

# Oak Hill Academy

## Newsletter #3

### January 2014

#### Headmaster's Message

**Joseph A. Pacelli**  
*"Being Prepared"*

There is plenty of evidence that Oak Hill students tend to be very successful in their chosen high schools. Our graduates continue to tell us that they are far ahead of their peers in all areas of high school life. They are confident, motivated, organized and have a superior knowledge base across all disciplines. Even high school teachers can tell that they have an Oak Hill grad in their class by his/her overall preparation.

Being independent learners is a big reason for this earned success. They have been challenged here at Oak Hill to take initiative and to take pride in their self-reliance. They have acquired a self starter quality which they need to grow and mature as students. Combining parent support and teacher expectations they become self-assured and competent.

I have said often, "Don't do for a child what they can do for themselves!" Even if it isn't perfect, children can take great pride when they see they are capable of performing an individual task on their own. When in doubt, a parent's or teacher's words can offer words of reassurance to bridge the gap using such words as, "You don't need my help! I promise, trust yourself!" or "I have confidence in you. Just begin. You can do this!" Just like the "little engine that could," our kids say to themselves, "I think I can, I think I can, I know I can, I know I can!"

**Mrs. Larkins**  
**Director of Development**

#### Spread the Word

We will be having a special open house for families interested in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade during the school day on Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Attendants are to arrive at the Scire Student Activities Center at 9:00 a.m. The morning will include an information session, classroom visit, tour of campus, and performances by some of our Oak Hill students. Please spread the word to any family that you know might be interested in OHA.

Also note that Oak Hill Academy will continue its financial aid program to benefit our current students as well as prospective applicants. Information has been sent home and is available on our website. Thank you in advance for your continued help.

#### "A Night in Old Hollywood" Cash Raffle and Ad Journal

"A Night in Old Hollywood" was chosen as the 2014 theme of this year's annual cash raffle, dinner dance/auction, and ad journal.

The cash raffle is part of the school's major fundraising event of the year. The cash raffle itself is a wonderful opportunity to win sizable amounts of money. This will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of our progressive 50/50 cash raffle whereby three cash prizes are awarded. The FIRST PRIZE is 70% of the winning 50/50 share up to \$17,500. The SECOND PRIZE is 20% of the winning 50/50 share up to \$5,000. The THIRD PRIZE is 10% of the winning 50/50 share up to \$2,500. Tickets are \$50 each are limited to the first 1,000 sold.

Each current Oak Hill Academy family will receive a raffle packet containing four raffle tickets. For every four tickets sold, you will receive, in turn, an incentive ticket qualifying you for our incentive prize, a beautiful rose and white gold diamond necklace valued at \$1,495!

The winners of the cash raffle prizes and incentive prize will be drawn during the April 5<sup>th</sup> dinner and auction at the lovely Addison Park. It should be an evening to remember and we hope you can join us.

Please encourage friends, relatives, co-workers, etc. to take a ticket. Why not take a chance...like they say...you never know!!! (and you will be supporting a worthy cause!)

We will continue the tradition of the OHA Ad Journal in conjunction with our Cash Raffle. It is a wonderful opportunity for a business to advertise to our local school community and a nice place to send a personal message to your child, teacher, etc. Ad forms will be mailed home shortly.

Proceeds from all these events will continue to upgrade the school facilities and expand school technology. Please participate at any level and help us prepare for an even brighter future for our children.

**Mrs. Misson**  
**Business Manager**

This is just a reminder that Re-Enrollment contracts are due Friday, February 7, 2014. Please make sure that both parents have signed the contract/s and that your payment accompanies the signed contract/s. Please include your completed transportation form/s as well. **This form is a requirement even if you DO NOT intend to avail yourself of bus transportation.**

**Miss Murray**  
**Director of Personnel/Administration**

#### Admissions

Our first entrance test was given on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Over 20 children were tested for entrance into grades one through eight. Our kindergarten testing has also begun this month. The PreK is accepting applications for the 5 and 3 day programs.

#### Lip Sync

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Lip Sync will continue with the two-night format! PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade will perform on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Grades 4-8 will perform on Friday night, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. The faculty acts will perform on both nights. Songs need to be less than three minutes in length. Details will be coming in February. Practices will be starting on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### Parent Basketball Game

The Annual Parent Basketball Game will be played on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. The Lower School parents will compete against the Upper School parents. There will be a practice on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Look for details in the upcoming month!

#### Eighth Grade American Scholastic Challenge

This will be the sixth year that our eighth graders will be competing in the American Achievement Scholastic League's Scholastic Challenge which will be on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:30. This 100 question online test will cover the following subjects: Language & Literature, Geography, History, Science, Mathematics and General Knowledge (i.e., food, art, sports, music, current events, entertainment, mythology). Results will be calculated as a school and individually. The contest will take one hour to complete. At the conclusion of the test, the students will convene in the Scire Student Activity Center for pizza and a movie!

### M.A.S.T. Jeopardy Tournament

A small group of eighth graders (and possibly seventh graders) will be chosen to compete in the Marine Academy of Science and Technology Jeopardy Contest on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>! Oak Hill students have done very well in this competition in years past!

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

#### Gr. 1

Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners is a humorous story about Mr. Rabbit and his new neighbors the Otters. Since he didn't know anything about otters, Mr. Rabbit wasn't sure if they would get along. Wise Mr. Owl advised Mr. Rabbit just to treat otters the same way he's like them to treat him. When Mr. Rabbit thought about this, he realized that, among other things, he would like the Otters to be FRIENDLY, POLITE, HONEST, and CONSIDERATE. The children learned that, by simply following the Golden Rule, we can be a good friend and neighbor to all.

#### Gr. 2

Big Al and Shrimpy by Andrew Clements is the story of how two very different characters became friends. Big Al was a leader among the fish. The other fish could not understand why he would be friends with a teeny, tiny fish. Although Shrimpy was very small, Big Al admired that he was very smart. One day, when Big Al's life was in danger, Shrimpy was the only fish brave enough and smart enough to save Big Al. Suddenly, all of the other fish could see that friends come in all shapes, sizes, and abilities. It was wrong of them to judge Shrimpy only by what they could see.

#### Gr. 3

The rewards of honesty are many. The children learned through the story The Empty Pot, that sometimes our honesty is being tested in the most unlikely ways. Discuss this story with your child to see how the Emperor knew that Ping was honest and find out what Ping's reward was.

#### Gr. 4

Our folktale this month from the collection Rhinos and Raspberries was "Supriya's Bowl." The Buddah brought the people of his land together because famine had struck and people were hungry. He asked those whose stock was plentiful to share with those who had no food. The citizens with the well stocked storehouses gave various excuses as to why they could not share. Finally a young girl answered the Buddha's call to help. Knowing that the citizens could not

refuse a little girl, each day Supriya took a bowl from house to house. The people of the town began to fill her bowl. Because of this little girl, the hungry would eat and the people of the town would take care of each other. We discussed the reasons that people were hungry, the power of one person to make a change, and what Supriya's bowl could represent in our own lives.

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

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2014 to all of our Oak Hill Academy students and families. We hope that everyone enjoyed a memorable and joyful holiday season.

Students eagerly returned to school and welcomed in the New Year. January brought a substantial amount of freezing cold weather and snow, perfect conditions for making snowflakes and snowmen crafts to decorate the Pre-K. During after school Science for Young Minds Club, the students enjoyed a lesson on Birds in Winter, that included making bird feeders for the outdoors and colorful birds for our "Please Feed the Birds!" bulletin board. When we studied a unit on hibernation, Pre-K teachers and their students enjoyed "Pajama Day" as they prepared special caves for the hibernation of their bears brought in from home.

Our author of the month Jan Brett, set the scene for the story The Mitten. This classic piece of literature came to life as students acted out the story which stresses inclusion and friendship. The students wore puppet masks and climbed under a white blanket to represent the mitten. The children then rolled across the floor as the huge bear in the story sneezed. What fun!

During class, Pre-K discovered Ms. E and completed an alphabet review of all letters and sounds introduced to date. Rhyming is an ongoing Pre-K skill; while word families and curriculum generated sight words have now been introduced. In preparation for 100 Days of School, students are practicing their counting skills to 100. As a challenge students are counting objects by 2's, 5's and even 10's. Lessons in Singapore Math continue to stress graphing, sorting, classifying objects and strengthening our basic shapes and geometric shapes. Lessons on telling time to the hour, coins and correctly forming numbers to 20 are being highlighted throughout January and February.

