

Oak Hill Academy Newsletter #6 June 2014

Headmaster's Message Joseph A. Pacelli

Got a Secret?

Well I do! It's not a big secret, probably not a secret at all. But often the obvious is not mentioned or not given credit! Here goes!

Our Oak Hill students are polite and have outstanding manners! This is a bold statement since it is suggested today that behavior in society in general has declined over the last decade. My evidence for this belief is personal. We just had our awards assemblies. One was almost 1 ½ hours long and our children were respectful during the entire time, from kindergarten to eighth grade.

When we go on trips, those at the various sites often comment on the excellent behavior and knowledge of our students. Visitors to our school mention the helpfulness of our students when asking for help or by holding a door.

Last month our eighth graders took their annual trip to New York to have dinner and see a play. The usual comments were numerous on how nicely they were dressed and on how well mannered they were.

Two other personal examples of their outstanding behavior are the following. On the mornings when I greet the lower school children at drop off, I get an amazing "Good Morning, Mr. Pacelli" from all! Secondly, after each of my classes I get "thank you's" from my eighth graders as they leave class. This is a very rewarding feeling for teachers when students express gratitude for your craft.

I think this secret is very well known by all and expected. But to have it happen in a world where people rarely say hello and are sometimes downright discourteous, makes our Oak Hill students even all the more amazing!

This secret obviously begins in our Oak Hill homes and I want to thank you for the thoughtful and outstanding job you are doing to keep the next generation respectful and centered. Through the presence of your children, you do much to give OHA that special feeling of joy!

Please have a wonderful summer!

Mrs. Larkins **Director of Development**

Grandparent/Special Relative Day

Visitors abounded on Thursday, May 15 and Friday, May 16 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 was cooperative so I think that the "tradition of rain" may finally be broken! 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 and the Parent Organization's Hospitality Committee. Then came the much anticipated classroom visit. Oak Hill students were at their best as they performed plays, read their original writings, competed in contests, worked on group projects, and shared memories during the class visits. Finally, the visitors enjoyed the Upper School's social studies 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 "Count on Me" carried through all aspects of the school year, and was no better exemplified than by the work of our 2013-2014 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 **\$94,000!** 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 new Mimio interactive white boards in the classrooms. 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 2013-2014 Parent Organization: President Heather

Forsyth, Treasurer Corey Small, and Secretary Tracy Shallcross. 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. We could always "count on them" to do whatever it took to make each event as success.

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 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 grader Kevin Kinsella assumed the role of Headmaster on May 20th! Kevin assisted Mr. Pacelli with some of his duties. Early in the morning, he recited the Pledge of Allegiance over the PA to the entire school. Next, it was signing an important document declaring that May 27th was a special dress down day! Kevin was introduced to all of the Lower School classes and some of the Upper School, too. He read two different books to the Kindergarten, and the Pre-K, and took a ride to the Solar Science Center on the golf cart driven by Mr. Livingston! Kevin and two of his friends were treated to lunch at the Lincroft Inn with Mr. Pacelli and Miss Murray. At the awards assembly at the beginning of June, Kevin was presented with a plaque, a photo album of the day, as well as a video of the day's happenings! Job well done, Kevin!

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. Gia DeJohn, Mason Garber, Jordan Codispoti, William Hurley, Dillon McCann, Allie Massimino and Kara Pietrowicz spoke about Spanish, drama club, math workshop, athletics, tech, student council and the Geography/History 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 fourth year that Oak Hill Academy entered into an agreement with BioTech High School this spring to provide a mentorship to two high school seniors. Akhil Chakravarti, Oak Hill grad, Class of 2011 and Sanjay Subramanian, 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, Akhil and Sanjay had to interview the teachers. We thank Akhil and Sanjay for being with us! They were extremely helpful to the teachers and students and became part of OHA in just three short weeks. We wish Akhil and Sanjay well in college next year!

Harry Jain makes History!

Eighth grader Harry Jain made OHA history by having grades of 100 for all of his semester and final grades, as well as his exams for the year! Congratulations, Harry!

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 54%. OHA had 92% of the students taking the test score above the national average, with the rest just barely missing the mark! Harry Jain was named as the OHA champ, scoring 86%! Other than Harry, the top 10 OHA scores were: Alec Garbely 83, David Neuwirth 82, Luke DeCresce 81, John-Gabriel Bermudez 79, Adian Picadio 76, Dylan Raskin 75, Andy Thermos 73, Matthew Jaworski 72, Seth Britton 71, Maya Shah 71, Jack Stryker 71 and Brycen Greco 70.

Mrs. O'Connor, Mrs. Pampel, Mrs. Schroeter, and Mrs. d'Afflisio are retiring!

Thank you to Mrs. Beth O'Connor for the 26 years of service she gave to Oak Hill Academy as a fifth grade English teacher; to Mrs. Doreen Pampel for the 31 years of service she gave to Oak Hill as a third grade teacher and Upper

School science teacher; to Mrs. Schroeter for her 30 years as an Upper School science teacher; to Mrs. Denise d'Afflisio for her 20 years as a teacher's assistant and extended day coordinator! We thank each one of these fine teachers and appreciate what they have done for the students of Oak Hill Academy!

