

Oak Hill Academy Newsletter #2 December 2015



Headmaster's Message Joseph A. Pacelli

Last newsletter I spoke about "Independence" which is one of the topics on the subject "Ten Things Every Child Should Master." Today, I want to discuss how our children will be faced with making "Good Decisions."

Unfortunately we will not always be at the controls of our children's behavior. Making good decisions is a life long developmental process which involves a great deal of trial and error. With experience and insight, our children will grow into young people and later adults who can discern what is best for them and the people around them. Making mistakes are a part of the process and sometimes comes with consequences. When our kids make bad decisions they must be corrected and made to understand how their judgment could have been better. We tend to want to rescue them and protect them from feeling bad; however, letting go while still keeping a close eye will benefit the child in the long run. We as parents can establish good decision making habits by letting them make every day decisions under your guidance. Ask them what they think about an issue and listen carefully to what they have to say. You can start with small things and try not to be judgmental. Let them also use their hands to build or draw things

in order to be creative. Let these be theirs! They have decided the What, where and when.

Finally, a simple game plan is as follows:

"First we do it for you – then we do it with you – then we watch you do it – then you do it completely – then we can sit back and watch you do it."

As our kids get older, they will be faced with the peer pressure which comes with teenage life. It will take a strong will and years of practice to help them make the right decisions.

Mrs. Larkins
Director of Development

Mid-Point in Annual Giving

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

Admissions Update

Admissions to Oak Hill Academy for 2016-2017 are already in full swing. Testing for students entering grades K-8 will begin in January. Some grades may have more applicants than possible openings for September, so please remember **if you intend to send another child in your family to OHA in September 2016, you must apply before January 9 in order to receive preference in consideration for any openings.** Application materials can be obtained through the school office. Also, please remember to recommend Oak Hill Academy to your friends. Our next open houses are Friday, December 4 at 9am and Saturday, January 9 from 1-4pm and tours during the week are always available. **A Tuition Assistance program is available to our current and prospective families for September 2016. Information on requirements and qualifications can**

be obtained by contacting the school office or on the school website.

THANK YOU LADIES!!!!

The Harvest Holiday Happening Ladies Night Out on Thursday, November 12th was a tremendous success! It was an evening filled with fine vendors, delicious food, wonderful prizes, and much friendly conversation. The support for OHA from the PO and all of the attendants was truly apparent. School spirit was high as many OHA moms came out, and even brought their friends. The tireless efforts of the Parent Organization's committee were seen in every detail of the night. Special appreciation is extended to chairperson Ms. Karen Harris who went above and beyond to make this Harvest Holiday a true success! Thank you to all those who volunteered to make this evening so special. Of course, our students reap the benefits of all your labors!

Miss Murray
Director of Personnel/Administration

WHAT A FANTASTIC FALL IT HAS BEEN!

**1^S PLACE M.A.S.T. Academic
Jeopardy Tournament**

**1ST PLACE NJ Math League
Competition @ Ranney**

**1^S PLACE Girl's Soccer
Liberty Conference Champions
MCISL "E" Division Champs (9-1)**

**1ST PLACE Boy's Soccer
MCISL "F" Division Champs (8-2)
Runner-up Liberty Conference**

**1ST PLACE Model UN Competition
@ Christian Brothers Academy**

**TOP TEAM Forensics Competition
@ Rumson Country Day**

**1ST PLACE 5 of 6 winners at
HOOP SHOOT @ Red Bank Middle**

**1ST PLACE NJ Math League
Competition @ Stuart Country Day**

**We are proud to celebrate the
successes of our talented students!**

Model UN – 1st place Team

OHA's Model UN team, led by Mrs. Matson, competed at the CBA Model UN Conference on November 20th. Over 25 students took part in this informative session that simulates the issues that the United Nations must tackle.

OHA was awarded the 1st Place Team!!! Congrats to Mrs. Matson and Mrs. Vacca. We also had many individual awards:

Sydney Yan: Honorable Mention for Joint Korean Crisis

Thomas Wang: Best Delegate for Historic Security Council

Ekta Kuruganti: Honorable Mention UN Development

Julia Shaffer: Outstanding Delegate UN Development

Maria Giannakopoulos: Honorable Mention World Health Organization

Jake Fradkin: Best Delegate World Health Organization

Charlotte Walsh: Outstanding Delegate Disarmament and International Security

Jake Fradkin: Outstanding Position Paper

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

Recognition for Academics and Effort

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OAK HILL ACADEMY HAS LONG STANDING TRADITION OF HONORING VETERANS

On November 6th, Oak Hill Academy students, staff, and parents honored veterans during the school's annual Veterans Day program. Over 120 students in Pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade, performed by creating power point tributes, doing dramatic readings, singing, performing a dramatic piece, and playing instruments. Alumni students came back to perform, as well as, a professional brass duo, and the Christian Brothers Academy Pipes and Drums.

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

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

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

This year, the themes were "Being a Patriot," "Victory in Europe Day/ Victory over Japan Day," and "Memorial Day."

The United States Marine Corp Color Guard, Combat Logistic Battalion 25, presented the colors at the opening of the program, with the Kindergarten leading the school in the reciting of the *Pledge of Allegiance* and the singing of the "National Anthem." Also, our Pre-Kindergarten recited "Salute the Flag." Veterans who were in attendance were recognized throughout the program. As each veteran arrived, they were given ribbons to wear signifying their service to their country. OHA students and staff had submitted the names of veterans in their families. As 8th grader Aron Wiener played the piano, the list of names was scrolling up on the 20 foot screen on the stage.

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

The truest patriotic expression is a love, passion, and recognition of freedom. Let us understand, celebrate, revere, and protect it. This is what makes a patriot "American."

"Being a Patriot" took the perspective from four different views. Mr. Roderick MacKenzie, US Marines, uncle to Ethan and Olivia Bellone, spoke of his service during the Vietnam War; Mr. Edward Sorensen, US Army, grandfather to Justin and Jared Weber, detailed his memory from his service years during the Vietnam War; Mr. Robert Schweikert, parent of Kate and Robert, brought back his recollection of the impact a military parade made on he and his father, Mr. Robert E. Schweikert, US Marines, 1957-1961. Finally, 8th grader, Myles Gorski, spoke eloquently about his late grandfather, Mr. Chester Gorski, US Army. Mr. Gorski was a prisoner of war for three years during the Korean War. We were privileged to see the actual footage of a hero's welcome parade in Mr. Gorski's hometown of Keansburg in 1953. Mr. Gorski had attended nine Veterans Day programs at Oak Hill Academy.

Student readers (Lucas Klein, Madeline DiBiasi, Samantha Garber, Anthony Matejicka, Blaise Lucosky, Victoria O'Leary and Catherine Zhang) defined who was a veteran and briefly outlined the history of Veterans Day.

As the students (Evangeline Fennell, Brooke Tackett, Aron Wiener, Michael Jordan, Samantha AbdelBarry, Priya Kuruganti, Adam Holden) were telling the story of "Victory in Europe Day," images were placed on the screen throughout the story. In 1945, the Soviet Union surrounded the capitol of Germany. The fighting in Europe officially ended on May 8, 1945. On this day, Great Britain and the United States celebrated Victory in Europe Day.

Students (Jack Mayer, Catherine Barone, Charlotte Walsh, Kyle Harris, Angelica Niedermeyer, Alexandra Casey, Rebecca DeStefano, Skye Loures, Nicholas Troccoli, Francesca Dodaro) also explained the story behind "Victory over Japan Day." On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. On December 8th, Congress approved President Roosevelt's declaration of war. After various conflicts, Japan surrendered on August 14, 1945, thus setting off celebrations across the world of the Allied nations. In one particularly iconic photo taken by Alfred Eisenstatedt for *Life Magazine*, a uniformed sailor passionately kissed a nurse in the midst of the celebration in New York's Time Square on V-J Day.

