

**OAK HILL ACADEMY**  
**First Marking Period Newsletter**  
**October 2012**

**Headmaster's Message**  
**Joseph A. Pacelli**

After School Clubs for All

This year's number of extra help and clubs has reached an all-time record! There seems to be something for everyone from cultural based offerings to physical activities and everything in-between.

Our participation in after school activities is a great way to extend our children's knowledge, find a new interest, and to meet informally with classmates. These offerings are an Oak Hill tradition which was started over 30 years ago and has grown in popularity and number ever since. Currently we have three quarters of our students attending on a daily basis from Monday to Thursday.

Not only do our children take part in a host of clubs, they also have opportunities to extend their academic day by taking part in after school help and homework clubs. This time gives students an opportunity to meet with teachers to not only prepare homework and deepen understanding, but also to explore topics with classmates.

We are very happy with our after school offerings and see this program special to Oak Hill, adding great value to our program.

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

Enrollment

We are happy to report that there has already been a very positive response to admissions for 2013-2014. Applications have already been accepted in many grade levels and testing for the coming school year will begin in the coming months. If you are considering enrolling one of your other children for next year, please submit an application to the school office as soon as possible. If we know of your intention prior to the January 5, 2013 entrance exam, we can provide preference to families who already have children at Oak Hill. Please contact the school office if you need an application or if you have any questions about the admissions process.

Applications are also available on the school website.

Annual Giving Appeal Begins

Annual giving at any private school is an important means to fund those aspects of the school that help to make it so unique. Each year the school relies on these funds to maximize the program offered to our students. I am proud to say that when called upon, Oak Hill families always care enough to give the school support when it is needed and to make a difference for our students. Packets have just gone home. I would ask that each member of the OHA community offer a contribution at any level. During these times, OHA recognizes that any gift, large or small, conveys the message that you support our goals for your children. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Miss Murray Director of  
Personnel/Administration**

High School Information Night

On October 3rd, we held our annual High School Information Night. We had approximately 120 people in attendance! Our graduates and three parents represented 15 different high schools. They shared their personal experiences and insights on their high school. They all echoed how prepared they were for the rigors of high school. The hard work that had exhibited during their OHA years paved their way into their chosen schools. We thank the following alumni for coming back:

Maile McCann '11 Marine Academy of  
Science & Technology  
Kelsey Bernarducci '10 Allied Health  
and Science  
Zoe Iwanesky '11 Communications  
High School  
J.J. Larkins '11 BioTech  
John Vasilu '11 Lawrenceville  
Mrs. DiAntonio  
(Dominic '08, Christian '11)  
Avon Old Farms, CT  
Mr. Small  
(Brittany '06, Victoria '08, Blake '11)  
Blair Academy  
Sara AbdelBarry '11 Ranney  
Madison Acker '11 Ranney  
Becky O'Neill '11 Peddie  
Monica Labrecque '09 Red Bank Catholic  
Nicolette Lupo '10 St. John Vianney  
Nicholas Misson '11 Christian Brothers  
Academy  
Jessica Torregrossa '09 Notre Dame,  
Lawrenceville  
Cassie Jain '11 Red Bank Regional  
Erica Huang '09 Marlboro Business  
Administration

Also, our eighth graders heard presentations from the following schools that came to OHA during September and October: Lawrenceville, Peddie, Pennington, CBA, RBC, SJV, Mater Dei Prep and Blair Academy.

Hoop Shoot Contest

The annual Hoop Shoot Contest will be held on Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30pm. This foul shooting contest is open to girls and boys, ages 8-13 (as of April, 2013). Details will be sent home soon. Please check the website, too!

Veterans Day Assembly

Our annual Veterans Day Assembly will be held on Thursday, November 8th at 8:45am.

We will have the United States Marines here to present the colors. Our theme this year will focus on the poem "*In Flanders Fields*." Mrs. Tyma and Mrs. DeVivo will also have their groups performing that morning. Parents are invited to attend!

CBA Math Contest

Once again, Oak Hill Academy has won **1<sup>st</sup> place** at the Brother Christian Jones Math Contest held at Christian Brothers Academy on October 20<sup>th</sup>! OHA had four students place in the top 5! No school even had more than two in the top 10. **8<sup>th</sup> grader, Jacob Yatvitskiy came in 1<sup>st</sup> place, an amazing feat!!** 8<sup>th</sup> grader Gilbert Rashkovsky, came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, 8<sup>th</sup> grader Jasmine Shen, came in 4<sup>th</sup> place and 7<sup>th</sup> grader Harry Jain came in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Also competing were: Aneesha Doshi, Cameron Gruss, Evan Semet and Matthew Prince

**In the last 15 years, we've had an OHA student come in 1<sup>st</sup> place for 12 years!!**

As a team, we've had 23 years as a top five finisher: 11 first places, 7 second places, 3 third places and 2 fifth places! No school can claim such dominance!! Congrats to the advisor, Mrs. Palamara, and all of our math teachers who have prepared our students so well!

Marine Academy of Science and Technology Jeopardy Contest

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, 23 8<sup>th</sup> graders comprised the 4 teams that competed in the MAST Jeopardy Contest. There were 10 schools (Brielle, Forrestdale, WR Satz, Woodrow Wilson, Monmouth Beach, Keansburg, St. James, St. Benedicts, Cedar Drive, OHA) and 32 teams competing. The team of Roxanna Altus, Josie Larkins, Matthew Prince, Jacob Yatvitskiy, Gilbert Rashkovsky and Jasmine Shen placed third in this competition! Even though this team had the most points of the 32 teams entered,

we had lost by one question in the semi-final round. Also competing were: Sarah Berger, Sofia DiAntonio, Aneesha Doshi, Nicole Marinaro, Travis Schuhardt, Zoe Sucato, Gabriella Chinae, Cameron Gruss, Olivia Malson, Matthew Misson, Julia Pardee, Carly Belz, Mae Corrigan, Miller Corrigan, Christian Corvisiero, Camryn Mercatanti, and Hannah Nagy.

**Mr. Bruckmann**  
**Communications/Alumni Coordinator**

*Oak Hill Academy 2012 Golf Outing*

On October 4 at the Colts Neck Golf Club, about 60 golfers came out to support the 2012 Oak Hill Academy Golf Outing. Oak Hill fathers, Joe Cieri and Doug Forsyth, were co-chairs of the event. Although the "fore"cast was not good, the sun managed to shine down on the event and make it a memorable occasion for all of those that participated, from seasoned golfers to those looking to have some fun while supporting our great school.

After a lunch to begin the event, there was a shotgun start followed by 18 holes on the beautifully manicured Colts Neck Golf Club course. There were many chances to win prizes for a hole-in-one including a \$10,000 one on the 18<sup>th</sup> Hole, but it was not to happen on this day despite the strong efforts put forth. After the rounds were completed, everyone moved inside to join Headmaster, Mr. Joseph Pacelli, and some additional dinner guests for a delicious buffet dinner. During dinner, there were numerous prizes raffled off from new Nike irons to golf bags and various drivers and putters. In addition there were prizes for the furthest drive, both male and female, as well as the top two foursomes. This year's best foursome was made up of Joe Mallory, John Tomassetti, Suzanne Greco and Joe Cieri.

For pictures from the day, please check out [www.oakhillacademy.com](http://www.oakhillacademy.com) Under "What's New at OHA."

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

Gr. 1

Do Unto Otters: A Book about Manners is a humorous story about Mr. Rabbit and his new neighbors the Otters. Since he didn't know anything about otters, Mr. Rabbit wasn't sure if they would get along. Wise Mr. Owl advised Mr. Rabbit just to treat otters the same way he'd like them to treat him. When Mr. Rabbit thought about this, he realized that, among other things, he would like the Otters to be FRIENDLY, POLITE,

HONEST, and CONSIDERATE. The children learned that, by simply following the Golden Rule, we can be a good friend and neighbor to all.

