

Oak Hill Academy Newsletter #1 October 2013



Headmaster's Message Joseph A. Pacelli

Our world seems to be a very difficult place to understand. Reading the papers or watching TV sometimes leaves us wondering just what is going on? Is there a small way in which we all can help make life more fruitful for our children? I found this short article by Michael Josephson of "Character Counts" to possibly offer something that we all should strive for – both child and adult.

The Power of Kindness by Michael Josephson

I've mentioned before that despite my great admiration for people who are instinctively and consistently kind, kindness does not come naturally to me. Yet the older I get, the more I agree with Abraham Heschel, who said, "When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people." Henry James was more emphatic when he said, "Three things in human life are important: The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind."

In 1994, Dr. Chuck Wall, a professor of human relations and management at Bakersfield College in California, came up with a concept that turned into an influential movement. Weary of hearing about "senseless acts of violence," he began to teach and talk about "random and senseless acts of kindness." The idea was simple: the best response to a world coarsened by selfishness and cruelty was individual acts of kindness.

In 1999, Catherine Ryan Hyde wrote a novel called *Pay It Forward* (later adapted into a movie) that builds on Dr. Wall's initial inspiration. It starts with a teacher's assignment: "Think of an idea for world change, and put it into action." Trevor, the 12 year old hero, comes up with an idea. If he does something "real good" for three people and asks in return that instead of them "paying him back," they "pay it forward" by doing a good deed for three other people, who are in turn to pay it forward, the math quickly shows that he could change the world.

Whether acts of kindness are random or spontaneous as advocated by Dr. Wall or premeditated as proposed by Ms. Hyde, acts of kindness are certainly not senseless. To the contrary, they're the best possible proof of good sense. Every single person can send forth ripples of kindness and compassion simply by being nice.

Mrs. Larkins Director of Development

Enrollment

We are happy to report that there has already been a very positive response to admissions for 2014-2015. Applications have already been accepted in many grade levels and testing for the coming school year will begin in the coming months. If you are considering enrolling one of your other children for next year, please submit an application to the school office as soon as possible. If we know of your intention prior to the January 11, 2014 entrance exam, we can provide preference to families who already have children at Oak Hill. Please contact the school office if you need an application or if you have any questions about the admissions process. Applications are also available on the school website.

Annual Giving Appeal Begins

Annual giving at any private school is an important means to fund those aspects of the school that help to make it so unique. Each year the school relies on these funds to maximize the program offered to our students. I am proud to say that when called upon, Oak Hill families always care enough to give the school support when it is needed and to make a difference for our students. Packets will be going home shortly. I would ask that each member of the OHA community offer a contribution at any level. During these times, OHA recognizes that any gift, large or small, conveys the message that you support our goals for your children. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Miss Murray Director of Personnel/Administration

High School Information Night

On October 1st, we held our annual High School Information Night. We had approximately 120 people in attendance! Our graduates and three parents represented 16 different high schools. They shared their personal experiences and insights on their high school. They all echoed how prepared they were for the rigors of high school. The hard work that they had exhibited during their OHA years paved their way into their chosen

schools. We thank the following alumni for coming back:

Alex Kelly '12
Marine Academy of Science & Technology
Kelsey Bernarducci '10
Allied Health and Science
J.J. Larkins '11
Bio Tech
Max Kelly '11
Bio Tech
Christiaan Bedrij-Arpa '11
High Tech
Mr. Vasiliu & Nick Vasiliu '13
Lawrenceville
Mrs. Sumski (Julie) '12
Hotchkiss
Mr. Small
(Brittany '06, Victoria '08, Blake '11)
Blair Academy
Mr. Burrell (Morgan '11)
Phillips Exeter
Madison Acker '11
Ranney
Alyssa Plodwick '12
Red Bank Catholic
Nicolette Lupo '10
St. John Vianney
Vincent Palazzolo '10
Christian Brothers Academy
Shannon Tormey '12
St. Rose
Cassie Jain '11
Red Bank Regional
Cristina Anne Medlin '12
Colts Neck
Gaurav Singh '12
Manalapan Science & Engineering

Also, our eighth graders heard presentations from the following schools that came to OHA during September and October: Lawrenceville, Phillips Exeter, Peddie, CBA, RBC, SJV, Mater Dei Prep and Trinity Hall.

CBA Math Contest

Once again, Oak Hill Academy has won **1st place** at the Brother Christian Jones Math Contest held at Christian Brothers Academy on October 19th! **Eighth grader, Harry Jain came in 1st place, an amazing feat!!** Harry had the highest score in the private/parochial and the public school division!! Also competing were 8th graders John-Gabriel Bermudez, Luke DeCresce, Evan Semet, Maya Shah and 7th graders Anna Effenberger, Elizabeth Hsu and Dylan Servilla.

In the last 16 years, we've had an OHA student come in 1st place for 13 years!!

As a team, we've had 24 years as a top five finisher: 12 first places, 7 second places, 3 third places and 2 fifth places! No school can claim such dominance!! Congrats to the advisor, Mrs. Palamara,

and all of our math teachers who have prepared our students so well!

Middle States Association Re-accreditation

On October 15th, the faculty and staff engaged in a professional day centered around OHA's Middle States Association re-accreditation process. The topic of "cultural diversity in the curriculum" and reviewing the "Standards of Accreditation" were discussed. As the year moves on, parents will be kept up to date on our progress with this self-study phase.

Veterans Day Assembly

Our annual Veterans Day Assembly will be held on Friday, November 8th at 8:45am.

We will have the United States Marines here to present the colors. Our theme this year will be focusing on "Saluting the Soldier." Mrs. Tyma and Mrs. DeVivo will also have their groups performing that morning. Parents are invited to attend!

Marine Academy of Science and Technology Jeopardy Contest

On November 15th, a group of 7th and 8th graders will be competing in the MAST Jeopardy Contest!

Mr. Bruckmann Communications Director

SchoolMessenger SMS Emergency Notification

Oak Hill Academy continues to use the SchoolMessenger service that will enhance communication by allowing us to deliver important information to you via SMS text messaging. This service will enhance the new phone call and email system put into place this year.

The service is also provided by **SchoolMessenger**. Information can be found at www.SchoolMessenger.com/tm. Oak Hill will only use the service to provide information that is timely and relevant.

In order to participate in the new service you must indicate your willingness to receive text messages to your phone. The process is simple and only takes a few seconds to complete. Simply text any one of the following words to the number **68453**: **subscribe**, **optin**, **yes**. You'll know you were successful if you receive the following reply message:

**You are registered to receive aprox 3
msgs/mo. Txt STOP to quit, HELP for
help.**

You'll want to repeat the opt-in process for any wireless numbers that you wish to include.

Please note, although Oak Hill Academy does not charge you for this service, it does not pay for text message charges that may be incurred by you for sending or receiving text messages. Check with your wireless carrier for possible charges.

Web Page Updates

1. Oak Hill Academy is also on FACEBOOK!!

Check it out for updates, photos, videos and more . . .

"Like" us at: [Oak Hill Academy on Facebook](#) or see the link at the top of our website.

2. See the "[Experiences](#)" link for student guided tours, photos, past news events and more!

Mrs. Livingston Lower School Advisor

Gr. 1

Jack's Talent is the story of a first grade class that spends time getting to know each other and sharing their talents. This worries Jack because he feels that he does not have a talent. He keeps listening to the other children tell their talent, but this is still not helpful. When it is Jack's turn, he goes through each classmate and their talent and ends with, "But I am not good at anything." His teacher reminds him that he remembered all of the other children's names and their talents; therefore he is good at remembering. We learned from this story that we have varied talents and we should each be proud of our talent.

Gr. 2

The Band-Aid Chicken is a story that stresses kindness and acceptance. In this story, a chicken enters the barnyard eager to make new friends. Unfortunately, she had to endure the initiation of being pecked by the other chickens. After this ordeal, she was accepted into the group. When another new chicken enters the barnyard the Band-Aid Chicken refuses to participate in this initiation and succeeds in convincing the other chickens to stop the pecking. Through the Band-Aid Chicken making the right choice, instead of following the crowd, the children learned that it isn't necessary to do what others want just to be accepted into a group. It is more important to be kind and considerate of others' feelings.