Our iPads provide us with numerous Apps and opportunities to strengthen and reinforce reading and math skills. Many new Apps have recently been added to provide opportunities for students to progress on every skill level.

Our Character trait for January is perseverance. Ask anyone in Pre-K what perseverance means and you will get a clear answer. Students developed a meaning for dedication and hard work and have easily transferred these lessons to the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and his efforts for peaceful change and civil rights. Martin's Big Words was a favorite story and it was wonderful experience when Mr. Pacelli read part of M. L. Kings "I Have a Dream" speech over the public address system. Students illustrated and recorded words and pictures detailing their own hopes and dreams. Coinciding with Martin Luther King Day our author of the month for January was Ezra Jack Keats. Students were amazed to learn that Keats classic tales, "A Snowy Day" and "Whistle for Willie" were the first children's books to depict an African American boy named Peter.

Some of the highlights for Pre-K during the next several weeks will be the weekly scheduled swim and play in the OHA pool. Students cannot wait!

On January 31st our Chinese New Year celebration highlighting "The Year of the Horse" will begin with some Pre-K festivities in the Student Activities Center to include; a Lion Dance parade, Chinese writing on rice paper, crafts and a sampling of various Chinese foods. Mrs. Azita Assa Wong (Julien) and Mrs. Julia Wong (Julianne) have generously offered to help Pre-K celebrate this happy time of year. They will provide crafts, a special treat, and a lesson in Taekwondo. Lucky Pre-K! We wish all of our families celebrating the Lunar New Year, "Gung Hay Fat Choy." Our Valentine's Day celebration will be held on February 13th. Our wonderful moms will join us for some great Valentine's Day literature, cookie decorating, games, a craft, music and more.

During Music and Movement classes, children will work on strengthening gross motor skills and begin preparing for our February 2014 trip to the Sunrise Assisted Living facility to present "Love Songs for Seniors." Students will complete valentines and plan a party for our senior friends. Exploring our neighborhood and transportation is stressed in our Language Arts curriculum. Our Valentine's Day Tea will be held on February 13th when the Pre-K

moms will be in attendance for a fun-filled afternoon in their honor.

Once again, Happy New Year to all of our families, and with this recent blast of cold weather we invite everyone to "Think Spring."

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We are thrilled to start 2014 in Kindergarten and to reflect on all of the exciting things we did at the end of 2013! December was a truly festive month in our classroom. We learned how the holidays are celebrated around the world by leaving a shoe outside of our classrooms for St. Nicholas and his horse and preparing delicious crumb cake for Santa Lucia Day. Our class holiday party included a surprise visit from Santa who distributed gifts to all of the children. What fun to have the Kindergarten parents come in to help decorate individual gingerbread houses! Each and every house was so unique and we're sure just as delicious to eat.

No month would be complete in Kindergarten without a field trip. In December we visited Woodfield Christmas Tree Plantation. We learned a great deal about different types of trees and were treated to hot chocolate and candy canes.

We are so excited about beginning this new year that we celebrated with a special New Year's party complete with hors d'oeuvres and watching the ball drop in Times Square. We even played some party music and turned our carpet into a dance floor!

In Math the children have learned how to measure the length of objects using items other than a ruler and to utilize a balance to compare the weight of objects. We are currently studying capacity and actively using water and different containers to see how much each can hold. The children are beginning to realize that math is a part of their everyday lives which makes it easier for them to relate to the concepts.

The Letter People continue to join our Kindergarten family. We have welcomed Ms. P, Mr. B, Mr. Z and Ms. S. With Letterlights I and U we are able to make so many more words!

The children have begun our Writing to Read program. We are so impressed with the progress they are making thus

far. They are now starting to apply their sounds and sight words into writing stories. The children will soon be given journals to write in at home. This is a great opportunity for them to further fine tune their writing skills.

We are gearing up to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school in February and look forward to what the rest of the year has in store for us!

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

Happy 2014 to all our first grade families. We are back and hard at work. We are off to a good start!!! We have been learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his pursuit of PEACE, LOVE and HARMONY. The wonderful book and video "Martin's Big Words, the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. " inspired us with actual stories about Rosa Parks and Dr. King.

In math, we are expanding our higher level thinking skills in the following areas: number bonds, addition and subtraction facts to 20, shapes, length, weight, capacity and position. Our annual get MATH FACT-ORY!! Our families joined us in the SAC for a fun filled time playing an addition facts game and a subtraction concentration game. What a fun way to practice our Singapore Math skills. We also made and displayed a colorful math quilt which is now on display in the lower school hall.

Our Worldly Wise lessons have provided our students with stories and materials which enrich not only vocabulary but also oral language. The use of these exciting, colorful vocabulary cards and fun workbook pages really help our students broaden their proficiency and fluency.

We look forward to exciting months ahead filled with learning!!

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

We have all settled into our second grade routine after a nice winter break. We shared some great stories about what we did while we were off and everyone was happy to see one another and to be back.

The greatest excitement we just recently had was getting ready for our "Math Arcade" day which was on January 16th. Right before our winter break we finished publishing our very own second grade math books. The children worked diligently writing and rewriting their math problems for the publishing of this book.

After they were satisfied with their written problems they became illustrators. They drew and colored beautiful full-page pictures of their math problems.

After the book was completed we still had a lot of work to do to prepare for the big day. We had to practice three very challenging math games that we would be playing at the "Math Arcade." Our opponent would be a family member or friend.

The games were: Add Three, Think Big, Pig and the big surprise was Dice Bingo because Mr. Pacelli was to be the caller on the actual day.

Finally our day for "Math Arcade" came. Everyone was so excited. The children were ready to "let the games begin!" The afternoon went very well and everyone had a wonderful time.

We also celebrated one of our great American Heroes, Martin Luther King, Jr., this month. We read books and discussed Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream about a world where everyone lives together in peace. We then discussed our own dreams and what good things we would like in the world in our own future.

We are now looking forward to February where we will watch to see if the groundhog sees his shadow, discuss Chinese New Year, celebrate Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, and learn about some famous African Americans as we move into Black History month.

We hope you and your families have a very healthy and Happy New Year!

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

Thank you parents for a lovely holiday party.

This marking period we have been busy memorizing all the multiplication and division facts. We have worked with data presentations – tally chart, table, bar graph, and line plot.

In Novel Study we completed Charlotte's Web and had many thoughtful discussions about the theme, characters, and the literary technique of foreshadowing. We will now view the animated movie to compare and contrast with the book.

Having completed practicing all the lower case cursive letters, we will soon be doing all of our Spelling in cursive. To help the students read cursive, we will be

using it when we write on the board. You may want to consider writing your child a few notes in cursive for further practice. They usually enjoy this!

The Social Studies classes completed Kirsten Learns a Lesson and our study of pioneers. The children and teacher role-play classroom activities as they were lived in 1854, toe-the-line, recitation of math facts and the Presidents to that point, and memorization of a poem for a "Reward of Merit". Kirsten meets a girl from a Plains Indian tribe and learns some of their ways. This has led us into our unit on the Plains Indians. We are looking into the diverse cultures of these many tribes.

Our next genre reading deadline is 5 books, of different genres, before Feb. 11. Successful readers will celebrate with Pajama Day!

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

Many thanks to our fourth grade room mothers for a delightful Christmas party. We appreciate your efforts at such a busy time of year.

The fourth graders had a phenomenal time in the Pine Barrens in historic Whitesbog Village on Wednesday, December 4th. We attended a program called Lenape Living. We had beautiful, cool December weather and we experienced life, as close as it could be, to the way the Lenape lived. We spent most of the day outside. In clans of four or five we thatched a wigwam made just as we learned. In the wigwam we read Lenape tales to each other. We ground corn into corn meal and added cranberries and maple syrup to fat being heated over an open fire. We were making pemmican, which we got to eat after it chilled in the cold air. We made herbal medicines and learned their uses, and played Lenape games made of bones, stones, and string. Two clans at a time went out on a trail on a type of scavenger hunt. We had to find a marker, identify the animal print, and then look for something in the forest. When we found what we were told to look for, we read about its significance. At one time we ate dried blueberries after we located and read about blueberry bushes and how the Lenape used them for fruit and dyes. We experienced the life of these people who lived in Scheyechbi (Lenape name for New Jersey) for over 12,000 years. We learned from them that we need to respect our earth and all that it gives us. Our instructors showed us how the Lenapes' respect for land and

life ties into our lives and the need for respecting people, resources, and our earth. Reduce, reuse and recycle are not modern ideas. The Lenape did it for thousands of years.

