

# Oak Hill Academy

June 2015

## Newsletter #6

### Headmaster's Message

Joseph A. Pacelli

Wow, another school year completed! Back in January and February it seemed like it would never end! But then along came April and May and the time began to zoom by.

It is nice to have a break. I'll miss my Oak Hill family all summer. I have a great job. I love being around the innocence and natural beauty of young children as well as the curiosity and intellect of our older children. The creativity and brain power around our school each day is truly amazing.

Each end of the school year I like to proclaim the importance of continued reading over the summer. This is a change of pace and an opportunity to visit new horizons and to fill our minds with topics of interest. Our children should also be reading for fun and relaxation. I plan to do some for myself. I have stacked on my desk five books ready to attack. All are educational in nature with one about a young man with an inspiring story about how he is helping to educate children around the world. For our parents and teachers I would recommend the books, [The Promise of a Pencil](#) by Adam Braun and [The Infinite Resource](#) by Ramez Naam, as excellent choices for non-fiction reading for the summer.

Mrs. Larkins

Director of Development

#### Grandparent/Special Relative Day

Visitors abounded on Thursday, May 14 and Friday, May 15 as an estimated 500 people attended Grandparent/Special Relative Day. Due to the overwhelming response, the day was again broken into two days. The weather was cooperative for a second straight year! All visitors were enthusiastic as they started their day at the Scire Student Activities Center. The festivities began with a very impressive show by Oak Hill Academy's own Chorus and Oak Hill Players. Thank you to Mrs. Tyma and her talented students for a thoroughly enjoyable performance. Next, Mr. Pacelli related some of his personal jokes, thoughts, and experiences about the importance of the family to the healthy growth of our students. Everyone in attendance was treated to many refreshments thanks to the Parent Organization's Hospitality Committee.

Then came the much anticipated classroom visit. Oak Hill students were at their best as they performed plays, read their original writings, competed in contests, worked on group projects, and shared memories during the class visits. Finally, the visitors enjoyed the Upper School's science fair which was exhibited in the gym.

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

#### A Special Thank You

A sense of true OHA spirit permeated every aspect of the 2014-2015 Parent Organization and their functions. The result was another wonderfully successful year. At the End of Year Appreciation Luncheon, Mr. Pacelli thanked the volunteers for all their hard work. Their successful year resulted in an end of year gift of **\$108,000!** As always, these funds will be used for the betterment of the educational experience offered to our students. Most notably, their generous end of year gift will help fund updating and expansion of our technology at school including the addition of more laptops and Ipads, the Middlebury Spanish program, and expanding our band width to allow for the new BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy in the Upper School. There was more teacher professional training in such areas as Google Docs, the Harkness method, Mimio Interactive Whiteboards, and the Lower School Reading Program. Each year the Parent Organization grants the wishes of our teachers by providing a little something extra for each faculty member.

On behalf of the entire school, I would like to thank the officers of the 2014-2015 Parent Organization: President Joan Orlick, Treasurer Corey Small, and Secretary Tracy Shallcross. In conjunction with their committee heads, these women organized events throughout the year that were each a social and financial success. On a personal note, I really enjoyed getting to work with these women and admire their dedication and loyalty to OHA.

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

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

**Miss Murray Director of Personnel/Administration**

#### Headmaster for a Day

Second grader Cameron Feiler and his sister Morgan Feiler assumed the roles of Headmaster on May 20th! Cameron and Morgan assisted Mr. Pacelli with some of his duties. Early in the morning they recited the Pledge of Allegiance over the PA to the entire school. Next, it was signing an important document declaring that May 29th was a special dress down day! Cameron and Morgan were introduced to all of the Lower School classes and some of the Upper School, too. They read a book to the Kindergarten, met the Pre-K, played with some newly hatched chicks and took a ride to the Soler Science Center on the golf cart! The Feiler's and four friends were treated to lunch at the Lincroft Inn with Mr. Pacelli and Miss Murray. At the awards assembly at the beginning of June, Cameron and Morgan were presented with a plaque, a photo album of the day, as well as a video of the day's happenings! Job well done, Cameron and Morgan!

#### Fifth Grade (Upper School) Orientation

Miss Murray, Mrs. Scheuer, and Mrs. Livingston spoke with the fourth graders and some of our incoming Upper School students, about the inner workings of the Upper School – how to read a schedule, when to change classes, questions about lockers, demerits, awards, etc. Justin Weber, Alex Mitchell, Daniel Shallcross, Andrew Ferguson, Olivis Bruckmann, Paige Lane and Addy Basile spoke about Spanish, drama club, math workshop, athletics, tech, student council and the Science Fair, respectively. During the month of May, Mrs. Livingston had the fourth graders pair up with current fifth graders to actually go to a few class periods in the Upper School! OHA alum, Tessa Garbely created the "Garbely's Guide to the Upper School." Tessa took it upon herself to interview Upper School students for advice on organization, lockers, test-taking, homework and after-school. She organized all of the information and presented it to all of the fourth graders, as well as, any new incoming Upper School student.

#### BioTech High School Mentorship

This is the fifth year that Oak Hill Academy entered into an agreement with BioTech High School this spring to provide a mentorship to high school seniors. Four seniors came to OHA for three weeks and assisted and observed science and English classes taught by Mr. Clapp, Mrs. Cahalane, Mrs. Billet, Mrs. Tirella, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Duffy. At the conclusion of their three week period, the seniors had to interview the teachers. We thank OHA alums, JJ Larkins and Tessa Garbely, as well as Cassie Mazza and Elizabeth Dreifus for being with us! They were all extremely helpful to the teachers and students and became part of OHA in just three short weeks. We wish JJ, Tessa, Cassie and Elizabeth well in college next year!

#### American Scholastic Achievement League

In February, a number of eighth graders voluntarily participated in the ASAL Scholastic Challenge. Fifteen thousand students across the country competed. The top score in the nation was 95%. This 100 question online test consisted of questions on history, math, science, language arts, geography and general knowledge. The national average was 52%. OHA had 83% of students score above the national average who took the test, with the rest just barely missing the mark! Anna Effenberger was named as the OHA champ, scoring 86%! Other than Anna, the top 10 OHA scores were: William Walsh 80, Dylan Servilla 79, Hannah Gazdus 78, Zack Basile 78, Lucas Bruckmann 77, Jonathan Giuffre 77, Mary Mahoney 69, Jessica Abbott 68, Bryan Soler 67, Catherine Stolbof 67, and Shayna Cohen 67.