Gr. 3

I always love to share the story Chrysanthemum with the children. It is a wonderful story focusing on the character trait of acceptance. Chrysanthemum loved her name and everything about herself until she started school and some of her friends continually made fun of her name. A lesson was learned when, at the end of the story, a favorite music teacher named her new baby Chrysanthemum. In our discussion, we pointed out that it isn't our name, our looks, where we live, or the kind of car we drive that makes us who we are, rather it is how we treat other people. The children were all aware that "it's what's inside" that counts.

Gr. 4

During my October meeting with the children, I shared the story "The Attitude Patrol." This story stressed how important it is to think positively (I studied hard. I know this material. I will do well on this test.), rather than negatively (I don't know what this is about. I'm going to get a low grade on this test.). In thinking positive thoughts, we encourage ourselves, whereas with negative thoughts, we just slowly but surely tear ourselves down. We ended our time together with the "THINK BIG RAP."

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

School has begun, the leaves are changing color, the temperature is much cooler – it must be fall! Thanks to the students, parents and teachers, Pre-K is off to a fantastic start!

Our back to school theme for 2013 was a jungle theme and a big hit with students. They went "ape" when they met their new friend Curious George, who arrived from the jungle in time to greet students on the first day.

Our school character traits tied in nicely with getting to know classmates, gaining independence and learning class rules. Practicing acceptance, respect, and showing growth in the area of responsibility are all part of what we do in Pre-K. The teachers choose special literature and activities to connect the curriculum to OHA's core values.

We traveled to Eastmont Orchards in Colts Neck for our first field trip, where we spent time picking a variety of apples to take home. After leaving the orchard, we stopped at Thompson Park to eat lunch and play. The apples that we brought back to school were used to

make applesauce and a delicious pie. We also sorted, tasted and chose our favorite apples to complete a classroom graph in math. We made applesauce with Mrs. Weikes and enjoyed "Apple" Brown Betty while learning about the Letter A. In celebration of Rosh Hashanah we dipped apples in honey to welcome in the Jewish New Year.

Our October events for Pre-K include a trip to Huber Woods to experience a wonderful fall event called "Critters and Jitters." Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Caprara have been covering the "Five Senses" in class, and this outdoor fall trip will certainly add to classroom activities and discussions. During Music and Movement class with Mrs. Weikes, the children have been busy learning a variety of songs, poems, and finger plays, working towards strengthening confidence, gross motor ability and language skills. In an effort to take the "scare" out of "scary Halloween costumes", students dressed up in costumes to role play while Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Caprara greeted the trick or treaters at their doors. We are having so much fun preparing for the Oak Hill Halloween Parade and class party scheduled for October 31st. Family members should check their calendars, grab a camera, and join us for the parade. Class mothers have been busy planning an exciting and fun-filled "orange and black" Halloween Party. We appreciate their efforts as well as the generosity of all of our Pre-K parents that have volunteered to contribute to the class party.

Yoga has become a big hit in the classroom and during music and movement. Students are enjoying the challenge of each new "Letter of the Week" pose as well as the relaxation, breathing techniques, and tranquil music. The children literally ask for their new letter pose each week and a portion of Friday's music class has been designated "Yoga Friday."

October is Fire Safety month and students have been busy practicing fire safety rules such as; Stop! Drop! Roll! We are also looking forward to an October visit from the Fire Department, as our firefighter friends and fire truck are always a big hit. Mr. Quincannon, (Chris's Dad) a Volunteer Fire Fighter for many years, has graciously offered to bring the Colt's Neck fire truck and equipment to school for Pre-K and Kindergarten to explore.

"Queen and King of the Jungle" has begun in both classrooms. Each student will truly shine when they bring in their

personal posters, family members, and special Letter People snack. What a great way to get to know our classmates better and gain self confidence. Curious George also travels home with students who then record their daily adventures with this lovable character in a journal. The information is shared with classmates upon returning to school.

This year's Pre-K has become completely immersed in the "Little Treasures" reading program. Visits from everyone's favorite Letter People engage the students in wonderful projects, artwork, and skill strengthening activities. So far we have met Mr. N, Ms. W, Mr. M and Ms. A. Ms. A is our first Letter Light (vowel) and she helps light the way to building words. Students enjoyed Alphabet pasta for Ms. A and it was a big hit.

In Math this month, students have successfully completed the introduction to math manipulatives and patterns. Morning Meeting time and daily activities include calendar skills, graphing, and sorting. The use of our classroom iPads and White Board have become an integral part of daily instruction and independent work. Mini lessons introduce shapes, size, and making comparisons. Science, French, Social Studies, Lessons on Diversity, Library, Drama as well as Music and Movement further enhance the Pre-K experience.

The Pre-K staff is looking forward to the first week of November when parent/teacher conferences take place. Students will also participate in Election Day activities and prepare for our annual Thanksgiving Feast.

We are anticipating another exciting and successful year in Pre-K and look forward to parent involvement in our program. We hope that our students, staff, and Oak Hill families enjoy the beauty and brilliance of this fall season.

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

This year the Kindergarten classroom welcomed 21 new students. In just a month the children already have their routine down and are ready to learn! We look forward to what the year has in store for us!

It wouldn't be Kindergarten without the Letter People. So far we have welcomed Mr. M, Ms. T, Ms. F and Mr. N to our classroom. The children are embracing each letter and learning the sound and

formation of each one. Along with each Letter Person the children are introduced to several high frequency words. We are studying hard and preparing for our first spelling test. We are already seeing so much growth both socially and academically in our students.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents who have been in for special snack thus far. It is a weekly treat for our students to have their special guests come and spend some time in our classroom. We've enjoyed the snacks, crafts and books they've provided. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Alsharif for enlightening the class about the holiday of Eid – we loved hearing about the traditions involved with this special time!

In Math we incorporate our morning circle time as part of our lessons. The children are introduced to several number concepts including odds and evens and counting by 2's, 5's and 10's. In our Singapore program are working hard on our numbers 1-10. The children are extremely involved in the lessons and are learning both skills and vocabulary that will help them as they progress through the rest of the program.

The class took its first of many class trips. We went to Eastmont Orchards to pick apples. The children enjoyed choosing apples for home and a few for our classroom. We look forward to visiting Casola Farms at the end of this month to pick pumpkins, go on a hayride, ride a pony and enjoy the beautiful fall weather. We have many more trips planned to continue the fun outside of the classroom.

Please remember to check the Kindergarten website (oakhillacademy.com – faculty - then choose any of the Kindergarten teachers) for important information and a photo or two!

Happy fall everyone!

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

We are off to an exciting start in first grade. The children are learning the responsibilities of completing and bringing back neat and accurate homework, keeping desks and cubbies organized, and following class rules.

We have begun our weekly spelling tests and math assessment tests. The spelling tests consist of individual weekly words. Soon the tests will be in the form of

sentence dictation. These sentences will include the precious learned words.

When sending in birthday treats, please remember to include all the children in first grade. The birthday treat cannot be an edible treat since several children have food allergies.

Our Halloween stories are on display in our classrooms. It was such fun writing a rough draft, then correcting the spelling and the grammar errors, then writing the good copy. We wrote about the costumes we will be wearing at our school Halloween party and parade. We also colored spooky Halloween scenes to go with our stories.

National Geographic is such an interesting source of information. The pictures are not only colorful but very realistic. This month we read how stripes and spots are just two types of patterns that occur in nature. As examples we read about the European Badger, a member of the weasel family, who has a stripe on its head, and the lynx who has black spots on its body which make a pattern. We also read about the five senses and how they help us enjoy the world around us. In tune with the beautiful autumn weather, we read about how leaves come in many shapes and sizes and have different textures and colors.

HAPPY FALL TO OUR FIRST GRADE FAMILIES!!!!

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

Second grade is off to a wonderful start. Everyone has settled nicely into their new routine and class. We are excited about the upcoming year.

In reading, we have just finishing our first unit. Our theme was: Learning about each other and helping each other make our relationship stronger. We have had some interesting and meaningful exchanges about having friends and being a friend. We have also read some exciting stories and poems on friendship. We are summarizing our reading with the help of a Main Idea and Detail Web. This has also carried over into our writing exercises, where we have written some clever riddles on ghost paper. We learned the parts and format of a letter and wrote a letter to a friend. We also consider ourselves poets as we write different types of poetry.