Gr. 2

The Band-Aid Chicken is a story that stresses kindness and acceptance. In this story, a chicken enters the barnyard eager to make new friends. Unfortunately, she had to endure the initiation of being pecked by the other chickens. After this ordeal, she was accepted into the group. When another new chicken enters the barnyard the Band-Aid Chicken refuses to participate in this initiation and succeeds in convincing the other chickens to stop the pecking. Through the Band-Aid Chicken making the right choice, instead of following the crowd, the children learned that it isn't necessary to do what others want just to be accepted into a group. It is more important to be kind and considerate of others' feelings.

Gr. 3

I always love to share the story Chrysanthemum with the children. It is a wonderful story focusing on the character trait of acceptance. Chrysanthemum loved her name and everything about herself until she started school and some of her friends continually made fun of her name. A lesson was learned when, at the end of the story, a favorite music teacher named her new baby Chrysanthemum. In our discussion, we pointed out that it isn't our name, our looks, where we live, or the kind of car we drive that makes us who we are, rather it is how we treat other people. The children were all aware that "it's what's inside" that counts.

Gr. 4

At my first meeting with the children, I shared the story "The Attitude Patrol." This story stressed how important it is to think positively (I studied hard. I know this material. I will do well on this test.), rather than negatively (I don't know what this is about. I'm going to get a low grade on this test.). In thinking positive thoughts, we encourage ourselves, whereas with negative thoughts, we just slowly but surely tear ourselves down. We ended our time together with the "THINK BIG RAP."



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

A brand new school year is underway, the leaves are changing color, the temperature is much cooler-it must be fall! This month the Pre-K students will become more aware of the changes that take place in the fall and take part in traditional fall activities. After getting off to a stellar start Pre-K has settled in nicely to their daily routines and this looks to be the start of another wonderful year.

Our first field trip to Eastmont Orchards, in Colts Neck, was so much fun for everyone. Students filled their bags and the wheelbarrow with a variety of mouth-watering apples. After leaving the orchards we traveled to Thompson Park for an outdoor picnic and play. During the week students graphed their favorite apples, enjoyed them for snack and various other projects, and even dipped them in honey to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. The wonderful smell of cinnamon, from the homemade applesauce and apple pie we made, permeated the Learning Center for days.

Pre-K will travel to Huber Woods to experience a fall event called "Critters and Jitters." Scheduled activities are a hay ride, pumpkin picking, a fall craft and exposure to some of the animals that inhabit Huber Woods. It's always a "spook"-tacular time!

This year's Pre-K has become completely immersed in the "Little Treasures" reading program. It is further enriched with visits from the Letter People. The Letter People have become our best friends. So far we have met Mr. N, Mr. H, Ms. W, Mr. M and our first Letter Light (vowel) Ms. A. Ms. A helps us build words. And who can forget the sound of A after making "Alphabet Soup" for snack. Sometimes our letter people friends accompany students to special classes and out to play. Mr. M loves marching to music, and Mr. H with his happy hair loved doing the bunny hop during movement exercises.

Our Singapore Math program is providing our students with both engaging and challenging lessons. The personal use of iPads and hands on lessons using the document camera and white boards, has students building a strong foundation in mathematical concepts and skills necessary for every day life.

Columbus Day activities included acting out Christopher Columbus' travels from Spain across the Atlantic. It is amazing what the students are able to retain when learning is hands on.

Pre-K is looking forward to the Halloween parade and classroom parties on October 31<sup>st</sup>. In Music and Movement classes, we have been trying to take the "scare" out of Halloween. Children have been role playing and trying on a variety of costumes, as well as finding out about real and make-believe. Learning about Mr. Bones, our resident skeleton, has been very exciting. "Dem Bones" is one of our favorite songs; just ask Pre-K all about the skeleton inside them.

Our character building lessons, for October, tie in nicely with classroom lessons this month. After hearing the story about a square pumpkin students observed a round and square pumpkin. They observed how they were the same yet different, however both the same inside, just like humans. For snack the children enjoyed crackers in a variety of shapes and sizes. What a fun way to keep the discussion going.

The Pre-K staff will meet with parents during the first week of November for the first of three scheduled conferences held during the year. Students will also participate in Election Day activities and the results will be reported in our next newsletter.

Lastly, look for the Pre-K in the neighborhood this month as we take our fall walk to observe the trees in their peak changes. Once we return we will rake leaves and fill our giant pumpkin bag. Here is hoping our Oak Hill families enjoy a beautiful fall season.

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

This year the Kindergarten classrooms welcomed 29 new students. In just a month the children already have their routine down and are ready to learn! We look forward to what the year has in store for us!

It wouldn't be Kindergarten without the Letter People. So far we have welcomed Mr. M, Ms. T, Ms. F, Mr. N and Mr. H to our classroom. The children are embracing each letter and learning the sound and formation of each one. Along with each Letter Person the children are introduced to several high frequency words. We are studying hard and preparing for our first spelling test! We

are already seeing so much growth both socially and academically in our students!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents who have been in for special snack already. It's a weekly treat for our students to have their special guests come and spend some time in our classroom.

In Math we incorporate our morning circle time as part of our lessons. The children are introduced to several number concepts including odds and evens and counting by 2's, 5's and 10's. In our Singapore program are working hard on our numbers 1-10. The children are extremely involved in the lessons and are learning both skills and vocabulary that will help them as they progress through the rest of the program.

The class took its first of many class trips. We went to Eastmont Orchards to pick apples. The children enjoyed choosing apples for home and a few for our classroom. We look forward to visiting Casola Farms at the end of this month to pick pumpkins, go on a hayride, ride a pony and enjoy the beautiful fall weather. We have many more trips planned to continue the fun outside of the classroom.

Happy fall everyone!

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

We are off to an exciting start in first grade. The children are learning the responsibilities of completing and bringing back neat and accurate homework, keeping desks and cubbies organized, and following class rules.

We have begun our weekly spelling tests and math assessment tests. The spelling tests consist of individual weekly words. Soon the tests will be in the form of sentence dictation. These sentences will include the previously learned words.

When sending in birthday treats, please remember to include all the children in first grade. The birthday treat cannot be an edible treat since several children have food allergies.

Our Halloween stories are on display in our classrooms. It was such fun writing a rough draft, then correcting the spelling and grammar errors, then writing the good copy. We wrote about the costumes we will be wearing at our school party and parade. We also colored spooky Halloween scenes to go with our stories.

National Geographic is such an interesting source of information. The pictures are colorful and very realistic. This month we read about and studied animals that have colorations or markings that help them survive. Some animals like the mandrill have extremely colorful faces. Some bugs have colorful backs or wings that imitate the face of a much larger animal. We also read about and studied volcanoes. Volcanoes look like mountains, but they are actually openings in Earth's crust through which molten lava, gases, and ash come to the surface. We also found out that volcanoes are not exclusive to Earth. Scientists have discovered evidence of volcanoes on the moon, Mars, Venus, and other extraterrestrial bodies.

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

Second grade is off to a wonderful start. Everyone has settled nicely into their new routine and class. We are excited about the upcoming year.

In reading, we have just finished our first unit. Our theme was: Learning about each other and helping each other make our relationship stronger. We have had some interesting and meaningful exchanges about having friends and being a friend. We have also read some exciting stories and poems on friendship. We are summarizing our reading with the help of a Main Idea and Detail Web. This has also carried over into our writing exercises, where we have written a Halloween story, a letter, and some creative haikus, couplets, and acrostic poetry.

In preparation for the upcoming Presidential Election, we have been discussing who the candidates are, the role of the president, who can be president and how we elect our president. We will study the voting process and the right to vote as granted under the Constitution of the United States. We will also be voting by using our own second grade ballot box in November.

In math, we continue to work with number bonds, facts, and competing against our own time with "Sprints". We are adding and subtracting two and three digit numbers and will start renaming in the next week. We are also reading and solving word problems.

October is flying by and the children are being challenged by many new skills and concepts. We are eagerly anticipating our first class trip on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to

Kateri Environmental Center for their "Awesome Autumn" program and also our Halloween parade, party, and creative costumes on October 31.

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

We are happy to welcome all our new third graders! Students are learning how to be organized. Our first novel study is Helen Keller. Besides reading her biography, we learned about Braille and finger spelling. Each child will complete a project of their choice which will be presented to the class as a final activity in this novel.

