

Oak Hill Academy Newsletter #4 March 2014

Headmaster's Message Joseph A. Pacelli

21st Century Skills at Oak Hill

Most educational experts agree that children of today will need an additional set of skills as they move through their schooling years. The 3R's will remain in place in our high paced technological world. However, a new set of habits will be in place so that our graduates will be able to compete and be successful in their adult lives.

These 21st century skills are not your normal textbook skills and they are often referred to as the "hidden skills of education." Some of these are directly attached to the traditional subject areas while others meet a broader area of knowledge and communication. Critical thinking and effective speaking are crucial across all areas of the curriculum, while reading comprehension and fluency remains the backbone of all clear thinking and understanding.

Oak Hill has had in place for a number of years a program which is on the cutting edge in the use of many of these skills. We are living in an information society. Information is the new capital and new material, with communication, is the new means of production. With this as our focus, we at Oak Hill have embarked on a very exciting program for our students which we have entitled "Explorations." Oak Hill offers its seventh and eighth graders some of the latest technological tools to assist them gather information, analyze data and draw conclusions. Through this interaction with electronic media, cooperative learning and real-life issues, students are challenged with open-ended questions and projects which stimulate their creativity, problem solving techniques and critical thinking. Students experience topics in social studies, humanities and science and record their work in individual portfolios.

All topics are researched and then presented through Keynote on iPads, power point or Prezi (virtual poster) on iPads. Collaborative presentations which include visuals such as maps, pictures and graphs link to brief video clips and transitions/animations to enhance the project. Information literacy and media fluency are key elements of this process.

Students enjoy their work in Explorations while strengthening their writing and research skills. One of the main features of these 21st century skills is global awareness. Students have recently done an exploration on a variety of topics including landmarks around the world, international foods, the 2014 Sochi Olympic Games, world revolutions, and U.S. Supreme Court decisions. One group of students acted as travel agents as they planned a trip which included transportation, lodging, sight seeing, travel restrictions and language spoken.

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 next Saturday Open House is March 22 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 and Kick-Off

Our annual kick-off celebration gave our students a chance to celebrate the OHAPO's theme of "A Night in Old Hollywood." On Thursday, February 6th, all students were asked to dress down in an Oak Hill "team" color of red or white. They enjoyed movie themed music over the p.a. system and a popcorn treat during their lunch periods. The afternoon featured a special assembly in which these teams competed in a Hollywood Squares match with an "Old Hollywood" twist. The stage was turned into a giant tic-tac-toe board and our good-natured faculty reprised the roles of some of the stars of the Golden Age of Movies in order to familiarize the students with the era. The students really enjoyed the competition and the fun it provided. Congratulations to the Red 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 and technology at our school! 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 5, 2014.

Miss Murray Director of Personnel/Administration

LIP SYNC

The 25th Annual Lip Sync was held on Feb. 27th and Feb. 28th in the Scire Student Activities Center! They were fun-filled nights with about 180 students and 13 faculty members performing!

All of our students in PK-8 who performed did an outstanding job! They worked hard on their routines and it showed! Mr. Pacelli lip synched a routine to "She Blinded Me with Science" with his grandchildren! Mrs. Weikes, Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Caprara performed "Gummy Bears" while Kindergarten did a routine to the popular "What Does the Fox Say." Not to be outdone, thirteen of our faculty and staff performed the same number!

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

Parent Basketball Game

Thank you to all those who came out for the Parent Basketball Game on Sunday, March 9. Congratulations to the following students who made a shot for a Dress Down Day: Nick Robertson, Aron Wiener, Andy Thermos and Kolby Scire. Dress Downs were also awarded to clock operators/helpers: Andy Thermos, Seth Britton, Alec Garbely and Christopher Misson.

M.A.S.T. Jeopardy Contest

Congratulations to all of those students who participated in the tournament on Friday, March 7. There were 30 teams and we came in second place, 480-460, to Forrestdale (Rumson) which equated to a one question difference! Thanks to all of the teachers who helped out too!

Mr. Bruckmann Communications Administrator

2014 Oak Hill Academy Summer Programs

The 2014 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>

Oak Hill Academy Math Counts Team Achieves!

Mrs. Rita Cotterell, an upper school math teacher at Oak Hill Academy, took a group of 6 sixth, seventh and eighth grade students to Union County College for the Math Counts competition for Middlesex, Union and Monmouth Counties on Saturday, February 1, 2014.

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

The team from Oak Hill competed against public, private and parochial schools from those three counties in a multi-round competition. The competition begins with a 30 question test covering every strand of mathematics in word problem format. The students then move on to the target round where they are given 2 high level word problems that need to be completed in 5 minutes. This is repeated 5 times for a total of 10 questions. Subsequently, the top team from each school takes a test of 10 questions requiring teamwork and leadership. We finished 1st out of all of the independent and parochial schools and 9th place overall!