The difference between Memorial Day (honoring those military personnel who died in the service of their country) and Veterans Day (honoring all veterans who served in wartime and in peacetime) was highlighted by the student readers (Donovan Kane, David Seetoo, Yasin Alsharif, Kate Schweikert, Jared Weber, Ava Massimino, Nicholas Codispoti, Olivia Bellone).

OHA alum, Victoria Momyer and her mother, Mrs. Pam Momyer, played a patriotic piece on the piano for four hands. Alex Mitchell and Michael Gao also performed on the piano for four hands, playing "America the Beautiful."

A video was shown of "Project Vigil" which was an 11 year old boy's tribute to the fallen soldiers at Normandy during WWII. Christopher Misson, Abby Cieri and David Burrell narrated "Richie's" story of him honoring those soldiers by telling their story. He spoke at a cemetery in France. Standing on the beach at Normandy and as he looked out into the ocean, almost imagining that day

in June of 1944, Richie held the American flag and saluted.

Mrs. DeVivo's drama production of Eve Bunting's "The Wall," was performed by Addy Basile, Alexa Malson and Leah Wilson-Lyons. It told the story of a teenage girl looking at the Vietnam Wall. She represented the present time. A young girl and her mother are also looking at the Vietnam Wall. They represented the past. Miss Cassie DiMaggio designed the set.

The dance ensemble of Caitlin Antonio, Olivia Bellone, Sara DeCresce and Ashley Mangan performed a beautiful dance to Coldplay's "Yellow." Mrs. DeVivo explained that the color yellow was a symbol of remembrance of the men and women who served far away from home. Yellow ribbons are usually tied around trees and displayed prominently in other places.

In a moving tribute to the importance of letter writing during World War II, Erin Gilfillan, Olivia Bruckmann and Kyle Harris explained the process of using V-mail where letters were written, sent to Washington DC, photographed onto a 16mm reel of microfilm and sent to Europe. Once received in Europe, those letters were photocopied, placed in an envelope and sent to the troops.

In a true story of actual letter writing during WWII, Mrs. Jayne Tirella and Mr. David Enderly portrayed a young couple who were writing letters to each other. Frank Elliott was 24-years old and in the Army. He was stationed in France just before D-Day. His wife, Polly, was 23 years old. She was at home in Pennsylvania caring for their young daughter, Dee. Mrs. Tirella and Mr. Enderly assumed their roles with emotion as they corresponded with each other. Unfortunately, Frank Elliott was killed in action on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

In the video of "They Fought for You," a grandfather picked up his grandsons from school. The two young boys were pre-occupied with their video games. Their grandfather brought his grandsons to a movie theater on Veterans Day. As the movie was playing, portraying the service of the military, it caught the eye of one grandson, then the next grandson. The movie captured the attention of all in the theater. At the conclusion, three soldiers walked into the theater. One by one, the entire theater stood up, saluted the soldiers and clapped for them.

In the musical portion of the program, under the direction of Kelly Tyma, the OHA Chorus sang "America the Free," and were accompanied by Mrs. Pamela Momyer on piano. The OHA Players (barred and percussion instruments) accompanied by Sydney Yan on violin, played "Ashokan Farewell." Members of Mrs. Tyma's Chorus and Players were (Third grade): Fiona Baughman, Ava Friedman, Sohah Kulkarni, Jack Mayer, Hugh Olson, Baileigh Regan, Evelyn Seetoo, Ammar Yousif (Fourth grade): Sophia Cameron, Jennifer Maio, Charles Aufderhar-Smiga, Isabella Thackeray, (Fifth grade): Olivia Bellone, Raina Bhattacharyya, Sarina Dhaliwal, Demetra Giannakopoulos, Ilan Lozner, Oliver Olson, Amelia Shaffer, Audrey Yan, Catherine Zhang (Sixth grade): Aarya Doshi, Molly Jain, Maria Giannakopoulos, Ansh Kulkarni, Addy Basile, Dog Cannon, Kim Cannon (Seventh grade) – Jordan Codispoti, Kaley Hanlon, Ekta Kuruganti, Priya Kuruganti, Elizabeth Lee, Julia Shaffer, Charlotte Walsh, Sydney Yan, (Eighth grade) - Francesca Dodaro, Caitlin Antonio, Stephanie Zhou

The 18 member strong of the CBA Pipes and Drums, led by Brother Frank Byrne, President of CBA, included OHA alum, Matthew Cuttle, marched in with bagpipes and drums. Their four-song set brought tears to an audience of over 600 people!

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

Finally, Patrice Murray asked that each veteran stand and be recognized. She recognized two special guests in the audience, representing the "Greatest Generation" - 91 year old Arnold Pepe, US Navy and a WWII veteran. Mr. Pepe is Mrs. Diana DiMaggio's father and Miss Cassie DiMaggio's grandfather. Also recognized for representing her husband, Joseph B. Murray, a WWII Army veteran, was Mrs. Cathleen Murray, Miss Murray's father and mother. At the conclusion of naming all of the veterans in the audience, Miss Murray said, "We salute you, we thank you."

The playing of "Taps" concluded the program.

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

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

Hoop Shoot

OHA held our annual Hoop Shoot contest on November 10th. The Red Bank Elks Club sponsors this nationwide contest of 25 foul shots. Winners in each age group advanced to the next level on November 21st at Red Bank Middle School.

Congratulations to the following winners who all came in **1st place** on November 21st and will advance to the district level on January 9th in Old Bridge:

8-9: Ella Skelton, Jack Mandarin
10-11: Samantha AbdelBarry
Nicholas Mavica
12-13: Joan Hager

Also congrats to the following trophy winners:

8-9: Nicholas Lane (2nd)
Julien Lacher (3rd)
10-11: Anna Hindermann (2nd)
Demetra Giannakopoulos (3rd)
12-13: Michael Jordan (2nd)
Wyatt Slagle (3rd)

OHA winners on November 10th:

8 - 9 Yrs.

Girls

Ella Skelton

Boys

Jack Harris, Anthony DeJohn, Jack Mandarino, Frankie Tackett, Andrew Lin, Hugh Olson, Julien Lacher, Jack Mayer, Nicholas Lane, Ethan Fianko, James Forsyth

10 - 11 Yrs.

Girls

Anna Hindermann, Samantha AbdelBarry, Demetra Giannakopoulos

Boys

Nicholas Mavica, Oliver Olson, Ryan Daniels

12 -13 Yrs.

Girls

Joan Hager, Tess Loures, Maria Giannakopoulos, Abby Cieri, Lauren Soler, Brooke Tackett

Boys

Michael Jordan, Andrew Ferguson, Steven Sharpe, Alexey Stout, Peter Jaworski, Daniel Mooney, Wyatt Slagle

Mr. Bruckmann Communications

Web Page Updates

1. See the "[Experiences](#)" link for student guided tours, photos, past news events and more!
2. Look for the [Summer Institute for the Gifted \(SIG\)](#) catalogs to be emailed home soon. This program has chosen Oak Hill to house it as its local location again this summer for the 3rd straight year.

Mrs. Livingston Lower School Guidance

I always look forward to spending some time with the children. During the month of December, when I visit the classrooms, I will share the following with the children.

Gr. 1 - With the first graders, I will begin [The Lovables Kingdom of Self-Esteem](#) by Diana Loomans. Various animals that reside in the Kingdom of Self-Esteem illustrate the different character traits that promote a positive self-esteem. The traits that we will focus on during this month and next month include sharing, acceptance, kindness, joyfulness, politeness, cooperation, respect, and trust. We discuss that we must be kind to ourselves in order to extend these feelings to others.

