

# Oak Hill Academy

## June 2013

### Newsletter

#### Headmaster's Message

##### Joseph A. Pacelli

As we now enter the summer vacation, I want to share a commentary by Michael Josephson who is the director of the national program, "Character Counts."

He writes:

'Since my children were small, I launched their day with the invocation to "be good, have fun and learn." I hope they remember that mantra, but now that my daughter Samara is beginning her independent life as a college freshman 3,000 miles away, I think a more detailed set of maxims is needed. So, I've begun to assemble a collection of concise (20 words or fewer) insights that I hope will guide, protect, nourish and inspire her to reach her potential for happiness and success.

Here are the first ten:

1. You will be as happy as you are willing to be; choose to be happy.
2. Have fun and enjoy your life, but never confuse fun or pleasure with happiness.
3. Never let your happiness or sense of self-worth depend on someone else's love or approval.
4. Pain is inevitable but suffering is a choice.
5. How you deal with what happens to you is more important than what happens to you.
6. Real friends make you feel good about yourself but encourage you to be even better.
7. It's not just what you say, do, or intend, but how you make people feel that is most important.
8. Failure is not a fact; it's a perspective. Find the lesson in every setback and you'll never fail.
9. It's never wrong to admit you were wrong; no one is always right.
10. Don't let grudges or resentments ruin your life or your day; let go, forget, move on!

Please have a joyous, safe and educational summer – a change of pace, but an opportunity to learn every day.

#### Mrs. Larkins Director of Development

##### Grandparent/Special Relative Day

Visitors abounded on Thursday, May 16 and Friday, May 17 as an estimated 600 people attended Grandparent/Special Relative Day. Due to the overwhelming response, the day was again broken into two days. The weather tricked us with a brief shower on Thursday but proved to be more than cooperative as the sun was out on Friday. All visitors were enthusiastic as they started their day at the Scire Student Activities Center. The festivities began with a very impressive show by Oak Hill Academy's own Chorus and Oak Hill Players. Thank you to Mrs. Tyma and her talented students for a thoroughly enjoyable performance. Next, Mr. Pacelli related some of his personal jokes, thoughts, and experiences about the importance of the family to the healthy growth of our students. Everyone in attendance was treated to many refreshments thanks to Mrs. Garmany, Mrs. Forsyth, Mrs. Soler, Mrs. Codispoti, Mrs. Dantoni, and the Parent Organization's Hospitality Committee. Then came the much anticipated classroom visit. Oak Hill students were at their best as they performed plays, read their original writings, competed in contests, worked on group projects, and shared memories during the class visits. Finally, the visitors enjoyed the Upper School's science fair which was exhibited in the gym.

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

##### A Special Thank You

This year's theme of "Respect Rocks" carried through all aspects of the school year, and was no better exemplified than by the work of our 2012-2013 Parent Organization. The result was another wonderfully successful year. At the End of Year Appreciation Luncheon, Mr. Pacelli thanked the volunteers for all their hard work. Their successful year during ever challenging economic times still resulted in an end of year gift of **\$123,000!** As always, these funds will be used for the betterment of the educational experience offered to our students. Most notably, their generous end of year gift will help fund updating and expanded our technology at school including I-pads and new computers. Each year the Parent Organization grants

the wishes of our teachers by providing a little something extra for each faculty member.

On behalf of the entire school, I would like to thank the officers of the 2012-2013 Parent Organization: President Heather Forsyth, Treasurer Corey Small, and Secretary Lisa Shaffer. In conjunction with their committee heads, these women organized events throughout the year that were each a social and financial success. On a personal note, I really enjoyed getting to work with these women and admire their dedication and loyalty to OHA.

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

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

#### Miss Murray Director of Personnel/Administration

##### Headmaster for a Day

Third graders Chloe and Dylan Van Berkel assumed the role of Headmaster on May 21st! Chloe and Dylan assisted Mr. Pacelli with some of his duties. Early in the morning, they recited the Pledge of Allegiance over the PA to the entire school. Next, it was signing an important document declaring that May 28th was a special dress down day! Chloe and Dylan were introduced to all of the Lower School classes and some of the Upper School, too. They read a book to the Kindergarten, met the Pre-K, played with some newly hatched chicks and took a ride to the Soler Science Center on the golf cart! Mr. Misson and Mr. Livingston showed Chloe and Dylan the panel that displays all of our solar energy that we are producing in the entire school! The Van Berkel's and four friends were treated to lunch at the Lincroft Inn with Mr. Pacelli and Miss Murray. At the awards assembly at the beginning of June, Chloe and Dylan were presented with a plaque, a photo album of the day, as well as a video of the day's happenings! Job well done, Chloe and Dylan!

##### Fifth Grade (Upper School) Orientation

Miss Murray and Mrs. Scheuer spoke with the fourth graders and some of our incoming Upper School students, about the inner workings of the Upper School – how to read a schedule, when to change classes, questions about lockers,

demerits, awards, etc. Abigail Cieri, Rebecca DeStefano, Catherine Barone, Ryan Gruss/Erin Gilfillan, Ella Gammino, Aron Wiener and Christopher Misson spoke about Spanish, drama club, math workshop, athletics, tech, student council and the Science Fair, respectively. During the month of May, Mrs. Livingston had the fourth graders pair up with current fifth graders to actually go to a few class periods in the Upper School! OHA alum, Tessa Garbely created the "Garbely's Guide to the Upper School." Tessa took it upon herself to interview Upper School students for advice on organization, lockers, test-taking, homework and after-school. She organized all of the information and presented it to all of the fourth graders, as well as, any new incoming Upper School student.

BioTech High School Mentorship

This is the third year that Oak Hill Academy entered into an agreement with BioTech High School this spring to provide a mentorship to a high school senior. Tim DeVine came to OHA for three weeks and assisted and observed science classes taught by Mrs. Schroeter and Mrs. Billet. At the conclusion of their three week period, Tim had to interview the teachers. We thank Tim for being with us! He was extremely helpful to the teachers and students and became part of OHA in just three short weeks. We wish Tim well in college next year!

American Scholastic Achievement League

In February, a number of eighth graders voluntarily participated in the ASAL Scholastic Challenge. 15,000 students across the country competed. The top score in the nation was 95%. This 100 question online test consisted of questions on history, math, science, language arts, geography and general knowledge. The national average was 52%. OHA had 25 students score above the national average, with the rest just barely missing the mark! Roxanna Altus was named as the OHA champ, scoring 85%! Other than Roxanna, the top 10 OHA scores were: AJ Niedermeyer 84, Jacob Yatvitskiy 82, Jasmine Shen 76, Gilbert Rashkovsky 75, Sofia DiAntonio 74, Christian Corvisiero 71, Amanda DeStefano 71, Nicole Marinaro 71, Zoe Sucato 71, Robert Maes 70, Olivia Malson 70.

Mrs. Reago is retiring!

