

# Oak Hill Academy Newsletter March 2013 Fourth Marking Period

## Headmaster's Message Joseph A. Pacelli

We all know that the skills of reading, writing, and reasoning and being able to think in mathematical terms are essential to a successful and productive life. "Successful" meaning to use our god given gifts to the best of our ability; and "productive" meaning to be a value contributing asset to our community. Educators in general have, over the last ten years, added "21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills" to the list of intellectual goals. These are attributes which we at Oak Hill have always considered as important to the development of the total individual.

This list suggests that the persons in our global society should have a solid awareness in the following areas as well:

- Effective speaking
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking
- Adaptability
- Information literacy
- Collaboration
- Creativity
- Media fluency
- Analytical skills
- Entrepreneurialism
- Innovation
- Effective writing
- Synthesis
- Curiosity

We at Oak Hill also like to add helping others, mutual respect, gratitude, compassion, and forgiveness. Mix these all with a good dose of independence, grit and optimism and you have a game plan for children who will grow into caring and responsible adults who will have the tools to be leaders in a variety of life endeavors.

## Mrs. Larkins Director of Development

### Admissions/Thank You

Thank you to all those OHA families who have helped spread the word about our special community here at Oak Hill. Prospective families almost always remark that they heard about OHA from a current parent. You are our best spokespeople! We ask that you continue to recommend Oak Hill Academy to your friends, relatives, and business associates. Our final Saturday Open House is March 16 from 10am to 1pm, and we continue to do private tours of our campus during the school week. As always, your help is truly appreciated.

### Cash Raffle

Our annual kick-off celebration gave our students a chance to celebrate the OHAPO's theme of "Eat, Drink, and Party Chic." On Thursday, January 31st, all students were asked to dress down in an Oak Hill "team" color of black, white, or gold. They enjoyed party music over the p.a. system and a treat during their lunch periods. The morning featured a special assembly in which these teams competed in a "Jeopardy" style match. Students answered questions in the categories of eat, drink, party, chic, and chick and received clues through live performances by our own good-hearted OHA faculty. The students really enjoyed the competition and the fun it provided. Congratulations to the Black Team on their victory!

Within only a few short weeks, we have already managed to sell many of our cash raffle tickets. As they say, you have to be in it to win it, so please return your sold tickets to the school office. Don't miss out on your chance to win some big cash prizes! If we sell all 1,000 tickets, we will have earned \$25,000 for the benefit of our students! Thank you to those who have already shown their support. The winning tickets will be drawn the evening of the Parent Organization's Gala at the lovely Addison Park on April 20, 2013.



## Miss Murray Director of Personnel/Administration

### LIP SYNC

The 24th Annual Lip Sync was held on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1st in the Scire Student Activities Center! Once again, we had record crowds! Between both nights, a total of over 800 people were in the audience to watch the 220 students and 5 faculty members perform!

All of our students in PK-8 who performed did an outstanding job! They worked hard on their routines and it showed! Mr. Pacelli portrayed a professor of calculus in the "Call Me Maybe" routine with his grandchildren! He lip synced and sported some fancy dance moves! Mrs. Weikes and Mrs. Wood also did a rendition of "Call Me Maybe" with the Pre-K, along with a breakout of the "Harlem Shuffle"/"Gangnam Style" by Mrs. Weikes! Mrs. Gilfillan and Miss Murray called on two members of "One Direction," Harry and Louis, to help them with their lip sync of "What Makes You Beautiful."

A special thank you to the many creative parents who helped with the acts. Start thinking of ideas for next year!!

### PARENT BASKETBALL GAME

The Annual Parent Basketball game will be held on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. There will be a halftime shoot out to win a dress down day, as well as many door prizes to be given away!

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

Oak Hill has done it again!! We won first and third place at the Marine Academy of Science & Technology Academic Jeopardy Tournament that was held on March 8th. A number of our seventh and eighth graders competed in this tournament. There were 32 teams entered; OHA had seven teams. Each team consisted of six players, with only four competing at one time. There were five rounds, consisting of 30 questions each. A sampling of the subjects included: Rocks, Shakespeare, Vice-Presidents, Fish, US History, Algebra, Geometry, Artists and Lakes. There were only three trophies handed out that Friday night. OHA claimed two of them!

**Congratulations to the winning team: (all 8<sup>th</sup> graders) Gabriella Chinea, Cameron Gruss, Olivia Malson, Matthew Misson, Julia Pardee and AJ Niedermeyer. Congratulations to our third place team: John-Gabriel Bermudez (7<sup>th</sup> grade), Seth Britton (7<sup>th</sup>), Preston Mohr (8<sup>th</sup>), David Neuwirth (7<sup>th</sup>), Dana Schioppo (8<sup>th</sup>) and Maya Shah (7<sup>th</sup>)!**

Our remaining teams also placed well; in fact, we had a total of five teams in the top twelve! Our final places were:

7<sup>th</sup> place: Roxanna Altus, Josie Larkins, Matthew Prince, Gilbert Rashkovsky, Jasmine Shen, Jacob Yavitskiy

8<sup>th</sup> place: Luke DeCresce, Harry Jain, Dylan Raskin, Megan Scafaria, Evan Semet, Riya Singh

11<sup>th</sup> place: Sarah Berger, Sofia DiAntonio, Aneesha Doshi, Nicole Marinaro, Travis Schuhardt, Zoe Sucato

19<sup>th</sup> place: Carly Belz, Mae Corrigan, Miller Corrigan, Christian Corvisiero, Camryn Mercatanti, Hannah Nagy

23<sup>rd</sup> place: Emily Abate, Rebecca Carmeli-Peslak, Logan Gruss, Alexandra Lupo, Katie Spencer, Nick Vasiliu.

OAK HILL ACADEMY NIGHT at THE BLUECLAWS – MONDAY MAY 6<sup>th</sup>!

Come celebrate Oak Hill Academy at the BlueClaws game on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>!

Before the game, the whole school will have a parade around the outfield. Mrs. Tyma's chorus will sing the National Anthem and one of our lucky students will throw out the first pitch!! Parents may bid on the "First Pitch" at the PO's Gala on April 20<sup>th</sup>!

Order your tickets for the game now, to sit in a special reserved section for Oak Hill Academy! All tickets are \$10. Make your checks payable to "Oak Hill Academy." Since this is a Monday night game, children 12 and under eat free! As a bonus, no homework will be assigned on Monday night, May 6<sup>th</sup>!! This should be a great family night for all!!

THREE EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS HONORED BY MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

Josie Larkins, Sofia DiAntonio and Katie Spencer were honored by Monmouth University on March 2<sup>nd</sup> as part of their "Women and Girls in Sports Day." The three scholar athletes took part in a conference about developing leadership skills and confidence through the world of athletics!

**Mr. Bruckmann  
Communications/Alumni Coordinator**

Students place in Elks State "Hoop Shoot"®@ Finals

Oak Hill Academy sent two students, Brandon Klatsky and Lucas Bruckmann, representing the Red Bank Elks Lodge (#233) on Sunday, February 10, 2013 at South Plainfield High School to the Elks "Hoop Shoot"® State Finals.

