

**Oak Hill Academy
Newsletter #2
December 2014**

**Headmaster's Message
Joseph A. Pacelli**

Time to Be Thankful

As I started our few day break, I had the opportunity to sit back and think about the things I am thankful for. My list is short, but very meaningful to me.

First of all, I give thanks to my wife, JoAnn, and my entire family for all the great love and support we continue to share.

Where would our school be without the professionalism and dedication of our wonderful faculty and staff. They work hard and care for our children every day. They offer a challenging program full of joy.

Our Oak Hill families believe in the vision of our school and support the process by allowing us to teach their children. They set the stage and send them here each day ready to learn. I thank them for helping build the Oak Hill way and for giving us their trust.

As I sit here on Thanksgiving Day, I can't help but think about all of our current students and graduates. What a great environment they bring to our school. They have energy, passion and an immense desire to learn. They light our classrooms with a glow which brings pleasure to us all.

Finally, today I thank God because He cares.



**Mrs. Larkins
Director of Development**

Mid-Point in Annual Giving

Soon you will be receiving a reminder about our Annual Giving Program. Annual giving is an important opportunity for members of the OHA community to help us provide that something extra that makes Oak Hill so unique. All private schools count on Annual Giving to bridge the gap between tuition and the actual cost to educate each child at their school. In these current times, please know that no gift is insignificant and every gift is truly appreciated. Thank you to the many current parents, alumni families, grandparents, and friends who have already given. You've shown your commitment to the future of our students.

Admissions Update

Admissions to Oak Hill Academy for 2015-2016 are already in full swing. Testing for students entering grades K-8 will begin in January. Some grades may have more applicants than possible openings for September, so please remember **if you intend to send another child in your family to OHA in September 2015, you must apply before January 10 in order to receive preference in consideration for any openings.** Application materials can be obtained through the school office. Also, please remember to recommend Oak Hill Academy to your friends. Our next open houses are Friday, December 5 at 9am and Saturday, January 10 from 1-4pm and tours during the week are always available. **A Tuition Assistance program is available to our current and prospective families for September 2015. Information on requirements and qualifications can be obtained by contacting the school office or on the school website.**

THANK YOU LADIES!!!!

The Ladies Night Out on Thursday, November 13th was a tremendous success! It was an evening filled with fine vendors, delicious food, wonderful prizes, and much friendly conversation. Even in our current economic times, the support for OHA from the PO and all of the attendants was truly apparent. School spirit was high as people came out in record numbers. The tireless efforts of the Parent Organization's committee were seen in every detail of the night. Special appreciation is extended to chairpeople Mrs. Lesley Rich and Mrs. Rose Aanensen who went above and beyond to make this Harvest Holiday one of the MOST successful to date!. Thank you to all those who volunteered to make this evening so

special. Of course, our students reap the benefits of all your labors!

**Miss Murray
Director of Personnel/Administration**

**OAK HILL ACADEMY HAS LONG
STANDING TRADITION OF HONORING
VETERANS**

On November 7th, Oak Hill Academy students, staff, and parents honored veterans during the school's annual Veterans Day program. Over 100 students in Kindergarten through eighth grade, performed by creating power point tributes, doing dramatic readings, singing, and playing instruments. Alumni students came back to perform, as well as a professional brass duo, and the Christian Brothers Academy Pipes and Drums.

Patrice Murray, Director of Personnel/Administration, organizes the annual program. Each year, she chooses a theme that will educate the students on a different aspect relating to the service of our veterans.

Started in November of 2001, Murray said, "after the impact we all felt from Sept. 11th, as a school, we decided to recognize and honor those in the military who fought, and are still fighting, for our freedom and protection."

In previous Veterans Day programs, Oak Hill has honored their alumni and parents who are veterans, explained about the "Angel Flight", "In Flanders Fields," the history of the draft, war monuments, the Tomb of the Unknown, and women in the military, amongst others. Speakers have included high ranking military officials and representatives from the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and the Hope for the Warriors Fund. Murray remarked that the talent of the students and faculty, namely staff members Kelly Tyma (music), Bridget DeVivo (drama/dance) and Beth Ann Griller (technology) have made the Veterans Day programs memorable.

This year, the themes were "Remembering the Sacrifices of our Soldiers," "Honoring the Sullivan Brothers," and "Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of *The National Anthem*."

The United States Marine Corp Color Guard, 4th Logistic Group, presented the colors at the opening of the program, with the Kindergarten leading the school in the reciting of the *Pledge of Allegiance* and the singing of the "National Anthem."

Veterans who were in attendance were recognized throughout the program. As each veteran arrived, they were given ribbons to wear signifying their service to their country. OHA students and staff had submitted the names of veterans in their families. As 7th grader Aron Wiener played the piano, the list of names was scrolling up on the 20 foot screen on the stage.

Two local musicians, Janet and Tom Bender, played the trumpet and were accompanied by Mrs. Pam Momyer on piano. They played "A Tribute to the Armed Service." As the song from each branch was played, Mrs. Kelly Tyma, OHA music teacher, announced it. The veterans in the audience stood for their branch's song. The audience gave a rousing applause to each group of veterans that stood for their song.

Mrs. Leslie Ybarra, mother of 8th grader, Isabella, is an Army veteran. She spoke of her career path and experiences in the military.

Student readers (Peyton Phelan, Kelsey Scafaria, Amelia Shaffer, Kim Cannon, Nicholas Geissler, Justin Weber and Anthony DeJohn) defined who was a veteran and briefly outlined the history of Veterans Day.

As the students (Mason Garber, Leah Wilson, Hunter Small, Mary Mahoney, Steven Sharpe, Zach Basile, Christine Markey, Kaila Domanski, William Walsh, Jason Wang, Julianna Troccoli, Stefan Wenzelburger, Bella Ybarra, AJ Sandhu and Jake Rutkowski) were telling the story of the Sullivan Brothers, images were placed on the screen throughout the story. The "Sullivan Brothers" were a group of 5 brothers from Waterloo, Iowa who enlisted in the Navy during World War II. They all served at the same time on the ship the USS Juneau. Tragically, the ship went down and all five brothers perished. This prompted the US War Department to adopt the Sole Survivor Policy. This would allow for immediate discharge of serving military personnel when there is only one surviving sibling in the family. The Sullivan Brothers story was part of the inspiration for the movie "Saving Private Ryan."

Students (Zora Dancy, Lucas Bruckmann, Summer AbdelBarry, Alyssa Lopez, Dillon McCann, Julia Shaffer) also explained the inspiration for the creation of the Prisoner of War (POW)/ Missing In Action (MIA) flag. In 1971, Mrs. Michael Hoff, wife of a US military officer listed as MIA during the Vietnam War, developed an idea for a national flag to remind every American of the US servicemembers

whose fates were never accounted for during the war.

The 200th Anniversary of "The National Anthem" was highlighted by the student readers (Kitty Olson, Giada Incognito, Vincent Li, Max Dantoni, Allison Lin, Owen Granahan, Charlotte Engel) and OHA alum, John-Gabriel Bermudez, playing "The Star Spangled Banner" on guitar while a powerpoint, created by 8th grader William Walsh, was displayed behind him. The audience watched a rock version of "The Star Spangled Banner," performed by the group Madison Rising.

A video was shown of a "Lone Marine's" tribute to the veterans during "Rolling Thunder," which takes place during Memorial Day weekend in Washington DC. Retired Staff Sergeant Tim Chambers stands at attention in his Marines dress blue uniform, saluting for nearly 4 hours as thousands of motorcycle riders pass by.

The school paid tribute to math teacher, Rita Cotterell's son, Ryan, who has begun his journey as a Marine. Mrs. Cotterell was presented a Blue Star Service Flag, signifying a family member whose is currently serving in the military.

In the musical portions of the program, under the direction of Kelly Tyma, the OHA Chorus sang and used sign language to sign "America the Beautiful." The OHA Players (barred and percussion instruments) played "A Musical Tribute to our Veterans." Members of Mrs. Tyma's Chorus and Players were(Third grade): Ian Cameron, Nico Fabricant, Jennifer Maio, Victoria O'Leary, Charles Smiga, Isabella Thackeray, (Fourth grade): Olivia Bellone, Raina Bhattacharyya, Sarah Confortini, Sarina Dhaliwal, Thibaut Fabricant, Michael Gao, Demetra Giannakopoulos, Cadence Li, Ilan Lozner, Oliver Olson, Ameila Shaffer, Audrey Yan (Fifth grade): Aarya Doshi, Molly Jain, Maria Giannakopoulos, Ansh Kulkarni, Justin Weber (Sixth grade) – Simar Arora, Jordan Codispoti, Gia DeJohn, Nolan Forsyth, Kaley Hanlon, Ekta Kuruganti, Priya Kuruganti, Kara Pietrowicz, Sebastian Marchese, Raymond Shen, Julia Shaffer, Charlotte Walsh, Sydney Yan, Jessica Yatvitskiy. (Seventh grade) - Catherine D'Amico, Francesca Dodaro, Ryan Gruss, Caitlin Antonio, Stephanie Zhou (Eighth grade) Elizabeth Hsu, William Walsh, Hunter Small.