In social studies, we started off the year with basic map skills: using a compass rose to figure out direction, using a grid map, and learning our world address. We have begun our study of life and school in 1774 with the reading of Felicity Learns a Lesson.

Mrs. Pampel is using Scholastic News to assist the children in developing good skills reading nonfiction material. We also read and discuss the nonfiction article in each lesson of Wordly Wise.

Please continue to go through the Friday folder with your child over the weekend, sign and return the empty folder on Monday. We would like to ask the parents' assistance signing tests **only** after corrections have been completed.

We hope you are taking advantage of our web page for links to lessons in math and Wordly Wise practice.

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

We welcome our fourth graders and their families to this 2012 – 2013 school year. Our reading series has challenged us right away with the skills of inference and author's purpose. We learned about word origin, context clues, and primary sources. We've enjoyed historical fiction, and realistic fiction genres. We've read on topics about baseball and immigration.

Fourth graders have finished the Geology unit in our study of New Jersey. We enjoyed learning about the violence that shaped the land we live on and the ancient lakes that left us the Jersey Meadows, Paterson Falls, the Passaic River, and Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. We've learned that the Hadrosaurus Foulkii, the first dinosaur

skeleton found in the USA, was found in our state near Haddonfield in 1858. We learned about other prehistoric creatures and about our "living fossils" - horseshoe crabs, which have inhabited this planet for over 200 million years.

The fourth graders are now studying the election process in the USA. We will learn about the three parts of our democratic government, the jobs of the President, and even about the Electoral College. We will learn the importance of exercising our right to vote and the importance of being an informed voter.

In English class fourth graders have been studying sentence structure. Along with it, we've been practicing our proofreading and editing skills. We are now tackling singular and plural possessive nouns. We have worked with different poetry forms and have enjoyed creating our own autumn poetry.

The Language Arts students have actively studied narrative writing styles. After reading several mentor texts, so as to fully understand the narrative format, the students dissected the writings. Students discussed the problem or event in the narrative and pointed out the various details and crafts the author used. Students are in the beginning process of defining their own narrative pieces. The students have gathered seed ideas, defined their details, organized their thoughts, and are attempting various writing techniques in drafting their personal narratives. The Writer's Workshop is in full swing as we continue developing and refining our stories. Get ready for some great personal narratives later this year!

**Mrs. Cahalane  
Lower School Science**

PK students started off the school year with a chemistry unit. They learned how to use test tubes, beakers and graduated cylinders. Students mixed together different liquids and were surprised to see the results! Kindergarteners have been learning about entomology. We traveled around the grounds of the Science Center searching for insects and arachnids. Students created a 3-D model of an insect and we used our classroom interactive whiteboard to create imaginary insects. First grade students engaged in a scientific investigation to answer the question, "Are free-floating bubbles always round?" By experimenting with different-shaped bubble wands, students collected evidence to answer the question. They then experimented with adding different ingredients to bubble solutions to see if

they could create a longer lasting bubble. Students in second grade explored mystery objects and discovered that they were Mexican jumping beans: seed pods containing moth larvae. They learned about the life cycle of the jumping bean moth and conducted experiments to see how temperature affects the rate at which the larvae jump. Third grades students completed a unit on The Scientific Method. Students experimented with many things during lab: milk, soap, food coloring, candy, soda, baking soda, vinegar - all with surprising results! Students in fourth grade began the school year with a unit on Microscopy. We examined many different specimens and found that ordinary looking things such as salt and dollar bills are fascinating to see under the microscope!

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

During the month of September we worked on movement skills to help improve coordination and agility.

In October, we will be involved with physical fitness testing. Each child will be tested for flexibility, abdominal, arm and back strength, coordination and agility. We use the standards that are set by the Presidential Physical Fitness Council. The children can win presidential patches for good (red patch) and high (blue patch) levels of fitness. We re-test in March so the children can improve in the areas in which they are weak. Please encourage your children to improve their fitness.

In November we will be performing manipulative skills for hand-eye coordination using beanbags, hoops and balls.

The following list things that will help your child in P.E. and swim classes:

- Put the child's name on all clothing (the clothing sometimes becomes mixed up in the locker room and the children don't know who's shirt is who's, etc.) especially sweaters and swim gear. A lost item can then be returned easily.
- Teach your children to dress on their own. Many young children have a hard time dressing after swimming and become upset & embarrassed when they are the last one left in the locker room.

- Girls can wear bike shorts under their skirts for gym. This is great for P.E. and recess.

- Silicon swim caps are much more comfortable and easier to put on than the latex ones.

- Lower school girls should avoid wearing tights/leggings on swim days. Tights are very hard for them to put on by themselves.

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

**“HOWDY PARTNER!”** We are headed out west to one of the most interesting of the 50 states, **TEXAS**, where “all who are friends are always welcome!” And everything’s bigger in Texas, such as the 52ft. plastic cowboy who greets you at the Texas State Fair.

Through the continued use of the i-Pads and various apps, along with video clips, books and artifacts, students will embark on a journey through this vast and unique “Lone Star” state that is 261,914 sq. miles.

Texas comes from the Spanish word **“Teas,”** meaning friend. How appropriate as we constantly reinforce the importance of friendship and respect for one another here at Oak Hill Academy.

This unit has already sparked enthusiasm amongst the students as they strive to earn their much needed **“tiny bucks”** to spend on Littletown Day. This annual event with a Texan flair will be held on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. A detailed packet will be coming home in a couple of months.

Texas is known for its rodeos, cowboys and cowgirls and cattle drives, roadrunners and the nine-banded armadillo, cacti and yucca plants and of course the Spindletop gusher striking oil in 1901, and “Remember the Alamo.” From the Rio Grande to the Chichaquan Desert, the panhandle, the NASA Johnson Space Center, to sports teams like the Dallas Cowboys and The Texas Rangers, students will have the opportunity to explore this diverse state claiming to have 1,000 different kinds of soil.

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

Students in first grade are learning some new rhymes and songs. Learning through songs and rhymes are the best method for acquiring new words and learning the accent. All the rhymes are available online at [PetitesTetes.com](http://PetitesTetes.com). If you go to the “comptines video”, you will be able to listen to many of the traditional French rhymes. Petit Moulin, (Little Windmill), is our most recent. Also, you can listen to the songs we sing in class at [Soyons Amis](http://Soyons Amis), by Yadeeda.com.

Our second grade students are learning to introduce themselves and tell their age and their birthday in French. We will be singing songs to help us learn the days of the week and months of the year.

The students in third grade have begun to illustrate their own French Dictionnaire. We are learning the words for many of the classroom objects, and practicing writing them in French. Our song to help us remember the new vocabulary is “Mon Sac à Dos” by Alain Le Lait which is found on his CD, [Soyons Amis](http://Soyons Amis), and also on Youtube under the same name.

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

It is a pleasure to teach the 4th grade. The children have retained a lot of material taught by Madame Koar last year. We have reviewed the colors, feelings, weather in a fun way. We play “Around the World” and the students are really enjoying this game. Our new theme is the food and the children love to study. We study from a power point presentation and the children are progressing very fast. Very soon, they will use “Frenchie Teachie” (a free app) on the iPads to review the foods. This is always a favorite activity. We will be memorizing a dialog on how to order food in a restaurant.

Then, we will be studying 15 French verbs and we will learn how to use them in context.

**KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK !**



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

Thank you to OHA faculty, parents and students for such a warm welcome to the Upper School.

The start of the new school year often begins with sheer excitement and nervous anticipation. Our fifth graders transitioned from Lower School to Upper School rather smoothly. The fifth grade adjusted to their new environs, changing classes and having eight different teachers rather well. Way to go 5<sup>th</sup> grade!

We were delighted to welcome 23 new students to OHA. Incoming students include fifth graders: Caitlin Antonio, Catherine Barone, Michael Egan, Tiffany Kumar, Sarah Maes, Liam O’Hara, Jack Ryan. Sixth graders: Zippy Abramson, Nicole Burgo, Melissa Chen, Declan Grigg, Elizabeth Hsu, Taylor Notaro, Dylan Servilla. Seventh graders: Colleen Egan, Kaeleigh Grigg, Sydney Hixenbaugh, Aidan Picadio, Kathleen Trevino. Eighth graders: Nicholas Harris, Anjali Ohri and John Venturi.

