatures/things might you find there, and what makes your park unique? Students must include pictures and any other visuals that would entice you to want to visit their park.

Math Workshop

Students just finished presenting their Holiday Hunt projects and the tallying of math counts. The presentations were interesting, informative and creative. Some students even presented them on the computer using powerpoint. Not only did the students learn about various holidays but also how math is incorporated throughout.

Mrs. Duffy **Grade 6 English/LA**

Sixth graders prepared diligently for the "Big Tests" this marking period. Learning to review a large body of material, to identify what is important in that material, and then to synthesize the information reinforces the study skills that Oak Hill students develop and carry with them.

After reading the quirky and sometimes menacing stories of the "Chills and Thrills" unit in literature, we are ready for gods and goddesses to fill the classroom as we begin our new literature unit, exploring the theme of passing on the oral tradition in our reading of myths from around the world. These engaging stories will entertain us with how ancient civilizations explained the beginnings of things in the natural world before the emergence of science...

In the writing of their compare/contrast essay, sixth graders used their critical reading skills to analyze and synthesize material from the "Finding Your Place in the World" unit in their literature text and then created well organized and well thought-out writing pieces.

Mrs. Daly
Grade 6 Reading

The sixth graders are successfully completing the *Read for Real* program. The series offers reading drills, comprehension strategies, and great stories. In addition to historical events, the readings introduced the students to several people who have made a difference in the world. Other readings have included Gandhi, Miep Geis, Hans and Sophie Scholl, and more heroes who have helped those in need.

The classes also took a turn on the dance floor as the finale of a story called *Mad. Hot Ballroom*. This is a non-fictional account of the ballroom dance competition in New York City's public school system. Three schools were followed from the beginning of the program right through to the City Championships. Stories of goal-setting, perseverance, winning and losing helped students understand the universal themes about life. At the end of the unit, students learned the meringe, the fox trot, and the swing. The sixth grade loved it. It was a nice end to the unit.

Students did well on the "Big Test" and should be proud of themselves.

Mrs. Palamara
Grades 6 – 8 Math

Grade 6 – Glencoe

This marking period focused on number patterns, fractions and percents. Students learned to find the prime factorization of a composite number and to use these factors to find the greatest common factor and the least common multiple of two or more numbers. They learned to recognize and extend a pattern for sequences; to solve problems by making a list; to illustrate the meaning of percent; and to find the probability of a simple event. They also began work on integers: comparing, ordering and finding the absolute value. They also learned to add and subtract integers and to plot points on a coordinate plane.

Grade 7 – Gateways

Ratio and proportion are at the center of many relationships among real world objects. Therefore, there are many ways to approach the subject. Students learned to emphasize ratios between different units of measure. Many of the applications of ratio and proportion were treated in the problems. Density was formally discussed because it is such a rich application and an important link to science. They also continued to emphasize the relationship between geometry and arithmetic, culminating in a

section on similarity. They also began their work on data analysis, looking at circle, line and bar graphs, and histograms, scatterplots, pictographs and artistic graphs.

Algebra I

During this marking period the students learned to write linear equations and how to apply them to real-life situations. They discovered the relationship between the slope formula and the point-slope form, as well as the relationship between the slope-intercept form and the point-slope form. They found the equation of the line using two points and equations of parallel lines and perpendicular lines. They learned that the product of the slopes of perpendicular lines is -1 and discovered that the slopes are negative reciprocals. They have also begun their study of solving and graphing linear inequalities. They are on their way to solving compound inequalities, absolute value equations and inequalities and graphing linear inequalities in two variables. They have a most challenging marking period ahead.

Math-A-Thon

Our annual fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Hospital is here again. Math-A-Thon is designed to be an educational learning experience for your child while raising money for the children at St. Jude who are counting on our help.

Last year 81 students participated and raised \$7,086.90. Aside from the prizes awarded by St. Jude Hospital, all participating students will receive a dress down day in the spring.

The Math-A-Thon Funbook is now available at www.mymathathon.org. It includes games, hospital information and updated problems. Please decide if you want the online or the paper version of the Funbook for your child when turning in the permission slips. All grade levels are included online.

For more information about Math-A-Thon, please visit the website: www.mathathon.org. Look for permission slips coming home soon!

