



## OAK HILL ACADEMY NEWSLETTER #4 MARCH 2015

### Headmaster's Message Joseph A. Pacelli

#### The Second of the 3 E's

In the last newsletter I discussed the first of the 3 E's which was "Excellence." Now we come to the second which is "Enriching" environment.

Children who attend Oak Hill Academy find an environment which offers plenty of wonderful challenges and a whole host of mind enriching experiences across numerous topics. Our children meet these in our regular curriculum as well as during their after school activities. They are doers who love to take part in new and exciting activities. Our experienced teachers are masters in developing classroom situations that encourage deep thought and unique solutions. Our children enjoy going beneath the surface to explore novel situations. The talent of our teachers provides opportunities to learn new things in a vast number of academic areas. This experience helps the student go beyond the surface and collaborate with others on the meaning and solution to real world problems.

Teachers using their knowledge and background create a stage for our children to become real participants in their own education. This joy is at the center of the Oak Hill experience.

### Mrs. Larkins Director of Development

#### Admissions/Thank You

Thank you to all those OHA families who have helped spread the word about our special community here at Oak Hill. Prospective families almost always remark that they heard about OHA from a current parent. You are our best spokespeople! We ask that you continue to recommend Oak Hill Academy to your friends, relatives, and business associates. Our last Saturday Open House was March 14 from 10am to 1pm, and we continue to do private tours of our campus during the school week. As always, your help is truly appreciated.

### Miss Murray Director of Personnel/Administration

#### BUSY DAYS AT OAK HILL ACADEMY!!

Within the last two weeks, our students have been busy with a variety of activities: Lip Sync, National Latin Exam, National Mythology Exam, Littletown Day, Mustang Fest, Student/Faculty Basketball game, Pi Day, M.A.S.T. Academic Tournament, Open House, School Play rehearsals, Music rehearsals.....all of this plus going to school every day! Our students are accomplished, well rounded, talented, and happy!!!

#### LIP SYNC

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Lip Sync was held on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in the Scire Student Activities Center! Between both nights, the audience was there to watch the 185 students and 10 faculty members perform!

All of our students in PK-8 who performed did an outstanding job! They worked hard on their routines and it showed! Mr. Pacelli portrayed Jerry Lee Lewis and "twiddled" his thumbs on the keyboard as he performed "Great Balls of Fire!" Mrs. Weikes, Mrs. Caprara, and Mrs. Wood were onstage with the PreK as they did "Everything is Awesome" from the Lego movie! Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Colbert, Mrs. Gilfillan, Mrs. Larkins, Miss Murray, and Mrs. Scheuer were creative in their costuming. They all assumed both roles of husband and wife in Meghan Trainor's "Dear Future Husband!"

As tradition, the eighth grade closed out the Friday night performance with their rousing lip sync to "The Walker!" A special thank you goes to the many creative parents who helped with the acts. Start thinking of ideas for next year!!

#### PARENT BASKETBALL GAME

The Annual Parent Basketball game was held on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. There was a halftime shoot out to win a dress down day, as well as many door prizes that were given away to the students in attendance. The teams were evenly matched, with a final score of 32-31!

#### M.A.S.T. ACADEMIC JEOPARDY TOURNAMENT WINNERS!!!!

**Oak Hill has done it again!! We won first and second place at the Marine Academy of Science & Technology Academic Jeopardy Tournament that was held on March 13<sup>th</sup>. We actually had five teams place in the top 10! Thirty-two teams were entered into this academic competition! OHA came in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> place. A number of our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders competed in this tournament. Of the 32 teams entered, OHA had seven teams. Each team consisted of five or six players, with only four competing at one time. There were five rounds, consisting of 30 questions each. A sampling of the subjects included: Plants, Geometry, States and Capitals, Lakes, Paintings, Music, Punctuation, Civil War, Science. There were only three trophies handed out that Friday night. OHA claimed two of them! **Congratulations to the winning team: (all 8<sup>th</sup> graders) Zach Basile, Lucas Bruckmann, Hannah Gazdus, Dylan Servilla, and William Walsh! Congratulations to our second place team (all 7<sup>th</sup> graders): Jason Wang, Thomas Wang, Aron Wiener, Leah Wilson, and Michael Zhang!****

Our final places were:

4<sup>th</sup> place (all 8<sup>th</sup> graders): Anna Effenberger, Jonathan Giuffre, Jessica Abbott, Bryan Soler, and Isabella Ybarra.  
6<sup>th</sup> place (all 7<sup>th</sup> graders): Erin Gilfillan, Jake Fradkin, Kyle Harris, Summer AbdelBarry, David Burrell, and Stephanie Zhou.

10<sup>th</sup> place (all 8<sup>th</sup> graders): Jack Davis, Luca Ferraro, Shayna Cohen, CJ Gorman, Elizabeth Hsu, and Julianna Troccoli.

Also placing were the teams of (8<sup>th</sup> graders): Nicole Burgo, Isabella LoSordo, Isabella Silvestri, Tim Murray, Catherine Stolbof, and (7<sup>th</sup> grader) Catherine Barone as well as, the team of (7<sup>th</sup> graders): Alexa Malson, Alexa Kulawiak, Rebecca DeStefano, Myles Gorski, Sarah Maes, and Liam O'Hara.

OAK HILL ACADEMY NIGHT at THE BLUECLAWS – TUESDAY, MAY 26<sup>th</sup>!

Come celebrate Oak Hill Academy at the BlueClaws game on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>! Before the game, the whole school will have a parade around the outfield, Mrs. Tyma's chorus will sing during the 7<sup>th</sup> inning stretch and some of our lucky students will throw out the first pitch!!

Order your tickets for the game now, to sit in a special reserved section for Oak Hill Academy! All tickets are \$11. Make your checks payable to "Oak Hill Academy."

As a bonus, no homework will be assigned on Tuesday night, May 26<sup>th</sup>!! This should be a great family night for all!!

THREE EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS HONORED BY MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Mary Mahoney, Catherine Stolbof, and Nicole Burgo were honored by Monmouth University on February 15<sup>th</sup> as part of their "Women and Girls in Sports Day." The three scholar athletes took part in a conference about developing leadership skills and confidence through the world of athletics!

**Mr. Bruckmann  
Communications Administrator**

Web Page Updates

See the "[Experiences](#)" link for student guided tours, photos, past news events and more!

2015 Oak Hill Academy Summer Programs

The 2015 Oak Hill Academy Summer Programs are on-line as well as in the office. The [summer program brochure](#) lists all of the programs so far, but will be updated as more are added. Check out the [Summer Program's page](#) for more information regarding individual programs.  
<http://www.oakhillacademy.com/summer-programs>

**Mrs. Livingston  
Lower School Guidance**

Gr. 1 - We shared [The Enormous Potato](#) by Aubrey Davis. In this story, the farmer plants a potato that grows, and grows, and grows. When it came time to pull the potato out of the ground, he enlisted the help of everyone from his wife to the mouse. With the help of many, the potato was pulled up, cooked, slathered with butter and shared with many. This was a humorous tale that focused on the value of cooperation and the joys of

working together to achieve a common goal.

Gr. 2 - [Howard B. Wigglebottom Listens to His Heart](#) by Howard Binkow is the story of a little bunny that stops doing what he loves the most because he wants to "fit in." He tries the activities that his friends are involved in but finds them not to be the answer to his problem. Howard's Grandpa convinces him to keep doing what he loves - dancing. His classmates come to appreciate Howard's talent for dancing and cheer him on. Upon completion of the story, the class discussed what "following your heart" means. It is important to be true to yourself as we all have different talents and reasons to be proud of ourselves.