The 2012-2012 "Hoop Shoot"® is the Elks most visible and largest of the youth activities that they sponsor. Over three 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, Brandon shot 9/10 in a double shoot out to earn third place in the Boys 8-9 division! Lucas finished in 10<sup>th</sup> place overall (Boys 10-11) at the State competition. Congratulations to both boys for a job well done!

Summer Programs

The 2013 Oak Hill Academy Summer Programs are on-line. The [summer program brochure](#) lists all of the programs so far, but will be updated as more are added. Check out the [Summer Program's page](#) for more information regarding individual programs.

<http://www.oakhillacademy.com/summer-programs>

**Mrs. Livingston  
Lower School Guidance**

The following is a sample of what the children and I shared during our Character Education meetings during the month of February.

Gr. 1 - We shared the first half of The Lovables in the Kingdom of Self-Esteem by Diana Loomans. Various Animals that reside in The Kingdom of Self-Esteem illustrate the different character traits that promote a positive self-esteem. These qualities include sharing, acceptance, kindness, joyfulness, politeness, cooperation, respect, and trust. We discussed that we must be kind to ourselves in order to extend these feelings to others.

Gr. 2 - Big Al and Shrimpy by Andrew Clements was 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 want to 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 and sizes. It was wrong of them to judge Shrimpy only by what they could see.

Gr. 3 - Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch by Eileen Spinelli is a favorite that we share around Valentine's Day. Mr. Hatch was a lonely man who thought no one liked him and therefore led a very solitary life. One day an anonymous valentine arrived that changed the life of unsociable Mr. Hatch, turning him into a joyful friend who began to appreciate and help his neighbors. We never know when our kindness touches someone's heart and changes the day for them!

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

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

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

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

Ringling in the Chinese New Year was exciting and fun. We learned about various Chinese customs and celebrated

"The Year of the Snake." Students enjoyed creating lion masks for our lion dance parade. Mrs. Julia Wong (Julianne's mom) and Zao Zao Tang Gao (Sophia's mom) provided the Pre-K with traditional Chinese treats and a toy snake brought from China.

Each student was then presented with a red envelope containing coins, the customary symbol of good luck, bringing the festive event to a close,

Pre-K shared a delicious Chinese lunch consisting of; Lo Mein, fried rice, fortune cookies, moon cakes and custard cups. Our appreciation goes out to the Wong's and the Gao's for their kindness and generosity in sharing the event with the students.

February brought our favorite valentine's to school for a tea and class party. The students along with their moms, met in the Scire Student Activities Center for a morning filled with valentine centers and fun. The centers included decorating heart-shaped cakes, a valentine mailing center, valentine crafts, and a valentine book center. Everyone had a good time and many happy memories were created. We want to once again thank our class mothers for all they did to help make the party so special.

On February 14th, Pre-K traveled to the Sunrise Assisted Living Center in Lincroft. The students sang a medley of "Love Songs for Seniors" which included "You Are My Sunshine," "A You're Adorable," and "Grandma's Spectacles." The children delighted the residents and presented them with handmade valentines and heart-shaped cookies which they helped to bake. The students received rave reviews and were asked to return in May.

Pre-K worked very hard performing "Call Me Maybe?" by Carly Rae Jepsen for Lip Sync. Needless to say, the children, along with Mrs. Weikes and Mrs. Wood, wowed the audience as they exhibited tremendous self-confidence and enthusiasm. Everyone's favorite was "The Pre-K Shake." Way to shine Pre-K!

In February Pre-K welcomed visits from Mr. G, Ms. S and Mr. R. with his Rainbow Ribbons. Their friend, Roy G. Biv, helped students learn the colors of the rainbow and welcome marvelous March. Mrs. Wood's class loves their science and art especially color mixing, creating cork sailboats and painting a neighborhood mural. Some of their other favorite activities include free-hand cutting for shaping robots and textured sand creations.

We recently celebrated 100 Days of school and the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss. Daily calendar skills, counting objects and bundling sets of ten were just a few of the ways Pre-K learned to reach 100.

Activities during "Read Across America Week" included getting together with our friends for Dr. Seuss morning Read-along and creating Cat in the Hat puppets during club. Thank you Dr. Seuss!

Once again, Pre-K enjoyed "Pre-K Pretentown Day" our version of OHA's Littletown Day. This annual event was held for Pre-K in the Multi-Purpose room of the Center for Early Learning and provided students with a wonderful array of role-playing activities and fun in familiar places like the Oak Hill None Finer Diner, Duds and Suds Car Wash, Too Cute Beauty Salon, Dr. Seuss' Movie Theater, OHA Post Office, Get Slim Gym, Bow Wow Pet Shop and the Sunkin' Donut Shop.

Pre-K will be looking forward to warmer weather and more outdoor play as the subtle seasonal changes take place and spring emerges throughout the Oak Hill campus. Happy spring everyone!

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

Frantic February!! What a busy time for Kindergarten. We celebrated Groundhog's Day with a trip to Kateri Environmental Center. We learned how groundhogs live in their burrows and hibernate for the winter. We read a story about Chinese New Year and learned it was the year of the snake. We learned about our Presidents through literature, worksheets and movies. We studied Black History Month and learned about several important inventors. Thanks to Dr. Regan (Baileigh's Dad) we are now experts on how to keep our teeth healthy! Thank you to Dr. Regan for coming in and talking to us about Dental Health Month. And of course we celebrated Valentine's Day with a party from our class Moms. We loved opening our cards from our friends!

100 Days in School, 100 Days in School, That's How Long We've Been in School, 100 Days of School! On Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> we celebrated Oak Hill Academy's 100<sup>th</sup> Day of school. Each child brought in 100 items from school, we made a trail mix snack made up of 100 pieces, we made a funny pose and stayed frozen for 100 seconds and practiced counting to 100 by 1's, 5's and

10's. We would like to thank all of the families and friends of Kindergarten who helped us reach our goal of receiving 100 emails. With a combination total of 227 emails from 16 countries and 16 states, we were very excited to check the Inbox each morning. We thank you all!

The learning continues in Kindergarten as we improve our reading and writing skills. The children are very excited about our Writing to Read program and look forward to it each day. In Math we finished our unit on height, length and weight and are now strengthening our number concepts. The children were given journals to write in at home and share with the class. We enjoy hearing their stories and the children are strengthening their writing skills. Keep up the good work Kindergarten!

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

What wonderful progress we have made all year long in first grade!! Our original stories are both interesting and descriptive, as are our colorful and creative illustrations. We recently wrote about wanting to meet our favorite person. Some wrote about meeting Taylor Swift, Eli Manning, Santa, Martin Luther King, Jr., Martin Brodeur, Mary Poppins, Ilya Kovalchuk, and even Gutzon Borglum (he designed and carved the four presidents at Mount Rushmore ☺).

We have learned many new vocabulary words in our weekly Wordly Wise lessons. The stories are interesting and the comprehension questions are challenging. Please continue to encourage your child to use these vocabulary words in conversation.

The first grade really enjoyed working in the Littletown Post Office. To prepare for our responsibilities, we watched a video which showed us what goes on at a real post office. On Littletown Day we stamped, sorted, and delivered the mail to the residents of Littletown. We also learned how to write letters and how to address envelopes. It was so much fun writing to our friends, teachers and even Mayor Pacelli!!! We enjoyed selling the Littletown Press to the residents and visitors of Littletown.