#### Mrs. Schwartz, Mrs. Klopacs and Mrs. Dunne are retiring!

Thank you to three outstanding staff members of Oak Hill Academy who are retiring: Mrs. Peggy Ann Schwartz for the 22 years of service she gave to Oak Hill Academy as a Kindergarten teacher; Mrs. Noreen Klopacs for the 26 years of service as a First Grade teacher; and Mrs. Sheila Dunne for the 26 years as our school nurse! All three women were honored at the end of year assemblies with flowers and Waterford vases by Mr. Pacelli and Miss Murray.

#### Grades 7 & 8 National Latin Exam Results

Once again, the results from the National Latin Exam were very favorable! One eighth grader, Hannah Gazdus received a perfect paper in the Latin 1 level exam!! Hannah and Zachary Basile received Gold Summa Cum Laude certificates! Jonathan Giuffre and Dylan Servilla received Silver Maxima Cum Laude certificates! Lucas Bruckmann received a Magna Cum Laude certificate. Jessica Abbott and Shayna Cohen

each received the Cum Laude Certificate! Outstanding Achievement Certificates and ribbons were given to those seventh grade students scoring very high on the Introductory Level: Michael Zhang, Jake Fradkin, Thomas Wang and Alexa Kulawiak!. Achievement Certificates were given to those seventh grade students who did well on the Introductory Level: Liam O'Hara, Stephanie Zhou, Leah Wilson, Jason Wang, Catherine Barone, Aron Wiener, Alexa Malson, Sarah Maes, Erin Gilfillan, Aoife Picadio, Emma Nagy and Jake Rutkowski.

#### High School Choices

We are fortunate that so many of our graduates have options when they graduate from Oak Hill Academy. There are a number of great high schools in our area. There are the traditional high schools (public and parochial), schools that specialize in a particular area, and independent schools (boarding and day). With a graduating class of 40 (18 girls and 22 boys), our graduates will be going to 17 different high schools!

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

	<u>Accepted</u>	<u>Attending</u>
<b>Parochial</b>		
CBA	15	20
RBC	13	9
SJV	7	1
Mater Dei Prep	2	0
Trinity Hall	1	1
<b>Public</b>		
Colts Neck		2
Red Bank Regional Arts	2	2
<b>Specialized</b>		
Allied Health	1	1
Bio Tech	2	1
High Tech	2	1
M.A.S.T.	4	3
<b>Freehold Reg. District:</b>		
Free Boro Med Sci	1	1
Marlboro Business	1	1
CN Law & Public Service	2	0
<b>Private</b>		
Peddle	1	1
Hun	1	0
Blair	2	1
Kent	1	1
Ranney	5	4

#### **Mr. Bruckmann**

##### **Communications Director**

Thank you to everyone who has really begun to use our website and newly running mobile site as your primary source of information. We have been really trying hard to make sure these are up to date and working. (It is a process; so don't hesitate to let us know if you find something that needs our attention.) Please remember to continue to visit our new presence on the web for updates, daily announcements, pictures, videos, forms, & calendars. **"LIKE" us on FACEBOOK.** Our goal is to make this the primary method of

communicating the greatness of Oak Hill Academy to the world! Pass the word.

#### Key Links:

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

#### Alumni

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

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

Please take the time to submit your updated information.

Check out our FACEBOOK page as well:

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

#### **Mrs. Livingston/Lower School Guidance**

Summertime is a time of leisure, however it is important to continue to enrich. Take advantage of your surroundings. When taking little side trips, ask questions and make comments to encourage conversation. The knowledge and experience that children gather provide a good basis for extended learning. With a less structured summertime schedule, please find the time to read with your child. Reading allows you to take a trip without ever leaving your home. Encourage your child to visualize as he reads, this not only makes reading more pleasurable, but also increases comprehension. While on vacation, encourage your child to keep a journal of his/her experiences. This provides a good avenue for expressing thoughts. Children really seem to enjoy reading journals that they have previously written. Have a wonderful summer and enjoy the time spent with your child!

#### **Mrs. Weikes, Director**

##### **Mrs. Caprara, Mrs. Wood**

##### **Pre-Kindergarten**

As the saying goes, "all good things must end," in closing out the 2014-2015 Pre-K school year. The months of May and June brought many exciting activities and celebrations as Pre-K showed wonderful maturity in their personal, social, and academic growth. The annual Kindergarten Maypole was delightful and very colorful as we welcomed springtime. This annual event provided Pre-K with the perfect opportunity to deliver their handmade May Day baskets and May Day poems to faculty and staff across the campus.

Our spring flower planting and picnic were the fun-filled activities for Mother's Day. The students honored their mothers with heartwarming songs and presented them with special heart-shaped finger imprinted necklaces. The planting helped add color and beauty to the front area of the Center for Early Learning. A picnic which followed provided the teachers,

mothers, and students with a chance to mingle and enjoy the beautiful outdoors. We thank our moms for all the wonderful things they do for us.

The June Hawaiian themed nuptials of two of our favorite Letter People began with a his and her QU bridal shower the week before the wedding. The couple received lovely Q and U gifts including Quince jelly, an aQUarium, Quaker Oats, Q-Tips, Quinoa, Quarters, and a QU wedding plaque. Pre-K, dressed in Hawaiian clothing, serenaded the happy couple with some of their favorite songs, particularly, *Pearly Shells*, before the ceremony. Mr. Pacelli escorted the bride, Ms. "U" and Miss Murray stood for Mr. "Q." A wonderful time was had by all at the Luau reception provided by the Pre-K parents.

Field Day was held on the lawn in front of the building and proved to be exciting and rewarding for the children. The team spirit and individual efforts of the students shined bright in the relays, 3-legged races, sack races, flag exchange, obstacle course, and egg on spoon events. The children were such good sports as they cheered one another on. A patriotic awards ceremony followed Field Day

The butterfly life cycle and chick hatching projects were an exciting part of May lessons and strong science program. The students cared for, observed and documented the different stages of the butterfly and chicken life cycles. The children were presented with "Great Hatch" ribbons from Quiver Farms, for a job well-done. Speaking of life-cycles, May also brought the birth of Mrs. Weikes' first grandchild, a beautiful boy, Matthew Benjamin. Spring is a wonderful time for new beginnings.

