

OAK HILL ACADEMY
JUNE 2012 NEWSLETTER

Headmaster's Message
Joseph A. Pacelli

As we come to the end of another school year, it is time to look back on all we have accomplished. We are a year older and certainly a year wiser. The Six Pillars were there to guide us through each of our six marking periods. We now end with "Citizenship." Do your share to make your school and community better. Be a good neighbor. Obey laws and rules. Here are our quotes:

A nation, as a society, forms a moral person, and every member of it is personally responsible for his society.

- *Thomas Jefferson, Founding Father and third U.S. president (1743-1826), in a letter to George Hammond, 1792*

Americanism is a question of principles, of idealism, of character: it is not a matter of birthplace or creed or line of descent.

- *Theodore Roosevelt, adventurer, politician and Nobel Prize-winning 26th U.S. president (1858-1919)*

Life is not so short, but that there is always time enough for courtesy.

- *Ralph Waldo Emerson, American essayist, public philosopher and poet (1803-1882)*

Like the body that is made up of different limbs and organs, all moral creatures must depend on each other to exist.

- *Hindu proverb*

Politeness is the art of choosing among one's real thoughts.

- *Adlai Stevenson II, politician, U.S. presidential candidate (1900-1965)*

Without civic morality communities perish; without personal morality their survival has no value.

- *Bertrand Russell, British mathematician and philosopher (1872-1970)*

Happiness is knowin' you've done a good job, whether it's professional or for another person.

- *Elvis Presley, American rock 'n' roll icon (1935-1977)*

Every kind of peaceful cooperation among men is primarily based on mutual trust and only secondarily on institutions such as courts of justice and police.

- *Albert Einstein, Swiss-American mathematician, physicist and public philosopher (1879-1955)*

It's not enough to have lived. We should be determined to live for something. May I suggest that it be creating jobs for others, sharing what we have for the betterment of personkind, bringing hope to the lost and love to the lonely.

- *Leo Buscaglia, author and university professor (1924-1998)*

These men ask for just the same thing, fairness, and fairness only. This, so far as in my power, they, and all others, shall have.

- *Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. President (1809-1865)*

Though force can protect in emergency, only justice, fairness, consideration and cooperation can finally lead men to the dawn of eternal peace.

- *Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th U.S. President (1890-1969)*

Mrs. Larkins
Director of Development

Grandparent/Special Relative Day

Visitors abounded on Thursday, May 17 and Friday, May 18 as an estimated 600 people attended Grandparent/Special Relative Day. Due to the overwhelming response, the day was again broken into two days. The weather proved to be more than cooperative as the sun was out both days. All visitors were enthusiastic as they started their day at the Scire Student Activities Center. The festivities began with a very impressive show by Oak Hill Academy's own Chorus and Oak Hill Players. Thank you to Mrs. Tyma and her talented students for a thoroughly enjoyable performance. Next, Mr. Pacelli related some of his personal jokes, thoughts, and experiences about the importance of the family to the healthy growth of our students. Everyone in attendance was treated to many refreshments thanks to Mrs. Curtin, Mrs. Shaffer, and the Parent Organization's Hospitality Committee. Then came the much anticipated classroom visit. Oak Hill students were at their best as they performed plays, read their original writings, competed in contests, worked on group projects, and

shared memories during the class visits. Finally, the visitors enjoyed the Upper School's social studies/history fair which was exhibited in the gym.

We thank the visitors and we compliment our students, teachers, and parents for doing such a wonderful job in making them feel welcome.

A Special Thank You

"The Six Pillars" of character education carried through all aspects of the school year, and was no better exemplified than by the work of our 2011-2012 Parent Organization. The result was another wonderfully successful year. At the End of Year Appreciation Luncheon, Mr. Pacelli thanked the volunteers for all their hard work. Their successful year during ever challenging economic times still resulted in them raising over **\$130,000!** As always, these funds will be used for the betterment of the educational experience offered to our students. Most notably, their generous end of year gift will help fund updating and expanded our technology at school including I-pads and new computers. Each year the Parent Organization grants the wishes of our teachers by providing a little something extra for each faculty member. In addition, our teachers are given the opportunity to share and expand upon their knowledge by attending various professional workshops both on and off campus.

On behalf of the entire school, I would like to thank the officers of the 2011-2012 Parent Organization: President Heather Forsyth, Treasurer Corey Small, and Secretary Joan Orlick. In conjunction with their committee heads, these women organized events throughout the year that were each a social and financial success. On a personal note, I really enjoyed getting to know these women and admire their dedication and loyalty to OHA. As Mrs. Orlick leaves her post as Secretary, on behalf of OHA, I thank her for doing so much for our students and always supporting OHA. I also welcome our new Secretary, Mrs. Lisa Shaffer!

The summer is sure to fly by and our chairpeople look forward to seeing everyone at the Parent Organization Welcome Coffee in September. As PO events approach, be sure to view the website at www.ohapo.org to learn more information and sign up to volunteer. It is a great way to help the school and a nice means to get to know other parents.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Miss Murray Director of Personnel/Administration

Headmaster for a Day

Sixth grader Gabrielle Branco assumed the role of Headmaster on March 28th! Gabrielle assisted Mr. Pacelli with some of his duties. Early in the morning, she recited the Pledge of Allegiance over the PA to the entire school. Next, it was signing an important document declaring that March 29th was a special dress down day! Gabrielle was introduced to all of the Lower School classes and some of the Upper School, too. She read a book to the Kindergarten and Pre-K and took a ride to the Soler Science Center on the golf cart! Mr. Pacelli showed Gabrielle the greenhouse and the two of them posed for pictures! Gabrielle and two friends were treated to lunch at the Lincroft Inn with Mr. Pacelli and Miss Murray. At the awards assembly at the beginning of June, Gabrielle was presented with a plaque and a photo album of the day, as well as a video of the day's happenings! Job well done, Gabrielle!

Fifth Grade (Upper School) Orientation

Miss Murray spoke with the fourth graders and some of our incoming Upper School students, about the inner workings of the Upper School – how to read a schedule, when to change classes, questions about lockers, demerits, awards, etc. Julianna Troccoli, Zach Basile, Kaila Domanski, Alex Klatsky, William Walsh, Amanda Pieringer and Kelsey Stout spoke about Spanish, drama club, math workshop, athletics, tech, student council and history, respectively. During the month of May, Mrs. Livingston had the fourth graders pair up with current fifth graders to actually go to a few class periods in the Upper School! OHA alum, Tessa Garbely created the “Garbely’s Guide to the Upper School.” Tessa took it upon herself to interview Upper School students for advice on organization, lockers, test-taking, homework and after-school. She organized all of the information and presented it to all of the fourth graders, as well as any new incoming Upper School student.

BioTech High School Mentorship

This is the third year that Oak Hill Academy entered into an agreement with BioTech High School this spring to provide a mentorship to two high school seniors. Deana and Caroline came to OHA for two weeks and assisted and observed science classes taught by Mrs. Schroeter and Mrs. Cahalane. At the conclusion of their two-week period, they had to interview the teachers. We thank Deana and Caroline for being with us!

They were extremely helpful to the teachers and students and became part of OHA in just two short weeks. We wish them well in college next year!

American Scholastic Achievement League-Anshul Agrawal New Jersey Champion!!

In February, a number of 8th graders voluntarily participated in the ASAL Scholastic Challenge. 17,000 students across the country competed. We are pleased to announce that Anshul Agrawal has been named the NJ State Champion. His score was 93%. The top score in the nation was 96%. This 100 question online test consisted of questions on history, math, science, language arts, geography and general knowledge. The national average was 61%. OHA had 24 of 28 students score above the national average, with the rest just barely missing the mark! Other than Anshul, the top 10 OHA scores were: Richard Soler 89, Sela Britton 88, Tim Scafaria 88, Alex Kelly 87, Victoria Momyer 87, Natalie Straub 83, Gaurav Singh 81, Mansi Pandya 80, Michael Gualario 79, Max Kelly 79, Anne Medlin 79, Julie Sumski 79, Jonah Haskin 76, Kyle McKean 75, Stephanie Falletta 74.

Mrs. Rooney is retiring!

Thank you to Mrs. Mary Ann Rooney for the 11 years of service she gave to Oak Hill Academy as a third grade teacher, 6th grade reading teacher and student council advisor! Mrs. Rooney was honored at the end of year assemblies with flowers and a Waterford vase by Mr. Pacelli and Miss Murray.

High School Choices

We are fortunate that so many of our graduates have options when they graduate from Oak Hill Academy. There are a number of great high schools in our area. There are the traditional high schools (public and parochial), schools that specialize in a particular area, and independent schools (boarding and day). With a graduating class of 44 (20 girls and 24 boys), our graduates will be going to 21 different high schools! Actually, that number could have been higher, since some of our 8th graders were accepted to a school, but chose not to attend.