In math, we continue to work with number bonds, facts, and competing against our own time with "Sprints." We

are adding and subtracting two and three digit numbers and will start renaming in the next week. We are also reading and solving word problems.

We enjoyed our trip to Kateri Environmental Center for a program called "Awesome Autumn." We hiked in the woods, collected leaves from different trees and learned all of their names. We then made beautiful "sun catchers" using our leaves.

October is flying by and the children are being challenged by many new skills and concepts. We are eagerly anticipating our Halloween parade, party, and creative costumes on October 31.

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

We are pleased to welcome our new third graders. Organization is the key to success, and we are happy to see that most of our students are well on their way.

We are focusing on developing a paragraph with a clear main idea. Our next step is to learn how to elaborate and add interest to our paragraphs. Regular reading of good literature is the best way to help students pattern their own writing. On the subject of good reading habits, we are extremely pleased to see how well students are taking up the Reading Genre Challenge.

Our first novel study was Helen Keller. Besides reading this biography, we learned about Braille and finger spelling. Each child has completed an activity of their choice and it has been presented to the class. We were very pleased with the level of independence demonstrated in their classroom work on these activities.

In Social Studies, students were asked to learn their world address. We are now expanding our view of the world as we begin discussing cultural diversity as it applies to our own families. Look for the map at the end of the Lower School hallway to see some of what we learn. Also, we have almost completed our study of life and schooling in 1774 with the reading of Felicity Learns a Lesson. Students are taking the part of either loyalist or patriot as they write a letter to King George III; these will be signed with a quill pen!

Please visit our class web page where you will find lessons we created and links to other study sources that may be useful to your child. Continue to review the Friday folder with your child over each weekend, then sign and return the empty

folder. We would like to request that parents sign tests **only after** corrections have been completed.

We are looking forward to a great year of activity and growth for your children!

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

We welcome our fourth graders and their families to this 2013 - 2014 school year. Our reading series has challenged us right away with the skills of inference, and author's purpose. We learned about word origin, context clues, and primary sources. We've enjoyed historical fiction, and realistic fiction genres. We've read on topics about baseball and immigration. We have been able to think about and discuss topics having to do with cultural diversity.

Fourth graders have finished the Geology unit in our study of New Jersey. We enjoyed learning about the violence that shaped the land we live on and the ancient lakes that left us the Jersey Meadows, Paterson Falls, the Passaic River, and Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. We've learned that the Hadrosaurus Foulkii, the first dinosaur skeleton found in the USA, was found in our state near Haddonfield in 1858. We learned about other prehistoric creatures and about our "living fossils" - horseshoe crabs, which have inhabited this planet for over 200 million years. We are off to Rutgers to the Geology Museum to see the first mastodon skeleton found in New Jersey. We will also see dinosaur footprints and many, many other fossils, bones, and skeletons.

In English class fourth graders have been studying sentence structure. Along with it, we've been practicing our proofreading and editing skills. Our first part of speech was the noun, and we are now tackling singular and plural possessive nouns. We have been working with different poetry forms and have enjoyed creating our own autumn poetry.

The Language Arts students have actively studied narrative writing styles. After reading several mentor texts, so as to fully understand the narrative format, the students dissected the writings. Students identified the problem or event in the narrative and pointed out the various details and crafts the author used to make the story come alive. Students are in the beginning process of creating their own narrative pieces. The students have gathered seed ideas, listed event details, organized and sequenced their thoughts, and are now attempting various

writing techniques in drafting their stories. The Writer's Workshop is in full swing as we continue learning how to pace our writing and rely upon our peers for assistance. Get ready for some great personal narratives later this year at our Writer's Celebration!

Mrs. Bordiuk/Mr. Goldfarb Lower School PE

In September, we worked on movement skills to help improve coordination and agility.

In October, we will be involved with physical fitness testing. We use the standards that are set by the Presidential Physical Fitness Council. The description and standards are posted on Mr. Goldfarb's faculty website. We re-test in March so the children can improve in their areas of weakness. The award ceremony to give out the Presidential Fitness patches is in June.

In November, we will be performing manipulative skills for "hand/eye" coordination using beanbags, hoops, soft Frisbees and balls.

Swim skills testing will be held in December for the third marking period grade. We are practicing the skills in swim class along with increasing the student's stamina in the pool.

Mrs. Cahalane Lower School Science

PK students have been learning about the environment, we have gone on many nature walks identifying what we find. Kindergarteners have completed a unit on force and motion. They used toy cars and paper towel rolls to experiment with acceleration and the force of gravity. First grade students have been creating bridges for gnomes. They are learning first hand about what engineers do! Our second grade students have been in the greenhouse studying botany. The beautiful September weather has allowed us to use the wonderful outdoor classroom at the Science Center. Third graders have been learning about the Apollo moon mission and they had a chance to be engineers – designing and building parachutes for the astronauts' safe return home. Students in grade 4 made cars out of Life Savers and straws – bringing the engineering design process to life! Please see my website for some fantastic photos.

Mrs. Vacca Ho Ho (Heads On, Hands On) – Learning while using hands on activities

This year's unit takes the students across the Atlantic Ocean to an island called Great Britain. Students will be designing their own passports and preparing to take an imaginary trip to this beautiful and historic country of royalty.

Through the continued use of iPads and various apps, along with video clips, books and artifacts, students will embark on a journey through this historical island. They will learn about the history, culture, etiquette, topography, monarchy, government, sports and leisure of this land. We will focus on Britain's customs and traditions both past and present. How appropriate as we constantly reinforce the importance of diversity through friendship and respect for one another here at Oak Hill Academy.

This unit has already sparked enthusiasm amongst the students as they strive to earn their much needed "**tiny bucks**" to spend on Littleton Day. This annual event with a "**British** flair" will be held on Wednesday, March 12th. A detailed packet will be coming home in a couple of months. This is a culminating event where the Lower School becomes a small town environment and in this case with a "**British** flair". Students are encouraged to earn "**tiny bucks**," which is paper money created in their computer classes. This type of currency is the only money used on Littleton Day. Students will earn the "**tiny bucks**" by bringing in items, books, or pictures pertaining to something in Great Britain. The maximum amount earned is \$100 and students have until March 1st to earn this much needed money. The "**tiny bucks**" allow the students to purchase food and beverages, small toys and books and have fun on inflatable rides. This is a fun activity where students, faculty and parents all work together to promote and manage their business.

Mme Simon Grade 4 French

It is a pleasure to teach the fourth grade. The children have retained a lot of material taught by Madame Koar last year. We have reviewed the colors and the alphabet. We are also watching a song video "Je suis là pour toi": this a great song to teach kindness and compassion. We are also working on a conversation relating to feelings, family, interests and pets. We play "Around the World" and the students are really enjoying this game. Our new theme will

the the food and we will study from a Keynote presentation. Very soon, we will use "Frenchie Teachie" (a free app) on the iPads to review the foods. This is always a favorite activity. We will be memorizing a dialog on how to order food in a restaurant.

Then, we will be studying 15 French verbs and we will learn how to use them in context. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

Mrs. Scheuer Upper School Guidance

The start of the new school year often begins with sheer excitement and nervous anticipation. Our fifth graders transitioned from Lower School to Upper School rather smoothly. The fifth grade adjusted to their new environs, changing classes and having eight different teachers rather well. Way to go 5th grade!

We were delighted to welcome 19 students to OHA. Incoming students include fifth graders: Ashly DeGaetano, Mason Garber, Kathryn Hansen, Dillon McCann, Reese Rotblat, Trey Tambouri and Lauren Yu. Sixth graders: Michael Favilla, Aoife Picadio, Thomas Wang, Stephanie Zhou. Seventh graders: Jack Davis, Gregory Dolan, Anna Effenberger, Brendan Hansen, Lauren Macnow, Timothy Murray and Catherine Stobof. Eighth graders: Blaise Panzini

Prior to the start of the school year, the newest members of our OHA family were paired with an OHA buddy to answer questions and connect before the first day of school. Several meet and greets occurred this summer including a pool party. Special thanks to Ekta Kuruganti, Lucas Ligato, Julia Shaffer, Brett Servilla, Madison Stavola, Sebastian Basile, Brianna Vogel, Jason Wang, Ella Gammino, Myles Gorski, Catherine Barone, AJ Sandhu, William Walsh, Julianna Troccoli, Alex Klatsky, Nicole Burgo, MJ Wright, Kaila Domanski and Brycen Greco for acting in this capacity.