The year then started to wind down with our family trip to "Seven Presidents" beach in Long Branch. Despite chilly weather, the calm winds enabled the students, their families and teachers, to play on the beach, collect shells and chase waves along the edge of the water. The playground, complete with rock-climbing, kept the children enthusiastically engaged until our picnic lunch in the pavilion. Before boarding the bus to return to school, the children enjoyed a special "here comes summer" ice cream treat.

We could not forget to recognize our Dads. Our "Donuts for Dads Day" play was held on the outdoor stage of the Scire Student Activities Center. The students performed "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle and sang heartwarming songs before presenting our dads with special keepsakes of personalized finger printed key chains. We sure love our dads too and thank them for all they do for us.

We ended the year looking back on all the wonderful times spent together and the great things we learned this past year in Pre-K. The teachers and students agreed that the 2014-2015 was an amazing year for all of us. Pre-K celebrated with an "end of the year" picnic lunch, outdoor games and ocean-beach themed activity centers. Again, many thanks to our wonderful class mothers for all they have done for our Pre-Kindergarten.

The Pre-K staff would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and warm appreciation to our class mothers and to all of our Pre-K families for supporting our unique and wonderful program. Your generosity, support, and kindness has meant so much to all of us. Lastly, to all of our Oak Hill families and staff - have a safe and fun-filled summer. See you on campus in September!

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

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

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

Ready, set, GO!! The Kindergarten students truly enjoyed Field Day and the weather was absolutely beautiful! It was nice for the children to be on teams with their siblings, or with other older students, and to enjoy some time together out of the classroom. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Bordiuk for organizing the events and to all of the parents who helped in any way.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Over the summer please encourage the routine of reading daily, as well as doing writing activities using their new cursive writing skills. In addition practice the math facts, especially the subtraction and multiplication tables with your child.

We wish everyone a happy and safe summer!

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

What a wonderful year it has been! This last marking period truly showed off much of what our students accomplished throughout the school year.

*The genre challenge* – at the start of June, the class celebrated the reading of ten different genres. We were very proud of the many students who accomplished this personal goal.

*Our class trip to Poricy Park* – Our students showed how well they worked together in small groups. The pond study was a fun experience with the children sharing nets and taking turns to try to find critters in the Poricy Park pond (while trying not to slip in). They also participated in indoor activities at centers that focused on pond life and water attributes. Special thanks go to the chaperones who helped guide their charges throughout the day.

*Oak Hill Academy's first Wax Museum* - Throughout the world you can visit Madame Tussaud's Wax Museums. There you can learn about and take pictures with models of your favorite actors, actresses, musicians, and historical figures. At Oak Hill we did something a bit different. Here guests were able to learn about some of our favorite characters from the books we read in Novel Studies and Social Studies. The students created wax versions of the characters and museum visitors were able to go visit all of the characters and learn who they were and where they were from. There were buttons for each guest to push to activate the models. The wax models were not able to move or speak until there was someone there ready to listen to his or her story.

Parents, teachers, and other students were our guests. The day was beautiful. The museum was situated on the patio, on the grass, and under the trees at the Soler Science Center. We were very proud of the effort and presentation made by each student.

We would like to thank our parents for all of their support throughout the school year. We have one last request. Please help your child find some time to read, write, and practice math so that skills are maintained during the summer months. Have a wonderful vacation.

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

The English classes finished up their grammar studies with adverbs and prepositions. We now can take apart sentences word by word, naming their part of speech. We compiled all of our original poetry into personal poetry books which we can look back on for years to come. We were very happy to see our poetry printed in *Early Reflections*.

On April 29th, the fourth graders made our two four-foot New Jersey cakes. The baked counties came to school having been baked and cut out following the stencil at home. In the SAC, during our "Cake Day Event," the students each frosted their piece. The cake's 21 counties were frosted in five different colors and then each cake was put together like a giant four-foot puzzle. Then the students decorated as to the 'six faces' of New Jersey. The 'faces' are determined by their geographic features and how the land is used. The decorations consisted of chocolate cars, vegetables, fruits, and airplanes, Swedish fish, gummy bears and worms, sugary flowers, licorice, and Hershey kisses for the Kittatinnies, pretzel and gum drop trees, etc. We had a chocolate Governor's Mansion and of course, a chocolate Oak Hill Academy complete with OHA sign.

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

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

We all enjoyed learning about these fascinating people that did so many creative, incredible and resourceful things 5,000 years ago.

The fourth grade classes have culminated their study of realistic fiction in Language Arts. Their own realistic fiction stories were displayed during the final Writer's Celebration for the year which was held in the Oak Hill Library on Tuesday, June 10th. Students showcased their own hardcover stories, which also featured a copyright information page, a dedication page, and an about the author strip with their pictures. Students were challenged during the immersion and study phases of realistic fiction, to understand how authors show movement of time in stories, by either a change in setting or a

change in character. Moreover, students used dialogue to develop their characters and move the story along. The idea of real kids, with real problems, having real solutions, was at the heart of our realistic fiction study. Some budding authors have been started onto a very successful path of story writing!!

A special thank you goes to our Fourth Grade Room Moms: Mrs. DiBiasi, Mrs. Giannakopoulos, Mrs. Jordan, and Mrs. Olson. You helped us with our special events and gave us fun parties. Have a relaxing and restful summer.

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

In the 6th and final marking period at Oak Hill Academy the lower school Physical Education classes have completed swimming and physical fitness testing. Throughout the swim classes students have gained both competency and proficiency in stroke technique and rotary breathing. Field Day was a great day for the lower school students. It was so nice to have this fun event outside. We would like to extend a special thanks to all of the parents who volunteered to make this event a huge success. All of the students demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and teamwork during this fun day. At the awards assembly, students were given patches based upon how they scored on the Presidential Physical Fitness Tests. Students were additionally given Jump Rope certificates based upon how far they have progressed. Students were also given awards based upon how their Field Day.