Gr. 2 - The second graders will get a kick out of [I Like Myself](#) by Karen Beaumont. It is a silly book, with great illustrations, that encourages children to appreciate everything about themselves. After all, we must first like ourselves before we can extend this to others.

Gr. 3 - [The Mitten Tree](#) by Candace Christiansen is a heartwarming tale of caring, sharing, giving, and helping. In this story, Sarah whose children are all grown, knits mittens for the neighborhood children and leaves them anonymously hanging from an evergreen tree near the bus stop. Her generosity is like a gift to herself as she enjoys watching the children, wearing their new mittens, playing in the snow.

Gr. 4 - This month the story from [Rhinos and Raspberries](#) will be "The Prince and the Rhinoceros." This is an Indian tale of speaking kindly. It focuses on relationships and how, under all circumstances, we must treat each other with kindness. In the event of unkindness, we must use conflict resolution to discuss our feelings and reach an agreement that includes an apology and forgiveness.

Mrs. Weikes, Director Mrs. Wood/Miss Bonnano Pre-Kindergarten

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

Respect and honesty highlighted the character traits this month. Stories such as [Spookly the Square Pumpkin](#), and [The Boy Who Cried Wolf](#), were used to underscore these concepts.

Teachers introduced Thanksgiving with emphasis on family traditions, giving thanks and giving back. They also learned about The First Thanksgiving and made comparisons with regard to life "then and now." Each student decorated individual turkey feathers to create a cooperative turkey for our dining room bulletin board. Some of our Pre-K moms volunteered to help with many of our Thanksgiving holiday projects.

For our annual Thanksgiving feast, students adorned authentic pilgrim and Native American costumes which they made in class. Mrs. Weikes led the students in song as they entertained special guests; Mr. Pacelli, Miss Murray and various members of our OHA staff. The class mothers worked alongside the teachers serving students and staff members from the festive buffet donated by our wonderful parents. The feast was enjoyed by everyone and the contributions made by the parents were delicious. We are certainly thankful for the kindness and generosity extended to the Pre-K and staff by the class mothers and our parents.

In Language Arts the Letter People included Mr. N with his Noisy Nose and Mr. O who likes Opposites. Math lessons included the introduction of coins, learning to print numbers 1-10,

patterning, recognizing the matching number of objects, and counting numbers into the teens.

Our class mascot, Willie the Whale, continues on his adventures as he travels to the homes of our Pre-K students. Pictures and journal entries showcase many fun filled activities while visiting with each student.

“Star Fish”, of the week, continues to shine brightly as students present their individual posters to the class. Family members have been invited to join their children at school. They arrive with a book to read or a fun craft to complete. They also share a yummy “Letter of the Week” snack with classmates. This program strengthens the confidence of students and helps classmates have a better understanding of what makes each of us unique and special.

Music class with Mrs. Weikes offers the opportunity for students to develop confidence and emergent reading skills through rhyming, self-expression, exercise, creativity, and gross motor movement. We continue utilizing the gym on Wednesdays in the New Year; to exercise, play large circle games, run relays, follow obstacle courses, and more.

Now that our Thanksgiving feast has passed the focus for the month of December will be preparations for our Pre-K winter program to be held on Monday, December 21st at 10:00 a.m. in the Student Activities Center. Our holiday singers will dazzle you with their animated finger plays and delightful singing as they present their Winter Holidays Around the World songfest.

Pre-K’s philanthropic project for the month of December is the “Pre-K Bucket Brigade” project to benefit children at The Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch. The children are collecting gifts, creating cards, wrapping, and delivering holiday “Winnie the Pooh” and “Raggedy Ann and Andy” buckets. Donations have already been coming in and the enthusiasm of our Pre-K to help children unable to be “Home for the Holidays” is heartwarming. Please check out our activities on the Pre-K website.

Lastly, many parents have already expressed an interest in our 2016 summer camp. The information for Camp Oak Hill will be mailed after winter break. We will also continue with our “Leaders in Training” group for our senior campers who wish to develop leadership skills and counselor training while having a great time. Those returning campers and new

enrollees will be entitled to one free week of camp if enrolling for the entire seven weeks. Extended Day camp hours will also be available. Please see Mrs. Weikes if you have any questions regarding summer at Camp Oak Hill for 2016.

We hope that all of our Oak Hill Academy families and staff members enjoyed a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday surrounded by those you love.

**Mrs. Colbert/Mrs. Gilfillan
Mrs. Lambert
Kindergarten**

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

Halloween wasn’t over before we were already preparing for our Thanksgiving Play and Feast. The children were busy all month getting ready for our performance. From painting their costumes, to “cooking” the food, to learning their lines for the play, the children worked very hard. We give “thanks” for the parents that came in to help out with the costumes, for the food donations and to the DiBiasi family for the delicious turkey and stuffing. We are so proud of how well the Kindergarten did during their performance. Our appreciation goes out to Mrs. Tyma for working on the songs with the students and to Mrs. DeVivo for revising the Play.

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

Our Kindergarten family continues to grow with each new Letter Person we meet. We have added Ms. P, Mr. B, Mr. Z, Ms. S and our second vowel Mr. I. With these vowels we can now make words and the children are working hard on their decoding skills. We have also learned several new high frequency words to help us build sentences. We are starting to apply all of these reading skills into our Writing To Read Program. The children have already started writing stories which will be featured in the Reflections journal in the spring. We are amazed everyday at what these Kindergarten students are capable of!

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

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

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

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

Our trip to Kateri Environmental Center was wonderful!! The weather was clear and sunny for our outdoor hike through the woods. We all enjoyed learning about the lives of the Native Americans who lived in New Jersey. History really came alive during this class trip. The goal of the Center is to allow children hands-on fun while gaining respect for all living things. The students do this in the beautiful 265-acre outdoor classroom of woodland, wetland, field and stream. We experienced the wonders of nature while learning important historical and environmental principles.

Our weekly Studies Weekly curriculum explores subjects across the past, present and future in relation to history, geography, science and politics. Already we read and studied about locations of various places in the community and state, rules and responsibilities at home and at school, basic civic values and the importance about history and family traditions.

We are looking forward to reading and writing about our winter themes and holidays.

Mrs. Buchner/Mrs. Caprara
Grade 2

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

In our reading program we are just finishing our second unit entitled, "Animal Discoveries." Each week we discussed an Essential Question, then read about how animals survive, their habitats, how babies are like and different from their parents, what they can tell us in a story, and what we love about them. We had a different genre each week too. We read realistic fiction, narrative non-fiction, expository text, fable, and poetry. We have also been practicing our writing skills. Poetry, stories, letters, and journals are just some of the activities.

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

We are especially proud of the math books that each of the second grade classes have written and will actually be published in hard cover. Each child worked very hard to write and then illustrate two original math word problems. A cover was also designed for each of the books by a child in each class. The children enjoyed this wonderful experience of actually becoming authors.

We continue to enjoy Share-A-Story when we invite parents or a special relative to come into our classroom and read us their favorite book.

We are sure this month will fly by with all the activities that are planned and everyone will be looking forward to a well deserved winter break!

Mrs. Alexander/Mrs. Staley
Grade 3

It is that time of year when the daylight hours are shorter and the weather is getting colder. The third grade is lucky to have so many bright smiles to warm up our classroom! The students have had such a great time traveling through history in Social Studies, learning about friendship in Charlotte's Web, and finding out how to connect multiplication and division problems to bar models. With so many interesting topics to cover, it's no surprise that December has arrived so quickly!