The team was made up of Harry Jain, Thomas Wang, Michael Zhang, Anna Effenberger, Dylan Servilla and Lucas Bruckmann. They meet biweekly on Friday afternoons. Congratulations to Mrs. Cotterell and her team for such an outstanding effort!

SIG Coming to Oak Hill Academy

Oak Hill Academy, in Lincroft has accepted an offer to become the local location for the Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG). This is a program of the National Society for the Gifted and Talented which was created to enable and empower gifted, talented, and high potential youth, in the United States and abroad, to celebrate and maximize their unique potential.

This program already exists at locations such as Amherst, Princeton, Harvard and Yale to name a few. The SIG program is marking its 30th year and continues to provide the highest quality educational and social opportunities for academically gifted and talented students.

The Oak Hill program will run from July 7 – July 24, 2014, from 8:45 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. (with before and extended care) and serve about 40-50 students ages 5-12. It will utilize much of the Oak Hill campus including classrooms, space for indoor/outdoor recreation, art, drama, computers and science labs for various aspects of the curriculum. There will be 4 levels of courses depending on the student's age including such interesting titles as Cracking Codes: Patterns and Probability; Dinosaurs: Fact, Fiction and Fossils; Storm Chasers, and Online Design, plus many more.

Joseph Pacelli, Headmaster at Oak Hill Academy comments, "We look forward to being added to the list of other highly recognized schools as a part of this very prestigious and worthwhile opportunity for the children here at the Jersey shore. We welcome the SIG staff to our campus."

There is an application procedure to qualify for this program. Parents seeking a brochure or further information may call SIG at 866-303-4744 or visit their website at www.GiftedStudy.org.

Mrs. Livingston Lower School Guidance

During the month of March, I will visit the classrooms of children in grades 1-4 and share the following stories with them.

Gr. 1 - The Enormous Potato by Aubrey Davis is a humorous folk tale that focuses on the spirit of co-operation. In this story, a farmer plants a potato that grows bigger and bigger. He cannot pull it out of the ground himself so he calls for the help of his wife, who calls for the help of their daughter, who calls the dog, who calls the cat, who calls the mouse. Success at last! Through our discussion of the story, the children came to the conclusion that it is much easier and more fun if we work together to accomplish something that we cannot do on our own.

Gr. 2 - "Sippi Learns the Meaning of Kindness" comes from a collection of stories written by Chad and Carrie Mason. Sippi is a bit different from most other dogs and is teased by other dogs in his neighborhood. When a neighborhood squirrel saw this happening, she befriended Sippi. The others soon began to feel badly for what they had done, and, after awhile, invited Sippi to join in with their fun. In our discussion, we covered points such as how one feels when they are picked on, what being kind to others means, and how we show kindness to someone who is being teased or left out.

We learned that we are all different from each other, but each of us is special in one way or another.

Gr. 3 - "The Camel and the Horse Become Friends" is found in Friendship Fables by Shirley Redcay. In this story in a magical kingdom lived a horse who thought he was just perfect. This horse teased a camel that lived nearby. He teased the camel about his big feet, his ugly ears, and his hump. The words that the horse used hurt the camel terribly. One day the camel took the king across the desert to visit some children. Upon returning, the camel became very sad. When the king asked what was wrong, the camel told him of the horse's teasing. The king told the camel that he was just as special and important as the horse and gave him something to say to himself when someone is being unkind.

**What you do or what you say
Can't make me less in any way.
I am special. You are, too.
I'm as valuable as you.**

Gr. 4 - If You Had to Choose, What Would You Do? By Sandra Humphrey is a collection of stories that encourages children to think about what they would do in a situation. We discussed the story "Green, Green Everywhere." In this story, a young girl who happened to be of Irish heritage, wore a green skirt, green sweater, green socks and brought green sprinkled cookies to school on St. Patrick's Day. Some of the kids in her class went overboard with their teasing. She never wanted to go through another day like that again. On St. Patrick's Day the following year, Kathleen was faced with making a decision. She thought of several options—the choice was up to her. We discussed not only what we would do if faced with that decision, but also how teasing sticks with a person over a period of time. The hurt does not go away when the event is over.

Mrs. Weikes, Director Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Caprara 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. There is no doubt that March has come in like a lion and we are anxiously waiting for the lamb days to arrive. The seasonal changes and weather will be used to plan exciting discoveries about wind, weather and water.

Along with the weather changes and the arrival of spring during the month of March, students will be "wearin' the

green" in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. We will be practicing our Irish jig and sampling special green snacks. We sure hope those pesky leprechauns don't wreak their havoc in our classrooms as they have in past years. The students have been brainstorming ideas for setting Leprechaun traps. We shall see if they work.

Our Valentine's Day lessons and Tea were amazing. The children enjoyed writing out valentine's at home, playing post-office at school, creating colorful crafts, decorating heart-shaped cookies and reading and critiquing books. Our moms, and some dads, joined us to share in the celebration which was followed by lunch. Parents were presented with "A Kiss for You" candy jars filled with kisses and handmade cards.