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

PK students completed a unit on dinosaurs. All students created a dinosaur booklet and made a dinosaur egg craft. Kindergarteners covered a unit on engineering. They created a shade structure to keep imaginary little monsters out of the sun. First graders have been learning about human anatomy. We looked at real x-rays of animal and human skeletons and students also learned all about their teeth. Second grade students completed a unit on animal life cycles and plants. We raised Painted Lady butterflies in the classroom, learned about why Mexican Jumping Beans jump, and then learned about plants and photosynthesis. Third graders have been studying sound. Everyone created a harmonica out of wooden sticks. Fourth graders completed a unit on UV light and the electromagnetic spectrum. What does tonic water do when UV light shines on it? The results were fascinating to see! 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)**

We concluded this year's unit on The Netherlands or Holland. Students were fascinated watching video clips of how to make wooden shoes or clogs, the process of cheese making (Gouda and Edam), how windmills work, and Delft pottery. Students had the opportunity of designing their own (paper) wooden shoe along with sketches of sunflowers and their own miniature version of a windmill. As always, I enjoyed working with all the students in all these grades, as each level absorbs the information that they can process at their age. Thanks again to all the families for encouraging their child to bring in items to earn those important *"tiny bucks"* and making

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

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

Kudos to upper school students! They remained focused on their work throughout the 6th marking period and diligently prepared for big tests / final exams. It was rewarding to observe our OHA students honor their commitment to academic excellence until the last bell!

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

A memorable occasion during the 6th marking period was Grandparent/Special Relative Day. It was an amazing outpouring of love and support as our campus filled with students' family members. Equally impressive was the students' level of preparation for their very special guests. It was a treat to watch our students become ambassadors of OHA as they presented projects in class, toured the campus or explored the Science Fair. Finally...a sunny Field Day! The kids had a blast. Special thanks to OHAPO for supplying water, pizza and cool treats.

June presented so many opportunities for the Class of 2015 to create memories to last a lifetime: Amish country trip, eighth grade BBQ and yearbook signing, Lion King in NYC, academic and athletic awards ceremonies and finally Graduation on June 12th. Each occasion further solidified these outstanding young ladies and gentleman as individuals, a graduating class and an extended family. They will be forever linked to OHA and one another.

It was a privilege to be part of their journey this year. I thoroughly enjoyed working with former Pre-K students, basketball and cross country team members and getting to know each eighth grader. With great affection, I say so long but not good-bye. I wish our graduates continued success in high school and in all their future endeavors.

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

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2015!**

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

Thank you all for a terrific year in fifth grade Literature and Language Arts! As we look back on the school year, we realize just how much we have accomplished and grown as readers and writers.

In Literature, our exploration of poetry culminated in celebrating "Poem in Your Pocket Day" on April 30. It was exciting to share and hear the poems everyone selected. From there, we embarked on studies of plays, fairy tales, folk tales, and fables. I have really enjoyed swapping titles for

pleasure reading books with you all. I hope you will continue to seek out a wide variety of pleasure reading books over the summer!

In Language Arts, we studied adverbs and prepositions, while also finishing our vocabulary studies in our *Vocabulary Workshop* books. It's always fun looking for ways to use vocabulary words!

It's been a very productive and successful year. Thank you for your enthusiasm and hard work! Enjoy your summer, and best wishes next year in sixth grade!

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

**5TH GRADERS: SAVE YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOKS!!!!**

All Geography Students

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

**5th Grade Geography: SAVE YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOK!!! Don't Forget! YOU WILL USE IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR!!! DON'T THROW IT OUT!!!! You don't want to have to buy a new one; they are not cheap!**

Sixth Grade Geography

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

Don't forget: It's History-Geography Fair Next Year!

**Final notice! 5TH GRADE -- SAVE YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOKS!!!**

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

Grade 5 Math

The 6th marking period coming to end also concluded a very extensive Unit 7 that focused on Decimals in our second book of the year (5B). Students studied addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of decimals by other decimals as well as multiples of tens, hundreds and thousands. It was then time to move 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 continued to pursue our goal of moving through our program, students then progressed to Unit 9 with percents from fractions and decimals using our understanding of the relationship of decimals and fractions. This is where we finished up although we did explore a bit of the measures of central tendency with mean, median and mode. I want to thank my class (and parents) for a truly great year. They showed tremendous enthusiasm up until the last day, and it was a pleasure and highlight for me to be with them every day. Have a great summer! I would like to wish everyone the best of luck to those moving on to new and exciting chapters in their lives.

### Grade 6 Singapore Math

The pace of this year had not let up as we found ourselves at the conclusion of another school year. Our Math class was full steam ahead during this final marking period as we finished Units 8, 9 & 11 to complete book 6B!! Unit 8 dealt with the volume of different three dimensional objects. It was then time to move on to Unit 9 and our investigation of angles from all different angles including complementary, supplementary, and vertical and how angles are related in polygons. We concluded our curriculum with the final Unit 11 dealing with mean, median, mode and range or the measures of central tendency.

I want to thank my class (and parents) for a truly great year. They showed tremendous enthusiasm up until the last day, and it was a pleasure and highlight for me to be with them every day. Have a great summer! Everyone brought something to our class mentally and socially, which made our group unique. I can only hope that they brought something out of class with them, and continue to build on that knowledge for years to come.

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

#### Grade 5 – Period 2

Decimals! Decimals! Decimals!

We spent five of the last six weeks of school focused on decimals. The students began with a review of what they were, how to read them and how to write them. We talked about how our money is expressed in decimals, so whether we like it or not, decimals will always play a part in our lives.

After we made sure everyone had the fundamentals in place, the students learned how to compare and order them, how to convert them to fractions, how to approximate and round, how to add them, subtract them and multiply and divide them. The students did a great job working their way through all four operations. Their homework and corresponding quizzes were outstanding.

The last week of school before exam review was spent on converting decimals and fractions to percents. We also learned how to take a percent of a number. Again, the students' work was excellent.

It has been a pleasure teaching this group of students. They were enthusiastic and eager to learn. They were very faithful about coming to my math help at the end of the day, so they started and ended my day with a smile.

I thank you for your support at home and wish all of you a very healthy and happy summer.