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

In writing, students worked on several different pieces, which included a "How To..." writing, a letter to a soldier, and a persuasive writing piece from the point of view of a turkey before Thanksgiving. The students have been working very hard this marking period!

Students had a good time wearing their success caps at different times throughout the past few weeks. They were proud of good grades, good answers, and good deeds. For the culmination of our pre-Revolutionary War social studies unit, the third graders visited the Murray Farmhouse at Poricy Park. Students experienced activities for children in the 1700s - churning butter, baking cookies, writing with quill pens, and playing games like quoits. They also learned that Patriots and Loyalists were part of the history of Monmouth County. Students had to decide if they were a Loyalist or Patriot and had to write a letter to King George III explaining their feelings about the tea tax.

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

can't wait to see what our next book has in store for the third grade class!

Mrs. Roehrig/Mrs. Tolleth
Grade 4

The fourth graders went to the Math and Science Learning Center at Rutgers University. A very knowledgeable graduate student, Mr. Max, and fellow grad students engaged us in discussions about school after college and getting an MA or a PHD. They told us all the fascinating fields there are to study and shared their research. Mr. Max studies bones and fossils. With a partner we built a human skeleton. We had to position the bones in the right places. We were then handed a real human skull and jaw bone.

Using a book containing illustrations, a note card to write on, and an instrument, we had to make measurements. We examined different parts of the skull and then predicted whether the skull was male or female and of what descent it was.

We really enjoyed these experiences. We were forensic scientists for almost an hour. The graduate students took us around the hands-on center in small groups and we experienced many science experiments. We did hands-on activities involving magnetism, static electricity, and surface tension of soap, motion, centripetal force, electricity, air pressure, and many more. The favorite was the hair-raising experience with the static ball.

After the Science Center, we went to the Geology Museum at Rutgers to see the skeleton of a mastodon that we studied. The geologist, Julie, gave us a talk about mastodons and woolly mammoths. We saw the difference between the female mastodon's tusk and the male's. We saw first hand the difference between a mammoth's tooth and a mastodon's. The difference taught us about what they ate. We played a classifying game in small groups.

We did a sequencing game in small groups about Egyptian mummification. A highlight of the trip was seeing a real Egyptian mummy in her sarcophagus. We will be delving into the ancient world of Egypt later in the school year.

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

home with many treasures from the earth. The fourth graders really enjoyed this day of learning.

Fourth grade just celebrated **Heritage Day** on Thursday, November 19. This is a traditional fourth grade event that is done in conjunction with our novel study of All-of-a-Kind Family. We began our event by presenting "Our Medley of Customs and Traditions" in each homeroom. We had invited parents, relatives, and friends to share our day. After our speeches, our visitors took a look at the bulletin boards displaying our paper dolls that we each dressed representing our individual heritage. We then walked over to the SAC for our Heritage Day feast. On their way to the feast the relatives were able to see the students' descriptive Fall Haikus, our Geological Timeline, and colorful Scenes from Lenape Life.

The SAC was decorated with an international theme, complete with banners hanging from the rafters. Festive flag centerpieces donned each table. The tablecloths also had international flags as a border. Music with an international flair played in the background while we enjoyed the feast. About eight children donned dress from their culture. All of our parents deserve a **thank you** for preparing a phenomenally delectable feast with foods from all over the world. We ate and enjoyed each other's company at this wonderful event for about 120 people.

A special thank you goes to our room mothers for all the organizing, shopping, decorating, and cleaning up: Mrs. Aanensen, Mrs. Aufderhar, Mrs. Cameron (Ian), Mrs. Cameron (Sophia), Mrs. Shah, and Mrs. Thackeray. Thank you to all the people who helped clean up. We were very appreciative of Mr. Cosentino, Mr. Enderly, Mr. Misson and Mr. Livingston's help with the tables and chairs and dismissal.

We all enjoyed our Heritage Day! While we are thanking people, a fun time was had by all at our classroom Halloween parties. We especially enjoyed the spooky BINGO game! Thank you to Mrs. Duffy, Mrs. Lucosky, Mrs. Patnaik, and Mrs. Shallcross.

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

Mrs. Bordiuk/Mrs. Mee

Lower School PE

During the second marking period, Lower School PE students continued to work on their swimming skills and were tested on these skills prior to Thanksgiving break. The swimming assessment included adequate floating skills, breathing technique, proper body rotation, age-appropriate stroke development, and conduct in the locker room. The second marking period grade is primarily based on students' swimming skills, as well as overall appropriate behavior and respect; a reminder of PE class expectations was sent home this week. During gym time, students worked on hand-eye coordination by using different equipment such as bean bags, small frisbees, and small playground balls.

Mrs. Cahalane Lower School Science

In Science class, PK students have been learning about magnets. Kindergarteners finished up a unit on sink/float. First graders are learning about rocks. Students in grade 2 began a unit on dinosaurs and are now currently working on their Lego robots. Third graders are learning how to use the microscopes and fourth graders finished up a unit on biomes. They will be using the 3D printer to make a model of animals they created to live in certain biomes. Please see my teaching blog for some great photos of the children in science class!

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

Bom dia! Good day in Portuguese. Brazil is the only country in South America to speak this language.

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

I am pleased to announce that our Littletown Press editors this year are Mrs. McConnell, Madeleine's mom and Mrs. Patel, Anya's mom. Thank you in advance for volunteering your help for this year.

Students continue to learn about a variety of interesting things in Brazil, from the piranha, to the Boto (pink dolphin), repair work on the famous statue of Christ the Redeemer that has been struck by lightning numerous times, to a

river cruise along the Amazon and the life along this 4,000 mile long river.

Students will now start to brainstorm ideas for their businesses on Littletown Day, March 9th, while incorporating Brazilian info. We continue to read, research on the iPads, watch video clips and sing songs about this interesting country. A detailed packet will be coming home in January about this exciting day. Any questions please e-mail me.

Happy Holidays!

Mme Simon Grade 4 French

This marking period we studied the weather theme and played our favorite game KAHOOT. The students learn the vocabulary so fast when it is introduced in a fun way. In order to study, I also use Educreation videos that you can find on my website.

We are now studying cultural questions regarding France, the 33 countries where French is the official language and other information regarding the French culture and Brittany, the province where I come from. Playing games in the class really engages the students and they learn so quickly. Good job class!

Mrs. Scheuer Upper School Guidance

OHA students talked the talk and walked the walk at the 35th annual Crop Walk held at Red Bank Regional HS on October 18th. Mrs. Vacca, student council members, faculty and students proudly represented OHA and helped reduce hunger in the world.

Our seventh and eighth graders had a blast at the Fall Harvest Dance. The décor was festive, snacks delicious and the music rocked! Thanks to student and parent volunteers as well as chaperones for making the evening so special. Thank you to students that volunteered as tour guides for our fall open house on October 24th. Visitors to OHA are always impressed with our faculty, curriculum and facilities but when asked why they chose OHA, parents mention their experience with our OHA tour guides as one of the top reasons.

Oak Hill Academy's Veteran's Day assembly amazed those in attendance. Veterans from all branches of the military, soldiers both active and retired, located all over the country, joined us to celebrate America's greatest heroes. Although many schools close to observe of Veteran's Day, very few take the time

to reflect on the significance of the holiday. Miss Murray's tribute to our Veteran's is a daunting task to coordinate but the result is ALWAYS a powerful and moving tribute. The extraordinary traits: duty, honor and sacrifice are conveyed to every member of the audience. Kudos Miss Murray for another outstanding assembly!

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

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

We are pleased to announce an upper school assembly by Young Audiences productions starring musician, poet, storyteller, music therapist and radio host David Gonzalez entitled Maddog and Me: The Power of Kindness. Students will receive introductory lessons in Reading, Critical Reading and Latin classes prior to the assembly on Dec. 17th. We are looking for to a fun, interactive, and character building experience.