Also, during the month of February we concentrated on good dental hygiene; practicing proper brushing, graphing good and bad snacks, and discussing our visits to the dentist.

In an effort to promote literacy in our lives both Pre-K classes have invited moms and dads to spend time at school during the week they become "King and Queen of the Jungle" in the classroom. Parents come to read to the class, enjoy special time with their children, and provide special snack or a craft for our weekly "Letter of the Week."

Lip Sync was a joy for the youngest participants, their parents and teachers alike. The children happily sang and danced to The Gummy Bear song. Bravo Pre-K! Way to shine!

On March 12th Pre-K will celebrate "Pretendtown Day" which is a spin off of the annual OHA Littletown Day. The Multi-Purpose room of the Center for Early Learning will be turned into a familiar neighborhood as children from both classes interact with one another in a town much like their own. To reinforce specific skills taught in class, students will be given "Bunny Money" to spend money in the I Want More school store, the None Finer Diner, Smooch Your Pooch pet store, and the Get Slim Gym, just to name a few. Each year "Pretendtown" receives rave reviews from the students.

To "coin" an expression from the title of one of Dr. Seuss' books, "Oh the Places You'll Go." Pre-K traveled to the Sunrise Assisted Living facility to present "Love Songs for Seniors." Our students were well-received and invited back for a spring sing. *A You're Adorable* and *You Are My Sunshine* were big hits with the

senior group. Students introduced themselves and interacted with the residents before enjoying valentine snacks. Prior to the trip, Pre-K baked cookies and crafted heart-shaped butterfly magnets to present to the residents.

On March 24th Pre-K will travel to the State Theater, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, to enjoy Leo Lionni's classic tale, *Swimmy*, being brought to life on stage. It has been a long, long winter and we are looking forward to playing outdoors and traveling to places such as the State Theater, New Brunswick and Longstreet Farm in Holmdel.

We really look forward to the onset of spring and the wonderful times we will experience together in this time of new beginnings with the birth of baby animals and a newly, refreshed Earth. Happy springtime everyone!

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

February is known as "Frantic February" in Kindergarten. There were so many topics to learn about. We learned about Groundhog's Day and apparently his prediction was correct! We learned how to take care of our teeth for Dental Health Month. We discovered how many African Americans have made contributions to our country for Black History Month. We were treated to a wonderful party from our class moms for Valentine's Day. We honored our first and sixteenth Presidents with books, movies and projects. Finally we spread the word of our 100th day of school with a parade! As a class project we asked that the families and friends of our Kindergarten students send us an email congratulating us on our 100th day of school. Our goal was to reach 100 emails and we surpassed that amount! Our grand total was 155 emails! We received them from Washington D.C., 9 states and 14 countries! We extend our greatest gratitude to everyone who helped us out!

We would like to thank The Zhou family for bringing in delicious treats to celebrate Chinese New Year. Mrs. Zhou read the class a story and then did a craft. We even took turns walking around in a dragon costume. What a special way to learn about such an important tradition!

In reading we continue to meet and greet more Letter People. We now have 4 vowels and 11 consonants to help us make words. The children have

completed their first story in our Writing to Read Program. We are so impressed with how they can now apply their reading skills into their writing.

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

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

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

We are looking forward to Littletown Day and our jobs at the Littletown Post Office. We have been writing friendly letters to our friends and teachers. We learned the different parts of a letter and how to write the date in digits. We also learned how to address an envelope. On Littletown Day, we will be sorting, stamping and delivering the mail to the residents of Littletown. It's always such fun on Littletown Day in first grade.

We have been enjoying using the ipads in our classrooms. The apps we use help us practice our facts and help us with our reading comprehension. Here are some of the apps you might want to install at home for further fun and study:

FIRST GRADE READING
COMPREHENSION
READING RAVEN
STAR SPELLER
FIRST FICTION
PHONICS AWARENESS
SPLASH MATH
MATH PRACTICE
ADDITION
FLASH TO PASS
SUBRTACTION

We are so looking forward to spring!!!! Nice warm weather, nice sunshine ---NO SNOW, NO ICE!!!!!!!

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

The second grade had and is having a few exciting things happen this month. We just went on a class trip to Kateri Environmental Center. On our trip we discovered the history and folklore of maple syrup. We saw how a maple tree is tapped and gathered sap from a sugar maple tree. We then got to take part in the Great Maple Sugar Taste Test and voted on our favorite sample of syrup. So far the favorite in the taste test is

Kateri's very own homemade syrup! Our votes were added to many other children's votes in Monmouth County who have also taken the test. We hope to hear the results sometime this spring. The week before some of our second graders did a magnificent job performing in OHA's well known lip sync. To celebrate Read Across America we read about Dr. Seuss and are reading some of our favorite books written by him. The children say that reading his books reminds them of when they were little.