#### Grade 5 – Period 3

We finished the year as strong as we began. The students learned about the different types of angles, including vertical, supplementary and complementary. They learned about the degrees in a triangle and what an exterior angle is and how it relates to the remote interior angles. They learned how to determine angle measurements in triangles and quadrilaterals without using a protractor. The students worked their way through a variety of challenging diagrams and did a great job of persevering to find the missing measurements.

From there we moved on to how to calculate rates and measures of central tendency: mean, median, mode and range.

The last week of school was spent on algebra and integers. The students learned how to combine like terms when adding and subtracting. They also learned what integers were, how to compare them, add them and subtract them. The last concept the students worked on was working with the coordinate plane.

Algebra and integers will be a big part of the sixth grade curriculum. This was a preliminary review. They will go into great detail next year.

This group of students was very hard working and enthusiastic. They were always ready to learn and had great attitudes. A true pleasure to teach!!

I thank you for your support at home and wish you a very happy and healthy summer.

#### Grade 6

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we digressed from the book for a brief time to touch on concepts I thought would be beneficial before entering seventh grade. One of the concepts was inequalities. The students were taught how to solve, check and graph inequalities using all four operations. Special emphasis was spent on inequalities that had multiplying and dividing with negative numbers.

From there we moved to the four measures of central tendency: mean, median, mode and range. This is a simple concept, but often appears on standardized testing so it is important that the students have a strong understanding of this concept.

The last concept we studied before exam review was finding the volume and surface area of rectangular and triangular prisms as well as the volume and surface area of cylinders. This was a very high level concept and will be explored again when these students take geometry. This will serve as an excellent base for their future math classes.

This class was very hard working and a pleasure to teach. I thank you for your support and wish you a happy, healthy summer. If I do not teach your child next year, I wish them all the best.

#### Grade 7

We started the marking period by finishing the end of Chapter 8 – scale drawings and dilations. The students did very well on their assessments.

We finished off the year by completing Chapter 9. This chapter began with squares and square roots. The students learned how to find the square roots and estimate the answers if it was not a perfect square.

We then moved onto the Pythagorean Theorem and solved several word problems using this very important theorem.

The students learned two ways to calculate the distance between two points on the coordinate plane. The first way they learned was by graphing points and calculating the distance by using the theorem. The second way was to use the distance formula which is taught in Algebra 1.

The last concept taught this year was to find the missing length in special right triangles. Again the students were taught two methods to solve for the missing length. The first method was to use the Pythagorean Theorem. The second way was to use the geometry approach by multiplying the leg

lengths by either radical 2 or radical 3. Most of the students solved the questions by using the algebra approach.

I enjoyed my year working with these students. They were hard working and enthusiastic. I hope you have a great summer.

#### Grade 8 – Intro to Algebra

We finished the year by solving equations and inequalities with variables on one side or both sides of the equal or inequality sign. The students were required to combine like terms and use the distribute property throughout the chapter. They were also introduced to the concepts of a null set or "all real numbers" or "identity" as their answers.

The students also worked on their corresponding graphs, checks and had to remember the rules of multiplying and dividing by a negative when you had an inequality.

I wish each of the students much success and happiness in high school.

#### Grades 7/8 Geometry

We finished off this year by studying two distinct topics. The first was volume, surface area and lateral area of three dimensional figures including rectangular prisms, triangular prisms, cylinders, cones, pyramids, spheres and even pentagonal, hexagonal and octagonal prisms and pyramids!

The second area was on probability. The students learned about experimental versus theoretical probability. They learned about the difference between independent and dependent events as well as the difference between permutations and combinations. The students answered questions calculating the area of certain geometric probabilities and finally they learned what mutually exclusive events were.

We finished at the same pace we began the year. The only time we stopped to catch our collective breath was over the holiday breaks. These students had unparalleled work ethics. It was both an honor and a privilege to teach them.

It is with a bit of sadness that I wish each of them much success as they take their next step in their education. I thank each of the parents for your support throughout the years.

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

The last marking period is over and summer is here! This marking period seemed especially fast. We had many labs this marking period where we examined soil and different forces of nature. My personal favorite lab involved using soil from our own backyards to see how it can act as a filter. We mixed water and lemonade mix and poured it through our soil filter and watched as the pink mix miraculously changed color because of the properties of the soil. This showed everyone how aquifers work and why some of the purest water is actually found underground!

Now that my first year is over I want to thank all of my students for making this an absolutely unforgettable year! I also want to thank the parents for all the hard work they did with helping their students study, get work done and for any school functions where they helped out. I cannot wait to see you all next year! Have a great summer!

**Mrs. Vacca**

**Grade 5 Math Workshop and Tech**

Students continued with their weekly five minute warm-up and then on to the final phase of completing their Immigration board games. Students then had the opportunity to play each other's games. Names such as "Journey" and "Immigration Expedition" each with their own set of rules were fun and challenging to play. Some games had their own currency and each had questions about the immigration process that had to be answered correctly in order to advance along the board. Upon completing the games, students were then asked to fill out a group self-assessment sheet. This helped in determining how well the group worked together and independently. Bonus points were calculated from the last two marking periods and a dress down day was awarded last week. Students had fun while reinforcing their math skills. I want to wish all my students and their families a happy and safe summer.

**Mrs. Duffy**

**Grade 6 English/LA**

The sixth grade English/LA students worked diligently to the very end of the school year. Before reviewing for exams, six graders explored the elements of fiction through the reading of engaging short stories such as Joan Aiken's "The Serial Garden," which leaves the reader cheering for Rudi to reunite with Princess Sophia Maria, his long-lost love, and Lensey Namioka's "Inn of Lost Time," which also has a surprising twist at the end. After the short story unit students managed to read and reflect on a smattering of poems, ranging in tone from those somewhat pessimistic such as "The Deserted Barn" by Larry Woiwode to those with lightness and humor such as "Hector the Collector" by Shel Silverstein.

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

**Mrs. Daly**

**Grade 6 Reading**

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

The classes learned about the search for extraterrestrial life as we examined our *Storyworks* magazine. During this month, students practiced their comprehension skills as we connected scientific theories to fictional accounts of alien life forms. The unit concluded with a short study of *The War of the Worlds* radio broadcast.

