

Oak Hill Academy Newsletter #5 May 2015



Headmaster's Message Joseph A. Pacelli

The Third of the 3 E's

The Oak Hill "Experience" is special in that it is a blend of an atmosphere which is challenging, supportive and joyful. Each day our children come together to share their ideas and do work of importance. With this comes a great deal of satisfaction and knowledge building. Our school provides our students with an exposure across many disciplines. They experience areas where they build academic skills and other places where they take these skills and get involved in hands-on activities. At the heart of the Oak Hill day is exposure to reading, writing and computational topics which provides the student with the tools to use their creativity and problem solving ability.

Our small classes allow our children to be active participants in their own education. The challenges here at OHA permit them to build confidence so that as they move forward they will venture out and find new ways to discover how their knowledge can continue to expand.

The Oak Hill experience continues after school with many activities which enhance our entire program. This all happens in an atmosphere strengthened by a group of talented teachers and supportive parents. All of this happens in a place which respects each other's thoughts and deeds.

Mrs. Larkins
Director of Development

Grandparent/Special Relative Day

Our annual Grandparent/Special Relative Day will be held on Thursday, May 14 (Grades PreK and 5-8) and Friday, May 15 (Grades K-4). Teachers have already started fun activities. In order to accommodate the large number of guests, the program will once again be divided into two days according to grade. Visitors will gather for refreshments in the Scire Student Activities Center at 8:30am and will be treated to a performance by Mrs. Tyma's school chorus and Oak Hill Players. Then they will be welcomed by Mr. Pacelli. Next, they will visit student classrooms at 9:45. All guests are free to visit the Upper School science fair after their classroom visits. Visitors with students in multiple grades are encouraged to change classes during their assigned visit times. Any guest with special parking needs should contact the school office. Umbrellas are recommended in case of inclement weather. An invitation and reply form has been sent home and was also mailed to those grandparents who have previously attended.

New York State of Mind Gala and Cash Raffle

Our "New York State of Mind" fundraiser including the Cash Raffle, Gala and Auction, and Program/Ad Journal turned out to be a stellar event that resulted in **603 raffle tickets being sold**. This relates to \$15,075 raised for educational technology and improvements of our campus. All of the current families, alumni families, and OHA friends who participated in the raffle were an important element to our success.

And the lucky winners were:

1st Prize of \$10,552.50
Mrs. Tara D'Orsi
(OHA student Grant, Gr. 6)

2nd Prize of \$3,015.
Mrs. Jodi Peters
(OHA student Benjamin, Gr. 2)
Prize generously donated back to OHA

3rd Prize of \$1,507.50
Mrs. Tracy Shallcross
(OHA student Caitlin, Gr. 3; Daniel, Gr. 5; and Timothy, Gr. 6)

Incentive Prize
The Moini Family
(OHA students Joshua and Reilly, Gr. 1)

The entire Parent Organization deserves our highest praise and our sincerest thanks for running an outstanding gala and auction. Their tireless work culminated in an evening filled with fabulous prizes, fine dining and dancing, along with many friendly faces.

The Program/Ad Journal was another attractive and high quality booklet this year that grossed nearly \$8,000.

I would like to personally thank **every person who participated** in the raffle, ad journal and gala in any way. Whether you stuffed an envelope, sold a raffle ticket, donated a gift or service, decorated a prize, placed an ad, etc. you helped OHA party in style and pave the way for an even better future for our students!

Miss Murray
Director of Personnel/Administration

Red & White Day

On Saturday, May 2nd, all of our new students were invited to get acquainted with each other. Games were played in the morning and concluded with tasty donuts! Each student received a red or white t-shirt. Our current students volunteered to help out that day. Incoming parents were invited to stay for a coffee hosted by the Parent Organization in the Commons. They were able to meet new parents, as well as, current parents.

Field Day

On Friday, May 22nd, students in grades K-7 will be having their annual Field Day. Mr. Goldfarb, Mrs. Bordiuk and Mr. Rosenfeld will be sending home details. PreK details will be handled by Mrs. Weikes.

Class Trips

The Upper School has been on some fascinating trips, with still some more to come!

Grade 5

10/6 Tuckerton Seaport
5/5 Liberty Science Center

Grade 6

10/30 IPS Games at Arrowhead
5/12 UPenn Museum
5/19 Franklin Institute

Grade 7

10/21 Low Ropes/Climbing Wall at Arrowhead
3/16 Shakespeare from Drew University @OHA
5/12 Ellis Island
5/28 Sandy Hook

Grade 8

9/17 Canoe in Pine Barrens
4/28 Sterling Hill Mine,
Ogdensburg, NJ
5/27 Amish Country, Lancaster, PA

Mr. Bruckmann Communications Administrator

2015 Oak Hill Academy Summer Programs

The 2015 Oak Hill Academy Summer Programs are on-line. The [summer program brochure](#) lists all of the programs. Check out the [Summer Programs page](#) for more information regarding individual programs.
<http://www.oakhillacademy.com/summer-programs>

OakHillAcademy.com Updates

1. OakHillAcademy.com has gone Mobile Friendly. ~Check out our newly updated Mobile Device Friendly Website!

2. Oak Hill Academy on FACEBOOK and Google+!!

Check it out for updates, photos, videos and more . . .

"Like" us at: [Oak Hill Academy on Facebook](#) or see the link at the top of our website.

Add us to your [Circles on Google+](#) or see the link at the top our website.

3. See the "[Experiences](#)" link for recent videos, picture montages and more.

Mrs. Livingston Lower School Guidance

During the month of May, I will visit the classrooms and share the following with the children.

Gr. 1 - I will continue 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. These qualities include sharing, acceptance, kindness, joyfulness, politeness, cooperation, respect, and trust. We discussed that we must be kind to ourselves in order to extend these feelings to others.

Gr. 2 - From Sippi the Canine with Character, I will share "Sippi Learns the Meaning of Respect". In this story Rudy the Rat, Sippi's classmate, was disrespectful to his classmates. Rudy calls people names, gossips, interrupts, and takes things that belong to others. This makes Sippi angry. Mrs. Goff, Sippi's teacher suggests that Sippi respectfully sits down with Rudy and explain how Rudy's behaviors bother

him. She encouraged Sippi and his classmates to be good role models and treat Rudy with respect so that, hopefully, Rudy would then treat them with respect. We learned from this story that we must treat others with respect if we expect them to respect us.

Gr. 3 - From Friendship Fables, I narrated as some of the children took parts in the fable, "Be-Good Bee and Monkey-Around Monkey Fix Their Friendship". In this fable, Be-Good Bee needed some help in dealing with angry feelings toward Monkey-Around Monkey. Be-Good Bee could always use his stinger to get back at Monkey, but that would not be the way to solve the problem. Bee tried counting to 10 and flying away, but it didn't seem to calm him down. Lastly, he turned to his dad for advice. Dad suggested that he and Monkey talk about their problem. This way, they should be able to come to a solution that is good for both of them.

