



OAK HILL ACADEMY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2015

Headmaster's Message Joseph A. Pacelli

The First of the 3 E's

Oak Hill's 3E messaging logo has many spin-offs and subtopics. Today, I will discuss "Excellence," the first on our list.

When we asked our parents and teachers to describe the Oak Hill experience in a few words, "excellence" kept popping up. This wasn't in just one, but in a number of areas across what we do.

Preparation was one of those often mentioned. It was clear from the responses that our graduates are ready for the challenges they will experience in high school and beyond. Our students can write, think and possess excellent study habits. They are capable of taking exams and have the ability to discuss a wide range of topics. They have a great deal of confidence and they can speak in front of an audience.

Oak Hill is also known for its high academic standards and the rigor upon which our children thrive as a part of their daily experience. They enjoy the challenges presented by their teachers and they are active participants in the process of their own intellectual development.

Yes, "excellence" will always be a trademark of the Oak Hill experience!

Mrs. Larkins Director of Development

Spread the Word

We will be having a special FRIDAY open house for families interested in Oak Hill during the school day on February 20th. Attendants are to arrive at the Scire Student Activities Center at 9:00 a.m. The morning will include an information session, classroom visit, tour of campus, and performances by some of our Oak Hill students. Please spread the word to any family that you know might be interested in OHA.

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

"New York State of Mind" Cash Raffle and Ad Journal

"New York State of Mind" was chosen as the 2015 theme of this year's annual cash raffle, gala/auction, and ad journal.

The cash raffle is part of the school's major fundraising event of the year. The cash raffle itself is a wonderful opportunity to win sizable amounts of money. This will be the 23rd year of our progressive 50/50 cash raffle whereby three cash prizes are awarded. The FIRST PRIZE is 70% of the winning 50/50 share up to \$17,500. The SECOND PRIZE is 20% of the winning 50/50 share up to \$5,000. The THIRD PRIZE is 10% of the winning 50/50 share up to \$2,500. Tickets are \$50 each are limited to the first 1,000 sold.

Each current Oak Hill Academy family has received a raffle packet containing four raffle tickets. For every four tickets sold, you will receive, in turn, an incentive ticket qualifying you for our incentive prize, a trendy Nikki Lissoni gold tone necklace, medallion holder with Swarovski crystals, and the New York, New York coin.

The winners of the cash raffle prizes and incentive prize will be drawn during the March 7th gala and auction at the lovely Eagle Oaks Country Club. It should be an evening to remember and we hope you can join us.

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

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

Proceeds from all these events will continue to expand school technology. Please participate at any level and help us prepare for an even brighter future for our children.

Miss Murray Director of Personnel/Administration

Admissions

Our first entrance test was given on Saturday, January 11th. Over ten children were tested for entrance into grades one through eight. Our kindergarten testing has also begun this month. The PreK is accepting applications for the 5 and 3 day programs.

Lip Sync

The 26th Annual Lip Sync will continue with the two-night format! PreK - 3rd grade will perform on Thursday, February 26th at 6:30pm. Grades 4-8 will perform on Friday night, February 27th at 6:30pm. The faculty acts will perform on both nights. Songs need to be less than three minutes in length. Details will be coming in February. Practices will be starting on February 17th.

Parent Basketball Game

The Annual Parent Basketball Game will be played on Sunday, March 15th at 12:00 noon. The Lower School parents will compete against the Upper School parents. There will be a practice on Sunday, March 8th. Look for details in the upcoming month!

8th Grade American Scholastic Challenge

This will be the sixth year that our 8th graders will be competing in the American Achievement Scholastic League's Scholastic Challenge on February 20th at 2:30.

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

M.A.S.T. Jeopardy Tournament

A small group of eighth graders (and possibly seventh graders) will be chosen to compete in the Marine Academy of Science and Technology Jeopardy Contest on Friday, March 13th! Oak Hill students have done very well in this competition in years past!

Upper School Assembly – Ms. Bonnie St. John – February 19th

Upper School students will hear from Ms. Bonnie St. John on February 19th at 1:00pm. Ms. St. John is a leadership consultant for over 500 different companies. She has risen to the highest levels of achievement in a variety of endeavors throughout her life. Despite having her right leg amputated at the age of five, Ms. St. John became the first African American to win an Olympic or Paralympics medal in ski racing! She won a silver and two bronze medals in the 1984 Paralympics in Innsbruck, Austria in 1984. Ms. St. John has also been honored by many of the US Presidents! Ms. St. John will speak to our students about resilience, perseverance, and optimism. We are grateful to Mrs. Desiree Dancy, mother of fifth grader Zora, who is a friend of Ms. St. John's! More details will be forthcoming! Parents are invited!

Oak Hill student moves on to the Elks "Hoop Shoot"®@ New Jersey State Finals

Oak Hill Academy sent six students (Eric Lukenda, Alexey Stout, Steven Sharpe, Laura Hurley, Katie Hansen and Kaila Domanski) representing the Red Bank Elks Lodge on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at the Carl Sandberg Middle School in Old Bridge, NJ, to Elks "Hoop Shoot"® District Finals sponsored by the South Central District of the Elks.

The 2014-2015 "Hoop Shoot"® is the Elks most visible and largest of the youth activities that they sponsor. Over 3 million boys and girls ages 8-13 will compete throughout the country through district, state, regional and ultimately the national finals in Springfield Massachusetts. Winners get their name permanently enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

After shooting 25 foul shots in their respective age groups, Alexey Stout won the 10-11 year old division and will move on to the State Finals! Good Luck Alexey!

Oak Hill supports the 2014 Elks "Hoop Shoot"®

The 2014-2015 Red Bank Elks Lodge "Hoop Shoot"® was held on Sunday, December 28 at the St. Anthony of Padua Gym in Red Bank, NJ. The hoop

shoot is the Elks most visible and largest of the youth activities that they sponsor. Over 3 million boys and girls ages 8-13 will compete throughout the country through district, state, regional and ultimately the national finals in Springfield Massachusetts. Winners get their name permanently enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

The Hoop Shoot began in 1971 with boys from just 19 states involved. Within five years 750,000 boys and girls from 42 states were involved. Each participant takes 25 foul shots, and every step of the contest is sponsored by the Elks. This program "has been effective not only in developing champions but character". Oak Hill has supported the local program for 30 years, and our students have performed very well. This year alone, we captured 14 of the 18 possible trophies including all 6 First place awards! In 1987, Allyson Stoll finished 8th in the Country at the National Hoop Shoot finals!