Thank you to Mrs. Ellen Reago for the 27 years of service she gave to Oak Hill Academy as a physical education teacher and swim instructor!! Mrs. Reago was honored at the end of year

assemblies with flowers and a Waterford vase by Mr. Pacelli and Miss Murray.

High School Choices

We are fortunate that so many of our graduates have options when they graduate from Oak Hill Academy. There are a number of great high schools in our area. There are the traditional high schools (public and parochial), schools that specialize in a particular area, and independent schools (boarding and day). With a graduating class of 59 (35 girls and 24 boys), our graduates will be going to 23 different high schools! Actually, this class was accepted to 34 different high schools! However, some of our eighth graders were accepted to a school, but chose not to attend.

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

	<u>Accepted</u>	<u>Attending</u>
<b>Parochial</b>		
CBA	20	12
RBC	19	11
SJV	16	5
Mater Dei Prep	1	0
St. Anthony(Jersey City)	1	0
Notre Dame (Lawrence, NJ)	2	1
Trinity Hall	3	1
<b>Public</b>		
Holmdel		1
Midd. South		2
Marlboro		1
Freehold Boro		1
<b>Specialized</b>		
Allied Health	3	3
Bio Tech	2	1
Communications	2	2
High Tech	5	3
M.A.S.T.	2	1
M.A.T.E.S. (Ocean County)	1	1
<i>Freehold Reg. District:</i>		
Manalapan Sci & Engineering	2	0
Humanities	3	2
Computer Science	1	0
Agricultural Science	1	1
Law & Public Service	1	0
<b>Private</b>		
Lawrenceville	3	2
Phillips Exeter (NH)	1	1
Peddie	5	3
Hun	2	0
Andover (MA)	1	0
Choate Rosemary Hall (CT)	1	0
Loomis Chaffee (CT)	1	0
Kimball Union Academy (NH)	1	1
Schulz Academy (FL)	1	1

Princeton Day	1	0
St. Paul Academy (MN)	1	0
Ranney	7	2

Seventh and Eighth Grade National Latin Exam Results

Once again, the results from the National Latin Exam were very favorable! Two 7<sup>th</sup> graders received perfect papers! Congratulations to Luke DeCresce and Harry Jain! Outstanding Achievement Certificates and ribbons were given to those 7<sup>th</sup> grade students scoring between 39-36 (out of 40) correct on the Introductory Level: John Gabriel Bermudez 39, Aidan Picadio 38, Riya Singh 37, Brycen Greco 37, Megan Scafaria 36 and Maya Shah 36. Achievement Certificates were given to those 7<sup>th</sup> grade students scoring 35-32 correct on the Introductory Level: Alec Garbely, Dylan Raskin, Jack Stryker, Andy Thermos, David Neuwirth, Jeffrey Winter, Griffin Cole and Salma AbdelBarry. On the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Latin I exam, one student only got one wrong (39 of 40). Congratulations to Jacob Yatvitskiy! Jacob and the following students also received gold medals and summa cum laude certificates: Roxanna Altus 38, Julia Pardee 36, Matthew Prince 36, Gilbert Rashkovsky 36! Silver medals and maxima cum laude certificates were awarded to the following 8<sup>th</sup> graders who had scored 35 to 33 correct: Aneesha Doshi, Jasmine Shen, Zoe Sucato, AJ Niedermeyer and Travis Schuhardt. Congratulations to Sofia DiAntonio, Amanda DeStefano, Nicole Marinaro, Katie Spencer, Camryn Mercatanti and Matthew Misson received the magna cum laude certificate for having 32-30 correct. Hannah Nagy, Carly Belz, Josie Larkins, Miller Corrigan and Olivia Malson received the cum laude certificate for having 29-28 correct.

**Mr. Bruckmann Communications Administrator**

Thank you to all of those parents, teachers and staff for their support of this new endeavor I took on this year. It has been a great opportunity, and I hope that it has been a valuable resource.

Please remember to continue to visit our new presence on the web for updates, daily announcements, pictures, videos, forms, & calendars. **"LIKE" us on FACEBOOK.** Our goal is to make this the primary method of communicating the greatness of Oak Hill Academy to the world! Pass the word.

Key Links:

- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oak-Hill-Academy/34107952658969>
- <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/campus-experiences>
- <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/news/all>
- <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/general-calendar>

[Oak Hill Golf Clinic at Colts Neck Golf Club](#)

On Wednesday, June 5, Bobby Gartner, Director of Instruction, and his staff of high school and college golfers sponsored a free Golf Clinic for Oak Hill Academy Students. The group of students in grades 3-8 were taught about Golf safety as well as instructed in the proper techniques for swinging their clubs with FUN being the primary focus. Coach Bobby worked with the kids on their stance, proper grip of their clubs as well as the correct approach and follow through of their strokes both on the driving range as well as the putting green. The beautiful day ended with a putting contest with prizes. Thank you to Coach Bobby and his staff for a great afternoon. I think we may have some new golf fans in the Oak Hill family!

<http://www.oakhillacademy.com/news/06-06-2013/oak-hill-golf-clinic-colts-neck-golf-club>

The Colts Neck Golf Club will run a camp centered around the end of the Oak Hill school year (June 17- 21). Contact Bobby Gartner at the Colts Neck Golf Club for more information. ([www.coltsneckgolfclub.com](http://www.coltsneckgolfclub.com))

**Mrs. Livingston  
Lower School Guidance**

Summertime is a time of leisure, however it important to continue to enrich. Take advantage of your surroundings. When taking little side trips ask questions and make comments to encourage conversation. The knowledge and experience that children gather provide a good basis for extended learning. With a less structured summertime schedule, please find the time to read with your child. Reading allows you to take a trip without ever leaving your home. Encourage your child to visualize as

he/she reads, this not only makes reading more pleasurable, but also increases comprehension. While on vacation, encourage your child to keep a journal of his/her experiences. This provides a good avenue for expressing thoughts. Children really seem to enjoy reading journal entries that they have previously written. Have a wonderful summer and enjoy your child/ren!

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

As the saying goes, "all good things must end." The months of May and June brought many exciting activities and celebrations as Pre-K exhibited enormous personal, social and academic growth throughout the year. The annual Kindergarten Maypole was delightful and a very colorful. What a wonderful way to welcome in spring. This annual event provided Pre-K with the perfect opportunity to deliver their handmade May Day "flower kiss" baskets and May Day poems to faculty and staff across the campus.

Our Mother's Day spring flower planting and barbecue was another fun-filled activity. The students honored their mothers with heartwarming songs and presented them with a special gift. The event helped add beauty to the front area of the Center for Early Learning. A delicious barbecue followed and provided the teachers, mothers, and students with a chance to mingle and enjoy the beautiful outdoors. Thanks to our moms for all you do.