Gr. 4 - Our folk tale this month from Rhinos and Raspberries is "The Emerald Lizard". This is a Guatemalan tale of helping others. This is the story of a priest who helps a poor man who cannot afford medicine for his sick wife. Many years later the man returns to the priest to return the gift to him. We will discuss the kinds of things that enrich our lives other than money or expensive material goods.

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

Spring has reluctantly arrived at Oak Hill Academy, along with some sunny but chilly weather. Pre-K students are finally enjoying playing outdoors and exploring our beautiful campus. The arrival of spring provides students with the opportunity to enjoy exciting lessons and activities about insects, life-cycles, and baby animals. Our classroom habitat of butterfly larvae has arrived and in about one week will emerge from their chrysalis to be released a few days later. The large terrarium, in the main office, houses our hermit crabs and offers students many opportunities to observe living things. On May 11th, the chick eggs will arrive and our Pre-K will become official "chicken tenders."

Once the eggs are placed in the incubator, students will take turns caring for them.

After they hatch, the small chicks are placed in the brooder. Developing an understanding of what all living things

need to grow and thrive is a big part of our Pre-K curriculum.

Students are busy completing "top secret" projects for May Day, Mother's Day, and Grandparents Day. Pre-K will play host to their Moms' in early May when they plant flowers around the perimeter of the Center and enjoy an outdoor picnic complete with a tribute to our wonderful moms. After attending this year's Kindergarten May Day performance, Pre-K students will deliver their handmade May Day baskets to faculty and staff across the campus.

Our school wide character trait for April was "cooperation." Examples of this have been strong in the classroom, while working with classmates, teachers, and playing outdoors. The "Q and U" Hawaiian themed wedding and spring serenade is planned for May 4th and will take place in the Scire Activity Center. Q and U are eagerly awaiting their wedding day. The happy couple met in Hawaii while touring a quaint pineapple plantation.

The Letter People continue to excite and motivate students to master their consonants and vowels. Mr. Q has unending questions, Ms. U has an upside down umbrella and Mr. L has the longest laugh. Our year-end review of the alphabet will include a Letter People parade. Students and teachers dress as their favorite Letter People character.

Singapore Math lessons during April included graphing the weather, measurement, daily calendar activities, coins, geometric shapes and the recognition of numbers and objects 1 through 10. Our classroom iPads provide students with additional reinforcement and practice following the introduction of every new lesson. Individual assessments, group lessons, and one on one meetings with the teacher, confirms that our Pre-K students have become more confident and better problem solvers since adopting the Singapore Math program.

The school year is beginning to wind down, however things in the Pre-K are still going strong. Just like spring, our Pre-K students continue to blossom. Their social, emotional and academic growth has been amazing.

We are looking forward to several upcoming events in May and June; our annual OHA Pre-K Family Day at the beach and the eagerly awaited "Doughnuts for Dads" celebration.

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

Spring is here!! The Kindergarten students have been enjoying this beautiful weather and are happy to finally be out for recess! Each month we take a picture in front of the same tree and we have been observing the changes in our environment. The biggest change has been how tall we all have gotten this year. This year has flown by!

The Kindergarten rocked the house with their lip sync performance this past February. We'd like to thank all of the moms who volunteered to put the performance together. Way to go!

Kindergarten had the opportunity to experience their first Littletown Day! We were so proud of how well they all cooperated in bringing it all together. What a great life skill they learned in earning their tiny bucks and then getting to spend it. And all the while, they learned so much about Canada. Thank you Mrs. Vacca for another wonderful Littletown Day!

Our trip to Huber Woods was very educational. We were able to see a variety of snakes and learn the differences between them. A few of us were even brave enough to touch them. We also met a turtle and some interesting bugs. We encourage all OHA families to take advantage of the wonderful park system we have in Monmouth County. We learned so much!

We would like to thank the class moms for throwing us a wonderful spring party. The children had so much fun trying to find all of the eggs during the egg hunt. A few were even found the next day!

We continue to meet new Letter People. We now have all five vowels to help us make even more words. The students are doing a great job applying those sounds into their stories which we will see published in the upcoming Reflections. We hope you get a chance to read their terrific stories!

In Math we are working on our addition and subtraction skills and have started identifying coins with the children. We encourage parents to let the children explore and count coins at home.

On May 1st we invited the entire school, along with our parents, to watch us perform our Maypole dance. They practiced for many hours and we are so proud of them. It is a performance we

look forward to every year! Way to go Kindergarten!

We haven't wasted any time getting ready for our next big performance. On May 8th we will honor our Mother's with a Mother's Day Tea and spring play. We look forward to spending a beautiful day with them!

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

Our Singapore Math curriculum continues to be both challenging and exciting. We have learned to use number bonds when adding and subtracting a two-digit number and a one digit number with and without renaming. We have started learning multiplication by learning to recognize equal groups and using mathematical language such as "4 threes" and "2 groups of 7" to describe equal groups. We are practicing writing number sentences for given situations involving multiplication. We work out multiplication facts by repeated addition and we will be using rectangular arrays to illustrate the multiplication facts.

Each child has had many chances to be class STUDENT OF THE DAY for our daily MATH MEETING. This involves life skills such as writing the date, including the digital way, counting money, using tally marks, telling time, charting the weather, and reading the outdoor temperature on the thermometer.

Many thanks go to our Moms and Dads who came in to read stories to us for SHARE A STORY. We heard some wonderful and interesting stories. It is always a happy and a PROUD moment to have a parent come into the classroom. xoxoxo

As we are winding down the school year, we see such progress and maturity in our students!! All their hard work and effort are a credit to our wonderful families for supporting homework, programs, clubs and overall good standards!!!!

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

With the arrival of spring, finally after our very long winter, there has been a flurry of activity in second grade. We have spent a great deal of time working hard to prepare for and then finally taking the ERB tests. We are so proud of the wonderful effort that the children have demonstrated while taking the tests.

Our writing skills have been in full bloom this season. We have been busy sprouting poetry and writing stories about

spring. The children have shown much improvement in their writing skills.

In Singapore math our second graders are excited about many new concepts such as mental addition and subtraction of numbers to one hundred, arrays, and the multiplication and division facts for the 3 and 4 tables. In the future units we will be counting and writing money amounts to \$20 and reading, comparing and ordering fractions. Please continue to practice the facts daily, especially the subtraction, multiplication, and division facts.

We look forward to Grandparents, Special Relatives and Friends Day so that we may invite everyone into our classrooms to share special activities, stories, and poems with them. It will be a fun and memorable day for all!

We wish all of our families a wonderful spring!

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

Spring is in full bloom and as our school year begins to wind down, we look back to the start of the school year and are so proud of how far the third grade class has come. We would also like to say job well done to the third grade class for all of the hard work that they put into the ERBs. The tests can be very challenging, and your effort did not go unnoticed. Although the end of the year is quickly approaching, we still have plenty of exciting plans in store for third grade.

In Reading we will begin our new unit called "Challenges." The students will be reading stories about characters that face different problems and have to figure out solutions to these obstacles. The students will be reviewing sequence of events, cause and effect, making predictions, and summarizing a story.