Mrs. Vacca
Grade 6 Math Workshop

Students put the final touches on their toy projects and presented them to the class. Advertisement for their creative toys was a must to help promote their toys. Some of the geometric creations were the "smiling tree", Boom box back pack, rainbow fish bubble blower, the Roman Helm bird, flower power shapes, origami spinner, and Vampenstein Jack-

o-lantern. We've worked on filling out a check, addressing mailing labels with postal directions and the difference between cost to make and prices to sell to compute their profit. Creativity is an important part of this project along with applying good math skills. Students will tally their purchases; apply state tax and totaling their allotted \$50.

Mrs. Koar
Grade 6 Tech

Students are preparing presentations on various topics from the Medieval Era. The topics vary from Jeanne d'Arc, and the Hundred Years War, to comparing fashions from Medieval times to current trends. The students are reminded to choose Web sites that are reliable, rather than go to Wikipedia as their primary source.

Mrs. Billet
Grades 6 & 7 Science

The sixth grade class just finished a unit discovering patterns of heredity and how inherited changes can influence evolutionary trends. Both simple and Mendelian heredity patterns of multiple alleles and polygenic inheritance were explained. We investigated evidence for evolution by looking at fossils, embryology, and DNA relationships.

The seventh grade continues its study of physical science by studying electricity. Electricity not only provides us with light, but also heat, refrigeration, and power to run countless electrical devices we use everyday. Where does electricity come from? How does it get to our homes, schools, and offices? And how can you control it by flicking a switch or pushing a button? We learned the answers to these questions.

Mme Koar
Grade 6 French

Sixth grade students completed chapter four in their text, *Bon Voyage*. The focus of this chapter was describing families and the house. Each student translated one or two French stories and read them to the class. Reading is an excellent method for learning vocabulary, spelling, and grammar in a second language. We also listened to several native French speakers describe their houses or apartments.

Sra. Dotto
Grades 5 - 8 Spanish

Spanish - 5

This marking period, the fifth graders have worked very hard and have mastered all the material covered. In Spanish class, we learned the four forms of you, all subject pronouns, the conjugation of the irregular verb ser (to be), descriptive adjectives, and formation of sentences in the plural and negative form. Also, we studied the geography and history of Spain.

Class, I want to take this opportunity to tell each one of you how much I enjoyed getting to know you. It was a great pleasure to teach you, we had fun and learned quite a lot. I am very proud of what you have accomplished and I am looking forward to seeing and working with all of you in sixth grade. ¡Buena suerte!

Spanish – 7

In the seventh grade, we have progressed at a very nice pace. We have covered expressions and vocabulary about making plans, inviting someone to do something, saying what you have and what you need, body parts, expressions with the verb tener, the conjugation of er-regular verbs, the usage of the verb venir, along with some irregular first person verbs. The students have also learned the geography, history, and culture of Costa Rica.

Furthermore, students have been practicing a dialogue, which they presented in front of the class (from memory). Their pronunciation was great and they all showed a great deal of enthusiasm. ¡Buen Trabajo!

Class, it was a great pleasure working with you. We had a lot of fun and learned quite a lot. I will miss you.

STUDENTS TAKING SPANISH IN 8TH GRADE. PLEASE KEEP YOUR TEXTBOOK AND WORKBOOK FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.

Spanish – 8

In eighth grade we have been studying one of the most confusing irregular verb for a non-Spanish speaker to learn, the difference between the verb ser and the verb estar (both verbs mean “to be,” but are used under different circumstances). The students have worked very hard with these verbs and I am pleased to say that they have mastered them. Also, they have been working with a good amount of adjectives specifically used with the verb estar, vocabulary on locations where people live, chores and

responsibilities plus negation with nunca and casi nunca.

Furthermore, the students have learned the geography, history, and culture of Argentina.

Mrs. Tirella
Grade 7 LA/Literature

We have accomplished so many things this first semester. Our written work continues to develop as well as our vocabulary and sentence structure. We have used our imaginations and writing skills in creating our own personification poems. They were certainly very unique and clever pieces of writing.

In Language Arts, we have just completed a unit on Verbs and will begin a unit on modifiers: Adjectives and Adverbs. In vocabulary, we will go on with our units in *Vocabulary Workshop* and continue to add to our list and understanding of new words.