We are now looking forward to Littletown Day on Wednesday, March 12. Miss Colson's room will become The Globe Theatre. They will be showing movies and selling water and goldfish. Mrs. Buchner's room will be selling their famous warm pretzels, so get them while they're hot! It's such an exciting day for the whole lower school.

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

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

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

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

We've had some very interesting events happening this marking period. Many of them enriched our cultural diversity theme.

First, we all worked very hard to understand what life was like for the Native Americans living on the Great Plains. We learned about their family life and their community structure using text sources and videos. We used trade books to discuss some of their beliefs and oral history. Eventually we had a fun time putting all this knowledge into action on Pow-Wow Day. Best of all, we shared

the day with our parents and other guests.

We also had parents come into the classroom to share their cultural backgrounds with us. Mrs. Fabricant explained how her own life involved Morocco, France, and Switzerland. The class really enjoyed the information about Morocco and the video on the art of tile making. Next Mr. and Mrs. Gao shared some facets of Chinese culture. The class became very engaged when discussing dragons! They also enjoyed trying some traditional Chinese New Year treats. Later in the month, Mrs. Yan introduced the children to the Chinese abacus, the Lion Dance, and the Chinese yo-yo. What fun to try out new objects like the lion mask, drum, and yo-yo.

We encourage you all to visit the third grade webpage to view clips of these activities. Also useful are many other links found on the page.

In honor of Black History Month we read Meet Addy, an American Girl born a slave. We also read Follow the Drinking Gourd and then went to see a play about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.

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

In language arts, the fourth graders have been studying paragraph development. After analyzing work sheets and pulling apart paragraphs 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 was then passed on to another student who had to identify the main idea and add an appropriate supporting detail. This continued until the last person had to properly close the paragraph by restating or commenting on the main idea. We had fun learning and creating paragraphs.

We also had fun learning about cows! Looking at 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!

We have now joined forces with Mrs. Tolleth and her study of New Jersey. The students are writing an eight

paragraph research paper about New Jersey, while simultaneously concentrating on proper paragraph development. We have 'Googled' facts, some are quite unusual, to help us learn about our wonderful Garden State while we create a 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 Kittatinies 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**

PK students finished up a unit on the 5 senses. Some of our activities included: Mystery Sound Boxes, microscopes, Guess the Smell Jars, Touch and Sort. We have just begun a unit on dinosaurs. Kindergarten students learned about astronomy. We made shaving cream planets and paper towel roll astronauts. They just finished up a unit on chemistry where we used baking soda and vinegar to "erupt" volcanoes. First grade students learned about shadows and the sun during our Groundhog Day unit. We

also completed a unit on geology. Second grade students studied dinosaurs and fossils. We made mold fossils, cast fossils, and amber fossils. Third grade students made harmonicas to learn about sound waves. Fourth grade students finished up a chemistry unit called "Mystery Powders" where they analyzed physical and chemical properties of substances to try to guess a mystery substance.

Mrs. Bordiuk/Mr. Goldfarb
Lower School PE

During the 4th marking period at Oak Hill Academy the lower school Physical Education classes have been working on the Jump Rope unit. The students have developed a better sense of timing and coordination while improving their strength and cardiovascular health. The lower school Physical Education classes have continued watching informational health videos which has given them significant knowledge about how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The students will resume swim classes the week of March 17. The Physical Education department will also begin administering the Presidential Fitness Tests during the 5th marking period. Please remember that students must come to Physical Education classes with proper footwear on Dress Down Days and Fabulous Footwear Days.

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

Final preparations have been under way for Littletown Day which has kept all of our lower school students very busy for the last several months. Our annual event with a **British flair** was held on Wednesday, March 12th. 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 grade is enjoying a new App to help reinforce the couleurs. It is "Tchoupi joue avec les couleurs." The directions are given entirely in French and students respond by choosing the correct color. Students have an opportunity for creativity and learning in the coloriage pages.

The second grade students practice numbers and days of the week. Recently we played, "Pizza, Fermé, Bagel", a guessing game to help reinforce numbers. We also viewed the video,

Ma Journée, which helps us to practice Time, (l'heure). This video can be viewed on the website on the Second grade page.

The third grade is learning vocabulary about the daily routine in French. Vocabulary can be practiced from the video, "Daily routine in French" on the webpage, Third Grade.

We practice time, meals, and common activities during the week.

Mrs. Scheuer
Upper School Advisor

Family Fun Day was the perfect way to wrap up exams and let loose! Students walked the red carpet at the glamorous Young Hollywood Party. 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 Old Hollywood theme, teams wearing red and white competed in the Jeopardy-style question and answer game. The replica Hollywood Squares set and teacher performances were a huge hit with the audience.