The champions in each of the six age groups moved on to the district competition on January 10 at 8:30am at the Carl Sandberg Middle School in Old Bridge, NJ with hopes on moving to the State competition and beyond. This year we had some very good competition in the different age groups with the following results:

Boys 8-9

1st – Eric Lukenda

Boys 10-11

1st – Alexey Stout; 2nd – Nicholas Mavica; 3rd - Louis Ambrosio

Boys 12-13

1st – Steven Sharpe; 2nd – Stephen Braunstein; 3rd – William Hurley

Girls 8-9

1st – Laura Hurley; 2nd – Demetra Giannakopoulos

Girls 10-11

1st – Katie Hansen; 2nd – Anna Hindermann; 3rd – Sara Braunstein

Girls 12-13

1st – Kaila Domanski; 2nd – Mary Mahoney

Mr. Bruckmann Communications Director

Web Page Updates:

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.
3. Also, our list of Oak Hill Summer Camps can be found on-line under "Experiences" as well as in the Parents tab: [Summer Programs](#).

Mrs. Livingston Lower School Guidance

Gr. 1

Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners is a humorous story about Mr. Rabbit and his new neighbors the Otters. Since he didn't know anything about otters, Mr. Rabbit wasn't sure if they would get along. Wise Mr. Owl advised Mr. Rabbit just to treat otters the same way he'd like them to treat him. When Mr. Rabbit thought about this, he realized that, among other things, he would like the Otters to be FRIENDLY, POLITE, HONEST, and CONSIDERATE. The children learned that, by simply following the Golden Rule, we can be a good friend and neighbor to all.

Gr. 2

Big Al and Shrimpy by Andrew Clements is the story of how two very different characters became friends. Big Al was a leader among the fish. The other fish could not understand why he would be friends with a teeny, tiny fish. Although Shrimpy was very small, Big Al admired that he was very smart. One day, when Big Al's life was in danger, Shrimpy was the only fish brave enough and smart enough to save Big Al. Suddenly, all of the other fish could see that friends come in all shapes, sizes, and abilities. It was wrong of them to judge Shrimpy only by what they could see.

Gr. 3

The rewards of honesty are many. The children learned through the story The Empty Pot, that sometimes our honesty is being tested in the most unlikely ways. Discuss this story with your child to see how the Emperor knew that Ping was honest and find out what Ping's reward was.

Gr. 4

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

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

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2015 to all of our Oak Hill Academy students and families. We hope that everyone enjoyed a memorable and joyful holiday season.

Students eagerly returned to school and welcomed in the New Year. January brought a substantial amount of freezing cold weather and some light snow, perfect conditions for observing snowflakes outdoors and painting snow scenes to decorate the Pre-K. During after school Science for Young Minds Club, the students enjoyed a lesson on Birds in Winter that included making bird feeders for the outdoors and colorful birds for our "Please Feed the Birds!" bulletin board. Upcoming lessons will include a unit on hibernation and animals in winter.

Upon our return from winter break, author Jan Brett, set the scene for the story The Mitten. This classic piece of literature came to life as students acted out the story which stresses inclusion and friendship. In addition to rich literature, Pre-K enjoys their in-class exposure to art and famous artists which have recently included Van Gogh and Degas. Water coloring paintings and still art are a student favorite. Please drop by to see the beautiful art gallery in the Pre-K hallway.

During class, Pre-K recently discovered Letter Mr. O who likes opposites, if you say "yes" he says "no." Pre-K will also complete an alphabet review of all letters

and sounds introduced to date. Pre-K loves The Letter People! Rhyming is an ongoing skill; while word families and curriculum generated sight words have now been introduced. In preparation for 100 Days of School, students are practicing their counting skills to 100. As a challenge students are counting objects by 2's, 5's and even 10's. Lessons in Singapore Math continue to stress graphing, sorting, classifying objects and strengthening our basic shapes and geometric shapes. Lessons on telling time to the hour, coins and correctly forming numbers to 20 are being highlighted throughout January and February.

Our iPads provide us with numerous Apps and opportunities to strengthen and reinforce our reading and math skills. Many new Apps have recently been added to provide opportunities for students to progress on every skill level. Students also enjoy their interactive lessons and activities on the white board.

The school-wide character trait for January is perseverance. Ask anyone in Pre-K what perseverance means and you will get a clear answer. Students developed a meaning for dedication and hard work and have easily transferred these lessons to the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and his efforts for peaceful change and civil rights. Martin's Big Words was a favorite story and it was wonderful experience when Mr. Pacelli read part of M. L. Kings "I Have a Dream" speech over the public address system. Students illustrated and recorded words and pictures detailing their own hopes and dreams. Coinciding with Martin Luther King Day, our author of the month for January was Ezra Jack Keats. Students were amazed to learn that Keats classic tales, "A Snowy Day" and "Whistle for Willie" were the first children's books to depict an African American boy named Peter.

Some of the highlights for Pre-K during the next several weeks will be a unit on hibernation and our weekly scheduled swim and play classes in the OHA pool. Students cannot wait! Exploring our Neighborhood and Transportation will be the focus in our Little Treasures Language Arts program.

"Mommy and Me" classes for 3's and 4's will begin on January 24th. Mrs. Weikes will conduct a series of four engaging classes for children accompanied by an adult. The first class will highlight, "The Magic of Mother Goose" and serves to introduce the children to the Pre-K experience. Classes are open to both Oak Hill Academy families and non-Oak

Hill Academy families. For information on attending any of these classes contact the Pre-K at 732.530.1326.

On February 19th our Chinese New Year celebration will highlight "The Year of the Goat." Pre-K festivities will include; a Lion Dance parade, Chinese writing on rice paper, crafts and a sampling of various Chinese foods. We wish all of our families celebrating the Lunar New Year, "Gung Hay Fat Choy." Our Valentine's Day celebration will be held on February 9th. Our wonderful moms will join us for a fun-filled tea in their honor.

During Music and Movement classes, children will work on strengthening gross motor skills and begin preparing for our February 2015 trip to the Sunrise Assisted Living facility to present "Love Songs for Seniors." Students will craft handmade valentines and plan a party for our senior friends.

Once again, have a Happy and Healthy New Year. With this recent blast of bitter, cold weather we invite everyone to "Think Spring."

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

HAPPY 2015! We are thrilled to start 2015 in Kindergarten and to reflect on all of the exciting things we did at the end of 2014! In keeping with our theme of diversity, Kindergarten learned how holidays are celebrated around the world. Each child was asked to bring in one shoe to leave for St. Nicholas in hopes that he would leave us a treat. We were thrilled the next day to see that his horse had traveled all the way from Sweden and had eaten the carrots we left and that he left us with brand new crayons! We then "traveled" to Holland where our Kindergarten girls wore a headband of candles and served our class a sweet treat in honor of St. Lucia. We also honored our Jewish students by lighting a Menorah on each day of Hannukah and enjoying delicious potato latkes! On December 19th we were treated to a special visit by Santa who came to us by a fire truck driven by Mr. Quincannon. He helped hand out presents before we all headed over to the Student Activity Center to meet our guests. Parents and friends were there to help us decorate gingerbread trains. We thank our class moms for the wonderful party we had beforehand!