In Literature, we will carry on with our in-depth novel study of *The House of Dies Drear* by Virginia Hamilton focusing on various critical thinking skills that will be beneficial for our standardized tests in the spring. To finalize our unit, the students will create an illustration of the Dies Drear house (a station on the Underground Railroad) emphasizing the architectural detail, color, and design of the house.

In our next unit, we will embark on a new adventure into the world of William Shakespeare. We will learn about his life, as well as the Globe Theatre, and we will read a prose and play version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This will certainly broaden our horizons and provide us with a new perspective of the English language.

Mrs. Mayer
Grades 7 & 8 History

The seventh grade has worked hard this marking period, learning about the settling of the English and Spanish Colonies in the Americas. We analyzed and examined the positive and negative aspects of mercantilism and how it impacted both the colony and mother country. Students also worked very hard preparing for our midterm exam. We took a look back to the beginning of the school year and revisited all the civilizations we covered from the Fertile Crescent to The New World. We used this time to not only review, but to take a look at human history as a whole and make important connections between different civilizations through out

history. Using an array of learning and study techniques, the students have truly benefitted from this comprehensive review.

The eighth graders have been hard at work learning about American Reconstruction and Westward Expansion. Students worked hard on power point presentations that depicted different topics from this time period. The presentations were well done, displaying a wealth of information, as well as technological creativity. Students were hard at work preparing for our midterm exam. We used an array of study techniques of which the students really enjoyed and benefitted. The process of reviewing, making connections and preparing study guides will be a valuable tool to apply in their future.

Dr. Kuyat
Grades 7 & 8 Latin

In seventh grade Latin we are making use of verbs in all persons (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) singular and plural for the present tense. We have added vocative case noun endings which are used when directly addressing someone. The challenge has been to integrate these new forms into the translation of Latin sentences and stories. We are also continuing our look at the Roman and Greek gods and goddesses and even finding ways in which these figures and their symbols are used in marketing today.

In eighth grade we spent the majority of the third marking period learning all the (too) many Latin pronouns—personal, demonstrative, reflexive, relative, and possessive. It certainly made the students appreciate that in English, for example, we have only four demonstrative forms—this, these, that, and those—as opposed to the 60 Latin forms for demonstratives. At the same time, however, the more endings the more precise their use. We were happy that there were, in fact, limited inflected forms for the English relative and personal pronouns—he, him, his, her, hers, they, them, their, who, whose, whom—which made Latin to English translation much easier. The challenge is being able to translate all these new forms as accurately as possible as they are now appearing with greater frequency in our Latin stories. We will begin our readings in English about Aeneas and his mission to found a new homeland after fleeing Troy.

Mrs. Larkins
Grades 7 & 8 Math Workshop

One of our final projects was an analysis of the mathematics behind the Interstate Highway System. The two digit main highways and three digit extensions are numbered for a very specific reason. Please ask your seventh grader about the system the next time you are driving on one of these interstates. Food was a great motivator in our latest math workshop project. First we used goldfish crackers in order to simulate a method called "tag and recapture" that is used by scientists to estimate the total number of sharks within a body of water. Groups used their data from the goldfish simulation to form proportions and find averages.

It was a pleasure having the seventh grade this semester. Good luck to them in Explorations!

My eighth grade class has been very busy doing several small projects (in addition to their daily warm-up problems and homework). One project was a discrete math project entitled "Sprouts." It started with a game and ended with the students discovering the mathematics and economics behind map making. Another project asked them to interpret graphs in a whole new way. Instead of being given data and creating graphs, students were given a mix of several graphs and were asked to find a relationship between variables that resulted in those graphs. This was much harder than it looked and sparked some creative answers!

Mrs. Williams/Mrs. Daly
Grade 8 English

In eighth grade Language Arts, students have been continuing their study of vocabulary. In addition, they concluded the grammar unit: *Mechanics*. Students also began the research project. The following phases have been completed: the preliminary outline, bibliography cards, and note cards. During the fourth marking period, students will continue their writing, vocabulary lessons, and grammar lessons.

In Literature, students concluded the novel study of The Outsiders. Furthermore, students read nonfiction selections where they made connections to history and examined the literature for figurative language. Next marking period, students will continue their literature studies.