The June nuptials of two of our favorite Letter People began with a his and her QU bridal shower before the wedding. The couple received lovely Q and U gifts including Quince jelly, Quaker Oats, Q-Tips, Quinoa and Quarters. Pre-K, dressed as Queens and Quarterbacks, serenaded the happy couple with some of their favorite songs before the ceremony. The newlyweds headed for a honeymoon in beautiful Quebec and upon their return plan to open a Quick Stop franchise near the campus of Quinnipiac College.

Our end of the year Pre-K program was a circus and by far "The Greatest Little Show On Earth." The event was complete with circus clowns, dancing dogs, bareback riders and so much more. Everyone was delighted with the show and the children sure demonstrated character as they worked cooperatively and persevered to present this outstanding performance to family, staff and Oak Hill students. A buffet provided

by family members completed the event. Thank you to the parents and our Pre-K class mothers for helping to make the day so special.

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

The butterfly life cycle and chick hatching projects were an exciting part of May lessons and strong science program. The students cared for, observed and documented the different stages of the butterfly and chicken life cycles. Naming the chicks was really fun and exciting; saying goodbye was the hard part.

The year started to wind down with our recent "Pre-K Family Day" trip to Pt. Pleasant and Jenkinson's Aquarium. The aquarium continues to grow and provide amazing exhibits with hands-on learning for the students. The day ended with lunch at the boardwalk pavilion before heading back to school. We were so grateful to be able to return to Pt. Pleasant following the devastation of Hurricane Sandy.

We could not forget to recognize our Dads. Our "Donuts for Dads Day" play was held in the Scire Student Activities Center and was followed by breakfast. The students performed "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle and sang heartwarming songs before standing to tell each dad why they are special. The children presented dad with a very special keepsake. We sure love our dads too and thank them for all they do.

We ended the year looking back on all the wonderful times spent together and all of the great things we learned this past year in Pre-K. The teachers and students agreed that 2012-2013 was an amazing year for all of us. We celebrated with a "get wet" outdoor event and lunch. Again, many thanks to our wonderful class mothers for all they have done for our Pre-Kindergarten. Although we know we will see many of our students in camp, it is always hard to say goodbye.

The Pre-K staff would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and warm appreciation to our class mothers and to all of our Pre-K families for supporting our unique and wonderful program. Your generosity, support, and kindness has meant so much to all of us

Lastly, to all of our Oak Hill families and staff; have a safe and fun-filled summer. See you on campus in September!

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

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

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

Ready, set, GO!! The Kindergarten students truly enjoyed Field Day even though the weather forced us to hold the games in the gym. It was nice for the children to be on teams with their siblings, or with other older students, and to enjoy some time together out of the classroom. A special thank you to Mrs. Reago and Mrs. Bordiuk for organizing the events. We will miss you next year Mrs. Reago – enjoy your well deserved retirement!

Our last trip was to Island Beach State Park. The weather was picture perfect and the children loved flying their kites, building sandcastles, playing wiffle ball and looking for sand crabs. It was a great trip to wrap up the year and so nice to spend a gorgeous day together.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

In social studies we concluded our study of Molly Learns a Lesson. The story takes place in 1944, and it focused life in the United States during World War Two. For a final map skills activity, students planned a route across the United States – using latitude and longitude to find their destinations.

In novel study the class finished reading Skylark and Caleb's Story both beautifully written by Patricia MacLachlan the author of Sarah, Plain and Tall. The students enjoyed all the novels and had fun reading aloud while they took the part of the various characters.

Our two trips to Poricy Park were wonderful. The Murray farmhouse opened our eyes to life in colonial times. The Pond Adventure was great fun, everyone worked so well together and each group enjoyed some exciting happenings. The experiments back in the Nature Center gave us the chance to learn more about "amazing" water.

It's wonderful to see the growth each child has made as this school year ends. Please keep your child reading, writing and working on math over the summer vacation.

Your child should keep their math textbooks to help with summer math. Also remember they can use the lessons on our class web pages for review.

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

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

On June 11th we had a very special field trip to Ramanessin Brook in Holmdel. We went with Miss Murray to hunt for sharks' teeth! The day was free of rain and fairly warm, while the creek flowed quickly making for a perfect day. All the rain prior to our going helped us find lots of teeth and some great fossils! We found some 25 million year old sharks' teeth and had a great time. We also want to thank Mr. Bruckmann, Mrs. Hans, and Mr. Misson for accompanying us on

the trip. **Miss Murray, we had a phenomenal time. Thank you!**

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the fourth graders celebrated Antiquities Day. Each homeroom cycled through three activities. They hand built pyramids (not as large as the ones in Egypt), colored a stained glass picture of Egyptian Art, and made a mosaic. It was a fun day of hands –on “ancient activities”. Thank you to Mrs. Codispoti, Mrs. Nappi, Mrs. Shallcross and Mrs. Vogel who helped with the pyramid building. Thank you to all the parents that dropped by to see your projects.

The fourth grade classes have culminated their study of realistic fiction in Language Arts. Their own realistic fiction stories were displayed during the final Writer’s Celebration for the year which was held in the Oak Hill Library on Friday June 14<sup>th</sup>. Students showcased their own hardcover stories, which also featured a copyright information page, a dedication page, and an about the author strip with their pictures. Students were challenged during the immersion and study phases of realistic fiction, to understand how authors show movement of time in stories, by either a change in setting or a change in character. Moreover, students used dialogue to develop their characters and move the story along. The idea of real kids, with real problems, having real solutions, was at the heart of our realistic fiction study. Some budding authors have been started onto a very successful path of story writing!!

A special thank you goes to our Fourth Grade Room Moms: Mrs. Basile, Mrs. Codispoti, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Nappi, Mrs. Shallcross and Mrs. Vogel. You helped us with our special events and gave us nice parties. Have a relaxing and restful summer.

### **Mrs. Cahalane Lower School Science**

Students in PK have been learning about plants in our greenhouse. We planted morning glory seeds and everyone took home a 6 inch long plant! We then completed a unit on the 5 senses with many hands-on activities. Kindergarteners learned all about magnets and we went on a magnetic scavenger hunt searching for iron-containing metals in the Science Center. Students also completed a unit on living and non-living things. We played many fun games on our classroom interactive white board. First grade students completed a unit on seashells. We sorted and identified many specimens in our

classroom shell collection. Our first graders also completed a unit on the solar system and rocks. Second graders learned about mixtures and we practiced a lab technique called chromatography which is used to separate mixtures. Students also learned about the earth’s rotation and revolution -what causes day, night and the seasons. Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade completed a unit on astronomy. We learned about moon craters and did a lab simulating meteorites landing on a lunar surface! Fourth grade students completed 3 chemistry lab units: mystery powders, gummy bear science and mystery snow.

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

We concluded this year’s unit on the destiny of the buffalo and the Native American. Reading some stories and watching some video clips brought awareness of the importance and connection between the survival of the buffalo and the Native Americans. There were many uses for the buffalo, not only for food, but clothing and shelter and tools. One might say they went hand-in-hand. Students finished the topic with a fun BINGO game on the iPADS which challenged them with trivia questions about the buffalo and various Indian tribes. As always, I enjoyed working with all the students in all these grades, as each level absorbs the information that they can process at their age. Thanks again to all the families for encouraging their child to bring in items to earn those important “*tiny bucks*” and making another Littletown Day so successful. I want to wish all our OHA families a happy and safe summer!