In Math we will be continuing our study of measurement as well beginning to learn about fractions. The students will be learning about kilograms and grams, liters and milliliters, and how to make conversions. The students will be learning how to recognize, name, and compare fractions. We will also cover adding and subtracting fractions.

In Social Studies, we are completing the reading of Samantha Learns a Lesson. The students are learning about life and school in 1904. There were many inventions during that time period. Students will be researching old inventions to create a timeline. At home they will be researching the invention that

they consider to be the most important in our time.

In Novel Studies we have just finished the story Sarah Plain and Tall where students learned about life on the plains. The children in the story lost their mother at a young age, so we discussed what it would be like to grow up without a mother and what qualities we thought were important in a good mother. Up next on our reading list is the story Emily's Fortune. Remember to look out for news on the Oak Hill Wax Museum!

Mrs. Roehrig/Mrs. Tolleth Grade 4

In Language Arts, students are working on compare and contrast essays. Presently they are comparing and contrasting Ben Franklin and Thomas Edison using stories from our Reading series and additional information.

In English, we are working on our pronoun unit. We are learning when and how to use subject pronouns, object pronouns, and possessive pronouns. Our latest poetry form involved praises to our friends in the form of an Ode. We used the literary technique of metaphor to describe and pay tribute to a personal friend. We are looking forward to compiling all of our poetry into our own poetry books.

In Reading, we are delving into past explorations and undersea adventures discovering wonders in our oceans. We have read a play, part of a beloved novel, and now we are reading realistic fiction about a collage artist in NYC and his young nephew from rural North Carolina. We are working on identifying character traits, summarizing, making judgments and more.

In Social Studies, we have been working on map skills and New Jersey's place on the map. We've compared maps with a scale of five miles to an inch to one with 550 miles to an inch. We know about a map's key. We understand latitude lines and longitude lines and the four hemispheres. We have learned the seven continents and know which one we are part of. We learned a big word "*contiguous*", describing the 48 continental states of the US. We know that Alaska and Hawaii are newer to the USA and apart from the contiguous states. All of this information is important so we know more than our street address. We will know our 'world' address. We are aware that there is a debate in the geographic world as to whether there are four or five oceans. "Five oceans!" some readers are saying.

Some geographers believe that there is a Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica instead of the southern parts of the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

This chapter in our studies also taught us New Jersey's thirteen symbols set by law. Ask a fourth grader what they are. We know the most important symbol is used on all official documents and on our flag – the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey.

Mrs. Bordiuk/Mr. Goldfarb Lower School PE

During the fifth marking period at Oak Hill Academy the lower school Physical Education classes have resumed swim classes once per week. The students are continuing to work on proper breathing and stroke technique. The second round of Presidential Fitness tests have begun. Students are being tested on their strength, flexibility, agility, and endurance. The children will receive their award patches on June 5th at the Lower School Athletic and Field Day Awards Assembly. Field day is Friday May 22, a letter will be going home explaining the specifics. Parents help is greatly appreciated during this event.

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

This year's class concludes with our final destination to the small country of the Netherlands meaning (the low lands) or Holland, bordering the North Sea. Due to its border along the water and many rivers flowing into Holland, 1/4th of this country is below sea level. Students have been watching video clips on the construction of dikes and the uniqueness of the future construction of "Floating Cities. This delta project is of major importance to the survival of this country. Students have also been watching video segments on the WOW of Holland which included tulips, windmills and how they work and the making of those wooden shoes or klompen, clogs. We have also been enjoying the beauty of Delft pottery (those beautiful blue/white designs) along with artwork of Rembrandt and Vincent Van Gogh and his famous Sunflowers!

We have also been talking about the government of Holland and the resigning of Queen Beatrix and the turning over of the crown to her son, who became King Wilhelm Alexander on April 30, 2013. Although the government is run by the Parliament, the King has an active role in ruling his country.

Some projects will include making a miniature windmill, designing colorful clogs and sketches of tulips and sunflowers. Although students can no longer earn "tiny bucks" since Littletown Day is over, they can still bring in items that pertain to Holland if they choose to. Also, please check out the slideshow of Littletown Day on the OHA website under "experiences."

Mrs. Cahalane Lower School Science

PK students completed a unit on magnets. We searched the Science Center for materials containing iron and found out that not all metals are magnetic! Kindergarteners covered a unit on recycling. We made a classroom garbage dump and recycling center. We used a blender to recycle paper and everyone took home a bookmark made out of the paper we recycled. First graders have been learning about sound and light waves. We made kazoo's, sound boxes, and learned about Roy G. Biv Second grade students completed a unit on the food chain that covered producers, consumers, herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores. Everyone took home a food chain created in class. Third graders have been studying genetics. We made aliens out of clay. Their physical characteristics were based on the genes they inherited. We extracted DNA from strawberries and everyone took home a strawberry DNA necklace! 4th graders have been creating a Mars colony. This is a STEAM project where the areas of science, technology, engineering, art, and math are covered to create a model Mars habitat. To see photographs of what we have been doing in science class, please see my teaching blog!

Mme Koar Lower School French

The first grade students enjoy the game "tic tac toe" with numbers in French at the end of each class. We are working toward mastering our numbers from 1-20 and seven colors before the end of the school year.

The second grade students enjoy the song, "Une patate" to practice the parts of the body. They enjoy this song because we dance each time they hear "Qui aiment danser?" (who likes to dance?). Songs and games are the best method for vocabulary acquisition in the lower grades, and they make learning fun.

Students in third grade are making good progress in Spanish. Many students have completed six of the eight units in Spanish 1. Themes include Greeting, Numbers, Family, Adjectives, and Food. We are working toward completing all the thematic units in Spanish 1, semester one before the end of the school year.

Students in fourth grade have completed all of Semester one in Spanish 1 and are working toward finishing Spanish 1 semester two. They are several students have moved into Spanish 2. Spanish 2 includes some basic grammar lessons and spelling. I'm very proud of all the third and fourth grade students for their exceptional effort in Spanish.

Mrs. Scheuer Upper School Guidance

Hope all of our families enjoyed a restful spring vacation. Upon our return to OHA, signs of spring are evident throughout our beautiful campus: lush, green grass, trees and flowers in bloom, birds singing and butterflies fluttering.

One rite of passage ringing in spring at OHA is Kindergarten Maypole. It is a breathtaking performance by some of OHA's youngest students. Special thanks go to upper school students participating in Mrs. Tyma's Maypole chorus. This event is so near and dear to my heart as Kindergarten was my first teaching assignment at OHA.

Bravo to cast and crew participating in the OHA school play, "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The play was written by William Shakespeare and creatively adapted by Mrs. DeVivo. What an amazing performance!

The conclusion of the fifth marking period indicates we are on the cusp of exciting transitions --- our eighth graders preparing for graduation and high school and our fourth graders heading to the Upper School. I am proud to report that the eighth graders are putting the finishing touches on an amazing year, working very hard in the classroom and coordinating exciting trips and memorable events.