Gr. 3 - In the fable "The Camel and the Horse Become Friends," the issue of teasing and not appreciating another's uniqueness is handled through the interaction of the horse and the camel with the king. The horse seems to think that he is the only one suited to serve the king. However, one day the king wanted to cross the desert to visit the children in other cities. The horse did not want to take the king across the desert because it was too hot and there was no water. Upon hearing this, the camel said that he would be happy to take the king to the children. After all, he had special pads on his feet and he could store energy in his hump. The king shared these words with the camel, "What you do or what you say can't make me less in any way. I am special. You are, too. I'm as valuable as you." We all need to remember this about ourselves and each other. Everyone is special!

Gr. 4 - Our folk tale this month from the collection [Rhinos and Raspberries](#) was "Supriya's Bowl." The Buddha brought the people of his land together because famine had struck and people were hungry. He asked those whose stock was plentiful to share with those who had no food. The citizens with the well stocked storehouses gave various excuses as to why they could not share. Finally a young girl answered the Buddha's call to help. Knowing that the citizens could not refuse a little girl, each day Supriya took a bowl from house to house. The people of the town began to fill her bowl. Because of this little girl, the hungry would eat and the people of the town would take care of each other. We discussed the reasons the people were hungry, the power of one person to make a difference, and what Supriya's bowl could represent in our own lives.

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

"In like a lion, out like a lamb" is the saying used to depict the volatile weather in March. The seasonal changes and erratic weather will be used to plan exciting discoveries about, wind, weather, and water.

Pre-K celebrated Mardi Gras with a festive project, colorful beads and traditional masks. United Streaming provided students with first hand information and a trip on-line to Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

Ring in the Chinese New Year was exciting and fun. We learned about various Chinese customs and celebrated "The Year of the Goat." Students enjoyed creating lion masks for our class lion dance and printing the numbers 1-10 in Chinese number writing. Students were given red envelopes containing coins for good luck. Pre-K shared a delicious Chinese lunch consisting of Lo Mein, fried rice, and fortune cookies with a few enjoying several helpings.

February brought our favorite valentine's to school for a tea and class party. The children shared this special day with their moms in the Scire Activities Center. The activities included decorating heart-shaped cakes, a valentine mailing center, valentine crafts, a valentine book center and sharing special snack together. Everyone had a good time and many happy memories were created.

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, Pre-K traveled to the Sunrise Assisted Living Center in Lincroft. The students sang a medley of "Love Songs for Seniors" which included "You Are My Sunshine," "A You're Adorable," and "Here are Grandma's Spectacles." The children delighted the residents and presented them with handmade valentines, valentine necklaces and heart-shaped pins. Following the serenade, students enjoyed heart-shaped cookies which they decorated and baked at school. It was a wonderful experience for the children and well-received by the residents based on the joy to their faces while interacting with our young students.

Pre-K worked very hard performing "Everything is Awesome" from The Lego Movie for this year's Lip Sync. They each dressed as a Lego characters singing and dancing their hearts out. Needless to say, the children delighted the audience as they exhibited tremendous self-confidence and enthusiasm. Way to shine Pre-K!

We recently celebrated 100 Days of school, the birthday of the beloved children's author Dr. Seuss and "Read Across America Week." We love our literature in Pre-K and have a trip to the New Brunswick State Theater planned for the stage performance of "Stella, Queen of the Snow." How appropriate with so much cold and snowy weather in recent months.

Pre-K will once again enjoy "Pre-K Pretendtown Day in March." This exciting event is Pre-K's version of OHA's Littletown Day. The activities will be held in the multipurpose room of the Center for Early Learning providing students with a wonderful array of role-playing activities and fun. The students will visit many familiar places like the OHA None Finer Diner, the Roar for Sure dinosaur museum, Best Buds Love Suds car wash, I'm So Cute beauty salon, The Shop Until You Drop school store, Save the Date post-office, Quick Flick theater, The Get-Slim Gym, Pets Rule Vet, and the Sunkin' Dunkin' Donut shop. This activity receives rave reviews each year while letting the children have fun practicing many life skills.

Pre-K is looking forward to warmer weather and playing outdoors during March as the subtle seasonal changes take place and spring emerges throughout the Oak Hill campus. Happy spring everyone! We can all hope can't we?

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

February is known as "Frantic February" in Kindergarten. There were so many topics to learn about! We discussed Groundhog Day but unfortunately our trip to Kateri was cancelled due to inclement weather. We learned how to take care of our teeth for Dental Health Month (thanks to Dr. Regan for coming in to give us such important information and new toothbrushes!). We discovered how many African Americans have made contributions to our country for Black History Month and were treated to a wonderful party from our class moms for Valentine's Day. We honored our first and sixteenth Presidents with books, movies and projects. Finally we spread the word of our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school with a parade! As a class project we asked that the families and friends of our Kindergarten students send us an email congratulating us on our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. Our goal was to reach 100 emails and we surpassed that amount! Our grand total was 121 emails for each

class. We received them from Washington D.C., 13 states and 14 countries. We extend our greatest gratitude to everyone who helped us out! We would also like to thank The Wong families for bringing in delicious treats to celebrate Chinese New Year. Thank you so much for sharing your lovely traditions with us!

In reading we continue to meet and greet more Letter People. We now have 4 vowels and 11 consonants to help us make words. The children have completed their first story in our Writing to Read Program. We are so impressed with how they can now apply their reading skills in their writing.

In math we have completed a unit on length/size, comparing sets and learning the place value of ones and tens to make teen numbers. We continue to strengthen our counting skills and patterning skills on a daily basis during Circle Time.

Although we have enjoyed the snow during recess this winter, we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring! We'll see what Mother Nature has in store for us!

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

The first grade had been preparing to take on the responsibilities of the Littletown Post Office. We recently watched a video to see what goes on at a real post office. On Littletown Day the children were stamping the mail, sorting the mail, and delivering the mail to the "residents" of Littletown.

Also, in preparation for Littletown Day the students learned to write letters and address envelopes. They wrote to their friends and teachers who live in Littletown. What a wonderful enriching experience for all involved.

Our Singapore Math program continues to excite and challenge our students. We recently completed a unit on graphs. The students first learned to classify objects in sets according to common features. Then they learned that objects can be represented one-to-one by using another object. Students then read and interpreted data presented by graphs. Some of the skills included finding out which items were the most and which items were the least on the graph, as well as comparing the difference between two items. We then learned to make a tally chart as an alternative method of keeping count of objects or items.

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

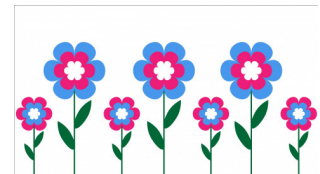
The second grade had and is having a few exciting things happen this month. We are about to go on a class trip to Kateri Environmental Center. On our trip we will discover the history and folklore of maple syrup. We will see how a maple tree is tapped and how the sap is gathered from a sugar maple tree. We then will take part in the Great Maple Sugar Taste Test and vote on our favorite sample of syrup. So far, in the past, the favorite in the taste test is Kateri's very own homemade syrup! Our votes will be added to many other children's votes in Monmouth County who have also taken the test. We hope to hear the results sometime this spring. The week before, some of our second graders did a magnificent job performing in OHA's well known lip sync.

Next came Littletown Day on Wednesday, March 11. Miss Colson's room became The Globe Theatre showing movies and selling water and making their own popcorn! Mrs. Buchner's room sold their famous warm pretzels, best to get them while they're hot! It's such an exciting day for the whole lower school.