No month would be complete in Kindergarten without a field trip. In December we visited Woodfield Christmas Tree Plantation. We learned a great deal about different types of trees and were treated to hot chocolate and candy canes. We also went to the Algonquin Theater in Manasquan to see the play, "A Charlie Brown Christmas." We truly enjoyed the show from our front row seats!

In Math the children have learned how to measure the length of objects using items other than a ruler and to utilize a balance to compare the weight of objects. We are currently studying capacity and actively using water and different containers to see how much each can hold. The children are beginning to realize that math is a part of their everyday lives which makes it easier for them to relate to the concepts.

The Letter People continue to join our Kindergarten family. We have welcomed Ms. P, Mr. B, Mr. Z and Ms. S. With Letterlights I, U and O we are able to make so many more words! We'd like to take a moment to thank the parents who come in every week for special snack. Coming up with creative snacks for each letter sometimes tests ones creativity! We appreciate your time and always have so much fun during your visit!

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

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

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

Happy 2015 to our wonderful first grade families. We are back and hard at work. We are off to a good start!!! We have been learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his pursuit of PEACE, LOVE and HARMONY. The book and video "Martin's Big Words, the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." inspired us with actual stories about Rosa Parks and Dr. King.

In math, we are expanding our higher level thinking skills in the areas of number bonds, addition and subtraction facts to 20, length, weight, capacity, and position. Our families joined us in the

SAC for our annual MATH FACT-ORY!!! We had a fun filled time playing an addition facts game and a subtraction concentration game. We also made and displayed a colorful math quilt.

Our Wordly Wise lessons have provided our students with stories and materials which enrich not only vocabulary but oral language. The use of these exciting and colorful vocabulary cards and fun workbook pages really help our students broaden their proficiency and fluency.

We wish to thank our many families who have come into our classrooms to read for our "Share A Story" program. We have heard some very interesting, funny and exciting stories from books that are old and new favorites!!! THANK YOU !!!

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

We have all settled into our second grade routine after a nice winter break. We shared some great stories about what we did while we were off and everyone was happy to see one another and to be back.

The greatest excitement we just recently had was getting ready for our "Math Arcade" day which was on January 15. Before our winter break we finished publishing our very own second grade math books. The children worked diligently writing and rewriting their math problems for the publishing of this book. After they were satisfied with their written problems they became illustrators. They drew and colored beautiful full-page pictures of their math problems.

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

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

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

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

some famous African Americans as we move into Black History month.

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

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

As the harsh winds of winter bear down on New Jersey, the third grade classes are just heating up as we prepare for Plains Indians Day. Students have been immersed in activities such as designing Native American clothing, learning and performing Native American dances, and creating Winter Counts and Native American legends of their own.

After Kirsten met Singing Bird in the story Kirsten Learns a Lesson, the students learned about the impact that pioneers had on the lives of the Plains Indians. The students have gained an understanding of the importance of the buffalo and how the pioneers farming practices diminished their food supply.

Through our lessons about the Plains Indians lifestyle, the students are more aware of the Native American culture. We look forward to a fun day with family and friends at our Powwow.

The 6, 7, 8 multiplication and division facts are the main focus in the third grade math program. The students are learning how to quickly multiply and divide, so their attention in on solving multi-step word problems. Students are also mastering long division. Keep practicing those facts at home so long division is easier for them!

The students have worked diligently on crafting their own fairy tales. They have used their imagination to create characters, setting, and a plot for their stories. We can't wait to read about the adventures in these magical tales. Within these stories the students have been working on expanding their vocabulary and creating dialogue between their characters.

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

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

The fourth graders had a wonderful experience in the Pine Barrens in historic Whitesbog Village on Tuesday, December 2nd. We attended a program called Lenape Living. We experienced life, as close as it could be, to the way

the Lenape lived. We thatched a wigwam made just as we had learned. We ground corn into cornmeal and added cranberries and maple syrup to bear fat that was being heated. We were making pemmican, which we got to eat after it cooled. We made herbal medicines and learned their uses. We played Lenape games which used bones, strings, and stones. Lastly, we made rattles to make music with. Experiencing life the way the Lenape lived reinforced our need to reduce, reuse, and recycle as they did for thousands of years.

In English, we finished our unit on verbs and are presently working on adjectives. In between the parts of speech we completed a mini unit on punctuating quotations. A new poetry form, the diamante, challenged us to use synonyms and precise describing words. Look for our creations in *Early Reflections* this spring.

Come by fourth grade and read our Winter Cinquains. We enjoyed illustrating our poem. We are proud of them! Hopefully, you had a chance to try out reading the Lenape pictographs that we had displayed for you. We had fun writing in pictographs about a journey.

Mrs. Bordiuk/Mr. Goldfarb Lower School PE

In the third marking period at Oak Hill Academy the Lower School Phys Ed and Health classes have begun a Jump Rope unit and Health. During the Jump Rope unit students will gain proficiency in coordination and timing while working on their cardiovascular health. The Health portion of our curriculum involves the students watching an educational health video once per week. These videos include topics such as; stranger safety, hygiene, drug prevention and awareness, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The videos are followed by a brief discussion where students are assessed on their understanding of the content and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Mrs. Cahalane Lower School Science

PreK students completed a unit on chemistry. They have been using plastic graduated cylinders, beakers, and test tubes. We mixed together colorful liquids and saw what happens when baking soda and vinegar combine! Kindergarteners covered a unit on the weather; we kept a weather log then charted our data. The children learned about the importance of weather forecasting and storm preparation. They

learned how to use thermometers and how to read the Celsius & Fahrenheit scale as they measured the temperatures of hot and cold liquids. First graders did a fantastic job during our bridge engineering unit. Everyone built a unique, structurally sound bridge to help imaginary gnomes bring their vegetables to market! Second grade students also completed an engineering unit that was an extension of our solids, liquids, gases unit. All students made a home for the 3 Little Pigs using mortar they mixed as well as straws and paper. We used hair dryers as "the Big, Bad Wolf" and I am happy to say that not one house was blown down! Third graders finished up a unit on the moon and 4th graders learned about biomes of the world as they created imaginary creatures that could live in certain biomes. To see photographs of what we have been doing in science class, please see my teaching blog which can be found on the OHA website under "faculty."

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

Students are learning so much about this wonderful and vast country, **CANADA**. Students recently enjoyed watching some video clips of Canada and learning songs about this beautiful country, its wildlife, terrain, points of interest, sports, and even celebrities.