**Mrs. Palamara**

**Grades 6 – 8 Math**

Singapore 6

In this last marking period students extended their understanding of volume of solids to triangular prisms and cylinders as well as solids made up of cubes, prisms and cylinders. They observed and appreciated the similarities and

differences among rectangular prisms, triangular prisms and cylinders. They performed the calculation of the volume of triangular prisms and cylinders and how to apply this understanding of composite solids.

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 involved 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 used 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.

Grade 8 Algebra

In the last marking period the students learned to solve quadratic equations using square roots, graphing, and the quadratic formula. They moved on to sketching the graph of a quadratic function to find the x-intercepts. They also explored the quadratic formula to solve quadratic equations. I wish for these students a most enjoyable and rewarding high school experience.

Math Team

The OHA Math Team had a most successful 2014-2015 year. I look forward to developing another outstanding team for next year and bringing many awards back to OHA. We will have our first meeting during the first full week of school to start our preparation for the CBA Eighth Grade Math Contest which is open to both seventh and eighth graders. Perhaps we can bring home the "First Place" trophy again.

**Mrs. Billet**

**Grades 6 & 7 Science**

Grade 6

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

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

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

Grade 7

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

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

National Science League Contest

Again this year our students in grades 7 and 8 took the National Science League Test designed by science and math teachers with teaching experience from elementary to college level.

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

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

Seventh grade top scorers were: Medal Winner Michael Zhang, Thomas Wang, Jake Fradkin, Stephanie Zhou, Kyle Harris, Leah Wilson, Aron Wiener, Liam O'Hara, Jason Wang and Sarah Maes.

Eighth grade top scorers were: Medal Winner Anna Effenberger, Hannah Gazdus, Zach Basile, Dylan Servilla, William Walsh, Mary Mahoney, Luca Ferraro, Jessica Abbott, CJ Gorman and Catherine Stolbof.

**Mrs. Vacca/Madame Koar**

**Grade 6 Math Workshop**

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

**Sra. Dotto**

**Grades 6 - 8 Spanish**

This marking period, the sixth grade students have been immersed in learning a lot of grammar. We worked with the verb "gustar" (to like), indirect object pronouns and how to clarify in the third person. This is a very hard concept to understand and apply but students have mastered it. Also, they learned a lot of food vocabulary, the verbs "jugar" (to play a sport), and the geography, history and culture of Puerto Rico. All this material was reinforced with videos, PowerPoint presentations, classroom interactions, games and by going to quizlet site.

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

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

In the seventh grade, we have progressed at a very nice pace. We have covered expressions and vocabulary about making plans, inviting someone to do something, body parts, conjugation of the verb tener, expressions with the verb tener, the usage of the verb venir, along with irregular first person verbs such as: salir, poner, hacer and saber. Furthermore, students learned the geography, history, and culture of Costa

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

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, the students have learned the geography, history, and culture of Chile.

Since the last marking period, the eighth graders have been working very hard to complete their assignment for "El Cinco de Mayo" celebration. This year we focused on Spanish Artists. To get ready for this project, I formed groups and each group researched the artist assigned to them. After they gathered the information, each group wrote a biography of their artist and reproduced a painting from that artist. Some of the paintings reproduced were "The Persistence of Memory" by Salvador Dalí, "The Flower Carrier" formerly "The Flower Vendor" by Diego Rivera, "The Old Guitarist" by Pablo Picasso, "El Dolor" by Oswaldo Guayasamín and many more.

On the day of the celebration, the eighth grade students read their artist biography and accomplishments to the audience (faculty, administration and seventh grade students) and simultaneously showed photo slides (which they created) related to their reading. In addition, some students dressed up like the artist they represented and read quotes in Spanish by those artists.

We were also honored by the performance of an accomplished World Amateur Latin Champion **Roman Nabatov**. He is the owner of Metro-Dance located in Marlboro. Mr. Nabatov danced some Latin dances with our talented OHA student Leah Wilson.

Furthermore, we had a salsa contest. Each and every student worked for weeks to create his or her perfect salsa and on the day of the contest after the readings and performance, our audience was treated to a salsa tasting and voted for their favorite one. This year we had over 33 salsas from the traditional to fruit. Well, as always our judges enjoyed the salsa tasting and had a difficult time choosing the one they liked the most.

As a last thought, I'd like to inform you that there is a video posted on the OHA site showing our Cinco de Mayo celebration. Enjoy it!!!

And now to the graduating class of 2015.....  
Congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I wish each and every one of you success so great that only a dreamer's mind can imagine the achievements. I am extremely proud of all of you and wish you well. It's been a pleasure to have known you and a great privilege having been your teacher.

¡Felicitaciones!

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

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

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

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

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

As our school year winds down, our class took on the task of delving into the world of Greek mythology. Our book, Echoes From Mt. Olympus, entertained the students about different gods and goddesses. Their fascination became evident when they chose to research specific gods using I pads, blogs and sheer determination. They created shields, costumes and held a mini Greek Olympics. Their enthusiasm throughout the year helped to create a wonderful experience for all involved.

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

The seventh grade had a strong finish to the school year. Students worked hard learning about the War of 1812 and The Era of Good Feelings. We were excited to see our country growing and expanding, but realized the tensions over slave and Free states would ultimately lead to the Civil War.

I hope everyone has a happy and healthy summer.

The eighth grade had an excellent finish to their final marking period at OHA. We reached our goal of learning history to this present day!! I am very proud of the hard work each student has done over the past two years and I will certainly miss them. I am confident that each student has the skills to be successful in high school and beyond.

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

To finish out their year, the seventh graders learned four new uses of the ablative case as well as the neuter gender. We also did an extensive review of noun endings that including learning a catchy song! We continued to read about the Corneli family through stories in their *Ecce Romani* textbook and studied the seven kings of Rome, including Rome's mythical founder Romulus. To showcase their knowledge, the students completed a group project on the kings. Finally, we embarked on a broader review of grammar and culture in preparation for exams.

In the eighth grade, the students finished the year by learning about demonstrative pronouns in Latin. We also reviewed the year's grammar and practiced translating by reading about the Corneli family. Furthermore, the eighth graders continued their unit on Roman spectacles by learning about gladiatorial games. As a closing project, they produced creative (and entertaining) projects based on the stories they had translated in *Ecce Romani*.