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 50 (20 girls and 30 boys), our graduates will be going to 22 different high schools! Actually, this class was accepted to 28 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 are higher than the number of the students who will actually attend that high school. Remember, students can apply to a number of different high schools):

	Accepted	Attending
Parochial		
CBA	19	11
RBC	11	6
SJV	8	4
Mater Dei	1	1
St. Rose	3	0
St. Andrews(DE)	1	1
Loyola (NY)	1	1
Notre Dame	1	0
Trinity Hall	3	3
Marymount	1	0
Covenant of Sacred Heart		
St. Vincent Ferrer1	1	0
Public		
Pt. Pleasant Beach	1	
Midd. South	1	
Monmouth Reg	1	
Manalapan	1	
Red Bank Reg	1	
Specialized		
Allied Health	2	1
Bio Tech	1	1
Communications 1	1	1
High Tech	2	1
M.A.S.T.	3	2

Freehold Reg. District:		
Naval ROTC	1	0
Law & Public Service	2	0

Red Bank Regional District:		
Engineering	4	3
Music	1	0
Drama	1	1

Wall District:		
Engineering	1	1

Private		
Lawrenceville	1	1
Phillips Exeter (NH)	1	1
Peddie	3	2
Blair	1	0
White Mountain	1	0
Portsmouth Abbey	1	0
Ranney	7	3

7th and 8th grade National Latin Exam Results

Once again, the results from the National Latin Exam were very favorable! One eighth grader received a perfect paper! Congratulations to Harry Jain! Harry and Luke DeCresce were honored with the Gold medal and Summa Cum Laude certificate. Silver medals and maxima cum laude certificates were awarded to the following eighth graders John-Gabriel Bermudez, Dylan Raskin, Megan Scafaria. Congratulations to David Neuwirth, Dorothea Wotton, Salma AbdelBarry for receiving the magna cum laude certificate. Aidan Picadio, Jack Stryker, Riya Singh and Alec Garbely received the cum laude certificate! Outstanding Achievement Certificates and ribbons were given to those seventh grade students scoring between 39-36 (out of 40) correct on the Introductory Level: Lucas Bruckmann, Zachary Basile and Dylan Servilla! Achievement Certificates were given to those seventh grade students scoring 35-32 correct on the Introductory Level: Julianna Troccoli, Hannah Gazdus, Jonathan Giuffre, Arya Sharma and Bryan Soler. Congratulations to all and to Latin teacher, Miss Terry Burke!

Mr. Bruckmann – Communications Administrator's Corner

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/>
- <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/campus-experiences>
- <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/news/all>
- <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/general-calendar>

Alumni

The alumni questionnaire is out both online and in the mail to all of our alumni.

<http://www.oakhillacademy.com/alumni/alumni-update>

Please take the time to submit your updated information.

Check out our FACEBOOK page as well:

<https://www.facebook.com/OakHillAcademyAlumni>

Mrs. Livingston Lower School Guidance

Throughout this year the 2nd - 4th graders have been sharing "Random Acts of Kindness" that they have either performed or witnessed. To continue the act of spreading kindness throughout the summer, listed below are 10 ways your family can influence the world, your community, and your friends and family (taken from the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation newsletter).

1. Spend 15 minutes picking up litter.
2. Leave positive notes around your neighborhood, school, or workplace.
3. If you drive a car, let someone go in front of you.
4. Meet a great cashier at the grocery store? Receive excellent customer service? Write a letter to the manager of the company to give praise to that employee and share your positive experience.
5. Smile at the first five people you see.

6. Spend one hour doing something your love. Remember you're a part of the community too.
7. Find a new place in town to volunteer. Instead of meeting a friend for coffee or lunch, take them with you for a philanthropic friend date.
8. Surprise a neighbor with a care package.
9. Beautify your community. Clean graffiti, plant flowers, leave nice notes on a bus—wherever you are, leave it better than you found it.
10. Play an "I spy kindness" game with your kids. Try to spot as many moments of kindness in the community as you can!

Have an enjoyable summer!

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

The months of May and June brought many exciting activities and celebrations as Pre-K exhibited enormous personal, social and academic growth. The annual Kindergarten Maypole celebration 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 "bumblebee" baskets and May Day poems to faculty and staff across the campus.

Our Mother's Day spring flower planting and picnic was another fun-filled activity. The students adorned tulip hats and honored their mothers with heartwarming songs and presented them with a handmade card and special gift. The event helped add beauty to the front area of the Center for Early Learning. A delicious picnic 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 nuptials of two of our favorite Letter People was preceded by a western themed, "his and her," QU bridal shower before their June wedding. The couple, who met in Quinlan, Texas, received lovely Q and U gifts including Quince jelly, Quaker Oats, Q-Tips, Quinoa and Quarters. The Pre-K girls were dressed in bandana skirts and boots and the boys in cowboy vests and jeans. The wedding ceremony was attended by Pre-K families, staff, many Letter People friends, and students in Kindergarten and First grade. The Pre-K Buckaroos, along

with Mr. Pacelli and Miss Murray attended the bride and groom and Mrs. Weikes, performed the ceremony. The tribute to the QU's included Country Western songs and square dancing. Following the ceremony held in the Scire Activity Center, the newlyweds left for a honeymoon in Quinzhou, China.