Our Character Education unit was very good this marking period. We learned about George Washington and discussed patriotism, cooperation, community service, and hard work. We also read about protecting the environment and natural resources, obeying laws and

rules, and exploring the traits that make someone a good neighbor.

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

The second grade had a few exciting things happen this month and last. We went on a class trip to Kateri Environmental Center on Friday, March 1. On this trip we discovered the history and folklore of maple sugaring. We saw how a maple tree is tapped and gathered sap from the tree. We then got to take part in the Great Maple Sugar Taste Test and voted on our favorite sample. Our votes were added to the many other children's votes in Monmouth County who have taken the Great Taste Test. We hope to hear the results sometime this spring.

The night before some of the second graders did a magnificent job performing in OHA's well known Lip Sync. We also celebrated Read Across America with the entire school by reading and sharing Dr. Seuss books. The next event that we celebrated was Littletown Day. Miss Colson's room was converted into a horseshoe pit, Mrs. Connell's room was the Health Center, and Mrs. Buchner's room sold delicious hot pretzels. It's always such an exciting day for the whole lower school.

We are spending some time as poets, writing limericks and doing a beautiful job. We also will be taking a little break from our reading book and doing a novel study with our reading class. In math we have become quite proficient with our times tables, division, telling time, and counting money. We only have a few more weeks with our Wordly Wise books and our vocabulary has grown quite a bit.

We are all looking forward to the first day of spring and spending more time doing outdoor activities.

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

As part of February's Black History Month, students learned of the hardship of slavery and the quest for freedom with the reading of Meet Addy.

In social studies, students completed learning about the life and education of American pioneers as they moved westward. They also learned about the pioneers' impact upon the life of the Native Americans. Our pow wow was an exciting time for us to share with our

parents highlights of the life of the Native Americans.

Our second series of book club just started. These next three books are a bit more challenging, and we would suggest partner reading with your child.

In novel study, we are reading Charlotte's Web. The children are thoroughly engaged and look forward to each chapter.

Continuing with our letter writing study, each student was responsible for writing to Governor Christie emphasizing the importance of preserving our beaches and shore lines. We are also busy writing letters to our Oak Hill friends which will be delivered to their Littletown mailbox address.

We are continuing to read non-fiction articles in "Scholastic News," as well as in our wordly wise lessons. Please encourage your child to read each day. Whenever possible, discuss what they have read with them. This is the best way to develop comprehension skills.

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

In language arts, the fourth graders have been studying paragraph development. After analyzing and pulling apart paragraphs and work sheets, we moved on to a more creative phase. We experimented with round-the-table writing where one person wrote a lead sentence with a main idea. The paper then got passed on to another student who had to identify the main idea and add an appropriate supporting detail. This continued until the next to the last person had to properly close the paragraph by restating or commenting on the main idea. We had fun learning and creating paragraphs.

Additionally, we had fun learning about cows! Looking at fact sheets with all kinds of fun facts about cows, students had to gather facts that would support their main idea/topic sentence. They then created a well developed and properly closed paragraph. Staying on our topic of cows, we next attempted to add another informational paragraph, this time adding sensory and transitional words. We learned a lot about cows and of course paragraphs!

Now we have joined forces with Mrs. Tolleth and her study of New Jersey. We are writing an eight paragraph mini-

research paper as we study fact sheets about New Jersey, while simultaneously concentrating on proper paragraph development. We have 'Googled' facts to help us learn about our wonderful Garden State while we create our paragraphs and our research report. Our writers will be experts on both New Jersey and paragraphs when we are all done!

In Social Studies, we have been learning about the geography of our state, learning the six 'faces' of New Jersey. The 'faces' are named for the use of the land and the geographic features. We've learned about the great diversity of our state. We have 127 miles of coastline; the Kittatinnyes are our part of the Appalachian Trail. We have a sandy soil pine forest that covers 1/5 of our state, and farmland that grows fruits and vegetables in the southern part of our state. New Jersey's 'variety' encompasses crowded cities, small towns, places of research and business, factories, seaports, an international airport, horse farms, lakes, rivers, suburban housing, parks, and so much more. This chapter is of particular interest because it helps us know how to decorate the two four-foot New Jersey cakes that we will make to culminate our NJ studies.

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

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

**Mrs. Cahalane  
Lower School Science**

Students in PK have been learning about dinosaurs and fossils. They enjoyed examining our classroom fossil collection which includes a real *Apatosaurus* bone!

Kindergarteners have been using the hydroponics system in our Greenhouse. They started lettuce plants from seed and we are so excited to see that they are finally growing!

First grade students completed a unit on teeth. They learned all about the teeth they have and the teeth they have coming in. We examined a real x-ray of a set of teeth and everyone created teeth key chains.

Second graders have been learning about producers, consumers, dinosaurs and fossils. They made three types of fossils to take home.

Students in third grade completed a unit on solids, liquids and gases. We did temperature and ice experiments to examine phase changes.

Students in fourth grade just completed a unit on electricity. They conducted balloon experiments to understand static electricity and then everyone made electric circuits using batteries, wires and light bulbs. Students furthered their understanding of current electricity by creating "Squishy Circuits." In these activities, we used a special conductive dough in place of wires. The fourth graders created all sorts of different shapes using the conductive dough, and then inserted them into their circuits. The dough was used to light up bulbs, turn motors and sound buzzers!

### **Mrs. Reago/Mrs. Bordiuk Lower School PE**

During the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period the P.E. classes were busy working hard on their jump rope skills. At an awards assembly the students will receive an award certificate for each set of skills they pass.

The following students have achieved a high level of jump rope skills for their grade level.

Kindergarten: Nicholas Codispoti, Sienna Domanskli, Meredith Harmon, Adelenia Crotty, Frankie Tackett, Cameron Feiler

1<sup>st</sup> Graders: Will Gilfillan, Caitlin Shallcross, Jennifer Miao,

2<sup>nd</sup> Graders: Michael Gau, Laura Hurley, Kevin Kinsella, Anya Stavola, Braden Mohr, Ryan Stefko, Demetra Giannakopoulos, Olivia Bellone, Rocco Petrosino, Audrey Yan

3<sup>rd</sup> Graders: Luke Crotty, Brooke Tackett, Cristian Trujillo

4<sup>th</sup> Graders: Nicholas Troccoli, Maddie Semet, Charlotte Walsh, Sydney Yan, Julia Shaffer, William Hurley, Michael Crotty, Josh Harmon, Emily Robertson, Lauren Davis

Swimming classes will begin the week of March 11<sup>th</sup>. Swimming will only be held once a week for grades K-4. A schedule will be sent home to let you know what day your child swims.

In March and April we will be giving the presidential fitness test again. I hope everyone will try to improve their scores.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period your child's P.E. grade will be based on jump rope skills. The next marking period will be based on their physical fitness.

This is just a reminder that if your child is to be excused from PE or swim they must have a note that day explaining why or they are considered unprepared. Also your child must have sneakers on dress down days and fabulous footwear days to be able to participate in PE

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

Our annual event with a **Texan flair** was held on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. It was a fun day for all. A detailed follow-up will be coming home shortly, including a thank you to everyone for making it such a successful time.