OHA Alum, Victoria Momyer, and her mother, Pam Momyer, played "God Bless the USA" on the piano in an arrangement

written for all four hands to be playing at the same time.

The eighteen member strong CBA Pipes and Drums, led by Brother Frank Byrne, President of CBA, marched in with bagpipes and drums. Their four-song set brought the audience of over 550, to their feet!

At the conclusion of the program, Headmaster Joseph A. Pacelli read a presidential proclamation, stating, "On Veterans Day, America pauses to honor every service member who has ever worn one of our Nation's uniforms...." Pacelli concluded, "Remember every moment those who sacrificed their lives to achieve peace and democracy."

Finally, Patrice Murray asked that each veteran stand and be recognized. She said, "We salute you, we thank you."

The playing of "Taps" concluded the program.

The Veterans Day program has become an important tradition at Oak Hill Academy. The youngest generation is learning about all of our veterans and the greatest generation, too. They have learned to honor, respect and revere those in uniform.

Special thanks to Mrs. Kristine Kayser Bermudez for designing the program cover. Thanks also go out to Mr. Misson, Mr. Cosentino, Mr. Enderly, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Diaz, Mrs. McShane, Mrs. Livingston, Mrs. DiMaggio, Mrs. Hanks, Mrs. Preuster and Mrs. Burnham! Thanks also to Molzon Landscape Nursery!

Model UN

OHA's Model UN team, led by Mrs. Matson, competed at the CBA Model UN Conference on November 21st. Over 20 students took part in this informative session that simulates the issues that the United Nations must tackle. In the General Assembly Disarmament Committee, 8th grader Zach Basile received the Best Delegate Award (1st place), and 8th grader Catherine Stolbof was named Outstanding Delegate (2nd place). In the Security Council Committee studying the Invasion of Grenada, William Walsh was named Best Delegate (1st place). In the Security Council Committee studying the Balkan Crisis, 7th grader Thomas Wang received a Verbal Commendation; in the Commission for Refugees, 6th grader Sydney Yan received a Verbal Commendation and 6th grader Julia Shaffer received a Verbal Commendation in the Human Rights Council, as well! In each Council, there were approximately

15-30 students participating. Congratulations to all of the Model UN team and to Mrs. Matson for preparing the students for this conference. Also, thanks to Mrs. Vacca for her work with the Model UN team, too!

Hoop Shoot

OHA will be holding our annual Hoop Shoot contest on a specified date in December during phys ed classes. The Red Bank Elks Club sponsors this nationwide contest of 25 foul shots. Winners in each age group will advance to the next level. The tentative date is December 28th at St. Anthony of Padua in Red Bank. Details will be forthcoming!

Recognition for Academics and Effort

Upper School students are eligible at the end of each marking period to earn Merit List or Effort Honors distinction. The Merit List is for students who have achieved an average of 85% or better, with no grade below 80%. Effort Honors requires an average of 3+ (at least one effort mark over 3), with no marks below 3. If earned, a notation appears on the bottom of the student's report card for each marking period. At the end of the first semester in January and the end of the second semester in June, an honor roll of First Honors (an overall average of 92% or better with no grade below an 85) and Second Honors (an overall average of 85% or better with no grade below an 80) is announced at our awards assemblies in February and next September. A notation will also appear on the report card in January and June.

The Effort marks on the report cards truly indicate how much effort and energy the student is putting into a particular class. A brief definition of each effort mark is listed on the report card, however, a more complete explanation is printed in the handbook:

5 - Superior: Wholehearted application and interest, extra or unassigned work.

4 - Excellent: Extra effort, as judged against an individual's ability to produce. Good attitude, work complete and well done.

3 - Good: Good attitude, work complete and carefully done.

3(-) - Acceptable work, but capable of better.

2 - Below Average: Late papers, some missing assignments, lack of care in doing work, inattention, generally less than could reasonably be expected.

1 - Unsatisfactory: Much incomplete work, numerous missing homework assignments, generally poor performance and attitude.

(Oak Hill Academy Student Handbook pp. 3, 12, 13)

Mr. Bruckmann Communications

Web Page Update

1. See the "Experiences" link for student guided tours, photos, past news events and more!

2. Look for the Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG) catalogs to be coming home soon. This program has chosen Oak Hill to house it as its local location again this summer.

Mrs. Livingston Lower School Guidance

November Character Education classes included:

Gr. 1 - I shared Manner Mouse's guide to good manners. This story, which each child received to color, reinforces the good manners that we see the children using each day.

Gr. 2 - How To Be A Friend by Laurie and Marc Brown is a guide to making friends and keeping them. Throughout the story, character traits that are beneficial to developing and sustaining friendships were highlighted. Each child received a packet to complete that illustrates their thoughts on the qualities of a good friend as well as their own good character traits.

Gr. 3 - The Flower and the Caterpillar is a story that shows students what can happen when they do not accept differences, and act in a conceited, self-important manner. The story tells of a flower that lives in the forest and bluntly tells the animals their faults. After all, she is so beautiful and does not need any friends. All she needs to do is to look at her own reflection in the pond. Winter comes and the flower knows that she cannot take care of herself. Only the caterpillar offered to help her by spinning a cocoon around the flower. When spring came and the flower saw the ugly caterpillar as a beautiful butterfly, she wanted the butterfly as a friend. However, the butterfly left because she knew that the flower liked her only because of her beautiful outside, not what she was like on the inside.

Gr. 4 - Rhinos and Raspberries is a collection of folk tales, fairy tales, and fables from different cultures that all have a common theme of tolerance. This month I shared "Raspberries," an American tale of Cooperation. In this story, the children realize the value of teamwork through the actions of animals working together to achieve a common goal.

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

The month of October came to a close with the annual Oak Hill Academy Halloween parade and Pre-K class party. Family members joined the Pre-K for pictures and walked along the parade route as students made their way to the soccer field showing off cute and creative costumes to the rest of the student body. Our class mothers organized a special "black and orange" themed party complete with games, crafts, and delicious treats. The Pre-K staff and students really appreciated the hard work and generous party donations from the class moms and parents.

Respect and honesty highlighted the character traits this month. Stories such as Spookily the Square Pumpkin, Pinocchio, and The Boy Who Cried Wolf, were used to bring focus to these concepts.

On Election Day Pre-K voted in a mock election on whether to play on the equipment on the Pre-K playground or ride tricycles and bicycles. We're happy to announce that democracy is alive and well in the Pre-K; following a tally of the votes, bicycles and tricycles won.

Mrs. Caprara and Mrs. Wood introduced Thanksgiving with an emphasis on family traditions, giving thanks and giving to others. In class, each student decorated individual vests, feathered hats and pilgrim costumes to wear to this year's feast. Many of our moms came in to help Pre-K with Thanksgiving projects and especially our "Helping Hands" project. The children created individual hand print shrinky dink turkey pins to raise funds for several local charities. We are very proud of the Pre-K and the great job they did. We are happy to announce that proceeds from the sale of these pins enabled our students to raise \$475.00 to distribute to the following charities: Ronald McDonald House, The Monmouth-Ocean Foodbank and the Monmouth County ASPCA.

Our feast was delightful in every way. Mrs. Weikes led the students in song as they entertained special guests; Mr. Pacelli, Miss Murray and various members of our OHA faculty and staff. The class mothers worked alongside the teachers serving students from the festive buffet donated by our wonderful parents. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the feast and the contributions made by the parents were delicious. We are certainly thankful for the kindness and generosity extended to the Pre-K and staff by the class mothers and our parents

Clifford, that adorable, big, red dog has been traveling a lot since September. Our cuddly mascot is packed up and sent home each week with a new student. Photos are taken and journal entries are recorded and shared with classmates upon returning to school. Our Pre-K "Top Dog" student of the week program enables students to shine brightly when presenting their individual posters to the class. Family members are invited to join their children at school and may choose to bring a book to read or a fun craft to complete. They may also choose to share a yummy "Letter of the Week" snack with classmates. This program has proven to help strengthen confidence and help classmates become better acquainted. They also learn that our different characteristics are what make us unique and special.

Music class with Mrs. Weikes offers the opportunity for students to develop confidence and emergent reading skills through rhyming, self-expression, exercise, creativity, and gross motor movement. In addition, these activities help develop focus, memory, and good language skills. During the month of December we will be preparing for our winter sing to be held on Monday, December 22nd at 10:00 a.m. Our Pre-K holiday singers will dazzle guests with their animated finger plays and delightful singing, celebrating various winter holidays around the world.

Another upcoming event which will begin in January of 2015 is a series of "Mommy and Me" classes for 3 and 4 year olds. There will be 4 exciting and fun-filled sessions and all classes will be held in our Soler Science Center. Please call the Pre-K for further information at 732.530.1326.

Parents have been inquiring about summer camp for 2015. The information for Camp Oak Hill will be mailed out after winter break. Please see Mrs. Weikes if you have any questions regarding our

summer program and Camp Oak Hill for 2015.