Prior to the start of the school year, the newest members of our OHA family were paired with an OHA buddy to answer questions and connect before the first day of school. Several meet and greets occurred this summer including a pool party. Special thanks to Christine Markey, Claire Falletta, Matthew Mandarino, Erin Gilfillan, Alexa Malson, Aron Wiener, Jake Sage, David Burrell, Kelsey Stout, Kaila Domanski, Amanda Pieringer, Zachary Basile, Julianna Troccoli, Savanna Rapoza, CJ Gorman, Alexa Cieri, Victoria Huggan, Catherine Curtin, Jack Stryker, Megan Scafaria, Matthew Misson, Gabriella Chineia and Nicholas Vasiliu for acting in this capacity.

Our Character Counts theme for 2012-2013 school year is **RESPECT ROCKS!** Mr. Pacelli and Miss Murray introduced our campaign during upper school assemblies with emphasis placed on students being respectful of themselves and one other, at school and home, throughout the day and entire school year.

This theme ties into the Six Pillars of Good Character that is an integral component of the OHA philosophy and incorporated into our all phases of our curriculum. The Six Pillars of Good Character are Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. Monthly initiatives at each grade level will be delivered to students

to reinforce these character traits throughout the year.

The upper grades are off to a fantastic start! If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, I am available five days a week. For your convenience, please see me, call (ext. 5) or email [sscheuer@oakhillacademy.com](mailto:sscheuer@oakhillacademy.com) to schedule an appointment. My office hours are Monday-Friday mornings 7:30-8am and 8:30-9:30am. Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays afternoons 1:30-3:30pm.

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

We have completed our first marking period and established routines and procedures. Now we are ready to tackle the entire curriculum we cover in fifth grade.

Friendship is a vital component of childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. The meaning of friendship is explored in many novels written for middle grade readers. Our novel selection is [Bridge to Terabithia](#) by Katherine Paterson. It is a story about an isolated rural community where Jess Aarons and a newcomer, Leslie Burke, build a special friendship and a secret kingdom in the woods which they name Terabithia. It is here that Jess guided by Leslie, discovers worlds of imagination, learning, and language, and embarks on a journey of self-discovery and maturation.

The students will be writing their first Red, White, and Blue essays in class and we plan to type the final draft on our laptop computers. We have some computer whizzes in fifth grade and I appreciate it when they share their expertise with the class!

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

The fifth graders are enjoying the Upper School Reading Program. Our reading comprehension series, *Read for Real*, provides students with excellent content while reinforcing comprehension skills. Topics have included the relocation of wolves, optical illusions, and mysteries. Classes love the *Surprises* stories with unusual plot twists. While focused on skill development, students have learned about the Navajo Code Talkers during World War II. All are amazed at the expertise of the Native Americans and their unbreakable secret codes.

Students have successfully navigated their way in the Upper School during the first marking period. Organizational and

time management skills are improving each week. We're off to a great start!

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

Fifth grade students are beginning the study of Climate, after having mastered all of their map skills.

Sixth graders all enjoyed reading the excerpt of [The Lemon Tree](#), and are presently writing analytical essays about it. They are eagerly anticipating their study of Africa, when they will design their Africa Games!

**Mr. Bruckmann**

[Grade 5 Math](#)

Our fifth grade Math students are well on their way to transitioning into their role as the "bigger kids" of the school. During this marking period we completed our first chapter test as Upper School students as well as the summer skills math test which was a review of their summer skills book. We are in the midst of working on the second chapter from our Glencoe Mathematics book which deals with statistics and graphing data using a variety of methods to sort and read data. Soon we will dive into Chapter 3 and our investigation into decimals. Remember that corrections for the tests and quizzes are due the day following when the test/quiz has been handed back. All students need to be prepared with a sharpened pencil, hard cover books and a desire to learn and increase their math knowledge. I am looking forward to another exciting and rewarding school year.

[Grade 5 Math Workshop](#)

Fifth grade math workshop meets once a week for the entire school year. We began this year constructing the "TRAINER" paper airplane. This airplane involves following a detailed seven-step construction plan to build this ultra-slow, high-drag flyer. Students also investigated and discussed terms like thrust, drag, lift and gravity and how these are related to the flight of their planes. Once the construction was complete, they took some test flights before competing to see whose plane flew the best, and then we compiled the class data to calculate both group and class averages.



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

[Grade 5 – Period 2](#)

This is an exciting year for your child. They have transitioned nicely to the upper school routine. The students have become accustomed to our classroom procedures. The homework for the entire chapter is given to them the first day we begin the chapter. Since our children are highly scheduled, it is a good way for them to practice their time management skills. Every day begins with a review of the prior evening's homework. After that task is complete, the new lesson is introduced. We generally cover 1 or 2 lessons a day depending upon the complexity of the subject matter.

We completed both Chapters 1 and 2. Chapter 1 was an overview of a variety of math topics ranging from word problems to solving an equation with a variable. Chapter 2 was an introduction of statistics. The students became quite proficient at creating a variety of charts and graphs. We will work on Chapters 3 and 4 in the next marking period. Chapter 3 is the introduction of decimals including addition and subtraction and Chapter 4 involves the multiplication and division of decimals. I expect the homework for this chapter to take longer than their previous assignments since they will be doing some challenging long division.

Homework continues to be critical to the students' development, so I thank you for your efforts at home. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel to contact me. I look forward to an exciting year.

[Grade 5 – Period 3](#)

We made it through the first marking period! The transition to the upper school is a challenging experience. Overall, the students seem to be adjusting to the demands of the upper school.

We completed Chapter 1 and are mid-way through Chapter 2. Chapter 1 was an overview of a variety of topics ranging from word problems to order of operations. The students worked very hard and did extremely well on their first test. Chapter 2 is a little break from "math" in that the entire chapter focuses on statistics. The students typically enjoy this chapter since they are generally familiar with the topics.

Homework is an important tool in your child's development, so I appreciate all efforts at home to ensure that it is being completed and turned in on a daily basis. I look forward to an exciting year.

#### Grade 6 – Glencoe

It is wonderful to have the opportunity to teach this group of students again this year. They come into the class eager and ready to learn. Their enthusiasm is inspiring and contagious.

We have completed 2 chapters and are about to begin Chapter 3. Many of the topics your child will cover this year will sound familiar to you. Since we teach math in an integrated approach, many high level topics are introduced in the early grades. There are two primary differences in the way the topics are addressed this year. The first difference is that the terminology is often changed thus expanding the math vocabulary of the students and the second difference is the length of time spent on any one topic previously taught. For example, in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, the students may have spent several days learning how to divide decimals, last year the students spent 3 or 4 days; this year the same topics are covered in 1 lesson.

Homework continues to play a large part of our classroom. The students must practice what I've taught them in class to continue to develop their proficiency. I thank you for your continued efforts at home.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to another exciting year.

#### Grade 7 – Glencoe

It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to teach this group of students again. They are enthusiastic about math and a pleasure to teach. We completed Chapter 1 which was an overview type of a chapter covering a host of different math topics and are taking a little detour before we begin Chapter 2. We do not teach certain topics in seventh grade such as the four operations for decimals and fractions. I am taking some class time to review these very important topics before going on to the next chapter. The students will be using both decimals and fractions when they solve algebraic equations with rational numbers so they must achieve mastery of the topics before they can work with them in equations.

Homework continues to play a big part in the learning process. I appreciate all efforts at home to ensure that math homework continues to be a priority.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

#### Grade 8 – Introduction to Algebra

We completed Chapters 1 and 2. Chapter 1 was an overview of several different math topics the students will use throughout the year such as order of operations, exponents and coordinate graphs while Chapter 2 focuses on various aspects of integers. We will work our way methodically through the chapters at a pace that is beneficial to each of the students.

One of my objectives this year is to fill any gaps in the students' math foundation. As they prepare for high school, proficiency in certain concepts will be assumed, so we will work throughout the year with this in mind.