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

The first grades continue to learn French through songs and rhymes. Music not only activates "prior knowledge" but makes acquiring new vocabulary easier and more enjoyable. After singing songs in French, students recognize words more easily and show an increased interest in learning French. Our most recent rhyme is about a little snail, Le petit escargot, which can be viewed on my web page along with the other songs we are listening to in class.

The second grade students are playing a listening game, "telephone," to practice their auditory comprehension of numbers from 1-100. Each student's phone number is announced in French and their task is to answer their phone with "allo!" when their number is called.

The third grade students will be acquiring vocabulary to describe themselves and others physically. We will be using an App called "qui est-ce?" or Guess who? It is an excellent App because it provides lots of practice while creating interest and motivation for learning.

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

With the fourth graders, we have been learning ER verbs and their conjugations in full sentences. The students have excellent pronunciation and really benefit from the Educreations videos that I create. The videos are posted on my website:  
<http://ohamadamesimon.weebly.com>

Furthermore, students have started reading the French classic book BOUCLES D'OR (The 3 Bears). During class, students read a few pages while listening along to a recording; their pronunciation is excellent! In a few weeks, the students will go home and read the book to their parent. Bon Travail!

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

Family Fun Day was the perfect way to wrap up exam week and let the good times roll at Strathmore Lanes. Kudos to OHAPO for coordinating the fun! Participation among upper school students with their classmates and siblings made for a memorable event.

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

Our Cash Raffle Kick Off assembly demonstrated OHA spirit! Corresponding with the Eat, Drink & Party Chic theme, black, gold and white teams competed in the Jeopardy-style question and answer game. The OHA trivia, teacher performances and special guest star Buster - the Blue Claws mascot - were all a huge hit!

February holidays provided a great opportunity to reflect upon OHA character traits. Our Valentine's theme revolved around Acts of Kindness. With Mrs. Duffy's assistance, sixth graders wrote acts of kindness on pink, red and magenta hearts. These decorative candy hearts filled the bulletin board in the upper school hall. Students often stopped to find their own heart and to read the kind words of classmates.

Presidents Washington and Lincoln are both widely respected for being honest. I observe our students finding wallets, change purses, calculators and flash drives on a regular basis. Without teacher direction, students simply return

the item to the owner or the office. OHA students help each other not because someone is watching or there is a reward, they help each other simply because it is the right thing to do and the essence of our core values.

Lip Sync rocked the SAC on both nights. Each year the acts become more dynamic! Special thanks to fifth graders Taylor Gourlay and Michael Egan for kicking off our Read Across America celebration by reciting the Reader's Oath at morning announcements. Students on all grade levels enjoyed DEAR time in homeroom.

The arrival of March; Lip Sync, Littletown Day, Daylight Savings Time and St. Patrick's Day signify...spring is just around the corner!

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

We are reading the novel Island of the Blue Dolphin by Scott O'Dell. It is based on the story of an Indian girl who is stranded on an island off the California coast during the mid-1800's. The courage and self-reliance of twelve year old Karana is inspiring.

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

The fifth grade students finished our second novel study, The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles, by Julie Andrews Edwards. This fictional story dealt with acceptance and personal growth. The novel also encourages imagination as the characters journey through many adventures on their way to meet the very last Whangdoodle. The characters wear scrappy caps whenever they are using their imagination. OHA students wore their own scrappy caps through our class novel study. The physical descriptions of the characters allowed students to draw their own pictures. Predictions and cliffhangers encouraged students to continue to read the chapters to find out what happens next. Our closing activity included formal letters to the author detailing each student's favorite character and section. This novel was a big hit!

Our new reading series, Voices in Reading, showcases the art of storytelling. Students studied the ancient Griots of West Africa, rodeo clowns, and rap music. Students love the format as they practice their comprehension skills.

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

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

Sixth graders have begun to study China. They will write one short essay describing Communism under Mao, and they will write an essay on the Four Modernizations of Deng Xiaoping, as part of their China - Mongolia -Taiwan Quest when they return from break! They will have a small map quiz on China this week and next. They have already received the map of all of South and Eastern Asia. This map is on ilike2learn.com, for ease of studying. We will work on mastering this map as we finish our study of Asia, and briefly visit Australia, before finishing the year in Latin America.

**Mr. Bruckmann**

Grade 5 Math

After our first "BIG Test" as upper school students, we continued where we left off in our study of number patterns, fractions and ratios. The students picked up with the sixth chapter that built upon our exploration of fractions and our ability to find the LCM and GCF of numbers. The students used their estimation skills to round fractions and mixed numbers to find their sums and differences. They then progressed to adding and subtracting mixed numbers and fractions with like and unlike denominators and have continued to work with fractions this marking period by expanding our investigation to include multiplication and division. We have nearly completed multiplying common fractions and then moving on to mixed numbers and using those skills to find the circumference of circles using either the diameter or radius and our new friend  $\pi$  (pi). Dividing fractions and mixed numbers was next as we learned the importance of reciprocals. Chapter 7 concludes with sequencing as well as converting customary units of capacity and weight.

We will then move on to the cousin of fractions by exploring ratios, proportions and percents and see their close relationship not only to each other, but to fractions and decimals as well. The students continue to build their knowledge in mathematics using previous lessons as the foundation for new concepts.

Grade 5 Math Workshop

The fifth graders have moved on to using ratios of the student's height to the diameter and width of quarters, nickels and dimes to see which is worth more, and how they would most benefit to be paid for their chores! The students then designed their own personal bioglyphs based on their character traits as well as family dynamics. Each student also constructed a bioglyph of someone that they looked up to and presented their creative creatures to the class. Some very interesting stuff! Students also continue to work on Singapore math based warm-ups each class.

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

5th Grade - Period 2

Time is going by quickly as we are now well into the second half of the school year. The students finished their chapter on multiplying and dividing fractions and are also ready for their assessment on ratios, rates, proportions and percents. I emphasized to the students that the concepts of rates, proportions and percents will be used throughout their next several years of mathematics as well as woven into their lives in the "real" world. When the students learned how to take percents of numbers, we discussed how sales tax is calculated and how tips are determined. When the students learned proportions, we discussed how recipes could be modified - either enlarged or reduced - by using proportions. When the students learned rates, we discussed how the grocery stores display unit rates on the shelf so the consumer can make an informed decision. Our next two chapters will be on geometry so the students have a little change of pace ahead. Thank you for your support at home and I wish you a healthy spring break.

5th Grade - Period 3

This hard working group of students has completed their chapter on adding and subtracting fractions and we are more than halfway through with the chapter on multiplying and dividing fractions. The students never divided before and they are doing quite well with this new concept.

Homework continues to play a big part in our class. Homework needs to be done every night with thought and care. Homework should be done in pencil and every question needs to be attempted. I appreciate all of your efforts at home to ensure that this is being done properly.

#### 6th Grade

We completed our chapter on fractions as well as the chapter on rates, ratios, proportions and percents. In addition we studied percent proportions which are new to the students. This is a very valuable tool as the students continue their studies in math. One of the most important features of this chapter is its applicability to the "real" world. As informed consumers we use the concept of unit rate every time we shop. We use percents to determine sale price, tips, tax. We use proportions to modify recipes, determine how many bags of fertilizer to buy or cans of paint we need. I emphasized to the students that these concepts are life skills and should be learned, not memorized.

As we begin the remaining 5 chapters of the book we will be working on many new concepts. The students need to keep their good work ethic as we push to the end of the year.