We finished up our novel study and hated to say goodbye to our *All-of-a-Kind Family* by Sydney Taylor. We gained lots of insight into character traits and literary techniques as we enjoyed this story. Upon our return to our *Treasures* reading book, we were entertained with a folk tale and the timely biography of Martin Luther King, Jr., which was written by his sister. This story brought to light the injustice of racial segregation. The other selections shared lessons of perseverance and working together.

In English, we finished our unit on verbs and are presently learning about adjectives. The winter weather cooperated with us as we attempted another poetry form, the cinquain. Look for our winter cinquain poems in *Early Reflections* this spring.

The fourth grade had their first Writer's Celebration where their personal narratives were enjoyed by our guests. Students had their stories out for others to pick up and read. After enjoying the wonderful stories, guests and students left the author a comment about their work. How exciting for the authors to see who enjoyed their work and realize their writing had an audience!

We are now focused on examining the components of what makes a good paragraph. We have been figuring out what the main idea is and then creating supporting details and sentences that would make for an interesting paragraph. When we finally accomplish our task our next challenge is to identify a correct closing sentence that allows the reader closure. We are continuing to work hard at developing our writing crafts with the inclusion of sensory and transitional words in our paragraphs. Our study will continue on as we have some fun and interesting methods to learn this difficult skill.

**Mrs. Cahalane  
Lower School Science**

PK students finished up a unit on chemistry. We added chemicals to our classroom mini-volcanoes and watched them explode! We have just begun a unit on scientists using their 5 senses to understand our world. Kindergarten students learned about the needs of plants and animals. They planted sunflower seeds in the greenhouse and

we have been measuring their growth. They also finished a unit on magnets. We created magnetic kites, magnetic fishing rods, and learned about materials that contain iron. First grade students learned all about the moon. We created moon books, moon rocks, and moonscapes. Second grade students studied plants and animals. They learned about producers, consumers, predators, prey, food chains, and food webs. We used party blowers as chameleon tongues during a fun predator/prey activity. Third grader students completed a unit on genetics and inheritance. Everyone created baby aliens by looking at alien genes and everyone extracted DNA from strawberries using chemicals. Fourth grade students have been learning about electricity. We started with static electricity experiments using balloons and we are now learning about current electricity. All students built their own circuits. I made a conductive dough called Squishy Circuits dough. Everyone had a chance to create something with the conductive dough. We then hooked the dough up to the circuits and experimented with bulbs, motors, and buzzers.

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

In the third marking period at Oak Hill Academy the Physical Education department will be unable to grade the students on their swim skills due to a heater malfunction in the pool. This maintenance issue has been resolved and students will resume swim in the spring. The Lower School Physical Education classes will be graded on preparedness, quality of warm-ups, behavior, following directions, sportsmanship, and respect. The students have recently started a Jump Rope unit. During this unit students will gain proficiency in coordination and timing while working on their cardiovascular health. Students in the lower school are also being shown a health video once per week. These videos include topics such as; stranger safety, hygiene, drug prevention and awareness, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

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

Students are learning so much about this wonderful country of royalty, England. Students recently enjoyed watching some video clips of the London ICE Sculpting Festival which took place January 11-13<sup>th</sup>. It's amazing what can be sculpted from ice. There was even a replica of the London Eye and Big Ben.

The Kindergarten class has been brainstorming about transportation and created their passports. The first graders have been designing their postage stamp with the soon to be new increase to \$.49 on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>. This artwork will go on display at the Double Decker Post Office. Second grade students designed their passports also and are having fun creating clay pretzels for their business on Littletown Day. The third and fourth graders have been learning about the monarchy and government of Great Britain on the ipads.

Preparations have been in full swing now that all the lower school students are meeting once a week for Ho Ho. Posters will be sketched as advertisement, Littletown houses drawn, along with stamps for the Double Decker Post Office, menus for the Queen's Café, clay pretzels for Prince William's Pretzels, and so much more. Final touches are being put on the Littletown Day invitations, thanks to Mrs. Griller and the third graders along with the design of the "**tiny bucks**," by the fourth graders. In February, a much detailed packet will be coming home about our annual event called **Littletown Day** which be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014. It is a half day and fun for all, so mark your calendars and encourage your child to continue earning those important "**tiny bucks**." Also, students should be writing mail to each other using the Littletown Day Address Book that will be going home at the end of the month. Students can also earn "**tiny bucks**" by submitting items for inclusion in the Littletown Press. Thanks to our returning editor, Mrs. Harris for taking on this important job. The Ho Ho room is bursting with enthusiasm anticipating the upcoming event.

#### **Mme Koar** **Lower School French**

The first grade students are learning the body parts to a new song, "Bonjour Monsieur!"

We play dictionary to practice the different parts of the body. Our favorite game is tic tac toe, which helps us practice our numbers from 1-20. Our favorite song is "je suis une pizza" ( I am a Pizza) which is on the website.

The second grade students review the date each class. We will continue to add the weather and time to our daily routine. The children enjoy singing with the video, "qui aime danser?" (who likes to dance?) This song reviews the parts of the body.

The third grade is learning to ask common questions in French, We learned to ask "May I go to the bathroom and to get a drink at the water fountain, questions we love to practice. Students enjoy practicing their guessing ability on the "guess who?" game which is an APP on the I-pad, available in English, French and Spanish.

#### **Mme Simon** **Grade 4 French**

In the fourth grade, we are currently studying the weather theme and the students enjoy playing the "Around the World" game and love to compete. We sent a "New Year" greeting card to our pen pals in France. Soon, we will be studying the clothing theme and we will combine the weather game and clothing with Smart Board activities.

The students can access my website (from the school website) and the "Educreation" videos" to practice the material.

It is a pleasure to see the enthusiasm of the children during our classes. EXCELLENT TRAVAIL !

#### **Mrs. Scheuer** **Upper School Advisor**

Celebrating the New Year provides a great opportunity to make resolutions. During Language Arts and Critical Reading classes, Upper School students wrote their goals for 2014. Students referenced; continuing to work hard at their studies, avoid procrastinating, devote more time for pleasure reading, exercise more frequently and increase involvement in community service projects.

With our local school community in mind, our focus once again turned to security in January. The events at Saint John Vianney and Saint Benedict's on 1/22/14 proved that practice and preparedness work in an emergency situation. We remind our students every day they are loved, safe and we are prepared in the event of an emergency. Security has always been a top priority at Oak Hill Academy. In response to this event, OHA utilized information from local and state law enforcement to continue to meet the needs of the times. Our school community is fortunate, our security team, faculty and parents work together to uphold and follow rules that ensure safety. Your continued cooperation is essential to our success and greatly appreciated.

Relating to personal safety and security, Detective Godley of the Middletown Township Police Department remains a wonderful resource for our Oak Hill Academy students. She continues to stress the importance of parents remaining vigilant and proactive with your children and their electronic devices. Det. Godley strongly recommends checking your child's social media accounts, cell phones and e-mail on a daily basis.

It was a pleasure to participate in countless lessons throughout the Upper School pertaining to the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The classrooms were alive with role playing, video and audio excerpts of his speeches, stories as well as music and art projects. Dr. King's principles of fairness, equality and education resonate throughout Oak Hill Academy. A famous quote of Dr. King's in Mrs. Williams' room exemplifies our core values - "Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."

For fifth graders and students new to the school, exams presented an enhanced experience for cumulative review. A round of applause goes to students and parents alike for instilling effective time management skills and the level of preparedness for mid terms. Congratulations to Upper School students for a job well done!

As we turn the page on the first semester, it provides an opportunity to reflect upon our student's accomplishments to date. This mid way point in the school year also provides renewed focus and energy for the start of the second semester and great anticipation for what the future holds!

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

We should have T-Shirts printed "We Survived the Big Tests!" The Fifth Graders not only survived, but excelled in their demonstration of the mastery of study skills and knowledge retention. Bravo!

This marking period we will continue to experience "Insights from Animals" by reading fiction, non-fiction and poems. We will write Book Reports on noteworthy African Americans in history and contemporary times.

In grammar, we will explore the Adjective and Capitalization and Punctuation Units. The students will continue in the Vocabulary Workshop Series covering Units 10, 11, and 12.

**Mrs. Daly/Scheuer**  
**Grade 5 Reading**

The fifth grade students are just finishing our first textbook, *Read for Real*, with great success. While practicing reading comprehension skills, students studied many fascinating topics ranging from the Wild West and the Pony Express to relocating wolves in national parks. The reading program taught students how to map out stories and themes while focusing on comprehension strategies. Our next series, *Voices in Reading*, introduces students to new skill units. These stories focus on specific moments in history that have made a difference in our world.