As we approach another winter holiday season the Pre-K staff would like to wish the very best to our Oak Hill Academy families and staff members.

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

Kindergarten wrapped up October with a parade of characters for our annual Halloween Parade. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our class Mom's for throwing our class a Boo-tiful party!

Halloween wasn't over before we were already preparing for our Thanksgiving Play and Feast. The children have been busy all month getting ready for our performance. From painting their costumes, to "cooking" the food, to learning their lines for the play, the children worked very hard. We give "thanks" for the parents that came in to help out with the costumes and to the Gourlay family for the delicious turkey. We are so proud of how well the Kindergarten did during their performance. Our appreciation goes out to Mrs. Tyma for working on the songs with the students. You bring out the best in them!

We would like to thank Mr. Quincannon for bringing a fire truck here to Oak Hill to reinforce all we had learned during fire prevention month. What fun we had when he let all of the children shoot water from the hose! We appreciate your time and effort in sharing that special experience with us.

In Reading we have welcomed many Letter People including Letterlights A and I. With these vowels we can now make words and the children are working hard on their decoding skills. We have also learned several new high frequency words to help us build sentences. Beginning in January the children will start to write their own sentences on their weekend picture. We are off to a good start!

We continue to reinforce several number concepts during our Circle Time. We have introduced the children to the concept of estimating the daily temperature. They need to rely on their knowledge of odds/evens, double numbers and higher/lower to take an educated guess. This is a great way to apply what they know. In Singapore Math we have completed a chapter on geometric shapes and are

currently working on patterns. We reinforce patterns by lining the children up in an AB pattern, clapping out patterns and other fun activities. Patterns are an important concept in learning numbers so this is something we will continue to do throughout the year.

We are encouraged by progress the children have made thus far and look forward to what lies ahead. We hope everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving and we are excited to celebrate all the special holidays that are just around the corner!

Mrs. Klopacs/Mrs. Quagliato
Grade 1

The first graders have been very busy writing original stories using The Writing Process. First, we brainstorm to get ideas and vocabulary. Each child then writes a rough draft using these ideas. The children then conference individually with the teacher to edit the rough draft, using their first grade dictionaries, "Words I Use When I Write." The edited copy is then published on good paper and illustrated. We are extremely PROUD of our first grade authors and we applaud their hard effort and work.

In social studies, we really enjoyed learning about the Pilgrims. In our reading and research we found out why the Pilgrims left England, about their hardships and rewards and about their relationship with the Native Americans. Using maps and globes we were able to trace the route the brave Pilgrims took in crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

Our class trip to Kateri Environmental Center was wonderful and most informative. We all enjoyed learning about the lives of the Native Americans who lived in New Jersey.

Math has been a challenging adventure as we learn the facts up to twenty. Daily practice at home and our fact practice in school have helped us master these facts. Our daily morning Math Meeting teaches and reinforces telling time to the hour, number patterns, calendar skills, counting money, tally marks and overall number sense. The Student of the Day has a responsible job as he/she leads us through the twenty minute meeting. ☺ ☺



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

November was a very productive month, full of new and exciting learning opportunities for our inquisitive second graders!

In the reading program we are working on our second unit entitled, "Growth and Change." Besides expanding vocabulary and phonics skills, we are also working on improving the skills of drawing conclusions, summarizing, and making inferences

In the Singapore Math Program, we are continuing to learn many new terms and are doing a great deal of hands on activities using number discs, place value blocks and charts, and white boards. We have reviewed the part-whole concept of addition and subtraction and solved word problems involving mental addition and subtraction within 100. We are currently working on addition and subtraction with renaming. Please continue to practice the addition and subtraction math facts with your child at home on a daily basis and review the other math concepts as well.

The second graders have also been busy practicing their writing skills. Poetry, stories, letters, and journals are just some examples of their activities. We are especially proud of the math books that each of the second grade classes have written and will actually be published in hard cover. Each child worked very hard to write and then illustrate two original math word problems. A cover was also designed for each of the books by a child in each class. The children enjoyed this wonderful experience of actually becoming authors.

We have been enjoying Share-A-Story where we invite parents or a special relative to come into our classrooms to read their favorite book.

December has begun with many activities and projects in our classes. We all look forward to a well deserved winter break!

**Mrs. Alexander/Mrs. Staley
Grade 3**

Time flies when you're having fun! This phrase definitely matches the third grade experience this past marking period. The students have had such a great time traveling through history in Social Studies, learning about friendship in Charlotte's Web, and finding out how to connect multiplication and division problems to bar models. With so many

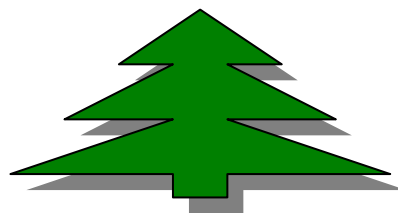
interesting topics to cover, it's no surprise that December has arrived so quickly!

In math, students have learned how to bar model multiplication and division one and two-step word problems. Knowing multiplication and division facts is a must for your child. Encourage daily practice so that your child becomes fluent with the multiplication/division facts for 1 – 5 and 10.

Persuasive writing was the focus for writing this marking period. Students are learning they can't just ask for something. They need reasons and supporting facts.

Students had a good time wearing their success caps at different times throughout the past few weeks. They were proud of good grades, good answers, and good deeds. For the culmination of our pre-Revolutionary War social studies unit, the third graders visited the Murray Farmhouse at Poricy Park. Students experienced activities for children in the 1700s - churning butter, baking cookies, writing with quill pens, and playing games like quoits. They also learned that Patriots and Loyalists were part of the history of Monmouth County. We have begun our study of life and school in 1854 with the reading of Kirsten Learns a Lesson. Students are experiencing classroom life – memorizing poems and presidents, reciting math facts, and even standing when asked to speak to the teacher.

This marking period in Novel Studies the students have been reading a wonderful tale of friendship in Charlotte's Web. They have learned that no matter how big or small, hairy or scaly, friendships can be formed. The students have been able to relate this to their own lives by realizing that no matter what our differences are, there is no reason that bonds can't be created. The friendships that are formed in Charlotte's Web are everlasting, and that is what we are hoping to create here at Oak Hill Academy. The students have worked on creating character webs for the stars of our story and will soon be working on their final projects as we reach the end of this fantastic novel. I can't wait to see what our next book has in store for the third grade class!



**Mrs. Tolleth and Mrs. Roehrig
Grade 4**

The fourth graders went to the Math and Science Learning Center at Rutgers. Two professors engaged us in wonderful discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on experiments. One had to do with erosion, fertilizers, pollutants, and trash and their effect on the quality of our water. We learned how salt marshes are helping to prevent the pollution of our water. The other was a hands-on activity extracting the DNA of a strawberry. We each got to bring a vial of the DNA home. We really enjoyed both experiences. Then graduate students took us around the hands-on center in small groups and we experienced many science experiments.

We did hands-on activities involving magnetism, static electricity, surface tension of soap, motion, centripetal force, electricity, air pressure, and many more. The favorite was the hair-raising experience with the static ball.

After the Science Center, we went to the Geology Museum at Rutgers to see the skeleton of a mastodon that we read about in our textbook. Lauren gave us a talk about mastodons and woolly mammoths. We saw the difference between the female mastodon's tusk and the male's. We saw first hand the difference between a mammoth's tooth and a mastodon's. The difference taught us about what they ate.

A highlight of the trip was seeing a real Egyptian mummy in her sarcophagus. We will be delving into the ancient world of Egypt later in the school year.

The students were given a booklet to fill out answering questions while on a scavenger hunt. The answers were found from the two floors of exhibits in the museum. Each student completed the booklet and received a shark's tooth as a reward. The fourth graders shopped at the Mineral and Rock Shop and came home with many treasures from the earth. The fourth graders really enjoyed this day of learning.

Fourth grade just celebrated Heritage Day on Friday, November 21. This is a traditional fourth grade event that is done in conjunction with our novel study of All of a Kind Family. We began our event by presenting "Our Medley of Customs and Traditions" in each homeroom. We had invited parents, relatives, and friends to share our day. After our speeches, our visitors took a look at the bulletin boards displaying our paper dolls that we each dressed representing our individual

heritage. We then all walked over to the SAC for our Heritage Day feast.

The SAC was decorated with an international theme. Festive flag centerpieces donned each table. The tablecloths also had international flags as a border. There was a wonderful display of international dolls and pieces of cloth exhibiting beautiful, colorful Hungarian needlepoint.

All of our parents deserve a thank you for preparing a phenomenally delectable feast with foods from all over the world, that we all enjoyed. We ate and enjoyed each other's company at this wonderful event for about 140 people.

A special thank you goes to our room mothers for all the organizing, shopping, decorating, and cleaning up: Mrs. DiBiasi, Mrs. Olson, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Giannakopoulos. Thank you to all the people who helped clean up. We were very appreciative of Mr. Cosentino, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Enderly, Mr. Misson and Mr. Livingston's help with the tables and chairs. We all enjoyed our Heritage Day!