I assign homework nearly every evening. It is imperative that the homework be completed with care. I appreciate all efforts from home to ensure that homework continues to be a priority. I also give 1 to 2 quizzes each week to ensure that the students understand a concept. I use class time 2 days before the test for preparation. I would appreciate all efforts to have your child attend those classes so they are well prepared for the test. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

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

The fifth grade scientists have been busy working on the first unit of the year – measurement and the tools of the scientists. They are becoming skilled in the use of much of the equipment in their science room laboratory: metric rulers, graduated cylinders, triple beam balances, beakers, and the Celsius thermometer. They have learned terms associated with the science tools, such as mass, volume, weight, density, and properties of matter. They are learning about the scientific method and using it to perform many experiments in class. While doing the labs, the students are using science terms, such as problem, hypothesis, procedure, data, and conclusions. This knowledge will help them when they are preparing their projects for the Science Fair in the spring and will continue to assist them in all of their future science classes.

The fifth grade has already had their first class trip – a day at Tuckerton Seaport. The weather was perfect for this outdoor adventure and the students enjoyed playing miniature golf, painting decoy flatties, visiting the light house and the

New Jersey Surf Museum, viewing the film *Life on the Edge* and the hands-on, interactive exhibit as well as the Walk on the Wild Side exhibit, containing models of animals and marine life with some live examples. A highlight of the trip was the bus ride to The Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve in conjunction with Rutgers University which gave the students an overview of Barnegat Bay, including seeing many of the birds that are living in this area. Of course, eating lunch at the outside picnic tables on such a beautiful day plus shopping in the gift shop were also enjoyed by all!

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

Students have started using i-Pads with a tutorial called "**Keynote**," which is a wonderful way to put together a slideshow/powerpoint presentation. After becoming more familiar with all the tools on Keynote, students then watched a video segment on the i-Pads entitled: Bayeux Tapestry. This moving or animated slideshow travels through ancient civilizations inspiring the students to research various time periods. Students have paired off into groups of 2 and are now starting their project work. From the Assyrian, Babylonian, Etruscan, Greek, Indus Valley, Persian, Roman, and others, students will research their time frame and put together a slideshow as their culmination activity. A map of their region must be included along with some details of daily life, contributions, arts/entertainment, government, and influential people in that civilization.

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

After receiving the guidelines and expectations for Math Workshop, students then reviewed the terms of flight. Thrust, drag, lift, and gravity were discussed and the important role they play in flying their paper airplanes. Detailed paper folding instructions were given; planes were created and then personalized. Students formed groups and then planes were flown in the gym. Distances were measured using metric sticks. Each student's distance of their plane travel was recorded, an average for the group was calculated, and then an average for the entire class. Students have also been working on short 10 minute warm-ups to gain those "bonus points" which are then added up at the end of every other marking period. The top students will then receive a free dress down day.

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

Sixth grade students are off to a strong start, beginning the school year with enthusiasm and hard work.

After discussing the summer reading and deciding that Where the Red Fern Grows is one of their all-time favorite novels, sixth graders have moved on to the literature text and the first unit called "Finding Your Place in the World." This unit showcases coming-of-age stories, and students are discovering that the challenges of growing up are universal and know no time barriers.

In Language Arts, we are reviewing the kinds of sentences and compound, simple and complete predicates and subjects, but our biggest challenge is studying vocabulary, "cycling" through the units in an effort to build word power.

As the first marking period closes, sixth grade English students should congratulate themselves for their hard work. Their insights are on target and as varied as they are.

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

Sixth graders are fascinated by the world's unsolved mysteries. Our Reading Program, *Read for Real*, challenges students' comprehension skills in many unique ways. In addition to practicing comprehension skills, students gain insight into some unusual creatures. Topics have included leeches in medical procedures, giant squid, and many others. The *Heroes/Monsters* series have provided some wonderful mysteries such as the Loch Ness Monster, Bigfoot, Grendel, and the Cyclops. Students are doing well!

**Mrs. Palamara**  
**Grades 6 – 7 Math**

Grade 6 – Glencoe

This marking period the students outlined strategies for problem solving and explored the use of algebra and algebra to solve problems. They practiced and applied the four-step plan for problem solving and evaluated expressions using the order of operations. They evaluated simple algebraic expressions, used powers and exponents in expressions, and solved simple equations. Geometry was related to algebra when the students extended patterns and found the area of rectangles and parallelograms.

Grade 7 – Gateways

Students are turned off by starting another year with a dose of whole numbers and decimal arithmetic. It is important to start the year off with something different and Gateways felt that patterns were a good choice. Patterns permeate mathematics and are an important strand throughout Gateways. This marking period gave the students ample experiences with the following notions: 1) problem solving involves creativity; 2) there is more than one way to solve a problem; and 3) problems often have more than one correct answer. They discovered that learning to think and solve problems should be their main goal in this course.

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

Grade 6 Life Science

Students have been exploring the features, needs, and origins of living things. The importance of the microscope to the study of cells was discussed. Photosynthesis, respiration, and fermentation were our experiments. We learned a great photosynthesis song to help us remember the equation. We are collecting our photos (not originals) to display our growth and development. Check the pictures out in the back of room 16 in the Science Center.

Grade 7 Physical Science

Students were introduced to the important role of problem solving as an activity of science. The identification of problems and the choosing of strategies to solve them are related to scientific method and experimental design. The unit closed with a discussion on the importance of measurement and graphing as a useful means of displaying and interpreting data, and Newton's Three Laws of Motion were brought to life by some exciting experiments. Action-reaction and the balloon rockets and balloon helicopters were the hit of the chapter.

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

In fifth grade, students have been studying polite expressions, greetings, and numbers from 0 to 100. This material has been reinforced with songs, games, videos and by logging on the site "quizlet" for visual and auditory practice of expressions and vocabulary. The students really enjoy these sites and their pronunciation is getting better each day. Over all, the children have adjusted very well to the study of Spanish and are very eager to learn. Keep up the good work!

In seventh grade, we have spent a few weeks re-examining material covered last year including subject pronouns, the verbs *gustar*, *ser*, over 30 *ar* and *er* regular verbs and indirect object pronouns. 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*, and are in the process of learning the irregular verb *ir*. All this material is reinforced with power point presentations, classroom interaction and by logging on the site "quizlet" for visual and auditory processing.

In eighth grade, after a comprehensive review we covered various verbs with the irregular first person like *traer*, *salir*, *dar*, *poner*, *hacer*, *ver*, *venir* and the irregular verbs *tener* and *decir*. In addition, the students have mastered the usage of the verbs *saber* and *conocer*. Both verbs mean "to know", but are used in different ways. We will soon be studying family relationships and memorize a dialogue which they will present in front of the class.

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

In seventh grade English, we are off to a fine beginning. Our literature series Literature and the Language Arts, has introduced us to the theme of reading and how it relates to poetry and storytelling. We have discussed the importance of reading and how it impacts all of our other subjects. In addition, we will continue to reinforce our critical thinking and test-taking skills with various comprehension stories.

With our Vocabulary Workshop series, we continue to strengthen our word power. We are always looking for new words to use in our writing. In grammar, we have studied a unit on different kinds of sentences and how to correct them and are now beginning a unit on nouns. This will be very beneficial for future writing projects.

**Mr. Bruckmann**  
**Grade 7 Math Workshop**

Seventh grade math workshop students are investigating the stock market and learning how to invest using different research terms so as to make the greatest profit on their investment. Each group is given an imaginary bank roll of \$10,000. Students study terms such as shares of stock; Price / Earnings Ratio; history of companies; stock brokers and

graphing price per share. Each week the students are given four new companies to investigate and determine how to invest their money as well as when to buy and sell. It is an interesting project that takes a lot of teamwork. We cannot wait to see how their money grows.