Our Character Counts theme for 2013-2014 school year is COUNT ON ME! Mr. Pacelli and Miss Murray introduced our campaign during upper school assemblies with emphasis placed on students being responsible through their words and actions, not only for themselves, but also for one another. Oak Hill Academy is an extended family, where students are empowered to help with "me" for the greater good of "we".

This theme ties into the Six Pillars of Good Character that is an integral component of the OHA philosophy and incorporated into our all phases of our curriculum. The Six Pillars of Good Character are Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. Monthly initiatives at each grade level will be delivered to students to reinforce these character traits throughout the year.

The upper grades are off to a fantastic start! If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, I am available five days a week. For your convenience, please see me, call (ext. 5) or email sscheuer@oakhillacademy.com to schedule an appointment. My office hours are Monday through Friday 7:30-10am and Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays afternoons 1:30-3:30pm.

Mrs. O'Connor
Grade 5 Literature/LA

The fifth graders have made a smooth transition to the Upper School and have successfully completed the first marking period. Kudos to students and parents alike!

We will begin reading our first novel study, Bridge to Terabithia, this month. The theme of friendship runs throughout this story and we have begun to discuss what it means to be and have a true friend.

We will move forward to the Noun Unit in Grammar and finish up our Red, White and Blue Essays about our summer vacations. Watch out for some Scary Halloween Stories coming your way. BOO!

Mrs. Daly/Mrs. Scheuer
Grade 5 Reading

The fifth graders are enjoying the Upper School Reading Program. Our reading comprehension series, *Read for Real*, provides students with excellent content while reinforcing comprehension skills. Topics have included the relocation of wolves, optical illusions, and mysteries. Classes love the *Surprises* stories with unusual plot twists. While focused on skill development, students have learned about the Navajo Code Talkers during World War II. All are amazed at the expertise of the Native Americans and their unbreakable secret codes.

Students have successfully navigated their way in the Upper School during the first marking period. Organizational and time management skills are improving each week. We're off to a great start!

Mrs. Matson
Grades 5 & 6 Geography

Fifth grade students are beginning the study of Climate, after having mastered all of their map skills. Sixth graders all enjoyed reading the excerpt of The Lemon Tree, and are finishing their analytical essays about it. They are eagerly anticipating their study of Africa, when they will design their Africa Games!

Model UN

Oak Hill has added a new Club this year! The Model UN Club will be sending 20 plus students to CBA this Friday, October 25th, to participate in a Model UN Event. Our students will serve on the Security Council, where they will revisit the decision to invade Iraq, and others will become members of the General Assembly, where they will discuss the prevention of Iran's development of Nuclear Weapons and the possibility of disarming North Korea. The final group will be members of the World Health Organization, and they will work on ways to reduce the incidence of Malaria and water-borne illness with improved sanitation. Stay tuned for the results on the OHA website!

Mr. Bruckmann
Grades 5 & 6 Math

Our fifth grade Math students are well on their way to transitioning into their role as "upper schoolers." During this marking period we completed our first chapter test as Upper School students as well as the summer skills math test which was a review of their summer skills book. We are in the midst of working on the second chapter from our Singapore Primary Mathematics 5A book which deals with more calculations with whole numbers including the order of operations; distributive property, mental calculations and word problems. Soon we will dive into Chapter 3 and our investigation into fractions. Remember that corrections for the tests and quizzes are due the day following when the test/quiz has been handed back. All students need to be prepared with a sharpened pencil, all three books and a desire to learn and increase their math knowledge. Also, please use my website as a tool to enhance learning as well. <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/mr-bruckmanns-math-class>. I am looking forward to another exciting and rewarding school year.

The sixth grade class is moving steadily through our Glencoe series book. They began with Chapter 1 and its investigation of problem solving, algebra and geometry through their investigation

into applying decimals in Chapter 2. We are now knee deep in Statistics and Analyzing Data of all different types before we move into our study of using number patterns, fractions and percents. Remember that corrections for the tests and quizzes are due the day following when the test/quiz has been handed back. All students need to be prepared with a sharpened pencil, all three books and a desire to learn and increase their math knowledge. Also, please use my website as a tool to enhance learning as well. <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/mr-bruckmanns-math-class>

Mrs. Cotterell
Grades 5 – 8 Math

Grade 5

The first marking period is always a bit of a challenge since the students are making the transition to the upper school way of life. They are definitely getting more accustomed to the pace and are returning to their lockers much less frequently! We are in the middle of Unit 2 of the Singapore math program. As you know, the Singapore program book is not as big as the "normal" math book; however, every lesson is full of very important concepts which ultimately lead to that strong math foundation for which we are striving.

Some of the topics we will learn this year will be familiar to the students. I will introduce new vocabulary and build upon previously taught concepts. So far the students have learned big numbers, approximation and estimation, exponents, divisibility rules, prime and composite numbers, prime factorization, greatest common factor, least common multiple, order of operations, distributive property, mental calculations involving the distributive property and bar modeling word problems. That is pretty amazing when you consider that we are only on page 37 of the book!

Homework plays a very important role in the classroom. The students need to read their assignment carefully and prepare it in accordance with my requirements. Homework and the IP book are a good source for preparing for the quizzes and tests.

Grade 6

We have completed the first 2 chapters of the textbook and are in the middle of Chapter 3. The students have been familiar with most topics so far as in normally the case in most math courses. I will be teaching them new vocabulary and giving them additional information not in the textbook to further enhance

their understanding of previously taught material.

Homework continues to play a significant role in my classroom. The students have been given their list of assignments for each Chapter along with the assessment dates. Students need to read each assignment carefully. It is important that all problems be completed thoughtfully.

Grade 7

We are just about past the mid-point of the 2nd chapter. The 7th grade book has long chapters filled with lots of important concepts. Chapter 1 basically served as an overview of how to solve basic algebraic equations. We will be working on algebraic equations with integers by the end of this chapter so it is very important that the students have a very solid understanding of the process.

We began working on negative numbers this week. They seem to understand the rules well and have played the "stock market" game and some card games to reinforce the material.

It is very important that homework be completed every night since it plays such a large part in the learning process. Also, proper completion of the packets will further strengthen the students' understanding and performance on their assessments.

Introduction to Algebra

We have completed 2 chapters and are just starting distributive property in Chapter 3. The students have been working hard and enjoying this time of review since as I have told them, the familiar concepts end soon. The distributive property plays such an important role in so many algebraic equations that we will spend several classes on this topic.

The students are working hard and have been scoring well on their assessments. They did quite well on their first 2 tests without a packet to help prepare. I am trying to get them used to the high school approach.

Algebra 2

We have completed the first 3 chapters of this very intense course. These chapters are basically a review of Algebra 1. Interestingly enough, these chapters are often skipped in high school. I am not quite sure what the rationale behind this is. Algebra 1 is the foundation for Algebra 2, so I do not know why a review of foundation work is considered unnecessary.

Some of the topics covered included solving simultaneous equations with 2 or 3 variables, graphing systems of inequalities, linear programming, best fit lines, slope and rate of change.

Our goal is to complete the first 7 chapters by mid-terms and complete the remaining 7 chapters by year end.

Mrs. Schroeter **Grade 5 Science**

The fifth grade scientists have been busy working on the first unit of the year – measurement and the tools of the scientists. They are becoming skilled in the use of much of the equipment in their science room laboratory: metric rulers, graduated cylinders, triple beam balances, beakers, and the Celsius thermometer. They have learned terms associated with the science tools, such as mass, volume, weight, density, and properties of matter. They are learning about the scientific method and using it to perform many experiments in class.

The fifth grade has already had their first class trip – a day at Tuckerton Seaport. The weather was perfect for this outdoor adventure and the students enjoyed painting decoy flatties, visiting the light house and the New Jersey Surf Museum, and viewing the film, *Life on the Edge*, and the hands-on, interactive exhibits as well as the Walk on the Wild Side exhibit that had models of animals and marine life with some live examples. The students observed the effects of Hurricane Sandy on the Seaport as well as the surrounding areas. A highlight of the trip was the bus ride to The Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve in conjunction with Rutgers University which gave the students an overview of Barnegat Bay, including seeing many of the birds that are living in this area. The students were fascinated by the turtles that lost their homes during the storm and are now being helped by volunteers at the Seaport. Shopping in the gift shop was also enjoyed by all.