While we are thanking people, a fun time was had by all at our classroom Halloween parties. Thank you, room moms!

The fourth graders just culminated their Social Studies unit on the Lenape, the Native Americans that lived here on the land that they called Scheyechbi (Land Along Water). We are now on ships with the early explorers finding a new land.

Mrs. Cahalane Lower School Science

PK students completed a unit on the solar system. They learned all about the planets and everyone made a rocket that will let them fly anywhere in the universe! Kindergarteners covered two units: one focusing on the needs of plants and animals and the other on magnets. First grade learned all about animals: invertebrates and the five groups of vertebrates: reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds, and mammals. Second grade students have been studying the properties of solids, liquids, and gases. Third graders finished up a unit on the solar system and fourth graders have been learning all about electricity. To see photographs of what we have been doing in science class, please check out my teaching blog.

Mrs. Bordiuk/Mr. Goldfarb Lower School PE

During the second marking period at Oak Hill Academy, Lower School Physical Education classes have completed fitness testing and are moving onto different activities. The students are achieving higher levels of proficiency through various hand-eye coordination activities that include the use of bean bags and small playground balls. In the second marking period the students continued to work on their swim skills and were tested on these skills prior to Thanksgiving break. The assessment of swimming skills included adequate floating skills, breathing, body rotation, stroke development, introductory diving, and behavior in the locker room. Their second marking period grade will be primarily based upon their swimming skills along with overall appropriate behavior and respect.

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

Students in grades K-4 will now be meeting every week for the next two marking periods. This will give students ample time to bring in items to earn those important "tiny bucks." Remember, this could be books, print outs from the internet, pictures, drawings, or any educational item that pertains to Canada.

I am pleased to announce that our Littletown Press editor this year is Mrs. Harris, Becca's mom. Thank you in advance for volunteering your help for this year.

Students will now start to brainstorm ideas for their businesses on Littletown Day, March 11th, while incorporating Canadian info. We continue to read and research more interesting and fascinating facts about this vast and wonderful country. A packet will be coming home in January with more details about this exciting day. Students have been on the iPads learning all about Canadian Trivia, like the national plant (maple leaf), thus producing 75% of the world's maple syrup, the national animal (beaver) and the national sport of Lacrosse. Even though ice hockey and ice skating are very popular sports, neither one is the national sport. The students even had fun trying to pronounce a 31 letter river in Manitoba called (Pekwachnamaykoskwawaypinwanik). There is so much to learn about this interesting country.

Mme Koar Lower School Language

First and Second Grades - Spanish

First and second grade students have nearly completed six units of Spanish using our online course created by Middlebury Interactive. Each unit consists of six lessons, organized by theme. We have learned many new vocabulary words for common greetings, colors, numbers, family, and school. Each lesson includes a story to reinforce new vocabulary and songs to practice and review new words. Students progress at their own pace and assessments are ongoing in each unit. Students are given an opportunity at the end of each unit to practice speaking and to record their own voice.

Third Grade French

Students are practicing using the expressions, J'ai faim (I'm hungry) and J'ai soif (I'm thirsty) while listening to the song by the same name. This song includes common expressions using the verb "avoir" (to have) and reinforces the meaning of each phrase with photos. We will continue with the verb "to have" with a description of our family. Students can extend their learning in the classroom by listening to the songs on the website and reviewing the vocabulary.

Mme Simon Grade 4 French

This marking period, we studied the food theme and played our favorite game KAHOOT created by the teacher. The students really know the vocabulary well. In order to study, I use an Educreation video that you can find on my website. To celebrate "National French Week" which was November 5 to November 11, we played our favorite Kahoot game with cultural questions regarding France, the 33 countries where French is the official language and other information regarding the French culture and Brittany, the province from where I come. Students love the Kahoot game so much that they beg me to create new ones all the time. They all have an iPad and key in their response on the spot and the results show on my big screen. Playing games in the class really engages the students and they learn so quickly. Good job class!

Mrs. Scheuer
Upper School Guidance

OHA students talked the talk and walked the walk at the 34rd annual Crop Walk held at Red Bank Regional HS on October 19th. Mrs. Vacca, student council members, faculty and students proudly represented OHA and helped reduce hunger in the world.

Our 7th & 8th graders had a blast at the Fall Harvest Dance. The décor was festive, snacks delicious and the music rocked! Thanks to student and parent volunteers as well as chaperones for making the evening so special. Thank you to students that volunteered as tour guides for our fall open house on October 25th. Visitors to OHA are always impressed with our faculty, curriculum and facilities but when asked why they chose OHA, parents mention their experience with our OHA tour guides as one of the top reasons.

Oak Hill Academy's Veteran's Day assembly amazed those in attendance. Veterans from all branches of the military, soldiers both active and retired, located all over the country, joined us to celebrate America's greatest heroes. Although many schools close to observe Veteran's Day, very few take the time to reflect on the significance of the holiday. Miss Murray's tribute to our veterans is a daunting task to coordinate but the result is a powerful and moving tribute. The extraordinary traits: duty, honor and sacrifice are conveyed to every member of the audience. Kudos Miss Murray for another outstanding assembly!

In conjunction with the evolving technological needs of our upper school students, our Cyber Safety program is being implemented during Computer class. The program identifies the perils of social media. Students are continually reminded of their basic responsibilities on line and via electronic messaging as well as the ramifications of improper usage in and outside of school.

Cyberbullying and sexting, via internet or text messaging have also been addressed and the legal consequences clearly outlined. Best tips for students: every key stroke leaves an electronic footprint, do not take or share inappropriate pictures, do not share passwords, do not let anyone follow you that you do not know and THINK before you post or send. Useful tips for parents: remain proactive, monitor your child's computer postings and cell phone messages on a **daily** basis, limit number of pictures posted with identifiable

markers and report inappropriate postings/texts to school or the authorities **immediately.**

One third of the school year is complete. Time certainly marches on! As the second marking period concludes, the bar is reset for the third marking period and preparation for exams in January. Warm wishes go to our OHA families this holiday season. Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Miss Lee
Grade 5 Literature/LA

It is hard to believe that the second marking period has come and gone. The fifth graders have had a very productive marking period in both Literature and Language Arts. In Literature, we read our first whole class novel, Bridge to Terabithia, exploring the setting, characters, conflicts, and themes. Currently, we are diving back into our Literature anthology books and will continue to read and explore selections from our books in the next few weeks. This past marking period, we started using our Google Docs accounts. We used Google Docs to write about characters and setting in Bridge to Terabithia, reflections after the Veterans Day Assembly, and our essays about our favorite times of year. Our most recent writing project in Google Docs were our acrostic, haiku, or couplet poems about a variety of topics from our Literature and Language Arts classes. We continue to work steadily through our Vocabulary Workshop books, and practice using vocabulary words in our writing and daily conversations. It is always exciting to find a vocabulary word pop up in other places, such as our Literature anthology books and pleasure ready books. We finished our unit on Nouns, and are beginning our next unit on Verbs. With winter approaching, we recently read Robert Frost's poem, "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening," and are currently in the middle of committing the poem to memory. We hope to be able to recite it from memory by the end of December. This marking period, we will also review and prepare for the Big Tests coming up in January. This is the fifth graders' first time taking exams, but they are all so hard working and have demonstrated time and time again just how capable they are.



Mrs. Matson
Grades 5 & 6 Geography

Oak Hill Academy attends the CBA Middle School Model United Nations

On November 21st, twenty 6th through 8th grade Oak Hill Academy students participated in the Second Annual Christian Brothers Academy Middle School Model United Nations. During the 8 hour conference, the student delegates served on existing United Nations committees, each representing one country and discussing and proposing solutions to global issues. Following dinner, they then collaborated on solutions which were acceptable to the group. Congratulations to the entire Model UN Team for their outstanding research, as well as all their hard work and stamina during the event!

Oak Hill students received numerous awards at the conclusion of the conference. In the General Assembly Disarmament Committee, Zack Basile received the Best Delegate Award (1st Place), and Catherine Stolbof was named Outstanding Delegate (2nd Place.) In the Security Council Committee studying the Invasion of Grenada, William Walsh was named Best Delegate (1st Place). Thomas Wang received a Verbal Commendation in the Security Council Committee studying the Balkan Crisis, Sydney Yan received a Verbal Commendation in the Commissioner for Refugees, and Julia Shaffer received a Verbal Commendation in the Human Rights Council, as well!

The team was rounded out by 8th Graders Jonathan Giuffre, CJ Gorman, Elizabeth Hsu, Anna Effenberger, and Bryan Soler; 7th Graders Jake Fradkin and Ryan Gruss; and 6th Graders Simar Arora, Kushal Bhattacharyya, Ekta Kuruganti, Priya Kuruganti, Emily Robertson, Jessica Yatvitskiy, and Charlotte Walsh.