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

Lip Sync rocked the SAC on both nights. Each year the acts are more dynamic! The faculty practiced long hours and gave two solid performances of *What Does the Fox Say?* but the Kindergarteners, with their ears, tails and foxy choreography stole the show. Congratulations to all the performers. You did a great job!

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

Mrs. O'Connor
Grade 5 Literature/LA

This marking period we will be reading the novel Island of the Blue Dolphins 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.

When we begin reading Unit 9, Words in Motion: Poetry, we will see if we have a budding Tennyson, Frost or Angelou among us as we attempt to write our original poetry! After working on pronouns in grammar, we will hone our writing skills by trying a personal narrative and a story.

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.



Mrs. Matson
Grades 5 & 6 Geography

Fifth graders have begun learning about the Geography of Europe. They can study the map of Europe, for their Map Quizzes, on: www.ilike2learn.com. Sixth Graders are now studying China.

2014 Gr. 5-8 History/Geography Fair will be held from Wednesday May 14 to Friday May 16, in the Gym. Students have received the outline of the DUE DATES for the different portions of their projects: Almost all have chosen their topics. On Thursday, March 13, they should have brought in a sample of their research so far. It can be one or two books that they are using, or the bibliographic information of books they have used. Many will be researching on line, and they can bring, or even send examples of their online research for Mrs. Mayer or Mrs. Matson to view.

UPCOMING DUE DATES

MARCH 13th (Thurs.): SUBMIT PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE OF RESEARCH

Student brings in evidence from at least two sources, with notes OR OTHER WORK.

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

As the second semester began, the students moved through Unit 5 that concentrates on Perimeter, Area and Surface Area of various shapes both two-dimensional and three-dimensional, and progressed into Ratios in Unit 6. As we head into the fifth marking period, Unit 7 brings with it a longer and more intense focus on decimals. This includes our new Text book 5B and Workbooks 5B, while our extra practice book covers the entire year. Students will be expanding their focus on place values up to the Thousandths as they add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals first through approximation and then by whole numbers and finally decimals themselves. 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

After the Mid-term season, the second semester has begun full steam ahead into Chapter 7 and our applications of fractions. This included estimation to addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions as well as mixed numbers as well as perimeter and changing customary units. The pace has not let up as Chapter 8 seemed to be completed within the blink of an eye. Students expanded on their knowledge of using proportional reasoning through ratios, proportions as well as determining unit rates and understanding scale drawings. This progressed into converting fractions to percents to decimals and all combinations amongst them. We finally concluded with the specifics behind solving problems using the percent proportion. Now it is time to move on to Chapter 9 and geometry. We'll look into measuring and classifying angles as well as their measures within polygons. Classifying different polygons in addition to our exploration or translations and reflections and polygon inscriptions as well, will expand our focus. 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

Time is going by quickly as we are now well into the second half of the school year. We completed our unit on finding the area of triangles, rectangles and parallelograms as well as the unit on ratios between two quantities, three quantities and equivalent ratios. I know that some of the students were very happy to see the section on area ended! The homework was quite challenging at times, but this will help them so much as they continue through their math studies. Ratios were a nice break. The students did extremely well on their assessments. I was very proud of them. They even admitted that the bar models made the work much easier to understand. We finished the marking period by starting our study of decimals. The students have learned how to write decimals from words, how to convert decimals to fractions, how to compare and order decimals and how to add and subtract decimals! The unit on decimals is very long and comprehensive so we have a long way to go before we complete this!

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.

Grade 6

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.

Grade 7 - 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.

Grade 8 - 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!

Grade 8 - Algebra 2

We are in the heart of the subject area. Chapter 8 was loaded with new concepts. We worked our way through logarithms and the natural number e . We graphed them, learned their properties, solved equations, and graphed growth functions. From there we moved to rational equations and functions. Interestingly, the chapter started out harder than it ended. The first section was on inverse and joint variation and graphing simple and general functions. By that point we were at the middle of the chapter; that's when the chapter all of the sudden became quite easy! We finished off the chapter by multiplying and dividing rational expressions, adding and subtracting rational expressions, simplifying complex fractions and solving rational equations. Chapter 10 is on quadratic relations and conic sections.

The chapter began with a review of mid-point and distance formulas. The students learned how to graph and write parabolas, circles, ellipses and hyperbolas. Some of the graphs were a bit challenging to draw! We are a breath away from completing Chapter 10 and are getting ready to begin the next chapter on sequences and series!

I am so impressed by the work ethic of this class. It is truly an honor to be a part of their math experience.

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 testing for carbon dioxide and starch and the "bursting bag" lab. The process of photosynthesis was introduced to prepare the class for this topic plus respiration that will be covered extensively in sixth grade Life Science. 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 was introduced to the upper school microscope (its parts and the correct use). The fifth graders were fascinated when they realized that the microscope turns the specimens observed "upside down and backwards." The class observed the structure of salt crystals, an introduction to the next unit – Minerals.