Due to rain, Field Day was held in the Scire Activity Center and proved to be both exciting and fun. The team and individual efforts of the students shined bright in the relays, 3-legged races, sack races, and egg on 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 project was an exciting part of May and our strong science program. The students cared for, observed, and documented the different stages of the butterfly life cycle before releasing them outdoors. Saying goodbye to our fluttery friends 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. Everyone enjoyed lunch in the Boardwalk Pavilion and the weather was perfect for fun in the sand, chasing waves, and looking for shells.

We could not forget to recognize our Dads. Our "Donuts for Dads Day" play was held in the Multi-Purpose room of the Pre-K building and was followed by a delicious breakfast. The students performed "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle, sang several songs about dads and presented dad with a very special keepsake. We sure love our dads and thank them for all they do.

We ended the year looking back on all the wonderful times spent together and the great things we learned this past year in Pre-K. The teachers and students agreed that it 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 will see many of our friends in camp, it is always hard to say goodbye.

The Pre-K staff would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks 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. We would like to wish everyone a safe and fun-filled summer. See you on campus in September!

**Mrs. Schwartz
Mrs. Colbert/Mrs. Gilfillan
Mrs. Lambert
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. After treating our guests to an encore performance of our play, "A Perfect Spring 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 goes to Mrs. Bordiuk for organizing the events and to all of the parents who helped in any way.

Our last trip was to Island Beach State Park. The weather was perfect and the children loved flying their kites, building sandcastles, playing football and looking for shells. 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 the first grade year is both a happy and a sad time for us. We are extremely PROUD of the progress the children have made in so many areas of the curriculum. However, we are sad to see them leave our rooms and to "give them over" to our wonderful Second Grade colleagues.

We want to thank you for all your help and cooperation throughout the school year. You have helped to make our careers even more rewarding and satisfying. During the summer months, continue to encourage your children to READ! READ! READ! and 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! xoxoxoxoxo

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

The end of the school year has come so quickly for our second graders. It is both a happy and a sad time for us. As we look back on this year, we have observed your children transform into independent, confident workers who are now ready to move up to third grade. We have certainly grown in so many ways. We as teachers are so proud of them and know they will do well next year. We will miss them, however.

Our creative writing has taken a real flair this year. We have written many forms of poetry, published our own math book, written short stories, book reports, and done journal writing. The topics were varied and quite creative.

We have become mathematicians learning many new math concepts in our exciting Singapore math program. In our reading classes we have read various types of stories, completed novel studies, and traveled around the world with Flat Stanley. The children have also enjoyed cursive writing which is coming along beautifully.

We would like to thank our classroom mothers for all they did to make our holiday parties so special. We appreciated all your efforts.

Over the summer please encourage the routine of reading daily, as well as doing writing activities using their new cursive writing skills. In addition practice the

math facts, especially the subtraction and multiplication tables with your child.

We wish everyone a happy and safe summer!

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

Third grade enjoyed their trip to Poricy Park this marking period. One of the visits was to the Murray Farmhouse where the children were able to experience colonial life and toured a house that was built in 1770. They used quill pens and slate pencils. In the kitchen they baked cookies, churned butter, and grated spices. They concluded the trip with a visit to the barn where they played games and were introduced to the pillory and the stock. The other visit to the park was for a pond study. The children worked as scientists in the laboratory and outdoors collecting specimens from the pond. The highlight was the animal life, big and small, that we found. Once again, thanks to all the parents who accompanied us.

Social studies was all about map skills. We finished our book with an emphasis on the geography of the United States. Students worked together to map a route across country using latitude and longitude coordinates to locate their starting and stopping places. Each student researched a place they could visit on their journey.

We completed our sixth and final novel, The Year of Miss Agnes. This story took place in a native Alaskan village at the end of World War Two. Students learned about this very different lifestyle and came to appreciate the struggles of the children in the story. They were very interested in the unusual teacher and how she helped her students.

Our last activity was writing original scripts for Readers' Theater presentations which we shared with the first and second graders.

It was a wonderful year in which we enjoyed observing the growth of the children in our classes. We can honestly say it was a good year for one and all.

**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 May 2nd, the fourth graders made our two four-foot New Jersey cakes. The baked counties came to school having been baked and cut out following the stencil at home. In the SAC, during our "Cake Day Event," the students each frosted their piece. The cake's 21 counties were frosted in five different colors and then each cake was put together like a giant four-foot puzzle. Then the students decorated as to the 'six faces' of New Jersey. The 'faces' are determined by their geographic features and how the land is used. The decorations consisted of chocolate cars, vegetables, fruits, and airplanes, Swedish fish, gummy bears and worms, sugary flowers, licorice, and Hershey kisses for the Kittatinnies, pretzel and gum drop trees, etc. We had a chocolate Governor's Mansion and of course, a chocolate Oak Hill Academy complete with OHA sign.

Our very diverse and beautiful state was well represented by our 4-foot replicas. Of course, we now know that our **New Jersey** was delicious, too. We each ate a piece.