Listed below are the number of students who will be attending a particular high school. The number of acceptances are higher than the number of the students who will actually attend that high school. (Remember, students can apply to a number of different high schools):

	<u>Attending</u>
Parochial	
CBA	12
RBC	3
SJV	3
St. Rose	1
St. Anthony	1
Public	
Holmdel	1
Midd. South	1
Marlboro	2
Colts Neck	1
Specialized	
Allied Health	1
Bio Tech	3
Communications	1
High Tech	1
M.A.S.T.	2
Manalapan Sci & Engineering	1
Private	
Lawrenceville	1
Hotchkiss	1
Gunnery	1
Ranney	5
Blair	1
Hun	1

Accepted, but not attending:

Lawrenceville
Phillips Exeter
Peddie
Mater Dei prep
Rutgers Prep
High Tech
Red Bank Reg. Performing Arts
Law and Public Service -Colts Neck
Medical Science -Freehold
Computer Science-Freehold

7th and 8th Grade National Latin Exam Results

Once again, the results from the National Latin Exam were very favorable! Outstanding Achievement Certificates and ribbons were given to those 7th grade students scoring between 39-36 (out of 40) correct on the Introductory Level: Julia Pardee 39, Jacob Yatvitskiy 39, Jasmine Shen, Roxanna Altus, Amanda DeStefano and Gilbert Rashkovsky. Achievement Certificates were given to those 7th grade students scoring 35-33 correct on the Introductory Level: Nicole Marinaro, Matthew Misson, AJ Niedermeyer, Alexandra Lupo, Robert Maes, Josie Larkins, Sofia DiAntonio, Aneesha Doshi, Sarah Berger and Matthew Prince. On the 8th grade Latin I exam, one student got only one wrong (39 of 40). Congratulations to: Victoria Momyer! Victoria and the following students also received gold medals and summa cum laude certificates: Anshul Agrawal 38 and Richard Soler 36! Silver medals and maxima cum laude certificates were awarded to the following

8th graders who had scored 35 to 34 correct: Max Kelly and Gaurav Singh. Congratulations to Owen Corrigan, Alyssa Plodwick, Alex Kelly and Sela Britton who received the magna cum laude certificate for having 32-31 correct. Natalie Straub and Mansi Pandya received the cum laude certificate for having 30-29 correct. Congratulations to Dr. Kuyat, too!

Mrs. Livingston Lower School Guidance

Back in September, I shared [Have You Filled a Bucket Today?](#) by Carol McCloud. This is a story that encourages positive behavior as children (and adults) see how very easy and rewarding it is to express kindness, consideration, and appreciation on a daily basis. We discussed how we not only fill others' buckets, but also fill our own in doing so. When we help others to feel good about themselves, we also feel good. This summer encourage your children to continue filling buckets by practicing the 'Six Pillars of Good Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.' I'll be anxious to hear of their successes in September.

Have a wonderful summer!

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

All good things must come to an end. This year in Pre-K really flew by. The months of May and June brought many exciting activities and celebrations as Pre-K exhibited a lot of personal, social and academic growth. The Kindergarten Maypole was delightful and very colorful. This annual event provided the perfect opportunity for Pre-K to deliver their handmade May Day lollipop baskets to the faculty and staff.

Our Mother's Day spring flower planting and barbecue was wonderful. The students honored their mothers with special songs and presented them with handmade photo bouquets. The event also helped beautify the front outdoor area of the Center for Early Learning. The delicious outdoor barbecue gave the teachers, mothers, and students a chance to mingle and enjoy the beautiful outdoors together. Thanks to our moms for all you do.

The May nuptials of two of our favorite Letter People began with a his and her bridal shower the week before the wedding. The couple received lovely Q

and U gifts including a year's supply of Quaker Oats, Q-Tips and Quarters and a surprise honeymoon cruise on the Queen Elizabeth II. Pre-K serenaded the couple with some of their favorite songs. The bride was escorted by Headmaster Joseph Pacelli and Miss Murray helped the nervous and speechless groom with his vows. Now the happy couple can make a Quantum of wonderful words together.

Field Day proved to be both exciting and fun. The team and individual efforts of the students shined bright in the relays, 3-legged races, sack races, and egg on spoon events. The children were such good sports as they cheered one another on. A patriotic awards ceremony followed Field Day.

The butterfly life cycle was another exciting part of May and our strong science program. The students cared for, observed and documented the different stages as the butterfly larvae prepared to emerge from their chrysalis as beautiful butterflies.

The year started to wind down with our recent "Pre-K Family Day" trip to Pt. Pleasant and Jenkinson's Aquarium. The weather wasn't ideal, however, that didn't break the spirits nor lessen the fun Pre-K and their families enjoyed. The aquarium continues to grow and provide amazing exhibits and hands-on learning for the students. The day ended with lunch on the boardwalk before heading back to school.

We couldn't forget to recognize our Dads. Our Donuts for Dads Day play was held on the outdoor stage of the Scire Student Activities Center and was followed by breakfast indoors. The weather was perfect as students performed "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle and sang heartwarming songs before standing to tell each dad why they are special. We sure love our dads too!

We ended the year looking back on all the wonderful times spent together and all of the great things we learned this past year in Pre-K. The teachers and students agreed that 2011-2012 was a terrific year for all of us. We celebrated with ice cream sundaes provided by our hard working and wonderful class mothers. Although we know we will see many of our students in camp, it is always hard to say goodbye.

The Pre-K staff would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and warm appreciation to our class mothers and to all of our Pre-K families for supporting our unique and wonderful Pre-K program. Your

generosity, support, and kindness has meant so much to all of us. Lastly, to all of our Oak Hill families and staff; have a safe and fun-filled summer. See you in September!

Mrs. Schwartz/Mrs. Caprara Mrs. Colbert/Mrs. Gilfillan Mrs. Foley/Mrs. Shaw Kindergarten

Spring is a very busy time of the year for Kindergarten. The students performed a flawless Maypole Dance and impressed us all. Congratulations and thank you to the chorus for their support. We also thank Mrs. Tyma for her time.

There was no time to rest as the children had to prepare to honor our Mothers at our Mother's Day Tea. Once again we are so proud of how well the children performed their play on stage and sung their songs. We thank Madame Simone and Mrs. Tyma for preparing the children.

Next, we got ready for Grandparents/Special Relatives Day. The Kindergarten room was bursting at the seams with all of our visitors. They were so impressed by how well our students read their stories to them and showed off their Math skills by playing a game of War. Way to go Kindergarten!

Our last trip was to Island Beach State Park. The weather was picture perfect and the children loved flying their kites, building sandcastles, wading in the water and looking for sand crabs. It's a great trip to wrap up the year.

Of course one of the highlights of the year is when we honor our Dad's and special guests at our Kindergarten Swim and BBQ. Everyone was treated to a fun pool party, games and picnic. It is always wonderful for the children to spend time with these important men!

A special thank you goes to Mrs. Accarrino for her time and dedication in putting together the Kindergarten video. What a lovely treasure for the students to have. The teachers are very grateful to you.

We would like to thank our class mothers for all they have done to make this such an incredible year. And we congratulate Kindergarten on all of their accomplishments. We wish you continued success in first grade. Have a happy and healthy summer.

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

The end of the first grade year is both a happy and a sad time for us. We are extremely PROUD of the progress the children have made in so many areas. However, we are sad to see them leave our rooms and to "give them over" to our wonderful second grade colleagues.

We want to thank you for all your help and cooperation throughout the school year. You have helped to make our careers even more rewarding and satisfying. During the summer months, continue to encourage your children to READ!!! READ!!! READ!!! and to practice and review all the addition and subtraction math facts up to 20 that were sent home during the school year.

It has been a pleasure working with your FANTASTIC children!!! Have a safe and happy summer!!!

**Mrs. Buchner/Mrs. Connell
Mrs. Hunter
Grade 2**

Where did this year go? It seems such a short time ago we welcomed your children into their new classrooms. They have grown in so many ways, and we are proud of each and every one of them.

As we reflect on their journey, we see that they have become independent, confident learners. They have found favorite authors, poets, and enjoy journal writing each day. Over the summer, please encourage your child to continue to read daily, keep a summer/vacation journal and write, write, write!

We would like to thank our parents for all your help and cooperation throughout the school year. You have helped your children in setting up goals, and teaching them that hard work and perseverance pay off! We would also especially like to thank our class mothers. What a wonderful job you did, we so appreciate all your tireless efforts with your busy schedules.

Have a wonderful, safe summer and we will all see you in September!

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

The year sailed by. It's wonderful to see the growth each child has made. Please keep your child reading, writing and working on math over the summer vacation. Our book club was once again a big success. We completed six novels!

In social studies we concluded our study of Samantha Learns a Lesson. The story takes place in 1904, and it was a time of progress with many inventions. Students went on-line using lap tops to create a time line of inventions from 1875-1925. They also shared essays about modern inventions that have made a difference. The trip to the Ballantine Mansion at the Newark Museum was a success.

Students have learned a great deal about reading, interpreting, and solving math word problems this year. Our end-of-the-year assessment confirmed this for us. Although not everyone computes with equal accuracy, nearly everyone demonstrated excellent problem solving skills.

In novel study the class finished reading Sarah, Plain and Tall and did their last presentations. The students enjoyed reading all the novels and had fun reading aloud taking the part of the various characters. We had a good year reading!