### **Mme Koar Lower School French**

The first grade students enjoy our latest song, “une patate,” (a potato) which can be found on my website on the first grade page. This entertaining tune helps to reinforce our vocabulary for body parts. Those first grade students who want to practice their nombres over the summer will enjoy using the I- pad app, “les nombres Montessorri” as well as “memo animaux,” for learning French names of animals.

The second grade students made great progress with our numbers this year. Also they have acquired a few new songs for describing expressions with avoir, to have. Please keep listening to our songs on the website over the summer and enjoy playing the new Apps we used in class, “les nombres Montessorri.”

Third grade students enjoyed using the I- pad App, “guess who” which can be played in three languages, French, English, and Spanish. The object of the game is to guess the identity of the person by asking questions and following clues given by the computer. It is a great app for auditory and written practice in French. Bon travail!

Enjoy your summer vacation!

### **Mrs. Scheuer Upper School Advisor**

Kudos to upper school students! Despite an extended school year due to Superstorm Sandy, they remained focused on their work throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> marking period and diligently prepared for big tests / final exams. It was rewarding to observe our OHA students honor their commitment to academic excellence until the last bell!

As we embark on summer vacation, take time to decompress and relax after a busy school year. Stop and smell the roses! Summer is the time to slow down the pace, have tons of fun and recharge our batteries for the next school year. For many students, summer can facilitate months of academic inactivity commonly known as brain drain. Avoid this pitfall by establishing daily routines now that best fit your schedule. Do not procrastinate! Chip away at summer skills workbooks and novels throughout June, July and August.

A memorable occasion during the 6<sup>th</sup> marking period was Grandparent/Special Relative Day. It was an amazing outpouring of love and support as our campus filled with students’ family members. Equally impressive was the students’ level of preparation for their very special guests. It was a treat to watch our students become ambassadors of OHA as they presented projects in class, toured the campus or explored the science fair. Neither rain nor fog could dampen the enthusiasm our upper school students on Field Day. Indoor events were a blast! Special thanks to OHAPO for supplying snacks, sweet treats and pizza.

June presented so many opportunities for the Class of 2013 to create memories to last a lifetime: 8<sup>th</sup> grade BBQ and yearbook signing, DiNapoli’s and Spiderman in NYC, canoe trip, academic and athletic awards ceremonies, dinner dance and finally Commencement on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Each occasion further solidified these outstanding young ladies and gentleman as individuals, graduating class and an extended family. They will

be forever linked to OHA and one another, a bond never to be broken.

It was a privilege and pleasure to be part of their journey this year. I thoroughly enjoyed working with former students and getting to know every eighth grader. With great admiration and affection, I say so long but not good-bye. I will dearly miss this extraordinary group of students. I wish our graduates continued success in high school and in all their future endeavors.

Graduates frequently return to OHA to visit, catch up and share their high school experiences. Please do not hesitate to stop by when your schedule permits. Our doors are always open, especially to old friends.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2013!**

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

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

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

#### **Mrs. Daly/Mrs. Scheuer Grade 5 Reading**

The fifth graders finished the last marking period with our last novel study, The Borrowers. This multi-themed story tells the tale of tiny people living under the kitchen floorboards of a family home in London. Students practiced their reading skills as the twenty chapters flew by.

This has been a great year for the students in fifth grade. They did well on their final tests!

Have a great summer!

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

### **FIFTH GRADERS, SAVE YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOKS!!!!**

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

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

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

Remember: It's History-Geography Fair Next Year!

### **Final Reminder: 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: SAVE YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOKS!!!!**

#### **Mr. Bruckmann Grade 5 Math**

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

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

#### **Mrs. Cotterell Grades 5 – 8 Math**

#### **5th Grade - Period 2**

Well we did it! We completed the entire text book as planned. The children finished the year by completing one and two step algebraic equations and graphing the corresponding linear equation. They also spent time with the basics of probability by learning the difference between theoretical and experimental probability and using statistics to predict an event. They also learned how to calculate the probability of a compound event.

The students worked very hard this year and deserve to be commended. I thank you for your support at home and wish you a happy and healthy summer.

#### **5th Grade - Period 3**

This group was just delightful. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with them. They worked so hard and performed so well. We finished the year with two chapters on geometry. Their grades on the assessments were excellent. We just touched on negative numbers at the end of the school year. This will be reintroduced again in the 6th grade curriculum.

Thank you for your support at home. I wish you a happy and healthy summer vacation!

#### **6th Grade**

We achieved our objective and finished the textbook. The last 2 chapters were quite challenging. Chapter 12 we explored the volume and surface area of cylinders and also touched on the related formulas for cones. Chapter 13 we focused on probability. We began with a review of theoretical versus experimental probability and quickly moved onto topics such as independent and dependent events as well as permutations and combinations. These new topics required focus until the last day of class.

Many of these students will be moving on to other teachers so I thank you for the privilege of teaching them over these last two years and wish them much success as they continue their math studies at Oak Hill.

#### **7th Grade**

We finished the year by completing our chapter on right triangles. This is a critical chapter to understand as it sets the foundation for so many concepts in geometry. We spent several days working on the application of the Pythagorean Theorem. Students also learned the algebra concepts of Distance Formula and Mid-Point Formula.

The students worked very hard this year and should be commended on their fine work ethic. Thank you for your support at home. I wish you a happy and healthy summer.

#### **8th Grade**

We finished off the year by focusing on the Pythagorean Theorem and introduced some concepts of trigonometry as well. The students worked hard until the end. I truly appreciate their focus and attentiveness.

This is always a bittersweet time of the year. I taught some of the students for 3 of the last 4 years so I am very connected with them. It is always hard to see them go but we all know how exciting the next phase of their life is.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to teach your child and I wish you and your family a happy and healthy summer.

**Mrs. Schroeter**  
**Grade 5 Science**

This marking period the fifth graders were busy studying several more systems of the body – the respiratory and circulatory systems. While studying respiration, the students compared their breathing rates while sitting and after exercise. Doing jumping jacks in class was enjoyed by all. As usual, videos by Nat Geo and Bill Nye helped the students understand how these two body systems work. The human body model in the science classroom was also a very valuable teaching aid. The students enjoyed removing the organs and then rebuilding the model. Acid, bases, and salts were also covered this marking period. The fifth graders really liked these very colorful labs using indicators – litmus paper, pH paper, and phenolphthalein. They also used red cabbage juice, a universal indicator, to test four liquids and observe the beautiful colors that formed.

The Science Fair was a great success – and the projects were the best yet! It is always amazing to see the many ideas that the students have for their projects and how well they do with their presentations. Thank you Fifth Grade for a job well done!