Our fifth graders have been outstanding ambassadors to 4th graders visiting in the Upper School. Finally, special thanks go to students and OHAPO members that volunteered their time on Saturday, May 2nd to assist at Red and White Day. We welcomed new students attending OHA next year by getting to know each other with fun and games in the gym. After a photo opportunity, students and teachers enjoyed continental breakfast

together in the Commons. It was another opportunity to demonstrate what makes Oak Hill Academy extraordinary...our students, core values and an amazing home/school connection!

Miss Lee Grade 5 Literature/LA

This past marking period, we finished reading Island of the Blue Dolphins in Literature. Students worked on writing "Where I'm From" and "I am" poems from Karana's point of view. They are currently hanging up on the bulletin board in class. We are currently studying the creative art form of poetry through reading aloud segments from Sharon Creech's book, Love That Dog, as well as other poems from our Literature textbook. This year we are celebrating "Poem in Your Pocket Day," on April 30, by choosing a poem to carry throughout the day and share with each other. Students are also sharing pleasure reading recommendations with one another, which is awesome!

In Language Arts, we have been studying pronouns, writing short stories, and writing "Where I'm From" poems. Everyone's creativity is shining through immensely! Next, we will study adverbs and prepositions, and complete our vocabulary studies for the year in our Vocabulary Workshop books. As always, it is exciting to see vocabulary words pop up in other places outside of class!

In the upcoming weeks, we will start to review and reflect on all of the reading and writing we have done this school year - in preparation for our Big Tests in June. We have had a great year in 5th grade Literature and Language Arts!

Mrs. Matson Grades 5 & 6 Geography

Fifth graders will finish their study of Europe in the last Marking Period. Students have received the map of all of Europe, and should work on mastering it. They may try the website: www.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://www.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 identify all of the countries on the map.

The sixth grade are finishing their study of Asia, and will move on to the Western Hemisphere. They're looking forward to learning how to write their names in Mayan, and exploring the cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean. They

will apply some of their knowledge of the Mayan Culture when they visit the Penn Museum of Archaeology on May 12th.

Students will be responsible for the maps of the countries and land forms of North America. They should also review the maps of the United States and its capitals. The US states and capitals Maps as well as the map of the Countries of North America are all available on www.ilike2learn.com.

Mr. Bruckmann Grades 5 & 6 Math

Grade 5 Math

The last marking period coming to end brought with it a very extensive Unit 7 that focused on Decimals in our second book of the year (5B). Students studied addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of decimals by other decimals as well as multiples of tens, hundreds and thousands. We will be moving on to Unit 8 that reviews concepts learned throughout the year and now integrated them in converting both standard and metric measures as well as finding the volume of rectangular prisms. As we continue to pursue our goal of moving through our program, students will then progress to Unit 9 with percents from fractions and decimals using our understanding of the relationship of decimals and fractions. 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 Math - Glencoe

The sixth grade class opened up the fifth marking period 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. We then quickly moved on to a supplemental unit involving the Pythagorean Theorem, Scientific Notation and Inequalities. From there it will be on to Unit 8 and Volume of Prisms and Cylinders followed by angles. 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>.

Mrs. Cotterell
Grades 5 – 8 Math

Grade 5 – Period 2

We started the marking period by studying 3 dimensional figures. The students learned the names of the various figures as well as how to determine the number of faces, vertices and edges associated with them. In addition, they learned what surface area was and how to find the surface area of a rectangular prism. From there we moved to ratios and rates. The students loved these and enjoyed each of our lessons. I even introduced a little algebra when showing them how to solve a ratio. They did a great job on their quizzes! The last two weeks of the marking period were spent on decimals. The students learned how to read and write them, they learned their place values, they learned how to break them apart and finally, they learned how to compare and order them.

This group continues to work very hard. They are very enthusiastic in class and a pleasure to teach.

Grade 5 – Period 3

We have been moving at a very rapid pace. The students have very strong fundamental skills so we were able to cover multiplying decimals by 10, 100, and 1000, multiplying decimals by two digit whole numbers and multiplying two decimals, dividing decimals by 10, 100 and 1000, dividing decimals by a whole number and dividing decimals by a decimal in no time at all. From there we moved on to finding the volume of rectangular prisms and they also learned their metric conversions. The last week of the marking period has been spent on percents. The students have learned how to write them as decimals and fractions, how to convert fractions into percents and how to find the percent of a number.

This group is very hard-working and enthusiastic. I am very pleased with our pace and they are a pleasure to teach.

Grade 6

We spent the first few weeks of the marking period studying circles. We started out slowly by learning the parts of the circle and then gradually moved on to very challenging figures with quadrants and semi-circles and composite figures with parts of circles presented along with triangles and rectangles. The students persevered through these challenging questions and have moved on to a new path. Since we had been working with squared numbers in finding the area of circles, it seemed to make sense to digress from the book a bit and continue our work on squared numbers by finding

their square roots. The students then moved onto studying the Pythagorean Theorem and applied it to a variety of word problems. The quiz scores on both the square roots and Pythagorean Theorem were outstanding.

Keeping with the exponent theme, we have just begun our study of scientific notation of big and small numbers. We will start the next marking period with inequalities and then return to the Singapore books.

Grade 7

We began the marking period by working on solving algebraic equations with rational numbers – positive and negative fractions and decimals. The students completed dozens of questions and have worked very hard on their “style”. They were all very happy when we completed our chapter on fractions and moved on to Chapter 8 which is a study of proportions and percents. The students learned proportions in the beginning of the year; however, in this chapter they learned how to read a word problem and set up a proportion from it. The students also learned how to solve percent proportions, how to turn percents greater than 100% and less than 1% into fractions and decimals. This can be a bit confusing but they did quite well on their assessments. The students also learned how to calculate interest, how to calculate percent of change, how to calculate the discount or mark up of an item and finally how to determine if polygons are similar by solving a proportion.

The students are working at a good steady pace. I'm very happy with our progress.

Grade 8 – Introduction to Algebra

We started the marking period by continuing our study of algebraic concepts. Some of the topics covered included graphing linear equations, finding slope, writing equations in the slope intercept form and writing linear equations. Each of these concepts will be studied in detail next year as freshman; however, I thought it would be beneficial for them to at least hear the terms and solve some questions themselves before heading off to high school. After spring break we worked on concepts more in their comfort zone. We started work in rates and ratios, proportions, scale drawings, percent proportions, percents of numbers and percent of change. They were very happy to back in familiar areas!

Grade 8 - Geometry

This group continues to amaze me. We have completed chapter 11 and only have two chapters to go before we finish the book! The work is challenging and the concepts are all high level. The homework is long and difficult but I never hear the students complain. They are all high achieving students and a pleasure to teach.

We completed our work on transformations including tessellations, symmetry and dilations. We finished the chapter on circles which included chords, secants, tangents, central angles, inscribed angles, circumscribed polygons and inscribed polygons and equations of circles. We also finished the chapter on finding the area of parallelograms, triangles, circles, trapezoids, rhombi, kites, composite figures and similar polygons. The students have worked with the area formulas before but now they are incorporating their knowledge of the Pythagorean Theorem as well as trigonometry to solve for the missing parts.