The Kindergarten class has been brainstorming about transportation and created their passports. The 1st graders will be designing their postage stamp and their artwork will go on display at the **Polar Bear Post Office**. 2nd grade students also designed their passports and will be having fun creating clay pretzels for their business - **Pretzel Palace on Littletown Day**. All grades have been given a province to learn about: The flower, flag, and any other interesting facts and pictures will be included on the class posters along with an inclusion in the Ho Ho book on **CANADA**. All grades have been having fun learning about locating the provinces and the placement of them using a game on their iPads. Timing competition has been exciting, showing much enthusiasm among the students and other classes.

Preparations have been in full swing now that all the lower school students are meeting once a week for Ho Ho. Posters are being sketched as advertisement, **Littletown** houses are being drawn, menus for the **Caribou Café**, and so much more. Final touches are being put on the **Littletown Day** invitations, thanks to Mrs. Griller and the third graders along with the design of the "**tiny bucks**," by

the fourth graders. In February, a much detailed packet will be coming home about our annual event called **Littletown Day** which be held on **Wednesday, March 11, 2015**. It is a half day and fun for all, so mark your calendars and encourage your child to continue earning those important "**tiny bucks**." Also, students should start writing mail to each other using the **Littletown Day Address Book** that will be going home at the beginning of February. Students can also earn "**tiny bucks**" by submitting items for inclusion in the **Littletown Press**. Thanks to our returning editor, Mrs. Harris for taking on this important job. The Ho Ho room is bursting with enthusiasm anticipating the upcoming event. Any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at any time.

Mme Simon Grade 4 French

In the fourth grade, we studied the numbers, time and prepositions. The students first memorize the material and then we play games to reinforce the vocabulary.

Playing games is very important to reinforce the material. We play "Around the world" and "Kahoot" with the iPads. Kahoot is a very engaging game and students answer the questions in real time which are projected on the big screen. They love to see their name appear on it!

It is a pleasure to see the enthusiasm of the students during our classes! Excellent travail! (Special thanks to Thibaut for creating a Kahoot.)

Mrs. Scheuer Upper School Guidance

Ring in the New Year provided a great opportunity to make resolutions. During Language Arts and Critical Reading classes, upper school students wrote their goals for 2015. Students referenced; continuing to work hard at their studies, avoid procrastinating, devote more time for pleasure reading, exercise more frequently and increase involvement in community service projects.

Service Learning Projects have taken root both on and off campus. Student Council efforts assist numerous charities to help those in need in Monmouth County, Haiti and Africa. Our upper and lower school interaction provides an opportunity for our students to connect within our school community. Grade levels were paired accordingly; 1st & 5th, 2nd & 6th, 3rd & 7th and 4th & 8th. Each

marking period, teachers coordinate a meaningful project to foster the interaction. Two grades meet to work on arts and crafts, read together or view presentations. The interaction experience, bolstered by Mr. Pacelli, yielded wonderful results. It has been a joy to observe upper school students greet their lower school friends by name, offer a big hello in the Commons and high fives around campus.

It was during a 1st & 5th grade interaction experience that a plan to help others, specifically our OHA senior friends originated. The 5th graders were assisting the 1st graders with *Birthdays around the World* when a conversation sparked an idea. Students were concerned their grandparents, living in a senior community or assisted living facilities on occasion might feel lonely. The students decided a sweet treat with tea or coffee would be “a nice thing” to provide. Every month, students planned to create a seasonal greeting card, attach it to a bag of cookies, provide 50+ treat bags to the designated OHA student for delivery to *their* special community. To date, 5th graders delivered 45 dozen chocolate chip cookies! Their acts of kindness reached Sunrise in Lincroft, The Chelsea in Tinton Falls, Sunrise in Staten Island, New York and The Rosemont in Marlboro.

It was a pleasure to observe the countless lessons throughout the upper school pertaining to the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The classrooms were alive with role playing, video and audio excerpts of his speeches, stories as well as music and art projects. Dr. King’s principles of fairness, equality and education resonate throughout Oak Hill Academy. A famous quote of Dr. King’s in Mrs. Williams room exemplifies our core values; “Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”

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

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

Miss Lee **Grade 5 Literature/LA**

Congratulations, fifth graders! We made it through our first set of Big Tests! Your studying and preparation served you well. You should feel proud of yourselves.

It’s been fun getting back into our Literature anthology books and reading stories like “The All-American Slurp,” in which we learned about cultural differences and dining etiquette. Also, your news articles about “How Robin Hood Saved the Widow’s Three Sons” are hanging up on the bulletin board in the classroom. In addition to continuing to explore and read selections from our anthology, we will also begin our second novel study, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*.

In Language Arts, we will continue with the second half of our Verbs unit before we begin studying Adjectives. We will also continue to work through our Vocabulary Workshop books. This marking period we will be working on essays to enter in this year’s Monmouth County Historical Commission essay contest. Check out the Language Arts section of our class website (MsLeeLLA.weebly.com) for more details about the contest and the possible writing prompts.

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

Congratulations to fifth grader Alex Mitchell, for winning the Oak Hill Academy National Geographic Bee, and to Runner-up, sixth grader Grant D’Orsi! It was a long and very close competition. Alex will soon take the written State Qualifying Test, and hopes to compete in the state-wide competition, which will be held in April. Congratulations also to third place finisher, 7th Grader Thomas Wang, and to the other finalists: 8th graders William Walsh, Hunter Small, Zack Basile, and Lucas Bruckmann, 7th graders Aron Wiener and Jake Fradkin, and 6th grader Kushal Bhattacharyya. Kudos, as well, to the run-off competitors: 8th graders Jessica Abbott, Hannah Gazdus, Jonathan Giuffre, CJ Gorman, Declan Grigg, Tim Murray, Dylan Servilla, Bryan Soler and Catherine Stolbof; 7th graders Wade Edwin, Ella Gammino, Erin Gilfillan, Kyle Harris, Aoife Picadio, Jake Rutkowski, and Leah Wilson; 6th graders Ryan Peduto, Brett Servilla, Trey Tambouri, Sydney Yan and Jessica Yatvitskiy, and to 5th graders Elizabeth Wright and Maria Giannakopoulos.

Grades 5 & 6 Geography

Fifth graders have begun to study the Geography of the United States.

Sixth graders are now playing the Africa Board Games they designed, and are beginning their study of India and the rest of South Asia.

Mr. Bruckmann **Grades 5 & 6 Math**

Singapore Math Grade 5

Students have been working to complete Unit 3 where they expanded on their fraction knowledge and began to investigate the multiplication of fractions both with respect to whole numbers as well as other fractions. We then used this understanding and attempted to put it into use to solve various types of word problems. This took us into our first “BIG Test” or mid-term in January where students needed to show their understanding of Units 1-3. Since our program is constantly integrating information from past Units, this was just a longer test. As the second semester begins, we are now moving into Unit 4 that picks up from Unit 3 and introduces fractions and division as well as more multiplication. Then it will be on to Unit 5 which concentrates on Perimeter, Area and Surface Area of various shapes both two-dimensional and three-dimensional. Please remember that corrections of quizzes and tests is not optional and that homework is a very important step in the process of learning lessons of both that day as well as previous days. Also, please use my website as a tool to enhance learning as well. <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/mr-bruckmanns-math-class>.