Mrs. Vacca **Grade 5**

Math Workshop

Ten minute warm-ups of challenging math worksheets continued and numerous students earned their bonus points for a dress down day. Projects included during this marking period were about "Pay Day" and measuring your height and coins in inches. Another one was "World Temperatures" from four different regions of the world. Groups had to locate the temperatures in different cities and then calculate the high and low for their region. Comparisons of temperatures from each group were also made and then compared to that of Lincroft, NJ.

Tech

A new topic, Ancient Civilizations, has taken the students back in time. Groups were formed and various civilizations from around the world were selected to research. Criteria include a map of their civilization, daily life, occupations, government, arts/entertainment, influential people, dress and contributions made to the world. Students are researching and compiling their information into Keynote on the iPads.

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

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

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

Mrs. Daly **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 to the first credit card to the remote control. Other topics included scuba equipment, insulin pumps, immunizations, eReaders, and ball point pens. 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 28. Please convert all cash to check or money order made payable to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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

Mrs. Billet
Grades 6 & 7 Science

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

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

Students continue to be challenged with 10 minute math sheet warm-ups to accumulate points towards their next dress down day. Mustang Toy Projects have been started and descriptions of how their toy functions are being compiled. The construction paper crafted toys consist of geometric shapes that are priced and then after presentations, students will fill out order forms and write a check for their purchases. Practical math once again!

Sra. Dotto
Grades 6, 7 & 8 Spanish

In the sixth grade, after a comprehensive review we covered definite articles, the four forms of you, all subject pronouns, the conjugation of over 20 regular -ar verbs in the present tense and formation of sentences in negative form. To reinforce this material we have used PowerPoint presentations, 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, videos, classroom interaction and by logging on the site "quizlet" for visual and auditory processing.

In eighth grade, the students have covered formation of sentences in the negative form by using *tampoco*, *nada* and *nadie*. They have mastered the past tense of over 50 regular verbs plus the preterit of the irregular verbs *hacer*, *ir*, *ser*, *estar*, *tener* and *ver*. All this material is reinforced with PowerPoint presentations, classroom interaction, videos and by logging on the site "quizlet." Also, we started reading a novel "Pobre Ana" which students are enjoying and acquiring a lot of vocabulary.

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, our new 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 took an in depth look at our American Constitution. We analyzed the problems our country faced under The Articles of Confederation and how The Constitution helped remedy them by creating a stronger Federal Government. Our students created historical plays that focused on the different points of view that existed at this time. We are presently working on research and a group project about the Constitution and how this amazing document affects every American on a daily basis.

The eighth grade is hard at work investigating the social, political and

economic changes that occurred in America during the 1920's. We took an in depth look into the changing role of African Americans and women during this period of history. We are presently researching the Great Depression and the vast societal shift Americans endured during this period. Students are creating historical plays to understand this period of history from many different points of view.

Mrs. Koar/Grade 7 Explorations

The seventh grade Exploration classes are engaged in research projects related to topic of "Comparing historical revolutions." Students find, read and summarize information related to their revolution, uprising, conflict, of choice, and either prepare a keynote, prezi, or powerpoint to present to the class.

Students are expected to collect, organize, and evaluate information and be able to share their findings orally before the class.

Projects are evaluated on their organization, subject knowledge, graphics, delivery, and overall enthusiasm/ audience awareness.

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. The classes are continuing to study vocabulary, as well. Students are focusing on world events as we follow stories in *Junior Scholastic* each week. Topics have included the ivory trade, robotics, athletic cash incentives, and other timely events.

Mrs. Schroeter Grade 8 Science

This marking period the eighth graders completed the unit on rocks – igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. The students had the opportunity to observe and examine our large collection of both rocks and minerals and experiment with them. All of the information acquired will become more meaningful when the class visits the zinc mine on a field trip this spring. The final topic of the marking period was the study of continental drift, stated by Alfred Wegener, and plate tectonics. The eighth graders are now familiar with the supercontinent, *Pangaea*, and with the Earth's moving plates. They know that earthquakes and volcanoes are common along the plate boundaries. They learned about the Mid-Atlantic ridge, the San Andreas Fault in CA, and the subduction zones (trenches) around the Pacific Ocean. The students made beautiful *Pangaea* maps showing the placement of the Earth's landmasses long ago. Their maps may be seen on the bulletin board in Room 18. They also made flipbooks with eight pages, demonstrating the separation of the landmasses to their present locations.

Mr. Pacelli Algebra I – An Integrated Approach

During the last marking period we completed our work on systems both linear and non-linear. We also solved inequalities using a graphing method. Our work in Chapter 9 involves the rules of exponents and radicals. Both of these will be an important part of future study in geometry and trigonometry. Moving toward the end of the year, we should be able to finish the book by the end of May leaving us some time to introduce lessons on trig, complex numbers and sequences. The work is getting difficult, but the background knowledge gained will be very helpful in high school.