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

On June 5th, the fourth graders experienced Antiquities Day. As they rotated through the three homerooms they did a different project. The fourth graders each hand built an Egyptian pyramid, and with their extra modeling clay they cleverly built sarcophaguses and mummies. They created beautiful paper mosaics, an art form of both the Romans and the Greeks, and they colored a stained glass Egyptian picture which will look very rich and genuine when hung in a window. The students also ate Egyptian bread, made just as they made it along the Nile 5000 years ago. Our ovens and kitchens are just a bit different. The students ate pomegranate seeds, dates, figs, raisins, cucumber, and a favorite Egyptian Palace bread, which is bread soaked in honey and baked. They enjoyed the display of beans, peas, wheat, lettuce, and leeks. They feasted their eyes on an Egyptian collage and a chart about pomegranates both done by former students.

A good time was had by all as we culminated our studies of these fascinating, ancient civilizations.

A special **Thank you** to our Room Moms, who became our Egyptian shoppers, cooks, and helped with our special day.

The fourth grade classes have culminated their study of realistic fiction. Their own realistic fiction stories were displayed during the final Writer's Celebration for the year, which was held in the Oak Hill Library on Friday, June 8th. Students showcased their own hardcover stories which also featured a copyright information page, a dedication page, and an about the author strip with their picture. Students were challenged during the immersion and study phases of realistic fiction, to understand how authors show movement of time in stories, by either a change in setting or a change in character. Moreover, students used dialogue to develop their characters and move the story along. The idea of real kids, with real problems, having real solutions, was at the heart of our realistic fiction study. Some budding authors have been started onto a very successful path of story writing!! These books are a treasure chest of memories in our fun filled days of fourth grade writer's workshop. Happy reading and future writing.

The English classes finished up their grammar studies with adverbs and prepositions. We now can take apart sentences word by word, naming their part of speech. We compiled all of our original poetry into personal poetry books which were on display and shared at the final Writer's Celebration. We were very happy to see our poetry printed in *Early Reflections*.

On June 11th, we had a very special field trip to Ramanessin Brook in Holmdel. We went with Miss Murray to hunt for sharks' teeth! The day was sunny and warm, while the creek flowed quickly making for a perfect day. Our sights were set to find the 25 million year old fossil shark's teeth and most of us were very successful. We thank Mr. Bruckmann and Mrs. Vacca for accompanying us on the trip. **Miss Murray, we had a phenomenal time. Thank you. Thank YOU!**

We want to give a very special thank you to our Room Mothers. We want to thank: Mrs. Casey, Mrs. De Stefano, Mrs. Feiler, Mrs. Giamanco, Mrs. Gorski, Mrs. Hodges, Mrs. Thompson, and Mrs. Trujillo. Thank you for our parties, especially the one at the end of this year. Thank you for helping us have a

successful Heritage Day, NJ Cake Day, and Antiquities Day. Thanks to any other parents who helped us have a wonderful year. Everyone, enjoy a wonderful and restful summer.

Mrs. Reago/Mrs. Bordiuk
Lower School PE

The last marking period in PE has been very eventful. We had our Jump Rope Award assembly where the lower school children did a fine job receiving about 400 certificates for showing good jump rope skills. Also the following 4th graders received trophies for completing the top jump rope clubs. Abby Cieri received the highest jump rope award passing the gold club. Passing the Silver, Morgan Feiler, Sophia Littman, and Erin Gilfillan.

Our Jump Rope program starts in first grade and continues until the 4th grade. Students begin in the Green Club where they must pass 18 beginner skills. After they have finished Green they move on to the Yellow Club where they must pass 20 basic jump rope skills. Then they proceed to the Red Club where they must pass 21 advanced skills. The Blue Club follows where they must pass another 21 advanced skills. Then they go on to the Silver Club where they must pass 13 partner tricks with a short rope. The Gold Club is the last one, where they must pass 14 advanced long jump rope and double long rope skills. At the beginning of each year the students start off where they left off the previous year. Certificates are awarded for completing a club and trophies are awarded for completing Silver & Gold Clubs.

Field Day was a great success and fun was had by all. Many thanks to the parents who did such a great job running the events and serving refreshments and lunch. I am sure your children were very proud of you. I appreciate your help and am very thankful for it.

The lower school PE students are also to be congratulated for the over 500 awards that were handed out during the Lower School Athletic Awards Assembly. The Field Day and Presidential Challenge Awards were presented along with the jump rope awards.

Mrs. Cahalane
Lower School Science

The Pre-K students completed a unit on astronomy. Students learned about the planets in our solar system and then made rockets to take them on an imaginary trip.

Students in Kindergarten have been doing temperature experiments in science lab. They created their own thermometers using straws and clay. The Kindergarten students then completed a unit on boats and buoyancy. Everyone created their own boat and predicted the number of marbles it would hold, and then tested those predictions.

First graders learned about the states of matter: solids, liquids, and gases. They did chemistry experiments using many different solids and liquids.

Students in second grade learned about Forensic Science and they solved The Case of the Mysterious Birthday Cake. They learned how to do chromatography and analyzed mystery powders to solve the crime.

Third graders learned about dactylography and Forensic Science as well. They solved The Mystery of the Super Science Company.

The students in fourth grade completed a unit on invertebrates. An estimated 97% of all species alive today are invertebrates. Every student completed a report on an invertebrate and made a 3-dimensional model of their invertebrate. The students enjoyed learning about the most abundant animals on Earth!

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

We concluded this year's unit on "Hang Son Doong" located in Viet Nam and is the largest cave in the world. It was first discovered in 1991 by locals and then in 2009 by Howard and Deb Limbert while on vacation. On the iPads students were able to take a virtual tour of this magnificent cave that has waterfalls, a river, jungle and even clouds. Within the cave you can see a green maze, stalactites and stalagmites, rock pearls, and a lot of vegetation, and including what the locals call "The Great Wall of Vietnam."

I also challenged the students with a Quizlet on China, thanks to Madame Simon who set up this excellent and fun way to quiz students on a unit. A timed matching word game called "Scatter" had the 3rd and 4th graders competing with

each other. As always, I enjoy working with all the students in all these grades as each level absorbs the information that they can process at their age. Thanks again to all the families for encouraging their child to bring in items to earn those important "tiny bucks" and making another Littleton Day so successful. I want to wish all our OHA families a happy and safe summer!

Mme Koar
Lower School French

The first grade French classes concluded with a familiar story, La Chenille Qui a Très Faim, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". We learned some new food vocabulary and reviewed colors and numbers in the story. We also know why French people only eat one egg for breakfast - because "one egg" is "un oeuf". There are many excellent songs and games for reviewing basic vocabulary which can be found online: toolsforlanguage.com/french-language-powerpoint-exercises.html www.languageguide.org/french/

There are also some I-Pad Apps the students are familiar with from class if they are looking for some additional practice over the summer months. *Frenchie Teachie* is an interactive vocabulary game which can be used to review numbers, colors, animals, transportation and more.

Some additional I-Pad apps for French: *T'choupi joue avec les couleurs.*

La Ferme

First Words: Animals

Memo animaux.

Have fun and enjoy your summer vacances.

The second grade French class enjoyed many games and songs during the year but our favorite song remained, "Salut! rap" by John De Mado. It can be heard on Youtube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBoJrn9qf_mM). Our theme for the year was the calendar and greetings. If your child wants to review over the summer months, many of the I-pad Apps and websites above will be helpful. Thank you for a great year.

The third grade completed several pages of their Dictionnaire, which they can take onto fourth grade. The songs they will probably most remember from French class are, "Je suis une pizza", by Charlotte Diamond, and "J'ai faim, J'ai soif", by Alain Le Lait. Both can be heard and viewed on Youtube. Thank you for a great year, and enjoy your summer vacation.

Mme Simon
Grade 4 French

In the fourth grade this year, we covered a lot of topics such as greetings, the weather, prepositions, food, conversation in a restaurant and the reading of the Three Bears (The "Flip video" movie will be sent to the parents). We also enjoyed playing games on the iPad such as the App "Frenchie Teachie". The song " Mon sac à dos" was also one our favorites with its very catchy tune. This song is actually posted on the website. [Http://ohamadamesimon.weebly.com](http://ohamadamesimon.weebly.com)

It has been a great year and I feel that we have accomplished quite a lot. It was a pleasure having you in my class and I look forward to teaching you in the 5th grade. Bonnes vacances (Have a great summer !).

Mrs. Juska
Upper School Guidance

Five Free and Easy Tips for Summer Learning

By Brenda McLaughlin and Jane Voorhees Sharp

(from
<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/3487/>)

Research about how much children lose ground over the summer is well documented. Harris Cooper of Duke University notes, "Overall, children experience an average summer learning loss across reading and mathematics of about one month" (1996).

The thing is, though, kids do not have to lose over the summer. In fact, you can encourage your child to have a summer of fun *and* learning with these five free and easy things to do. Try them out!

1. Read Every Day
The Research

At the middle school level, reading four to five books over the summer has a positive impact on fall reading achievement comparable to attending summer school (Kim, 2004).

Suggestions

Take your kids to the library often and let them choose which books to check out. Listen to books on tape. Subscribe them to a magazine. Take turns reading to each other. Allow your kids to stay up a half hour later at night as long as they're reading.

2. Use Math Every Day
The Research

The largest summer learning losses for all children occur in mathematical computation, an average of 2.6 months (Cooper, 1996).