Singapore Math Grade 6

The sixth grade class has nearly completed their Singapore 6A books. After having completed our study of Rate and Speed, Book 6B will open up with Unit 7 which deals with Circles. This will include circumference, area as well as perimeter and area of composite figures. This unit will rather quickly transition into the study of Volume of prisms and cylinders in Unit 8. Remember that corrections for the tests and quizzes are due the day following when the test/quiz has been handed back. All students need to be prepared with a sharpened pencil, all three books and a desire to learn and increase their math knowledge. Also, please use my website as a tool to enhance learning as well. <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/mr-bruckmanns-math-class>

Mrs. Cotterell
Grades 5 – 8 Math

Grade 5 – Period 2

Fractions, fractions and fractions!! Our entire focus this marking period has been on fractions. The students learned how to compare fractions, order them, simplify, turn mixed numbers into improper fractions (and the opposite), write fractions from word problems, add and subtract them with like and unlike denominators, rename, multiply them with a whole number and multiply them with a measurement!

The students began this unit with a bit of anxiety thinking that the unit was going to be difficult. After many homework and in-class assignments, I can say that the students did a great job and have mastered many of these concepts. The results of the assessments have been terrific. Thank you at home for your continued support.

Once exams are over we will continue with our fraction work. We will work with word problems and bar modeling and we will multiply and divide two fractions as well.

These students are a pleasure to teach. They work hard and have transitioned to the upper school and my expectations very well.

Grade 5 – Period 3

The word to describe this marking period was “word problems”. The majority of the time these last six weeks have been spent exploring different types of word problems and preparing the corresponding bar models. The students have seen first hand that a seemingly daunting word problem becomes quite simple if they know how to bar model. When the students were first exposed to word problems, they used manipulatives, they progressed to bar modeling (a rectangular bar illustrating the known/unknown information) and will ultimately advance to abstract – developing an algebraic equation. Being able to read a word problem and understand how to solve it will be beneficial to the students as they progress through their studies. This takes good reading skills and perseverance. The students are doing quite well. Our next unit is on perimeter, area and surface area of both two and three dimensional figures.

This is a very bright, hard working group of students. It is a pleasure to teach them.

Grade 6

Our primary focus this marking period was on ratios, rates and proportions. The students worked at a very high level. The ratios were not simple comparisons; they had 3 quantities to compare which is not an easy task since they had to perform calculations to make the quantities comparable. They did lots of questions with proportions. They learned the three methods to solve a proportion and solved many real-life applications. The rate questions the students answered involved understanding the concept of what a rate is, how to calculate a rate and how to apply it to various scenarios. These questions became quite complicated! After the mid-terms, we will study speed and average speed which will complete the first textbook.

The students are working hard and a pleasure to teach.

Grade 7

Our primary focus this marking period was on geometry. The concepts the students learned help set the foundation for their high school class. We began the chapter by reviewing the vocabulary and then immediately immersed ourselves in the content: transversals, alternate interior and alternate exterior angles, corresponding and vertical angles. The students learned how to determine if triangles were congruent by using one of three theorems – Side Side Side, Side Angle Side, or Angle Side Angle. They also learned how to determine if triangles were similar by using the Angle Angle Angle postulate. They learned how to connect lines of symmetry with whether a figure was regular and they learned about M.C. Escher and how to make tessellations. Their assessments were awesome!

Once mid-terms are complete, we will move back to more typical pre-algebra concepts such as divisibility rules, prime factorization, GCF and LCM.

The students are enthusiastic and a pleasure to teach.

Grade 8 - Introduction to Algebra

We completed chapter 4 and are nearly complete with chapter 5. Chapter 4 included multiplying and dividing monomials, writing an expression without negative exponents (and the opposite) and writing numbers in scientific notation. The students had done scientific notation in previous years but they were given the task of ordering the numbers which adds to the complexity of the concept.

Chapter 5 began with writing fractions as decimals and the opposite. The students added another layer onto their rational number “donut” picture by adding a ring of natural numbers and we reviewed how to turn repeating decimals into fractions. The students multiplied and divided rational numbers, including algebraic fractions and they added/subtracted fractions with renaming (again, including algebraic fractions). Once the exams are over, we will complete the chapter by reviewing measures of central tendency and solving rational equations.

As I reminded the students, it is very important that they continue to work hard, even if they have been accepted into the high school of their choice. Many of them still have placement tests to take.

Grade 8 – Geometry

We completed two chapters in this short marking period! The first chapter was on triangles. We learned how to bisect, find the median and altitude, how to write inequalities and how to write an indirect proof. Chapter 6 focused on quadrilaterals. We learned the basic characteristics of each of the quadrilaterals: parallelograms, rectangles, rhombi, squares, kites and trapezoids. The students also learned how to identify each of these by using the coordinate plane.

We continue to write formal proofs. The students especially enjoy them when we prepare them together. They love going to the Harkness Room as well. If the room is being used, we set up our own table in the classroom. I thoroughly enjoy listening to the students discuss the topics. They are very bright and a pleasure to teach.

Mr. Clapp
Grade 5 Science

Happy New Year everyone! I want to give a big Thank You to all of the parents and students for their very generous gifts. They were all very generous and well appreciated.

Over the last marking period our fifth graders have been learning about all of the different physical and chemical changes that substances can go through. We discussed the differences between the two types of changes and then we experimented with them, trying to see real-life demonstrations of each. They are all chemist magicians now! They know some substances that will mix and create a brand new substance in front of your eyes. Pretty soon we will hopefully be looking at mentos mixing with diet coke to create a sugary explosion. My

students now know that that is a physical change because, even though there is an eruption, no new substances are formed.

After their big, half of the year test we will start to switch into space science to learn about the planets, stars, and maybe a few other things that might be lurking in space!

*(Side note: even though I am still using my edmodo website, I have attached links for videos and pictures of some of the things we do in class on my Oak Hill web page. Some of your children might be starring in them!)

Mrs. Vacca Grade 5 Tech

Students just completed their project on UNICEF which tied in with their math workshop project. Each student did research on how UNICEF helps the country they chose. Other information gathered included the population, climate, government, types of work and the problems that the country is facing such as drought and poverty. Presentations were both informative and visually pleasing to watch.

Mrs. Duffy Grade 6 English/LA

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

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

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

Mrs. Daly Grade 6 Reading

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

Sixth graders successfully completed a unit focusing on competition. Stories included the NYC and Boston Marathons, the Tour de France, and the Iditarod. In addition to comprehension strategies, students studied visual literacy skills using the Mimeo.