The two science class trips for Fifth Grade were also a huge success! The classes went to Tuckerton Seaport in October and the Liberty Science Center in May. (Hopefully we will be able to return to Tuckerton next year. I don't think "Hurricane Sandy" was very kind to this New Jersey treasure.)

The school year has now ended, and I wish to thank you, the Fifth Grade class, for a Super Science Year. It was a pleasure getting to know all of you and doing the many fun labs together! Have a well-deserved summer vacation!



**Mrs. Vacca**  
**Grades 5 & 6 Math Workshop**

Students in grade 5 continued with their weekly 5 minute warm-up and then on to some fun projects such as Math Word Scrambler and Menu Math, where calculations of food prices and tips were computed. Once again, math skills were used in practical situations, and without the use of a calculator. Bonus points were calculated from the last two marking periods and a dress down day was awarded last week. Students had fun while reinforcing their math skills. I want to wish all my students and their families a happy and safe summer.

Students in grade six just finished presenting their final project: Radio/DJ's where teamwork and time management were essential components in this project. Groups had to organize their musical selections, weather, and public announcements and put them into a script. It was a five minute presentation of which three minutes of music and two minutes of information had to be put together following a specific schedule. The presentations were graded on organization, information, musical selections, entertaining and group effort. It was definitely a fun time and a lesson in time management. I enjoyed working with all my sixth graders this year. You are all such hard workers. I want to wish everyone a happy, fun, and safe summer.

**Mrs. Vacca**  
**Grade 5 Tech Class**

Students completed this class with a final presentation on "New Jersey Firsts." Some firsts that were researched were: Salt Water Taffy, the 1<sup>st</sup> Boardwalk, Miss America Pageant, Blueberries, Hot Air Balloons, Drive-in Movie Theater, and Condensed Campbell's Soup. Students had to locate where their "1<sup>st</sup>" occurred and in what NJ county, the time frame and how it came about. Visuals were included with some students even having fun attempting transitions. The students enjoyed working in pairs and individually, researching and compiling information and presenting it in a technological format. Once again, I want to wish all the OHA families a safe and happy summer!

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

The sixth grade English/LA students worked diligently to the very end of the school year. Before reviewing for exams, six graders explored the elements of fiction through the reading of engaging short stories such as Joan Aiken's "The

Serial Garden," which leaves the reader cheering for Rudi to reunite with Princess Sophia Maria, his long- lost love, and Lensey Namioka's "Inn of Lost Time," which also has a surprising twist at the end. After the short story unit students managed to read and reflect on a smattering of poems, ranging in tone from those somewhat pessimistic such as "The Deserted Barn" by Larry Woiwode to those with lightness and humor such as "Hector the Collector" by Shel Silverstein.

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

**Mrs. Daly**  
**Grade 6 Reading**

The sixth marking period has ended with our last novel study, The Library Card. This magical story tells about the lives of four very different people and how reading helped to change their lives. Students practiced comprehension skills as they navigated through the book.

It has been a lovely year for the students! Enjoy the summer!

**Mrs. Palamara**  
**Grades 6 – 8 Math**

Math 6 – Glencoe

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

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

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

constructed of their own colored and cut polygons.

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

#### Math 7 Gateways

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

#### Algebra

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

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

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

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

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

#### Math Team

The OHA Math Team had a most successful 2012-2013 year. I look forward to developing another outstanding team for next year and bringing many awards back to OHA. We will have our first meeting during the first full week of school to start our preparation for the CBA Eighth Grade Math Contest which is open to both seventh and eighth graders. Perhaps we

can bring home the "First Place" trophy again.

#### **Mrs. Billet** **Grades 6 & 7 Science**

##### Grade 6

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

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

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

Have a safe and fun-filled summer vacation.

##### Grade 7

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

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

##### National Science League Contest

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

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

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



#### **Señora Dotto** **Grades 6, 7 & 8 Spanish**

##### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Spanish

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

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

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

##### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Spanish

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, body parts, expressions with the verb tener, the conjugation of over 15 er-regular verbs, the usage of the verb venir, along with irregular first person verbs such as: salir and hacer. The students have also learned the geography, history, and culture of Costa Rica.

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

#### **STUDENTS TAKING SPANISH IN 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE. PLEASE KEEP YOUR TEXTBOOK AND WORKBOOK FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.**

##### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Spanish

During the sixth marking period, the eighth grade students worked on affirmative formal and informal commands with regular and stem-changing verbs, informal and formal commands with irregular verbs, negative informal commands with regular verbs and the usage of direct object pronouns with singular and double verbs.

Also, they memorized a colloquy and presented it in front of the class. Their pronunciation was outstanding and we had a great time. Furthermore, the students have learned the geography, history, and culture of Chile.

Since the last marking period, the eighth graders have been working very hard to complete their assignment for “El Cinco de Mayo” celebration. This year we focused on the most important and celebrated figure in Spanish literature Miguel Cervantes de Saavedra. Cervantes was a 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish novelist, playwright, poet and creator of Don Quixote de la Mancha.

To get ready for this presentation, we researched Cervantes biography and the history of Spain during that time, discussed the novel “Don Quixote” focusing on some main events, watched Don Quixote’s movie, made t-shirts with the Man of la Mancha logo, drew portraits of the main characters, built windmills and created La Mancha scene.

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

In eighth grade Language Arts, students have continued their study of vocabulary, while concluding the grammar unit: *Clauses*. In addition, students completed various essays and creative writing assignments.

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

**Mrs. Daly**  
**Grade 8 Critical Reading**

The eighth graders did very well on the final exams. It has been a terrific year for them in class. They will be missed! Good luck to the students as they enter high school!

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

The seventh grade had a strong finish to a great year! I am extremely proud of everyone’s hard work. In the final marking period we studied and analyzed our U.S. Constitution. Students were surprised to discover this “living document” is still heavily debated about today. This motivated them to seek out Supreme Court cases that affect our laws and human rights presently. We also

started to learn about how our country began to unite after this critical time in history, and started to enjoy an “Era of Good Feelings.”

I look forward to an interesting and challenging year when the students return as eighth graders.

The eighth grade had a busy close to a wonderful year. During the final marking period the class focused heavily on current events and global conflicts. Students used laptops to explore information and write papers and create power point presentations on an array of interesting topics that shaped the lives of their parents as well as themselves.

Students were excited to explore topics independently and write about them. Subjects such as the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Cold War really helped students understand the world we live in today.

I am confident they will perform extremely well in high school and I will certainly miss them!

**Mrs. Schroeter**  
**Grade 8 Science**

The eighth graders were mineralogists this marking period. The labs performed by the students included observing the growth of silver crystals using the microscope, copper plating on a steel nail, growing crystal trees, and observing and doing many mineral tests – streak, hardness, luster, breakage, magnetism, crystal, acid test – on our large collection of minerals. The students also observed conditions needed for both large and small crystal growth using cold and hot water and a dripping candle...a very clever idea. Classification of rocks – igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic – was discussed briefly. The final topic covered was Pangaea and the theory of continental drift, stated by Alfred Wegener. Student groups made Pangaea maps showing the placement of the landmasses long ago and also flip books with eight pages, showing the separation of the landmasses to their present locations.