### **Mrs. Larkins/ Mr. Bruckmann Grades 7 & 8 Math Workshop**

What a time to be studying the stock market! With the Dow going up and down and the presidential election underway, students can't help but see it on the news. They have had many questions about what is currently happening to our economy. Although we don't claim to have all the answers, we have tried to explain our country's current financial situation in simpler terms for the students. These seventh grade math workshop students are also learning how to invest using different research terms so as to make the greatest profit (or perhaps least amount of loss) on their investments. Each group is given an imaginary bank roll of \$10,000. Using the Wall Street Journal website and project pages, students study terms such as the New York Stock Exchange, shares of stock, price/earnings ratio, history of companies, stock brokers, dividends, and yield. Each week the students are given four new companies to investigate and determine how to invest their money as well as when to buy and sell. It is an interesting project that takes a lot of teamwork. Hopefully you have noticed them taking more of an interest in today's economic news.

Mrs. Larkin's small eighth grade (2x/week) group is working very well together and getting a lot accomplished although the school calendar has not allowed us to have class as often as usual. They start most classes with some very challenging warm-up problems and are all earning points toward a possible dress down day. In our construction project, each student has been hired as an apprentice architect in order to design new home models. Each student is designing a 3D model to scale and computing all costs involved. So far, they have designed their floor plans complete with furniture, worked on their lot including landscaping, put up their walls, and are now trying to raise the roof. Costs are being computed along the way. I see some very innovative designs taking shape! With the election coming up, we have paused to do a short project that looks at the mathematics behind the Electoral College versus the popular vote.

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

In eighth grade Language Arts, students began their study of vocabulary, while concluding the Grammar units: *The Sentence* and *Nouns*. Students worked on various writing, such as journal writing and creative writing. During the second marking period, students will continue with their writing, vocabulary lessons, and grammar lessons.

In Literature, students reviewed the summer reading novels. Then, students read fiction short stories. In the story, "To Build a Fire," they evaluated the importance of setting and identified the different conflicts evident in the story. In addition, students studied the literary movement Naturalism. Then, they concluded whether the story was truly naturalistic. In "The Most Dangerous Game," students explored literary terms, such as: verbal irony, irony of situation, plot and conflict.

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

The eighth grade classes began with a look at the Olympics as we study our new *Read for Real* books. A look at the ancient games provided great contrast to the more recent games in Beijing. Past and present Olympians were studied as we examined the great commitment and dedication the athletes possessed. The games themselves also provided great insight into world events. Places like Munich, Mexico City, and Berlin were studied as political issues entered the games. The classes analyzed the last six Opening Ceremonies and each host country's message to the world. Students were amazed as short videos provided an in-depth look at Olympians such as Jim Thorpe, Dick Button, Mary Lou Retton, and others. The 2012 Games unit not only focused on the record-breakers but also the ones whose personal stories make the games more intense. The Olympics are always a favorite topic for class discussions.

Our reading program helps students practice their comprehension skills daily. We also study vocabulary from Latin/Greek roots as supplemental material. Every Tuesday, the eighth graders summarize a news article and report to the class. We have had great stories in the last few weeks ranging from the economy, professional sport injuries, new technological advances, and new ways to produce energy. It's a great year!

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

The seventh grade is off to a great start in seventh grade History. We have covered an array of topics spanning from ancient civilizations in the Fertile Crescent to Ancient Greece. We are analyzing what caused the City-States of Athens and Sparta to rise to such great power, and what led to the Peloponnesian War. The class has made several presentations and look forward to more, when we cover The Roman Empire.

The eighth graders have picked up where we left off last year, which is the period before the Civil War. We have examined how African Americans were treated before the war, and the economic effects slavery had on the Southern States. We are taking a close look at the difference between the Northern and Southern States how these contrasts could have led to the South leaving the country.

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

The eighth grade scientists have now completed their review of laboratory skills that have been introduced and, hopefully, mastered in their previous years at Oak Hill Academy science classes. These skills are now being applied as we begin our Pearson Interactive Science series for Earth Science. The students have finished the first chapter entitled Mapping Earth's Surface in their first textbook, Earth's Surface. Topics covered included a thorough review of geography (from fifth and sixth grade) plus some additional topics to challenge the students. Our scientist geographers learned about landforms, map projections, latitude and longitude, mapping technology (including GPS and GIS), and topographic maps (for hiking and skiing – activities enjoyed by students). The chapter concluded with a very "wet" lab in which the lab groups made a topographic map of a volcanic mountain model.

### **Mrs. Palamara Algebra I**

In Chapter 1, the eighth grade reviewed variables, exponents and powers, order of operations, equations, inequalities, expressions, and problem solving models. A new topic introduced was functions. This material was mastered, and now the students are working on real numbers in Chapter 2. Topics already covered in this chapter include the real number line; absolute value; and

addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of integers. Application word problems for each concept have also been introduced and practiced.

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

This year's class is well prepared and very enthusiastic. Our goal is to complete all 12 chapters of our book. We have just finished Chapter 3. So far we have studied the basic concepts of algebra including properties, the language of algebra, and the solving of basic equations. We have just started absolute value and inequalities. We have also started word problems. Each chapter will have the key concepts pasted on my web page on the OHA website. These explanations are available to check for understanding and to review procedures. The beauty of this is that the student can watch the web presentations as many times as necessary.

### **Mrs. Vacca Grades 8 Explorations**

“**To explore**” is the basis for this class. Students who meet once a week will receive an effort grade from 1-5 based on their performance solely in class, where all work is done. Students who meet three times per week will also receive an effort grade in addition to a numerical grade. Log sheets are kept diligently to record the work done in class. Topics are selected, groups formed and the challenge begins. Students will utilize critical thinking skills to interpret, compare, analyze and evaluate information and data. They must be able to present and apply this information in a well thought and meaningful manner. Power Point presentations should be creative vehicles to convey their group's effort. Research presentations will all be done on the i-Pad or computer along with any other creative format including “infographics,” pictures, skits, recorded speeches, or re-enactments which can be both entertaining and informative.

The first project assigned was: “**Famous Landmarks around the World.**” Students first watched a slide show to get some ideas of monuments and locations. Groups were then formed and some of the locations are: Big Ben in England, the Golden Temple in India, The Burj Khalifa in Dubai, Alcatraz in California, the Ice Hotel in Sweden, the Brandenburg Gate in Germany, Cristo Redentor in Brazil, Angkor Watt in Cambodia and even Yankee Stadium in New York.

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

The seventh grade Latin class began the study of Latin with the way in which endings not word order are the most crucial way to tell how the words are functioning in a sentence. We learned that nouns have certain endings when they are used as subjects of a sentence, some singular, others plural. We learned that third person verb forms use the ending -t for singular and -nt for plural. We also learned two forms of the irregular verb “to be,” est (he/she is) and sunt (they are). We also learned that the endings on verbs are built-in subject pronouns. Finally, we learned that -am, -um, and -em are endings nouns use for direct objects when they are singular. We practiced translation skills, specifically to identify elements in a sentence by their endings- subject, direct object, linking verbs, transitive verbs, and intransitive verbs. In addition, we learned some basic elements about the ancient Roman family and society. At the start of each period we reflected on a Latin motto, specifically mottos for U.S. states.

The eighth grade Latin class learned three new verb tenses (future, pluperfect, and future perfect) to complete the six total verb tenses in Latin. We also learned endings for 4th and 5th Declension verbs. We learned some things about the mythology of the Trojan War. We are continuing to find ways of making the application of these new concepts into successful translations as successful as possible. We will be spending more time on improving our translation skills during the second marking period. At the beginning of each class, we learned English many words derived from the Latin *spectare* (to look at) and *facere* (to make or do).

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

In the seventh grade, after reviewing the main verbs and question words, we are now studying the food theme. The children had the option to do an extra credit project on foods, either a power point, a Keynote presentation or a poster. I was very impressed but their work. Soon, we will be practicing a dialog about ordering food in a restaurant. I like to use a lot of technologies to help the student improve their learning and pronunciation. Soon, we will be using the iPads to reinforce the material learned in class.

The material, homework, Quizlets and additional videos are posted on my Website

<http://ohamadamesimon@weebly.com>. You can have access to it by going on the school website, go to Faculty and scroll down to my name and click on website.

The parent and student can also email me at [mmesimonoha@gmail.com](mailto:mmesimonoha@gmail.com) if they have a question. BON TRAVAIL !