To end our study of Ancient Egypt each student hand built a pyramid with modeling clay. We were not dealing with 2.5 ton blocks or working for 20 years on each pyramid, but we had fun forming our own pyramid with four triangular sides or a step pyramid. The students were also creative and made sarcophaguses, mummies, and even boats. Thank you to Mrs. AbdelBarry, Mrs. Basile, Mrs. Lucosky and Mrs. Shallcross who helped with the pyramid building. The students also enjoyed coloring stained glass Egyptian Art pictures that look fabulous in a window. They also did Egyptian word finds, mazes, and drew Anubis, a scarab, and the Udjat, the protective eye.

We all enjoyed learning about these fascinating people that did so many creative, incredible and resourceful things 5000 years ago.

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 Tuesday, June 10th. 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!!

The fourth graders were able to ask Mrs. AbdelBarry questions about Egypt when she came and spoke to them about her native country. She talked about all things that we use each day, that were first created by the Egyptians. They made the first calendar, paper, ink, eye make-up, and they figured out how to do surgeries, mend bones, and stop bleeding. These are just a few of the things the ancient Egyptians created or discovered for generations to follow. We thank Mrs. AbdelBarry for her time and expertise.

A special thank you goes to our Fourth Grade Room Moms: Mrs. AbdelBarry, Mrs. Basile, Mrs. Lawrie, Mrs. Lucosky, Mrs. Sainato, and Mrs. Shallcross. You helped us with our special events and gave us fun parties. Have a relaxing and restful summer.

**Mrs. Cahalane
Lower School Science**

PK students had fun learning all about the solar system. Everyone made their own rocket and we used them to take imaginary flights to Jupiter! Kindergarteners completed a unit on recycling. We used a blender and water to recycle paper and everyone took home a recycled paper bookmark. First graders studied biomimicry – a new Next Generation Science Standard for grade one. All students made a Box of Secrets protected by a defense found in nature. Second grade students learned about the life cycle stages of insects. We raised Painted Lady caterpillars in our classroom and examined each stage up close. Third grade students completed a chemistry unit. We used cabbage juice

as an acid-base indicator and found out what happens when acids & bases are mixed together. Fourth grade students did a wonderful job on their STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) Mars project. Our Mars colony photos as well as tons of other photos from all grades can be seen on my blog: ScienceWithMrsCahalane.blogspot.com. Happy summer to all!

**Mrs. Bordiuk/Mr. Goldfarb
Lower School PE**

In the sixth and final marking period at Oak Hill Academy the lower school Physical Education classes have completed swimming and physical fitness testing. Throughout the swim classes students have gained both competency and proficiency in stroke technique and rotary breathing. Despite the inclement weather, lower school students participated inside the gym for a very successful and enjoyable Field Day. All of the students demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and teamwork during this fun day. At the award assembly, students were given patches based upon how they scored on the Presidential Physical Fitness Tests. Students were also given awards based upon how their Field Day teams scored.

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

We concluded this year's unit on Scotland and Wales, both part of the United Kingdom. Students were fascinated with the Loch Ness Monster, hoax or not. Numerous video clips were shown, along with sightings and documentaries, and sonar explorations beneath this quiet lake. Students then sketched their own version of what they think "Nessie" looks like. In addition to the culture and customs of these two British ruled countries, students also learned about the coat of arms for Scotland and Wales. Students also watched a video on the Highland Games, which is their version of the Olympics amongst the various clans of Scotland. Students watched in awe as competitors exhibited their strengths in a variety of physical competitions. From working with clay to painting and coloring and designing their own patterns for kilts, students had fun while learning about the United Kingdom. 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 Littleton Day so

successful. I want to wish all our OHA families a happy and safe summer!

Mme Koar **Lower School French**

The first grades enjoyed singing a French song, Je suis une Pizza, which can be found on my web page along with many other songs we practiced during the year. Songs are a great memory tool and especially with language learning. Music is good practice for intonation and pronunciation, plus it can be done at home. Please encourage your child to listen occasionally through the summer vacation.

You can find some fun Apps for kids to practice their listening skills over the summer at this site:

<http://www.catherine-ousselin.org/appsfr.htm>

My favorites are "Feed Me-Français" (available in several languages), Montessori numbers and words, Tchoupi, Memo Animaux, and Guess Who (French and Spanish).

The second grade made great progress with numbers and counting in French. In addition to the Apps I mentioned above, you can find helpful activities for all levels at languageguide.org/french.

Apps are more engaging and provide as much listening practice for vocabulary acquisition. I highly recommend **Les Nombres Montessori**, by Escapadou. The students can choose the level of difficulty and advance at their own pace. **Dictée Montessori** is another excellent App for French vocabulary acquisition and pronunciation. The favorite among the second and third grade French club students was "**guess who**" (**clement Marty**) (remember to change the language to Français). This is a guessing game and the players follow clues given in complete French sentences. Players advance in difficulty as they win points for successfully choosing the correct person.

When I first started teaching French at OHA, I made cassette tapes with all the French songs we learned during the year so the students might practice their listening skills over the summer, because unlike learning other subjects, language acquisition is acoustical, not intellectual.

Thanks to the advances in technology, students have more opportunity to practice the target language outside the classroom. The Apps mentioned above are good sources for beginning listeners,

as well as my own website which I will update during the summer with new information. To understand how language is acquired, not entirely through rote memorization and learning grammar rules, Stephen Krashen explains, "*We acquire language when we understand messages, when we understand what people tell us and when we understand what we read.*" -

I wish you all a great summer vacation.