Mr. Bruckmann
Grades 5 & 6 Math

Our fifth grade math students continued their work in our Singapore math book and have moved into Unit 3 and our investigation into fractions. We began by comparing fractions and understanding what a fraction is telling us as well as how it is very closely related to division. The class then proceeded to learn how to add and subtract unlike and like fractions on their way to using these skills with mixed numbers as well. This has progressed into their understanding of what a fraction of a set is and how "of"

means to multiply the fraction. They will use this knowledge to convert measurements and finally solve fractional word problems. From there it will be on to the multiplication and division of fractions before we get into a little geometry. 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 and all three books. Students also need to become more independent in terms of being responsible for any work missed. With the lessons, I put on-line, they have ample resources in addition to asking a classmate for notes from class. Also, please use my website as another tool to enhance learning. <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/mr-bruckmanns-math-class>.

The sixth grade class continues to move steadily through our Singapore 6A books. After having completed our study of percentages that included percent of a quantity; percent change; Sales Tax, Discount and both simple and compound interest, we have progressed into the comparison of quantities. Students will look into ratios and how they can be used to compare different numbers of quantities in terms of units of measure as well as different proportions in addition to putting all of these skills together in some rather challenging word problems. This Unit will transition into our study of Rate and Speed as we finish Book 6A. 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. Vacca
Grade 5

Math Workshop

We have been busy working on a variety of problem solving warm-ups, thus accumulating "bonus points" for a math workshop dress down day which will occur at the end of this marking period.

Students have just completed their UNICEF packet. This was a brainstorming group activity in which "needs vs. wants" was discussed. Everyday items we take for granted such as food and shelter vs. luxury items such as our iPads and cell phones. Students were given the task of packing a suitcase with much needed supplies for children in other countries. A map and flag of their

country were attached to their suitcase for identification. Priced items such as water filters, blankets, nutritional supplements, vaccines, jump ropes and basketballs, to name a few, were some of the options they could bring with them. How much could they afford with only \$100? Quantities of items were calculated according to each group's decision on what to bring. This was a great project involving real math skills and compassion for those less fortunate.

Grade 5 Tech

Students have just finished researching and presenting their first project about "Wonders of the World". The use of the ipads for research has been fun as google images are copied to the camera roll and then inserted into their created slides. World wonders such as the Kremlin in Russia, Alhambra in Spain, the Acropolis in Greece, Timbuktu in Mali, Neuschwanstein in Germany, and the pyramid at Chichen Itza in Mexico, just to name a few. These presentations were informative and interesting. The next project integrates nicely with their math workshop project about UNICEF. Students will be researching their country which will include information such as climate, government and problems of that region such as poverty, drought, or war.

Mrs. Cotterell
Grades 5 – 8 Math

Grade 5 - Period 2

It is hard to believe that we finished another marking period. This is such a hard working group of students – a true pleasure to teach. We spent the majority of the marking period focusing on bar modeling and long division. The children persevered on both topics. We completed dozens of problems until I was certain that the children achieved mastery. Their grades on their assessments were excellent. I am very proud of their work ethic and excellent outlook.

Our focus for the next several weeks will be on fractions. Since fractions will be a part of their math curriculum right through pre-calculus (!) it is important that there are no holes. We will take our time and move at a moderate pace ensuring that the foundation is very strong. We began with a discussion of what fractions are and how to compare them. We will then move to ordering fractions, finding equivalent fractions and simplifying fractions before we begin any operations.

I thank you for your assistance at home and wish you and your family a healthy and happy new year.

Grade 5 – Period 3

This hard working group of students finished their unit on bar modeling with whole numbers and multiplication and division with two and three digit numbers. They did very well on their assessments and are now well into fractions. They learned how to compare, order, simplify, add, subtract and multiply a fraction and whole number. We are still studying bar models with fractions but will be wrapping them up soon. One of the new concepts they were taught was cross-simplifying when multiplying fractions. This makes the process much easier and less prone to computation errors.

Our next unit will be on multiplying two fractions and mixed numbers and we will be dividing fractions as well.

I thank you for your assistance at home and wish you and your family a healthy and happy new year.

Grade 6

Percents and ratios were the two main topics covered this marking period. We began by reviewing how to convert percents to decimals (and opposite) and how to convert fractions to percents (and opposite). The students learned how to take percents of a number, how to calculate percent of change, how to calculate simple and compound interest, how to calculate sales tax, discount and commission. We have so many real life applications with percents. One of the tasks for the students was to find a newspaper clipping with percents. We were all amazed to see the variety of articles with percents.

We then switched to ratios. We reviewed how to write ratios and what they represent. We began with two ratios and quickly began comparing three quantities. The quantity and complexity changed at the same time. The students learned how to change the ratios so they all "spoke the same language". We spent the rest of the time working on ratios in word problems. This requires strong reading and analytical skills.

The students are very hard working and a joy to have in the classroom. As always, thank you for your assistance at home. I wish you and your family a very happy and healthy holiday season.

Grade 7 – Glencoe

We completed chapter 2 which was on integers, completed chapter 3 which was on ratios, rates, proportions and percents, reviewed the most salient points of chapter 4 and are now beginning chapter 5.

The concepts of rates, proportions and percents have so many real life applications. We talked about how to find percents mentally and applying our knowledge by calculating tips; we talked about using proportions if a recipe had to be modified and you were trying to find the proper measurement of ingredients and we discussed how unit rate helps us become more informed consumers. The students did very well on their tests.

Chapter 4 was on statistics. While all of the concepts are interesting and important, I did not want to take class time reviewing concepts previously learned, so we focused on the topics they did not learn yet or the topics I felt would appear on high school entrance tests. We developed statistics related to our Thanksgiving dinners and created corresponding bar graphs and histograms. We reviewed how to calculate mean, median, mode and range and also learned about positive, negative and no relationship graphs.

We are just beginning chapter 5. This chapter will introduce geometry concepts such as transversals and Theorems such as Side Side Side, Side, Angle Side and Angle Side Angle. Since these are all new to the students, we will work at a very moderate pace ensuring that all students have full comprehension of the subject matter.

I thoroughly enjoy working with your children. Thank you for your assistance at home. I wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.

Grade 8 – Introduction to Algebra

We completed chapter 3 and are well into chapter 4. Chapter 3 focused on solving addition/subtraction equations, multiplication/division equations, two step equations, writing two step equations and using formulas. Mastery of these will be so important for next year. Their algebra teachers will present each of these one more time, so the more proficient the students are in solving these; the easier it will be in high school.

Chapter 4 began with a discussion of monomials, how to evaluate exponents, what prime and composite numbers are, how to calculate prime factorization, how to calculate the Greatest Common Factor, Least Common Multiple and how to simplify fractions. Many of these concepts may sound repetitive from prior years. That is true to a degree. Most of these concepts have been introduced in prior years, but we are adding more dimensions. For example, instead of finding the GCF between two numbers, we now are finding the GCF between

negative numbers that also have variables.

The students are working well and a pleasure to teach. I wish you all the best in the new year.

Grade 8 – Geometry

What an awesome class. The students are hard working and inquisitive. They are faced with new concepts daily and embrace the challenge. Homework continues to be long, but we must keep in mind that this is an Honors level high school class. I would be doing the students an injustice if it were taught in any other manner. Geometry will be pervasive on the SAT, so mastery is critical.

We completed chapter 3 and chapter 4 and are beginning chapter 5. Chapter 3's focus was on parallel lines, chapter 4 was on triangles. The students continued to learn a variety of theorems related to parallel lines, transversals and their corresponding angles: alternate interior, alternate exterior, corresponding and consecutive interior. They also learned a variety of theorems related to triangles including: Side, Side, Side; Side, Angle Side; Angle Side Angle; Angle, Angle Side; Hypotenuse Leg. They also viewed a very humorous video on these theorems to further enhance their understanding.

Since the students on the whole truly do not enjoy writing their proofs, we have begun to work on them as a class in the Harkness Room. The students thoroughly enjoy doing their proofs in this manner.

I am enjoying every day with this class. Thank you for your support at home. I wish you and your family all the best in the new year.

Mr. Clapp **Grade 5 Science**

At the beginning of this past marking period the fifth graders began to learn about the different states of matter and how they can change based on temperature. We examined solids, liquids, gases and even plasma which they just learned is the 4th state of matter! We were able to see examples of plasma by looking at a plasma globe and we created our own plasma by putting a grape in the microwave (this experiment can be dangerous so please research it before you try it at home). The students loved it when I brought in dry ice for Halloween in order to show them a spooky example of sublimation (a solid turning right into a gas). After that we

dove right into the periodic table of elements, different properties of elements and the structure of an atom. We learned that many foods we eat contain metals in small amounts and they are very helpful in your body. My students now know what makes up an atom and what many of the elements of the periodic table are used for. At the start of marking period 3 we will be looking at compounds, mixtures and chemical changes.

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

Our language arts program continues to build vocabulary and grammar skills. In grammar we have completed a unit on nouns and will move on to action and linking verbs, while in vocabulary we have 'cycled' through to Unit 6, mastering many enriching words along the way. To celebrate fall, sixth graders have 'crept' into the literature unit called "Chills and Thrills," filled with ghost tales and spooky stories. The culminating thriller of this unit is the Poe classic "The Tell-Tale Heart."