We continue to get letters and pictures from our friends and relatives who have taken Flat Stanley all over the world. He has been to twenty-two states and twelve different countries so far. Just to name a few, he has been to Arizona, Utah, Pennsylvania, Florida, the Netherlands, Hong Kong, and England. Please stop by and check out our world map outside our classroom which shows all the places he's been.

We have become quite the poets writing limericks, acrostic poems, haiku and couplets. In math we are getting very proficient with our times tables, division, telling time and counting money. We only have a few more weeks in our Wordly Wise books and our vocabulary has grown quite a bit.

Everyone is looking forward to the first day of spring. It has been a long, snowy, cold winter for all of us and we are ready to be outdoors in the warm, sunny weather.



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

Spring is here, and we're pushing snow out of our minds by composing springtime poetry. We are writing shape poems which let students apply their knowledge of adjectives and adverbs

In Social Studies, students have just listened to the historical fiction, Meet Addy, the story of an enslaved girl in 1864 who must escape from the plantation before the family is sold away and separated. Students are gaining a beginning understanding of the plight of slave life. They are reviewing map skills, too, while reviewing the events of the story. Look for their maps of Addy's escape when you visit the classroom.

In novel studies the students have just finished reading the story Indian School. Our class will be taking a trip to the Harkness Room to discuss whether life on the frontier as a Native American girl or an English girl would be more challenging. Students will also be completing an at-home project where they will be making posters or booklets illustrating the metaphors and similes used throughout the book.

In math, students are beginning the second textbook. Measurement is the topic, starting with length. Students are learning metric first which will soon be followed by customary. Students are also learning conversions from centimeters to meters and back again. Remember to look at our webpage with our Educreations lessons for review. (We are **not** learning conversions from customary to metric. That's for later years.) Remember to always keep practicing fast facts in all operations.

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

In social studies, we have been learning about the geography of our state, learning the six 'faces' of New Jersey. The 'faces' are named for the use of the land and the geographic features. We've learned about the great diversity of our state. We have 127 miles of coastline and the Kittatinnies are our part of the Appalachian Trail. We have a sandy soil pine forest that covers 1/5 of our state, and farmland that grows fruits and vegetables in the southern part of our state. New Jersey's 'variety' encompasses crowded cities, small towns, places of research and business, factories, seaports, an international airport, horse farms, lakes, rivers, suburban housing, parks, and so much more. This chapter is of particular interest

because it helps us know how to decorate the two four-foot New Jersey cakes that we will make to culminate our NJ studies.

Our English classes have been filled with eagle-eyed detectives searching for proper punctuation and capitalization in all forms of our writing, including dialogue. Our proofreading skills are improving each day. We put our character traits to good use in writing our *Feelings* poems. By using the five senses we attempted to describe many different feelings like loneliness, freedom, confusion, and joy.

In our reading series we have been enjoying biographies, fiction, and legends. We have been working with the comprehension skills of sequencing, summarizing, main idea/details, as well as figurative language.

For a fourth grade book project, we each read a biography and wrote about five highlights of the person's life. We assigned three character traits to our person and discussed them in our report. We shared these reports with our class. We also shared whether we felt the person we read about would make a good friend. These reports were enjoyable because we learned so much about a person that interested us and then we heard about people our classmates had studied. For our next book project we will be entertained by puppet characters from our books.

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

During the fourth marking period at Oak Hill Academy the lower school Physical Education classes have been working on the Jump Rope unit. The students have developed a better sense of timing and coordination while improving their strength and cardiovascular health. The lower school Physical Education classes have continued watching informational health videos which has given them significant knowledge about how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The students will resume swim classes the week of March 9<sup>th</sup>. The lower school swim schedules are posted on both Mrs. Bordiuk's and Mr. Goldfarb's faculty websites. The Physical Education department will once again begin administering the Presidential Fitness Tests during the fifth marking period. This provides the students with an opportunity to improve upon their fitness scores from the fall. Please remember that students must come to Physical Education classes with proper footwear

on Dress Down Days and Fabulous Footwear Days.

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

PK students completed a unit on chemistry. We used the classroom volcanoes to learn how volcanoes erupt! We then moved on to learning about animals and their habitats. Kindergarteners covered a unit on the solar system. Everyone made their own planet and astronaut to take home. First graders have been learning about the Earth's rotation and revolution - what causes day, night, and the seasons. Second grade students completed a unit on fossils and dinosaurs. We made four different types of fossils to take home. Third graders finished up a unit on microscopy and microbes. Fourth graders successfully completed a chemistry unit called "Mystery Powders." To see photographs of what we have been doing in science class, please see my teaching blog!

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

Final preparations have been under way for Littletown Day which has kept all of our lower school students very busy for the last several months. Our annual event with a **Canadian flair** was held on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. I am confident that it was a fun day for all. A detailed follow-up will be coming home shortly, including a thank you to everyone for making it such a successful time.

**Mme Koar/ Lower School Language**

Grades 1 & 2 French

Students in first and second grades have made a smooth transition from Spanish to French. We are reviewing our numbers, days of the week, months of the year and seasons in second grade. We practice our calendar by saying the date of each child's birthday. The days of the week are practiced with a song, "Quel jour est-ce?" which is on my web site.

The first grade is learning colors and numbers. Practicing with songs and games in first and second grades is the most efficient and fun way for second language acquisition.

Grades 3 & 4 Spanish

Students are learning Spanish using an online course developed by Middlebury College. Thematically organized curriculum includes authentic stories, fables and myths to introduce vocabulary for family, numbers, greetings,



adjectives/ feelings, community and professions, and the body. Students progress at their own pace and learn in a relaxed, fun environment. Emphasis is on listening and speaking with many opportunities for students to record and assess their own speaking abilities. The favorite song is Pedro Y Juan which can be found in unit 3, lesson 5.

### **Mrs. Scheuer Upper School Guidance**

Family Fun Day was the perfect way to wrap up exams and let loose! Bowling at Strathmore Lanes was tons of fun. Kudos to the OHAPO for coordinating this event. Participation among upper school students with their classmates and siblings made for a memorable event.

The switch was ON in January as students rotated specials; Art and Computers, Music and Drama, Tech and Math Workshop and French and Spanish. Upper school students adjusted to their new schedules without missing a beat.

Our Cash Raffle Kick Off assembly demonstrated OHA spirit! Corresponding with the New York State of Mind theme, teams wearing red, white and black competed in the Jeopardy-style question and answer game. The New York celebrities via teacher performances were a huge hit with the students.

February holidays provided a great opportunity to reflect upon OHA character traits. Presidents Washington and Lincoln are both widely respected for being honest. I observe our students finding wallets, change purses, calculators and flash drives on a daily basis. Without teacher direction, students return the item to the owner or the office. OHA students help each other not because someone is watching or for a reward. They help each other because it is simply the right thing to do.

Lip Sync rocked the SAC on both nights. Each year the acts are more dynamic! The faculty practiced long hours and gave two solid performances of "Dear Future Husband" but the eighth graders stole the show with their energetic performance of "The Walkers" by Fritz and the Tantrums. Way to go Class of 2015! Congratulations to all the performers. You did a great job!

After one last blast of winter on March 5<sup>th</sup>, the arrival of Daylight Savings Time, Littletown Day and St. Patrick's Day signify that spring is just around the corner!