Mrs. Daly
Grade 8 Critical Reading

The eighth grade students have been working on reading skills diligently. They have just finished the *Read for Real* program, which offered several strategies for reading success. The readings immersed students in the past, the present, and the future. The NASA space program provided great insight into America's plan for the future, whether there will be moon colonies someday, and the land conditions on Mars. Technology advances in medicine and communication provided students with up-to-the-minute information. The *Read for Real* text ended with a terrific story about the history and future of transportation. The eighth graders all want the new "Skycar" now!

Our weekly news summaries have increased students' writing skills while providing insightful topics for class discussion. Class news summaries have included technological advances in medicine, education, and the business world. New ways of reducing our carbon footprints sparked great discussions on global warming, energy usage and other consumer issues. The class even read about the use of iPads in American zoos. Each weekly topic is designed to increase written summary and opinion skills.

The eighth graders prepared well for the midterm exams and should be proud of themselves.

Mr. Pacelli
Algebra I – An Integrated Approach

We have already moved into Chapter 7 which is named "Functions and Formulas." Most mathematicians believe that function notation is one of the most powerful concepts in all of mathematics. In Chapter 8 we will be studying systems of equations and inequalities. Students can find lessons on my web page for Chapter 8 posted on the OHA website. We will continue to add Singapore Math from time to time. These make my students think hard and use their skills to complete these challenging word problems. This will prepare them for any level of math they may meet in High School.

Mrs. Schroeter
Grade 8 Science

The eighth grade continued their study of Earth's changing surface by exploring the topics of mass movements (landslides, mudflows, creep, and slump), water erosion and deposition by rivers (meanders, oxbow lakes, waterfalls, and drainage basins), and karst topography caused by groundwater (the formation of limestone caves, stalactites and stalagmites, and sinkholes). One of the main labs of the marking period was soil testing.

This activity took several days as the soil specimen was tested for pH (acidity/alkalinity) and the levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Conclusions were then reached about the overall fertility of the soil tested. The class will continue the topics of erosion (by glaciers, wind, and waves) and the landforms created by each of these forces of nature.

Mme Simon
Upper School French

7th Grade

The third marking period was the last marking period for the three classes of French. I feel that we have accomplished quite a lot. The students have worked very hard and we have covered regular and irregular verbs, practice of dialogs, placements of the adjectives and vocabulary relating to food and clothing. "Quizlets" and videos that I created and posted on the "Weebly" were very helpful in learning the vocabulary and the student accessed it very often for practice and review.

We also worked on a dialog "En voyage en Bretagne" and a text about "Tahiti." We learned a lot of cultural facts regarding France and the French language.

The students showed a great level of enthusiasm and it was a pleasure to teach you. I wish you the best in the Spanish class (I will miss you) and I welcome the new class of seventh grade. BON TRAVAIL ET A BIENTOT.

8th Grade

In the eighth grade, we have mastered quite a lot of regular and irregular verbs, the reflexive verbs, the routine of the day, prepositions and classroom objects. The students study the material with "QUIZLETS" that I have created and videos posted on my website.

We have already started to practice for the FRENCH NATIONAL EXAM, which

will take place on March 19th. During the next few weeks, we shall focus on oral comprehension for the auditory part of the exam. The weekly practice will give the students an opportunity to work on understanding different accents and intonations other than mine.

After the French National exam, we will study the past tense and future tense which will prepare them for French in High School. BON TRAVAIL!

Signora Dotto Grade 8 – Italian

This marking period the students in Italian learned how to specify locations, express wants and needs, make plans to do something, talk about leisure time and continued to acquire more vocabulary. In grammar. We learned idiomatic expressions with the verb to have (**frasi idiomatiche con avere**), and a list of most common prepositions **semplici** and **articolate**.

We all know that every city in Italy has its own distinctive characteristic (**fascino**) and the diversity of each region reflects in their cities. Furthermore, after acquiring the names of all the regions and capoluoghi, we focused on “The Eternal City” Rome.

Mrs. Vacca Grade 8 Explorations

Classes meeting once a week just finished their final presentations on unique living creatures. Students had to research their topic, put together a collage and a brief description of their living creature, along with habitat, diet, and what makes it so unique.