Fifth graders are now busy collecting leaves for the leaf booklet that is due on November 11. They are encouraged to include leaves showing their different colors that we observe during this beautiful fall season.



Mrs. Vacca **Grade 5 Tech**

Students have started using iPads with a tutorial called "Keynote," which is a wonderful way to put together a slideshow/powerpoint presentation. After becoming more familiar with all the tools on Keynote, students then formed groups to start their first project. We first read about various "Jersey Firsts," and then selections were made. This project makes a nice recall from their fourth grade class and the unit all about New Jersey. Students selected topics such as Campbell's condensed canned soup, the first Drive-in movie theater, first Miss America pageant, first boardwalk in the world, first salt water taffy, first cultivated blueberries, first professional basketball game, first solid body electric guitar, and many more. New Jersey has a lot to offer and has made many firsts in science, technology, sports and history. Presentations will be made next marking period which will include information and visuals on the iPads.

Grades 5 & 6 Math Workshop

This class meets once a week and gives students a chance to challenge their math skills in a hands on fun way. After receiving the guidelines and expectations for Math Workshop, Students have also been working on short 10 minute warm-ups to gain those "bonus points" which are then added up at the end of every other marking period. The top 4 students will then receive a free dress down day. We continue implementing the Singapore Math Method as another way to solve word problems. Through the use of the bar model and restating the problem, students are learning another way to solving these thought provoking math problems.

Fifth grade students completed their first project on time and distance using map quest for driving directions. They had to estimate the distance between their home and school both in time and mileage. Comparisons were also made as to what route they took versus what route the driving directions suggested. Another activity was drawing a bioglyph of themselves using the suggested key of symbols. Circles were drawn for males and ovals for females and various symbols to represent color of hair and eyes, number of siblings, number and what kind of pet. They were very creative and unique sketches that classmates had to guess who was who?

Sixth grade students have been working on probability and playing some games that correspond. Their first project is a time management one. Students formed

groups, selected the location of their radio station, are putting together a play list of 15 songs along with information such as weather, events and a public service announcement. Groups must follow the time schedule with 3 minutes of music and 2 minutes of information (speaking parts) which = 5 minute presentation. Working together, coordinating music and info will be challenging all within the 5 minute time frame. This opportunity to be a DJ for 5 minutes should be fun and entertaining for all.

Parents please note that students are permitted to bring to this class their iPod, iPad, laptop, or cell phone to retrieve the music they need for this project. After the class, these personal items must be put away for the remainder of the day as students have already been told.

Mrs. Duffy
Grade 6 English/LA

Sixth grade students are off to a strong start, beginning the school year with enthusiasm and hard work.

After discussing the summer reading and deciding that Where the Red Fern Grows is one of their all-time favorite novels, sixth graders have moved on to the literature text and the first unit called "Finding Your Place in the World." This unit showcases coming-of-age stories, and students are discovering that the challenges of growing up are universal and know no time barriers.

In Language Arts, we are reviewing the kinds of sentences and compound, simple, and complete predicates and subjects, but our biggest challenge is studying vocabulary, "cycling" through the units in an effort to build word power. As the first marking period closes, sixth grade English students should congratulate themselves for their hard work. Their insights are on target and as varied as they are.

Mrs. Daly
Grade 6 Reading

Sixth graders are fascinated by the world's unsolved mysteries. Our Reading Program, *Read for Real*, challenges students' comprehension skills in many unique ways. In addition to practicing comprehension skills, students gain insight into some unusual creatures. Topics have included leeches in medical procedures, giant squid, and many others. The *Heroes/Monsters* series have provided some wonderful mysteries

such as the Loch Ness Monster, Bigfoot, Grendel, and the Cyclops.

To reinforce reading skills, students have been analyzing ancient timekeepers such as Stonehenge and the Mayan Calendar Round. Comparing and contrasting observations have also been detailed as the students read about the ancient code of Hammurabi and its connections to our judicial system.

Students are developing their skills each week as we continue our program.

Mrs. Palamara
Grades 6 – 8 Math

Grade 6 – Glencoe

This marking period the students outlined strategies for problem solving and explored the use of algebra and algebra to solve problems. They practiced and applied the four-step plan for problem solving and evaluated expressions using the order of operations. They evaluated simple algebraic expressions, used powers and exponents in expressions, and solved simple equations. Geometry was related to algebra when the students extended patterns and found the area of rectangles and parallelograms.

Grade 7 – Gateways

Students are turned off by starting another year with a dose of whole numbers and decimal arithmetic. It is important to start the year off with something different and Gateways felt that patterns were a good choice. Patterns permeate mathematics and are an important strand throughout Gateways. This marking period gave the students ample experiences with the following notions: 1) problem solving involves creativity; 2) there is more than one way to solve a problem; and 3) problems often have more than one correct answer. They discovered that learning to think and solve problems should be their main goal in this course.

Algebra I

In Chapter 1, the eighth grade reviewed variables, exponents and powers, order of operations, equations, inequalities, expressions, and problem solving models. A new topic introduced was functions. This material was mastered, and now the students are working on real numbers in Chapter 2. Topics already covered in this chapter include the real number line; absolute value; and addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of integers. Application word problems for each concept have also been introduced and practiced.

Mrs. Billet
Grades 6 & 7 Science

Grade 6 Life Science

Students have been exploring the features, needs, and origins of living things. The importance of the microscope to the study of cells was discussed. Photosynthesis, respiration, and fermentation were our experiments. We learned a great photosynthesis song to help us remember the equation. We are collecting our photos (not originals) to display our growth and development. Check the pictures out in the back of room 16 in the Science Center.

Now we are on to cell division and growing our plants in the greenhouse. We'll update you next marking period on our progress.

Grade 7 Physical Science

Students were introduced to the important role of problem solving as an activity of science. The identification of problems and the choosing of strategies to solve them are related to scientific method and experimental design. The unit closed with a discussion on the importance of measurement and graphing as a useful means of displaying and interpreting data, and Newton's Three Laws of Motion were brought to life by some exciting experiments. Action-reaction and the balloon rockets and balloon helicopters were the hit of the chapter.

Now we are on to Work and Power and growing plants, herbs, and tomatoes in the greenhouse. We'll let you know next marking period how we made out.

Sra. Dotto
Grades 5, 7 & 8 Spanish

In fifth grade, students have been studying polite expressions, greetings, and numbers from 0 to 100. This material has been reinforced with songs, games, videos and by logging on the site "quizlet" for visual and auditory practice of expressions and vocabulary. The students really enjoy these sites and their pronunciation is getting better each day. Over all, the children have adjusted very well to the study of Spanish and are very eager to learn. Keep up the good work!

In seventh grade, we have spent a few weeks re-examining material covered last year including subject pronouns, the verbs *gustar*, *ser*, over 30 *ar* and *er* regular verbs and indirect object pronouns. Currently, we are in the process of completing Chapter 3 section A. In this Chapter, the students are acquiring a lot of vocabulary and

expressions that have to do with every day activities. They have mastered the conjugation of the stem-changing verbs *jugar* and *querer*, and are in the process of learning the irregular verb *ir*. All this material is reinforced with power point presentations, classroom interaction and by logging on my "quizlet" or "educreation" sites for visual and auditory processing.

In eighth grade, after a comprehensive review we covered various verbs with the irregular first person like *traer*, *salir*, *dar*, *poner*, *hacer*, *ver*, *venir* and the irregular verbs *tener* and *decir*. In addition, the students have mastered the usage of the verbs *saber* and *conocer*. Both verbs mean "to know", but are used in different ways. We will soon be studying family relationships and memorize a dialogue which they will present in front of the class.

Mrs. Tirella Grade 7 LA/Literature

In seventh grade English, we are off to a fine beginning. Our literature series **Literature and the Language Arts**, has introduced us to the theme of reading and how it relates to poetry and storytelling. We have discussed the importance of reading and how it impacts all of our other subjects. In addition, we will continue to reinforce our critical thinking and test-taking skills with various comprehension stories.

With our **Vocabulary Workshop** series, we continue to strengthen our word power. We are always looking for new words to use in our writing. In grammar, we have studied a unit on different kinds of sentences and how to correct them and are now beginning a unit on nouns. This will be very beneficial for future writing projects.