In keeping with the fall theme, students have also enjoyed writing poems about the season. After brainstorming about the sights, sounds, and smells of autumn, sixth graders created poems full of wonderful images, bringing to life the aroma of pumpkin pie, the brilliance of spice-colored leaves, and the warmth of flannel PJs.

Currently, students are working on a compare/contrast essay, featuring two characters from the literature unit "Finding Your Place in the World." During this marking period, students also enjoyed the novel Old Yeller by Fred Gipson. This story tells of a young boy struggling to be the man of the house with the help of his devoted dog and the mature action the boy must take to protect his family.

Mrs. Daly **Grade 6 Reading**

Sixth graders have completed our first novel study, *Freedom Crossing*. This historical fiction story provides an in-depth look at the Underground Railroad, bravery, and growing up. Students loved the plot twists and turns as the story progressed. The classes created their own *Freedom Quilts* as a supplement to the novel study. During the height of the Underground Railroad, abolitionists would sew quilts with hidden symbols on them to show the runaway slaves the way north. Each quilt square gave hints to the slaves looking for food and shelter. After the patterns were studied, slave

quilts were examined through the Smithsonian Museum collection. In groups of four, students then create sixteen-block replicas of the slave quilts. Codes were written and paths to free states or Canada were created. As an online supplement, we virtually visited historic Lewiston, NY, which is the setting for this novel. Historical homes, tailor shops, and the town square provided keen access for the plot lines. Students really are developing an appreciation for this time in American history.

In addition to the novel study, reading comprehension skills were reinforced this marking period through our *Heroes/Monsters* series. Popular stories included *The Jersey Devil*, *Frankenstein's Monster*, and many more. Sixth graders are working hard this year!

Enjoy the holidays!

Mrs. Palamara Grades 6 – 8 Math

Grade 6 – Singapore

During this marking period, students reviewed addition and subtraction of unlike fractions using word problems and the idea of least common multiple. We extended this idea to more than two fractions as well as fractional algebraic expressions. Students then moved on to multiplication and division of fractions including algebraic expressions.

We then moved on to percentage and percentage of a quantity. Students extended their understanding about percent to percent of change and the application of percent to common daily situations involving interest, taxes and discounts. They also practiced tasks providing further examples such as commission, income tax and bank interest including compound interest.

Grade 7

A firm grasp of signed numbers is critical for success in algebra. We used real world applications of signed numbers as the basis of each lesson and made liberal use of number lines. Students practiced computation of signed numbers in a variety of contexts. Multiplication of matrices, in particular, provided a considerable amount of practice. We wrapped up the marking period with line and angle relationships, quadrilaterals, and symmetry.

Marking period three will begin our study of Algebra I.

Algebra I

During this marking period students learned how to solve linear equations and to use formulas, ratios, rates and percents. They learned to solve linear equations which involve multiple steps; to solve decimal equations; to solve a formula for a specified variable and to solve real-world problems involving ratios, rates, and percents.

Students are using a variety of methods to explain mathematical reasoning including words, numbers, symbols, and models, and developing strategies that can be used with more complex problems.

Math Team

Congratulations to the OHA Math Team on their 1st place win in the CBA Eighth Grade Math Contest held in October. More than 20 schools participated in the parochial and private school division. The team scores are based on the total of the five highest individual student scores from each school.

Congratulations to Thomas Wang on his first place win in the private/parochial division. Six of our students placed in the top ten: Anna Effenberger (2nd place), Michael Zhang (3rd place), Lucas Bruckmann (7th place), William Walsh (8th place), and Dylan Servilla (10th place). Rounding out the team were Hannah Gazdus and Mary Mahoney.

Congratulations to all for a job well done.

Mrs. Billet Grades 6 & 7 Science

The sixth grade students learned why cells divide, the cycle of the cell, and how body cells reproduce. They also looked at the chemical composition of DNA, how DNA replicates, and how DNA directs the production of proteins. Please stop by Room 16 in the Soler Science & Environmental Center to see the visual display of mitosis and DNA.

In the seventh grade this marking period, the students were introduced to kinematics, the study of motion, and dynamics, the study of the causes of motion. Newton's three laws of motion were brought in to encapsulate the relationship between motion and force. From forces, students then moved on to the concept of energy, the various types of energy, and laws of conservation of energy.

Mrs. Vacca/Mrs. Koar Grade 6 Math Workshop

Students continued with their 10 minute warm-ups and those with the highest "bonus points" will have a free dress down day the beginning of the 3rd marking period.

Our first big project: "Radio Stations around the World" has begun. Students are working in small groups to put together a 5 minute program consisting of 3 minutes of music and 2 minutes of verbal. Groups have selected their broadcasting location and are now putting together a script which consists of 15 songs/artists, weather, events, and a public service announcement. Groups must follow the time schedule, work cooperatively together, coordinate music and information and present a 5 minute live show. Presentations as "DJ's for 5 minutes" will be a fun and informative way to display time management.

Señora Dotto Grades 5, 7 & 8

The fifth grade students have been working on singular and plural definite articles, changing singular nouns and pronouns to plural as well as gender agreement, classroom items, days of the week, months, seasons and colors. In addition, we learned how El Día de los Muertos is celebrated in Mexico and students tasted *el pan de los muertos*. We are in the process of studying the four forms of you (tú, usted, vosotros/vosotras and ustedes) and the geography and history of Spain. All this has been reinforced with power point presentations, videos, songs, games, classroom interaction and by logging in to my sites, Weebly and Quizlet for visual and auditory practice.

During this marking period the seventh grade students completed section 2 of Chapter 3, built a lot of vocabulary and expressions, mastered the conjugation of the irregular verbs *to go, to do and to go out*. Also, we have covered a few interrogative words, indefinite articles, seasons and weather expressions. At this time we are in the process of learning the irregular verbs *to have* and *to come*, a few -ir regular verbs and clothing vocabulary. All this has been reinforced with power point presentations, audio CD's, videos, classroom interaction and by logging in to my sites, Weebly and Quizlet for visual and auditory practice.

This marking period the eighth grade students have continued building vocabulary. In addition, they have

studied expressions on how to describe people and family relationships. In grammar, they have expanded their study on possessive adjectives and covered over 15 stem-changing verbs **e→ie** and **o→ue** like *empezar, dormir, merendar, almorzar, preferir* etc. In addition, we learned how El Día de los Muertos is celebrated in Central America and students tasted *el pan de muertos*.

All this material has been reinforced with power point presentations, videos, audio CD's, classroom interaction and by logging in to my sites Weebly and Quizlet for visual and auditory practice of vocabulary and expressions.

Also, we started reading a novel title, *Pobre Ana* which students are enjoying and acquiring a lot of vocabulary.

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

In our seventh grade literature program, we are exploring a new unit called WORKING TOWARD YOUR DREAMS. The theme of the unit deals with setting goals and fulfilling our dreams. Each of the selections including poetry, fiction, and nonfiction focuses on the importance of the process involved rather than reaching the ultimate goal. As part of our recently finished unit entitled OPEN A BOOK, OPEN A WORLD, we have just completed our first poetry assignment on FREE VERSE dealing with the theme of reading. We learned the process for writing a free verse poem, did some brainstorming, provided a rough draft, and participated in a peer review - all in preparation for the ultimate final copy. This activity provided a great opportunity to develop our creative ideas and share our thoughts on the importance of reading. Our language arts program continues with building vocabulary skills, including synonyms, antonyms, and analogies. In grammar, we are working on our most challenging unit – VERBS. This unit will prove very beneficial for all of our writing activities.

Mrs. Larkins **Grade 7 Math Workshop**

It was an interesting time to invest in the market for our group of seventh grade stock brokers, but also the opportunity to learn a lot about the current state of our economy. I was pleased with their pointed questions and enthusiasm. They became a little more aware of current events and learned about how the market works with such concepts as shares of stocks, dividends, P/E ratios, broker's commissions, and yield. When the project was said and done, Sears

proved to be the hot stock! Congratulations to Catherine D'Amico, Ryan Gruss, Liam O'Hara, Alexa Malson, and Jake Rutkowski for coming in first place and earning a dress down day.

With many families traveling over the holidays, it was the perfect opportunity for the 7th grade math workshop students to review their map skills by completing the "Interstate Highway Project." In small groups, students are analyzing U.S. highway maps in order to figure out the mathematical system of naming these interstates. We all can brush up on our U.S. geography while answering some interesting mathematical questions. Next time you are on a road trip; don't be afraid to ask your son or daughter for help with directions!

Mme Koar **Grade 7 French – Period 6**

Period 6 French students have completed reading the novella, "Les Pirates Francais," a chapter book with a 300 word vocabulary written by Mira Cannon. This fictional tale is set in the pirate-infested seas of the 1600's in the Caribbean. The French pirate, Francois de Granmont, terrorizes the Caribbean, when he uncovers rumours of a secret map. In lieu of a final test, students will create an original story (in French) using the vocabulary acquired from the book. Students will work individually or with a group, not to exceed four students.