Suggestions

Practice the multiplication tables by making each point in a basketball game worth 7 points (or 8 or 9). Ask your kids to make change at the drive-thru. Show your child how to go to [Cool Math](#) to play math games. Make up math word problems in the car and at the dinner table.

3. Get Outside and Play
The Research

Intense physical activity programs have positive effects on academic achievement, including increased concentration; improved mathematics, reading, and writing test scores; and reduced disruptive behavior (Journal of School Health 1997).

Suggestions

Find ways to ensure your child is active for 60 minutes each day. Have him or her walk the neighbor's dog, go swimming, play badminton or soccer, take walks, or go for family bike rides. Look for safe, fun ways to play outside together year-round. Go to [Family Corner Magazine](#) and [PBS Parents](#) for more ideas.

4. Write Every Week
The Research

More freshmen entering degree-granting postsecondary institutions take remedial writing courses than take remedial reading courses (NCES 2003).

Suggestions

Ask your child to write a weekly letter to his or her grandparents, relatives, or friends. Encourage him to keep a summer journal. Have her write the family's grocery list. Organize a secret pal writing project for adults and kids at your church or in your community.

5. Do a Good Deed
The Research

Students learn better and "act out" less when they engage in activities to aid in their social-emotional development, such as community service (The Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning, 2004).

Suggestions

Encourage your child to help neighbors or friends. He or she can volunteer with a local group or complete a service-learning project. Suggest that your child set aside part of his allowance for charity. Look at Nickelodeon's [Big Help](#) web site together for more ideas.

Mrs. O'Connor
Grade 5 Literature/LA

It was a pleasure working with all of the fifth graders this year. Thank you to all the parents for being part of the team that enabled your children to be so successful this term.

I would like to wish you all a healthy, happy summer. Good luck in sixth grade!

Mrs. Daly/Mrs. Juska
Grades 5 Reading

The fifth graders have finished their first year in the Upper School! Time went by so quickly!

During the last marking period, students finished our third novel study, [The Borrowers](#). The classes enjoyed this timeless story of a miniature family who live under the floorboards in an English manor home. The novel introduced the students to many words, like harpsichord and spinney, which are no longer in practice. The classes loved the novel.

Students did well on their Big Tests! Enjoy the summer. Thanks for a great year!

Mrs. Matson
Grades 5 & 6 Geography

5TH GRADERS, SAVE YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOKS!!!!

All Geography Students: Enjoy your summer vacation! If you travel, take pictures of the important sights, but also of things that are just different from our way of life. Be respectful; always ask for permission, first of your parents and then, if they approve, of the subject of your photo. Come and show them to me when you return.

5th Grade Geography: SAVE YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOK!!! Don't Forget! YOU WILL USE IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR!!! DON'T THROW IT OUT!!! You don't want to have to buy a new one; they are not cheap!

Sixth Grade Geography

I will miss you all! Good luck in U.S. History next year with Mrs. Mayer. I'd recommend keeping your Geography Book; it's always a good resource, or you can give it to a 5th or 6th grader for an extra book to keep at home.

Final warning: 5TH GRADE: SAVE YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOKS!!!!

Mr. Bruckmann
Grade 5 Math

This pace of this year has not let up as we find ourselves at the conclusion of another school year. Our Math class was full steam ahead during this final marking period as we finished chapter 9 and touched on area and 3 dimensional figures in chapter 10. Chapter 9 brought with it some newer topics and a break from the last few chapters, and that was geometry. The students investigated different types of angles and used protractors and compasses to measure, construct and bisect angles of all types. They also used their skills to draw lines of symmetry in dealing with all types of two-dimensional figures. Chapter 10 brought three dimensional figures into the mix as well.

I want to thank my class for a truly great year. They showed tremendous enthusiasm up until the last day, and it was a pleasure and highlight for me to be with them during fourth period every day. Have a great summer. I wish the best of luck to those moving on to new and exciting chapters in their lives.

Mrs. Vacca/Dr. Kuyat
Grade 5 Math Workshop

Students continued with their weekly 5 minute warm-up and then on to some fun projects. "A day at the movies" was a fun activity to conclude this class. As groups, or tables as a family, students went to Fandango.com, chose a movie (PG) of course, selected a time and then calculated the cost for tickets, including senior citizen prices. Students then checked out the snack bar where numerous food/beverage items were selected. Once again prices were calculated. AMAZINGLY, the students realized how costly it is to go to the movies. Once again, math skills were used in practical situations, and without the use of a calculator. Bonus points were calculated from the last two marking periods and a dress down day was awarded last week.

Mrs. Cotterell
Grades 5 – 8 Math

Grade 5 Math

We finished the entire book without a day to spare! The students completed the year by learning how to solve one step and two step algebraic equations and graph linear equations. I showed them the same method that the high schools use so they will not have to re-learn the concept. The last chapter focused on probability. This is always a fun area to explore since the students are able to

relate what we are discussing to carnival or boardwalk games.

The students remained focused right until the end. The transition to the upper school is not easy. The students did remarkably well. Thank you for providing a strong support system at home. It was a privilege to teach your children this year. I wish you a happy and healthy summer.

Grade 6 Math

I am very reluctantly letting this group of students go!! I will miss my 6th graders as they take their next step in math. It has been a pleasure teaching them. We finished the year by learning lots of new topics including areas in probability called permutations and combinations. These concepts are often not taught in the normal 6th grade because they are such high level topics.

The students have developed very good work habits and are enthusiastic about learning new concepts. In addition to completing the entire book, we supplemented the textbook by working through a variety of SAT questions. The students were always very enthusiastic about solving these sometimes challenging problems.

Thank you for your support at home. It was truly an honor to teach these fine young students. I wish you and your family a happy and healthy summer.

Grade 7 Glencoe

We spent the majority of the last marking period on Chapter 8. This was the students' first real taste of full blown algebra. While the students have used variables and solved algebraic equations before, this was the first time they solved quadratic equations and systems of equations. These are not easy and require a lot of effort. Both of these concepts will be revisited next year regardless of what class they are placed into. Presumably, next year the concepts will be easier since it will be their second time seeing them.

The students worked at a steady pace all year. We worked through 9 chapters of the book with a side trip to some probability concepts as well. The goal this year was to fill gaps and help strengthen the foundation.

It has been a pleasure working with the students. I hope you have a healthy and happy summer.

Introduction to Algebra

We finished off the year working through various Algebra 1 concepts including slope, slope intercept form, solving for the x and y intercepts and systems of equations. These were not easy and sometimes frustrating for the students to get through. I often spoke to the students about the need to put forth greater effort since these concepts are not as straightforward as many of the other concepts they learned this year. They will see these again next year. Hopefully, the topics will be easier the second time around!

I wish all of my eighth graders much success as they take their next step in their academic journey. May you enjoy a happy and healthy summer.

Mrs. Schroeter
Grade 5 Science

Fifth graders began the study of human biology with the study of the skeletal and muscular systems, followed by a unit on digestion and nutrition. After learning about the six nutrients that we ingest (carbohydrates, proteins, fats, minerals, vitamins, and water), the students did a project concerning the reading of food labels. For practice, everyone was given cereal labels to analyze for the amounts of the nutrients included. Now your child should be able to help you read the labels for the healthiest choices while food shopping. The chapter of work continued with the following of the food you eat as it passes through the digestive tract. The accessory organs of digestion (those not in the food pathway) were also discussed. The first lab for the chapter illustrated the importance of chewing food thoroughly so that more surface area of the food is exposed to the digestive juices and enzymes. Food chemistry was the final lab in the study of digestion (and the school year). Chemical testing was performed on the nutrients – starch, sugars, fats, proteins, and water – found in many different foods. The students especially enjoyed learning the use of the alcohol lamp while testing for simple sugars and observing the different colors formed depending on the amount of sugar (glucose) in the foods.

The school year has now ended, and I wish to thank the Fifth Grade class for a Super Science Year. Our class trips to the Tuckerton Seaport and the Liberty Science Center encouraged even more science learning and seemed to be enjoyed by all. It was a pleasure getting to know all of you and doing the many labs together.

Mrs. Grier/Mrs. Juska
Grade 5 Tech

Students presented their biographies of famous and significant people in ancient history. They presented in first person as though they were the people telling the audience about their lives, important events, and how they changed the course of history. Some of the people included Constantine, Xerxes, Cleopatra, Justinian, Confucius and others. We hope everyone has a lovely summer and continues to be curious about all things historical.

Mrs. Duffy
Grade 6 English/LA

The sixth grade English/LA students worked diligently to the very end of the school year. Before reviewing for exams, six graders explored the elements of fiction through the reading of engaging short stories such as Joan Aiken's "The Serial Garden," which leaves the reader cheering for Rudi to reunite with Princess Sophia Maria, his long-lost love, and Lensey Namioka's "Inn of Lost Time," which also has a surprising twist at the end. After the short story unit students managed to read and reflect on a smattering of poems, ranging in tone from those of the somewhat pessimistic A.E. Housman to those with the lightness and humor of Shel Silverstein.

In addition to their literature studies, the students also reviewed grammar and vocab lessons...both of which helped in the writing of the five-paragraph essay on saving the environment, which, in turn, completed the marking period and a jam-packed year of reading and writing... Now that the school year has ended, I hope the new "seventh" graders enjoy the summer and continue to read...not only their required reading...but also..."fun" reading.