### **Miss Lee Grade 5 Literature/LA**

It is hard to believe that the fourth marking period has just come and gone! I want to once again commend the 5th graders on their perseverance and endurance. This past marking period, we continued to build on the foundations we set in previous marking periods. We began working on consistently practicing and incorporating everything we've learned in our Sentences, Nouns, and Verbs units in our Literature and Language Arts work. Keep up the good work!

In Literature this marking period, we read a one-act play entitled, "A Woman Called Truth," chronicling the life experiences of Sojourner Truth. We also began our novel study, Island of the Blue Dolphins, by Scott O'Dell. We continue to examine and analyze narrative elements such as point of view and characterization, as well as thematic ideas such as loneliness and resourcefulness. We are also making connections between the novel and history and the novel and previous stories we've read.

In Language Arts, we've finished our Adjectives unit and are moving into our Capitalization and Punctuation unit. We already know many capitalization and punctuation rules from our previous grammar units, but this is an opportunity for us to review and fine-tune our writing mechanics. After all, as they say, "Practice makes perfect!" We've also submitted our historical essays to the Monmouth County Historical Commission's annual essay contest for 5th graders. Students had the choice to research either an event from their family history or a historical place located in Monmouth County. It was a wonderful learning experience as we collected facts and stories, and then reflected on our own understanding and view of history. We continue to expand our vocabulary and find ways to incorporate vocabulary words in our academic and daily lives.

As we enter the fifth marking period, I want to remind and encourage students to make sure they come to class prepared with their appropriate books, notebooks, folders, and pens or pencils. Also bring your assignment planner to each class to keep track of homework assignments. When students are absent, I try to have a printed agenda of what they missed while they were out for them to read and use as a checklist to catch up. You can also use our class website to confirm assignments and due dates, find handouts from class, and to find extra resources.

### **Mrs. Grier Grade 5 Reading**

Our fifth grade reading class has been actively involved with the novel, "The Borrowers" by Mary Norton. The fantasy is about a family of "little" people living below the floors of a "normal" family. Throughout the novel study, the students are asked to complete packets involving comprehension questions and are quizzed on their knowledge of the story. Watching our students become engaged with the characters and the roles they play in this lively story is quite impressive. May they continue to enjoy the wonderful world of reading!!!

### **Mme Koar Grade 5 French - Periods 1 & 6**

Students are making an easy transition to French from Spanish as they are beginning to make associations and comparisons between the two languages. We are reviewing the personal pronouns and the verb (être) to be, along with many common "ER" verbs. We use storytelling to encourage listening and comprehension skills. Students are enjoying the stories which help to increase their vocabulary acquisition. Songs are another useful tool in language acquisition as well as encouraging correct pronunciation. We are practicing the "er" verbs with the song, "J'ai faim, J'ai soif" (I'm hungry I'm thirsty).

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

Congratulations to fifth grader Alex Mitchell, for qualifying to participate in the New Jersey State National Geographic Bee at Rowan University on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. We wish him good luck!

#### Grade 5

Fifth graders are beginning their study of Northern Europe, and must learn the map of the physical features of Europe. After that, they will begin to study the Map of Europe. They will receive the map of all of Europe, and work on mastering it. They may try the website: [ilike2learn.com](http://ilike2learn.com), to learn all of the countries, using the easy version of the Map of Europe. Note that each practice Map Quiz on [ilike2learn.com](http://ilike2learn.com) does not cover all of the countries of Europe. As with the US Map Quiz, students have to take the test several times to cover the entire map.

### Grade 6

Sixth graders will quickly cover India's neighbors, before beginning their study of China. They will read about Nobel Peace Prize winners Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan and Kailash Satyarthi of India and write an essay on their accomplishments. They will also begin to study the map of South East Asia.

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

#### Grade 5 – Singapore Math

As the second semester began, Unit 4 picked up from Unit 3 and introduced fractions and division as well as more multiplication. We learned a few riddles to help in the process. The students have since moved onto Unit 5 that concentrates on Perimeter, Area and Surface Area of various shapes both two-dimensional and three-dimensional. Please remember that corrections of quizzes and tests is not optional and that homework is a very important step in the process of learning lessons of both that day as well as previous days. Also, please use my website as a tool to enhance learning as well.  
<http://www.oakhillacademy.com/mr-bruckmanns-math-class>

#### Grade 6 – Singapore Math

The sixth grade class has completed their Singapore 6A books. Although Book 6B opens up with Unit 7 which deals with Circles and includes circumference, area as well as perimeter and area of composite figures, we began with Integers in Unit 13 due to their importance in Math. Students are dealing with all of the operations involved in working with Integers and how they can be used in functions to graph lines on a plane. Remember that corrections for the tests and quizzes are due the day following when the test/quiz has been handed back. All students need to be prepared with a sharpened pencil, all three books and a desire to learn and increase their math knowledge. Also, please use my website as a tool to enhance learning as well.  
<http://www.oakhillacademy.com/mr-bruckmanns-math-class>

#### Oak Hill Academy Math Counts team Sets Record and Moves on to States!!

Mrs. Rita Cotterell, an upper school math teacher at Oak Hill Academy, took a group of 6 seventh and eighth grade students to Union County College for the Math Counts competition for Middlesex, Union and Monmouth Counties on Saturday, February 7, 2015.

The MATHCOUNTS Competition Program is a national middle school coaching and competitive mathematics program that promotes mathematics achievement through a series of fun and engaging "bee" style contests. The program exists in all 50 states plus U.S. territories and the Department of Defense and State Department schools. (more information at [www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org))

The team from Oak Hill competed against public, private and parochial schools from those three counties in a multi-round competition. The competition begins with a 30 question test covering every strand of mathematics in word problem format. The students then move on to the target round where they are given 2 high level word problems that need to be completed in 6 minutes. This is repeated 4 times for a total of 8 questions. Subsequently, the top team from each school takes a test of 10 questions requiring teamwork and leadership. We finished 1<sup>st</sup> out of all of the independent and parochial schools and a record of 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall! This is the highest place that we have ever finished and sets a new mark for any private school. The team moves on to the State Competition on Saturday, March 14 at Rutgers University.

The team is made up of Thomas Wang, Michael Zhang, Anna Effenberger, Dylan Servilla, Lucas Bruckmann and William Walsh. They meet bimonthly on Friday afternoons. Congratulations to Mrs. Cotterell and her team for such an outstanding accomplishment!

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

#### Grade 5 – Period 2

The primary focus this marking period was fractions. The students learned how to multiply and divide them as well as prepare bar models from word problems which used fractions. The students were introduced to the concept of cross simplifying. At first they approached this with reluctance but after several examples (and many homework questions!), they cross simplified as if they were doing it for a long time! Their quizzes were outstanding! For dividing, the students learned the simple phrase of "keep, change, flip!" If they follow this for every dividing question, they will get the correct answer every time. Their unit test grades were excellent.

Our next unit touches on some basic geometry concepts. The students learned how to count the square units if a figure is drawn on a grid, they learned how to calculate the perimeter and area of a compound polygon and they learned

how to find the area of a triangle using the appropriate geometric formula. We will cover finding the area of parallelograms, identifying 3 dimensional figures, drawing nets and calculating the surface area before spring break. This group is a pleasure to teach. They are hard working and very enthusiastic!

#### Grade 5 – Period 3

We began this marking period by finding the area and perimeter of rectangles, squares, triangles and parallelograms. We spent two classes discussing the different types of 3 dimensional figures and then learned how to find the number of edges in a 3 dimensional figure by using Euler's formula. We finished off the unit by studying surface area. The assessments were excellent.