I wish to thank the eighth grade for their excellent projects completed for the Science Fair and also for your hard work preparing for the National Science League test. Hopefully your four years of lab science at OHA have prepared you for your high school science classes. Good Luck to all and enjoy the larger world ahead!

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

Our eighth graders have again successfully completed our entire Algebra I book. Our last chapter, quadratics, was a challenge, but we were up to the task. We also had time to cover a few advanced topics which included 3-D graphing, solutions of three unknowns, complex numbers and sequences. All should be ready to handle any level of math as ninth graders in high school.

**Mrs. Larkins**  
**Grade 8 Math Workshop**

Congratulations to all our winners in our fantasy baseball project: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Matthew Misson and Nick Vasiliu; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Hamsters – Cameron Gruss and Nick Hempstead; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, PaKat – Katie Spencer and Paul Ramsey. Hopefully, I was able to pass on a little bit of my love for baseball (and statistics!)

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

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

**Mrs. Vacca**  
**Grade 8 Explorations**

This final marking period these students were given the opportunity to select a topic of their choice. What does it take to become a veterinarian? Students learned about the history of our local town of Holmdel, who discovered coca-cola and what’s the secret ingredient? The history of Nike, all about the 1950’s and MARVEL, and lastly DREAMS and the various stages of sleep. Students had fun researching while compiling their information and visuals into wonderful presentations either on the computers or the iPads including animations, sound, video clips, and transitions.

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

## **Signora Dotto – Grade 8 - Italian**

In Italian, the eighth grade students have continued to acquire new vocabulary, learned the **passato prossimo** (present perfect) using the auxiliary verbs *avere* and *essere* with common regular verbs, -ere verbs with irregular past participle, the *passato prossimo* of some irregular verbs, the present tense and present perfect tense of the verbs *bere* (to drink), *dire* (to say), *uscire* (to go out), *piacere* (to like) and *vedere* (to see), expressions specifying a particular time and adverbs of time.

In the communicative side we talked about vacations and vacation plans, express dates, described past actions and event and tell when past actions took place.

In addition, they memorized a colloquy and presented it in front of the class. Their pronunciation was outstanding and we had a great time. Bravi!

## **Mr. Rosenfeld/Mrs. Bordiuk Upper School PE**

The sixth marking period found the upper school classes getting ready for field day. We played kickball indoors and outdoors. The classes also played wiffleball indoors. We had visitors one day who came to play Ultimate Frisbee with the classes since Ultimate is a big hit in high school and college. We also attempted some lacrosse. The weather did not always cooperate for us to get outside.

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

## **Mrs. Grier/Library**

As the school year winds down and the books are being returned to the shelves for the summer, I reflect on the magnificence of our OHA library.

When the doors opened in September, the children arrived rested from a probable fun filled summer. Getting back into a routine takes time. The children quickly engaged themselves into book selections. From picture books, wordless books, genre selections and so forth... each child chose a weekly selection. From R.L. Rowling, Jan Brett and Eric Carle, many authors were explored and hopefully left a positive impression in one's mind. As the librarian, I take great pleasure watching children become absorbed in their selection. My hope is the children will continue to immerse

themselves into the wonderful world of reading. Enjoy the summer!!

## **Mrs. Griller/Computer**

It's hard to believe another year has come to an end. This was an exciting year in computer class, with many wonderful projects to show our creativity and computer knowledge. The first grade ended the year by creating animated slide shows in Kidpix, along with other creative projects like coloring books and picture magnets. The second graders learned about the parts on the inside of the computer and the keys of the keyboard and made an informational wheel about our president. While in the third grade kept practicing their typing skills through lessons and games and made a coupon book for Father's Day in Microsoft Word. The fourth grade students presented PowerPoint presentations about the state of New Jersey. In the fifth grade students worked together to create a tour of OHA using digital cameras and Photo Story. The sixth and seventh grade students worked on animation programming projects. The sixth grade students created animated stories using Scratch. The seventh graders designed a computer game using Game Maker. In eighth grade they completed development in Microsoft Access. They are able to create a database of information, program a front end screen for data entry, print a report of the database records, and write a query to pull out certain information from the database.

## **Mrs. Tyma/Music**

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

There has been lots of singing, dancing, drumming and playing of barred instruments this spring in music classes! The eighth grade classes tried their hand at improvisation in the Blues style. This precursor to Jazz had its beginnings in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. By listening to a number of Blues artists of the past and present, we learned about the form, the harmonic progression, and melodic

elements of the Blues. Then we were ready to try creating our own riffs and melodies. In addition, we discussed the origin and evolution of the Blues and its relationship to Jazz.

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

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

The third graders are bringing home their recorders and music they learned. I hope they will entertain their families with their newly learned skill. As mentioned in the letter sent home with the recorders and folders, please keep them in a safe place since we'll be playing them again in the fall in fourth grade. We closed out the year viewing videos and listening to music that featured the woodwind family of orchestral instruments and learning a song and an accompaniment for barred instruments that gave us a better understanding of and much practice with sixteenth notes.

The second graders explored simple meter while enjoying a song about the wind, creating an unpitched accompaniment for a poem in the B

section. We also explored the brass and string instruments of the orchestra, which were brought to class to see up close, and then we viewed videos and listened to recordings featuring each one. We ended the year experiencing compound meter with an American folk song and dance.

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

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

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

### Miss DiMaggio/Art

The first grade painted a bouquet of flowers with watercolors and traced their hands on construction paper to replicate the artwork of Pablo Picasso's *Bouquet of Flowers*. They also learned about artist Wassily Kandinsky and made a non objective drawing that they wove through construction paper. They drew their first still life, a combination of flowers and art supplies.

The second grade studied Dutch artist Piet Mondrian and made an animal using his style of primary colors in squares and rectangles. Using pieces of construction paper, students made a ripped paper collage representing their favorite food.

They also drew this year's still life. We did not have time to finish, but 2Colson started their cool chameleons using warm or cool colors.

The third grade, using Model Magic, made a coil pot. They also took advantage of our nice weather and drew outside focusing on texture, space, movement, value and their composition. Using their prior weaving knowledge the students wove a paper blanket for a furry friend in the project *Tuck Me in Weaving*. We drew self portraits based on Pablo Picasso and his abstract style and colored these using oil pastels. They had the opportunity to view a variety of Claude Monet's *Water Lilly* paintings and used tissue paper to make a collage based on his work.

The fourth grade studied artist Frida Kahlo and drew self portraits using everything they learned about the correct facial proportions. They drew this year's still life and colored it in with oil pastels.