Some of the creatures that amazed us were the Blob fish, the Mediterranean Monk fish, the Pink Dolphins of the Amazon, the Pangolin, Angora rabbit, the wood-eating catfish and the Giant Squid.

Another class did presentations on current events and topics included: the NHL Lockout, tribute to the passing of Neil Armstrong and Dick Clark, and an update on Sea Bright and Manasquan after Super Storm Sandy.

Students that meet 3 times per week just finished their projects on “It’s all about New Jersey.” Some of the topics were: Fort Hancock, The Jersey Devil, Lucy the Elephant, the Nabisco and Mars Chocolate Headquarters, the First Drive-in Theater, Sandy Hook Lighthouse, Molly Pitcher Hotel, the Twin Lights, Princeton, The Atlantic City Pier/Boardwalk, and the aftermath of

Super Storm Sandy and its impact at the Jersey shore. Students made their presentations to the fourth grade classes to enhance their unit on New Jersey. The presentations included collages and powerpoints both on the computer and iPad.

Mrs. Bordiuk /Mr. Rosenfeld Upper School PE & Health

The seventh and fifth grades have just completed their units of Health Education and are now back in Physical Education classes. The eighth grade continues to have P.E. The sixth grade is now in Health Education for the fourth marking period.

There will be no swimming for the Phys. Ed. classes in this fourth marking period. Swimming will start again in the fifth marking period. We will inform the students and post the schedule as it gets near to starting. Therefore the students have three days of P.E. per week. They should be prepared for every class with a change of clothes and sneakers. PLEASE remember that on Dress Down Days and Fabulous Footwear days, the students MUST have sneakers to participate in P.E. A student will be marked as unprepared if they do not have sneakers.

We will have a unit of Basketball for the fifth and seventh grades. The eighth grade will be starting a Volleyball unit. We will continue to play some Basketball with the eighth grade, but they will be playing Volleyball mostly.

Mrs. Grier/Library

When the doors open to the library each morning, it is great to see the children arrive eagerly looking for a new book to read. The library has checked out more than 2500 books this year. The children explore different topics that interest them or possibly will be selecting a special genre that is related to their monthly “book-it” report. Some classes have the privilege of learning about different authors such as Chris Van Allsburg or Jan Brett while other children are continuing their research on the Dewey decimal system. When time permits, a favorite for the children is the scavenger hunt. Watching children use the computer to look up the specific book and then to locate it, sends a message that they too are engaging themselves in the library system. The older students are mastering the Dewey decimal system and have become quite comfortable searching for the selected books.

Mrs. Griller/Computer

It is hard to believe half of the year is over! With the ending of this marking period the students currently in computers will go to Art and the Art students will be coming to computer class beginning the week of January 28th.

In the first grade we made holiday pictures, flying fish, and picture magnets all using Kidpix.

The second graders learned about the inside parts of a computer and how they are used. Also, we used educational websites on the Internet.

The third graders continued to practice their typing skills and created the Invitation for Littletown Day. They also created five fact charts using Kidspiration software to good character traits.

Fourth graders learned about some features of Microsoft Word while they created the Tiny Bucks for Littletown Day.

The fifth grade created an advertisement for a tool at the time of the Industrial Revolution using Microsoft Word. They also created virtual tours of OHA using digital cameras and Photo Story.

In the sixth grade, classes created animated stories using Scratch animation programming.

The seventh graders designed computer games using Game Maker software.

In eighth grade, the students created an Address Book database in Microsoft Access. They used that database to create Forms (Data entry screens), Queries (extract data based upon requested criteria) and Reports (print-outs).

Miss DiMaggio/Art

First grade drew a pen and ink flower still life and painted a flower bouquet out of watercolor based on Pablo Picasso’s work. They also learned about artist Wassily Kandinsky and made a non objective drawing that they wove through construction paper. We learned about artist Piet Mondrian, primary and secondary colors while drawing overlapping fish. They made two ceramic projects using the pinch and slab method.

Second grade made a very special ceramic project.

Third grade drew self portraits based on Pablo Picasso and his abstract style and they colored these using oil pastels. They had the opportunity to view a variety of Claude Monet's Water Lilly paintings and painted a picture based on what they observed.