We moved on to ratios from there. The students learned how to compare 2 or 3 quantities and they learned the concept of equivalent ratios. When the students had 3 quantities, they were shown how to find the actual amounts by using a simple algebraic equation.

We finished the marking period by learning how read, write, compare, order, add and subtract decimals. The students were also taught how to multiply and divide with a whole number and a decimal. We will continue to work on multiplying and dividing in the next unit.

This group is very hard working and a pleasure to teach!

#### Grade 6

Our primary focus this marking period has been integers. The students reviewed what integers were and where we find them in the "real" world. We learned how to write them, compare them and order them. We graphed points on the coordinate plane, added and subtracted them, multiplied and divided them, put them in expressions using order of operations, solved equations using proper algebraic style and finally graphed equations by using a function table.

It is imperative that the students pay close attention to their signed numbers. One small mistake makes the answer completely wrong. They learned sayings like "keep, change, opposite" when they subtract and "EPON" when they multiply and divide. We completed dozens of equations stressing proper algebraic style and are just beginning to graph the solutions.

Careful completion and correction of homework continues to play a significant role in the classroom. I appreciate your assistance at home.

We will begin our discussion of circles just in time for PI day!

#### Grade 7 – Glencoe

What a great group of students!! They are a lot of fun to teach and did a tremendous job on their mid-terms! I was very proud of their work.

We covered the entire chapter which sets the foundation for fractions. We covered concepts including divisibility rules, prime factorization, greatest common factor, least common multiple, rational numbers, simple events in probability, comparison of rational numbers and scientific notation. The assessments were excellent.

We took that foundation work and are applying it to our next chapter where we are adding and subtracting positive and negative fractions, multiplying and dividing them, using properties to solve expressions and continuing arithmetic and geometric sequences. We are learning how to work with formulas for finding the area of triangles and trapezoids as well as finding the circumference of circles. This is a very long chapter full of so many important math principles. We are moving at a steady pace to ensure that everyone understands the concepts. The quizzes so far have been excellent.

#### Grade 8 – Introduction to Algebra

We began the marking period by finishing our work with fractions. The students were adding/subtracting them, solving questions with measures of central tendency, solving rational equations and completing arithmetic and geometric sequences.

Since then we have been spending all of our time on concepts they will have next year in Algebra. We began with a discussion of domain and range and an identification of which ordered pairs represent relations and which ordered pairs are functions. Next we learned how to solve algebraic equations that had two variables. The students learned the proper way to prepare a function table, how to prepare a graph and how to plot the points accordingly. We are currently working on how to solve algebraic equations by using the  $x$  and  $y$  intercepts. We are taking around 3 days per section. The homework is not long because I want to make sure the students have complete understanding of what they are doing. We review the

concepts (as well as every homework question) in class and we work in the classroom set of workbooks or applicable worksheets. We will continue to work on algebra concepts right up until spring break. After spring break we will work on square roots, inequalities and a little trigonometry.

#### Grade 8 – Geometry

We completed two chapters this marking period. The first chapter was on proportions and similarity. We began with simple ratios and proportions and then moved on to similar polygons and similar triangles. When the students got to the parallel lines and proportional parts section, they were given the opportunity to use this concept to draw a picture showing vanishing point. The pictures were awesome and are on display in the hall. We studied parts of similar triangles, similarity transformations and scale drawings as well.

The next chapter was the students' first taste of trigonometry. The first lesson was met with a little reluctance but after solving several problems, the students agreed how amazing it was to be able to solve the lengths of a triangle or find the degrees in a triangle by only knowing two measurements. We had lots of fun solving triangles using the Law of Sines and the Law of Cosines as well. Students also learned how to calculate measurements by using the angle of elevation and angle of depression. We worked through lots and lots of word problems!!

We began chapter 9 as well. This chapter has lots of graphing! We began with graphing reflections of polygons and equations. We then moved on to graphing translations of polygons and equations and we most recently were working on graphing rotations of varying degrees.

Homework continues to play a very significant role in class. I truly appreciate all of their hard work. They are a pleasure to teach.

#### **Mr. Clapp** **Grade 5 Science**

With the Science Fair coming up in May I am really looking forward to seeing what experiments my students have on display.

The fifth graders have switched from Space Science to Earth Science. We are now looking at what makes up most of our natural world all around us. Our first topic was minerals and with that, we started to look at the different properties of minerals and identifying minerals

based on their characteristics. After this we are going to look at the different types of rocks and the minerals that make up all of the rocks we see everyday.

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

During the fourth marking period, sixth grade students enjoyed reading the suspenseful and engaging novel The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi. This story tells of a young girl's struggles (including being accused and found guilty of murder) which begin when she boards a brig called the Seahawk. As the only passenger, and only girl, on a voyage across the Atlantic during the early 1800s, Charlotte finds herself questioning all that she has learned in her short life in regard to class, race, and gender.

In language arts, students studied lessons on modifiers and combining sentences. Both skills enrich their writing and will be helpful in writing an epilogue to The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle. The sixth graders also polished their skills while writing a three-paragraph essay, describing in detail a city scene or beachscape.

#### **Mrs. Daly/Mrs. Carroll** **Grade 6 Reading**

The classes are continuing to read to gain critical information from the series of fiction and nonfiction essays and short stories in the Heroes and Eureka books. The students reviewed vocabulary in context, summarize the main topic and complete critical thinking exercises. We also continue to read The Storyworks, a Scholastic magazine, which provides the students with stories to demonstrate their reading skills.

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

##### Math 6

During this marking period the students extended their understanding about rate to situations with changing rates. They also learned about speed as a special case of rate and they focused on constant-speed situations. Sometimes they had to interchange the quantities, such as hours to minutes, minutes to seconds, meters to kilometers, etc in a rate relationship before they began to solve the problem. Many of the problems were complex and multi-step. The most complex cases involved two people who did not both start and end together. They needed to find the time difference, the distance, and the average speed.

### Math 7

Because algebra is rooted in arithmetic we began this marking period by continuing to focus on multiplication and division and encountering some of the fundamental properties of real numbers that are central to both arithmetic and algebra. We used these properties to simplify expressions by combining like terms. We wrapped up the chapter by identifying and using inductive and deductive reasoning and if-then statements.

Chapter 3 began our study of linear equations starting with simple one-step equations to multiple step equations to solving equations with variable on both sides.

### Algebra I

During this marking period students learned to write, solve, and graph linear inequalities in one variable. They also solved compound inequalities; absolute value equations and inequalities. They also graphed linear inequalities in two variables. In Chapter 7, we moved into systems of two linear equations and students learned to solve these systems by graphing, substitution, and linear combinations. We have just moved into the special types of linear systems which may have no solutions or infinitely many solutions. Soon, we will be studying linear inequalities and their solutions.

### Math-A-Thon

Participating students are now working on their St. Jude Math-A-Thon booklets or CDs to help raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

All donations must be returned by Friday, March 27. Please convert all cash to check or money order made payable to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

All participating students will be entitled to a dress down day in the spring as well as prizes based on their donation.

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

The sixth grade class just finished a unit discovering patterns of heredity and how inherited changes can influence evolutionary trends. Both simple and Mendelian heredity patterns of multiple alleles and polygenic inheritance were explained. We investigated evidence for evolution by looking at fossils, embryology, and DNA relationships.

You can see our fossils on display in Room 16 in the Soler Science Center. The seventh grade continues its study of physical science by studying electricity. Electricity not only provides us with light, but also heat, refrigeration, and power to run countless electrical devices we use everyday. Where does electricity come from? How does it get to our homes, schools, and offices? And how can you control it by flicking a switch or pushing a button? We learned the answers to these questions.