Mrs. Mayer/Mrs. Carroll Grades 7 & 8 History

A big congratulations goes to Mrs. Mayer and her wonderful family as they welcomed their new son, Dean, into the world on August 11th! Everyone is doing well and Mrs. Mayer's presence was missed this marking period!

The seventh grade class started the school year by focusing on the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent and then to the Indus Valley and Ancient Aegean Civilizations. At the end of the marking period we concluded our study by discovering ancient Rome as we enjoyed learning about Roman architecture and Roman entertainment. Each civilization let us

assess the political and social developments that contributed to our world today.

The eighth grade picked up where they had left off at the end of last year which was the period prior to the Civil War. We have examined how African Americans were treated before the war and the economic effects slavery had on the southern states. We studied the events that lead up to the Civil War and the subsequent strategies both sides used during the four year conflict. We took an in-depth look at the major battles and generals that were important during this period. Also during this marking period the eighth grade students had the opportunity to visit the library and select books about the Civil War, as well as other history topics, to do their own research and then submit library logs.

Ms. Burke Grades 7 & 8 Latin

The seventh graders are off to a great start in Latin. We began by studying how Latin grammar differs from English. Specifically, we are learning how the endings of Latin nouns provide information about their use in the sentence. So far, we have studied the endings for subjects (both singular and plural) and direct objects. We have also learned some common endings for present verbs, such as -t for singular verbs and -nt for plural verbs. We have also focused on the areas in which English and Latin grammar and vocabulary converge, and, as a result, the students have been hard at work learning English vocabulary that has derived from Latin. Besides grammar, we have worked on developing translation skills by reading stories about a famous Roman family, the Corneli. Along with these stories, we have examined several different topics in Roman daily life, such as family structure and Roman dress, and in mythology, like the stories of Remus and Romulus and the origin of the world.

In the eighth grade, we have begun the year with a rigorous review of last year's material, including a review of the three main noun declensions, the uses and meanings of Latin nouns, and the present and imperfect verb tenses. In addition to review, we have learned a new class of adjectives and the perfect tense, as well as a variety of smaller grammatical conventions that will help in their later study of Latin (such as how to read a dictionary entry of a Latin word). We have also focused on honing their translation skills primarily through stories in their *Ecce Romani* textbooks.

Mrs. Larkins/Mrs. Vacca Grades 7 & 8 Math Workshop

What a time to be studying the stock market! With the Dow going up and down and the federal government shutdown/debt ceiling crisis, students can't help but see it on the news. They have had many questions about what is currently happening to our economy. Although we don't claim to have all the answers, we have tried to explain our country's current financial situation in simpler terms for the students. These seventh grade math workshop students are also learning how to invest using different research terms so as to make the greatest profit (or perhaps least amount of loss) on their investments. Each group is given an imaginary bank roll of \$10,000. Using the Wall Street Journal website and project pages, students study terms such as the New York Stock Exchange, shares of stock, price/earnings ratio, history of companies, stock brokers, dividends, and yield. Each week the students are given four new companies to investigate and determine how to invest their money as well as when to buy and sell. It is an interesting project that takes a lot of teamwork. Hopefully you have noticed them taking more of an interest in today's economic news.

Mrs. Larkin's small eighth grade (2x/week) group is working very well together and getting a lot accomplished although the school calendar has not allowed us to have class as often as usual. They start most classes with some very challenging warm-up problems and are all earning points toward a possible dress down day. In our construction project, each student has been hired as an apprentice architect in order to design new home models. Each student is designing a 3D model to scale and computing all costs involved. So far, they have designed their floor plans complete with furniture, worked on their lot including landscaping, put up their walls, and are now trying to raise the roof. Costs are being computed along the way. I see some very innovative designs taking shape!

Mrs. Williams Grade 8 Language Arts/Literature

In eighth grade Language Arts, students began their study of vocabulary, while concluding the Grammar units: *The Sentence* and *Nouns*. Students worked on various writing, such as journal writing and creative writing. During the second marking period, students will continue with their writing, vocabulary lessons, and grammar lessons.

In Literature, students reviewed the summer reading novels. Then, students read fiction short stories. In the story, "To Build a Fire," they evaluated the importance of setting and identified the different conflicts evident in the story. In addition, students studied the literary movement Naturalism. Then, they concluded whether the story was truly naturalistic. In "The Most Dangerous Game," students explored literary terms, such as: verbal irony, irony of situation, plot and conflict.

Mrs. Daly **Grade 8 Critical Reading**

The eighth grade classes began with a look at the Olympics as we study our new *Read for Real* books. A look at the ancient games provided great contrast to the more recent games in Beijing. Past and present Olympians were studied as we examined the great commitment and dedication the athletes possessed. The games themselves also provided great insight into world events. Places like Munich, Mexico City, and Berlin were studied as political issues entered the games. The classes analyzed the last six Opening Ceremonies and each host country's message to the world. Students were amazed as short videos provided an in-depth look at Olympians such as Jim Thorpe, Dick Button, Usain Bolt, Gabby Douglas, and others. The 2012 Games unit not only focused on the record-breakers but also the ones whose personal stories make the games more intense. The Olympics are always a favorite topic for class discussions.

Our reading program helps students practice their comprehension skills daily. We also study vocabulary from Latin/Greek roots as supplemental material. Every Tuesday, the eighth graders summarize a news article and report to the class. We have had great stories in the last few weeks ranging from the economy, professional sport injuries, new technological advances, and new ways to produce energy. It's a great year!

Mrs. Schroeter **Grade 8 Science**

The eighth grade scientists have now completed their review of laboratory skills that have been introduced and, hopefully, mastered in their previous years at Oak Hill Academy science classes. These skills are now being applied as we begin our Pearson Interactive Science series for Earth Science. The students have finished the first chapter entitled *Mapping Earth's Surface* in their first textbook, Earth's Surface. Topics covered

included a thorough review of geography (from fifth and sixth grade) plus some additional topics to challenge the students. Our scientist geographers learned about landforms, map projections, latitude and longitude, mapping technology (including GPS and GIS), and topographic maps (for hiking and skiing – activities enjoyed by students). The chapter concluded with a very "wet" lab in which the lab groups made a topographic map of a volcanic mountain model.

Mr. Pacelli **Algebra I – An Integrated Approach**

We have moved quickly through our first three chapters which presented a good review and established a good foundation for our later work. We will now begin to work with equations and inequalities. We will also venture from the book to explore some related but more challenging problems. These will include Singapore math word problems. Please remember that problems dealing with key topics can be found in video form on my webpage.

Mrs. Vacca **Grade 8 Explorations**

"**To explore**" is the basis for this class. Students who meet once a week will receive an effort grade from 1-5 based on their performance solely in class, where all work is done. Students who meet three times per week will also receive an effort grade in addition to a numerical grade. Log sheets are kept diligently to record the work done in class. Topics are selected, groups formed and the challenge begins. Students will utilize critical thinking skills to interpret, compare, analyze and evaluate information and data. They must be able to present and apply this information in a well thought and meaningful manner. Power Point presentations should be creative vehicles to convey their group's effort. Research presentations will all be done on the iPad or computer along with any other creative format. This includes "infographics," pictures, skits, recorded speeches, or Re-enactments which can be both entertaining and informative.

The first project assigned was: "**Famous Landmarks around the World**" and **Global Diversity**. Students first watched a slide show to get some ideas of monuments and locations. Groups were then formed and some of the locations are: Big Ben, the Tower Bridge and the London Eye all located in England, the Golden Temple and Agra Fort in India, The Burj Khalifa in Dubai, Sanqingshan and the Great Wall in China, the Sydney

Opera House in Australia, the Great Zimbabwe in Africa, the Kremlin in Russia, Cristo Redentor in Brazil, Angkor Watt in Cambodia, Mont St. Michel in France, Rainbow Bridge in Japan, Mount Vinson in Antarctica and the Mount Eden Crater in New Zealand. Presentations have just started and students have been awed with all the great visuals and information. This class is wonderful for learning and sharing!