**Mrs. Vacca/Mme Simon**  
**Grade 7 Explorations**

This final marking period these students were given the opportunity to play their Immigration Board Game that they designed and created. The game rules were reviewed and players began their adventure. Questions about immigration had to be answered correctly in order to move along the board. Students played with enthusiasm as the game was played. This project was the final product of two marking periods of research pertaining to immigration to the United States and the process once arriving to Ellis Island. Students also had the opportunity of going on a trip to Ellis Island where all their research seemed to come alive. The board game was the culminating activity of innovative and collaborative learning.

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

Congratulations to all our winners in our fantasy baseball project: 1st Place, The Jerrybirds – Declan Grigg & Tim Murray; 2nd Place, Trout Standing – Lucas Bruckmann & Jonathan Giuffre; 3rd Place, New York Rangers – Bryan Soler & Luca Ferraro. Hopefully, I was able to pass on a little bit of my love for baseball (and statistics!)

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Daly and Mrs. Williams wish the class of 2015 the best of luck in high school and in all of their future endeavors.

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

Students 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 continued to practice skill development in many different ways. Through visual literacy, students studied 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.

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

Their long journey at Oak Hill has come to a close and I am honored to have been a part of it. This marking period flew by with all of the trips, events, labs, and games. We continued on the human body looking at the circulatory and nervous systems. My students now know exactly how blood travels through the heart and around the body. They also know the major sections of the brain and how much each one controls. The most memorable event of the marking period was definitely the pig dissection. The students got to see up close all of the body parts we had been discussing in class. I don't want to brag but it looks like I had a class full of surgeons!

Now that my first year is over I want to thank all of my students for making this an absolutely unforgettable year! I also want to thank the parents for all the hard work they did with helping their students study, get work done and for any school functions where they helped out.

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

We accomplished a great deal this year. Along with completing our textbook, we were also able to get an introduction into complex numbers, 3D systems, sequences/series as well as an introduction to Trig.

With our regular curriculum and these additions, I am confident that my students will be able to tackle any of the math which comes their way in high school. They worked hard this year and I am very proud of them!

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

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

The "WEEBLY" website has been very helpful for the review prior to quizzes and assessments. The "QUIZLETS" posted on the website are really helpful and offer many possibilities to reinforce the material learned in class. We also played Kahoot games and the students really enjoyed it.

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

What a fun semester for seventh grade! We have done so many activities with the seventh graders. We studied grammar, vocabulary and culture. The students memorized dialogs and their pronunciation is amazing.

We studied some culture with a text called "En voyage en Bretagne"(on a trip to Brittany) and one on "Les repas en France" (the meals in France). Students also had the opportunity to do research and make presentations about French speaking countries or provinces. On Fridays we had "fun Friday" and we played Kahoot games, Smart Board activities, or other types of games to review the material. The website has been useful since Educreation videos and the Quizlets have made the review much easier for the students.

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

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

We also made some fun projects with an app called "Puppet Edu" and the students created stories using all the tenses that we learned and included some photos to narrate their stories.

To the class of 2015, I wish you all the very best in high school. It has been a real pleasure teaching you all and I will sincerely miss you. FÉLICITATIONS À TOUS AND BONNE CHANCE.

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

Another year has come to a close. The awards and certificates have been given out. We wish our eighth grade graduates the best of luck in high school. We wish everyone else a happy and healthy summer break.

Field Day was a great success since we were able to be outside this year. Teachers and students enjoyed the day.

We ended the Upper School swim classes with an "In Class" swim meet. The students had teams within their class period and everyone was able to participate to their comfort level. This was a fun success which we will try again in November. We will also try to schedule a Zumba Day again in the fall.

The students were introduced to lacrosse this spring which we will continue in the fall. The classes also played a bit of kickball to get ready for Field Day. Ultimate Frisbee is also a wonderful PE game where everyone can be involved.

**Mrs. Grier/Library**

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

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

**Mrs. Griller/Computer**

It is that bitter sweet time where, another year has come to an end. I wish all our families a safe and happy summer. This was a challenging year in computer class, with many wonderful projects to show our creativity and computer knowledge. The first grade ended the year by creating animated slide shows in Kidpix, along with other creative projects like stick puppets and picture magnets. The second graders learned about the parts on the inside of the computer

and created pictures reflecting country flags and all about their senses. While in the third grade the students kept practicing their typing skills through lessons and games and made a five fact chart on what makes someone a good person. The fourth grade students presented PowerPoint presentations about themselves and did some program coding on code.org. In the fifth grade students worked together to create various tours of OHA using digital cameras and Photo Story. The sixth and seventh grade students worked on animation programming projects. The sixth grade students created animated stories using Scratch. The seventh graders designed a computer game using Game Maker. In eighth grade they completed development in Microsoft Access. They are able to create a database of information, program a front end screen for data entry, print a report of the database records, and write a query to pull out certain information from the database. All classes worked diligently and produced amazing computer creations!

**Miss DiMaggio/Art**

First grade learned about the primary and secondary colors while drawing fish. They painted flowers using watercolor with the inspiration of Pablo Picasso's work "the Bouquet" and they also drew a flower still life.

Second grade drew a silly sandwich and painted a sunset with a tree silhouette.

Third grade worked in small groups to make a tissue paper inspired Monet water lily picture. They also learned about warm and cool colors and drew a chameleon using oil pastels.

Fourth grade drew a portrait after learning about artist Fridah Kahlo. They made an imprinted ceramic slab dish and drew pictures showing foreground, middle ground and background.

Fifth grade used their extra linoleum block print to make pop art pictures based on the work of Andy Warhol. They used model magic to make a miniature love sculpture based on the work of Robert Indiana. They went outside to enjoy the nice weather and drew the school. They also learned about one point perspective to prepare for sixth grade.

Sixth grade drew bubbles using oil pastels on black paper. They used model magic to make a miniature balloon dog based on Jeff Koons' giant sculptures. They drew palm trees using a watercolor resist and they had the chance to do a free choice project.

Seventh grade had the opportunity to draw outside on some of our nice days. They drew their name in bubble letters and painted it in using a monochromatic color scheme. They also finished their canvas board painting.