Students continue to enjoy the supplemental series, *Surprises*, and the monthly magazine, *Storyworks*. The fifth graders did well on the "Big Test," and they should be proud of themselves.

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

Fifth graders have begun learning about the Geography of the United States. They can study the map of the United States, for their Map Quizzes on: [www.ilike2learn.com](http://www.ilike2learn.com).

Sixth graders are now studying India.

*Geography Bee News*

Congratulations to eighth grader Aidan Picadio, for winning the Oak Hill Academy Final Round of the National Geographic Geography Bee on January 10th, and to Runner-up, Aron Wiener, in sixth grade! This is Aidan's second year as our Geographic champion. He has taken the written State Qualifying Test, and hopes to compete in the state-wide competition, which will be held on April 4, 2014. The other finalists included: Jake Lawrie, Megan Scafaria, Luke DeCresce and Zach Basile, Grade 8; Jonathan Giuffre, and CJ Gorman, Grade 7; Tiffany Kumar, Grade 6, and Kushal Bhattacharyya, Grade 5. The additional Semi Finalists who competed in the Tie Breaker Round were: John-Gabriel Bermudez, Harry Jain, David Neuwirth, Brycen Greco, and Maya Shah, Grade 8; Dylan Servilla, Lucas Bruckmann, Timothy Murray, Catherine Stolbof, Bryan Soler, and William Walsh, Grade 7; and Caitlin Antonio, Sloane Hutchings, Christopher Misson, Grade 6.

*2014 Gr. 5-8 History - Geography Fair* will be held from Wednesday May 14 to Friday May 16 in the Gym. Students have received this outline of the DUE DATES for the different portions of **their** projects:

**JAN 8th (Wed):** STATE THE PROBLEM OR QUESTION YOU ARE STUDYING, with parent's signature; should be already submitted to their teacher.

**MARCH 13th (Thurs):** SUBMIT PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE OF RESEARCH  
Student brings in evidence from at least two sources, with their notes.

**APRIL 9th (Wed):** SUBMIT FINAL RESEARCH, & PRELIMINARY FINDINGS  
A neat description or outline of research, work and findings. Record Bibliography!

**APRIL 30th (Wed):** MATERIALS YOU HAVE OR WILL USE IN PROJECT LISTED AND THE PROCEDURE YOU FOLLOWED, OR ARE FOLLOWING.  
Type or write each section separately and neatly, and submit to teacher. Each student should describe his or her individual part in a shared project.

**MAY 5th (Mon):** SUBMIT A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCES. Type or write neatly. Must have correct number of sources and use correct bibliographical form.

**MAY 12th (Mon):** FINAL CONCLUSIONS / COMPLETE YOUR PROJECT.  
The conclusion should be typed or written in correct paragraph form and should be approximately one page long. Conclusion must be handed in separately to teacher, even if a copy is on display board! Each student in a pair must have his or her own **different** conclusion!

**MAY 14th (Wed):** PROJECTS SET UP IN GYM BEFORE HOMEROOM.  
All projects must be complete, and set up in the Gym by Wednesday, May 14th, or risk a seriously lower grade. Student name(s), Grade and Class Period must be visible on all parts of presentation. On Friday they will be viewed by Special Relatives.

Projects must be removed at the end of the day on Friday, May 16!

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

*Grade 5 – Singapore Math*

Students have completed Unit 4 where they expanded on their fraction knowledge and began to investigate the multiplication and division of fractions both with respect to whole numbers as well as other fractions. We then used this understanding and attempted to put it into use to solve various types of word problems. This took us into our first "BIG Test" or mid-term in January where

students needed to show their understanding of Units 1-4. Since our program is constantly integrating information from past Units, this was just a longer test. As the second semester begins, we are now moving into Unit 5 that concentrates on Perimeter, Area and Surface Area of various shapes both two-dimensional and three-dimensional. Please remember that corrections of quizzes and tests is not optional and that homework is a very important step in the process of learning lessons of both that day as well as previous days.

*Grade 6 – Glencoe Math*

The third marking period brought with it our look into using integers and then progressing into the exploration of equations and functions. This included solving equations using models as well as addition, subtraction and multiplication equations both one and multi-step problems. This quickly moved us into using those same techniques with inequalities and input and output from functions. This lead right into the Mid-term and before you know it, the second semester has begun full steam ahead into Chapter 7 and our applications of fractions. This will include estimation to addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions as well as mixed numbers as well as perimeter and changing customary units. 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.

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

*Grade 5 - Period 2 and Period 3*

I can't believe we are already at the mid point of the year! The students are working hard and doing quite well in class.

This marking period our focus was on fractions. The students learned how to multiply and divide fractions and solve multi-step word problems using fractions as well. The students still get anxious when they hear "word problems" but they all admit that the Singapore method of bar modeling does make the problem more understandable. When the students first began Singapore math they used manipulatives. Bar modeling is the next step in the progression. Rather than using manipulatives, the students are reading the work problem carefully and sketching a picture using a bar. The final step is reading a word problem and setting it up as an algebraic equation. We are still a few years away from that point but we are making great headway!

Overall, the mid-terms were excellent. I encourage all students to come after school and work through any questions answered incorrectly to ensure understanding.

#### Grade 6

Algebraic equations and signed numbers were the key words in the 3rd marking period. While most of the students learned these concepts at the end of 5th grade we still spent several classes reviewing these very important concepts. The students did a great job solving and graphing their algebraic equations.

We had the luxury of a bit of extra time so I took the opportunity to introduce parabolas, cubic functions, slope and y intercepts to the students. While they will not be tested on this subject matter, it at least gave them exposure to some higher level concepts.

As we begin the second half of the year the students will be pleased to see that we will be learning many new concepts. The first half of the year is predominantly a review of prior year concepts. We will be using all of the topics from the first half of the year throughout the second half of the year so mastery is critical.

As the students receive their mid-terms back I encourage all students to come for after school help and correct all errors to ensure full understanding.

#### Grade 7

We spent the majority of the 3rd marking period on Geometry. Every lesson taught will be seen again in high school. I encouraged the students to not memorize our lessons but to truly understand them. It will only make high school geometry easier. The students learned about parallel lines and transversals, triangle congruency and the 3 theorems associated with that topic, the characteristics of quadrilaterals and how they relate to each other. We did lots of practice at home and in class. I am very pleased to say the test grades and the mid-term grades on these topics were excellent. This was the first time the students were exposed to many of these concepts. Sometimes new lessons can be overwhelming, but they stayed with me and worked hard. I am very proud of them.

As the students receive their mid-terms back, I encourage all of them to spend some time after school reviewing any question they answered incorrectly.

#### Grade 8 - Introduction to Algebra

Oh, this is the last math mid-term at Oak Hill for this hard-working group of students. Overall, grades were very good. The exam was not easy and was a very comprehensive assessment of the first 5 chapters. I encourage the students to stop in some time after school over the next several weeks to review any question they may have answered incorrectly.

We are beginning Chapter 6 which covers topics such as proportions, rates, ratios, percents, percent proportions, discounts, interest and percent change - all very important life skills. You need to understand unit rates to make an informed consumer decision; you need to calculate percents for tips or tax; one day when we start earning interest again, you will need to understand interest earned - or more likely- how to calculate interest owed on loans...After this chapter is complete, we are immersed in algebra. The students are not going to be happy at first since these we will be leaving our comfort zone, but everything they learn and understand now will help them immensely next year.

#### Grade 8 - Algebra 2

We completed the first 7 chapters of the book and are well into Chapter 8! Topics taught this marking period included the following: using properties of exponents, evaluating and graphing polynomial functions, adding, subtracting and multiplying polynomials, factoring and solving polynomial equations, finding rational zeroes, nth roots and rational exponents, properties of rational exponents power functions and function operations, inverse functions, graphing square root and cubic root functions and solving radical equations.

I am so pleased with the accomplishments in this class!

#### **Mrs. Schroeter Grade 5 Science**

The Periodic Table of the Elements has been the main focus of the fifth grade this marking period. Topics covered included matter, elements, atoms and their subatomic particles (protons, electrons, and neutrons), and the uses of the periodic table to identify metals, nonmetals, transition metals, metalloids, alkali metals, halogens, noble gases, atomic numbers and atomic masses, the states of matter, and the chemical reactivity and stability of the 92 natural elements by their families. A project of the elements was begun in which each student was assigned one of the first 49 elements to research and make a poster

of his/her element. A delicious lab for this unit included making an atom model using Fruit Loops to represent the subatomic particles. The bulletin boards in Room 18 in the Science Center are masterpieces of their efforts. While learning about elements and molecules, the students enjoyed another delicious lab by making "marshmallow" molecule models. The fifth grade has now successfully experienced their first "Big Test" (Congratulations!), and a new semester has begun.