We used our kits to build series and parallel circuits.

### **Sra Dotto – Upper School Spanish**

#### Grade 6

In the sixth grade, after a comprehensive review we covered definite articles, the four forms of you, plurals and sentences in negative form. We are in the process of learning the conjugation of over 20 regular –ar verbs in the present tense and all singular and plural subject pronouns. To reinforce this material we have used PowerPoint presentations, videos, songs, verbal drills, and the site "quizlet" for visual and auditory processing.

#### Grade 7

In seventh grade, we have spent a few weeks re-examining material covered last year including indirect object pronouns, the verbs *gustar* (to like), *ser* (to be) and over 20 -ar regular verbs. Currently, we are working with over 15 –er regular verbs, the conjugation of 2 stem-changing verbs and Chapter 3 section A. In this Chapter, the students are acquiring a lot of vocabulary and expressions that have to do with every day activities. All this material is reinforced with PowerPoint presentations, classroom interaction, videos and by logging on the site "quizlet" for visual and auditory processing.

#### Grade 8

In eighth grade, the students have continued covering formation of sentences in the negative form, working with a good amount of prepositions, mastered the past tense of over 50 regular verbs plus the preterit of the irregular verbs *hacer*, *ir*, *ser*, *estar* and *tener*. At the present time, we are working on the preterit of other verbs like *dormir*, *traer*, *querer*, *poder*, *decir* etc. All this material has been reinforced with power point presentations, videos, audio CD's, classroom interaction and by logging in to my sites Weebly and Quizlet for visual and auditory practice.

### **Mrs. Koar/Mrs. Vacca Grades 6 & 7 Technology**

Students will be spending the next few weeks creating and designing their own board game to demonstrate their learning about the topic of immigration, past, present and future. Students will research, develop and construct a game about a topic of their choice. Construction of a board game is another way for students to display their knowledge and one that allows for collaboration with other students in a meaningful learning experience.

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

In Language Arts, we continue to move at a steady pace in our Vocabulary Workshop texts as we increase our vocabulary and strengthen our test taking skills. In grammar, we have begun a unit on Capitalization and Punctuation which will be extremely beneficial for our standardized tests in the spring. In Literature, we have just completed our unit on William Shakespeare, the Globe Theatre, and A Midsummer Night's Dream with a reading of both the prose version and a modified play version for which we assigned parts and practiced reading Shakespeare. Our next unit focuses on the theme of discrimination and emphasizes the importance of equality in education. In the Newbery Award winning novel Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor, we will explore school segregation in Mississippi in the 1930's. In addition we will highlight the critical thinking skills of classification, fact and opinion, and analyzing word definitions. We will conclude by comparing and contrasting the novel with the film.

### **Mrs. Grier Grade 7 Critical Reading**

Our seventh grade students have been actively involved with the novel, The Prince and the Pauper, by Mark Twain. Through group discussions and bringing chapter summaries to the surface, this special group of students pieced together this interesting novel about royal privilege and the reality of poverty. The students had comprehension questions and a final test to see how much information was retained in their brain.



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

The seventh grade has been hard at work learning about our U.S. Constitution. We have been analyzing every aspect of this "living document." Students are looking forward to learning and debating Supreme Court cases that changed our country forever.

The eighth grade has spent the last marking period learning about the Great Depression. Students have truly been engaged in this topic because some of their grandparents experienced this period of history firsthand. We look forward to learning all about World War II.

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

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

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



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

Our first small project had students trying to decide whether it is easier to steal second base or third base. We used the Pythagorean Theorem and distance formula to calculate how much time runners have to steal based on the speed of the catcher.

Next we went to the internet (and used our BYOD) to investigate the calories and nutrition of a McDonald's Big Mac. We then used a fitness calculator on WebMD to see how long one would have to exercise in order to burn off that fast food.

We are beginning March Madness for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade this upcoming marking period as we enter into our college basketball project. We are investigating the mathematics behind the process of a tournament and will get to make our picks for the NCAA men's basketball tournament. We will use this 64 team tournament to answer some questions on probability and statistics.

All classes have been completing some challenging warm-up problems. I commend their persistence!

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

In eighth grade Language Arts, students have continued their study of vocabulary, while concluding the Grammar unit: *Mechanics*. In addition, students continued working on their research project. During the fifth marking period, students will continue with the research project, vocabulary lessons, and grammar lessons.

In Literature, students explored Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*. Students examined various literary techniques, such as foreshadowing, dramatic irony, and motifs. In addition, students analyzed the text, and explored the plot. Students are really enjoying the play! During the fifth marking period, students will conclude *Romeo and Juliet*.

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

The classes are continuing to practice reading skills in many ways. The students are reading the newspapers and summarizing stories each week. The Signature Reading program helps students isolate critical skills development while offering great nonfiction stories to absorb. The Success series focuses on nonfiction stories of survival against all odds. The classes are

continuing to study vocabulary, as well. Students are focusing on world events as we follow stories in Junior Scholastic each week. Topics have included investigative reporting and voting rights.

**Mr. Clapp**  
**Grade 8 Science**

With the Science Fair coming up in May I am really looking forward to seeing what experiments my students have on display.

The eighth graders have switched from earth Science to the Human Body. We started by looking at the skeletal system and will move into the muscular system next. In order to better learn the skeletal system my students traced their classmates on plastic tarp and then drew in a labeled skeleton inside the trace. They are now hanging up in the science hallway and they can see them when they walk by everyday!

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

During the fourth marking period we completed our work on systems and have also finished the chapter on exponents and radicals. We will soon start working with factoring as we head into the home stretch of our work.

It looks like we will have time to do some 3D algebra, complex numbers and trig. We were also able to get through some of the topics in sequences and series.

**Mme Simon**  
**Upper School French**

In the fifth grade, the first marking period started really well. We started by reviewing the ER verbs and their conjugations. Then we proceeded to learn questions words to put these verbs in context. The Educreation videos and Quizlet help in the learning process. Our next step was to study personal questions and the students presented in front of the class. The students have excellent accents and are learning very quickly.

We are now studying vocabulary from the textbook "Bon Voyage" and learning the verb To Be. In the meantime, we are writing a letter to our Pen-pal Constance who lives in Brittany, France. We will on occasion play with Kahoot which is a fascinating game. I create these games and bring iPads to the classroom and the students are really engaged. It is so much fun! Please remember to check my WEEBLY website where the material is posted on a

regular basis. **BON TRAVAIL !**

With the seventh grade, we started to review material learned in the 6th grade. We started to review ER verbs and question words, studied the food theme and irregular verbs. We have Fun Friday to learn the material in a very fun way. Students bring their own devices or I bring a few iPads to the classroom to play Kahoot games, Socrative or Smart Board games which are very engaging. I usually change the type of material on a weekly basis in order to appeal to every type of learner. We study vocabulary, grammar, study French cultural information or perform skits. The students have excellent pronunciation. Remember to check my WEEBLY website where the material is posted on a regular basis. Please save the date for our "Francophonie" celebration on April 16th. Francophonie relates to speakers of French and everything that has to do with the French culture. The most exciting thing about this event is the food tasting of traditional foods that I will make. The students also offered to bring in dishes. **EXCELLENT TRAVAIL !**

With the eighth grade, we learned RE verbs, the future tense and a text regarding French students who went on a trip to the United States and their impressions. Then, we did a cultural project on Aminata from Senegal and learned about her life and the students wrote dialogs between Aminata and her friend about the experience. The students performed their dialog in front of the class with excellent accents. The students are mastering an extensive level of vocabulary. The next topic that we are learning is the past tense which is not an easy tense. The students understand the concept and are learning really fast. Please remember to check my WEEBLY website where the material is posted on a regular basis.