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

Miss Lee **Grade 5 Literature/LA**

It is hard to believe that the second marking period has come and gone! The fifth graders have had a very productive marking period in both Literature and Language Arts. In Literature, we read our first whole class novel, *Bridge to Terabithia*, exploring the setting, characters, conflicts, and themes. I enjoyed reading and discussing the book together. Currently, we are diving back into our Literature books and will continue to read and explore different selections in the next few weeks.

This past marking period, we continued working on our descriptive essays in Google Docs. Everyone worked hard and should be proud of their finished products! Our next writing project will be our historical essays, which provides us with a special school-to-home connection. It's a wonderful opportunity for your family to discuss and learn about local and/or personal family history together. Details have been distributed in class and are also posted on our class website.

We continue to work steadily through our *Vocabulary Workshop* books, and practice using vocabulary words in our writing and daily conversations. Keep an eye out for vocabulary words in your pleasure reading books! We finished our study of *Capitalization and Punctuation* in our grammar books, and have moved into our *Nouns* unit.

With winter approaching, we recently read Robert Frost's poem, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," and are currently in the middle of committing the poem to memory. We hope to be able to recite it from memory by the end of December. We will also start to review prepare for the Big Tests coming up in January. This is the fifth graders' first time taking exams, but they are all so hard working and have demonstrated time and time again just how diligent and capable they are! Keep up the good work!

Homework, class handouts, and other resources can be found on our class website: MsLeeLLA.weebly.com.

Mrs. Grier **Grade 5 Reading**

Our fifth grade students have utilized our second marking period enjoying their first novel entitled, "The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles" by Julie Andrews Edwards. This delightful book captures the imagination of all students by opening up opportunities for them to see different situations in clever ways. The characters they meet along this adventure are quite enjoyable and full of life. The students are required to complete numerous assignments that compliment the novel and take a novel test to see how much the children have absorbed.

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

Fifth graders have enjoyed designing their own islands, and are now studying Earth's Climates and the factors that influence, and are influenced by climates.

Sixth graders are deeply immersed in their study of the Middle East, which needless to say is getting more complicated every day! We will begin reading our excerpt of The Lemon Tree when we return.

2015 CBA Model UN Conference

Twenty-eight sixth through eighth graders attended and thoroughly enjoyed the Third Annual CBA Model UN Conference on Friday, Nov. 21. The Conference lasted from 1:00pm until almost 9:00pm, but the weary participants were elated when Oak Hill was awarded the Best Delegation Award!! (That's Model UN speak for first place). Oak Hill received this award because of the many individual awards they received and overall hard work and commitment of the entire team.

Individual Award winners were:

In the World Health Organization: Jake Fradkin was awarded Best Delegate, and Maria Giannakopoulos, Honorable Mention. Jake Fradkin also received the Outstanding Position Paper award.

In the Historic Security Council: Thomas Wang was named the Best Delegate.

In the UN Development Programme: Julia Shaffer received Outstanding Delegate and Ekta Kuruganti, Honorable Mention.

Charlotte Walsh was awarded Outstanding Delegate in the Disarmament and International Security Branch of the General Assembly, and Sydney Yan received an Honorable Mention for her work on the Joint Korean Cabinet Crisis.

Mrs. Matson and Mrs. Vacca are extremely proud of the entire team! The students are already planning for next year, and are recruiting friends and next year's sixth graders to join them!

OHA Wins First Place Trophy at Mathleague Competitions at Ranney and Stuart Country Day

Congratulations to the OHA 4-6th grade students who competed in the Mathleague Competition at Ranney on Wednesday, Oct. 21st. Oak Hill Academy was the first place school! The team of Elizabeth Wright, Aarya Doshi, Alexander Mitchell and Michael Gao came in 1st place, while the team of Molly Jain, Justin Weber, Maria Giannakopolous and Rahul Kavuru came in second place overall. In the fourth grade, Mitchell Oldham won the 2nd place individual trophy and Karan Patnaik came in 3rd place. In the 5th grade, Michael Gao was 1st, Audrey Yan was 6th, Robert Schweikert was 7th, Cadence Li was 9th, and Sarina Dhaliwal was 10th. Winning awards in the 6th grade were Alex Mitchell for 1st place, Aarya Doshi for 2nd place, Elizabeth Wright for 3rd place, Molly Jain for 4th place, Justin Weber for 5th place, Rahul Kavuru for 6th place, and Maria Giannakopoulos for 8th place. Rounding out the strong Oak Hill team were Aditya Vyas, Samantha Kanevsky, Caroline DiBiasi, Raina Bhattacharyya, Catherine Zhang, Demetra Giannakopoulos, and Alexey Stout. Oak Hill Academy by far won the most awards and qualified 10 students for the state competition in the spring.

Also, on Saturday, November 21 a small group of four 5th and 6th grade Oak Hill students traveled all the way to Stuart Country Day School in Princeton to participate in another regional round of the Mathleague competition. Congratulations to the team of Robert Schweikert, Cadence Li, Samantha Kanevsky and Alexey Stout for coming in 1st place! In addition, Robert Schweikert received a trophy for being the top 5th grader. In fact, Robert had the highest score in the competition! All four students qualified for the state competition in May.

Go OHA!

Mr. Bruckmann Grade 5

Our fifth grade Math students continued their work in our Singapore math book and have moved through Unit 3 and our investigation into fractions. We began by comparing fractions and understanding what a fraction is telling us as well as how it is very closely related to division. The class then proceeded to learn how to add and subtract unlike and like fractions on their way to using these skills with mixed numbers as well. This has progressed into their understanding of what a fraction of a set is and how "of" means to multiply the fraction. They will use this knowledge to convert measurements and finally solve fractional word problems. From there it will be on to the multiplication and division of fractions before we get into a little geometry prior to mid-terms in January. Remember that corrections for the tests and quizzes are due the day following when the test/quiz has been handed back. All students need to be prepared with a sharpened pencil, all three books. Students also need to become more independent in terms of being responsible for any work missed. With the lessons, I put on-line, they have ample resources in addition to asking a classmate for notes from class. Also, please use my website as a tool to enhance learning as well. <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/mr-bruckmanns-math-class>.

Mrs. Cotterell Grades 5 – 8 Math

Grade 5 Period 2

We are moving along at a very steady pace. We just finished the 4th unit on percents and will begin rates and ratios after Thanksgiving. Careful completion of homework continues to play an important role in our class. We are supplementing the book with some higher level Singapore word problems to keep the students challenged. Some of the questions may be a bit of a stretch but it is important for the students' growth. Going along with that, your child may have told you that we are working on SAT problems in class. The students and I both love these. They are excited because they are doing high school questions and I am excited because I have an opportunity to address topics not normally covered in a 5th/6th grade curriculum.

Grade 5 Period 3

The students finished unit 1 and are well into unit 2. We are working at a pace to ensure that all students have a good understanding of the material before moving on to a new topic. Since math is a foundational course, it is imperative that the students have a good solid understanding of the material. If they have a gap in their understanding, than the foundation is going to be weak; we want a strong base.

Homework is carefully selected to reinforce concepts taught during class. It is very important that all homework be completed in a thorough, careful manner. We are currently working on two digit division. This is the last topic in unit 2. Next we will move onto our unit of fractions.

Grade 6

We just completed our unit on fractions. Singapore quizzes and tests have many word problems which make the assessments quite challenging. It is very important that the students carefully complete and study their practice tests. These are invaluable tools when preparing for the tests.

The students are a pleasure to teach. They are very enthusiastic and eager to learn. We are beginning our next unit on percents. We should complete this unit before the holidays arrive so the students can have a well-deserved "math free" break.