#### **Mrs. Vacca Grade 5 Tech**

Students just completed their project: "**Christmas around the World**" where students researched countries that celebrate Christmas. Research included foods they eat, decorations they display, another name for Santa Claus, how he arrives, what he brings, and any other holiday traditions. Countries that were researched were: Italy, Madagascar, Iceland, Germany, Australia, England, Jamaica, Portugal and Sweden. Students learned that Babbo Natale is Santa in Italy and Pai Natel in Portugal, Jultomten in Sweden, and in Iceland they have 13 different named Santas. In Australia Santa arrives by surfboard. Food variations included sausages, fish, Christmas pudding containing a gold nugget, dumplings, red cabbage, fruit cake, plantains, and lychees. Presentations were made from Keynote or word with numerous eye appealing pictures.

The next project takes the students back in history to **Ancient Civilizations**. New groups and new topics were selected.

#### **Mrs. Vacca Grades 5 & 6 Math Workshop**

#### Grade 5

Students continue with the 10 minute warm-ups to earn those bonus points for a free dress down day at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period.

Students formed new groups and were given the task of planning a **Thanksgiving Feast** for 20 people. A guest list was put together and a budget of \$200 was allotted. The groups had to plan their feast using the prices from local food store flyers. Appetizer, main course, dessert, beverages, and table decorations were included. A running list of food items and their cost were totaled. The closest group to \$200 and not over budget received the most bonus points. It was a fun and cooperative group project using practical math and no calculators.

The next project is one about flight and paper folding. Students defined terms of lift, gravity, thrust and drag. Directions for folding the “**The Trainer**” were given. Students will then fly their planes and measure distance in metric. Group distances will then be calculated.

#### Grade 6

“**Radio Stations around the World**” just finished broadcasting in these classes. Students had fun putting together their 5 minute presentations consisting of 3 minutes of music (1 song had to be from their country) and 2 minutes of speaking parts which had to include a current event or news happening in their location.) A flag of their country and a world map depicting where their radio station was broadcasting from was also included. These were fun, time management presentations to watch and listen to.

The next project has to do with flight and paper folding airplanes. Terms were defined, folding instructions for the “Rockin’ Gym Bird” were given to follow along with and then planes were decorated/personalized. Groups will be formed, planes flown and distance will be measured using metric sticks. Individual and group distances will be recorded.

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

Sixth graders prepared diligently for the “Big Tests” this marking period. Learning to review a large body of material, to identify what is important in that material, and then to synthesize the information reinforces the study skills that Oak Hill students develop and carry with them into high school and college.

After reading the quirky and sometimes menacing stories of the “Chills and Thrills” unit I literature, we are ready for gods and goddesses to fill the classroom as we begin our new literature unit, exploring the theme of passing on the oral tradition in our reading of myths from around the world. These engaging stories will entertain us with how ancient civilizations explained the beginnings of things in the natural world before the emergence of modern day science.

In the writing of their compare/contrast essay, sixth graders used their critical reading skills to analyze and synthesize material from the “Finding Your Place in the World” unit in their literature text and then created well organized and well thought-out writing pieces.

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

The sixth graders are successfully completing the *Read for Real* program. The series offers reading drills, comprehension strategies, and great stories. In addition to historical events, the readings introduced the students to several people who have made a difference in the world. Other readings have included Wilma Rudolph, Diana Golden, Hans and Sophie Scholl, and more heroes who have helped those in need.

Our novel study, Freedom Crossing, concluded with students writing epilogues. The characters were so interesting that many wondered what might become of them after life on the Underground Railroad. Students immersed themselves in this time period for about six weeks and studied many different aspects of the abolitionist movement.

The classes also enjoyed a story called *Mad. Hot Ballroom*. This is a non-fictional account of the ballroom dance competition in New York City’s public school system. Three schools were followed from the beginning of the program right through to the City Championships. Stories of goal-setting, perseverance, winning and losing helped students understand the universal themes about life. The sixth grade loved it.

Students did well on the “Big Test” and should be proud of themselves.

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

##### Grade 6 – Glencoe

This marking period focused on number patterns, fractions and percents. Students learned to find the prime factorization of a composite number and to use these factors to find the greatest common factor and the least common multiple of two or more numbers. They learned to recognize and extend a pattern for sequences; to solve problems by making a list; to illustrate the meaning of percent; and to find the probability of a simple event. They also began work on integers: comparing, ordering and finding the absolute value. They also learned to add and subtract integers and to plot points on a coordinate plane.

##### Grade 7 – Gateways

Ratio and proportion are at the center of many relationships among real world objects. Therefore, there are many ways to approach the subject. Students

learned to emphasize ratios between different units of measure. Many of the applications of ratio and proportion were treated in the problems. Density was formally discussed because it is such a rich application and an important link to science. They also continued to emphasize the relationship between geometry and arithmetic, culminating in a section on similarity. They also began their work on data analysis, looking at circle, line and bar graphs, and histograms, scatterplots, pictographs and artistic graphs.

##### Algebra I

During this marking period the students learned to write linear equations and how to apply them to real-life situations. They discovered the relationship between the slope formula and the point-slope form, as well as the relationship between the slope-intercept form and the point-slope form. They found the equation of the line using two points and equations of parallel lines and perpendicular lines. They learned that the product of the slopes of perpendicular lines is -1 and discovered that the slopes are negative reciprocals. They have also begun their study of solving and graphing linear inequalities. They are on their way to solving compound inequalities, absolute value equations and inequalities and graphing linear inequalities in two variables. They have a most challenging marking period ahead.

##### Math-A-Thon

Our annual fundraiser for St. Jude Children’s Hospital is here again. Math-A-Thon is designed to be an educational learning experience for your child while raising money for the children at St. Jude who are counting on our help.

Last year 77 students participated and raised \$6,603.00. Aside from the prizes awarded by St. Jude Hospital, all participating students will receive a dress down day in the spring.

The Math-A-Thon Funbook is now available at [www.mymathathon.org](http://www.mymathathon.org). It includes games, hospital information and updated problems. Please decide if you want the online or the paper version of the Funbook for your child when turning in the permission slips. All grade levels are included online.

For more information about Math-A-Thon, please visit the website: [www.mathathon.org](http://www.mathathon.org). Look for permission slips coming home soon!

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

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

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

**Sra. Dotto**  
**Grades 5, 7 & 8 Spanish**

Spanish - 5

This marking period, the fifth graders have worked very hard and have mastered all the material covered. In Spanish class, we learned the four forms of you, all subject pronouns, the conjugation of the irregular verb *ser* (to be), descriptive adjectives, and formation of sentences in the plural and negative form. Also, we studied the geography and history of Spain. All this has been reinforced with power point presentations, videos, songs, games, classroom interaction and by logging in to my sites, Weebly, Quizlet and Educreation for visual and auditory practice.

Class, I want to take this opportunity to tell each one of you how much I enjoyed getting to know you. It was a great pleasure to teach you, we had fun and learned quite a lot. I am very proud of what you have accomplished and I am looking forward to seeing and working with all of you in sixth grade. ¡Buena suerte!

Spanish - 7

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, saying what you have and what you need, talking about classes, clothing vocabulary, body parts, conjugation of the verb *tener*, expressions with the verb *tener*, the usage of the verb *venir*, along with some irregular first person verbs. The students

have also learned the geography, history, and culture of Costa Rica.

All this has been reinforced with power point presentations, audio CD's, videos, classroom interaction and by logging in to my sites, Weebly, Quizlet and Educreation for visual and auditory practice.

Furthermore, students have been practicing a dialogue, which they presented in front of the class (from memory). Their pronunciation was great and they all showed a great deal of enthusiasm. ¡Buen Trabajo!

Class, it was a great pleasure working with you. We had a lot of fun and learned quite a lot. I will miss you.

**STUDENTS TAKING SPANISH IN 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE. PLEASE KEEP YOUR TEXTBOOK AND WORKBOOK FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.**

Spanish - 8

In eighth grade we have been studying one of the most confusing irregular verb for a non-Spanish speaker to learn, the difference between the verb *ser* and the verb *estar* (both verbs mean "to be", but are used under different circumstances). The students have worked very hard with these verbs and I am pleased to say that they have mastered them. Also, they have been working with a good amount of adjectives specifically used with the verb *estar*, vocabulary on locations where people live, chores and responsibilities plus negation with *nunca* and *casi nunca*.