In the eighth grade, after an extensive review, which is the basis for a good foundation, we studied the reflexive verbs and the routine of the day. We also studied the possessive adjectives. We are now working on a text regarding the Technology and the Internet. We will study a dialog and the students will present it from memory in front of the class. With the use of QUIZLETS, Educreation videos and auditory passages, the students are really improving. On occasion, we will be using the iPads to acquire new vocabulary and play French Games. I like to use a lot of technologies to help the student improve their learning and pronunciation.

The material, homework, Quizlets and additional videos are posted on my Website

<http://ohamadamesimon@weebly.com>. You can have access to it by going on the school website, go to Faculty and scroll down to my name and click on website.

The parents and students can also email me at [mmesimonoha@gmail.com](mailto:mmesimonoha@gmail.com) if they have a question. I will try my best to respond promptly. EXCELLENT TRAVAIL !

### **Signora Dotto – Grade 8 Italian**

In the eighth grade we have covered the use of courtesy and professional titles, numbers, days of the week, months, indefinite articles, plural formation of nouns, subject pronouns, the conjugation of the irregular verbs “essere” and “avere” and a lot of vocabulary. At the present time we are in the process of learning the geography, regions and cities of Italy. All this material was presented with power point, audio text, dialogues and monologues.

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

Welcome back to school. We are looking forward to a very fun and productive school year. Upper school students participate in physical education (PE) three times per week for five marking periods. The other marking period is for Health Education. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades will be going into Health Education in the **third marking period**. So we are continuing with Physical Education/Swim for this next marking period. Please remember that every student must be prepared for PE with a full change of clothes and sneakers, and on swim days, a one piece bathing suit (for girls) and a towel as well as a bathing cap for those with long hair.

Any student who is **excused or unprepared** for PE is not eligible to participate in afterschool athletic/cheerleading activities (this includes practices or games); however they are still a member of the team and should attend to support the team. Thank you for your cooperation.

We kicked off the year with a soccer unit and some ultimate Frisbee. We have now started the Presidential Physical Fitness testing. Five areas of fitness testing evaluated by age and gender and compared to national standards.

Finally, please remember that all students are required to be prepared with sneakers for PE on dress down days and fabulous footwear days. This is for safety and comfort. If they are not prepared with sneakers, they will be considered unprepared to participate.

## **Mrs. Grier Library**

As a new school year begins, our library has been fortunate to add hundreds of new books to our wonderful collection. From fiction to non fiction selections, our children are being invited to explore the latest and award winning titles that have been absorbed by many educators.

OHA children explore and utilize our library once a week. From the time they enter the school as preschoolers, they start to appreciate story telling and it is fascinating to watch their eyes when a special moment in a story happens. Children from mid year kindergarteners through eighth grade choose books from different categories throughout the library and return their selection each week for a new book. To date, our library has processed over 36,000 books for the

children to enjoy. Let's continue to enjoy the wonderful gift of reading!

## **Mrs. Griller/Computer**

All computer classes (grades 1-8) have had a discussion on Cyber Safety. We talked about how to be safe when connected to the Internet; whether it is with a computer, iPod, iPad, smart phone or gaming system. We also began fun projects. First graders are creating pictures in Kidpix; while the second graders are learning about the parts of the computer and how they are used. In third grade, the students began learning the proper fingering for touch typing and in fourth grade students are creating PowerPoint presentations about themselves. Fifth graders are working in Word writing business and friendly letters. The sixth grade students created a spreadsheet with items that they want to purchase to decorate a bedroom; while the seventh grade classes wrote brochures about a president and his vice president. The eighth graders have completed writing their resume.

## **Mrs. Tyma/Music**

We began this school year in the Lower School by reading a variety of children's books in which we performed melodic refrains and rhythmic patterns to accompany the story telling. Our listening, vocal and rhythmic skills were refreshed after a summer away from music making together.

During October, Kindergarten and first grade youngsters are exploring their voices and the sounds of unpitched percussion instruments with Halloween stories and songs. We are developing/reinforcing skills of steady beat and beat vs. rhythm as well as a conceptual understanding of like and unlike phrases as we chant rhymes and sing songs about carving pumpkins and brewing witches' potions.

Witches are flying in the second grade as well. With songs about witches and their brews, youngsters are developing more advanced rhythmic and melodic skills. We are reading a three-note song from the staff, learning to play it on the xylophones and then adding an accompaniment. We will be creating a rhythmic B section and orchestrating it with "spooky" instrumental accompaniments.

The third grade classes are exploring triple meter and harmonic progressions as they learn to play an orchestration for a Halloween song on the barred instruments (xylophones, metallophones

and glockenspiels). In addition, we will be creating our own choreography for "In the Hall of the Mountain King," a movement from the *Peer Gynt Suite* by Edvard Grieg. The concepts of contrast in tempo and dynamics are explored as we study this music.

The fourth graders began the year dancing by learning a square dance that stretched our musical and locomotor skills. We are brushing off the recorders and reviewing in preparation for learning new notes for a descant to an instrumental composition on the barred instruments. This composition will be played in various tonalities to compare the difference in sound and structure; we will search for a tonality that will create the most effective Halloween sound. Later in the month we will enjoy guided listening lessons of the tone poem *Danse Macabre* by Camille Saint-Saens who based his composition on a poem by Henri Cazalis. Connections with the Language Arts curriculum will be made when the students study this poem with Mrs. Roehrig.

The fifth grade classes are continuing the study begun last spring of the music of the American composer, Aaron Copland. This year we focus on his ballet *Billy the Kid*. We've studied the five American folk songs on which the scene "Street in a Frontier Town" is based. As we listen, we'll create dances to show the action that is being described by the music.

In the sixth grade classes, we began the year reviewing meter (simple vs. compound) using hand drum and African drum compositions. In addition, we are exploring a variety of sounds that can be made on these drums as we improvise contrasting sections to these compositions. A piece by Carl Orff for the barred instruments will sharpen our musicianship and listening skills while also reviewing and deepening our knowledge of melodic (pentatonic vs. diatonic scales), rhythmic (sixteenth notes in all configurations) and elemental harmonic elements.

The Chorus and Oak Hill Players are preparing music for the Veterans' Day Assembly on November 8th. We are very grateful to Mrs. Momyer, a professional pianist and parent of a recent graduate of OHA, for joining us again this year as our accompanist for the Chorus. A performance schedule for the year has been sent home to all members of the three ensembles. If you did not receive it, please contact me.

I encourage you to attend the three family concerts offered by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Music and Emotions introduces audiences to how music can enhance or change emotions and explores the ways composers are inspired by their emotions with an interactive program that features the music of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony (November 24<sup>th</sup>). Prokofiev's classic tale of Peter and the Wolf with Bob McGrath from Sesame Street fame will be presented on February 9<sup>th</sup>. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Symphony will present Dancing Around the World with Scottish, Spanish, Arabian, Chinese, Czech and American dances, including selections from *The Nutcracker*, *West Side Story* and Morton Gould's *Tap Dance Concerto*. To find more information about these wonderful concerts, go to [www.njsymphony.org](http://www.njsymphony.org) and view SUBSCRIPTIONS-FAMILY

### Miss DiMaggio/Art

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 finished up our Vincent Van Gogh inspired self portraits focusing on the proper proportion of the facial features.

Second grade made a large group collage based on Eric Carle's book *The Mixed-Up Chameleon*. They also studied Dutch artist Piet Mondrian and made an animal using his style of primary colors in squares and rectangles.

Third grade students blended colors making a project called color collision while studying the color wheel. They made a keychain out of Shrinky Dink; using Model Magic they made a coil pot. They also took advantage of our nice weather and drew outside focusing on texture, space, movement, value and their composition.

Fourth grade worked in groups to create wooden sculptures based on artist Louise Nevelson and Pablo Picasso. They are currently working on drawing for this year's art contest "Fun Things to Do Instead of Doing Drugs."

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. They took advantage of the nice weather and drew outdoors while paying

special attention to movement, value, shading, texture and composition. They are currently working on their drawings for this year's art contest "Kids and Conservation."