The classes also enjoyed a story called *Mad Hot Ballroom*. This is a non-fictional account of the ballroom dance competition in New York City's public school system. Three schools were followed from the beginning of the program right through to the City Championships. Stories of goal-setting, perseverance, winning and losing helped students understand the universal themes about life. The sixth grade loved it.

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

Mrs. Palamara Grades 6 – 8 Math

Math 6

This marking period we continued to discuss interest, sales tax, and discounts where the focus was on problems where the students needed to find the original cost or value of a quantity given its final value after a percentage, increase or decrease.

In Chapter 5 we began our discussion of ratio and its relationship to fraction and percentage. Students compared two and three quantities using ratio and expressing these ratios in simplest form. Students then moved on to solving word problems using ratio and proportion.

Math 7

This marking period began our introduction into Algebra I. In Chapter 1 students reviewed variables, exponents and powers, order of operations, equations, inequalities, expressions, and problem solving models. A new topic introduced was functions. This material was mastered and now students are

working on properties of real numbers in Chapter 2. Topics already covered in this chapter include the real number line, absolute value, and addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of integers. Application word problems for each concept have also been introduced and practiced.

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-A-Thon

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

Last year 68 students participated and raised \$7,183.00. Aside from the prizes awarded by St. Jude Hospital, all participating students will receive a dress down day in the spring.

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

Look for permission slips coming home soon!

Mrs. Billet Grades 6 & 7 Science

The sixth grade class just finished a unit discovering patterns of heredity and how inherited changes can influence evolutionary trends. Both simple and Mendelian heredity patterns of multiple alleles and polygenic inheritance were explained.

Blood types were learned. DNA was investigated and made using twizzlers and colored marshmallows. Some lower school students came over to the Science Center and put it together with

us. Our doggy DNA lab was interesting because it showed us that no two dogs were alike.

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

Mrs. Vacca Grade 5 Math Workshop

Students continue with the 10 minute warm-ups to earn those bonus points for a free dress down day at the end of the 4th marking period.

Students formed new groups and were given the task of planning a **Holiday Feast** for 20 people. A guest list was put together and a budget of \$200 was allotted. The groups had to plan their feast using the prices from local food store flyers. Appetizer, main course, dessert, beverages, and table decorations were included. A running list of food items and their cost were totaled. The closest group to \$200 and not over budget received the most bonus points. It was a fun and cooperative group project using practical math and no calculators.

Other projects included holiday symmetry and bioglyphs.

Mrs. Vacca/Madam Koar Grade 6 Tech

Students just finished presenting their research on their "Dream Career". From a Bio Chemist, to an architect, astronomer, lawyer, surgeon, MP basketball player, fashion designer, pipe fitter, equestrian competitor, hair stylist, video game designer, Endodontist, film animator, to various types of doctors. Students presented their "game plan" to achieve their goal. Education, training, salary, were included along with even some famous people in those professions. This was a fun but also enlightening project that provided the students with direction for these occupations, and possibly their future.

Mrs. Vacca/Madam Koar Grade 6 Math Workshop

Students continue to be challenged with 10 minute math warm-ups to earn those bonus points. The next dress down day will be after the 4th marking period for those with the highest accumulated points.

"Radio Stations around the World" project has just about been completed and some groups have already started to broadcast their stations in these classes. Students had fun putting together their 5 minute presentations consisting of 3 minutes of music (1 song had to be from their country) and 2 minutes of speaking parts which had to include a current event or news happening in their location.) These were fun, time management presentations to watch and listen to.

Sra. Dotto Grades 5, 7 & 8 Spanish

Spanish - 5

This marking period, the fifth graders have worked very hard and have mastered all the material covered. In Spanish class, we learned the four forms of you, all singular and plural subject pronouns, the conjugation of the irregular verb *ser* (to be), descriptive adjectives, how to answer a question and formation of sentences in the plural and negative form. Also, we studied the geography and history of Spain. All this has been reinforced with power point presentations, videos, classroom interaction and by logging in to my sites, Weebly, Quizlet and Educreation for visual and auditory practice.

Students, I want to take this opportunity to tell each one of you how much I enjoyed getting to know you. It was a great pleasure to teach you these past few months.

We had fun and learned quite a lot. I am very proud of what you have accomplished and I am looking forward to seeing and working with all of you in sixth grade. ¡Buena suerte!

Spanish - 7

In the seventh grade, we have progressed at a very nice pace. We have covered expressions and vocabulary about making plans, inviting someone to do something, saying what you have and what you need, talking about classes, clothing vocabulary, body parts, conjugation of the verb *tener*, expressions with the verb *tener*, the usage of the verb *venir*, along with some irregular first person verbs.

The students have also learned the geography, history, and culture of Costa Rica.

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

Furthermore, students memorized a dialogue, which they presented in front of the class. Their pronunciation was great and they all showed a great deal of enthusiasm. ¡Buen Trabajo!

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

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

Spanish - 8

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

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

Furthermore, students learned the geography, history, and culture of Argentina and presented a dialogue in front of the class (from memory). Their pronunciation was great and they all showed a great deal of enthusiasm. ¡Buen Trabajo!



Mrs. Tirella
Grade 7 LA/Literature

We have accomplished so many things this first semester. Our written work continues to develop as well as our vocabulary and sentence structure.

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

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

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

Mrs. Mayer
Grades 7 & 8 History

The seventh grade was hard at work this marking period. We studied the founding of the thirteen colonies, The French and Indian War, and examined how the war led to MAJOR tensions between the colonies and their mother country. We also enjoyed reviewing the first half of our year by reviewing for midterm exams. We look forward to learning about the American Revolution and our U.S Constitution.

The eighth grade was hard at work this marking period. We studied imperialism and the Spanish-American War. We also completed the second edition of our class newspaper *The Pitch Fork Press*. Students did an excellent job linking all of the events we covered so far this year to prepare for our midterm exams. We look forward to learning about World War I and The Roaring 20's.

Ms. Burke
Grades 7 & 8 Latin

The seventh graders began the third marking period by reinforcing the form and uses of the infinitive. We also learned about grammatical concepts such as person and number of verbs and the personal verb endings for present tense. Finally, the seventh graders learned the plural accusative ending and began to work with the concept of noun declensions. As always we reinforced their new grammar by translating stories about the Cornelius family. In culture, we learned about slaves in ancient Rome, including a Saturnalia party (a Roman holiday in which slaves featured heavily) before break! Finally, we rounded out the marking period with an intensive review of grammar and culture in preparation for their exams.

In the eighth grade, we continued to work with the perfect tense as well as learning new uses of the infinitive and how to read and use the principal parts of a Latin verb. We also worked heavily on translation and grammar with stories from *Ecce Romani* and other textbooks as well as practice sentences. Culturally, we learned about the difficulties of traveling through the Roman empire and about the life and death of Julius Caesar, an overview that included reading a translated excerpt of his *De Bello Gallico*. Finally, we ended the marking period with a review of grammar and culture for their exams.