Mrs. Daly
Grade 6 Reading

The sixth grade classes read so many interesting stories this year, while practicing their skills. Students studied sign language, Navajo Code Talkers and the secret codes, and amazing animal rescues. Through survivor memoirs and letters, students read about the World War II Kindertransport trains. Families living in Germany sent their children on trains headed for London. These remarkable stories of survival showed courage and perseverance, against all odds.

While improving comprehension skills, students studied heroes. Well-known people who have overcome tremendous obstacles included Jackie Robinson, Wilma Rudolph, Florence Nightingale, and John F. Kennedy. Students also finished our third novel study together, The Library Card. This story traces the journey of four strangers as they transform themselves through reading.

Thanks for a great year!

Mrs. Palamara
Grades 6 – 8 Math

Math 6 – Glencoe

This last marking period was a very busy one. We explored ratios, proportions and percents. After a survey of ratios, rates and proportions we applied the concept of proportion to geometric figures and scale drawings.

Percents were introduced as a kind of ratio and various problems were solved. We studied percents greater than 100% and less than 1%. We studied finding the percent of a number and explored the connection between percent and proportion.

We then explored some concepts of geometry including angles, characteristics of polygons, tessellations, translations and reflections. Applications included art with an emphasis on the work of Dutch artist, M.C. Escher. The students designed their own single tessellations and pattern tessellations constructed of their own colored and cut polygons.

As if this wasn't enough, we also explored the concept of area. The students learned to find and estimate square roots by relating the area of a square to the length of its side. They also learned to solve problems by guess and check and by using the Pythagorean Theorem. We wrapped up the marking period by finding the area of triangles, trapezoids, and circles.

Math 7 Gateways

These seventh graders have certainly expanded their mathematical horizons. They have taken the concrete into the abstract and have learned to interpret and solve multi-step problems. I continue to be amazed at how clever students can be if given the opportunity – and Gateways has given them plenty of opportunities.

Algebra

In this last marking period, the students learned to solve quadratic equations using square roots, graphing, and the quadratic formula. They evaluated and approximated square roots and simplified radical expressions. They moved on to sketching the graph of a quadratic function to find the x intercepts. They explored the quadratic formula to solve a quadratic equation.

We then moved on to our study of polynomials. They learned to add, subtract, and multiply polynomials and special products of polynomials. They learned to factor polynomials and to solve polynomial equations by factoring.

They also solved proportion problems and learned to add, subtract, multiply and divide rational expressions.

They are well prepared for a most successful freshman year. I wish them a most enjoyable and rewarding high school experience.

MATH IS FOR EVERYONE...
YOU CAN DO IT...
YOU'LL USE IT EVERYDAY!!!

Math Team

The OHA Math Team had a most successful 2011-2012 year. I am looking forward to developing another outstanding team for next year and bringing many awards back to OHA. We will have our first meeting during the first full week of school to start our preparation for the CBA Eighth Grade Math Contest which is open to both seventh and eighth graders. Perhaps we can bring home the "First Place" trophy again.

Mrs. Billet
Grades 6 & 7 Science

Grade 6

The sixth grade successfully completed their study of life science by concluding with the plant kingdom.

We dissected a complete flower, a tulip. Culmination came with the dissection of the frog. Most were amazed at seeing the organs they read about in books or saw on TV. From the biggest organ in the body, the liver, to the spleen, which looked like a tiny thread, the lesson was of great value.

Sixth graders had another successful year and then prepared for the last serious business of the year – the Big Test.

Have a safe and fun-filled summer vacation.

Grade 7

The seventh graders completed their physical science course by studying the elements and their names and families of the Periodic Table. We learned the four different types of chemical reactions and had contests balancing them. It was challenging, but we had some great results. The students did a fantastic job.

It was an awesome year. I wish you continued success in your science endeavors. I will miss you all. Good luck in the eighth grade!

National Science League Contest

Again this year our students in grades seven and eight took the National Science League Test designed by science and math teachers with teaching experience from elementary to college level.

Grade 7 was based on physical science, and grade 8 on general science. The multiple-choice questions in each test were based on factual knowledge as well as the students' understanding of scientific processes.

The top scorers for each test were presented with a certificate. The highest scorer in each group received a medal. The top scorers and medal winners were:

Seventh Grade

Medal Winner

1. Jacob Yatvitskiy

Certificate Winners

Gilbert Rashkovsky, Matthew Prince, Jasmine Shen, Roxanna Altus, Aneesha Doshi, Cameron Gruss, Sofia DiAntonio, Christian Corvisiero, AJ Niedermeyer

Eighth Grade

Medal Winner

1. Richard Soler

Certificate Winners

Victoria Momyer, Tim Scafaria, Nikita Mikkilineni, Julie Sumski, Gaurav Singh, Max Kelly, Anshul Agrawal, Mansi Pandya, Sela Britton

Mrs. Vacca

Grade 6 Math Workshop

Students just finished presenting their final project: Radio/DJ's where teamwork and time management were essential components in this project. Groups had to organize their musical selections, weather, and public announcements and put them into a script. It was a five minute presentation of which three minutes of music and two minutes of information had to be put together

following a specific schedule. The presentations were graded on organization, information, musical selections, entertaining and group effort. It was definitely a fun time and a lesson in time management. I enjoyed working with all my sixth graders this year. You are all such hard workers. I want to wish everyone a happy, fun, and safe summer.

Señora Dotto **Grades 6, 7 & 8**

Grade 6

This marking period, the sixth grade students have been immersed in learning a lot of grammar. We have continued the study of the verb "gustar" with indirect object pronouns and how to clarify. This is a very hard concept to understand and apply but students have mastered it. Also, they learned the verbs "ver" (to see), "saber" (to know), the conjugation of over 15 er- regular verbs, how to use the preposition "de" to express possession and the geography, history and culture of Puerto Rico.

I want to take this opportunity to let you know what a great pleasure it has been working with all of you these past few months. We have had a lot of fun and your enthusiasm has made my job easier. See you all in seventh grade!

SIXTH GRADERS: SAVE YOUR TEXTBOOK AND WORKBOOK FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.

Grade 7

In the 7th grade, we have progressed at a very nice pace. We have covered expressions and vocabulary about making plans, inviting someone to do something, body parts, the conjugation of over 15 er-regular verbs, the usage of the verb venir, decir, dar, along with irregular first person verbs such as: traer, poner, salir, hacer, ver and saber. The students have also learned the geography, history, and culture of Costa Rica.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful, safe, and restful summer.

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

Grade 8

During the sixth marking period, the 8th grade students continued building vocabulary on food items and worked on the usage of direct object pronouns. Also, they mastered the present progressive with -ar, -er, and -ir regular

verbs and completed reading the novel Pobre Ana which they enjoyed very much and acquired a lot of vocabulary and expressions. Furthermore, the students have learned the geography, history, and culture of Argentina.

Since last marking period, the eighth graders have been working very hard to complete their assignment for El Cinco de Mayo celebration. This year's theme was poets of Spanish speaking countries. The poets we chose were Federico García Lorca and Fray Luís de León from Spain, José Martí from Cuba, Octavio Paz from Mexico, Pablo Neruda from Chile and Rubén Darío from Nicaragua. Each group of students researched their assigned poet biography and chose one of their famous poems. On the day of the celebration, students read their poets' biography, recited each poem in English and Spanish to the audience (faculty, administration and 7th grade students) and simultaneously showed photos slide related to each poem.

Furthermore, we had a salsa contest. Each and every student worked for weeks to create his or her perfect salsa and on the day of the contest, we invited all the Oak Hill Academy staff, administration, and our seventh grade students to be the judges. Well, as always our judges enjoyed the salsa tasting and had a difficult time choosing the one they liked the most. Congratulations to all of you for a job well done.

And now to the graduating class of 2012.....

"I hope your dreams take you...to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities, and to the most special place your heart has ever know." Author Unknown

I wish you well; it's been a pleasure to have known you and a great privilege having been your teacher.

¡Muchas Felicidades!

Mrs. Tirella/Mrs. Duffy **Grade 7 LA/Literature**

We have accomplished so many things this year in seventh grade Literature and Language Arts. Our writing samples have included such a variety, ranging from poetry, to literature-based essays, to innovative journal writing, to our Red, White, and Blue compositions on community service and improving our communities.

We have certainly tapped our creative juices in writing, strengthened our reading skills, and increased our vocabulary and knowledge of grammar.

We would like to take this time to wish you all a wonderful and restful summer. Travel the world and expand your horizons through the enjoyment of READING!

Mrs. Daly/Mrs. Juska
Grade 8 Critical Reading

The eighth grades completed their OHA comprehension studies in a variety of ways. Classes studied timely stories involving heroism, courage, and cleverness. Famous author biographies, word origins, National Parks, and the recent tornadoes were some of the topics studied. Mass media and its effects on varied demographics sparked much class discussion and debate. The classes prepared well for their finals.

It has been a privilege sharing our afternoons with each of you. Good luck in high school!