Grade 7

The students have just completed chapter 3 which primarily focused on percents. They are very happy to be starting a concept which they have not been taught since being in the Upper School – statistics. We have starting talking about what statistics are, how they are collected, presented, summarized and analyzed.

We discussed several key components: how survey questions should be worded, where data should be collected, how large of a sample size should be selected. The students will have a project rather than a test for this chapter. They will be required to prepare a survey question and interview 25 people. They are going to be required to prepare a frequency table and related graphs summarizing their results and they will be required to calculate the corresponding mean, median, mode and range of their data. This should be a fun project with real life application.

Grade 8 – Introduction to Algebra

The students are working at a very steady pace. We are finishing up the 4th chapter and are ready to keep moving forward. The class has an excellent work ethic and a true interest in learning.

While most lessons have a certain degree of familiarity, the book does an excellent job of weaving new information into each lesson. For example, the students have been simplifying fractions for a few years, but now they are simplifying fractions that have multiple variables as well as numbers.

It is a pleasure teaching this group and look forward to continuing our work into the New Year.

Grades 7/8 Algebra 2

What a way to start the day! We immediately immerse ourselves into the subject matter as soon as the bell rings. In the beginning of the year we spent the first portion of class correcting homework and then spent the last half of class introducing the lesson. Now we spend almost the entire class on the new lesson and the students are self-correcting their homework at night with my handwritten solutions. By doing this, they have 42 minutes to ensure they understand the subject matter and have the opportunity to study several different examples for each topic.

Since the last marking period the students have covered addition, subtraction and multiplication of matrices, finding the determinant and using Cramer's rule, calculating the identity and inverse matrices and solving systems with inverse matrices. In addition, they covered graphing quadratic equations, solving quadratic equations by finding the square roots, solving questions with complex numbers, how to complete the square, putting an equation in quadratic form and finding the discriminant!

Our plan is to complete two more chapters by mid-terms so we can focus on the remaining seven chapters the second half of the year.

This group is very bright with an interest to learn. What a great way to start the day!

Mr. Clapp Grade 5 Science

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

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

Mrs. Vacca Grade 5 Math Workshop

We have been busy working on a variety of problem solving warm-ups, thus accumulating "**bonus points**" for a math workshop dress down day which will occur at the end of this marking period. Students have just completed their UNICEF packet. This was a brainstorming group activity in which "needs vs. wants" was discussed, like everyday items we take for granted such as food and shelter **vs.** luxury items such as our iPads and cell phones. Students were given the task of packing a suitcase with much needed supplies for children in other countries. A map and flag of their country were attached to their suitcase for identification. Priced items such as water filters, blankets, nutritional supplements, vaccines, jump ropes and basketballs, to name a few were some of the options they could bring with them. How much could they afford with only \$100? Quantities of items were calculated according to each group's decision on what to bring. This was a great project involving real math skills and compassion for those less fortunate.

Mrs. Vacca Grade 5 Tech Grades 5 & 6 Math Workshop

Students in these two grades will be participating in a program created by Junior Achievement, entitled: JA Biz Town. This project simulates real life experiences in both business and financial management. It introduces students to the principal characteristics of a market economy and the roles that consumers and producers play in the free enterprise system. Students have been working toward becoming successful, productive citizens. Twice a week, students are completing activities in their workbooks, from endorsing checks, making deposits, recording checks and deposits and balancing their checkbooks. This project will culminate with a field trip to the JA Biz Town facility in February. Here the students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge in an on-site environment.

Mrs. Duffy Grade 6 English/LA

Our language arts program continues to build vocabulary and grammar skills. In grammar we are studying action and linking verbs while in vocabulary we have 'cycled' through to Unit 6, mastering many enriching words along the way.

To celebrate fall students have written sensory poems about the season. After brainstorming about the sights, sounds, and smells of autumn, sixth graders created poems full of wonderful images, bringing to life the aroma of pumpkin pie, the brilliance of spice-colored leaves, and the warmth of flannel PJs.

Currently, students are working on a compare/contrast essay, featuring two characters from the novels and short stories they have read so far.

During this marking period, students also completed the novel Old Yeller by Fred Gipson. This story tells of a young boy struggling to be the man of the house with the help of his devoted dog and the mature action the boy must take to protect his family.

Mrs. Daly/Mrs. Grier/Mrs. Scheuer
Grade 6 Reading

Sixth graders have completed our first novel study, *Freedom Crossing*. This historical fiction story provides an in-depth look at the Underground Railroad, bravery, and growing up. Students loved the plot twists and turns as the story progressed. The classes created their own *Freedom Quilts* as a supplement to the novel study. During the height of the Underground Railroad, abolitionists would sew quilts with hidden symbols on them to show the runaway slaves the way north. Each quilt square gave hints to the slaves looking for food and shelter. After the patterns were studied, slave quilts were examined through the Smithsonian Museum collection. In groups of four, students then create sixteen-block replicas of the slave quilts. Codes were written and paths to Free states or Canada were created. As an online supplement, we virtually visited historic Lewiston, NY, which is the setting for this novel. Historical homes, tailor shops, and the town square provided keen access for the plot lines. Students really are developing an appreciation for this time in American history.

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

Sixth graders are working hard this year!

Mrs. Palamara
Grades 6 – 8 Math

Grade 6 – Singapore

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

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

Grade 7

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

Marking period three will begin our study of Algebra I.

Algebra I

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

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

Mrs. Billet
Grades 6 & 7 Science

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

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

Señora Dotto
Grades 6, 7 & 8 Spanish

In the sixth grade, we have learned how to say the time (including a.m. & p.m.), and how to change civilian time to military time. Also, the students have been working with the verb *gustar* (to like) to express their likes and dislikes together with indirect object pronouns. They have learned a good amount of vocabulary and expressions. To reinforce this material we have used power point presentations, videos, verbal drills, Education Videos, Smart Board games, and the site Quizlet for visual and auditory processing.

During this marking period the seventh grade students completed Chapter 3, section 2, built a lot of vocabulary and expressions, and mastered the conjugation of the irregular verbs *to go, to have, to do and to go out*. Also, we have covered interrogative words, indefinite articles and the weather. At this time we are in the process of learning expressions with the verb *to have*, the conjugation and usage of the verb *venir* and started Chapter 4A. All this has been reinforced with power point presentations, audio CD's, classroom interaction, Youtube videos, Kahoot game, Quizlet and Smart Board games to enhance the instruction.

This marking period the eighth grade students have continued building vocabulary. In addition, they have studied expressions on how to describe people and family relationships. In grammar, they have expanded their study on possessive adjectives and covered over 15 stem-changing verbs **e→ie** and **o→ue** like *empezar, dormir, merendar, almorzar, preferir* etc. Also, students soon will learn a skit and will present it in front of the class. All this material has been reinforced with power point presentations, audio CD's, classroom interaction, Youtube videos, Education videos, and Quizlet for visual and auditory practice of vocabulary and expressions.

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

In our seventh grade Literature program, we are exploring a new unit in our **MIRRORS & WINDOWS** textbook called **DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES**. The theme of the unit emphasizes how our own perspectives on life are shaped by our experiences. Each of the selections, including both fiction and nonfiction, focuses on the importance of seeing the world from a different set of eyes.

As part of our recently finished unit entitled FINDING OURSELVES, we have just completed our first poetry assignment on FREE VERSE dealing with the theme of reading. We learned the process for writing a free verse poem, did some brainstorming, provided a rough draft, and participated in a peer review - all in preparation for the ultimate final copy. This activity provided a great opportunity to develop our creative ideas and share our thoughts on the importance of reading.