Mrs. Larkins Grade 8 Math Workshop

My one day per week classes 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. We sharpened our geography skills by

matching zip codes to some famous national landmarks.

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

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!

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. Although most airports are quite busy, it is reassuring to know there is a system behind the flow of air traffic.

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

Mrs. Vacca Grade 8 Explorations

The Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics was the topic for this last marking period. Sports were selected: ski jumping, men's ice hockey, ice skating pairs teams, and men's snowboarding. This was an on-going project as students were keeping track of the daily results and medal counts for their countries' teams. Presentations were made including video clips of performances and highlights of their events.

Mr. Bruckmann Grade 8 Math Workshop

Our class meets once a week, and we always begin each session with a warm-up, which are short, thought provoking problems worked on during the first five to ten minutes of most classes. Students then either work individually or collaboratively in groups on various projects. Our first project this year dove into the meaning and methodology behind Zip codes and UPC symbols in "Zips & Strips". We then looked at how airport runways are named. Something

to find interesting as the vacation season begins and some of us will be lucky enough to escape to new and exciting destinations via air transport. With the spring brings Tax season as well as our huge annual Baseball Challenge in addition to March Madness and the process behind who makes the Big Dance and who is left out and why. More details to follow next marking period. . .

Ms. Burke
Grades 7 & 8 Latin

After exams, the seventh graders learned the genitive case and its use in showing possession. Then, we worked on more uses of the ablative case and adverbs. Finally, they learned how to recognize and translate the imperfect tense (our second tense in Latin) and the imperfect verbs *sum* and *possum*, subjects that will continue into the next marking period. As always, we worked on developing translation skills by reading stories about a famous Roman family, the Cornelii. Moreover, we studied cultural elements such as Roman names. We also began reading an adaptation of Vergil's *Aeneid* by reading the prologue and discussing preliminary stories such as The Judgement of Paris and the Trojan War. Finally, we worked on preparation for the National Latin Exam.

In the eighth grade, learned the final tense, future perfect, and the last two declensions. We also learned another use of the genitive (partitive genitive) and the demonstrative adjectives *hic* and *ille*. As before, we spent a great deal of time on translation skills primarily through stories in their *Ecce Romani* textbooks. Finally, we discussed major sites of Rome, like the Colosseum and Pantheon, and Rome's expansion into the Mediterranean during the Middle Republic. Finally, we worked on preparation for the National Latin Exam.

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 were working very hard on auditory and comprehension for the National French Exam which will take place on March 11th. The hardest part was 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 !!!

Mr. Rosenfeld/Mrs. Bordiuk
Upper School PE

ALL SWIM CLASSES WILL START AGAIN NEXT WEEK, THE WEEK OF MARCH 17, 2014. The schedule is posted on the Upper School Swim door. Please remind your child to look at the schedule. We will also speak to them in class this week. The schedule is posted on our faculty webpages.

The sixth and eighth graders just finished a marking period of Health Education. Unfortunately, we did not get to go "in depth" on some topics. The weather and missed classes caused us to re-work some areas.

The fifth and seventh graders have completed their unit on Basketball in Phys. Ed. All Upper School students will now have Phys. Ed. 2 days per week and Swim class one day per week.

The Phys. Ed. classes will begin a Volleyball unit. We will also go outside for Lacrosse and Softball when the weather breaks. Ultimate Frisbee is also a great outdoor game along with Kickball.

The students will begin testing again for the Presidential Physical Fitness awards. The MILE RUN will be after spring break so they have plenty of time to train for this if they so desire!

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 computers in the first half of the year learned.

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 and how they are used. They also have been working on some fun Internet sites for kids. You should have seen a picture they made of various countries' flags.

After creating the Littletown day invitation, third graders began learning about how to hold their hands when typing and what fingers should be used when typing certain letters.

Fourth graders created Tiny Bucks to be used on Littletown Day. In fifth grade they began working in Microsoft Word. They created an acrostic poem and wrote a friendly letter to someone they haven't seen in a while.

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

While learning about the features of Microsoft Publisher the seventh graders created brochures. They provided information about a country of their choice, while being creative and colorful. In eighth grade the students completed their resume and evaluated websites on the Internet.

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 solfège (*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 16th and 17th centuries and will be looking at the four different sizes (voices) of recorders used in the consort. While becoming proficient on our first three notes, we are exploring many styles of music (jazz, tango, waltz, folk) as well as working on our music reading skills. In addition, we will be learning about the woodwind family of orchestral instruments in the coming weeks.

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

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

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

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

Congratulations to the Oak Hill Players and Chorus for their excellent performances at the Open House in February! They were outstanding ambassadors of the school and 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. Now, we look ahead to April 11th when the Music Makers will join the Chorus and Oak Hill Players for the Arts Festival Assembly.