Mme Simon **Grade 4 French**

In the fourth grade this year, we covered a lot of topics such as greetings, the weather, prepositions, food, conversation in a restaurant and cultural information. We studied the book "Goldilocks and the 3 Bears" and the students read the book to the parents. When the parents visited the student also sang the song "JE SUIS LÀ POUR TOI". The title means "I am there for you" and teaches about friendship, compassion and kindness towards peers, love ones and family members.

We also played "Who wants to be a millionaire" and "Around the World" with various material including cultural information regarding France, the province of Brittany, D-Day. Special thanks to Shane G in 4T who lend us some valuable family memorabilia for our D-Day presentation. It has been a great year and I feel that we have accomplished quite a lot.

It was a pleasure having you in my class and I look forward to teaching you in the fifth grade. Bonnes vacances (Have a great summer!)

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

Since I am retiring at the end of this school year, I guess you could call this Newsletter, "My Farewell to the Troops." It has been a glorious 26 years teaching and working with all of students, and I have especially enjoyed getting to know the current fifth graders. They gifted me with a tremendous amount of joy, and they were unaware that they would be my last class at the school!

Please know that I wish them and all of the Oak Hill students a future filled with happiness and success. When General Douglas MacArthur addressed his troops for the last time, he told them that he would always remember these three words, "The Corps, The Corps, The Corps!" To paraphrase the General, if I

may, I will always remember, "Oak Hill, Oak Hill, Oak Hill!" Farewell!

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:

Your Geography Projects were amazing! Many were among the best we have ever had on display at Oak Hill! Congratulations!

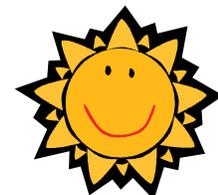
Enjoy your summer vacation! If you travel, take pictures of the important sights, but also of things that are just different from our way of life. Be respectful; always ask for permission, first of your parents and then, if they approve, of the subject of your photo.

Fifth Grade Geography: SAVE YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOK!!! **YOU WILL USE IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR!!! DON'T THROW IT OUT!!!**

Sixth Grade Geography

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

LAST REMINDER: FIFTH GRADERS SAVE YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOKS!!!!



Mr. Bruckmann
Grades 5 & 6 Math

Grade 5

The fifth marking period coming to end also concluded a very extensive Unit 7 that focused on Decimals in our second book of the year (5B). Students studied addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of decimals by other decimals as well as multiples of tens, hundreds and thousands. We have now moved on to Unit 8 that reviews concepts learned throughout the year and now integrated them in converting both standard and metric measures as well as finding the volume of rectangular prisms. As we continue to pursue our goal of moving through our program, students will then progress to Unit 9 with percents from fractions and decimals using our understanding of the relationship of decimals and fractions. Unit 10 brings with it a look into angles and how they are incorporated into triangles and quadrilaterals as well as parallelograms, rhombuses and trapezoids. This is where we finished up although we did explore a bit of the measures of central tendency with mean, median and mode. 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 would like to wish everyone the best of luck to those moving on to new and exciting chapters in their lives.

Grade 6 - Glencoe

This pace of this year has not let up as we find ourselves at the conclusion of another school year. Our Math class was full steam ahead during this final marking period as we finished Chapter 11, 12 & 13!! Chapter 11 although short, is made up of percent equations as well as how to use them to construct a circle graph using protractors and compasses. The study of statistics continues with percent change and real life application with discount and sales tax as well as simple interest. As we progressed into some additional geometry in Chapter 12, it was the students learning about surface area, volume of rectangular prisms and cylinders. We concluded our curriculum with the final chapter dealing with discrete math and probability looking at experimental and theoretical probability as well as combinations and permutations to find possible outcomes of various scenarios.

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! Everyone brought something to our class both mentally and nutritionally, which made our group unique. I can only hope that they brought something out of class with them, and continue to build on that knowledge for years to come.

Mrs. Cotterell
Grades 5 – 8 Math

Grade 5

Well, the first year of upper school math is complete! We finished off the year as strong as we began. The last marking period focused on writing fractions and decimals as percents, taking percents of numbers (including discount, mark-up, tax and tip!), drawing and measuring angles, understanding the relationship of angles in two intersecting lines, studying degrees in triangles and quadrilaterals, finding averages, rates, and calculating mean, median mode and range. Wow!! That's a lot of work for six weeks.

The students were well-prepared for class and always came with an enthusiastic attitude.

Thank you for your support at home. It was a pleasure working with them. I wish you a happy and healthy summer vacation!

Grade 6

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.

Grade 7

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 and Algebra 2. 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.

Grade 8

We finished off our time together by introducing new Algebra concepts. We learned how to identify degrees in polynomials, add/subtract polynomials in both a horizontal and vertical method and multiply two polynomials. The students did very well with these new concepts.

We completed chapter 9 as well. The students were on more familiar territory when we worked on the Pythagorean Theorem but as was the case with the entire book, there is always something new in each chapter, so the students got to have a little flavor of trigonometry as well. They will work with trigonometric ratios again in geometry and algebra 2 so hopefully this little glimpse will make the second time around a bit easier!