Mrs. Tirella/Mrs. Daly
Grade 7 Language Arts

Our Language Arts program continues with building vocabulary skills from our **VOCABULARY WORKSHOP** series, including synonyms, antonyms, analogies, and context clues. In grammar, we are working on our most challenging unit – **VERBS**. This unit will prove very beneficial for all of our writing activities.

Mrs. Daly
Grade 7 Critical Reading

The seventh grade Critical Reading classes are finishing a cluster of Greek mythology in *Echoes From Mount Olympus*. Gods, goddesses and other ancient deities were studied, discussed and examined. Online discussion questions helped students plot the myths, create family trees, and write their own interpretations of events occurring in nature.

Using our vocabulary book, *Vocabulary From Latin and Greek Roots*, students have created online interactive chapter reviews. This is a collaborative, simultaneous effort using personal devices. Once the review is complete, students can send the work to their own Google accounts for at-home review.

Enjoy the holidays!

Mrs. Mayer
Grades 7 & 8 History

The second marking period has been interesting for the seventh grade. We studied and analyzed The Age of Exploration and Colonization of the Americas. Students evaluated the social and economic conditions that existed in Europe, which resulted in the Eastern Hemisphere traveling to the Western Hemisphere. We also focused on the dramatic affect this event had on the planet as a whole. The class is looking forward to learning about the events that led to the Revolutionary War.

The eighth graders have been hard at work learning about Westward Expansion and The Industrial Revolution. Students truly enhanced their research, writing and technological skills while creating power point presentations about various events that took place during these exciting periods of history. We look forward to learning about Imperialism and the events that helped cause World War I.

Mrs. Larkins
Grade 7 Math Workshop

It was an interesting time to invest in the market for our group of seventh grade stock brokers, but also the opportunity to learn a lot about the current state of our economy. I was pleased with their pointed questions and enthusiasm. They became a little more aware of current events and learned about how the market works with such concepts as shares of stocks, dividends, P/E ratios, broker's commissions, and yield. When the project was said and done, Johnson and Johnson proved to be the hot stock! Congratulations to Alyssa Cohen, Kaley Hanlon, Dillon McCann, Jacob Dice, and Jessica Yatvitskiy for coming in first place and earning a dress down day.

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

Mrs. Williams
Grade 8 Language Arts/Literature

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

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

Mrs. Daly
Grade 8 Critical Reading

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

In addition to our weekly news summaries, students are enhancing their writing skills in many ways. With the release of the 2016 world almanac, students explored population changes, climate issues, and government policies. Charts were mapped, interpreted, and analyzed for different countries' literacy rates, finances, and social issues. Students wrote essays about their findings. The two-week lesson will finish after Thanksgiving with an online game. Classes are working well and are eagerly anticipating the holidays!

Mr. Clapp
Grade 8 Science

We started off marking period 2 by learning about Earth as a system, and all of the parts of Earth that make up that system, such as the biosphere that includes all of the living organisms on the planet. We discussed how all of these parts interact and affect each other and how they affect us as well. After that we began learning about Earth's interior. My eighth graders learned all of the many layers of Earth and all of their specific characteristics. We did a lab that demonstrated how the convection currents in the mantle work and how that is the driving force behind tectonic plates moving to eventually lead to earthquakes.

That was a nice segue into our lessons on plate tectonics. My students now know where, why and how Earth's plates move. In order to visualize how these plates move we did an edible lesson using Oreo's, graham crackers, and frosting. Hopefully now they think about this every time they decide to snack on them!

Mr. Pacelli
Intermediate Algebra

This marking period we have been working with systems of equations and inequalities. We solved two unknowns, two equation systems and also 3x3 systems. We worked with systems which were used to solve many applications in many areas of interest. We solved problems having to do with medicine, travel and business.

We are now in the chapter having to do with polynomials. We have been performing the four basic operations and will soon start factoring. We have also explored arithmetic progressions with applications.

Mrs. Vacca
Grade 8 Explorations

Our culinary trip around the world has ended with some interesting and creative presentations. Students are now researching debate topics to present. Some of the topics selected are: Do credit cards do more harm than good? The dissection of animals for research, the U.S. government ending funds for school arts, year round school, the right to bear arms (gun control) are some to debate. Others include: Should all Americans be required to provide 1 year of national service? Should the U.S. switch to the Metric System? Should the U.S. end the penny? Can the Atomic bomb be justified? Should there be mandatory helmets in soccer? All research will be presented and then open for discussion.

Ms. Burke
Grades 7 & 8 Latin

The seventh graders began the second marking period with direct objects and the accusative case. We also learned about the gender, number, and declension of nouns. As with last marking period, we focused on the areas in which English and Latin meet. Besides grammar, we have again worked on developing translation skills by reading stories about a famous Roman family, the Cornelii. Finally, we have added to our cultural studies by learning about Roman dress and the story Rome's founders, Aeneas, and Remus and Romulus.

In the eighth grade, we concluded our study of third declension adjectives and moved on to future tense verbs in all four conjugations. We also refined our translation skills with a translation project on Catullus 13. Moreover, we worked on creative presentations of Early Roman

heroes like Horatius and Cincinnatus as well as learning about Roman travel and the Roman army. Finally, we continued reading *Aeneas*, an age-appropriate, English adaptation of Virgil's famous epic the *Aeneid*.

Mme Simon
Upper School French

With the fifth graders, we studied the text "Une journée à l'école" (a day at school), classroom objects, the verb "être" (to be) and reviewed questions words. I am following the curriculum from the book *Bon Voyage* and during the third marking period, we will study chapter 3.

To review the material learned in class, we use Educreation videos, Quizlets and we play our favorite game "Kahoot." We also learned cultural information about France and French speaking countries. Good job!

This marking period, the seventh graders reviewed the verbs faire and aller "to go and to do" and learned the placement of the adjectives. We also learned the family vocabulary and the verbs pouvoir and vouloir.

Our class combines vocabulary, grammar, dialogs and cultural aspects of French speaking countries. Then we studied a dialog between two teenagers. By listening to the dialogs on my website, the students are able to improve their pronunciation tremendously.

We are now in the process of working on a project about a province, a French territory, an island or a country where French is the official language (33 countries all together). I brought some crêpes in the classroom so that the students can experience some specialty from my province. Excellent work !

With the eighth grade, we studied the reflexive verbs and the routine of the day, reviewed the "Vouloir and Pouvoir" verbs, a text about the internet and social networks. Our class combines vocabulary, grammar, dialogs and cultural aspects of French speaking people. Then we studied a dialog between two teenagers who were talking about going on a shopping trip.

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

Mr. Rosenfeld/Mrs. Bordiuk
Upper School PE

Welcome to the 3rd Marking Period!

The fifth grade and seventh grade will be in Health Education class for the 3rd marking period. This means that the students are in the classroom all 3 days of the week. The sixth grade and eighth grade will continue with Physical Education. They will start a basketball unit and the regular PE games.

One section of the eighth grade swim class participated in "Buddy Swim" day with the Kindergarten class on November 19th. It was a fun class for all. The eighth graders were kind and patient with the little ones and the kindergarteners were thrilled to have buddies to play with in the pool. We will put up some pictures from this day on our faculty webpage.

Mrs. Grier/Library

The library is a magical place. Where can a child find information on planets and also pretend to be an animal at a zoo? The beauty of a library is to open the endless possibility of using the wealth of information that it stores. To date, our library has checked out more than 22,000 works of wonder. The children learn by experiencing different books written by different authors. They learn not just to appreciate a story read to them but where and how to find the source in our library. Students are learning about parts of a book as well as influential authors. Third and fourth graders continue to navigate the Dewey decimal system. Let's continue to enjoy the beauty of our library!!!