In the fifth grade, 5A took advantage of the nice weather and drew outdoors while paying special attention to movement, value, shading, texture and composition. They studied surreal artist Salvador Dali and made a drawing based on Surrealism. They began learning about one point perspective in preparation for next year. 5B drew a picture and filled it in with curved and distorted #2 pencils. 5B also started an Op art checkerboard drawing. Students drew this year's still life and focused on value and pencil shading.

The sixth grade finally finished their Henry Rousseau inspired *Overlapping Jungles*. They learned about controversial artist Jeff Koons and made model magic balloon animal dogs. They made an abstract nature watercolor and sharpie drawing. They also drew this year's still life.

The seventh grade took advantage of our nice weather and drew outdoors. They created their names using a monochromatic or analogous color scheme using a variety of mediums. Using acrylic paint they painted anything of their choice on a canvas board; they focused on texture, color mixing and balance. They also studied artist Vincent Van Gogh and drew sunflowers using oil pastels on black paper.

The eighth grade experimented with concentrated liquid watercolor in our blown watercolor project. They used sculpey clay to make their choice of a covered pen or beads. They used professional grade watercolor and

painted beaches. We had our first independent art contest this spring. We drew sunglasses in a variety of ways, and our winner, Nick Vasiliu, won a pair of Oakleys. They learned about hatching and cross hatching and used that method of shading in their still life.

### Mrs. DeVivo/Mrs. Carroll Drama

The Kindergarten class was very busy acting out several books like *Alphabet Action* and *The Hungry Caterpillar*. They were then asked to create stick puppets of the characters and retell the story with the use of their puppets. They enjoyed the process of creating and performing these wonderful stories.

The first grade students read several Reader's Theatre scripts this making period including "Enormous Turnip" and "We are Your Community." After reading this play the students added to the characters and professionals that are part of community, such as veterinarians, ballet teachers and farmers. The students enjoyed acting out the book, "How I Became a Pirate" and embarking on a treasure hunt that included map reading skills and a treasure at the end of the search.

The second grade classes have enjoyed reading plays that were both fiction and non fiction. *Mission to the Moon* provided them a look at the landing on the moon, while plays like, *Goldilocks and The 3 Bullfrogs* and *Reading, Writing and Little Red Riding Hood* provided a non traditional look at some of the classics. The students read with expression and enjoyed becoming the characters.

The third grade students also enjoyed Readers Theater with the emphases on reading with confidence and projection. The plays were *Once Upon a 100 Years Nap*, *The True Story of The Three Little Pigs*, and *Cinderella Outgrows The Glass Slipper*. The students then designed their own script covers for their imaginary tales. They presented their stories to the class and everyone enjoyed their own remakes of these timeless tales!

The fourth grade has been very busy creating fairy tales with twists. They collaborated with their classmates which resulted in imaginative scripts. These tales were performed by unique shadow Puppets which the students also created. Everyone enjoyed the experience of play writing, puppet making and performance art!

The fifth and sixth grade students have worked in groups to write plays that were

based on randomly selected hand puppets, finger puppets and masks. Each puppet team script's were based on a moral/ lesson and had to include story elements and character development to all the groups! This experience also, provided the students creative collaboration and puppet handling that entertained their classmates. Bravo!

I would like to thank Mrs. DeVivo for her support during her maternity leave and thank the teachers and staff at OHA for all they have done! It's been a pleasure!

Finally, please don't forget to sign up for the **OHA's Summer Drama Camp!** The one week play is open to students entering grades 2-9. Budding actors will perfect their performance skills by participating in a variety of games and exercises that will improve their stage presence, diction, projection, and movement. A large part of the day will be spent working together devising and creating scenery for an original play that will be performed in the Student Activities Center for family and friends on the last day of camp. The camp runs from June 24<sup>th</sup> to June 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-11:30. Sign up forms are located on the school's web site or in the Drama room.

#### **Mrs. Vacca—Student Council**

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

I would like to thank everyone for their generous monetary donations and item collections during the year. On Monday, May 21st, Dr. Kuyat and I took 16 eighth grade students to the Monmouth Day Care Center to read and interact with all the children. It was such a joy to see our students reading and playing with the children. Everyone had a fun time. The center truly appreciates the time and donation of the children's books. Thanks again to Mrs. Gruss, Mrs. Marinaro and Mrs. Vasilii for providing transportation to the Day Care Center.

During our school assembly on Thursday, June 7th, our student council members presented our gifts to the school. We made the following monetary donations: \$250 to the Edward P. Felt Scholarship Fund, \$200 to the Chris Ferrara Foundation, and \$360 for our continued sponsorship of Kendy Louis at Danita's Orphanage. We also provided food and beverages for **Movie Day** for the 5-6<sup>th</sup> graders, the DJ and

refreshments for the (3) dances for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and Littletown Day rides and pretzel warmer for the lower school. Student Council also purchased an Apple TV for the Tech Center. Our final gift will be the purchasing of (20) mini-tote umbrellas for the Lower School students.

The assembly also provided the opportunity for the newly elected Student Council officers and project coordinators to take the "***oath of office.***" President- Logan Gruss, Vice President- Sydney Hixenbaugh, Secretary- Riya Singh, Treasurer- Catherine Curtin and Project Coordinators- Luke DeCresce, Megan Scafaria, Harry Jain, Griffin Cole, Victoria Huggan, Gerald Sharpe and Maya Shah. I am looking forward to working with my new student council this upcoming school year.

During the last Friday of school, some student council members both past and present helped sort and assemble (8) "Birthday in a Box" packages that will be distributed in July to families of children with cancer through a wonderful organization called "The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation." Thank you to Mrs. Vasilii for organizing this and seeing that all the supplies go to those families over the next few months. Thanks to Mrs. Bermudez for her birthday banners and Mrs. Egan for numerous bags of goodies that will come to good use. Thanks to Logan and Cameron Gruss, Harry Jain, Griffin Cole, and Nick Vasilii for assembling the boxes.

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

#### **Mr. Bruckmann Alumni Corner**

The alumni questionnaire is out both on-line and in the mail to all of our alumni.

Please take the time to submit your updated information.

Check out our FACEBOOK page as well:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oak-Hill-Academy-Lincroft-NJ-Alumni/207014809416855>

#### **HOW TO ACCESS YEARBOOK and OTHER PICTURES ONLINE**

**Mrs. Matson/Mrs. Daly**

The Orange and Black Sticker on the back of your yearbook is useful; it should allow you to look at more pictures online!

Everyone will be able to look at more Yearbook Pictures online, and later Eighth Grade pictures like the Canoe Trip, the Pre-Broadway Trip and Graduation by following these instructions and those on the orange and black sticker on the back cover of your yearbook.

When you use the Replayit Access code on the sticker on the inside back cover of your book, it connects to your Replayit account. **You will continue to have access to the pictures there as long as you log in with that account, but the code cannot be used with any other accounts.** It makes the most sense to wait until July to access the site, as only a few pictures will be on it now.