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 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
Grade 5 Math Workshop

Students 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. Our final project was entitled: "**Math in Sports**" where students researched a variety of sports to find out where math is utilized. From scoring to court or field size, averages, statistics, weights in equipment, the number of players, etc. students were amazed at how much math is used. A fun project with lots of visuals made these interesting presentations. 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.

Mrs. Vacca
Grade 5 Tech Class

Students completed this class with a final presentation on "**United States National Parks.**" Students chose a partner and then various parks were selected. Mapquest was used to determine how far away their park was in terms of distance and time from OHA. Next a list of questions was given such as: What makes your park unique? Is your park endangered? What is the habitat and what wildlife can you find at your park? What is the best time of year to visit and are there activities that can be done at your park? Some visuals were included, along with a map of the USA, and some students even had fun attempting transitions. The students enjoyed working in pairs and individually, researching and compiling information and presenting it in a technological format. Perhaps this project spiked an interest to take a family vacation to one of these national parks. 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 2013-2014 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.

Mrs. Vacca **Grade 6 Math Workshop**

Students just finished presenting their final project: "**The Mustang Toy Company**" which involved creating a toy from construction paper using as many geometric shapes as possible. Each shape was given a value, thus calculating the cost to make and then a selling price which would then yield a profit. Students presented their creations to the class and then a purchase form was completed and tax calculated not totaling more than \$50. Checks were then made out to the fictional "Mustang Toy Company". A good description of their toy was influential, along with visual color and eye appeal. It was definitely a fun time and a practical lesson in money management. Final bonus points from the last two marking periods were totaled, thus rewarding those students with the highest amounts, a dress down day. I enjoyed working with all my sixth graders this year. You are all such creative, hard workers. I want to wish everyone a happy, fun, and safe summer.

Sra. Dotto **Grades 6, 7 & 8 Spanish**

Grade 6 - 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 "**jugar**" (to play a sport), how to use the preposition "de" to express possession and the geography, history and culture of Puerto Rico.

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

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

Grade 7 - 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 verb the usage of the verb venir, along with irregular first person verbs such as: salir and hacer. Also, they memorized a skit, which they presented in front of the class. Their pronunciation was outstanding and we had a great time.

Furthermore, students learned the geography, history, and culture of Costa Rica.

All this material was reinforced with PowerPoint presentations, classroom interaction and by going to quizlet and education sites.

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

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

Grade 8 - Spanish

During the sixth marking period, the 8th 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 amazing Inca Civilization. To get ready for this project, we formed groups and each group researched the topic assigned to them. After they accumulated the information, each person wrote questions and we created a Jeopardy Game. In addition, the students reproduced Incas artifact, which we displayed in the SAC.

On the day of the celebration, we recreated a Spanish version of the TV show Jeopardy where students competed against each other. They all did a fantastic job and was a lot of fun. Furthermore, we had a salsa contest. Each and every student worked for weeks to create his or her perfect salsa and on the day of the contest, we invited

all the Oak Hill Academy staff, administration, and our seventh grade students to be the judges. Well, as always our judges enjoyed the salsa tasting and had a difficult time choosing the one they liked the most. Congratulations to all of you for a job well done.

And now to the graduating class of 2014.....

Congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I wish each and every one of you success so great that only a dreamer's mind can imagine the achievements. I am extremely proud of all of you and wish you well.

It's been a pleasure to have known you and a great privilege having been your teacher.

¡Muchas Felicidades!

Mrs. Tirella
Grade 7 LA/Literature

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

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

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

Mrs. Mayer
Grades 7 & 8 History

The seventh grade had a strong finish to the school year. The students worked hard learning about the complex reasons that led our country into a civil war. I am very proud of them for all the hard work they put into their History Fair Projects. I look forward to an exciting year in eighth grade history. I hope everyone has a happy and healthy summer!

The eighth grade had an excellent finish to their final marking period at OHA. They have all grown both intellectually and creatively. This knowledge and creativity was reflected in our wonderful History Fair. I am confident that each student has the skills to be extremely

successful in high school and beyond. I will miss each student dearly.

Mrs. Williams
Grade 8 Literature/Language Arts

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 completed a unit on science fiction. They examined the literary tools: theme, personification, mood, and motivation. At the conclusion of the unit, students read "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street," a screenplay written for the television series, *The Twilight Zone*.

Mrs. Daly and Mrs. Williams wish the class of 2014 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. 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 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

We have had a wonderful and productive year. We have studied in depth every concept included in an advanced Algebra I program. We finished Chapter 11 (quadratics) and Chapter 12 (rational expressions). We also had time to introduce some Algebra II topics, namely complex numbers, sequences and series as well as three equations with three unknowns. The goal was to prepare for higher level math which was accomplished.

Mrs. Larkins
Grade 8 Math Workshop

Congratulations to all our winners in our fantasy baseball project: 1st Place, The Mockingbirds – Harry Jain and Corey Palazzolo; 2nd Place, Sandy Lots – Catherine Curtin, Victoria Santulli, and Kolby Scire; 3rd Place, Empire State J-Hawks – Johnny Langeveld and Erik Wicks. Hopefully, I was able to pass on a little bit of my love for baseball (and statistics!)