Mrs. Griller/Computer

We have been busy in the computer room! During this marking period we discussed cyber safety in all classes. In both 8th grade and 4th grade students designed 3D printed objects. The 8th graders used an online program for their design called Tinkercard. This was a collaborative project with Art Class. They drew a design with Miss. DiMaggio and then those students that have computers this half programmed that design and printed it in Computer Class. The others will complete their designs in the 4th marking period. The 4th grade project was a STEAM project. The students worked with Mrs. Cahalane in Science to create and animal that can live in an assigned habitat. In Art/ Computers with Miss DiMaggio and me they drew that animal on the iPads in an APP called Morphi. The animals will then be printed on the 3D printer. All students continue to

practice their typing skills through various tests, lessons and games. First graders made fun projects like flying fish and stick puppets. The second and third graders made graphic displays using Kidspiration and Wordle. The fifth, sixth and seventh graders continued work in Microsoft Office making Draw tool designs, Business Portfolios and banners. You can see many of the exciting computer projects made on my website, in my classroom and throughout the school.

Mrs. Tyma/Music

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

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

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

In second grade, we learned the *Bear Dance* of the Ute Indians and danced it to recordings of authentic Ute tribal music. We created an unpitched percussion orchestration for a poem to serve as our B section for a song about pumpkin pie. The song challenged our musicianship skills with its three-part instrument accompaniment. In addition, we built upon the sign language skills learned in first grade with a new Thanksgiving song.

The third and fourth grade classes enjoyed the Shaker song *Simple Gifts* while working on choral singing skills and their recognition of chord changes in the harmony. The third graders listened to Aaron Copland's "Variations on Simple Gifts" from his ballet *Appalachian Spring*

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

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

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

Your interest in your child's musical education makes a difference. SING, SAY, DANCE, PLAY, LISTEN, CREATE! These are things you can do at home to enrich your child's musical interest and skills.

SAY – Talk with your child about what they learn and enjoy in music.

- What songs are you singing? Do you have a favorite? Can you teach it to me?
- Have you played any instruments lately? Which ones?
- Do you have a favorite singing or movement game? Can you show it to me?

Next time...**DANCE** and **PLAY**.

Miss DiMaggio/Art

First grade learned how to weave paper. They used the primary colors and overlapping to make secondary colors, used the pinch method in ceramics to make a pinch pot, and drew a still life.

Second grade used the pinch method in ceramics and used the primary colors to make a Piet Mondrian inspired animal.

Third grade used the slab method in ceramics. They worked in small groups to make a Monet inspired tissue paper collage.

Fourth grade used the slab method in ceramics to make an imprinted bowl. They learned about foreground, middle ground, and background to draw a picture using perspective.

Fifth grade drew flowers using oil pastels inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe. They used yarn and chop sticks to make a god's eye using the Mexican form of weaving. They drew a surrealist picture based on artist Salvador Dali.

Sixth grade used sculpey clay and model magic to create a miniature balloon animal dog based on artist Jeff Koons. They also used the slab method in ceramics to make an imprinted vessel.

Seventh grade used sharpies to make a positive and negative drawing based on a theme that the class chose. They also used the slab method in ceramics to make a bowl.

Eighth grade used watercolor to paint a beach. They used concentrated watercolor to make very creative blow watercolor pictures. They also used the slab method in ceramics to make Dale Chihuly inspired bowls.

**Mrs. Vacca/Miss Arscott
Student Council**

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

Thanks also to everyone for their spare change that helped to fill up those orange boxes labeled UNICEF. We were able to send a check for \$133.86 and continue "kids helping kids" in need around the world.

The Mercy Center also sent a note of thanks for helping to fill their food pantry which provided Thanksgiving meals to about 320 local families.

Starting on Monday, November 30th, we will once again have our **Mitten Tree and Food Collection** which will go to the 4th of December and extend into the following week. The tree will be set up in the upper school hallway where students may adorn the tree with new mittens and scarves and hats. Non-perishable food items will be collected on the stage in the gym. A flyer will also be coming home making requests from each grade level as to gifts that we will be collecting for various organizations. Remember to remember those who are less fortunate than us especially at this upcoming holiday season. Everything is always appreciated!

Pre-K, K and 1st grade - "Toys for Tots"
2nd and 3rd grade - "Harbor House"
4th grade - "180 Turning Lives Around"
5th and 6th grade - "ASPCA"
7th grade - "Deployed Troops"
8th grade - "Holiday Express"

I am pleased and thankful for all the purchases made through "Mixed Bags" this fall. We made a profit of \$1,374 of which goes back to the school to help fund the rides on Littleton Day, dances, and year-end gifts.

Please remember that you can shop at www.mixedbagdesigns.com all year long and Oak Hill Academy will make a 50% profit. Click on GO to: SHOP, our school #442089, place your order and the items will be shipped directly to your home.

Happy Holidays!!!!

ATHLETICS

Fall Athletics

Boys Soccer – Mr. Misson's team finished the season with an 8-2 record. We won the F Division of the Jim Carrigan-Ferris Antoon Monmouth County Intermediate School Soccer League with a 7-1 record and were the Liberty Conference Runner-ups! We were seeded first in the play-offs and defeated #2 Holy Cross 4-0 in the semi-final round. We lost to St. James 5-3 in the finals of the Liberty Conference. Christopher Misson was chosen as MVP for the game for OHA. The following 8th graders will be missed: Christopher Misson, Jack Ryan, Liam O'Hara, Aron Wiener, Wade Edwin, Michael Favilla, Ethan Ferraiola, Myles Gorski, Matt Mandario, Michael Egan.

Girl's Soccer – **LIBERTY CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS!!!** Mr. Bruckmann's team finished the season with a 9-1 record, won the E Division of the Jim Carrigan-Ferris Antoon Monmouth County Intermediate School Soccer League and defeated Shrewsbury 2-1 in the finals of the Liberty Conference Championship! Abby Cieri was chosen as MVP of the final game for OHA. The team qualified for the playoffs as the #1 seed and defeated #2 St. Mary's 4-3 in double overtime. The following 8th graders will be missed: Erin Gilfillan, Abby Cieri, Morgan Feiler, Christine Markey, Alexa Kulawiak, Rebecca DeStefano, Caitlin Antonio, Francesca Dodaro, Diana Thermos

Intramural Tennis – Mr. Clapp's group finished up tennis three weeks ago. The students in grades 5-8 had six weeks of doubles play, instruction, and games! They were the first official group to play on our three new tennis courts!

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

3rd grade girls: Adriana Garmany 18th, Avery Duffy, Victoria O'Leary
3rd grade boys: Hugh Olson 8th

4th grade girls: Jennifer Maio 13th, Caitlin Shallcross 17th
4th grade boys: Mitchell Oldham 4th

5th grade girls: Audrey Yan 3rd, Caroline DiBiasi 5th
5th grade boys: Declan Picadio 10th, Kevin Kinsella 16th, Ryan Daniels 17th, Ryan Stefko 26th, Oliver Olson 30th, Michael Gao 31st

6th grade boys: Daniel Shallcross 11th, Adam Holden 22nd

7th grade boys: Tim Shallcross 12:06 on challenging 1 ½ mile course

Winter Athletics

Boys Varsity Basketball - Mr. Bruckmann's and Mr. Misson's team will be opening their season with a game against Eatontown (away) on December 7th! Please check the website for schedules and updates!

Girl's Varsity Basketball - Mrs. Porzio's opening game will be on December 7th against Eatontown (away). Please check the website for schedules and updates!

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

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

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

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

Swim Team - Mrs. Bordiuk and Mrs. Mee have started their practices. The first meet of the season (there will be six) will be held on December 11th vs. Neptune. The rest of the meets will be held in January and February.