Please save the date for our "Francophonie" celebration on April 16th. Francophonie relates to speakers of French and everything that has to do with the French culture. The most exciting thing about this event is the food tasting of dishes that we will make. Students also offered to bring in dishes. **BON TRAVAIL !**

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

Spring Swim Classes have started! All upper school students will have one swim class per week. The schedules have been posted and the students have been told numerous times. Swimming is an excellent full body workout.

The 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades are back in the gym after a marking period of Health Education. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades have completed a PE unit on Basketball. We will now start doing President's Physical Fitness testing for the second time to see if fitness scores have improved. We will start a unit of Volleyball until we can get outside for gym classes. The 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grades will also play the usual FUN gym games; Prison Ball, etc.....

### **Mrs. Griller/Computer**

As students transition between Art and Computers, we have a new set of students learning the same great computer skills that those who took computers in the first half of the year learned.

All grades have participated in the Hour of Code and have earned certificates from Code.org. This lesson exposed students in the lower school to drag and drop programming and the students in the upper school were exposed to Python coding.

The first graders have been working on their eye hand coordination and building dexterity, while making beautiful pictures in Kidpix.

The second grade classes have been learning about computer hardware and how they are used. They also have been working on some fun Internet sites for kids.

Third graders began learning about how to hold their hands when typing and what fingers should be used when typing certain letters. They also created a Venn diagram about books that they read using Kidspiration.

Fourth grade students have been working on slides of a PowerPoint Presentation and their typing skills.

In fifth grade they began working in Microsoft Word. They created an acrostic poem and wrote a friendly letter to someone they haven't seen in a while.

The sixth grade classes learned the basic features and terminology of Microsoft Excel. They put together a spreadsheet with the count of beads in 10 bags and then created a chart depicting that count.

While learning about the features of Microsoft Publisher the seventh graders created brochures. They provided information about a black historian in honor of black history month.

In eighth grade the students completed their resume and evaluated websites on the Internet.

### **Miss DiMaggio/Art**

First grade used watercolor to create a Y tree. They learned about symmetry and created a symmetrically beaded necklace. They also learned how to draw self portraits and they drew themselves now and what they expect they might look like in 50 years.

Second grade worked together to make a large replica of Eric Carle's famous book characters.

Third grade used the basics of color theory and followed the color wheel to make an abstract drawing using colors in the project called "color collision." They used model magic to make coil pots. For the first time we attempted a large scale group weaving project on the wall in the hallway. It came out better than I expected and the colors follow the order of the color wheel!

Fourth grade worked in groups to create wooden sculptures based on artist Louise Nevelson and Pablo Picasso.

Fifth grade made creative color wheels while learning about the Elements of Art. They studied artist Wassily Kandinsky and created a Non- Objective drawing using sharpie and watercolor.

Sixth grade learned how to draw using perspective and drew buildings in one point perspective. They are currently working on their Henri Rousseau inspired Jungles.

Seventh grade studied artist Georges Seurat and used tiny dots of paint to make a picture using the pointillism technique.

Eighth grade used pastels to make their name in a graffiti style after learning about American artist Keith Haring. They are currently drawing a picture using tiny words and no lines called micro-calligraphy.

Any students currently in computers that are interested in participating in this year's Monmouth Day Care Centers Art Journal please come see Miss DiMaggio for information. All drawings are due before spring vacation.

## Mrs. Tyma/Music

In February, our music making turned to melodious thoughts of love for our families and friends. Our songs of love were vehicles for learning to read solfege (*do, re, mi*, etc.) on the grand staff. While first graders had their first experience with reading three notes, *mi, sol* and *la*, the second graders reviewed the same three notes and added *do* and *re*. Soon we'll be creating our own melodies with these tones. In kindergarten, we enjoyed singing and playing the glockenspiel melody instruments as we learned about melodies that go up and down the scale. Valentine dances and dramatizations rounded out the holiday celebration. In addition to the Valentine songs, the second graders celebrated African American History Month by reading about Rosa Parks and learning a civil rights song that was written in her honor.

Third grade classes are creating melodic improvisations based on a song about Martin Luther King, Jr. (as reported in the last Newsletter). Also, we are piping away on recorders. We've listened to recorder consort music of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and will be looking at the four different sizes (voices) of recorders used in the consort. While becoming proficient on our first three notes, we are exploring many styles of music (jazz, tango, waltz, folk) as well as working on our music reading skills. In addition, we will be learning about the woodwind family of orchestral instruments in the coming weeks.

In fourth grade we have learned additional notes on recorder so that we could sing, play and dance a song about the winter snows. We continue to work on choral singing with a song based on the ragtime music of Scott Joplin. Our work on the song *Follow the Drinking Gourd* about the Underground Railroad (as discussed in the previous newsletter) has the most complicated barred instrument accompaniment we've tackled so far this year with six independent rhythmic and melodic parts. We'll be listening to several versions of this song performed by folk musicians to discover how a folksong changes as it is passed down through the years.

It is a pleasure to begin working with the seventh and eighth grade classes again. We are reviewing the elements of music (melody, harmony, form, rhythm, timbre, dynamics and tempo) through drumming exercises and compositions for barred instruments. The seventh graders are working on compositions by Carl Orff that explore meter (simple and compound) and tonalities (major, minor and modal).

In addition, we have just started a study of Indonesian Gamelan music in which we are able to compare tonalities of this style of world music with tonalities with which we are most familiar. The eighth graders are being challenged by African drum and mallet compositions that are polyrhythmic (triple and duple meter combined) and syncopated. In addition we are listening to recordings of African master drummers, mbira and marimba players and vocalists. This study of African music, with its complex rhythms, is a prelude to our unit on Jazz, and in particular, the Blues.

March will bring a St. Patrick's Day celebration in all the classes with lots of jigs and reels, pipes and drums.

Congratulations to the Oak Hill Players, Music Makers and Chorus for their excellent performances at the Awards Assembly in February! The Players performed for the Open House in which they were outstanding ambassadors of the school. The Chorus performed for the Parent Organization meeting on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Mrs. DeVivo/ Drama

Over the past few weeks, Kindergarten has enjoyed re-enacting several popular stories such as *"The Three Billy Goats Gruff," "The Three Little Pigs," "The Little Engine that Could," Little Red Riding Hood," "Goldilocks and the Three Bears,"* and **SO** many others. The students have also been very creative in acting out their own unique alternate endings to these stories.

First grade had a great time making Paper Bag puppets. They created so many wonderful characters such as rabbits, puppy dogs, Minions and Lego men! Once their puppets were complete, the students brought them to life in entertaining puppet shows!

Second grade also made puppets this marking period. They made paper tube puppets. Their creations and shows were fun and unique. Some puppets that came to the puppet stage were rock stars, vampires, famous sports players, princesses and pigs.

The third graders read a Reader's Theatre script entitled *"LIVE: It's Fairy Tale New."* Then, working in groups, they created fairy tale commercials. Some products up for sale in these commercials were "Ogre Odor Deodorant" to help Shrek smell better, "The Aladdin Hotel and Spa" for tired princesses, and "Fairy Frappacinos" that give fairies everywhere a little pick me up

when they are feeling tired. There were so many wonderful creations! The students wrote the commercial script using persuasive writing, made the prop/product and then presented their commercial in front of the class. We videotaped the performances so that 3A and 3P could see each other's terrific work.