Mr. Clapp
Grade 5 Science

For the fifth marking period all of the 5th graders became Geologists! We studied all about minerals and rocks and the properties of each. My students now know what it means to actually be a mineral and can name all kinds of minerals that we use every day. We then switched into rocks and saw all different kinds and types of rocks. They even made their own rocks out of crayon shavings. This showed how one rock can turn into other rocks based on certain situations or processes.

For the last marking period we are going to get pretty messy and dirty. We will be examining soil and all of its components including: what is living in the soil and all of the non-living parts as well. One of our first labs will be to see how soil filters our water in aquifers.

Mrs. Vacca
Grade 5 Math Workshop

Students continue with their 5 minute warm-ups to earn those bonus points. Another practical math project for this year is “**Party Planner.**” Students have been given the task of planning a party for 29 guests. First, students were given a shopping list of food/beverage and paper products that had to be purchased for the party. Prices had to be calculated along with quantities needed. A theme was then chosen and now the creativity comes into play. Students were working

in groups with a project manager who is delegating jobs to be completed. This was a great teamwork project with real life math.

Mrs. Vacca/ Mme Koar/ Mme Simon
Grades 5 and 6 Tech/
Grade 7 Explorations

Students continue to finalize and fine tune their Immigration board games. This collaborative learning experience has been both challenging and fun. Students have been learning how to work together, accept each others ideas, delegate responsibilities, and respect each other and their opinions. Each grade and class has been producing unique game boards, game pieces, game rules, and game questions. The culmination of this project will be playing the games with each other and other classes.

Mrs. Duffy
Grade 6 English/LA

During the fifth marking period, sixth graders began reading *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin. In this fun mystery, sixteen unlikely people are brought together and given the opportunity to become the heirs of the eccentric millionaire Sam Westing...The possible heirs must prove themselves worthy of Sam's millions by winning a tricky and maybe even dangerous game. This story keeps us guessing with each new clue and suspect as we eagerly read on.... to solve Mr. Westing's riddle.

The classes also flexed their creative muscles in the writing of an epilogue to *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi. Students used vivid detail, dialogue, and strong plots to transport the reader to life at sea aboard the brig, Seahawk. Grammar reviews of capitalization and mechanics supported our writing efforts and were also good practice for the ERB tests.

Mrs. Daly
Grade 6 Reading

Students have completed their novel study of *The Library Card* by Jerry Spinelli. The author chronicles the lives of four different characters as they journey to discover the world of reading. Students liked the novellas within the story as they studied each tale's symbolism.

The classes are learning about the search for extraterrestrial life as we examine our *Storyworks* magazine. This month, students are practicing their comprehension skills as we connect scientific theories to fictional accounts of

alien life form. The unit concludes with a short study of *The War of the Worlds* radio broadcast.

Mrs. Palamara
Grades 6 – 8 Math

Singapore 6

We began this marking period with the calculation of circumference and area of circles. Students compared the results when using $22/7$, 3.14 and the pi button on the calculator. We also discussed the history of PI dating back to 1650 BC. Students then moved on to discuss circumference and areas of parts of circles using their knowledge of completed circles. They then were able to find the area of composite figures that have a curved side.

Students then began their study of negative numbers reviewing the four operations. They are currently working on mixed operations using negative numbers with and without parentheses and using exponents in their order of operations.

Grade 7 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.

Algebra I

During this past marking period we focused on exponents and exponential functions. We formulated the rules of operation on powers and exponents that are central to their use in Algebra. We studied zero and negative exponents and learned to simplify expressions involving these exponents. We reviewed reading and writing numbers in scientific notation and then performed operations on these numbers. We also learned how to use the calculator to perform these operations and to write the result in scientific notation and decimal form.

Math-A-Thon

Congratulations to everyone who worked on the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Math-a-Thon. The 25 participating students raised \$3,924 to be donated to the hospital for research and

patient care. Our gift will help the hospital's life saving work continue. The children at St. Jude receive their treatment without regard to race, religion or ability to pay.

I thank you and I am sure that the patients at St. Jude thank you for the generous amount you raised. All students who participated will enjoy a dress down day in May.

All prizes will be distributed to homerooms.

Mrs. Billet
Grades 6 & 7 Science

The sixth grade has been learning about living organisms and their characteristics. They use classification to organize living things into groups so that they are easier to study. We made fictitious organisms out of clay and gave them their scientific names. Please stop by Room 16 in the Soler Science Center to see the students' work. Viruses and bacterial cells are also on view.

In the seventh grade we are exploring the periodic table, the elements, and their bonding. Chemical reactions will be examined and we will learn how to balance equations.

Mrs. Vacca
Grade 6 Math Workshop

Students continue their 10 minute warm-ups of challenging math problems all compiled along with next marking periods bonus points towards a dress down day. Most recently the students completed a worksheet on the Statue of Liberty data, such as height and weight and cost. This tied in with our Immigration Game project, a collaborative learning experience taking place during Tech class.

The current project "**Mustang Toy Company**" is coming along nicely, and giving the students an opportunity to be creative while using geometrical shapes. Presentations of the student's toys will be made and then their classmates decide on which ones to purchase all within a \$50 budget. Order forms will be tallied; sales tax calculated and then totals completed and a chance to write out a check for the amount. This was a fun and creative project implementing math in both monetary and geometrical ways.

Sra. Dotto
Grades 6, 7 & 8 Spanish

In the sixth grade, we have learned how to say the time and how to change civilian time to military time, interrogative words, all subject pronouns, the conjugation of over 20 regular –ar verbs in the present tense and how to form questions and answer them. To reinforce this material we have used videos, songs, verbal drills, played games, power point presentations and the site “quizlet” for visual and auditory processing.

During this marking period the seventh grade students completed section 2 of Chapter 3, learned over 15 regular –er verbs, worked on indefinite articles and mastered the conjugation of the irregular verbs *to go* and *to do*.

Also, we have covered interrogative words, the weather, how to say what school items they have or need, and to talk about their school subjects and schedule.

At this time we are in the process of learning common expressions with the verb *to have*. All this has been reinforced with power point presentations, classroom interaction and by logging on to the websites Weebly and Quizlet, and for visual and auditory practice.

In Spanish, the eighth grade students have learned a great amount of vocabulary, identifying food items, talk about meals, take an order and make a polite request in a restaurant and comments on food. Furthermore, students have learned the verbs *ayudar* (to help), *probar* (to try), *pedir* (to ask) *servir* (to serve) and are in the process of learning direct object pronouns. Finally, we are working on several projects in preparation for “El Cinco de Mayo” which will be celebrated in a few days.

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

In Language Arts this marking period, we have completed a unit on Capitalization and Punctuation. We have begun a unit on the various types of Pronouns which will benefit our essay writing for our literature units.

At this time, we have completed our **Vocabulary Workshop** textbook and will revisit the words again when we prepare for our June exam which will include Units 10 – 15 for our final test.