Mrs. Mayer
Grades 7 & 8 History

The seventh grade had a strong finish to a great year. Congratulations on an excellent History Fair!!! I am extremely proud of everyone's hard work. In the final marking period we studied and analyzed our U.S. Constitution. Students were surprised to discover that this "living document" is still heavily debated about today. This motivated them to seek out Supreme Court cases that affect our laws and human rights presently. We also started to learn about how our country began to unite after this critical time in history, and started to enjoy an "era of good feelings". I am looking forward to an interesting and challenging year, when they return as eighth graders.

The eighth grade had a busy close to a wonderful year, especially an excellent History Fair! During the final marking period the class focused heavily on current events and global conflicts. Students used our laptops to explore information and write papers on an array of interesting topics that shaped the lives of their parents, as well as themselves. Students were excited to explore topics independently and write about them. Subjects such as the Vietnam War, The Civil Rights Movement, and the Cold War really helped students understand the world we live in today. I am confident they will all perform extremely well in high school and I will certainly miss them!

Mrs. Vacca/ Mrs. Juska
Grade 7 Explorations

In keeping with the "history theme," students were taken back in time to Revolutions around the world. Some revolutions were peaceful like "**The Salt Marsh**" and then there were others that were more violent; from the French revolution in 1789, to the Russian revolution in 1917, the Egyptian revolution of 1952, along with the Cuban revolution of 1952-1959, the Nicaraguan one of 1979 and the Polish revolution of 1989, and a more recent one, the Baltic States revolution in 1991. Questions had to be answered as to who was in government, what was the revolution about, what tactics were used and how did the revolution change the government? Was it successful and why? Primary and secondary sources were a must. Some were direct quotes from leaders, while others were actual audio or video clips. Not only did this project cover the globe, but also gave a perspective of numerous countries and what conflicts there were within their countries' governments and the people. Research and presentations were all informative and interesting, with wonderful pictures and great transitions through the use of the ipads.

Dr. Kuyat
Grades 7 & 8 Latin

This final marking period in Latin, we introduced one of the trickier components of Latin grammar and syntax, not from a conceptual standpoint, but from the very practical perspective of making sure we know what nouns our adjectives are modifying.

There are two kinds of Latin adjectives (those that use 1st / 2nd Declension Endings & those that use slightly modified 3rd Declension Endings). The challenge arises when nouns of the 1st or 2nd Declension are being modified by adjectives that use 3rd Declension Endings and when 3rd Declension Nouns are being modified by 1st/3rd Declension Adjectives. To gain complete familiarity with this feature of the Latin language requires simple practice over time.

In addition, we introduced the third of six Latin tenses—the perfect tense, comparable to our past tense as well as our present perfect tense. While we ended the year with some material which, in my experience, has always caused a certain degree of frustration in students (there is no comparable component to any other language I am aware of outside of ancient Greek), it is good that

we have begun to cross this bridge in advance of next year.

As we begin next year, our readings will have a variety of different adjective-nouns combinations through which students will eventually grow more comfortable with the language. We are right on track to begin *Ecce Romani II* at least by the beginning of 2013.

The seventh graders rose to the challenge of their study of Latin. As we do more readings, not only about the Corneli family, but other readings (mythological and cultural) written in Latin, they will all have a greater feeling of ownership over the subject that naturally still feels overwhelming for some. Next year we will be doing much more with mythology (I may even opt to have our students take the National Mythology Exam), including a reading of the story of Aeneas, the legendary Trojan hero who escapes from Troy to found what would become the city of Rome.

In eighth grade Latin we spent the majority of time during the final marking period in doing more reading of the language in order to gain greater familiarity with Latin, not as a plethora of charts and endings to be memorized or even a multitude of short grammatically - focused sentences, but as a language for expressing ideas. Grammatically speaking, we have covered all that is typical in a Latin I curriculum and then some, having completed the basic features of the language apart from the subjunctive mood. It is interesting that many of the students, who are not always able to give a complete conjugation or synopsis of a verb or declension of a noun, still have an above average ability to translate Latin sentences and to comprehend what they are reading. This is the point of any language—the study of grammar and syntax in order to be competent readers and writers of the language.

I am very proud of the way that this eighth grade did not give up when the material grew more difficult. Most of all, they retained a respect for learning and an appreciation of Latin as a subject. I hope that even those who do not pursue Latin in the future will find a Latin root here or there in an unknown English word and be able to ascertain the meaning. Maybe with a smile and a fond memory.

Enjoy your futures. Even the Stoic philosopher Seneca knew how important having fun can be when he stated that "Joy is a serious matter" *Gaudium severa res est*. And as Aeolus god of the winds said to Juno, I say to you: It is your work to find out what you want (in life)!" *Tuus quid optesexplorare labor!*

Mrs. Williams
Grade 8 Language Arts/Literature

In eighth grade Language Arts, students completed their research project. The goal of the project was to give students the skills needed to complete high school research papers. Students worked diligently throughout the research process and presented comprehensive informative history based papers. In addition, students continued their study of vocabulary, while concluding the Grammar unit: *Clauses*.

In Literature, students finished reading the novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Over the course of the book, students worked cooperatively to discuss comprehension and critical thinking questions. Furthermore, students examined point of view by imagining how each character would react to specific situations. They also identified various cause and effect relationships within the context of the story and identified the moods of various events. As a culmination activity, students watched the Oscar Award winning movie which was based on the novel. The eighth grade worked hard this year. I wish them the best of luck in high school and all of their future endeavors.

Mrs. Schroeter
Grade 8 Science

The eighth grade continued the unit on geologic time by studying the Geologic Time Scale, Early Earth, and the Eras of Earth's History. While learning about the first gases on Earth, the students made three of these gases – hydrogen, carbon dioxide, and oxygen – in the lab. The shrill popping of hydrogen gas was a thrill for all. Determining absolute age of igneous rocks by a model of radioactive decay of elements was another lab in this unit. The chapter on Geologic Time was concluded with an open book test on the material covered.

The final chapter of the year – Mapping Earth's Surface – was a review of many topics covered in fifth grade geography. The lessons covered were Exploring Earth's Surface, Models of Earth, and Topographic Maps. This included the identification of the major landscape regions of the United States, models of

Earth (maps, globes, latitude and longitude, and time zones), and reading and making topographic maps (a new skill). Hopefully, this unit will be helpful in World History in ninth grade.

Now the eighth graders have completed their study of Earth Science. Thank you for your hard work in class and also in your preparation for the National Science League Test (in which you achieved Tenth Place in the United States) as well as the tests at MAST! Hopefully, the four years of lab science at OHA have prepared you for your high school science classes. Good Luck to all and enjoy the larger world ahead!!

Mrs. Larkins
Grade 8 Math Workshop

Congratulations to all our winners in our fantasy baseball project: 1st Place, Team Destruction – Matt Cuttle and Jonah Haskin; 2nd Place, Double A's – Alex Kelly and Julie Sumski; 3rd Place, H. Johan – Rohan Sachev and H. John Coniaris. Hopefully, I was able to pass on a little bit of my love for baseball (and statistics!)

My two day per week students managed to complete many mini-projects while they were also doing the baseball project. For instance, they investigated the concept of slope and how it applies to our campus. They measured various steps and ramps around Oak Hill and calculated the slopes of each. These students also worked on warm-ups to the bitter end and enjoyed competing in our trivia games.

It was an honor to teach the eighth graders. Stop by and visit anytime!

Mr. Pacelli
Algebra I – An Integrated Approach

We have had a wonderful year! We finished all 12 chapters of our book ending with algebraic fractions and quadratic equations. We also had time to examine 3-D, complex numbers and some trigonometry. I feel that we are all now ready for high school math.

Mrs. Vacca
Grade 8 Explorations

This final marking period these students were given the opportunity to become travel agents. They first selected a location and then had to book flights, hotel accommodations, research points of interest and landmarks, and recreational activities. Prior to their departure, students needed to find out if there were any travel restrictions or

specific inoculations needed before their trip and what is the main language spoken there.

Using the iPads for research and presentation, we were taken to such locations as Panama, The Congo, Abu Dhabi, and Bulgaria. All power point presentations were interesting, informative, colorful, with great transitions and very inviting. Perhaps some of these trips will become a reality.

I truly enjoyed working with these students as they perfected their presentations each marking period. They were diligent workers, eager to research, and anxious to present. I want to wish them much continued success in all their endeavors.

Mme Simon
Upper School French

Grade 5
In the fifth grade, the students have made excellent progress regarding vocabulary, grammar and conversation. We covered 3 chapters in our book and the students learned vocabulary regarding the daily activities of a middle school student. I am impressed by the improvement of the students regarding their pronunciation.

The "WEEBLY" website has been very helpful for the review prior to quizzes and assessments. The "QUIZLETS" posted on the website are really helpful and offer many possibilities to reinforce the material learned in class. [Http://ohamadamesimon.weebly.com](http://ohamadamesimon.weebly.com)
Once in a while we were able to practice on QUIZLETS with the iPad to reinforce the material.
It was a pleasure having you in my class.
Bonnes vacances !

Grade 7
What a fun semester! We have done so many activities with the seventh graders. We studied grammar, vocabulary and culture. The students made a really smooth transition from the Spanish class. Students memorized dialogs and their pronunciation is excellent.

The highlight of our class was our Pen-Pal program with our 2 friends in Brittany, France, Astrid and Constance. There was an article about the program in a local magazine called "The Journal - Navesink Edition". On the last day of school, we called the girls in France. This program has made the learning of the French language more personal, and I have seen the interest heightened. Check the article on my website.