#### 7th Grade - Glencoe

We are working at a good steady pace in class. We will not finish the book; however, that was never an objective of the course. Our objective is to teach each concept thoroughly and to have the students reach mastery before moving on to the next lesson.

Since the midterm the students learned all of the foundation work leading to fractions. They learned divisibility rules and how to find the GCF and LCM, how to simplify and compare fractions. They learned how to rewrite numbers in scientific notation and they learned about rational numbers. This sets the foundation for chapter 7 where they learned how to add, subtract, multiply and divide signed fractions. The students are working their way toward solving algebraic equations and inequalities with signed numbers. This is a challenging concept. We will take our time and make sure everyone understands.

#### 8th Grade - Introduction to Algebra

We completed chapter 6 which was on rates, ratios, percents and proportions and began chapter 7 which begins with combining like terms on both sides of the equal sign and using the distributive property. We sailed through chapter 6 and came to a grinding halt in chapter 7!

These concepts are hard to comprehend at first glance. After several problems and lots of examples on the board the students finally "got" it! The remainder of the year is going to take a continued good work ethic and perseverance. We will be working on several high level topics which will be revisited in Algebra 1 next year, so the more diligent the students are now the easier the transition to algebra 1 will be!

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

Fifth grade completed the unit on physical and chemical changes in matter. The students first learned the evidence for a chemical change and then performed different experiments to determine if a chemical change had occurred. Favorites were the inflating balloon, testing for carbon dioxide and starch, and the "bursting bag" lab. The process of photosynthesis was introduced in this unit to prepare the students for this topic plus respiration that will be covered extensively in sixth grade. Chemical equations were also taught. Students learned how to recognize the reactants and the products in a chemical reaction. At the end of the marking period, the fifth grade moved on to the study of biology and the parts of and the correct use of the upper school microscope. The students were fascinated when they realized that the microscope turns the specimens observed "upside down and backwards." Fifth graders have now begun the study of the structure and function of the human body. This unit began with the review of the cell and its parts (organelles) that were introduced to the fourth grade last year.

Students should be thinking of and beginning work on their projects for the Science Fair which will be held May 15-17. The information sheet about the fair was given to each student in February. Requirements for the project were included.

#### **Mrs. Vacca Grade 5 Math Workshop**

Hands on math continues with the measurement of coins both stacked and laid out from end-to-end. How would you like to be paid according to your height? Students had to measure their height and then figure out the best way to get paid. Working with pentominoes and creating shapes was also a great visual activity.

#### **Mrs. Vacca/Madame Simon Grade 5 Tech**

Students have concluded their presentations on National Parks through the use of Keynote on the iPads. Powerpoint presentations were both informative and interesting with great visuals and slide transitions. Some of them even had animations.

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

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

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

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

The sixth graders have successfully completed 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 Gandhi, Miep Geis, Hans and Sophie Scholl, and more heroes who have helped those in need.

After reading about the invention of the television and the internet, students were challenged to report on other great inventions within the last 100 years. The criteria was simple; yet, the reports were amazing. Student topics ranged from the iPhone 4S Projector to the first credit card to the remote control. Other topics included contact lenses, insulin pumps, immunizations, eReaders, and AstroTurf. Students were well-informed and demonstrated great presentations.

*Signature Reading* and *Voices in Reading* are the current programs we are using. These nonfiction stories present students with challenging ideas and skills.

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

Grade 6 – Glencoe

Knowing how to solve equations and inequalities is a very valuable skill. Sometimes we use this skill without even realizing it. For example, we use inequalities to decide if we have enough money to buy a particular item. Relating math skills to everyday events is just one way we try to help students appreciate what they are learning in class. Students learned how to solve equations, write expressions and equations, solve inequalities, and graph functions.

Grade 7 – Gateways

A firm grasp of signed numbers is critical for success in algebra. Students used real-world applications of signed numbers as the basis of each lesson and made liberal use of number lines. Students were given the opportunity to practice computation with signed numbers in a variety of contexts. Multiplication in matrices, in particular, provided a considerable amount of practice. The emphasis of graphing inequalities visually reinforced the meaning of signed numbers. The final section on two-dimensional graphs reinforced the geometrical aspects of signed numbers and sets the stage for the upcoming chapter on geometry.

Algebra I

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

Math-A-Thon

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

All donations must be returned by Friday, March 15. Please convert all cash to check or money order made payable to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

All participating students will be entitled to a dress down day in the spring.

**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.

**Mrs. Vacca**  
**Grade 6 Math Workshop**

The next project is a time management one. Students formed groups, selected the location of their radio station, and are putting together a play list of songs and informative information such as weather, events and a public service announcement. Groups must follow the time schedule with 3 minutes of music and 2 minutes of information = a 5 minute presentation. Working together, coordinating music and info will be challenging all within the 5 minute time frame.

**Sra. Dotto**  
**Grades 6, 7 & 8 Spanish**

In the sixth grade, we have been reviewing material covered last year. All students received their Spanish textbook and workbook called ¡Exprésate! which we have already started using. We have also learned how to say the time and how to change civilian time to military time. To reinforce this material we have used videos, songs, verbal drills, and the site "quizlet" for visual and auditory processing.

In seventh grade, we have spent a few weeks re-examining material covered last year including indirect object pronouns, the verbs *gustar* (to like), *ser* (to be) and over 20 *ar* and *er* regular verbs. Currently we are in the process of completing Chapter 3 section A. In this Chapter, the students are acquiring a lot of vocabulary and expressions that have

to do with every day activities. They have mastered the conjugation of the stem-changing verbs *jugar* and *querer*. All this material is reinforced with PowerPoint presentations, classroom interaction and by logging on the site "quizlet" for visual and auditory processing.

In eighth grade, the students have continued covering formation of sentences in the negative form, mastered the past tense of over 50 regular verbs plus the preterit of the irregular verbs *hacer* (to do), *ir* (to go), *ser* (to be), *dar* (to give) and *ver* (to see). Also, they have been working with a good amount of prepositions and memorized another skit which they presented in front of the class. The skit was a little challenging, but they worked hard and did a fantastic job. All this material was reinforced with PowerPoint presentations, classroom interaction and by going to quizlet site.

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

In Language Arts, we continue to move at a steady pace in our *Vocabulary Workshop* texts as we increase our vocabulary and strengthen our test taking skills. In grammar, we have begun a unit on Capitalization and Punctuation which will be extremely beneficial for our standardized tests in the spring.

In Literature, we are continuing our unit on William Shakespeare, the Globe Theatre, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with a reading of both the prose version and a modified play version for which we will assign parts and practice reading Shakespeare.

Our next unit will focus on the theme of discrimination and emphasize the importance of equality in education. In the Newbery Award winning novel *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor, we will explore school segregation in Mississippi in the 1930's. In addition we will highlight the critical thinking skills of classification, fact and opinion, and analyzing word definitions. We will conclude by comparing and contrasting the novel with the film.

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

The seventh grade has had an interesting marking period learning about The French and Indian War, and how the events after the war led to the American Revolution. Students analyzed different aspects of the conflicts between England and the American Colonies. We focused on concepts such as the philosophy of

Enlightened Thinkers, ideas about independence, sovereignty, and representation in government. Students worked very hard researching key historical figures during the time period and creating a historical play. We look forward to learning about how our Constitution was written and affects our lives today, and the struggles the Founding Fathers overcame to form our government.