All this material has been reinforced with power point presentations, videos, audio CD's, classroom interaction and by logging in to my sites Weebly, Quizlet, Educreation and Prezi for visual and auditory practice of vocabulary and expressions.

Furthermore, students learned the geography, history, and culture of Argentina and presented a dialogue in front of the class (from memory). Their pronunciation was great and they all showed a great deal of enthusiasm. ¡Buen Trabajo!



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

We have accomplished so many things this first semester. Our written work continues to develop as well as our vocabulary and sentence structure.

In Language Arts, we have just completed a unit on Verbs and will begin a unit on modifiers: Adjectives and Adverbs. In vocabulary, we will go on with our units in *Vocabulary Workshop* and continue to add to our list and understanding of new words.

In Literature, we have just completed our in-depth novel study of *The House of Dies Drear* by Virginia Hamilton focusing on various critical thinking skills that will be beneficial for our standardized tests in the spring. To finalize our unit, the students created an illustration of the Dies Drear house (a station on the Underground Railroad) emphasizing the architectural detail, color, and design of the house. They will be on display in our Upper School.

In our next unit, we will embark on a new adventure into the world of William Shakespeare. We will learn about his life, as well as the Globe Theatre, and we will read a prose and play version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This will certainly broaden our horizons and provide us with a new perspective of the English language. We will conclude our unit with a field trip to see a performance of the play at the New Jersey Shakespeare Theatre.

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

As the second semester unfolds, it is time for our seventh graders to explore the magic of reading. The students will engage in a variety of reading skills from comprehension, following directions as well as the basics skills needed to feel accomplished when tackling different sources. The class will be actively participating on the Ipads as well as presenting powerpoint activities. Hopefully, the different topics presented will inspire the students to continue to absorb the many skills involved in reading.

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

The seventh grade has been busy learning about the establishment of the Thirteen English Colonies and why tensions between the colonies and England erupted. The class has read excerpts from Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* and *Johnny Tremain* by Esther

Forbes to learn about the discontent from a personal viewpoint. We have also been working hard to prepare for our midterm exams.

The eighth grade has been hard at work, learning about the rise of big business and the Progressive Era in America. Students were shocked to learn about factory conditions that existed during the early 1900's. They were especially affected by the excerpt we read from Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*, about the meatpacking industry in America. We also covered topics about imperialism and The Spanish American War. Students are currently preparing for our upcoming midterm exam.

### **Mrs. Larkins** **Grades 7 & 8 Math Workshop**

Seventh graders had some fun ordering virtual pizza over the internet. With such toppings as smiley faces, peace signs, eyeballs, and nails, it was easy to investigate such topics as area and best buy.

Food was a great motivator in our latest math workshop project. First we used goldfish crackers in order to simulate a method called "tag and recapture" that is used by scientists to estimate the total number of sharks within a body of water. Groups used their data from the goldfish simulation to form proportions and find averages.

It was a pleasure having the seventh grade this semester. Good luck to them in Explorations!

My eighth grade class has been very busy doing several small projects (in addition to their daily warm-up problems and homework). One project was a discrete math project entitled "Sprouts." It started with a game and ended with the students discovering the mathematics and economics behind map making.

### **Mrs. Vacca** **Grade 8 Explorations**

One day a week classes concluded this semester with presentations entitled: "**Foods around the World.**" Students chose partners and researched a country and then researched various food choices, dietary restrictions, cooking styles, holiday foods, and included a menu of a restaurant in their region of the world. A flag and map of the world showing the location of their country was also included. Students presented these very visual projects through Keynote or Prezi. From Greenland, Thailand, Mexico, Russia, to Japan, China, Cuba,

Germany and Denmark, the foods were interesting and some very unique.

The 3 day a week class just finished presenting their new topic of **inventions** which included: The 3-D printer, EVENA (Eyes on Glasses) which locates veins underneath the skin, the Artificial Pancreas, rings and bracelets that translate sign language and the top 10 inventions of all times. Some of the above mentioned inventions have not been made readily to the public, but are in the workings. These inventions were very interesting to learn about and the visuals were amazing.

Their next topic revolves around the **Winter Olympics in Russia** this coming February. Students will select a sport and which countries are competing in that sport and then chart winning medals for their country all around. This should be a fun and on going project with current results.

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

In eighth grade Language Arts, students continued their study of vocabulary. In addition, they concluded the grammar unit: *Modifiers*. Furthermore, students continued their writing assignments with the start of the research project. Students selected a topic, created a working outline, researched sources, and completed bibliography and note cards. During the fourth marking period, students will continue the research project, vocabulary lessons, and grammar lessons.

In Literature, students concluded the novel, *The Outsiders*. Moreover, students read nonfiction short story selections. They made connections to history and examined the literature for figurative language. Next marking period, students will begin reading Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

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

The eighth grade students have been working on reading skills diligently. They have just finished the *Read for Real* program, which offered several strategies for reading success. The readings immersed students in the past, the present, and the future. The NASA space program provided great insight into America's plan for the future, whether there will be moon colonies someday, and the land conditions on Mars. Technology advances in medicine and communication provided students with up-to-the-minute information. The *Read*

*for Real* text ended with a terrific story about the history and future of transportation. The eighth graders all want the new "Skycar" now!

Our weekly news summaries have increased students' writing skills while providing insightful topics for class discussion. Class news summaries have included technological advances in medicine, education, and the business world. New ways of reducing our carbon footprints sparked great discussions on global warming, energy usage and other consumer issues. The class even read about the use of iPads in American zoos. Each weekly topic is designed to increase written summary and opinion skills.

The eighth graders prepared well for the midterm exams and should be proud of themselves.

### **Mrs. Schroeter** **Grade 8 Science**

Our eighth grade Earth Scientists have been studying minerals this marking period. The labs performed by the students included growing and observing silver crystals using the microscope and doing many mineral tests – streak, hardness (Mohs test), luster, breakage, magnetism, crystal formation, acid test – on our large collection of minerals. Density and specific gravity of the minerals were discussed, compared, and contrasted. The students also learned how to calculate the molecular mass of the minerals using chemical formulas and the atomic masses of each element in the formula. This information helped to explain why the mineral "galena" feels so heavy. (The lead in the galena has a high atomic mass.) A project of the elements was begun in which each student was assigned one of the elements (#50-100) to research. When completed, my fifth graders and eighth graders will have completed a book containing the following information about the elements: element name, symbol, discoverer and nationality of the discoverer, location and date of the discovery, continent of the discovery, and flag of the country where discovered. A flag of the world showing the sites of the discoveries will also be a part of the presentation.



**Mr. Pacelli**  
**Accelerated Algebra I**

We have been moving right along in our quest to finish our entire book. My students are working hard and it looks like we will complete Chapter 12 with plenty of time to spare in order to do some geometry and trig. Currently, we are finishing up our chapter on function and will be starting our system of equations followed by exponents.

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

The seventh graders began the third marking period by learning about the 4 conjugations of Latin verbs and how the conjugation affects the form of the present tense. Because of this, we spent much of the marking period working with identifying, conjugating, and translating present tense verbs in all persons and numbers. Furthermore, they learned how to conjugate the imperative (command) form of verb. We also learned two new noun cases (ablative and vocative) and discussed their uses. As always, we worked on developing translation skills by reading stories about a famous Roman family, the Corneli. Finally, we have added to our cultural studies by learning more about the Roman gods (a subject we will continue to develop into the next marking period) and slaves in ancient Rome, including a Saturnalia party (a Roman holiday in which slaves featured heavily) before break! Finally, we rounded out the marking period with an intensive review of grammar and culture in preparation for their exams.

In the eighth grade, we continued to work with third declension adjectives, in this case learning the sub-category of single termination adjectives and the use of adjectives as nouns. They continued to work on the future tense, a tricky case that they handled very well. Additionally, they also learned the form and use of the pluperfect tense. We worked on expanding their case use by introducing other uses of the dative and ablative case, and, as before, we spent a great deal of time on translation skills primarily through stories in their *Ecce Romani* textbooks. Finally, we discussed Roman architecture and its effect on Rome's population through the study of aqueducts and Julius Caesar's impact on Roman history. Finally, we finished off the marking period with an intensive review of grammar and culture in preparation for their exams.

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

Grade 7

The third marking period was the last marking period for the 3 classes of French. I feel that we have accomplished quite a lot. The students have worked very hard and we have covered regular and irregular verbs, practice of dialogs, placements of the adjectives and vocabulary relating to food and clothing.