In Literature, we are currently reading a unit in our textbooks entitled: STORIES

TO TELL: FICTION. The selections focus on literary terms for Elements of Fiction and Fretag’s Pyramid. We will also emphasize the literary devices of characterization, setting, plot, verbal irony, point of view, theme, and irony of situation. We will investigate the “twist” or “surprise” ending in the various selections in the unit.

Our next unit will bring us to the story of Anne Frank. We will be reading the Pulitzer Prize winning play version of **The Diary of Anne Frank** by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett. We will be discussing the topics of discrimination, the Holocaust, and World War II to give students a better understanding of the historical events happening during the time Anne’s diary was written.

Mrs. Grier
Grade 7 Critical Reading

As our year continues to fly by, our students are working on skills. Students tend to do well on black and white questions but struggle with abstract ideas. The final stories from our “Read for Real” book dealt with three famous athletes. You can imagine the rise in interest with most of the students as reflected in their test score.

Our students are preparing to attack our final selection called, Echoes From Olympus. The students have been working on preparing information on specific gods and goddesses using blogging and working on the I pads. They will certainly learn a wealth of information dealing with Greek Mythology.

Mrs. Mayer
Grades 7 & 8 History

The seventh grade truly enjoyed learning about our U.S. Constitution and the presidencies of Washington, Adams and Jefferson. The class was excited to complete projects on the Constitution and teach this amazing document to the fourth grade. We look forward to more interaction with other classes.

The eighth grade has been hard at work learning about World War II and The Cold War. Students were shocked to learn about the atrocities that took place during the war, and how tensions changed the lives of every American during The Cold War. Students enjoyed researching and making power point presentations about various events that took place during the 40’s, 50’s and 60’s. We engaged in many in depth and interesting discussions on these topics in our Harkness Room. Students look

forward to learning about current events in our final marking period.

Mrs. Williams/Mrs. Daly
Grade 8 English

In eighth grade Language Arts, students have continued their study of vocabulary, while concluding the grammar units: *Pronouns* and *Phrases*. In addition, students continued the research project. During the sixth marking period, students will continue vocabulary lessons and grammar lessons.

In Literature, students completed Shakespeare’s play, *Romeo and Juliet*. Furthermore, students completed the novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. While reading, students took notes on the plot and characters. In addition, students worked in groups to evaluate and analyze the novel. In the sixth marking period, students will watch the award winning movie.

Mrs. Daly
Grade 8 Critical Reading

Students have just completed *The Red Badge of Courage* novel study. The classes followed the main character, Henry, and his attempts at heroism. In addition to the storyline, students connected other heroes we have studied and analyzed Henry’s storyline.

The classes are continuing to practice skill development in many different ways. Through visual literacy, students are studying maps, charts, and graphs to better understand reading passages. *Junior Scholastic* readings have included modern day slave trade around the world, video game addictions, and other current events.

Students are doing well as we get closer to graduation!

Mr. Clapp
Grade 8 Science

Last marking period we started on the human body. Hopefully I am helping to train some of our future doctors and physical therapists. We focused on our skeletal and muscular systems. My students now know where most of the major muscles and bones are located and what they help us to do. One of our activities involved certain students being traced onto plastic sheets and then drawing in the anatomically correct skeleton inside the trace in order to show where all of the bones are. For the muscular system we did all sorts of activities to see what muscles we were using and how strong our muscles are.

These activities included arm wrestling competitions and testing our vertical jumps!

For the last marking period we will be starting on the circulatory system and focusing on the heart and blood. Perhaps there will even be a dissection at the end of the year!

Mr. Pacelli
Algebra I – An Integrated Approach

We have just completed Chapter 10 which was all about factoring. My students are working hard and did very well on our chapter test. We are actually moving to Chapter 12 before we do Chapter 11. Why? Well, Chapter 12 is entitled “Rational Expressions” which uses all the factoring methods we found in Chapter 10. In Chapter 12 we are simplifying, multiplying, dividing, adding and subtracting algebraic fractions. We end the school year with an in depth study of quadratic equations.

Mrs. Larkins
Grade 8 Math Workshop

It was March Madness for the 8th grade this marking period as we entered into our college basketball project. We investigated the mathematics behind the process of a tournament and got to make our picks for the NCAA men’s basketball tournament. We used this 64 team tournament to answer some questions on probability and statistics. Congratulations to Stephen Braunstein, Isabella LoSordo, and Bobby Mulligan for winning our in-school pool! Next, the students took on an alias and received their very own W-2 forms. With a new identify and income, they were required to file their own taxes. We examined how taxes are collected and spent by our government and then each student completed their own EZ tax form. It was an eye-opening experience for all of them! Now it is on to the biggest (and usually favorite) project of the year...the fantasy baseball project. Let’s play ball!

Ms. Burke
Grades 7 & 8 Latin

The seventh graders began the semester by preparing for and taking the National Latin Exam on March 10, in which they performed impressively. After the exam, we continued our grammar lessons by looking more closely at the genitive and dative cases as well as the use of adverbs in Latin. The students also learned to identify, translate, and form the imperfect tense, our second tense in Latin. As always, we reinforced these grammatical concepts by translating

stories about the Roman family, the Corneli. As part of our cultural study, we learned about Roman names, numbers, and numerals. Finally, they chose and decorated a favorite Latin motto.

In the eighth grade, we also began with preparation for the National Latin Exam. After the exam, the eighth graders worked hard on a great deal of new grammar! We learned two new tenses (the pluperfect and future perfect), the final two declensions, and the use of the partitive genitive. As always, we worked on translation with stories from *Ecce Romani*, including translating a dialogue about visiting the Circus Maximus! In our culture sections, we learned about the Punic Wars between Rome and Carthage and began our unit on Roman spectacles by discussing famous sites of Rome and chariot races.

Mme Koar
Upper School French

Fifth grade students are currently practicing the verb Avoir (to have), one of the two main irregular verbs in French. We are able to tell our age and the ages of others using this verb.

Students enjoy the card game, “jeu de 7 familles” which helps them with their pronunciation and provides the competitive element to the classroom. Students are required to ask using the target language for the member of the animal family missing from their hand of cards.

Mme Simon
Upper School French

During the 5th marking period, the fifth grade students practiced a skit and presented the dialog from memory in front of the entire class. I was amazed to hear their wonderful accent. We learned the verb “to be” and how to use it in different context.

We are now following the book *Bon Voyage* and we will be finishing the third chapter during the 6th marking period. In order to review the material, we often play games such as KAHOOT (each student uses either their personal device or one from the school) or Around the World. The students love to compete.

The students wrote a letter to our Pen-pal Constance as a reply of a letter sent to us a while ago. Bon travail!

In the seventh grade, we reviewed the irregular verbs and learned the clothing, family vocabulary as well as the

placement of the adjectives and possessive adjectives. As a part of our “Francophonie” week, the students worked on creating presentations (Power point presentations, Google presentations, Keynote presentations or Prezis) about French speaking countries, provinces or territories.