**Read the instructions below to make sure you will be able to keep visiting the site. REMEMBER YOU MUST CREATE YOUR REPLAYIT ACCOUNT WITH YOUR NAME AND A NEW PASSWORD. USE A NEW PASSWORD. NEVER USE A PASSWORD YOU USE FOR PRIVATE INFORMATION!**

**When you go on the Replayit Website in July:**

- 1. Click register. continue**
- 2. Enter Oak Hill Academy Lincroft New Jersey and continue**
- 3. Type in the code that is on the orange and black sticker on the back page of your yearbook. It is probably Case Sensitive: make sure you use caps, if the letters are caps, and vice versa. Click continue**
- 4. Create a Replayit account. Enter your name, the email account you will use, and the password you will use, and write it down!**

It should work. See below if it doesn't, and call them or email them at: support@replayit.com

Remember, most photos, especially the Canoe Trip, Broadway Trip and Graduation, will not be available until JULY!

If there are any issues with photos not showing up in the Replayit Time Capsule when they should, or you have any other questions about Replayit or Time Capsule, please contact the REplayit tech support line at 800 328 2435. They will be able to assist you. If this does not work, call the school and leave a message for Mrs. Matson.

ENJOY YOUR YEARBOOK!

## **ATHLETICS**

### **Softball**

Mrs. Porzio's team finished the season with an impressive 6-2 record. They ended on a high note with a convincing victory over the faculty! The team improved throughout the season. There were a number of younger players on the team that gained valuable experience. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders lead the team with their play and leadership. The team had defeated Rumson Country Day, Forrestdale, Deal and Ranney. Josie Larkins, Hannah Nagy and Sydney Hixenbaugh led the team with pitching and hitting! Sofia DiAntonio and Carly Belz were also instrumental in this fine season. We'll miss the following 8<sup>th</sup> graders: Emily Abate, Brittany Barone, Carly Belz, Sarah Berger, Mae Corrigan, Sofia DiAntonio, Josie Larkins, Hannah Nagy, Maddy Ryder, Katie Spencer and manager Kelsey Leone.

### **Tennis**

ALMOST!!! Miss Murray's team ended the season with a 9-1 record! The Tennis team had a fantastic season after completing three undefeated seasons in a row, going 10-0, 9-0 and 7-0. Our four year record is 35-1! The team had defeated Holy Cross, St. Leo's, St. Joes (TR), Manalapan Englishtown, Monmouth Beach, St. Catherine's, Ranney (avenged our only loss by beating them in the last match of the season 4-1).

Our top two players, 8<sup>th</sup> grader Cameron Gruss (1<sup>st</sup> Singles) and 7<sup>th</sup> grader Logan Gruss (2<sup>nd</sup> Singles) both finished the season undefeated with 10-0 records! Cameron finished his career a 35-0! Please see an additional article on Cameron's accomplishments! Erik Wicks (7<sup>th</sup> gr) played third singles, 8<sup>th</sup> graders Zachary Zaborowski and Julia Pardee played 1<sup>st</sup> doubles, Alexa Cieri (7<sup>th</sup> gr) and Ryan Gruss (5<sup>th</sup> gr) played

2<sup>nd</sup> doubles. Also playing matches were: Kerry Fell (8<sup>th</sup> gr), Matthew Jaworski (7<sup>th</sup> gr), John Gabriel Bermudez (7<sup>th</sup> gr) and Aneesha Doshi (8<sup>th</sup> gr). There were 29 total players on the tennis team and many of them had a chance to play in many of the matches! The experience that they gained this year will help replace the 8<sup>th</sup> graders who will be graduating.

In the faculty match, the team of C.Gruss and L.Gruss defeated a weary Miss Murray and Mr. Pacelli! We'll miss the following 8<sup>th</sup> graders: Shreya Bhatt, Gabriella Chinae, Julianna DeStefano, Aneesha Doshi, Kerry Fell, Cameron Gruss, Nicole Marinaro, Julia Pardee, Kaitlyn Vogel and Zachary Zaborowski.

### **Baseball**

This season, Mr. Bruckmann's team ended up 4-2 record, for a four year record of 36-6!! Mr. Rosenfeld assisted with the team this year. Once again, the rain cut the season short. We had a very strong and balanced team with pitching, hitting and fielding. There were a few close games, but in most of the games, we were comfortably ahead. The team had big wins over Ranney and Rumson Country Day! The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders were the dominant players on the team however the 6<sup>th</sup> graders gained experience and will help lead the team next year. All of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders led the team in pitching hitting and fielding. The graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders were: Nick Vasilu, Matthew Misson, Nick Hempstead, Miller Corrigan, Dylan Fazio and Jack Wilt.

### **Cross Country**

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

### **Cameron Gruss – Undefeated Career Record in Tennis**

Over Oak Hill's history of 32 years, we have been very fortunate to have had many accomplished student athletes. Notice I said "student" first. That's what comes first at Oak Hill! Our students are successful in the classroom, as well as, on the playing fields.

Our coaches are role models, knowledgeable, and set the bar high.

Some of our graduates have gone onto athletic success in high school, college and beyond. They have made 1<sup>st</sup> team All-Shore, All-State, been Gatorade Player of the Year, named as a McDonalds All-American, received

athletic scholarships to Division I colleges and universities, qualified for the Olympic Trials and played minor league baseball. These student athletes have played the following sports in college: soccer, cross country, swimming, basketball, cheerleading, baseball, tennis, softball, football, gymnastics and lacrosse.

For a school that is comparatively smaller than most schools that we play against in all of our sports, we manage to have outstanding records and extremely talented student athletes. They also always show proper sportsmanship.

We have had a tennis team at OHA for all 32 years. In the beginning, Mr. Pacelli coached the first year, and then I took over. We have seen every player that has come through Oak Hill on the tennis team. Again, many of those top players went onto to have excellent high school careers and some played college tennis, too, at the Division 1 level.

Tennis is a team sport, but also an individual sport, too. You must acquire three wins for your team to win. Over the past 4 years, the tennis team has dominated their opponents, with a record of 35-1.

Over these past 4 years, we have had one individual who has had unprecedented success.

In his 5<sup>th</sup> grade year, he played 1<sup>st</sup> doubles and had an undefeated record of 9-0, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 1<sup>st</sup> singles, undefeated at 10-0 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 1<sup>st</sup> singles, undefeated at 6-0 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 1<sup>st</sup> singles, undefeated at 10-0.

We have never had an individual go undefeated for his or her career at Oak Hill Academy! Cameron Gruss finished with a 35-0 record and has lead OHA during his 4 years! Cameron ranks up there as one of the finest tennis players that we have ever had!

We gave Cameron a plaque signifying his undefeated status. We also will have a duplicate plaque in our trophy case. We have the tennis balls that Cameron used for his last match against Ranney, again, one will be kept at OHA.

Congratulations and best of luck at Phillips Exeter and beyond!