Mrs. Mayer **Grades 7 & 8 History**

The seventh grade was hard at work this marking period, learning about the settlement of the New World. We created individual plans for local governments and discussed their effectiveness in at our Harkness Table. We look forward to learning about the American Revolution and more exciting collaboration at our Harkness Table. Happy Holidays!

The eighth grade had an exciting marking period learning all about the amazing inventions Americans made and their impact on every aspect of human life. We discussed the ramifications of industrializations at our Harkness Table with a focus on Social Darwinism. The students are truly flourishing in all capacities, even creating a class newspaper. We look forward to discussing imperialism and World War I.

Happy Holidays!

Mrs. Williams **Grade 8 Language Arts/Literature**

In eighth grade Language Arts, students continued their study of vocabulary, while concluding the grammar unit: *Verbs*. Students also continued their writing assignments. Students wrote poems personifying autumn objects. Furthermore, students completed a persuasive essay. Next marking period, students will continue with their writing, vocabulary lessons, and grammar lessons.

In Literature, students concluded the unit on fiction, short stories. Moreover, students completed the novel: *The Outsiders*. They recorded major events and character descriptions while reading the novel. Also, they examined the plot and analyzed the "outsiders."

Mrs. Daly **Grade 8 Critical Reading**

Eighth grade classes have been diligently studying comprehension skills in many different ways. Our last unit topic showcased endangered and extinct animals. Students traced the effects of pollutants such as DDT in streams and rivers. Using an interactive timeline, species were examined and recorded. Classes really are becoming more aware of the importance of ecology and creating safe environments for all creatures.

In addition to our weekly news summaries, students are enhancing their writing skills in many ways. With the release of the 2015 world almanac, students explored population changes, climate issues, and government policies. Charts were mapped, interpreted, and analyzed for different countries' literacy rates, finances, and social issues. Students wrote essays about their findings. The two-week lesson culminated with an online game.

Classes are working well and are eagerly anticipating the holidays!

Mr. Clapp **Grade 8 Science**

We started off marking period 2 by learning about Earth as a system, and all of the parts of Earth that make up that system, such as the biosphere that includes all of the living organisms on the planet. We discussed how all of these parts interact and affect each other and how they affect us as well. After that we began learning about Earth's interior. My eighth graders learned all of the many layers of Earth and all of their specific characteristics. We did a lab that

demonstrated how the convection currents in the mantle work and how that is the driving force behind tectonic plates moving, eventually leading to earthquakes. Working off of convection currents, we set up a lab to demonstrate the 3 methods of heat transfer. The groups had to use any equipment they could find in the room to show radiation, convection, and conduction to heat up a piece of aluminum foil. With the start of this next marking period we will be examining different minerals and rocks found in Earth's crust.

Mr. Pacelli
Algebra I – An Integrated Approach

We have finished Chapter 6 which was graphing. We dealt with linear equations, parabolas and absolute values. We also graphed inequalities. In the Harkness room we discussed some extension topics such as binary numbers and sequences. Next up are formulas and functions. We have also been using the Philipps Exeter algebra book to explore some additional topics.

Mrs. Vacca
Grade 8 Explorations

Exploration classes continue to meet once a week for their final marking period. The last project assigned is a "Travel Agent," where students must select a location they wish to visit. Travel plans and dates with departure/return information must be included along with cost. Their trip will include their family members and agents will have an unlimited expense account. Historic sites, landmarks, points of interest, recreation, activities, entertainment and anything else that would be fun to do must be included. Are there any travel restrictions/requirements/medical issues within your destination? Also included would be foods and restaurants where their family would dine. Visuals should be included and an audio sample if there is a foreign language spoken in their location.

Ms. Burke
Grades 7 & 8 Latin

The seventh graders began the second marking period with direct objects, complements, and transitive and intransitive verbs. We also learned about the infinitive form of the verb and the gender of nouns. We introduced the concept of noun case by learning about the accusative and nominative. As with last marking period, we focused on the areas in which English and Latin meet and reinforced all of our grammatical concepts by composing a paragraph in

Latin. Besides grammar, we have again worked on developing translation skills by reading stories about a famous Roman family, the Corneli. Finally, we have added to our cultural studies by learning about Roman dress and the story of one of Rome's founders, Aeneas.

In the eighth grade, we ended our review of last year's material and moved on new material such as third declension adjectives, dum clauses, and the perfect tense. In addition to their new tense, we worked on refining their translation skills by reading the stories of Ecce Romani. Moreover, we worked on creative presentations of Early Roman heroes like Horatius and Cincinnatus as well as learning about Roman travel. Finally, we continued reading Aeneas, an age-appropriate, English adaptation of Virgil's famous epic the Aeneid.

Mme Simon
Upper School French

With the sixth graders, we studied a dialog between two teenagers talking about themselves and the students presented in front of the class with an excellent accent. We also studied the verb to have - "Avoir" - and a text about Tango the dog. This week, the students will also be presenting in front of the class and answering personal questions.

To celebrate "National French Week" which was November 5 to November 11, we played the favorite Kahoot game with cultural questions regarding France, the 33 countries where French is the official language and other information regarding the French culture. Merci beaucoup to all of the parents who brought French food to our class which the students really enjoyed. What are the French without their food!

This marking period, the seventh graders learned the verbs "Pouvoir-Vouloir," a dialog about two teenagers planning a day of fun activities, cultural information regarding France and a text about Tahiti. Our class combines vocabulary, grammar, dialogs and cultural aspects of French speaking people. By listening to the dialogs on my website, the students are able to improve their pronunciation tremendously. To celebrate "National French Week" which was November 5 to November 11, we played the favorite Kahoot game with cultural questions regarding France, the 33 countries where French is the official language and other information regarding the French culture. Merci beaucoup to all of the parents who brought French food to our class. The students really enjoyed that. What are the French without their food!

We are now in the process of presenting a project created the past few weeks on a province, a French territory, an island or a country where French is the official language (33 countries all together). Excellent work!

With the eighth grade, we studied the verb "Vouloir and Pouvoir," a text about social networks and practical expressions in French. Our class work combines vocabulary, grammar and cultural aspects of the life of French speaking students. To celebrate "National French Week" which was November 5 to November 11, we played the favorite Kahoot game with cultural questions regarding France, the 33 countries where French is the official language and other information regarding the French culture. Merci beaucoup to all the parents who brought French food to our class which the students really enjoyed. What are the French without their food!

We currently finished a big project called "Why is it important to learn another language / Career day." The students chose a career that they would like to pursue and that requires speaking another language. The students created PREZI presentations, Keynotes, Google Presentations or Power Point. The students found this project interesting and will be presenting in front of Miss Murray and Mr. Pacelli. Bon travail!

Mr. Rosenfeld/Mrs. Bordiuk
Upper School PE

Grades 5 thru 8 finished up all of the Presidential Physical Fitness Awards Challenge testing. The classes continued to participate in Swim lessons and games. The second marking period allowed for some more Phys. Ed. Games during class and Ultimate Frisbee – inside and outside. The 3rd marking period will have the 7th and 5th grades going into Health Education classes for the whole marking period. The 6th and 8th grades will start on a Unit of Basketball; skills and fundamentals, leading up to full court basketball games in class. They will also play regular PE games once a week. Swim classes are over until sometime in March. We will notify everyone in the spring regarding the start of swim classes.

Mrs. Griller/Computer

You can look around the school and in the computer room to see the many wonderful computer projects created and you can listen as we have been clicking away on the keyboards in computer class practicing our touch typing skills. The first grade made flying fish, thankful books

and holiday pictures using Kid Pix. In second grade they researched a country on www.worldatlas.com and created a graphic web about that country in Kidspiration. In third grade the students continued to work on touch typing and created a Venn diagram about two books they read also using Kidspiration. The fourth grade students completed their Power Point presentations by adding animations and timings. The fifth grade wrote business letters and created a picture using the draw tools in Microsoft Word. Sixth graders ran a lemonade stand on cool-math games and then created a business portfolio in Excel. The portfolio contained a spreadsheet of the business results, various charts and a summary of their work. In seventh grade they worked with a partner to create a newsletter and in eighth grade they developed a website both using Microsoft Publisher. During this marking period we discussed cyber safety in all classes.

Mrs. Tyma/Music

During this Thanksgiving season, the students in music classes enjoyed songs, dances, books and poems that reflect the season. The Kindergarten, first and second graders have listened to Native American music played on an authentic woodland flute and accompanied the playing on a drum made by the Taos tribe in New Mexico.

The Kindergarten classes love to dramatize songs. We've produced scenes about turkeys and ducks, Native American Indians, and Pilgrims. In the fun we experienced high and low voices/sounds, phrasing, and rhythm patterns.

The first graders identified long and short notes in a Georgia Sea Island song about harvesting root crops. We looked at a variety of fresh root crops from a local produce store (rutabaga, parsnip, turnip, sweet potato, etc.), talked about the science of their growth, and then created new lyrics to describe these crops in a way that fit the rhythm patterns in the song. Also, a Sioux Indian lullaby was learned with an accompaniment on the barred instruments that emphasized the concept of beat versus rhythm. As an introduction to sign language, we learned to sign some of the words to one of our favorite Thanksgiving songs.