On April 16th, we celebrated the “Francophonie” event and the students enjoyed it a lot. We had a guest speaker, Azita Assa, and Jason Wang spoke about his experience with a family in Canada where he stayed for a hockey tournament.

Congratulations to Aron Wiener who won first place and to CJ Gorman who won second place in the French Trivia game. Anna Effenberger played “Le petit âne blanc” on the piano and she was excellent.

Our eighth graders performed a dance which was a lot of fun! Special thanks go to all the students who were so kind to bring delicious dishes and drinks.

With the eighth graders, we have been studying the passé composé which is quite a complex tense. The students have been able to relate to events that occurred in the past while creating stories and expressing themselves in writing and orally.

Mr. Rosenfeld/Mrs. Bordiuk
Upper School PE

We have been back to Swim Class once a week. The students warm up with kicking and strokes then we play a pool game. Swimming is very good for all of the children. Using their upper bodies through swimming is helpful for other sports and overall fitness.

The classes participated in Volleyball lessons and games before Spring Break.

After Spring Break, we have been finishing up the second round of testing in the Presidential Physical Fitness standards. Students will be awarded with a “patch” according to their accomplishments within these standards.

We will be choosing Field Day teams soon and look forward to a FUN day on May 22, 2015.

Mrs. Grier/Library

As the spring season approaches, many of the children seem to be drawn to books dealing with flowers, animals and the outdoors. To date, our OHA students have checked out close to 38,000 books. Each time a book is taken out of our library, it sends a message to me that the students' brain is opening to new information. Topics that we discuss vary with the appropriate age level. Our younger students might be learning about baby animals and their moms, rainy days and where rain comes from or books dealing with good character traits. As the children get older, we discuss famous authors such as Leo Lionni, Frank Asch and Steven Kellogg. Third and fourth graders continue to explore the Dewey Decimal System and learn the winners of the famous Newberry award. All our students explore the library and get to review the endless new books that have enhanced our library. You will be surprised to see how the older students can maneuver around the library to find the appropriate book they might be searching.

Mrs. Griller/Computer

Cyber Safety was discussed in all grades during this marking period. Students watched age appropriate videos and participated in discussions on what to do and not to do when connected to the Internet.

The first graders have made fun projects using Kidpix software. Their last project was a book all about them!

The second grade classes used Internet research and Kidspiration to create a graphic web about a country of their choice.

Third graders have been practicing their touch typing and learning about where each key can be found on the keyboard.

Fourth grade students added picture, transitions, animations and timings to their PowerPoint Presentations.

In fifth grade students designed a scene using the draw tools in Microsoft Word.

The sixth grade classes completed Business Portfolios using Excel and Word. They ran a lemonade stand business on coolmathgames.com, tracked the results in Excel, created Excel charts representing the results and then created a cover and wrote their business strategy using Word.

The seventh graders worked with a partner to write news letters on a topic of their choice.

In eighth grade the students designed websites using Microsoft Publisher.

Mrs. Tyma/Music

Our spring classes began with a St. Patrick's Day celebration. We listened to music of the Irish groups *DeDanaan* and *The Chieftains* and identified the sounds of the tin (penny) whistle, the bodhran (Irish drum), Celtic harp, uilleann pipes (Irish bagpipes) and accordion.

In Kindergarten, we read a story about St. Patrick's Day festivities in Ireland and danced a jig to an Irish song while experiencing compound meter and learning movement vocabulary. We will be playing the barred instruments for the first time in the coming weeks. Games and songs using rhythm sticks will give us a feel for the mallets and the technique (large motor skills) required to play the instruments. Soon we will be playing simple accompaniments to our songs.

In a cooperative learning setting, the first graders created their own movement sequence for a song about shamrocks and leprechaun. Each group of four children incorporated elements of the movement vocabulary we had studied and embellished their dances with scarves. We added unpitched percussion accompaniments and then performed the songs in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

The second graders danced a traditional Irish folk dance called *The Waves of Tory* that depicts the waves and whirlpools that occur along the coast of the Island of Tory in Ireland. In addition, we've begun our study of the brass and string families of instruments with the opportunity each week to see and hear a different instrument.

In the third grade classes, we're playing recorder countermelodies to several folk songs and enjoying the sound of the voice and recorder together. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a delightful Irish folksong and dance, *The Rattlin' Bog*. We're completing our study of the orchestral instruments by listening to musical examples that use the woodwind instruments and seeing demonstrations of these instruments.

The fourth grade classes are preparing for a listening unit they will experience in fifth grade of the ballet *Billy the Kid* by the American composer Aaron Copland. The

second movement, *Street in a Frontier Town*, uses several American folk songs as themes. This year we are learning the five folk songs used which are excellent vehicles for vocal development and learning about various musical elements that are found in these songs (compound meter, sixteenth notes, major and minor tonality). In addition, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with the wonderful American folksong *Paddy Works on the Railway* about the Irish immigration in the 1840s. As we learned the barred instrument accompaniment for this song, we gained greater understanding of harmonic progressions and compound meter as well as strengthening our musicianship skills.

The third and fourth grade classes are looking forward to a concert by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra in Neptune on May 21st. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to hear an outstanding symphony orchestra and to see in action the orchestral instruments that we have studied. This year's program is entitled "A Hero's Journey" and will include music of Copland, Beethoven, Mozart, Sousa and Verdi - composers whose music was inspired by famous heroes.

The seventh grade classes have completed a study of Indonesian Gamelan music, as well as explored an Orff composition for the barred instruments that focused on tonalities in music (major, minor, modal, etc.). Now we are working on two drumming compositions to explore how uneven rhythms are expressed in compound and simple meter. Next we will work on an Orff composition that focuses on mixed meter.

The eighth graders completed their unit in African drumming which focused on the rhythms of simple and compound meter. This drumming unit was a prelude to the study of the Blues since this style of music was heavily influenced by African music. We'll be listening to some of the greatest Blues artists and trying our hand at blues composition.

The Oak Hill Players and Chorus are busy preparing their program for Grandparent/Special Relative Day on May 14th and 15th. The Chorus will also sing at the Blue Claws game on May 26th. And the Music Makers will join the other two performance ensembles for the end of year Awards Assemblies on June 4th. Please join us for all of our upcoming performances and enjoy our music making.

Miss DiMaggio/Art

First grade finished their self portraits and drew portraits of what they think they will look like 50 years from now. We used the pinch method to make a ceramic pinch pot.

Second grade learned about artist Piet Mondrian and created a primary color Mondrian inspired animal using horizontal and vertical lines. We also used construction paper to make a collage of our favorite foods.

Third grade learned about Pablo Picasso and drew an abstract self portrait based of his work.

Fourth grade studied artist Frida Kahlo and drew self portraits using the correct facial proportions. They used the slab method to make a ceramic imprinted slump bowl.

Fifth grade used yarn and chopsticks and learned a special weaving technique while making a Mexican inspired God's Eye. 5C had the opportunity to work together to make an oversized God's Eye using sticks we found outside. We studied surreal artist Salvador Dali and made a drawing based on Surrealism, and a dream like experience. We also studied American artist Georgia O'Keeffe and drew enlarged abstract flowers using oil pastels.