The website has been useful since the power point presentation and the Quizlets have made the review much easier for the students.

It was a pleasure to have you all in my class and I wish you a very good summer. EXCELLENT TRAVAIL

5th graders and 7th graders:
PLEASE KEEP YOUR FRENCH BOOKS FOR NEXT YEAR

Grade 8

What a wonderful year !As a French teacher who strongly believes in teaching grammar and verbs in order to communicate, I am very happy because the eight graders have mastered the skills of future and past tense (passé composé). This tense is a very difficult tense because of its complexity and the students are now able to use it in conversations when relating to past events.

We have learned a lot and had some fun too. I feel that you are very well prepared for high school and congratulations to the students who are placed in French 2, French 2 Honors and French 3.

To the class of 2012, I wish you all the very best in high school . I has been a real pleasure teaching you all and I will sincerely miss you. FÉLICITATIONS À TOUS AND BONNE CHANCE.

Mr. Bruckmann/Mrs. Bordiuk Upper School PE

The sixth marking period brought with it some opportunities for the classes to move outdoors more often and enjoy the fresh air of spring. The classes were engaged in some wiffleball and kickball to prepare for field day both indoors and outdoors. We also played a little lacrosse and ultimate Frisbee in some classes.

Most of the eighth grade swimming classes also performed our annual synchronized swimming routines as well as learning to make flotation devices out of our clothing. This year's class did a nice job with presentation and choreography, but most importantly seemed to have a lot of fun participating.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!! Stay active and to those students returning, we'll see you in September. To those moving on, we wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Mrs. Griller/Computer

Another year has come to an end and once again it is bitter sweet. The year ended with some fun projects in computer class. The first grade ended the year by creating animated slide shows, geometric pictures and picture magnets in Kidpix. The second graders used the Internet to research about President Obama and created an information wheel about him. While in the third grade kept practicing their typing skills through lessons and games in Mavis Beacon and used Kidspiration to make charts about what it takes to be a good person. The fourth grade students presented PowerPoint presentations about the great state of New Jersey.

In the fifth grade students worked together to create a calendar that displayed various holidays around the world and made a holiday card for someone special. The seventh grade students worked in Scratch to create animated stories; while the seventh graders made games using Game Maker. In eighth grade they completed development in Microsoft Access. They are able to create a database of information, program a front end screen for data entry, write a query to pull out certain information from the database and write a report of the data collected. I wish all of our OHA families a safe and fun filled summer!

Miss DiMaggio/Art

First grade drew self portraits while learning about facial proportions. They also studied Neo-Pop artist Romero Britto and created patterned work based on his colorful style.

Second grade painted spring trees on blue paper using tempera paint. They used foam sheets to imprint their drawing and print them on paper using printing ink.

Third grade studied Impressionist painter Claude Monet and using tempera paint painted a Monet inspired piece. Some classes also worked with patterns based on artist Romero Britto to create a very colorful project.

Fourth grade studied artist Paul Gauguin and painted a spring scene. They went outside and drew, while focusing on texture, composition and value.

Fifth grade studied Pop artist Andy Warhol and created a repetitive piece based on color. Using distorted #2 Pencils they drew objects using only #2 pencils. Using rulers and shapes they

created a checkerboard Op art piece and one of the classes made it outside to draw.

Sixth grade used glitter, sequins, paint and tissue paper to create colorful fish. They made Silhouette Self-Portraits out of watercolor and black paper and using a variety of shapes and colors they created a Henry Matisse Cut-Out based project.

Seventh grade using one color and all the different tints and shades of that color created Monochromatic Names in mixed medium. Using watercolor and sharpie they drew the silhouette of a tree. They did outdoor drawing while considering composition, value, texture and movement. They tried a new project where they drew a bird, outlined it in black glue (Elmer's glue mixed with black tempera paint); when the glue was dry they filled it in with watercolor.

Eighth grade used sculpey clay to make pens. They learned how to use hatching, cross hatching and stippling to create different values while drawing their still life. They used cut up magazines to create a picture and used chalk and black paint to create silhouetted animals.

All grades worked on this year's still life which was a "Gym Scene." Depending on the grade, they colored with colored pencils, crayons, watercolor pencils, sharpie, watercolor, black pen (hatching and cross hatching) or pencil shading.

This year was an excellent year in art and I look forward to another year with even more fun and exciting new projects.

Thank you again to all of the families who made it to the Monmouth Day Care Center's ice cream social! OHA had the most winners published in the newspaper this year. I am so proud to teach such talented students.

Mrs. Tyma/Music

How delighted I was to be able to showcase at the Awards Assemblies and the Grandparents/Special Relative Day the outstanding musicianship of the Oak Hill Players, Music Makers and Chorus! These students' commitment to doing their very best was evident by their enthusiasm and hard work as they prepared the music (including rehearsals before school). Congratulations to all of these fine musicians on outstanding performances. My thanks go to Mrs. Pamela Momyer for giving of her time and talents as accompanist for the Chorus again this year.

There has been lots of singing, dancing, drumming and playing of barred instruments this spring in music classes!

The eighth grade classes tried their hand at improvisation in the Blues style. This precursor to Jazz had its beginnings in the early 20th century. By listening to a number of Blues artists of the past and present, we learned about the form, the harmonic progression, and melodic elements of the Blues. Then we were ready to try creating our own riffs and melodies. In addition, we discussed the origin and evolution of the Blues and its relationship to Jazz.

The seventh grade classes finished the year with a composition for the barred instruments written by the composer who designed these wonderful percussion instruments – Carl Orff. Written in the unusual meter of 9/8, this music is a challenge rhythmically. And with a fast tempo in a minor tonality, it is a surprise to the listener on multiple levels and broadens our musical experiences. In addition, we explored the music of several 20th century composers who found new ways to play traditional orchestral instruments (John Cage, Krzysztof Penderecki), who created new instruments that could play tones beyond the 12 tone range (Harry Partch) and who created new sounds using computers (Morton Subotnik).

The energy was high in the fourth grade classes as we finished learning the barred instrument accompaniment to the folk song *Paddy on the Railway* (a complex piece in compound meter with a two-chord harmonic progression). After learning a folk dance for the song, we experienced the fun of weaving together the song, dance and instrumental accompaniment, everyone taking his/her turn as a singer, dancer and instrumentalist. We finished the year learning a recorder piece in calypso style with a harmonic accompaniment on the barred instruments (a three chord progression). We created a contrasting section to the song by improvising on the bongos using syncopated rhythms that are common in calypso music. Please put recorders in a safe place for the summer. We will be using them in 5th grade.

The third graders are bringing home their recorders and music they learned. I hope they will entertain their families with their newly learned skill. As mentioned in the letter sent home with the recorders and folders, please keep them in a safe place since we'll be playing them again in the fall in fourth grade. We closed out the year listening to music that featured the woodwind family of orchestral

instruments and learning a song and an accompaniment for barred instruments that gave us a better understanding of and much practice with sixteenth notes.

The second graders explored simple meter while enjoying a song about the wind, creating an unpitched accompaniment for a poem in the B section. We also explored the brass and string instruments of the orchestra, which were brought to class to see up close, and then we listened to recordings featuring each one. We ended the year experiencing compound meter with an American folk song and dance.

The first grade classes learned how to read and write the rhythms that we've experienced in movement. We are reading rhythms of eighth notes (which we call *ta-te*) and quarter notes (which we call *ta*). We finished the year with a rousing American folk dance.

The Kindergarten classes loved playing the "big" instruments (the barred instruments) for the first time. We learned the names of each instrument, the proper mallet and playing technique and then explored the instruments through poetry and songs. Lots of steady beat games and songs kept our voices and rhythmic bodies growing musically.

The summer is upon us, and many of you have asked what you can do to keep your child growing musically during the days ahead. There are some excellent websites for children to explore. For younger children there are a number of sites created by the major orchestras in the country; try www.nyphilkids.org, www.sfskids.org, www.dsokids.com and www.pbs.org/jazz/kids. For older students try www.essentialsofmusic.com. Students in grades 3-8 will enjoy the New York Philharmonic site called *Kidzone* at www.nyphilkids.org/main.phtml. Also, www.playmusic.org leads one to a site that has an opportunity to hear music of the great composers with interactive video. There is something for everyone at www.classicsforkids.com. And many of these sites are linked to other terrific sites to explore. Have a wonderful vacation!

Mrs. DeVivo/ Drama

During our last weeks together, Kindergarten enjoyed making Letter People Puppets and putting on a puppet show. The Letter People Puppets introduced themselves, told the audience their likes and dislikes and then asked other Letter People to join them on stage in order to make words.

First grade students were introduced to Reader's Theatre. They read and acted out several scripts including *"How I Became a Pirate," "The Ugly Duckling," "The Enormous Turnip"* and *"The Shoemaker and the Elves."* After reading these scripts, the students enjoyed playing several drama games like *Who Started the Motion* and *Charades*.

Second grade students explored outer space in Drama this marking period. They read and acted out two plays entitled *"Neighbors in Space"* and *"Mission to the Moon."* In *"Neighbors in Space"*, each student got to play the part of a planet, star, sun or moon. In *"Mission to the Moon"* students learned about the events that took place before, during and after Apollo 11's historical journey.