My two day per week students 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 is in your horoscope and are there similarities to your personality? Students learned about the 10 most unusual flowers around the world, along with the top 10 cool animals. "How Y'All, Youse and You Guys Talk?" was a state wide survey of the pronunciation of specific words across the United States. A survey was conducted among our students and various teachers and then compared to the survey results posted. The last presentation was on a variety of International restaurants located at the Epcot Center in Florida. Menus were provided and a history behind some of the dishes and their unique ingredients. The students had fun researching while compiling their information and visuals into wonderful presentations that they have perfected on 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.

**Ms. Burke
Grades 7 & 8 Latin**

The seventh graders continued their study of Latin grammar by learning about 3rd declension adjectives. As always, we worked on developing translation skills by reading stories about a famous Roman family, the Corneli, and supplemented their grammar studies with culture. We continued our study of Vergil's *Aeneid* by reading about the Sack of Troy in Chapter 2 and discussing travel and immigration stories in conjunction with Chapter 3. Finally, we reviewed the material covered in class in preparation for the final exam.

In the eighth grade, we continued our study of pronouns, including the relative pronoun, the interrogative pronoun, and the indefinite pronoun, with a heavy focus on the differences and similarities between the Latin and English. Then, we reviewed material in preparation for their final exam. In addition to grammar, we worked on several stories in their *Ecce Romani II* book. Finally, we also continued our story of Roman *spectacula*, or holiday activities, focusing on Roman theater and triumphs (huge parades for victorious generals). As a closing project, the eighth graders produced creative (and entertaining) projects based on the *spectacula*.

**Mme Simon
Upper School French**

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

The "WEEBLY" website has been very helpful for the review prior to quizzes and assessments. The "QUIZLETS" and EDUCREATION videos posted on the website are really helpful and offer many possibilities to reinforce the material learned in class.

It was a pleasure having you in my class. Bonnes vacances !

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

We also studied some culture with a text called "En voyage en Bretagne" and another text on "Tahiti," which is a French territory. We joked about the fact that it would be great to take a class trip to the Polynesian Islands.

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

Our D-Day presentation for the 70th anniversary was a major success and the students did an amazing job on their posters.

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

What a wonderful year in the eighth grade!

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

Our D-Day presentation for the 70th anniversary was a major success and the students did an amazing job on their posters.

I feel that you are very well prepared for high school and congratulations to the students who are placed in advanced classes of French.

To the class of 2014, I wish you all the very best in high school. It has been a real pleasure teaching you and I will sincerely miss you. FÉLICITATIONS À TOUS AND BONNE CHANCE.

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

During the sixth marking period we were practicing kickball for Field Day. We also played wiffleball, Ultimate Frisbee and Lacrosse. In swim class, the students did warm up strokes and then played pool games for the sixth marking period.

Have a safe and active summer. We look forward to seeing you in September. We would like to start off in September with playing softball on the field. We will remind the students to bring a softball/baseball glove if they own one. If not, we have some extra ones.

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

Another year has come to an end but not without great effort put forward by all of our students. This was a challenging 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 stick puppets and picture magnets. The second graders learned about the parts on the inside of the computer and some computer terminology. While in the third grade kept practicing their typing skills through lessons and games and made a five fact chart on what makes someone a good person. The fourth grade students presented PowerPoint presentations about themselves. In the fifth grade students worked together to create various tours 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. Have a wonderful summer!

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. 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, and to Mrs. Mona Garbely for stepping in to rehearse with the students and prepare them for the Awards Assembly.

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

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

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

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

The third graders are bringing home their recorders and music they learned. I hope they will entertain their families with their newly learned skill. As mentioned in the letter sent home with the recorders and folders, please keep them in a safe place since we'll be playing them again in the fall in fourth grade. We closed out the year 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, www.sfskids.org, www.dsokids.com and www.pbs.org/jazz/kids. For older students try www.essentialsofmusic.com. Students in grades 3-8 will enjoy the New York Philharmonic site called *Kidzone* at www.nyphilkids.org/main.phtml. Also, www.playmusic.org leads one to a site that has an opportunity to hear music of the great composers with interactive video. There is something for everyone at www.classicsforkids.com. And many of these sites are linked to other terrific sites to explore. Have a wonderful vacation!

Miss DiMaggio/Art

The first grade learned how to weave paper. They learned about the primary colors and how to make the secondary colors. They also learned about the value scale and learned how to make tints and shades with acrylic paint.

The second grade drew a silly sandwich, set up their own still-life to draw and used foam to make multiple prints.

The third grade made a tissue paper Monet inspired collage in groups. They made model magic coil pots and used warm and cool acrylic paint to learn about colors.

The fourth grade finally finished their self portraits and made a painting of New Jersey to represent everything we love about our state.

The fifth grade used their extra linoleum block prints to make a Pop Art project based on artist Andy Warhol. They also made miniature Love sculptures out of model magic; went outside to splatter paint based on Jackson Pollock; drew outside and learned about one point perspective.

The sixth grade learned about artist Jeff Koons and created miniature model magic sculptures to represent his balloon animal dogs. They set up their own still-life and colored it with oil pastels. For our last project they had the choice to use acrylic paint or dry pastels to represent their favorite food, Disney character or movie based on the classes chosen theme.