Fourth grade studied artist Frida Kahlo and drew self portraits using everything they learned about the correct facial proportions.

Fifth grade studied surreal artist Salvador Dali and made a drawing based on Surrealism. They also learned about Pop artist Andy Warhol and using their extra prints from their linoleum blocks they made a Pop Art inspired piece. They began learning about one point perspective in preparation for next year.

Sixth grade had the opportunity to work with sculpey clay. One of the sixth grade classes set up their own still life and drew it using oil pastels.

Seventh grade, using acrylic paint, painted anything of their choice on a canvas board; they focused on texture, color mixing and balance.

Eighth grade studied glass blower Dale Chihuly and made a ceramic bowl based on his style. Using professional grade watercolor they painted beaches.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students entered drawings for this year's International Aviation Art Contest, "My Favorite Air Sport." We hope to have some winners.

Art and Computer switch is Monday January 28th, right after exams

Mrs. Tyma/Music

The December holidays were celebrated in the lower school music classes with Kwanzaa songs and dances accompanied by conga drums (2nd grade), Hanukkah and Christmas songs/dances (K-4th), and dancing to the *Nutcracker Suite* by Tchaikovsky (1st, 2nd, 4th). Accompaniments appropriate to the skill level of each grade were performed with these songs, and the joyfulness of the season was experienced by all.

Songs and stories about wintertime provide opportunities to explore music concepts and to be creative. In **first grade** we are experiencing triple meter as we "skate" (on paper plates) to the *Skater's Waltz* by Waldteufel. We are

creating an accompaniment of sound effects for a snow song as we experience compound meter. In **Kindergarten** classes, we are singing songs about snow angels and snow children as we explore ascending/descending melodies and play games to develop our singing voices, beat competency and movement skills. The wonderful children's book *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen about owl watching in winter is being enjoyed again this year by the **first and second grade** classes. After reading the story, we listen to the composition *Cathedral Forest* by the contemporary composer Paul Winter in which he depicts the sounds of the forest, including the song of the spotted owl. Some of the classes may choose to interpret the music with creative movement. This unit gives us the opportunity to explore several areas: 1) the importance of protecting wildlife and their habitats and 2) for those older children for whom this is a second and third listening, an opportunity to apply newly acquired musical knowledge to a previously studied composition.

The **second, third, and fourth** grade classes are learning about the life of Martin Luther King Jr. through books, videos, songs and poetry. In **second grade**, we are learning a rhythmic poem about Dr. King's life that we are orchestrating for unpitched percussion instruments while experiencing syncopated rhythms and reviewing half notes. In **third grade** we are learning a song about his work, adding an accompaniment on the barred instruments and then expanding the form of the song by improvising a contrasting section. These improvisations are based on rhythmic patterns that each class creates. We are exploring the pentatonic scale and working on our compositional skills of rhythmic and melodic phrase building. In addition, we have begun to learn to play the recorder! (More on this exciting unit in the next newsletter.) In **fourth grade**, a rhythm piece about Dr. King is being orchestrated for drums by the class while gaining a better understanding of syncopated rhythms. A song and book about the Underground Railroad and Harriet Tubman continues our study of famous African Americans. The American spiritual *Follow the Drinking Gourd* will be accompanied on the barred instruments in order to continue our study of syncopation and to begin a study of harmonic progressions.

Experiences in syncopated rhythms and in new notes for recorder were had in the **fifth grade** with a song from the Caribbean in calypso style. The addition of drums and other percussion characteristic of calypso music rocked

the room with rhythm. Additional experiences in rhythmic syncopation were offered through a song in celebration of the winter solstice. Not only was choral singing highlighted, but also the class demonstrated their understanding of these more complex syncopated rhythms by improvising melodies on the barred instruments as a B section for the song.

After completing our study of a canon by Carl Orff for the barred instruments, the **sixth grade** classes decided to use it as a model for our own improvisations, giving us the opportunity to apply all the knowledge we gained from the study and to work on music composition. Using the rhythmic text (in compound meter) of the lovely book *Harvest Home* by Jane Yolen as a model, we improvised more melodies and created a melodic refrain to serve as an accompaniment to the reading of the poem. Finally, we enjoyed a drum piece that used almost every kind of drum we have in the music room, from congas to log drums, in a wonderfully rhythmical finale to the semester.