Sixth grade finished their Henry Rousseau inspired overlapping jungles using watercolor and watercolor pencils. Using the slab method, students made a ceramic clay vessel and imprinted a design on it. Using the Ipad to take distorted pictures, we drew funny face self portraits while using the grid method. We also learned about artist Chuck Close.

Seventh grade, using acrylic paint, painted anything of their choice on a canvas board. They focused on texture, color mixing and balance. They also used sharpie and geometric shapes to learn about positive and negative space while making an overlapping drawing based on each class's theme.

Eighth grade studied glass blower Dale Chihuly and made a ceramic bowl based on his style. They used colored pencils to draw a specific portion of their distorted or enhanced photograph in our "Instagram" project in the shape of a circle.

All classes entered drawings for the Monmouth Day Care Centers Art Journal. We should hear the names of our winners soon.

Mrs. DeVivo/Drama

If William Shakespeare was still alive this year on April 23rd, he would have celebrated his 451st birthday! The students celebrated Shakespeare's birthday this marking period by learning about his life as a young boy, a playwright, and the famous Globe Theatre.

In Kindergarten, students read a story entitled "A Child's Portrait of Shakespeare." They saw pictures of the house he grew up in, the church he went to and the Globe Theater. The students also enjoyed playing a game that Shakespeare played as a young boy called Teetotum. It is very similar to driel.

First grade students read the same story and played Teetotum as well. Then, they had an opportunity to write on parchment paper with a quill pen. It was fun, but not easy. In the middle of writing their names, they would have to go back to the ink and dip their quill in it again. They concluded that Shakespeare must have had a lot of patience when he was writing his plays.

Students in second grade learned all about how William Shakespeare obtained a Coat of Arms for his family name. They had an opportunity to create their own Coat of Arms which displayed their favorite hobbies, colors and designs.

The third graders learned that Shakespeare invented many of the words we use today such as "upstairs," "downstairs," and "puppy-dog." The students worked in groups to create some new words of their own. They had a lot of fun making up words like "pen-pop" which is a pen you can write with that has a lollipop on the end of it.

The fourth graders had a brief unit on Shakespeare as well, but much of their time was spent on rehearsing for their upcoming play "The Hidden One." This folk tale comes from the Mi'kmaq bands on Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec. Learning about the Mi'kmaqs and rehearsing "The Hidden One" has tied in nicely with Ho-Ho's theme: Canada! The fourth graders presented their play on April 30th.

After reviewing the life and works of William Shakespeare (particularly "A Midsummer Night's Dream"), students in fifth and sixth grade played Shakespeare Jeopardy!

Congratulations to the cast and crew of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Your hard work and dedication paid off once again. I'm so proud of all of you! The performance was held on March 26th; a matinee for the entire school and an evening performance for families. We celebrated the following day by having a cast and crew party. A good time was had by all!

The forensics team is back in full swing. The students were busy preparing for Ranney's Invitational Forensics Competition which we was held on Saturday, April 25th.

And finally don't forget to sign up for **OHA's Summer Drama Camp!**

LIGHTS UP: PUTTING ON A PLAY: is open to students entering grades 2-9. Budding actors will perfect their performance skills by participating in a variety of games and exercises that will improve their stage presence, diction, projection, and movement. A large part of the day will be spent working together devising and creating scenery for an **original play** that will be performed in the Student Activities Center for family and friends on the last day of class.

June 15-19 from 9:30-12:00

FAIRY TALES, FOLK TALES & FUN:

Open to students entering Kindergarten and first. Students will get to be their favorite characters as we reenact popular fairy tales and folk tales. Students will create puppets, masks and props and on the last day we will have a short presentation of work.

June 15-19 from 8:00-9:30

Mrs. Vacca/Mr. Goldfarb Student Council

Oak Hill Academy recently received a wonderful note from our young man, Kendy Louis, who has been with Danita's Children's Orphanage since he was 8. He is now in the 12th grade, favorite subject Biology and enjoys playing basketball and soccer. He is most appreciative of all the monetary contributions we have made to provide him with a warm, caring and educational environment. It is always good to hear that we at OHA are making a difference in someone's life! Kudos to us!!!!

Thanks to everyone for their monetary donations made on the March 4th dress down day for the "March of Dimes". We were able to make a contribution of \$300.

Thanks also to everyone for their monetary donations made on the March 24th dress down day. We were able to contribute \$580 to the Poricy Park Conservancy and \$680 to the "Save the Seraph's Fund."

Friday, April 24th, the seventh and eighth grade students attended their last dance of the year "The Spring Fling." Students ate pizza and snacks and danced the night away with music provided by awesome DJ Rob who motivated them and even provided fun props.

The student council members will be going to the Monmouth Day Care Center on Monday, May 18th to donate and read books to the children. I encourage everyone to attend the Barnes and Noble book fair on Wednesday, May 6th and purchase a book that will then be donated to the center. These children look forward to our visit and the interaction of our students with them. They love to be read to and played with.

SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS:

Student Council elections for the upcoming school year 2015-2016 will be held in May. A packet will be handed out soon with all the details and time frame that must be followed. Please adhere to all the guidelines and not to deviate from them or you will be disqualified. **FYI: Student Council meetings are always held on Mondays!** Good luck to all the candidates!

Directory Changes

New Students

Grade 7 – Mrs. Tirella Room 3
Hope Scafaria
5 Meadows Run Dr.
Colts Neck, NJ 07722
732-252-6590

Brenna Koppel
527 Cedar Ave.
W. Long Branch, NJ 07764
732-272-5986

ATHLETICS

Cross Country

Mrs. Gilfillan and Mrs. Scheuer have been conducting cross country practices this spring! Every Friday, which started in April, Mrs. Gilfillan and Mrs. Scheuer are having the team practice and race against each other. This is a great way to stay sharp and to get ready for the fall season!

Tennis

Miss Murray's tennis team has been practicing and honing their skills for a few weeks. An enthusiastic bunch of 25 students have been practicing for the Mustangs this season. The team will play seven matches against other schools. Since there are only seven players during each match (three singles and two doubles), a number of exhibition matches are also played to give some of our players a chance to gain experience. The team will be tested early as they look to keep their winning ways in tact from last year! The team has already defeated Red Bank Charter 5-0 and lost a close one to Ranney 3-2. The season will conclude with a doubles tournament against the faculty at the end of May.

Softball

Hoping to pick-up where they left off last year, Mrs. Porzio's softball team has been practicing hard in order to continue their winning ways. The first four games have been washed out! The team lost a close one to RCD, but had a thrilling victory over Ranney which included a triple play to win the game! Their schedule will conclude with a game against the faculty at the end of May.

Baseball

Mr. Bruckmann's and Mr. Rosenfeld's team has been in all of their games, just losing by a few runs in three games. The team did have a convincing win over RCD! Veteran players and some new younger players make up this year's team. Their schedule will conclude at the end of May.