Mme Simon **Upper School French**

In the seventh grade, after reviewing the main verbs and question words we worked on "Moi, je", an oral presentation about oneself. We are now studying the food theme. The children will have the option to do an extra credit project on foods, either a power point, a Keynote presentation or a poster. Soon, we will be practicing a dialog about ordering food in a restaurant. I like to use a lot of technologies to help the student improve their learning and pronunciation. At times, we have the opportunity to use the iPads to reinforce the material learned in class. We are also watching a song video "Je suis là pour toi": this a great song to teach kindness and compassion

The material, homework, Quizlets and additional videos are posted on my Website <http://ohamadamesimon@weebly.com>. You can have access to it by going on the school website, go to Faculty and scroll down to my name and click on website. The parent and student can also email me at www.mmesimonoha@gmail.com if they have a question. BON TRAVAIL !

In the eighth grade, after an extensive review, which is the basis for a good foundation, we studied the reflexive verbs and the routine of the day and the weather . We will be working on a text regarding the Technology and the Internet. We will study a dialog and the students will present it from memory in front of the class. Working on Keynote presentations, we are learning about countries around the world where French is the official language. With the use of QUIZLETS, Educreation videos and auditory passages, the students are really improving. On occasion, we will be using the iPads to acquire new vocabulary and play French Games. I like to use a lot of technologies to help the student improve their learning and pronunciation.

The material, homework, Quizlets and additional videos are posted on my Website <http://ohamadamesimon@weebly.com>. You can have access to it by going on the school website, go to Faculty and scroll down to my name and click on website. The parents and students can also email me at www.mmesimonoha@gmail.com if they have a question. I will try my best to respond promptly. EXCELLENT TRAVAIL !

Mrs. Bordiuk/Mr. Rosenfeld Upper School PE

Welcome back to school. We are looking forward to a very fun and productive school year. Upper school students participate in physical education (PE) three times per week for five marking periods. The other marking period is for Health Education. The fifth and seventh grades will be going into Health Education in the **third marking period**. So we are continuing with Physical Education/Swim for this next marking period. Please remember that every student must be prepared for PE with a full change of clothes and sneakers, and on swim days, a one piece bathing suit (for girls) and a towel as well as a bathing cap for those with long hair.

Any student who is **excused or unprepared** for PE is not eligible to participate in after school athletic/cheerleading activities (this includes practices or games) however they are still a member of the team and should attend to support the team. Thank you for your cooperation.

We kicked off the year with a soccer unit and some ultimate Frisbee. We have now started the Presidential Physical Fitness testing. Five areas of fitness testing evaluated by age and gender and compared to national standards.

Finally, please remember that all students are required to be prepared with sneakers for PE on dress down days and fabulous footwear days. This is for safety and comfort. If they are not prepared with sneakers, they will be considered unprepared to participate.

Mr. Rosenfeld and I have added some information to our Faculty Websites if you would like to visit these websites.



Mrs. Grier/Library

The students of Oak Hill have already taken out 1,300 books this school year! We have been getting off to a very fast and productive start here in the Library and the students have been taking full advantage of their opportunity to visit, learn, and take books out of the Library. The Pre-K and Kindergarten classes have both been busy meeting lots of new Letter People. The Letter People have helped us improve our reading skills and have assisted us in reading exciting stories like "Press" by Herve Tullet and "This is Not My Hat" by Jon Klassen. The first and second graders were enthralled with their introduction to the books by Eve Bunting, followed by stories on acceptance." Third graders are becoming experts in navigating around the library, using the Dewey Decimal System, and finding relevant books on the topics they are interested in. In addition, fourth graders are making enormous strides in their use of the library computer system. It is a joy to observe them looking up the books they need, ascertaining if the book is in or out, and transferring that knowledge to finding the books on the shelves.

All students have been very enthusiastic about taking books out of the library, which suggests that they are excited about reading. Please help encourage them to return their books in a timely manner so that they use their library period effectively and take full advantage of our facility.

Mrs. Griller/Computer

We are off with a great start to a new school year. The first graders have been creating wonderful pictures using Kid Pix software, while the second graders have been learning about the parts of the computer and exploring fun Internet sites. In third grade the students created Venn Diagrams using Kidspiration about their books they have read and began learning how to properly hold their hands when typing on the keyboard. In fourth grade the students have been creating fun presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint. All of the upper school students have been practicing their touch typing and creating projects in Microsoft Office. Fifth grade wrote acrostic poems, friendly letters and business letters in Word. Sixth graders decorated their bedroom by searching for items on the internet and tracking their purchases in Excel. In seventh grade they made brochures about a country of their choice and in eighth grade they wrote their resume, both using Publisher.

Mrs. Tyma/Music

We began this school year in the Lower School by reading a variety of children's books in which we performed melodic refrains and rhythmic patterns to accompany the story telling. Our listening, vocal and rhythmic skills were refreshed after a summer away from music making together.

During October, Kindergarten and first grade youngsters are exploring their voices and the sounds of unpitched percussion instruments with Halloween stories and songs. We are developing/reinforcing skills of steady beat and beat vs. rhythm as well as a conceptual understanding of like and unlike phrases as we chant rhymes and sing songs about carving pumpkins and brewing witches' potions.

Witches are flying in the second grade as well. With songs about witches and their brews, youngsters are developing more advanced rhythmic and melodic skills. We are reading a three-note song from the staff, learning to play it on the xylophones and then adding an accompaniment. We will be creating a rhythmic B section and orchestrating it with "spooky" instrumental accompaniments.

The third grade classes are exploring triple meter and harmonic progressions as we learn to play an orchestration for a Halloween song on the barred instruments (xylophones, metallophones and glockenspiels). In addition, we will be creating our own choreography for "In the Hall of the Mountain King," a movement from the *Peer Gynt Suite* by Edvard Grieg. The concepts of contrast in tempo and dynamics are explored as we study this music.

The fourth graders began the year dancing by learning a square dance that stretched our musical and locomotor skills. We are brushing off the recorders and reviewing in preparation for learning new notes for a descant to an instrumental composition on the barred instruments. This composition will be played in various tonalities to compare the difference in sound and structure; we will search for a tonality that will create the most effective Halloween sound. Later in the month we will enjoy guided listening lessons of the tone poem *Danse Macabre* by Camille Saint-Saens who based his composition on a poem by Henri Cazalis. Connections with the Language Arts curriculum will be made when the students study this poem with Mrs. Roehrig.

The fifth grade classes are continuing the study begun last spring of the music of the American composer, Aaron Copland. This year we focus on his ballet *Billy the Kid*. We've studied the five American folk songs on which the scene "Street in a Frontier Town" is based. As we listen, we'll create dances to show the action that is being described by the music.

In the sixth grade classes, we began the year reviewing meter (simple vs. compound) using hand drum and African drum compositions. In addition, we are exploring a variety of sounds that can be made on these drums as we improvise contrasting sections to these compositions. A piece by Carl Orff for the barred instruments will sharpen our musicianship and listening skills while also reviewing and deepening our knowledge of melodic (pentatonic vs. diatonic scales), rhythmic (sixteenth notes in all configurations) and elemental harmonic elements.

The Chorus and Oak Hill Players are preparing music for the Veterans' Day Assembly on November 8th. We are very grateful to Mrs. Momyer, a professional pianist and parent of a recent graduate of OHA, for joining us again this year as our accompanist for the Chorus. A performance schedule for the year has been sent home to all members of the performance ensembles. If you did not receive it, please contact me.

I encourage you to attend the family concerts offered by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. To find more information about these wonderful concerts, go to www.njsymphony.org and view SUBSCRIPTIONS-FAMILY

Miss DiMaggio/Art

Welcome back to art!

First grade learned how to draw Y-Trees; they drew with sharpies and painted the background with watercolor. They also drew self portraits, learned about symmetry and beaded a necklace, and learned how to make a pinch pot in ceramics.

Second grade worked in groups to make an Eric Carle inspired giant collage of a character from one of Eric Carle's famous books. They also learned about Abstract artist Piet Mondrian and the primary colors.

Third grade studied the color wheel and blended colors using watercolor pencils while following the rhythm of the color wheel.

Fourth grade worked in small groups to create wooden sculptures based on the work of Cubist Pablo Picasso and sculptor Louise Nevelson. They also studied surrealist artist Frida Kahlo and drew self portraits while learning about the proper facial feature proportions.

Fifth grade made three dimensional color wheels while learning how to mix colors from the primary colors. They learned about the Elements of Art and will continue to use them in their future art works. While the weather was nice we made it outside a few times to draw and we also spent a day splatter painting in the grass while studying American artist Jackson Pollock. They also learned about Non-Objective artist Wassily Kandinsky and created a work using watercolor pencils and sharpies while drawing only lines and shapes.