As part of our mission as ambassadors of Oak Hill Academy, the Chorus, Oak Hill Players and Oak Hill Music Makers will be performing for the PreK/Kindergarten/First grade Open House on February 22nd. There will be some changes in the days of rehearsals on that week due to Presidents' Day Holiday. Please refer to the performance/rehearsal schedule that was distributed in October for those changes. Additional copies of the schedule are posted on the information board in the music room.

Mrs. DeVivo/ Drama

During the month of December, Kindergarten enjoyed reading and acting out some familiar holiday stories, such as "*The Gingerbread Man*" and "*The Nutcracker*." The students also watched a unique video of "*The Nutcracker*." The performers were not ballet dancers, but marionettes!

First & Second grade students took part in similar holiday activities. The students played pantomime drama games that required them to act out holiday words and themes. Snowmen, snowflakes, Rat Kings, toy soldiers, Rockettes, and more visited the Drama room this December. They also had a blast acting out one of their favorite stories, "*Mrs. DeVivo's Toy Shoppe*." In this story, students become their favorite toys and each night when Mrs. DeVivo locks up the shop, the toys come to life!

The Third grade students began working on their play "LIVE: It's Fairy Tale News." Each student received a role and a script. In the coming weeks, the students will also create original Fairy Tale Commercial Ads which will be inserted into this script. They will be practicing this play over the next few months and will eventually perform it for their families. A performance date will be announced soon. After rehearsing, the students will have fun by playing a variety of pantomime and improvisation games.

Fourth grade students enjoyed playing "Holiday Charades" and learning a new improvisation game called "Press Conference." The students are about to begin rehearsing a tall-tale play entitled "Pecos Bill and Slue Foot Sue." This script ties in nicely with Mrs. Vacca's Ho-Ho theme; Texas. A performance date will be announced soon. And as with the third grade, after the students rehearse, they will continue the class by playing and learning a variety of new pantomime and improvisation games.

The Seventh grade students finished their unit on Vaudeville by presenting their own Vaudeville shows in class. Performances included singing, playing the piano, magic tricks, pogo-stick jumping, joke telling, dancing, guitar playing and many other talents. They were awesome!!!

The Eighth grade students finished their original character education scripts. Each play was video taped and will be shown to the lower school at some point during the second half of the year. The students ended their time in Drama playing some of their all time favorite improvisation games.

Drama Clubs:

Congratulations to the **Tiny Dancers!** They performed in front of family and friends on January 16th. They showcased some traditional ballet movements and gymnastic skills along with two pieces from "The Nutcracker."

Also, congratulations to the **4th Grade Acting Ensemble!** They performed a play entitled "Goldilocks and the Christmas Elves" on January 15th in front of family and friends. Bravo!

The **Forensics team** continues to rehearse for their upcoming competition which will be held at Ranney School on Saturday, April 13th. The competition at Rumson Country Day School was unfortunately cancelled and the school was unable to reschedule due to Sandy.

And finally, kudos to all of the upper school students who auditioned for the play, "**Parents Just Don't Understand**" by Bryan Starchman. We are going to have a fun time working on it over the next few months!

Mrs. Vacca/Dr. Kuyat Student Council

First, a big thanks to all of our Oak Hill Academy families for their generous holiday donations, whether it was toys, specific items, or money/gift cards. All the organizations that we collected for were deeply touched by our generosity. We are certain that numerous smiles and happy faces were evident this past holiday season.

On Monday, February 4th, we will be having our **RED DRESS DOWN DAY**. Students will dress in **RED** to help bring awareness to the American Heart Association. Once again we ask that all students contribute at least \$1, and additional donations made out to the above mentioned will be gladly accepted. We also will be selling new **RED DRESS** pins for \$3 to show support for this organization.

On Wednesday, Feb. 6th, fifth and sixth graders will be invited to the SAC for an afternoon of a good movie, pizza/drinks, hot pretzels and ice cream sandwiches. The fee is \$2 and it is a half day and only those students who will be joining in the fun may dress down that day. Students with food restrictions may also bring in their own lunch and snacks if necessary. Permission slips will be coming home.