Mrs. Larkins
Grades 7 Math Workshop

Seventh graders had some fun ordering virtual pizza over the internet. With such toppings as smiley faces, peace signs, eyeballs, and nails, it was easy to investigate such topics as area and best buy.

Food was a great motivator in our latest math workshop project. First we used goldfish crackers in order to simulate a method called "tag and recapture" that is used by scientists to estimate the total number of sharks within a body of water. Groups used their data from the goldfish simulation to form proportions and find averages.

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

Mrs. Williams
Grade 8 Language Arts/Literature

In eighth grade Language Arts, students continued their study of vocabulary. In addition, they concluded the grammar unit: *Modifiers*. Furthermore, students continued their writing assignments with the start of the research project. Students selected a topic, created a working outline, researched sources, and completed bibliography and note cards. During the fourth marking period, students will continue the research project, vocabulary lessons, and grammar lessons.

In Literature, students concluded the novel, *The Outsiders*. Moreover, students read nonfiction short story selections. They made connections to history and examined the literature for figurative language. Next marking period, students will begin reading Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Mrs. Daly
Grade 8 Critical Reading

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

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

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

Mr. Clapp
Grade 8 Science

Happy New Year everyone! I want to give a big Thank You to all of the parents and students for their very generous gifts. They were all very generous and well appreciated.

Over the last marking period our 8th graders learned all about minerals and rocks. We studied how to identify them, how to classify them, how they are all formed, how they can change, how to test for certain properties, and much more. They all now have a better understanding about what is going on beneath their feet, what it all is made of and how it got there. One day in class we actually got to experience first hand the process that forms some of these rocks using crayon shavings.

After their midterm we will continue with Earth science but we will start to look at plate tectonics and earthquakes and little more in depth. We might even be able to create earthquakes ourselves in class soon!

*(Side note: even though I am still using my edmodo website, I have attached links for videos and pictures of some of the things we do in class on my Oak Hill web page. Some of your children might be starring in them!)

Mr. Pacelli
Algebra I – An Integrated Approach

The school year is now half way complete and our class is right on target to complete our book with room to introduce many highly interesting topics.

As we move into Chapter 8 (systems) we will extend our study to three unknowns with three equations. When we study quadratics we will also go one step further and introduce complex numbers. Along the way we will also try to cover some trigonometry and sequences.

Our class is very motivated and it will be a highly productive second half of the year.

Mrs. Vacca
Grade 8 Explorations

Students have been given the opportunity to become travel agents for their families. Destinations were chosen and the research began. Travel accommodations, hotels, restaurants, points of interest, currency and any travel restrictions were included. Students had an unlimited expense account so only the best of the best were selected for lodging and transportation.

The classes traveled to Bora Bora, Italy, Thailand, Canada, China, Vermont, Bali, African Safari, Australia, Samoa, and even a ranch in Wyoming. The presentations were inviting and provided much information about these locations.

Mme Simon
Upper School French

In the sixth grade this marking period, we studied personal questions, numbers and time and did a complete review during the first week of January for the big test.

I feel that we have accomplished a lot during these three marking periods. We learned the ER verbs, the verbs "To be" and "To have" and quite a lot of vocabulary. Students also got the opportunity to practice their speaking skills.

Playing games is very important to reinforce the material. We play "Around the world" and "Kahoot" with the iPads. Kahoot is a very engaging game and students answer the questions in real time which are projected on the big screen. They love to see their name appear on it!

It is a pleasure to see the enthusiasm of the students during our classes. Great job!

During the third marking period, the seventh grade students presented cultural presentations about a French Province, a French territory or a French speaking country. This allowed them to know more about where the French language is spoken around the world. The presentations were very much in depth and we learned a lot.

I feel that we have accomplished quite a lot during the three marking periods and we have covered irregular verbs, ER and IR verbs, practice of dialogs and vocabulary.

The students showed a great level of enthusiasm and it was a pleasure to have them in my class. BON TRAVAIL ET À BIENTÔT !

In the eighth grade, we have mastered quite a lot of regular and irregular verbs, vocabulary and auditory and speaking exercises.

The students did a project called "Speaking French and career." Their research was very informative and well done.

We are still working on acquiring vocabulary and grammar with a great emphasis on listening and speaking.

Soon, we will be working on past tense which is a complicated tense but I am very confident that the student will be mastering this tense quite quickly. Great job!

Mrs. Bordiuk /Mr. Rosenfeld
Upper School PE

The fifth and seventh grades have just completed their marking period of Health Education. Hopefully, the students found Health class to be informative and useful. The sixth and eighth grades participated in a unit of Basketball in Phys. Ed. class for the third marking period.

The fifth and seventh grades now come back to PE for the Basketball unit. Sixth and eighth grades will have Health Education for the fourth marking period. Swim classes will start up again in March. We will inform the students and parents of the start date in a future notice.

Mrs. Griller/Computer

In the first grade we ended our computer class by making animated slide shows in KidPix. The second graders learned about the inside parts of a computer and how they are used. Also, we used the Internet to find information about Dr. Martin Luther king, Jr. and created information wheels. The third graders continued to practice their typing skills and created the Invitation for Littleton Day. While the fourth graders learned about some features of Microsoft Word during their creation of the Littleton Day Tiny Bucks. In fifth grade students created digital stories using pictures they took with digital cameras and the software program Photo Story. They narrated the stories by recording their own voices. The sixth grade classes created animated stories using Scratch animation programming. The seventh graders designed computer games using Game Maker software. In eighth grade the students created an Information database in Microsoft Access. They used that database to create Forms (Data entry screens), Queries (extract data based upon requested criteria) and Reports (print-outs). With it being the middle of the school year it is time for those who have been in Computers to go to Art and for the Art students to begin Computer Class.



Miss DiMaggio/Art

The first grade used the pinch method to create a ceramic pinch pot. They looked at work from artist Romero Britto and using patterns drew their own version of his colorful, fun drawings. They also learned how to weave paper.

The second grade drew a still life and a silly sandwich.

The third grade drew a still life and a Pablo Picasso inspired self portrait using unusual colors and shapes.

The fourth grade finished their self portraits based on Frida Kahlo and drew a still life using watercolor pencils.

The fifth grade made a ceramic project using the slab method, drew a still life and used pencil shading to show different values. Using their extra linoleum block prints they created an Andy Warhol inspired Pop Art protect and they learned about one point perspective in preparation for next year's project.

The sixth grade finished their funny face self portraits, used sculpey clay to design a pen, and drew a still life using pastels. They used oil pastels to draw a winter tree and had the chance to do a project of their choice.