The eighth grade has had an interesting marking period learning about effects of Industrialization, Imperialism, The Spanish American War and the effects it had on America becoming a world power. Students worked hard creating historical plays and power point presentations on these topics. We look forward to learn about World War I, The Roaring 20's, and World War II in the coming semester.

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

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

The students have begun a project on a famous author. They have researched and are following specific guidelines to create quite a display. It is especially gratifying to see the students working diligently to complete the task.

**Mrs. Vacca/Madame Koar**  
**Grade 7 Explorations**

An introduction to the iPad and the use of Keynote as a form of gathering information and putting into slide formation was given. The historical topic selected for this semester is "Revolutions around the World." Groups were chosen and a brief slideshow about numerous revolutions was given.

**Dr. Kuyat**  
**Grades 7 & 8 Latin**

In seventh grade, we introduced the ablative case and its uses in prepositional phrases. We also introduced all imperfect and future forms of the verb "to be" as well as imperfect and future tense endings for regular verbs. In addition we introduced genitive and dative case endings for the 1st and 2nd Declensions. Finally we reviewed mythological, cultural, and historical

information connected with ancient Greco-Roman culture in anticipation of the National Latin Exam.

In eighth grade Latin we learned the passive voice for verbs in the present, imperfect, and future tenses, and concentrated on our ability to recognize these forms in Latin narratives so that our translation skills improve. During our review for the National Latin Exam, we looked at Latin grammar a bit differently--instead of completing charts with noun declensions and verb conjugations, we instead tried to find keys to successful translation: for example, when a noun ends in **o, is, or ibus**, it is almost always translated to/for if the noun names a person, and by/with if the noun names a thing. We are essentially recognizing that the former implies the dative case and the latter the ablative. We did the same with verbs: **ba** in a verb means imperfect tense; the vowels **ie** means future, a **-te** ending means imperative, etc. By looking at forms in terms of translation, however, we may avoid lengthy memorization work and zero in on translation. We began reading the story of Aeneas, and reviewed a variety of mythological, cultural, and historical information connected with the ancient Greco-Roman world.

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

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

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

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

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

nonfiction stories of survival against all odds.

Students are also researching pre-World War II events as they relate to readings focusing on the years between 1939 and 1945. Building background helps to understand nonfiction stories. Visual literacy skills also aid in passage understanding.

The classes are continuing to study vocabulary, as well.

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

The eighth grade is presently studying Geologic Time. The topic of the first lesson was fossils, and the first lab involved how a fossil forms. The students had to completely cover a sugar cube with clay, place the clay cube in water, and see if the sugar inside dissolved. Students learned that for a fossil to form, the specimen must be buried quickly and totally so that water and oxygen could not react with it. (Personally, I think that the best part of this lab for the classes seemed to be the eating of the sugar cubes!) The relative age of rocks was the second topic covered. The classes learned many big words in this lesson, such as "superposition," "uniformitarianism," "unconformity," "intrusions," and "extrusions." After practicing the reading of the relative ages of many rock layer columns, the third lesson covered radioactive dating in which the absolute age of igneous rocks and fossils could be determined, using the radioactive decay of isotopes and the half-life of several elements, potassium-40 and carbon-14. The eighth grade will now be receiving a new book, Inside Earth.

Just a reminder to the eighth grade science classes - you should be thinking of and beginning work on your projects for the Science Fair which will be held May 15-17.

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

As we dig into the second half of the school year we continue to move through the major topics of Algebra I and have the opportunity to add several advanced topics. We have just completed the chapter on systems of linear and non-linear equations and are now studying exponents and radicals. My students are quickly learning the beauty and wonder of mathematics as being a puzzle which connects all parts.

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

All classes did a probability project taken from ESPN2 entitled "Stealing with Pythagoras." It used the Pythagorean Theorem to figure out the distance a catcher has to throw to 2<sup>nd</sup> base. We also used the distance formula to determine the time a runner has to steal either 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base. The speed of the catcher's throw was an essential factor.

There is always math surrounding us. One case is the system that names airport runways. We learned in our project that runway numbers are based on the angle that is formed by magnetic north and the degree heading of the airplane landing on the runway. Also most airports are quite busy; it is reassuring to know there is a system behind the flow of air traffic.

We are beginning March Madness for the eighth grade this marking period as we entered into our college basketball project. We are investigating the mathematics behind the process of a tournament and will get to make our picks for the NCAA men's basketball tournament. We used this 64 team tournament to answer some questions on probability and statistics.

For Valentine's Day my two day/week students did a project that compared regular Hershey kisses to the caramel variety. They experimented to see how often the kisses would land on their bases when tossed from a cup. They analyzed their data using box and whisker graphs. Of course, we had some delicious results! They also spent time analyzing the mathematics behind zip codes and bar codes. Those short and long lines on our mail and consumer products have a special meaning.

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

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

Presentations this marking period were on inventions/inventors such as Nikola Tesla, Ramen Noodles, UGGs, the Electric Guitar and famous Rock 'N Rollers such as Jimmy Hendrix and Chuck Berry. We also had a presentation on Aibo (Robotic pets from Japan), and airships, including the Hindenburg Disaster. The presentations were both entertaining and enlightening.

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

In the fifth grade, the first marking period started very well. I am very happy that the transition from Spanish and French has been very smooth. The students have excellent accents and are learning very quickly. We are now working on learning the verb "To BE." Next, we will learn "questions words," ER verbs and how to understand a story. We play games and will use the QUIZLETS and the Educreation videos that I create to learn the material. The QUIZLETS and videos are also posted on my website: <http://ohamadamesimon.weebly.com>

I strongly advise the students to learn from the website since it really enhances their learning, comprehension and speaking skills. BON TRAVAIL!

With the seventh graders, there has been a smooth transition from Spanish to French. After spending a few weeks reviewing the material learned in the sixth grade, we are now working on the food theme. Next we will be working on a dialog of two teenagers ordering at a restaurant. The students will be presenting their dialog in front of the entire class. Then, we will be working on the clothing theme and writing letters to our pen-pal Astrid from Brittany, France. Astrid is the same age as our seventh graders and is looking forward to getting to know our students.

For quiz review, the students are using QUIZLETS and Educreations videos that I create and are posted on my website: <http://ohamadamesimon.weebly.com>  
BON TRAVAIL!

With the eighth grade, we have been working very hard on auditory and comprehension for the National French Exam which will take place on March 19th. The hardest part is to understand a French native speaker who may speak with different accent or intonation than mine. After the NFE exam, we will work on cultural material. After the spring break, we will work on the passé composé which is our past tense and then we will learn the future tense in order to be prepared for higher levels of French in high school. SUPER !!!

**Signora Dotto –**  
**Grade 8<sup>th</sup> – Italian**

This marking period the students in Italian learned how to order a snack at a restaurant, make plans for specific days of the week and times of the day, talk about a variety of activities, and how to accept and refuse invitations.

In grammar, we learned over 15 regular – ERE verbs and their conjugations, the irregular verbs fare (to do), dare (to give) and stare (to stay), idiomatic expressions with the verb fare, possessive adjectives, interrogative words and prepositions.