Miss DiMaggio/Art

First grade learned how to draw Y-Trees. They drew with sharpies and painted the background with watercolor. They also learned about symmetry and beaded a necklace. They drew self portraits of themselves now and how they think they will look in fifty years.

Second grade worked in groups to make an Eric Carle inspired giant collage of a character from one of Eric Carle's famous books. They also learned about abstract artist Piet Mondrian and the primary colors.

Third grade studied the color wheel and blended colors using watercolor pencils while following the rhythm of the color wheel.

Fourth grade worked in small groups to create wooden sculptures based on the work of cubist Pablo Picasso and sculptor Louise Nevelson. They also studied surreal artist Frida Kahlo and drew self portraits while learning about the proper facial feature proportions.

Fifth grade made three dimensional color wheels while learning how to mix colors from the primary colors. They learned about the Elements of Art and will

continue to use them in their future art works. They also learned about non-objective artist Wassily Kandinsky and created a work using watercolor pencils and sharpies while drawing only lines and shapes. They also studied female American artist Georgia O'Keeffe and drew enlarged flowers with oil pastels

Sixth grade studied the Principles of Art and learned about one point perspective and drew a pathway with buildings all converging to their vanishing point. They studied Chuck Close and, using the grid method, drew funny face self portraits that were distorted using the iPad.

Seventh grade learned about Post Impressionist Georges Seurat and pointillism while making a picture entirely of little paint dots. Using sharpies and overlapping geometric shapes they created positive and negative black and white drawings.

Eighth grade studied American graffiti artist Keith Haring and worked with pastels to draw their names in a graffiti style. Using only tiny words and no lines they drew pictures called micro calligraphy.

Grades 5-8 started their Zentangle which is easy-to-learn, relaxing, and a fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. It increases focus and creativity, provides artistic satisfaction along with an increased sense of personal well being. The Zentangle Method is enjoyed all over this world across a wide range of skills, interests and ages.

Any students currently in computers that are interested in entering drawings for the Monmouth Day Care Centers Art Journal come see me for information. Drawings must be finished and submitted by March 24th.

Please check out some of our work on the school website under the art section.

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 read a Reader's Theatre script entitled "*LIVE: It's Fairy Tale New.*" Then, working in groups, they created fairy tale commercials. Some products up for sale in these commercials were "Beastly Cream" to help the Beast transform into a handsome prince, "Animal Translator" that helps Snow White and Cinderella talk to the animals, and "Invisible Spray" so the Big Bad Wolf can sneak up on anyone at anytime, anywhere! The students wrote the commercial script using persuasive writing, made the prop/product and then presented their commercial in front of the class. We videotaped the performances so that 3A and 3P could see each other's terrific work.

The fourth grade has been introduced to the world of improvisation. They have enjoyed playing improv games like "Press Conference," "Improv Ball Toss," and "Improv Freeze Tag." Now they are trying out improv duet scenes.

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

Forensics Team – The next festival will be held at Ranney School on Saturday, April 26th. We will resume rehearsals on Tuesday, April 1st.

Upper School Dance Ensemble – any student that would like to dance in the Arts Assembly scheduled for April 11th, should have a piece prepared to present to Mrs. DeVivo by Monday, March 31st.

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. There will be practice on the half day for Littletown Day, March 12th. Students should bring a bagged lunch. 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 21st, 24th, 25th and 26th. The performance is right around the corner, **Thursday, March 27th!!!!**

Mrs. Vacca/ Mr. Goldfarb Student Council

"**Movie Day**" for the 5-6th grade students took place on Wednesday, February 12th in the S.A.C. An afternoon of a good movie, Despicable Me 2, and food and drinks was a fun time for all.

This month's dress down day was for the **March of Dimes**, held on Monday, March 3rd. We asked that all students wear **GREEN**. We were able to send a check for \$395 and additional checks of \$260, totaling \$ 655. I want to thank everyone for their generous donations to such a worth organization for children.

The final 7th and 8th dance for this school year will be held on Friday, April 4th so please mark your calendars. The **Spring Fling** will be held in the gym from 7:30-10 pm. The admission fee is \$5 and pizza/beverages will be served. Returning DJ John will be helping us dance the night away.

I want to thank everyone for their donation to the American Heart Association. We were able to send a check for \$618.25 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!**

Directory Changes

New Student

Nicholas Mavica – 3P
37 Acorn Place
Colts Neck, NJ 07722
732-414-1616

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Mavica
Mom cell: 732-720-1616
Dad cell: 917-981-4092

New Address

Dylan (2C) and Isabella (2B) Thackeray
6 Bordens Brook Way
Holmdel, NJ 07733

Address Change

Shane (PK) and Avery (2C) Duffy
Mrs. Duffy: 7 Pegasus Dr.,
Tinton Falls, 07724
917-682-6251

ATHLETICS

Please look to the next newsletter for full winter/spring coverage.