The seventh grade drew sunflowers using oil pastels based on Vincent Van Gogh. They made a ceramic project using the slab method, drew a still life and painted it with watercolor. They also finished their canvas board paintings with acrylic paint.

The eighth grade used watercolor to paint a beach scene. They used the slab method of ceramics, drew a still life and used hatching, cross hatching, stippling and shading to show different values and textures. They also used liquid watercolor and a straw to create very interesting blown watercolor pictures.

Art and computer classes switched on Monday January 26th. Any art student who left projects in the art room, please come pick them up.

Mrs. Tyma/Music

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

with these songs, and the joyfulness of the season was experienced by all.

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

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

continue our study of syncopation and to begin a study of harmonic progressions.

Experiences in syncopated rhythms and in new notes for recorder were had in the **fifth grade** with a song from the Caribbean in calypso style. The addition of drums and other percussion characteristic of calypso music rocked the room with rhythm. Additional experiences in rhythmic syncopation were offered through a song in celebration of the winter solstice. Not only was choral singing highlighted, but also the class demonstrated their understanding of these more complex syncopated rhythms by improvising melodies on the barred instruments as a B section for the song.

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

The Chorus, Oak Hill Players and Music Makers are looking forward to a performance for the Upper School Awards Assembly on February 6th. We will begin the assembly with our performances. Parents are invited to attend.

As part of our mission as ambassadors of Oak Hill Academy, the Oak Hill Players will be performing for the PreK-8th grade Open House on February 20th. **Please note that the Oak Hill Players dress rehearsal has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 17th.**

For those parents who have children involved in these ensembles, please check the REVISED schedule for upcoming dress rehearsals/performances. Copies are available in the music room or you may email Mrs. Tyma (at ktyma@oakhillacademy.com) to resend the information to you.

Mrs. DeVivo/ Drama

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

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

The Third grade students created their own versions of "*The Gingerbread Man*." The students worked in groups and decided on a new runaway food to be the main character of their plays as well as a supporting cast, too. Some new runaway food characters included a croissant, a birthday cake, a carrot, a watermelon, chicken nuggets and so many more! The students made stick puppets of all of their characters, rehearsed their skits and then presented these unique and entertaining puppet shows to the class.

Fourth grade students enjoyed playing "*Holiday Charades*" and learning a new improvisation game called "*Press Conference*." The students also read a variety of holiday Reader's Theatre scripts such as "*Red Headed Robbie's Christmas*," and "*Carol's Christmas*" just to name a few.

The Seventh grade read and acted out Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" in Reader's Theatre style presentation. It took several classes to read through the play because, as the students learned, Charles Dickens was paid per word. Therefore, in order to make more money, his novels are quite wordy with a lot of repetition!

Finally, the Eighth grade performed their original one acts. Their plays were recorded and then shown to the other eighth grade classes as well as some classes in the lower school. They were really entertaining!

Mrs. Vacca/Mr. Goldfarb Student Council

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

On **February 4th**, we will be having our **RED DRESS DOWN DAY** for the **American Heart Association** and students are encouraged to dress in **RED** to help bring awareness to this important organization. Once again we ask that all students contribute at least \$1, and additional donations made out to the above mentioned will be gladly accepted. We also will be selling **RED DRESS** pins for \$2 to show support for this organization in addition to **RED** bracelets with a new design for \$5.

Fabulous Footwear Day will be on Thursday, Feb. 5th.

Also, on Wednesday, Feb. 11th there will be a FUN day for 5th and 6th graders. More details will be coming home soon.

Directory Changes

New Student

Grade 2 Miss Colson
Akhil Paramasivam
11 Peregrine Dr.
Morganville, NJ 07751
732-591-1476

Parents:

Mr. Paramasivam Kumarasamy &
Ms. Nirmala Mani

Address Changes

Grade 2 Buchner
Jack Berkeley
301 New York Blvd.
Sea Girt, NJ 08750

Grade 8 – Room 5

Andrew Mattina
13 Marissa Ct.
Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

ATHLETICS

Boys Varsity Basketball

Mr. Bruckmann's and Mr. Misson's team is playing tough games and competing very well. They currently have a 12-3 record! Their last two losses were by a combined 7 points! The team has had exciting wins over Barkalow, Rumson Country Day, Eisenhower, Monmouth Beach, Cedar Drive, St. Leo's and Markham Place, amongst others! Upcoming games are the next two weeks in February!

Girls Varsity Basketball

Mrs. Porzio's team has been playing each game closely and has a 2-4 record. They have had wins over Rumson Country Day and Eatontown. Upcoming games are during the next two weeks of February!

Boys JV Basketball

A large group of enthusiastic 5th and 6th graders are playing on Mr. Rosenfeld's JV Basketball team! With a 3-1 record and wins over Rumson Country Day and Ranney twice, the team is looking forward to their upcoming games.

Girls JV Basketball

In only our eighth year of Girl's JV Basketball, Mrs. Scheuer has been pleased with the effort of the 5th and 6th graders! They are a hard working and eager group! The team hasn't broken into the win column, yet, but has been very close! Two of their losses have been by one point! The team will have a few more games to close out their season!

Swim Team

Mrs. Bordiuk and Mr. Goldfarb have both been pleased with the Swim Team. There are some veteran swimmers and many young swimmers, too. The team had a decisive win over Elizabeth and a close loss to Neptune! They will also swim against Montclair Kimberly, Pennington, and Ranney in their remaining meets. On Feb. 11th, our team will compete in an invitational at Ranney. Congratulations to 8th grader Mary Mahoney for breaking one of our Swimming Records!!

Cheerleading

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

Scorekeepers

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

Summer Basketball Camp

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

Girls, ages 9-15
June 29 – July 2
9:00am-3:00pm

Boys, ages 9-15
July 27- July 31
9:00am-2:00pm

Mr. Misson's Basketball Camp will run the week of:
June 15-19
Girls and Boys, ages 6-8
9:30am-12:30pm



DATES TO REMEMBER

February

- 11 12:15 Dismissal
Warning Notices Mailed
Conferences for Gr. 5-8
12:30 – 3:30PM

Gr. 5 -6 Activity Day
- 12 Re-Enrollment Contracts Due
- 13-16 NO SCHOOL
President's Day
- 15 RSVP DATE FOR GALA
- 19 Assembly for Upper School – 1PM
- 20 Open House
Pre-K – 8
9AM
- 20 DEADLINE FOR AD JOURNAL FOR GALA
- 21 Entrance Exam for New Students Gr. 1-8
8:30AM
- 26 Lip Sync
Gr. PK-3, 6:30PM
- 27 Lip Sync
Gr. 4-8, 6:30PM

March

- 4 Dress Down Day
- 5 OHAPO Meeting OHAPO
- 6 Fabulous Footwear
- 7 OHAPO GALA
Eagle Oaks 7:30PM
- 10 Report Cards