Third grade enjoyed reading and acting out a variety of Reader's Theatre plays. The theme: mixed up fairy tales! Some titles included *"Once Upon a Hundred Year's Nap," "Two Pigs, a Wolf and a Mud Pie,"* and *"Cinderella Loses the Glass Slipper."* They also enjoyed playing charades and learning some new drama games such as *Bee Sting* which teaches the importance of eye contact, paying close attention to your peers and concentration when performing on stage.

Fourth grade participated in similar activities to the third grade. Their improvisation skills are building. They have learned that improv is fun, but hard! The students also acted out a play called *"Scribe School"* by Katherine Knoll, which tied into the unit they did on Egypt earlier in the year.

After completing their unit on William Shakespeare, The Globe Theatre, and *"Romeo and Juliet"*, the fifth grade and sixth grade students ended the year by writing and performing original puppet shows! Each show had a moral just as Aesop's fables do. Some morals include "look before you leap" and "don't judge a book by its cover," just to name a few. The characters were zany, the dialogue was funny, and everyone had a great time! The students also enjoyed playing a variety of Improv games like *WA!*, *Vampire*, *Improv Ball Toss*.

***Don't forget to sign up for **OHA Summer Stage Drama Camps!**

LIGHT'S UP: Putting on a Play!

June 25th-June 29th from 8:00-11:00.
Entering Grades 2nd-9th

BROADWAY BOUND

June 25th-June 29th from 11:00-12:30.
Entering Grades 1st-8th

Finally, have a wonderful summer and see a play! Movies are great, but live theater is magical and inspires the imagination!!

Mrs. Vacca Student Council

I would first like to thank all the families at Oak Hill Academy for their continued support for all of Student Council's Dress Down Days and other fund raising events. Without you, we could not continue to give back to the community and to the school.

I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. I would also like to thank all the families who purchased children's books at the Barnes and Noble Book Fair that were brought and donated to the Monmouth Day Care Center. On Monday, May 21st, Dr. Kuyat and I took 16 eighth grade students to the center to read and interact with all the children. It was such a joy to see our students reading and playing with the children. Everyone had a fun time. The center truly appreciates the time and donation of the books. Thanks again to Mrs. Corrigan for providing transportation to the Day Care Center.

During our school assembly on Thursday, June 7th, our student council members presented our gifts to the school. Our major purchase was the Mustang Mascot suit, of which Zachary Basile proudly displayed his school spirit at the Basketball games this year. We made the following monetary donations: \$500 to the Edward P. Felt Scholarship Fund, \$250 to the Chris Ferrara Foundation, and \$360 for the continued sponsorship of Kendy Louis at Danita's Orphanage. We also provided food and beverages for **Movie Day** for the 4-6th graders, the DJ and refreshments for the (3) dances for the 7th and 8th graders and Littletown Day rides and pretzel warmer for the lower school. This year we will purchase "DRY BAGS" which are waterproof bags that can be used for various class trips such as the 8th grade Canoe trip, 4th grade Shark's tooth trip, the Beach trip for the Pre-K and Kindergarten and the trip to Sandy Hook for 6th and 8th grade students.

Due to an extremely successful swim team this year, we purchased new names and record times plates to update the swim board. In April, we made a \$350 contribution to the Haiti Walk that was sponsored by the 1st Presbyterian Church. Lastly, Student Council members decided to donate \$300 for the purchasing of seedlings and plants for

the continued growth of the Green House.

The assembly also provided the opportunity for the newly elected Student Council officers and project coordinators to take the "***oath of office***". President-Cameron Gross, Vice President-Nicholas Visalia, Secretary- Josie Larkin's, Treasurer- Nicole Marinara and Project Coordinators- Roxanna Altus, Curly Bells, Sarah Berger, Sheryl Bhatt, Rebecca Carmeli-Peslak, Gabriella Chineza, Amanda DeStefano, Julianna DeStefano, Sofia DiAntonio, Aneesha Doshi, Ghillian Ferraiola, Julia Pardee, Gilbert Rashkovsky, Dana Schioppo, Travis Schuhardt, Jasmine Shen, and Jacob Yatvitskiy.

Dr. Kuyat and I enjoyed working with the past student council and thank them for all their hard work and dedication to the school. We now look forward to working with our new committee. We want to wish all our 8th graders a great beginning and continued success as they embark their new schools and new challenges come September. We want to wish all our OHA families a happy and safe summer.

IMPORTANT YEARBOOK NEWS

Mrs. Matson

The sticker inside the front cover of your yearbook will enable you to access the Oak Hill "REPLAYIT" page in July to view the color pictures in this year's yearbook and additional photos we have taken. These SHOULD include the 8th Grade Broadway Trip and Graduation Pictures that Mrs. Matson has taken. They SHOULD be available in early July. We are not sure, as this is a totally new feature over which we have no control.

The access code (numbers and letters) stamped on your sticker is your one time log in code. After you are on the site, you should be able to create your own password, and then you will then be able to log in all you want. Instructions are on the sticker and on the website. Unfortunately, we will not be able to advise you about it in advance. We will try to post any advice we discover, after we can access it, on the Oak Hill Website. If you have trouble:

- A. Take advantage of the website's help information.
- B. Check the Oak Hill Website.
- C. Only call the office as a last resort. The office will have to forward the request to Mrs. Matson, who will basically know less about computers than you do.

Lastly, if you can get into the site, you should be able to download pictures, which would really be nice for Eighth Grade Pictures. We offer apologies for the lack of more specific instructions. We have shared all the information the yearbook representative has received from the Replayit people.

ATHLETICS

Softball

Mrs. Porzio's team finished the season UNDEFEATED with a 7-0 record. They ended on a high note with a victory over the faculty, 4-2! The team improved throughout the season. There were a number of younger players on the team that gained valuable experience. The 8th graders lead the team with their play and leadership. The team had defeated Rumson Country Day 5-2 and 1-0. They also beat Ranney 3-0! Other wins included Calvary twice and Lavallette twice. Josie Larkins led the team with her pitching and hit 3 home runs this season! Hannah Nagy also pitched and hit well! Shannon Tormey, Anne Medlin, Alex Kelly, Sofia DiAntonio led the team with their hitting and fielding. We'll miss the following 8th graders: Alex Kelly, Anne Medlin and Shannon Tormey.

Tennis

UNDEFEATED!!! Miss Murray's team ended the season with a 7-0 record! The Tennis team completed its third undefeated season in a row, going 10-0 two years ago, and 9-0 last year for a three year record of 26-0! It was nice to reach that pinnacle, again! The team had defeated Holy Cross twice, HW Mountz twice, Monmouth Beach, St. Catherine's and Red Bank. We shut-out four teams 5-0 and one team 4-1 and two teams 3-2! We had a rain-shortened season.

Our top players all had excellent records. 1st singles player, Cameron Gruss, who is in the 7th grade, finished the season at 6-0! Last year, he was undefeated at 1st singles at 10-0 and two years ago he was undefeated at 9-0 at 1st doubles. 2nd / 3rd singles player Logan Gruss (6th grader) had a 6-1 record and 3rd singles/doubles player, Julie Sumski (8th gr.) had a 5-1 record. Logan and Julie continued their winning ways from the success they had together last year as a 1st doubles team. 7th grader Gilbert Rashkovsky played singles and doubles and had a record of 5-1. The following doubles players had winning records: Max Kelly (8th gr.) 5-1, Erik Wicks (6th gr.) 6-1, Gaurav Singh (8th gr.) 4-1, Zachary Zaborowski (7th gr.) 3-0. 8th grader Tim Scafaria was 2-0 in singles before he was unable to play for medical reasons. Nikki Mikkilineni also played and contributed to the team's success! There were many other players who had contributed during the season. The experience that they gained this year will help replace the 8th graders who will be graduating. In all 30 students were part of the team this year! A developmental squad was intended, but the rain caused havoc on the schedule and they were not able to have any matches. The team will receive hoodies to honor of their season!

In the faculty match, the team of Sumski and L. Gruss defeated a weary Miss Murray and Mr. Pacelli ! We'll miss the following 8th graders: Tim Scafaria, Julie Sumski, Max Kelly, Mike Gualario, Vish Mohan, Nikki Mikkilineni, Anshul Agrawal and Gaurav Singh.

Baseball

This season, Mr. Bruckmann's team ended up with a 4-2 record, for a four year record of 32-4!! Once again, the rain cut the season short. We had a very strong and balanced team with pitching, hitting and fielding. There were a few close games, but in most of the games, we were comfortably ahead. The 7th and 8th graders were the dominant players on the team however the 6th graders gained experience and will help lead the team next year. Anthony Falconine, Jimmy Panzini, Matthew Misson, Nick Hempstead and Dylan Fazio led the team with their pitching, hitting and catching (A. Falconite). The graduating 8th graders were: Anthony Falconite, Jimmy Panzini, Owen Corrigan, Kyle McKean, Gaurav Singh, Richard Soler, Liam Haley and Michael Folgore.

Cross Country

Mrs. Gilfillan and Mrs. Scheuer kept the students working their running this spring by having weekly practices! The cross country team will benefit in the fall from their hard work!