Sixth grade studied the Principles of Art. They also learned about one point perspective and drew a pathway with buildings all converging to their vanishing point. Remembering everything learned about perspective we studied French artist Henri Rousseau and drew overlapping jungles.

Seventh grade took advantage of the great weather and we drew outside. They learned about Post Impressionist Georges Seurat and pointillism while making a picture entirely of little paint dots. We also tie dyed t-shirts.

Eighth grade studied American Graffiti artist Keith Haring and worked with pastels to draw their names in a graffiti style. Using only tiny words and no lines we drew pictures called micro calligraphy. We used the slab method of hand built ceramics to make a slump bowl. We also used a distorted or enhanced photograph to draw in our Instagram inspired project.

Please check out some of our work on the school website under the art section.

Mrs. DeVivo/Drama

Welcome back!

This is the first year that Pre-K has Drama! Each class meets once a week for 30 minutes and in that time the students are using their imaginations, role playing and reenacting some favorite children's books. One book that the students especially enjoyed was *"Caps for Sale"* by Esphyr Slobodkina. They had a great time playing the roles of the mischievous, silly monkeys that take the peddlers caps.

Kindergarten is easing into Drama by learning how to pantomime, use their imaginations and play a variety of drama games. A short time ago, we acted out a story about children who planted apple trees. When the apples were ripe, the children picked them all. The students had fun pantomiming the different foods made with all of those apples.

First grade is brushing up on their pantomime, performance, and audience listening skills. They enjoy acting out animals and verbs. The students also read and acted out two plays; *"New Frog in Pond"* and *"Me and My Shadow."* These plays dealt with the theme of acceptance.

Second grade also spent time reviewing drama skills. They, too, have been reading and acting out a variety of plays in class. The first play was entitled, *"Rhyming Liz and the Rhyme Time Kids,"* which dealt with how to make new students feel welcomed at school. They also acted out a Columbus Day play entitled, *"Getting to Know You."*

The third graders began the year reading a variety of Readers Theatre scripts such as *"Charlotte's Web," "And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon,"* and *"The Enormous Turnip."* The students also read and acted out a play about Christopher Columbus entitled *"Christopher's Dream."* Then, staying in character, the students wrote letters back and forth to other characters in the play.

The fourth grade read and acted out a play called *"CSI: Mother Goose Land."* In this mystery play, Humpty Dumpty didn't accidentally fall off the wall, he was pushed! Detectives Jack B. Nimble and Miss Muffett have the tough job to find out who committed this terrible crime. After reading the play, the students designed costume sketches for the characters and made model set designs.

The seventh grade just completed a unit on Vaudeville. They watched excerpts of Abbott and Costello's *"Colgate Comedy Hour"* and the Marx' Brothers' *"Duck Soup."* We ended the lesson with each student preparing and presenting a vaudeville act in class. Students danced, sang, told jokes and did magic tricks just to name a few. Soon, the 7th grade will enter the world of William Shakespeare and the Globe theatre. The students will read excerpts of *"A Midsummer Night's Dream"* and then modernize the dialogue.

The eighth grade students have been writing original skits that deal with the themes they created for the Character Trait Banner's they made in Computer last year. We are hoping to perform these skits for some of the lower school classes.

DRAMA CLUBS

Forensics team is working hard preparing for our first competition of the year. It will take place at Rumson Country Day School on Saturday, November 16th. This club meets Mondays 2:20-3:00.

4th Grade Charades meets on Tuesdays from 2:20-3:00. They are having a blast acting out a variety of scenarios each week.

The Upper School Dance Ensemble is busy preparing for the Veteran's Day Assembly which will take place on Friday, November 8th. They are performing 2 numbers this year!

It has been a great start and I look forward to all of the fun and creative work ahead!

Mrs. Vacca/Mr. Goldfarb Student Council

First I would like to welcome our new Lower School Gym teacher, Mr. Goldfarb, who also will be my co-worker for Student Council. We're off to an exciting start with our new student council body. They are full of wonderful ideas. Members went to a Crop Walk Rally in Red Bank and then came back full of creative energy in preparation for our motivational Crop Walk assembly which took place on Wednesday, October 9th. Students played their own version of "Jeopardy" which was a variety of informative questions and answers all about the Crop Walk. Student Council members then presented their informative posters to the audience. Aron Wiener (6th grade student) also presented his very creative powerpoint while playing a very beautiful piece on the piano. A DVD started the program and our dear friend Mrs. Janie Schildge joined in with some personal words that hopefully inspired and motivated all of us.

The 33rd RED BANK Crop Walk was held on Sunday, October 20th and we had an awesome Oak Hill turnout of over 55 students. Even alumni came for our family photo which proudly displays our OHA banner. Beautiful weather and walking with friends for a good cause made the slightly under 6 miles seem not so long. Remember: WE WALK, BECAUSE THEY WALK! A big thank

you to everyone who walked, raised money or contributed food. Please remember to turn in your pledge envelopes as soon as possible.

The **Innisbrook Gift Wrap** sale has been extended until Wednesday, October 30th. Remember to use the **EZ** steps to order. OHA will receive 50% back from all orders places and remember, you can continue to order all year long.

The **FALL HARVEST DANCE** for seventh and eighth grade students will be held on Friday, November 1st from 7:30 -10 pm. in the Gym. Pizza, snack and beverages will be provided all for \$5. Students have the opportunity to wear their Halloween costume again if they choose to, otherwise please remember to wear sneakers and always appropriate clothing.

Lastly, calling all fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students! After reviewing the first marking period report cards, the "**S-Elections**" will be held on Wednesday, October 30th and results will be posted on Friday, November 1st. Forms will be handed out during homeroom on Friday, October 25th.

Directory Changes

Correction of e-mail address

Grade 6 – Room 8

Michael Favilla

martafavilla4@aol.com

Correction of Student Listing

Grade 1 – Klopacs

Add first name "Keira" to (last name) "Niewiadowski-Naharro"

Grade 3 – Pampel

Remove Nicholas Genovese

ATHLETICS

Boy's Soccer

Mr. Misson's team has an outstanding record (10-2) heading into the play-offs! We have had wins over St. Benedict's (twice), Henry Hudson (twice), St. James, Asbury Park (twice), Keyport (twice) and Ranney. We've outscored our opponents 43-19! We are seeded 4th and will play the 13th seed, Manalapan, on October 25th.

Congratulations to eighth grader Brycen Greco who has been named as an All Star for the Soccer League.

Girl's Soccer

This is the second year in a row that Mr. Bruckmann's team has qualified for the play-offs after a 21 year absence! The team is heading to the play-offs with a 9-3 record! The team has a number of young players, and coupled with the experience of the older players, this has proved to be a winning formula! The girls have defeated Holy Cross (twice), Keyport (twice), Oceanport, Rumson Country Day, Ranney and Red Bank (twice). We've outscored our opponents 46-20! The play-offs will start on Oct. 25th with OHA seeded #7 and playing #10 St. Mary's. Congratulations to eighth grader Natalie Petrillo who has been named as an All Star for the Soccer League.

Cross Country

Mrs. Gilfillan and Mrs. Scheuer's cross country team is always a popular sport! Twice a week, students in grades 3-8 run and try to improve their times. The students run between one and one-half miles, depending on their ages.

The team did well in their meet against St. Jerome's of West Long Branch on September 27th! In the boy's race, OHA defeated St. Jerome's 26-34 with 7th grader Greg Dolan placing 2nd, 7th grader Alex Klatsky 4th, 8th grader Evan Semet 5th, 8th grader John-Gabriel Bermudez 6th, 5th grader William Hurley 9th and 4th grader Brandon Klatsky 10th!

For the girl's race, St. Jerome's defeated OHA 19-38. Fifth grader Maddie Semet came in 4th place. Seventh grader Jessica Abbott placed 6th, 3rd grader Giovanna Clemente 7th place, 5th grader Jordan Codispoti in 10th place, and 3rd grader Audrey Yan in 11th place.

On November 3rd, the team will compete in the "Run for the Roses" race at the St. Rose athletic fields in Wall Twp.

Intramural Tennis

Mr. Goldfarb has his intramural tennis program playing once a week. The students in grades 5-8 play doubles against each other and learn the skills of tennis!