We received a nice letter from Margaret Spice of Distinctive Toys of Fair Haven regarding **Sandy's Toy Shoppe**.

"I want to thank you for all you did to contribute to the success of Sandy's Toy Shoppe.

Without you we never would have been able to help over 400 families from the New Jersey coastline devastated by hurricane Sandy.

Together we gave away over 8,000 toys, wrapping at least 6,000 of them for over 1,600 children to wake on Christmas morning with smiles.

This was by far the largest group effort I have ever been part of and the most humbling experience as well.

I wish for each of you a Happy New Year and much success in 2013."

Directory Changes

Pre-K

Change of Address

Sophia Gao
42 Sage Street
Holmdel, NJ 07733

New Student

Julianne Wong
247 Avenel Court
Holmdel, NJ 07733
732-275-6288
Mr. & Mrs. James Wong

2Connell

Change of Address

Michael Gao
42 Sage Street
Holmdel, NJ 07733

4Tolleth

New Student

Evan Kessler
144 Borden Road
Middletown, NJ 07748
732-533-5186
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Kessler

ATHLETICS

Boys Varsity Basketball

Mr. Bruckmann's team is playing tough games and competing well. They currently have an 8-3 record. Exciting wins over St. Leo's 44-40, Holy Cross 30-29, Monmouth Beach and Shrewsbury have highlighted the season, so far! Upcoming games include, Rumson Country Day, Ranney and Pennington.

Girls Varsity Basketball

Mrs. Porzio's team has been playing well! They currently have a 5-4 record! They had a dominating win over Ranney 20-6, just before exam week! The team has also defeated Monmouth Beach, Lavallette, and a very physical Oceanport team! Upcoming games include Rumson Country Day and Ranney.

Boys JV Basketball

A large group of enthusiastic 5th and 6th graders are playing on Mr. Misson's JV Basketball team! The team has an 8-0 record to date! Two wins over St. Mary's and wins over St. Leo's, Ranney and Holy Cross has highlighted the season so far! Upcoming games include, Rumson Country Day, Deal and Pennington.

Girls JV Basketball

In only our sixth year of Girl's JV Basketball, Mrs. Scheuer has been pleased with the effort of the 5th and 6th graders! They are a hard working and eager group! The team is 1-2 and is in each game! The team defeated Lavallette and had close losses to St. Mary's and Spring Lake Heights. Remaining games include: Rumson Country Day, Ranney and Lavallette.

Swim Team

Mrs. Bordiuk and Mrs. Schwartz have both been pleased with the Swim Team. There are some veteran swimmers and many young swimmers, too. The team has competed against Neptune and Ranney in a dual meet. Although we haven't broken into the win column, yet, there are more meets to come! They will also swim against Elizabeth, Pennington, Montclair Kimberly, and Ranney in their remaining meets. On Feb. 12th, our team will compete in an invitational at Ranney.

Cheerleading

Mrs. Wood is quite pleased with the cheers and halftime routine that the squad has worked out! They are a very enthusiastic group that has been adding support to our basketball teams! The cheerleaders have also been working with our Mustang Mascot!

Scorekeepers

If you haven't noticed, a group of very dedicated and talented students are running the scoreboard and keeping score of the basketball games. They have received many compliments from the basketball officials for their work. It is a pressured job, but these students are handling it quite well!

Summer Basketball Camp

Miss Murray will be running her basketball camp this summer at the following times:

Girls, ages 9-15

July 8-12

9:00am-2:00pm

Boys, ages 9-15

July 29- August 2

9:00am-2:00pm

Mr. Misson's Basketball Camp will run the week of:

June 24 - 28

Girls and Boys, ages 6-8

9:30am-12:30pm

Coming Soon!

**Be on the lookout for
the OHA
50/50 Cash Raffle Mailing!**

Remember:

**1st Prize:
70% of the winning
50/50 share up to
\$17,500.**

**2nd Prize:
20% of the winning
50/50 share up to
\$5,000**

**3rd Prize:
10% of the winning
50/50 share up to
\$2,500**

Only 1,000 tickets will be sold!

**Plus, for every 4 tickets sold,
you will be eligible for a chance
at a beautiful
sapphire & diamond necklace
valued at \$1,200.**

**Remember,
you have to be in it
to win it!**