The seventh grade drew sunflowers on black paper using oil pastels based on Vincent Van Gogh. They learned about monochromatic colors and painted their name using the different tints and shades of one color. They tie dyed t-shirts and drew outside.

The eighth grade entered drawings for our Oakley sunglasses contest. Congratulations go to Kathy and Blaise for winning a pair of Oakley's. They learned some different forms of shading and drew a still life using the hatching, cross hatching and stippling techniques. They also used liquid watercolor and a straw to make a blown watercolor.

Mrs. DeVivo/Drama

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

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

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

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

Fourth grade participated in similar activities to the third grade. Their improvisation skills are building. They have learned that improv is fun, but hard! The students also acted out a play called

"Scribe School" by Katherine Knoll, which tied into the unit they did on Egypt earlier in the year.

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

***Don't forget to sign up for **OHA Summer Stage Drama Camps!**
LIGHT'S UP: Putting on a Play!
June 16th - June 20th from 9:30-12:00.
Entering Grades 2nd-9th

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

Mrs. Vacca/Mr. Goldfarb 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 12th, Mr. Goldfarb and I took 13 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 and Mrs. Sharpe for providing transportation to the Day Care Center.

During our school assembly on Thursday, June 5th, 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 5-6th graders, the DJ and refreshments for the (3) dances for the 7th and 8th graders and Littletown Day

rides and pretzel warmer for the lower school. Student Council also made the initial contribution to the **"Harkness Table" Fund**, which will provide a means of collaborative learning between teachers and students. Our final gift of \$100 went to Mrs. Cahalane's Lower School Science students for fall planting.

The assembly also provided the opportunity for the newly elected Student Council officers and project coordinators to take the **"oath of office"**. President - Kaila Domanski, Vice President - Kelsey Stout, Secretary - Catherine Stolbof, Treasurer - Kristina Nappi and Project Coordinators - Zachary Basile, Gregory Dolan, Mary Mahoney, Isabella Silvestri, Bryan Soler, Julianna Troccoli, William Walsh, Jack Davis, Jonathan Giuffre, Lauren Macnow, and Luca Ferraro. We are looking forward to working with our new student council this upcoming school year.

Mr. Goldfarb 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 eighth 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.

Mrs. Scheuer Upper School Advisor

Kudos to upper school students! They remained focused on their work throughout the 6th 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 6th 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 geography/history 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, pizza and cool treats.

June presented so many opportunities for the Class of 2014 to create memories to last a lifetime: Amish country trip, eighth grade BBQ and yearbook signing, DiNapoli's and Pippen in NYC, academic and athletic awards ceremonies and finally Graduation on June 13th. Each occasion further solidified these outstanding young ladies and gentleman as individuals, a graduating class and an extended family. They will be forever linked to OHA and one another.

It was a privilege to be part of their journey this year. I thoroughly enjoyed working with former Pre-K students, basketball and cross country team members and getting to know each 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 2014!

ATHLETICS

Softball

Mrs. Porzio's team finished the season with a solid 4-3 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 eighth graders lead the team with their play and leadership. The team had defeated Rumson Country Day, Ranney and Red Bank Charter. Sydney Hixenbaugh led the team with pitching and hitting! Sixth grader Rebecca DeStefano caught for Sydney. We'll miss the following eighth graders: Gabrielle Branco, Catherine Curtin, Colleen Egan, Sydney Hixenbaugh and Maya Shah.

Tennis

ALMOST, again!!! Miss Murray's team ended the season with a 5-2 record! Our five year record is 40-3! The team had defeated Holy Cross, Monmouth Beach, Bay Head, Ranney. Our top three players, eighth graders Logan Gruss (1st Singles), Erik Wicks (2nd Singles), and Alexa Cieri (3rd Singles) all had outstanding records. Eighth graders Matthew Jaworski and John-Gabriel Bermudez played 1st doubles, Alex Klatsky (7th gr) and Ryan Gruss (6th gr) played 2nd doubles. Both doubles teams played well all season! Also playing matches were: Jack Stryker (8th gr) and William Hurley (5th gr), Jason Wang (6th gr), Riya Singh (8th gr) There were 28 total players on the tennis team and many of them had a chance to play in many of the matches! A JV Team was created and headed by Mr. Goldfarb to allow another 17 players a chance to play against each other! The experience that they gained this year will help replace the eighth

graders who will be graduating: Logan Gruss, Erik Wicks, Alexa Cieri, John-Gabriel Bermudez, Matthew Jaworski, Jack Stryker, Dorothea Wotton, Riya Singh, Brycen Greco, Seth Britton, Andy Thermos, Andrew Denton, Kennedy Stead, Jeffrey Winter.

Baseball

This season, Mr. Bruckmann's team ended up 4-4 record, for a five year record of 40-10!! 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, Point Pleasant Beach and Red Bank Charter! The seventh and eighth graders were the dominant players on the team however the sixth graders gained experience and will help lead the team next year. All of the eighth graders led the team in pitching hitting and fielding. The graduating eighth graders were: Harry Jain, Jake Lawrie, Logan Lukenda, David Neuwirth, Blaise Panzini and Gerald Sharpe.

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.