"Quizlets" and "Educreation" videos that I created and posted on the "Weebly" were very helpful in learning the vocabulary and the student accessed it very often for practice and review. We also worked on a dialog "En voyage en Bretagne," a text about "Tahiti" and "Les repas en France." We learned a lot of cultural facts regarding France and the French language.

The students showed a great level of enthusiasm and it was a pleasure to teach the classes. Students, I wish you the best in the Spanish class (I will miss you) and I welcome the new class of seventh grade. BON TRAVAIL ET A BIENTÔT.

Grade 8

In the eighth grade, we have mastered quite a lot of regular and irregular verbs, the reflexive verbs, placement of the adjective, possessive adjectives, the routine of the day, classroom objects and vocabulary relating to technology. The students study the material with "QUIZLETS" and "EDUCREATION" videos that I have created which are posted on my website.

We have already started to practice for the FRENCH NATIONAL EXAM, which will take place on March 13th. During the next few weeks, we shall focus on oral comprehension for the auditory part of the exam. The weekly practice will give the students an opportunity to work on understanding different accents and intonations other than mine.

After the French National exam, we will study the past tense and future tense which will prepare the students for French in High School. BON TRAVAIL

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

The seventh and fifth grades have completed their units of Health Education and will now be back in the gym 3 days a week for Phys. Ed. Class. Swim classes are suspended in the **bitter cold** (this year especially!) months. Swim class will resume during the 5<sup>th</sup> marking period. A

notice will go out regarding the start of swim class.

The seventh and fifth grades will participate in units of Basketball and Volleyball for the fourth marking period. Please remind your children that they need to be prepared for PE classes 3 days per week with a change of clothes and sneakers. Dress Down Days and Fabulous Footwear days are no exception. The student **MUST** have sneakers to participate in PE. This is for their safety and comfort.

The eighth grade and sixth grade will have Health Education for the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period. Health class will be held 3 days per week. Please refer to the syllabus given to each student for the topics we will be covering in Health.

Mrs. Bordiuk will be attending a presentation on Heroin use on Monday January 27, 2014 at Shore Regional High School. Heroin overdoses among 18-24 year olds in Monmouth and Ocean Counties have increased over 24% in the past 18 months. The statistics show that the students start experimenting with these drugs early in High School. Mrs. Bordiuk will gather useful, age appropriate information to share with the eighth grades in Health class when we discuss "street drugs" and "club drugs."

**Mrs. Grier/Library**

When the doors open to the library each morning, it is great to see the children arrive eagerly looking for a new book to read. The library has checked out more than 2400 books this year. The children explore different topics that interest them or possibly will be selecting a special genre that is related to their monthly "book-it" report. Some classes have the privilege of learning about different authors such as Chris Van Allsburg or Jan Brett while other children are continuing their research on the Dewey decimal system. When time permits, a favorite for the children is the scavenger hunt. Watching children use the computer to look up the specific book and then to locate it, sends a message that they too are engaging themselves in the library system.



## Mrs. Griller/Computer

As we reach the middle of the school year it is time for those who have been in Computers to go to Art and for the Art students to begin Computer Class.

In the first grade we ended our computer class by making animated slide shows in KidPix.

The second graders learned about the inside parts of a computer and how they are used. Also, we used educational websites on the Internet.

The third graders continued to practice their typing skills and created the Invitation for Littletown Day.

While the fourth graders learned about some features of Microsoft Word during their creation of the Littletown Day Tiny Bucks.

In fifth grade students created digital stories using pictures and the software program Photo Story. They narrated the stories by recording their own voices.

The sixth grade classes created animated stories using Scratch animation programming.

The seventh graders designed computer games using Game Maker software.

In eighth grade the students created an Address Book database in Microsoft Access. They used that database to create Forms (Data entry screens), Queries (extract data based upon requested criteria) and Reports (print-outs).

## Mrs. Tyma/Music

The December holidays were celebrated in the lower school music classes with Kwanzaa songs and dances accompanied by conga drums (2nd grade), Hanukkah and Christmas songs/dances (K-4<sup>th</sup>), and dancing to the *Nutcracker Suite* by Tchaikovsky (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>). Accompaniments appropriate to the skill level of each grade were performed with these songs, and the joyfulness of the season was experienced by all.

Songs and stories about wintertime provide opportunities to explore music concepts and to be creative. In **first grade** we are experiencing triple meter as we "skate" (on paper plates) to the *Skater's Waltz* by Waldteufel. We are creating an accompaniment of sound effects for a snow song as we experience compound meter. In **Kindergarten** classes, we are singing songs about snow angels and snow children as we explore ascending/descending melodies and play games to develop our singing

voices, beat competency and movement skills. The wonderful children's book *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen about owl watching in winter is being enjoyed again this year by the **first and second grade** classes. After reading the story, we listen to the composition *Cathedral Forest* by the contemporary composer Paul Winter in which he depicts the sounds of the forest, including the song of the spotted owl. Some of the classes may choose to interpret the music with creative movement. This unit gives us the opportunity to explore several areas: 1) the importance of protecting wildlife and their habitats and 2) for those older children for whom this is a second and third listening, an opportunity to apply newly acquired musical knowledge to a previously studied composition.

The **second, third, and fourth** grade classes are learning about the life of Martin Luther King Jr. through books, videos, songs and poetry. In **second grade**, we are learning a rhythmic poem about Dr. King's life that we are orchestrating for unpitched percussion instruments while experiencing syncopated rhythms and reviewing half notes. In **third grade** we are learning a song about his work, adding an accompaniment on the barred instruments and then expanding the form of the song by improvising a contrasting section. These improvisations are based on rhythmic patterns that each class creates. We are exploring the pentatonic scale and working on our compositional skills of rhythmic and melodic phrase building. In addition, we have begun to learn to play the recorder! (More on this exciting unit in the next newsletter.) In **fourth grade**, a rhythm piece about Dr. King is being orchestrated for drums by the class while gaining a better understanding of syncopated rhythms. A song and book about the Underground Railroad and Harriet Tubman continues our study of famous African Americans. The American spiritual *Follow the Drinking Gourd* will be accompanied on the barred instruments in order to continue our study of syncopation and to begin a study of harmonic progressions.

Experiences in syncopated rhythms and in new notes for recorder were had in the **fifth grade** with a song from the Caribbean in calypso style. The addition of drums and other percussion characteristic of calypso music rocked the room with rhythm. Additional experiences in rhythmic syncopation were offered through a song in celebration of the winter solstice. Not only was choral singing highlighted, but also the class demonstrated their understanding of these more complex

syncopated rhythms by improvising melodies on the barred instruments as a B section for the song.

After completing our study of a canon by Carl Orff for the barred instruments, the **sixth grade** classes decided to use it as a model for our own improvisations, giving us the opportunity to apply all the knowledge we gained from the study and to work on music composition. Using the rhythmic text (in compound meter) of the lovely book *Harvest Home* by Jane Yolen as a model, we improvised more melodies and created a melodic refrain to serve as an accompaniment to the reading of the poem. Finally, we enjoyed a drum piece that used almost every kind of drum we have in the music room, from congas to log drums, in a wonderfully rhythmic finale to the semester.

As part of our mission as ambassadors of Oak Hill Academy, the Chorus, and Oak Hill Players will be performing for the PreK/Kindergarten/First grade Open House on February 21st. There will be some changes in the days of rehearsals on that week due to Presidents' Day Holiday. Please refer to the performance/rehearsal schedule that was distributed in October for those changes. Additional copies of the schedule are posted on the information board in the music room.

## Miss DiMaggio/Art

On the Monday after exams, anyone who was in art for the first half will switch to computers.

First grade used watercolor to paint a bouquet of flowers while tracing their hands on construction paper to hold the flowers, based on Pablo Picasso's painting *The Bouquet*. Students learned how to weave paper. They made different tints and shades of a color while painting a very tall ice cream cone, and used patterns to create a picture based on the work of Romero Britto.

Second grade used acrylic paint to paint winter trees, with cool colors in the background. They also drew a still life, use foam drawing to make prints, and drew a silly sandwich.

Third grade drew a self portrait based on Pablo Picasso's Cubist style. They drew a still life of Converse Sneakers and painted it with acrylic paint, using warm and cool colors. They drew a chameleon or a tree, and in groups they used tissue paper to represent Monet's water lilies.

Fourth grade finally finished their self portraits based on artist Frida Kahlo. They painted a picture based on Paul

Gauguin focusing on the foreground, middle ground and background.

Fifth grade carved linoleum block and made several prints. Using their prints, they made a Pop Art project based on Pop artist Andy Warhol. They used construction paper to make a topography, and they learned about one point perspective in preparation for next year's project.