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

The fifth, seventh and eighth graders have completed their Volleyball unit in Physical Education. We have had some rather competitive games. There is always some satisfaction in keeping the ball OFF the ground and volleyed back and forth over the net.

Sixth grade have now completed their Health Education marking period and are now back in Physical Education.

We will be having the second round of Presidential Physical Fitness testing to see how the students have progressed over the year. We will submit our results and order the "patches" for the awards day in June.

Physical Education units for the spring are: Swimming, Ultimate Frisbee, Lacrosse and Softball (weather permitting).

Eighth grade will have Health Education for the 5<sup>th</sup> marking period and come back to P.E. in the 6<sup>th</sup> marking period.

March 11, 2013 started swim classes. The classes were told SEVERAL times and the schedules are posted on the swim door, in the gym and in the upper school hallway.

**Mrs. Grier/Library**

As the spring season approaches, many of the children seem to be drawn to books dealing with flowers, animals and the outdoors. To date, our OHA students have checked out close to 38,000 books. Each time a book is taken out of our library, it sends a message to me that the student's brain is opening to new information. Topics that we discuss vary with the appropriate age level. Our younger students might be learning about baby animals and their moms, rainy days and where rain comes from or books dealing with good character traits.

As the children get older, we discuss famous authors such as Leo Lionni, Frank Asch and Steven Kellogg. Third and fourth graders continue to explore the Dewey Decimal System and learn the winners of the famous Newberry award. All our students explore the library and get to review the endless new books that

have enhanced our library. You will be surprised to see how the older students can maneuver around the library to find the appropriate book they might be searching.

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

We just switched between Art and Computers, so we have a new set of students learning the same great computer skills of those who took computer during the first marking period.

All grades have discussed cyber safety and how to avoid online problems.

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

The second grade classes have been learning about computer peripherals, how they are used and if they are input or output devices. They also have been working on some fun Internet sites for kids.

Third graders began learning about how to hold their hands when typing and what fingers should be used when typing certain letters.

Fourth graders started to learn about the features of Microsoft PowerPoint, by creating a presentation about themselves.

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

The sixth grade classes learned the basic features and terminology of Microsoft Excel. They put together a spreadsheet of items they would purchase to decorate their bedroom if they had \$5,000 to spend.

While learning about the features of Microsoft Publisher the seventh graders created brochures. They provided As the spring season approaches, many of the children seem to be drawn to books dealing with flowers, animals and the outdoors. To date, our OHA students have checked out close to 38,000 books. Each time a book is taken out of our library, it sends a message to me that the students' brain is opening to new information. information about current events in the news today, while being creative and colorful.

In eighth grade the students completed their resume, evaluated websites on the

Internet and began creating their own website using Microsoft Publisher.

### **Mrs. Tyma/Music**

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

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

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

It is a pleasure to begin working with the seventh and eighth grade classes again. We are reviewing the elements of music (melody, harmony, form, rhythm, timbre, dynamics and tempo) through drumming

exercises and compositions by Carl Orff for the barred instruments. The seventh graders are working on compositions by Orff that explore meter (simple and compound) and tonalities (major, minor and modal). The eighth graders are being challenged by African drum compositions that are polyrhythmic (triple and duple meter combined). In addition we are listening to recordings of master drummers and marimba players of Africa. This study of African music with its complex rhythms is a prelude to our unit on Jazz, and in particular, the Blues.

The Oak Hill Players and Chorus showed off their hard work over the past couple of months when they served as ambassadors of the school by performing for the Pre-K/Kindergarten Open House on February 22nd. All of these young performers can be very proud of what they have accomplished. They performed difficult music which had to be learned in a short amount of time, and they were very professional in their approach to the performance. Congratulations to these two groups!

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

### **Miss DiMaggio/Art**

The first grade drew Y-Tree's using only the letter Y to form a winter or summer tree with sharpie and watercolor. Using beads they learned about symmetry and made a necklace. We just started our Vincent Van Gogh inspired self portraits focusing on the proper proportion of the facial features.

The second grade made a large group collage based on Eric Carle's books.

In the third grade, while studying the color wheel, students blended colors making a project called color collision.

The fourth grade worked in groups to create wooden sculptures based on artist Louise Nevelson and Pablo Picasso. We are currently working on our self portraits based on Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.

The fifth grade made a 3D color wheel out of paper plates while learning about the primary colors and how to mix the secondary colors. They are learning about the Elements of Art and will continue to use them in their future art work. They studied artist Wassily Kandinsky and created a Non-Objective piece using sharpie and water color pencils. We learned about American artist Jackson Pollock and we did our own splatter paint. We also studied

American artist Georgia O'Keeffe and drew enlarged abstract flowers using oil pastels.

The sixth grade learned how to draw buildings in proper perspective using one vanishing point in one point perspective. Using the Ipad, we drew funny face self portraits while using the grid method and learned about artist Chuck Close. They are learning about the Principles of Design and will continue to focus on them in their future art work. They are starting their Henry Rousseau inspired Overlapping Jungles.

The seventh grade studied artist Georges Seurat and Pointillism. Using tiny dots of acrylic paint they made pointillism pictures. Using sharpie and geometric shapes we are learning about positive and negative space.

The eighth graders, while using tiny words and no lines, made artwork called Micro-Calligraphy. Using colored pencils we drew from observation of a distorted or enhanced photograph in our "Instagram" project.

All students are drawing advertisements for the Monmouth Day Care Center's Art Journal. Last year we had six winners! Any students currently in computers who are interested come see me for details.

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

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

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

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

The third graders have been rehearsing their Reader's Theatre Presentation of "LIVE: It's Fairy Tale New." In a Reader's Theatre presentation, students do not need to memorize their roles as

they would for a traditional play. Rather, the point of Reader's Theatre is to enhance reading skills and build vocabulary all while having fun pretending to be a make believe character. The students also created commercials for inventive fairy tale products. Some products that will be advertised during their show are "Fairy Bites," "Big Bad Wolf Spray" and "Fairy Tale Beauty Set" just to name a few. Their play presentation is scheduled for the following dates and times: 3P – Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:40-9:00, 3H – Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:40-9:00 and 3A – Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-10:50 all in the Drama room.

The fourth grade has also been busy rehearsing their upcoming play; "Pecos Bill and Slue Foot Sue." This tall tale from Texas was selected because it ties in nicely with Mrs. Vacca's Ho-Ho theme; Texas! The play presentation dates for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade are as follows: 4T – Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:15-1:35, 4C – Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:45-2:05 and 4R – Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:20-9:40. The plays will take place in the SAC. Break-a-leg fourth grade!

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

### Drama Clubs

Students on the **Forensics Team** have been practicing for our upcoming competition. It will be held at Ranney School on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Reminder: NO forensic practice on March 14<sup>th</sup> as it is a Mandatory play practice.

In **Upper School Dance Ensemble** the girls are busy creating choreography for the Arts Festival that will be held in May.

Finally, **Upper School Play** practices have been going very well. Rehearsals are now being held in the SAC. All lines should be memorized by now.. Students should start bringing in props and costumes to work with. If you are running late you can find your child in after care located in the Tech Center. Mrs. Alexander is looking for students in

grades 5-8 to help out with lighting and sound crew. See her ASAP if interested. Mandatory rehearsal dates are March 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The performance is right around the corner, **Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>!!!!!!!**

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

"**Movie Day**" for the fifth and sixth grade students took place on Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> in the S.A.C. An afternoon of a good movie, Hotel Transylvania, and food and drinks was a fun time for all.