In second grade, we learned the *Bear Dance* of the Ute Indians and danced it to recordings of authentic Ute tribal music. We created an unpitched percussion orchestration for a poem to serve as our B section for a song about pumpkin pie. The song challenged our

musicianship skills with its three-part instrument accompaniment. In addition, we built upon the sign language skills learned in first grade with a new Thanksgiving song.

The third and fourth grade classes enjoyed the Shaker song *Simple Gifts* while working on choral singing skills and their recognition of chord changes in the harmony. The third graders listened to Aaron Copland's "Variations on Simple Gifts" from his ballet *Appalachian Spring* and discovered the ways Copland uses timbre, tempo, and dynamics in this movement. Activities highlighting meter were enjoyed when we created our own lummi stick patterns in the way that children of the Chippewa tribe did years ago. The fourth graders extended their understanding of harmony when they learned a barred instrument accompaniment for *Simple Gifts*. We learned a new note on the recorder so that we could add a descant to this song. In the fifth grade classes we brushed up on our recorder skills to play a song from the Caribbean Islands in calypso style. We are continuing to work on the barred instrument and drum parts which are complex syncopated rhythms. It is a delightful challenge for our listening and performance skills. In addition, we learned new notes on recorder so that we could enjoy a lovely Sioux lullaby as the Native Americans would have on their flutes. We had first experienced this lullaby as Lower School students, but now we were able to play the barred instrument accompaniment and to work on playing musically.

The sixth graders have finished their first composition by Carl Orff for the barred instruments. It is a very complex canon (like a round) that stretched our musicianship and listening skills as well as reinforcing our understanding of sixteenth note rhythm patterns and intervallic relationships in a pentatonic scale. The students were very surprised to see the complexity of the music score once we had learned it (entirely by ear). After reading Jane Yolen's poetry in her book *Harvest Home*, we are improvising melodies in various tonalities based on the compound meter rhythms used in the poem.

The Chorus and Oak Hill Players received rave reviews for their performance at the Veterans' Day Assembly. I appreciate their hard work and how professional they have been in their approach to the performance. Thanks to Mrs. Momyer for her work as our piano accompanist for the Chorus.

Miss DiMaggio/Art

First grade used the pinch method to make a ceramic pinch pot. They used watercolor to paint flowers to recreate a painting by Pablo Picasso and used black sharpies to draw a still-life.

Second grade used the pinch method in ceramics. They used pieces of construction paper to represent their favorite foods, and they drew on foam to create prints.

Third grade used the slab method of ceramics, used model magic to make a coil pot, and worked in groups to make tissue paper collages representing Claude Monet's water lilies. They also learned about the warm and cool colors while drawing chameleons using oil pastels.

Fourth grade used the slab method to make a ceramic dish. They studied artist Frida Kahlo and learned how to draw a self portrait.

Fifth grade studied American artist Georgia O'Keeffe and, using oil pastels, they drew close up flowers from direct observation. They studied surreal artist Salvador Dali and created an imaginary and bizarre drawing based on surrealism. They also learned to carve linoleum blocks to create prints.

Sixth grade used the slab method to create a ceramic vessel. They used the grid method and studied artist Chuck Close while drawing their funny face self portraits.

Seventh grade tie dyed t-shirts. They drew sunflowers on black paper using oil pastels based on the work of Vincent Van Gogh and used acrylic paint to paint a textured picture on a canvas board.

Eighth grade used the slab method in ceramics and studied famous glass blower Dale Chihuly. They used professional grade watercolor to paint a beach, and using colored pencil and a compass, they drew their Instagram inspired drawings using special effects and filters in the shape of a circle.

Mrs. Vacca/Mr. Goldfarb Student Council

Student Council welcomes our Homeroom Representatives for grades 5 through 7. These students are randomly selected as liaisons to inform their homerooms as to what transpires during student council meetings. They are an integral part of the student council as they can also bring feedback from their

homerooms to the meetings. November's Dress Down Day on the 4th was for "Susan G. Komen for the Cure." Thanks to everyone who made an extra donation as we were able to send them a total contribution of \$637.00 which will go towards critical breast cancer research and treatment that impact people in our local community.

Thanks also to everyone for their spare change that helped to fill up those orange boxes labeled UNICEF. We were able to send a check for \$120.94 and continue "kids helping kids" in need around the world. The Mercy Center also sent a note of thanks for helping to fill their food pantry which will provide Thanksgiving meals to about 320 local families.

Starting on Monday, December 1st, we will once again have our Mitten Tree and Food Collection which will go to the 5th of December. The tree will be set up in the upper school hallway where students may adorn the tree with new mittens and scarves and hats. Non-perishable food items will be collected on the stage in the gym. A flyer will also be coming home making requests from each grade level as to gifts that we will be collecting for various organizations. Remember to remember those who are less fortunate than us especially at this upcoming holiday season. Everything is always appreciated!

Student Council held their Winter Wonderland Dance for 7th and 8th grade students on Friday, December 5th from 7:30-10 pm. An "ugly holiday sweater" contest was a highlight and pizza was served.

I am pleased and thankful for all the purchases made through Innisbrook this fall. We made a profit of \$1,043.67 which goes back to the school to help fund the rides on Littletown Day, dances, and year-end gifts. Please remember that you can shop at www.innisbrook.com all year long and Oak Hill Academy will make a 50% profit. Click on GO to: SHOP, our school #105201, place your order and the items will be shipped directly to your home.

Happy holidays!

Directory Changes

Change of Address

Grade 6 – Library Homeroom
Sara DeCresce
2 Forest Park Court
Holmdel, NJ 07733

ATHLETICS

Fall Athletics

Boys Soccer – Mr. Misson's team finished the season with a 14-1 record. We won the G Division of the Jim Carrigan-Ferris Antoon Monmouth County Intermediate School Soccer League with an undefeated record of 12-0! We were seeded fourth in the play-offs and defeated Red Bank 4-0 in the first round, West Long Branch 2-1 in the second round and lost to top seeded Tinton Falls 4-1 in the semi-finals. We outscored our opponents 65-13. The following 8th graders will be missed: Stephen Braunstein, Lucas Bruckmann, Brendan Hansen, Andrew Mattina, Tim Murray, AJ Sandhu, Dylan Servilla, Hunter Small, Bryan Soler, Michael Zylka.

Girls Soccer – Mr. Bruckmann's team finished the season with a 9-4-1 record! The team qualified for the playoffs as the #7 seed and defeated #10 St. Benedicts, 5-1. The team lost in the quarterfinals to #2 seed Forrestdale 5-1. The following 8th graders will be missed: Nicole Burgo, Kaila Domanski, Catherine Stolbof.

Intramural Tennis – Mr. Goldfarb's group finished up tennis three weeks ago. The students in grades 5-8 had six weeks of doubles play, instruction, and games!

Cross Country – Mrs. Gilfillan, assisted by Mrs. Scheuer, had a large group of runners all year. The team improved throughout the season, besting their times at practices. A number of our runners did very well at the bitterly cold and windy Run for the Roses meet in November! Medal winners and top finishers were:

In the 4th grade race for girls, Lauren Soler placed 2nd and Audrey Yan placed 8th. Declan Picadio placed 4th, Anthony Matejicka placed 8th, Will Gilfillan placed 11th, and Ryan Daniels placed 18th in the Boys Race!

In the 5th grade boys race, Brandon Klatsky finished in impressive fashion in the 2nd place spot!

In the 6th grade girls race, Jordan Codispoti placed 19th.

In the 6th grade boys race, William Hurley had a great race and finished in 2nd place! Peter Jaworski placed 10th, Mason Garber placed 13th, Timothy Shallcross 18th.

In the 8th grade boys race, Gregory Dolan placed 5th.

The following 8th grader will be missed: Gregory Dolan.

Winter Athletics

Boys Varsity Basketball - Mr. Bruckmann and Mr. Misson have opened their season with wins against Eisenhower and Barkalow! The season continues with games the week of December 8th. Please check the website for schedules and updates!

Girls Varsity Basketball – Mrs. Porzio's opening game on December 4th was a loss against a tough West Long Branch team. The girls have been working hard in preparation for their season which will continue with three games the week of December 8th!

Girls JV Basketball – Mrs. Scheuer has a nice turnout for the JV team this year. These 5th and 6th grade girls have been working hard to improve their fundamentals. While the schedule is not complete, yet, the first game will be later on in December.

Cheerleading – Mrs. Wood has been working hard with the largest number of girls that we've ever had on the squad! They will be leading the cheers at our home games.

Scorekeeping - If you'd like to learn to control the basketball scoreboard and keep score, please see Miss Murray!

Boy's JV Basketball – Mr. Rosenfeld's 5th and 6th grade boys will open the season in a few weeks. They have been working hard and are eager to get the season going! The schedules will be out shortly.

Swim Team – Mrs. Bordiuk and Mr. Goldfarb have started their practices. The first meet of the season (there will be six) will be held on December 18th vs. Neptune. The rest of the meets will be held in January and February.