Eighth grade made some very cool blow watercolor pictures using liquid watercolor and a straw. They painted a beach using watercolor. They had the choice of making a sculpey clay covered pen, a painting using the different tints and shades of a color or a free choice project.

Everyone have a great summer! I hope to see some of you this summer at Art and Lego Camp.

## Mrs. Tyma/Music

How delighted I was to be able to showcase the outstanding musicianship of the music performance ensembles at Grandparents/Special Relative Day, the Blueclaws baseball game and the Awards assemblies! These students' commitment to doing their very best was evident by their enthusiasm and hard work as they prepared the music. Congratulations to all of the members of the Chorus, Music Makers and Oak Hill Players on outstanding performances! My thanks go to Mrs. Pamela Momyer, our accompanist for the Chorus again this year.

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

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

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

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

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

The third and fourth grade classes were treated to a wonderful concert by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra in which these students were able to see and hear in action all of the instruments of the orchestra that we have studied.

The second graders explored simple meter while enjoying a song about the wind, creating an unpitched accompaniment for a poem in the B section. We also explored the brass and string instruments of the orchestra, which were brought to class to see up close, and then we viewed videos and listened to recordings featuring each one. We ended the year experiencing compound meter with an American folk song and dance.

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

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

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

## Mrs. DeVivo/ Drama

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

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

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

Third grade students have been reading and acting out the many versions of "Cinderella" from around the world. Reader's Theatre scripts included "Yeh-Shen," "The Rough Face Girl" and "Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters" just to name a few.

Congratulations to the fourth grade for a wonderful Reader's Theatre presentation of "The Hidden One" on April 30th. The students performed in the SAC in front of their families and several faculty members. Fourth grade spent the last few weeks in Drama working on their improv skills in preparation for fifth grade Drama.

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

The sixth grade students are masters at improv and they enjoyed acting out improv scenes as well as playing a variety of Improv games like *WAI!*, *Vampire*, *Improv Ball Toss*.

**\*\*\*Don't forget to sign up for OHA Summer Stage Drama Camps! June 15-19 from 9:30-12:00 students entering 2nd – 9th grade.**

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

## Mrs. Vacca/Mr. Goldfarb Student Council

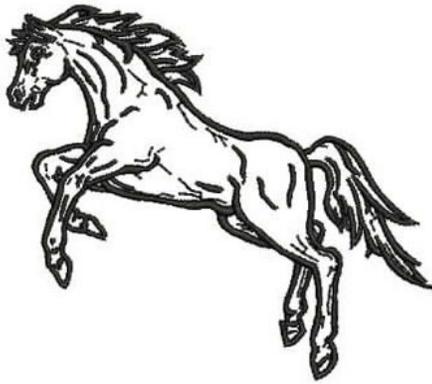
I would first like to thank all the families at Oak Hill Academy for their continued support for all of Student Council's Dress Down Days and other fund raising events. Without you, we could not continue to give back to the community and to the school.

I would like to thank everyone for their generous monetary donations and item collections during the year. On Monday, May 18th, Mr. Goldfarb and I took 10 eighth grade students to the Monmouth Day Care Center to read and interact with all the children. It was such a joy to see our students reading and playing with the children. Everyone had a fun time. The center truly appreciates the time and donation of the children's books and also the food items for their food pantry. Thanks to Mrs. Antonio for all her help in collecting donated books from the Book Fair at Barnes and Noble. Thanks also to Mrs. Basile and Mrs. Nappi for providing transportation to and from the Day Care Center.

During our school assembly on Thursday, June 4th, our student council members presented our gifts to the school. We made the following monetary donations: \$250 to the Edward P. Felt Scholarship Fund, \$200 to the Chris Ferrara Foundation, and \$360 for our continued sponsorship of Kandy Louis at Danita's Orphanage. We also provided food and beverages for **Movie Day** for the 5-6th graders, the DJ and refreshments for the (3) dances for the 7th and 8th graders and Littletown Day rides and pretzel warmer for the lower school. Student Council also made a contribution to the **"Harkness Table" Fund** for the purchase of a piece of artwork which will continue to enhance the means of collaborative learning between teachers and students. A gift of \$100 also went to Mrs. Cahalane's Lower School Science students for fall planting. Monies have also been set aside for the purchasing of a decorative tiled cement bird bath and a Cherry Blossom tree which will continue to beautify our school campus.

The assembly also provided the opportunity for the newly elected Student Council officers and project coordinators to take the **"oath of office."** President - Erin Gilfillan, Vice President - Emma Nagy, Secretary - Christine Markey, Treasurer - Catherine Barone and Project Coordinators - Caitlin Antonio, Catherine D'Amico, Francesca Dodaro, Morgan Feiler, Jake Fradkin, Jake Sage, Jason Wang, Thomas Wang, and Aron Wiener. We are looking forward to working with our new student council this upcoming school year.

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



## **ATHLETICS**

### **Softball**

Mrs. Porzio's team finished the season with a 1-3 record. They ended on a high note with a convincing victory over the faculty! The team improved throughout the season. There were a number of younger players on the team that gained valuable experience. The 8th grader Mary Mahoney will be missed!

### **Tennis**

Miss Murray's team ended the season with a 4-3 winning record! This year's Tennis team had all seven players as new starters. The team had defeated Red Bank Charter, Rumson Country Day, Monmouth Beach and Holy Cross. Four starters will be back next year plus a number of younger players who gained valuable experience by playing in many matches! 6th grader William Hurley led the team with a 6-1 record at 1st singles. The 8th graders will be missed: Anna Effenberger, Shayna Cohen, and Julianna Troccoli.

### **Baseball**

This season, Mr. Bruckmann's and Mr. Rosenfeld's team ended up 2-3 record. We had a balanced team with pitching, hitting and fielding, despite having a small team in numbers. Each loss was a close game. The team had big wins over Rumson Country Day! The 7th and 8th graders were the dominant players on the team however the 6th graders gained experience and will help lead the team next year. The graduating 8th graders were: Stephen Braunstein, Lucas Bruckmann, Declan Grigg, MJ Wright, Michael Zylka, and Andrew Mattina.

### **Cross Country**

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

### **Mighty Oak Mustang**

A special thanks goes to graduating 8th grader Zachary Basile, the original Mighty Oak Mustang Mascot! Thanks, Zack!!