Sixth grade learned how to draw buildings in proper perspective using one vanishing point in one point perspective. They are learning about the principles of design and will continue to focus on them in their future art work. They are finishing up their Henry Rousseau inspired *Overlapping Jungles*.

Seventh grade studied artist Georges Seurat and Pointillism, using tiny dots of acrylic paint they made pointillism pictures. They also took advantage of our nice weather and drew outdoors. Using sharpie and geometric shapes we are learning about positive and negative space.

Eighth grade learned about American artist Keith Haring and made their names in a graffiti style coloring in any medium of their choice. While using tiny words and no lines they made artwork called Micro-Calligraphy. They are currently experimenting with concentrated liquid watercolor.

Take some time to check out the schools new website, under the art section you will find pictures of the students working and their artwork from last year and this year. There is also more information on the art contest for anyone interested that currently in computers.

\*Please send smocks in with students.

### Mrs. DeVivo Drama

Welcome back!

Kindergarten is easing into Drama by learning how to pantomime, use their imaginations and play a variety of drama games. A short time ago, we acted out a story about children who planted apple trees. When the apples were ripe, the children picked them all. The students had fun pantomiming the different foods made with all of those apples.

First grade is brushing up on their pantomime, performance, and audience listening skills. They enjoy acting out animals and verbs. The students also read and acted out two plays; "*New Frog in Pond*" and "*Me and My Shadow*." These plays dealt with the theme of acceptance.

Second grade also spent time reviewing drama skills. They, too, have been reading and acting out a variety of plays

in class. The first play was entitled, "*Rhymin' Liz and the Rhyme Time Kids*," which dealt with how to make new students feel welcomed at school. They also acted out a Columbus Day play entitled, "*Getting to Know You*."

The third grade made all-about-me puppets. The puppets looked like each individual student, and then they wrote bio poems. Each student presented their work to the class. It was a great way to learn more about one another. The students also read and acted out a play about Christopher Columbus entitled "*Christopher's Dream*." Then, staying in character, the students wrote letters back and forth to other characters in the play.

The fourth grade read and acted out a play called "*CSI: Mother Goose Land*." In this mystery play, Humpty Dumpty didn't accidentally fall off the wall, he was pushed! Detectives Jack B. Nimble and Miss Muffett have the tough job to find out who committed this terrible crime. After reading the play, the students designed costume sketches for the characters and made model set designs.

The seventh grade and eighth grade students have enjoyed brushing up on their improvisation skills and playing drama games. They were also treated to a viewing of Cathy Rigby's "*Peter Pan*" on Broadway. Soon, the seventh grade will enter the world of William Shakespeare and the Globe theatre. The students will read excerpts of "*A Midsummer Night's Dream*" and then modernize the dialogue.

Next marking period, the eighth grade students will spend some time writing original skits that deal with the themes they created for the Character Trait Banner's they made in Computer last year. We are hoping to perform these skits for some of the lower school classes.

I'm very pleased with the number of students we have in our Drama clubs this year. The Tiny Dancers, grades 1-4, meet in the SAC on Wednesdays from 2:20-3:00. They are learning beginning dance steps and have been rehearsing three numbers from "*The Nutcracker*." Please keep in mind that this is a performance ensemble and regular attendance is required. The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Acting Ensemble, which meets on Tuesdays from 2:20-3:00 in the SAC, has selected the play that they will perform in late December/early January. It is a holiday play entitled "*Goldilocks and the Christmas Elves*." Again, this is also a performance ensemble and regular attendance is required. The Forensics

team, grades 6-8, meets in the Drama Room on Thursdays from 2:20-3:00. The students are preparing for their first competition at Rumson Country Day School on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

It has been a great start and I look forward to all of the fun and creative work ahead!

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

Our Student Council is off to an exciting year already. They are energetic, enthusiastic, and full of wonderful ideas. Members attended a Crop Walk rally at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Red Bank on Monday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> and then came back full of creative energy. This helped to prepare for our motivational Crop Walk Assembly which was held on Thursday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>. First the student body and faculty watched an informative video about helping those in need around the world. This was followed with an amazing power point slide put together by Mr. Wiener while son, Aron (5<sup>th</sup> grade) performed beautifully a piece "Together We Can Change the World" on the piano. With the help of (8<sup>th</sup> grader) Gilbert who scanned all the posters, we were able to view them on the big screen. Our returning visitor Janie Schildge who coordinates the Crop Walk then spoke to the students about how we can all help to raise both awareness and much needed money to make things better for so many all around the world. Student Council then performed the Crop Hop to the rap beat of "Fresh Prince" followed by the **Walka Walka** along with some creative dancing.

So, permission slips were handed out and pledge envelopes were collected at the walk on Sunday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>. We had about 50 students and numerous parents walking on such a beautiful day for such a worthy cause. Mrs. Matson snapped some great shots of walkers, alumni and of course the annual OHA family photo. Congratulations to the following 8<sup>th</sup> grade students whose posters received ribbons: 1<sup>st</sup> place to Roxanna Altus, 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Julia Pardee and Amanda DeStefano and 3<sup>rd</sup> place to Aron Wiener. GREAT JOB!!!!

Thank you to all the families who placed orders with Innisbrook Gift Wrap. Remember, you can order on-line all year and OHA will receive a 50% profit.

The Fall Harvest Dance will take place this Friday, October 26 from 7:30-10pm in the gym. Admission is \$5 which includes pizza, beverages and snacks. Please remember to wear sneakers/soft

soled shoes. Appropriate Halloween costumes are optional. Parents must come to the gym upon dismissal of the dance.

Thanksgiving is about a month away and once again we have been asked by Mercy Center in Asbury Park to help with their food baskets. A flyer will be coming home along with info also on our website. Please be generous with your food donations and help to make other families have a Happy Thanksgiving!

## **PHOTOGRAPHY NEWS**

### **CLASS PICTURES**

**Sweaters required: Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**ALL GRADES, including ALL Pre-Kindergarten sessions**

**NO RETAKES OR ABSENTEE MAKEUPS OF THESE!!!!**

### **FALL SPORTS PICTURES**

**Soccer uniforms required;**  
**Cross country t-shirts optional**  
(Students may order these)  
**Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**

**NO RETAKES OR ABSENTEE MAKEUPS OF THESE!!!!**

### **Directory Changes**

Phone Number Change:  
Grade 5 – Room 7  
John Ross Coccozza  
732-320-6176

## **ATHLETICS**

### **Boy's Soccer**

Mr. Misson's team has an outstanding record (8-1-1) heading into the last week of games! We still have to play Asbury Park, one lone loss, and Red Bank. There were wins over St. Benedict's (once and a tie), Henry Hudson (twice), Red Bank, St. James (twice) and Keyport (twice). We've outscored our opponents 49-18! The play-offs will start on Oct. 25th.

Congratulations to eighth graders Paul Ramsey and Matthew Misson who represented OHA at the Soccer League All-Star game on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Girl's Soccer**

It has been 21 years since the Oak Hill Academy Girl's Soccer team has qualified for the league play-offs!! Mr. Bruckmann's team is heading to the play-offs with an 8-1-1 record! The team has a number of young players, coupled with the experience of the older players, have proved to be a winning formula! The team opened the season with a 1-0 loss to Rumson Country Day, but ended up in a 0-0 tie with them later on in the season. The girls have defeated Holy Cross (twice), Keyport (twice), Oceanport (twice) and Red bank (twice). We've outscored our opponents an impressive margin of 33-3!! The play-offs will start on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to eighth grader Josie Larkins who represented OHA at the Soccer League All-Star game on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Cross Country**

Mrs. Gilfillan and Mrs. Scheuer's cross country team is always a popular sport! Twice a week, students in grades 3-8 run and try to improve their times. The students run between one and one-half miles, depending on their ages.

The team is anxiously awaiting their first meet against St. Jerome's of West Long Branch on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The meet has been rescheduled twice due to the weather.

On November 4th, the team will compete in the "Run for the Roses" race at the St. Rose athletic fields in Wall Twp.

### **Intramural Tennis**

Mrs. Hunter has her Intramural tennis program playing once a week. The students in grades 5-8 play doubles against each other.