The fourth grade has been introduced to the world of improvisation. They have enjoyed playing improv games like "Press Conference," "Improv Ball Toss," and "Improv Freeze Tag." They also began rehearsing "The Hidden One," a native tale from the Mi'kmaq tribe of Canada. This ties in nicely with Mrs. Vacca's Ho-Ho curriculum.

The fifth and sixth grades entered drama in the early part of the year. They spent the first part of the marking period brushing up on improvisation and story building skills by playing a variety of improv games and acting out various improv scenarios. The students also learned about monologues and had to perform an original, personal monologue in front of the class. Some students talked about vacations, family members, funny memories and pets just to name a few. They were a great way to break the ice and for everyone to get to know each other better and feel more comfortable around one another.

Finally, **"A Midsummer Night's Dream"** practices have been going very well. Rehearsals are now being held in the SAC. All lines should be memorized by now. Students should start bringing in props and costumes to work with ASAP. If you are running late you can find your child in after care located in the Tech Center. Mrs. Alexander is working with students in grades 5-8 to help out with lighting and sound crew. Mandatory rehearsal dates are March 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The performance is right around the corner, **Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>!!!!**



**Mrs. Vacca/Mr. Goldfarb  
Student Council**

“**Movie Day**” for the 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade students took place on Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> in the S.A.C. An afternoon of a good movie, Mrs. Doubtfire, and food and drinks was a fun time for all.

This month’s dress down day was for the **March of Dimes**, held on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. We asked that all students wear **GREEN**. We were able to send a check for \$300.00 and additional checks of \$75.00, totaling \$375.00. I want to thank everyone for their generous donations to such a worthy organization for children.

An additional dress down day for March will be held on Tuesday, the 24<sup>th</sup>. This will be for Poricy Park and Mater Dei. More information will be coming home with regards to both of these facilities.

The final 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance for this school year will be held on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> so please mark your calendars. The **Spring Fling** will be held in the gym from 7:30-10 pm. The admission fee is \$5 and pizza/beverages will be served. Returning DJ Rob will be helping us dance the night away.

I want to thank everyone for their donation to the American Heart Association. We were able to send a total monetary donation of \$750.92 to such a worthy organization.

**Just a friendly reminder:** All Dress Down Days for the entire school are \$1.00 whether it is for a specific organization or for OHA. The money collected for an unspecified organization helps pay for Littleton Day rides, movie day, dances and year-end gifts to the school. Please remember to bring your dollar when you dress down. THANK YOU!

**Directory Changes**

Phone Number Change

Anthony Matejicka – 4T  
Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Matejicka  
732-780-3218

Address Change

Doug Cannon – 5 – Room 4  
Kim Cannon – 5 – Room 10  
Mr. Andrew Stellwagon  
443 Baist Drive  
Sayreville, NJ 08872

**ATHLETICS**

**Boy’s Varsity Basketball**

Mr. Bruckmann’s and Mr. Misson’s team finished with a very impressive 13-4 record! The team had impressive wins over St. Leo’s, Oceanport, Rumson Country Day (twice), Cedar Drive, Tinton Falls, Fair Haven, Eisenhower, Markham Place, and Barkalow! The team was entered into the Run for the Roses Tournament, but ended up losing to Eatontown. OHA had beaten Eatontown earlier in the season. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders led the team, however, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders gained experience this year that will help the team next year! The team, along with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girl’s basketball team members, had defeated the faculty on March 10<sup>th</sup>! Thanks to Mrs. Wright and Mr. Braunstein for coaching that day! We will be missing the following 8<sup>th</sup> graders: Stephen Braunstein, Lucas Bruckmann, Adam Demurjian, Declan Grigg, Brendan Hansen, Andrew Mattina, Bobby Mulligan, Tim Murray, Ajay Sandhu, and MJ Wright.

**Girl’s Varsity Basketball**

Mrs. Porzio’s team finished with a solid 5-4 record! The team had signature wins over Eatontown, Rumson Country Day, Bradley Beach and Belmar! The girls had played very well as a team all year. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders were the leaders of the team and set the example for the 7<sup>th</sup> graders who also contributed to the team’s success! The following 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be missed: Nicole Burgo and Catherine Stolbof. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls played with the Boy’s Varsity team on March 13<sup>th</sup> in the student/faculty game. They defeated the faculty!

**Girl’s JV Basketball**

Mrs. Scheuer and her players did a great job during the JV Basketball season! Playing a shortened schedule, the team improved with each game! These girls received valuable experience to eventually help the varsity team in years to come!

**Boy’s JV Basketball**

Mr. Rosenfeld’s team finished the season with a 4-1 record. The team played very well all season and had big wins over Rumson Country Day and Ranney. Our 6<sup>th</sup> graders that will be moving up to Varsity will certainly help the team next year. Each player gained valuable experience and will also help strengthen our program.

**Swim Team**

Mrs. Bordiuk and Mr. Goldfarb were very pleased with a 3-3 team record!! The team had shown improvement shown during the season. The team defeated Eilzabeth, Pennington and Wilbur Cross.

Although the team had more depth this year, there were a number of outstanding individual performances! The team also had a great showing in the Ranney Invitational! There were a number of 8<sup>th</sup> graders who anchored the team and some younger students who swam very well. As the season progressed, you could see the improvement of all of their times. Medal winners at the Ranney Invitational were: (Individuals) Mary Mahoney (1st, two 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place), Kelsey Stout (three 3<sup>rd</sup> places and one 2<sup>nd</sup> place), Bella Ybarra (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>), Kristina Nappi (three 2<sup>nd</sup> places, and a 3<sup>rd</sup>) and Elizabeth Wright (two 2<sup>nd</sup> places). **Special congratulations goes to 8<sup>th</sup> grader Mary Mahoney who broke two school records in the 50 meter Butterfly and 100 meter Freestyle!** The following 8<sup>th</sup> graders were the leaders of the team and will be greatly missed: Mary Mahoney, Michael Marchese, Kristina Nappi, Kelsey Stout and Bella Ybarra.

**Cheerleading/The Mighty Oak**

A large group of dedicated girls, led by Mrs. Wood, were at all of the home basketball games. Also, our Mustang Mascot (8<sup>th</sup> grader Zach Basile), the “*Mighty Oak*,” helped the cheerleaders and got the crowd into the games!! These cheerleaders were enthusiastic and provided excitement each afternoon! They also choreographed a great halftime dance! The following 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be missed: Zach Basile, Kaila Domanski and Taylor Notaro.

**Scorekeepers**

The winter sports season could not happen without the dedication from our scorekeepers. Each student who is interested in learning how to keep score for the basketball games must come to a number of training sessions. Many of the officials compliment our scorekeepers for their knowledge, dedication and professionalism! Other schools choose to have teachers run their clocks and keep score. We have always given our students that responsibility! Thank you to: Myles Gorski, Kyle Harris, Erin Gilfillan, Trey Tambouri, Michael Favilla and Christopher Misson.

**SPRING ATHLETICS**

The winter is just about over and the spring season is almost here! Mr. Bruckmann and Mr. Rosenfeld will be starting with the Boy’s Baseball (gr. 6-8) team as of March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mrs. Porzio’s Softball (gr. 5-8) team will be starting as of the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup> and Miss Murray’s Tennis (gr. 5-8) will be starting the week of April 13<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Gilfillan’s and Mrs. Scheuer’s spring Cross Country training will start in April.