The final seventh and eighth grade dance for this school year will be held on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The **Spring Fling** will be held in the gym from 7:30 -10 pm. The admission fee is \$5 and pizza/beverages will be served. Returning DJ John will be helping us dance the night away.

I want to thank everyone for their donation in February to the American Heart Association. We were able to send a check for \$665.00 to such a worthy organization.

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

## **ATHLETICS**

### **Oak Hill Varsity Basketball Semi-Finalists in the Garden State Championship!**

The Oak Hill Academy Varsity Basketball team reached the Final Four of the Garden State Championship sponsored by the world renowned Hoop Group in Neptune, NJ. This tournament included teams from Hackensack to Piscataway to Belhaven, NJ and many towns in between.

Oak Hill had a very tough road to the semi-finals that began with a thrilling 39-38 win over a very tough Lakewood team. They moved on to downing an extremely talented Piscataway team that is made up of three different middle schools to represent their town by the score of 43-42 in the quarter-finals! Oak Hill

moved on to the semi-finals of this tournament which is modeled after the Tournament of Champions at the NJ State High School level. Monroe Township was their next opponent and ultimately proved to be too much to handle on that evening defeating Oak Hill to move on to the Finals vs. Hackensack (a 47-46 overtime winner over Asbury Park).

Overall, Oak Hill finished with a final record of 15-4 and a top four ranking in the Garden State. Not too shabby for a school that boasts a total enrollment of only 400 students in grades Pre-K to 8. Congratulations go to Mr. Bruckmann, Mr. Rosenfeld and the boys for an exciting season.

### **JV Boys Win Tournament**

The JV boys' basketball team defeated St. Leo's 55-50 in the championship game of the Heights Hoops Tournament in Spring Lake Heights. The team also defeated Spring Lake Heights and Marlboro on their road to the championship and avenged their only loss of the season to St. Leo's. They finished with a final record of 15-1. Congratulations to Mr. Misson and the boys for their spectacular season. Thank you to Joan Bassi and her staff from the Spring Lake Heights school for putting together a fun and well run event.

### **Boy's Varsity Basketball**

Mr. Bruckmann's team finished with a very impressive 15-4 record! The team defeated a talented St. Mary's team 40-25 before heading into the Garden State Basketball Championship at Hoop Group, where OHA won two games against Lakewood and Piscataway! Some of the highlights of the season were wins over Rumson Country Day, St. Leo's, Holy Cross, Forrestdale and Eisenhower! The 8<sup>th</sup> graders led the team; however, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders gained experience this year that will help the team next year! Thanks to Mr. Rosenfeld for his help with the team, too!

The team, along with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girl's basketball team members, defeated the faculty on March 6<sup>th</sup> 59-55 OT! We will be missing the following 8<sup>th</sup> graders: John Venturi, Nick Harris, Matthew Misson, Nick Hempstead, Paul Ramsey, Dylan Fazio, Ryan Gilfillan and Jack Wilt.

### **Girl's Varsity Basketball**

Mrs. Porzio's team finished with a solid 8-4 record! The team had signature wins over Ranney (twice), Rumson Country Day (twice), Oceanport and Monmouth Beach! The girls had played very well as a team all year. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders were the leaders of the team and set the example for the 7<sup>th</sup> graders who also contributed to the team's success! The following 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be missed: Josie Larkins, Emily Abate, Katie Spencer, Sophia DiAntonio, Ghillian Ferraiola, Maddy Ryder, Sarah Zylka, Mary Ann Santulli, Kelsey Leone, Brittney Barone, Sam Torregrossa, The 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls played with the Boy's Varsity team on March 6<sup>th</sup> in the student/faculty game. They defeated the faculty 59-55 OT!

### **Girl's JV Basketball**

Mrs. Scheuer and her players did a great job during the JV Basketball season! Playing a shortened schedule, the team finished with a 4-2 record! They defeated Lavallette, Rumson Country Day, and Ranney. These girls received valuable experience to eventually help the varsity team in years to come!

### **Boy's JV Basketball**

Mr. Misson's team finished the season with a 16-1 record and as the Spring Lake Heights Hoops Tournament Champions! The team played very well all season and had big wins over Eisenhower, St. Leo's, St. Mary's, Holy Cross, Rumson Country Day and Ranney. In the tourney, OHA defeated Spring Lake Heights, St. Rose and St. Leo's in the championship game. It was the rubber game of the match since we had split with St. Leo's earlier in the season! Our 6<sup>th</sup> graders that will be moving up to Varsity will certainly help the team next year. Each player gained valuable experience and will also help strengthen our program.

### **Swim Team**

Mrs. Bordiuk and Mrs. Schwartz were pleased with the improvement shown during the season. Although the team finished without a victory, there were a number of outstanding individual performances! The team also had a great showing in the Ranney Invitational! There were a number of 8<sup>th</sup> graders who anchored the team and some younger students who swam very well. As the season progressed, you could see the improvement of all of their times. Medal winners at the Ranney Invitational were: Individuals - Mary Mahoney (50 Butterfly) and Evan Semet (50 Back) and 100 Medley Relay team - Mary Mahoney, Sarah Berger, Sofia DiAntonio, and Mae Corrigan. The following 8<sup>th</sup> graders were the leaders of the team and will be

greatly missed: Sarah Berger, Mae Corrigan, Miller Corrigan, Amanda DeStefano, Sophia DiAntonio, Olivia Malson, Morgan Molisani, Zoe Sucato and Sarah Zylka.

### **Cheerleading/The Mighty Oak**

A large group of dedicated girls, led by Mrs. Wood, were at all of the home basketball games. Also, our Mustang Mascot (6<sup>th</sup> grader Zach Basile), the "Mighty Oak," helped the cheerleaders and got the crowd into the games!! These cheerleaders were enthusiastic and provided excitement each afternoon! They also choreographed a great halftime dance! The following 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be missed: Alexandra Lupo, Brittney Barone, Kaitlyn Vogel, Kerry Fell, Lauren Valinoti, Mary Ann Santulli, Nicole Marinaro, Rebecca Carmeli-Peslak, Sam Torregrossa, Sarah Zylka.

### **Scorekeepers**

The winter sports season could not happen without the dedication from our scorekeepers. Each student who is interested in learning how to keep score for the basketball games must come to a number of training sessions. Many of the officials compliment our scorekeepers for their knowledge, dedication and professionalism! Other schools choose to have teachers run their clocks and keep score. We have always given our students that responsibility! Thank you to: Seth Britton, Matthew Misson, Josie Larkins, Christopher Misson, Alec Garbely, Lucas Bruckmann, Erin Gilfillan, Ryan Gilfillan.

### **SPRING ATHLETICS**

The winter is just about over and the spring season is almost here!

Mr. Bruckmann has started the boy's baseball (gr. 6-8) team as of March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Porzio's softball (gr. 5-8) team started on March 11<sup>th</sup> and Miss Murray's tennis (gr. 5-8) will be starting at the end of March.

Mrs. Gilfillan's spring cross country training will start in April.