Sixth grade drew a still life using pastels, drew a winter tree using oil pastels, and used many tiny patterns to create a zentangle.

Seventh grade used acrylic paint to paint a textured picture on a canvas board. Using oil pastels, they drew sunflowers based on Vincent Van Gogh, and using the many different tints and shades of one color they drew or painted their name while learning about monochromatic colors.

Eighth grade used sculpey clay to cover pens. They used liquid watercolor to make blown watercolor paintings, learned to make the different tints and shades of a color using acrylic paint, and finished their zentangles. They learned how to hatch, cross hatch, stipple and shade to show different values and textures when drawing; with those techniques they drew a still life of either Converse sneakers or a bouquet of flowers.

### **Mrs. DeVivo/Drama**

During the month of December, Pre-K and Kindergarten enjoyed reading and acting out some familiar holiday stories, such as "*The Gingerbread Man*" and "*The Nutcracker*." The students also watched a unique video of "*The Nutcracker*." The performers were not ballet dancers, but marionettes!

First & Second grade students took part in similar holiday activities. The students played pantomime drama games that required them to act out holiday words and themes. Snowmen, snowflakes, Rat Kings, toy soldiers, Rockettes, and more visited the Drama room this December. They also had a blast acting out one of their favorite stories, "*Mrs. DeVivo's Toy Shoppe*." In this story, students become their favorite toys and each night when Mrs. DeVivo locks up the shop, the toys come to life!

The Third grade students created their own versions of "*The Gingerbread Man*." The students worked in groups and decided on a new runaway food to be the main character of their plays as well as a supporting cast, too. Some new runaway food characters included a croissant, a

birthday cake, a carrot, a watermelon, chicken nuggets and so many more! The students made stick puppets of all of their characters, rehearsed their skits and then presented these unique and entertaining puppet shows to the class.

Fourth grade students enjoyed playing "*Holiday Charades*" and learning a new improvisation game called "*Press Conference*." The students also read a variety of holiday Reader's Theatre scripts such as "*Red Headed Robbie's Christmas*," "*Elf on the Shelf*," and "*Carol's Christmas*" just to name a few.

The Seventh and Eighth Grade students spent the third marking period working on Drama/Theatre History research projects and power point presentations. Some topics that the students researched were: The history of Disney on Broadway, Spiderman, Radio City Music Hall and the Rockettes, Roman Theatre, Stage Combat, Wicked, Jim Henson and the Muppets, International Sesame Street, and so much more! They were very informative and entertaining!

### Drama Clubs:

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Charades had their last club on December 10<sup>th</sup>. We played Holiday themed Charades and the students enjoyed some special treats.

The **Forensics team** will continue rehearsals in March for the Ranney competition in April/May. Exact date TBA.

And finally, kudos to all of the upper school students who auditioned for the play, "*Wizard of Oz*." We are going to have a fun time working on it over the next few months! Rehearsal calendars can be found on Oak Hill Academy's Drama Web Page.

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

First, a big thanks to all of our Oak Hill Academy families for their generous holiday donations, whether it was toys, specific items, or money/gift cards. All the organizations that we collected for were deeply touched by our generosity. We are certain that numerous smiles and happy faces were evident this past holiday season.

### **Please note the date changes on our February Calendar:**

**On Monday, Feb. 3rd, we will have Fabulous Footwear Day and on Friday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our RED DRESS DOWN DAY.** There has also been a **change to Fabulous Footwear Day**--- Ties will stay on and boys will now

be able to wear alternate shoes also, including sneakers. Friday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> is **National RED WEAR Day**, and students are encouraged to dress in **RED** to help bring awareness to the **American Heart Association**. Once again we ask that all students contribute at least \$1, and additional donations made out to the above mentioned will be gladly accepted. We also will be selling **RED DRESS** pins for \$2 to show support for this organization.

**On Wednesday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, the fifth and sixth graders** will be invited to the SAC for an afternoon of a good movie, pizza/drinks, hot pretzels and ice cream sandwiches. The fee is \$2 and it is a half day and only those students who will be joining in the fun may dress down that day. Students with food restrictions may also bring in their own lunch and snacks if necessary. Permission slips will be coming home soon.



### **Directory Changes** **New Students as of January 27<sup>th</sup>**

#### Grade 4

Shane Gazdus  
41 Lafayette St., Rumson, NJ 07760  
732-747-6707  
[Krgazdus@verizon.net](mailto:Krgazdus@verizon.net)  
Mr. & Mrs. John Gazdus

#### Grade 5

Sebastian Marchese  
8 Cypress Way, Colts Neck, NJ 07722  
732-577-1434  
[Marchesefamily8@aol.com](mailto:Marchesefamily8@aol.com)  
Mr. James and Mrs. Amber Marchese

Ms. Rebecca Grande

7 Carroll Ct., Jackson, NJ 08527  
732-928-8721

#### Grade 6

Leah Wilson-Lyons  
3005 Kapalua Ct., Freehold, NJ 07728  
732-677-3259  
[Linsw36@aol.com](mailto:Linsw36@aol.com)  
Mr. Jay Attiya and Ms. Linda Wilson

#### Grade 7

Hannah Gazdus – see above for info  
James Michael Marchese - above



## **ATHLETICS**

### **Oak Hill students move on to the Elks "Hoop Shoot"® New Jersey State Finals**

Oak Hill Academy sent six students representing the Red Bank Elks Lodge on Saturday, January 11, 2014 at the Carl Sandberg Middle School in Old Bridge, NJ, to Elks "Hoop Shoot"® District Finals sponsored by the South Central District of the Elks.

The 2013-2014 "Hoop Shoot"® is the Elks most visible and largest of the youth activities that they sponsor. Over 3 million boys and girls ages 8-13 will compete throughout the country through district, state, regional and ultimately the national finals in Springfield Massachusetts. Winners get their name permanently enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

After shooting 25 foul shots in their respective age groups, we had four students place in the top 3, three of which also won their age group and will move on to the State Finals at South Plainfield High School on February 9. Good Luck to Stephen, Michael and Anthony!

### Boys Varsity Basketball

Mr. Bruckmann's team is playing tough games and competing well. They currently have a 5-6 record. The team has had exciting wins over Barkalow, 46-44, Rumson Country Day, and West Long Branch! There were close losses to St. Leo's, Satz, and Eatontown. Upcoming games include Goetz, Ranney, Oceanport, Eatontown, Tinton Falls and Pt. Pleasant Beach.

### Girls Varsity Basketball

Mrs. Porzio's team has been playing each game closely and has a 2-4 record. They have had wins over Monmouth Beach and Seashore and lost a nail biter to Eatontown! Upcoming games include Rumson Country Day, Ranney, Eatontown, and Oceanport.

### Boys JV Basketball

A large group of enthusiastic fifth and sixth graders are playing on Mr. Misson's JV Basketball team! With a 1-3 record, the team is looking forward to their upcoming games.

### Girls JV Basketball

In only our seventh year of Girls JV Basketball, Mrs. Scheuer has been pleased with the effort of the fifth and sixth graders! They are a hard working and eager group! The team is 4-0. The team defeated HW Mountz, St. Leo's and Rumson Country Day. Remaining games include: Rumson Country Day, Ranney and Spring Lake Heights.

### Swim Team

Mrs. Bordiuk and Mrs. Schwartz have both been pleased with the Swim Team. There are some veteran swimmers and many young swimmers, too. The team has competed against Neptune, Elizabeth, Pennington and Ranney in dual meets. Although we haven't broken into the win column yet, there are more meets to come! They will also swim against Montclair Kimberly and Ranney in their remaining meets. On Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, our team will compete in an invitational at Ranney.

### Cheerleading

Mrs. Wood is quite pleased with the cheers and halftime routine that the squad has worked out! They are a very enthusiastic group that has been adding support to our basketball teams! The cheerleaders have also been working with our Mustang Mascot!

### Scorekeepers

If you haven't noticed, a group of very dedicated and talented students are running the scoreboard and keeping score of the basketball games. They have received many compliments from the basketball officials for their work. It is a pressured job, but these students are handling it quite well!

### Summer Basketball Camp

Miss Murray will be running her basketball camp this summer at the following times:

#### Girls, ages 9-15

June 23 - 27

9:00am-2:00pm

#### Boys, ages 9-15

July 28- August 1

9:00am-2:00pm

Mr. Misson's Basketball Camp will run the week of:

June 16-20 for Girls and Boys, ages 6-8

9:30am-12:30pm

