

Oak Hill Academy Newsletter

December 2012

2ND Marking Period

Headmaster's Message

Joseph A. Pacelli

Promote OHA

Oak Hill Academy has a tradition of being a school that emphasizes values and strong family ideals. We have an atmosphere that supports our children's overall development. Our families are a large part of what we do since they believe in our philosophy and mission. Experience shows that when it comes to recruitment of new families, the school's current family base is the most important asset.

So today I ask that you assist us in getting the Oak Hill story out to all of your acquaintances. Please share your children's learning and nurturing experience here at Oak Hill as well as our commitment to provide the best possible learning environment. Your support of our program is valued and, as always, we thank you for your assistance.

Please enjoy the holiday season and have a wonderful 2013.

Mrs. Larkins **Director of Development**

Mid-Point in Annual Giving

Soon you will be receiving a reminder about our Annual Giving Program. Annual giving is an important opportunity for members of the OHA community to help us provide that something extra that makes Oak Hill so unique. All private schools count on Annual Giving to bridge the gap between tuition and the actual cost to educate each child at their school. In these current times, please know that no gift is insignificant and every gift is truly appreciated. Thank you to the many current parents, alumni families, grandparents, and friends who have already given. You've shown your commitment to the future of our students.

Admissions Update

Admissions to Oak Hill Academy for 2013-2014 are already in full swing and we have even begun classroom visits and acceptances for Pre-Kindergarten students. Testing for students entering grades K-8 will begin in January. As usual, some grades have more applicants than possible openings for September, so please remember **if you intend to send another child in your family to OHA in September 2013, you must apply before January in order to**

receive preference in consideration for any openings. Application materials can be obtained through the school office. Also, please remember to recommend Oak Hill Academy to your friends. Our next open house is Saturday, January 5 from 1-4pm and tours during the week are always available. **A Financial Aid program is now available to our current and prospective families for September 2013. Information on requirements and qualifications can be obtained by contacting the school office or on the school website.**

Mrs. Misson **Business Manager**

This is just a reminder that the second tuition payment was due on December 1, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact the Business Office at 732-530-1343, menu 3.

Miss Murray Director of **Personnel/Administration**

Hoop Shoot

On November 9th, OHA ran its annual school competition of the Hoop Shoot. Over 70 students, ages 8-13, competed by shooting 25 fouls shots. The Red Bank Elks Club sponsors this nationwide contest. The top shooters in each age group advanced to the local finals that were hosted by Oak Hill Academy on Sunday, December 2nd:

Congratulations to the following students who placed in the December 2nd contest. The first place winners will advance to the district competition in January!

Girls Ages 8-9

1st: Samantha AbdelBarry (7)
2nd: Amanda Adams
3rd: Brooke Tackett

Boys Ages 8-9

1st: Brandon Klatsky (15)
2nd: Andrew Ferguson
3rd: Louis Petrosino

Girls Ages 10-11

1st: Erin Gilfillan (12)
2nd: Mary Mahoney
3rd: Abigail Cieri

Boys Ages 10-11

1st: Lucas Bruckmann (19)
2nd: Stephen Braunstein
3rd: MJ Wright

Girls Ages 12-13

1st: Josie Larkins (12)
2nd: Sydney Hixenbaugh
3rd: Salma AbdelBarry

Boys Ages 12-13

1st: Alex Klatsky (19)
2nd: Corey Palazzolo
3rd: Nick Robertson

A special thank you goes to those who helped to run the contest: Mr. Bruckmann, Mrs. Larkins, Mr. Cieri, Mr. Misson, and Mr. McEnroe.

Recognition for Academics and Effort

Upper School students are eligible at the end of each marking period to earn Merit List or Effort Honors distinction. The Merit List is for students who have achieved an average of 85% or better, with no grade below 80%. Effort Honors requires an average of 3+ (at least one effort mark over 3), with no marks below 3. If earned, a notation appears on the bottom of the student's report card for each marking period. At the end of the first semester in January and the end of the second semester in June, an honor roll of First Honors (an overall average of 92% or better with no grade below an 85) and Second Honors (an overall average of 85% or better with no grade below an 80) is announced at our awards assemblies in February and next September. A notation will also appear on the report card in January and June.

The Effort marks on the report cards truly indicate how much effort and energy the student is putting into a particular class. A brief definition of each effort mark is listed on the report card; however, a more complete explanation is printed in the handbook:

5 - Superior: Wholehearted application and interest, extra or unassigned work.
4 - Excellent: Extra effort, as judged against an individual's ability to produce. Good attitude, work complete and well done.
3 - Good: Good attitude, work complete and carefully done.
3(-) - Acceptable work, but capable of better.
2 - Below Average: Late papers, some missing assignments, lack of care in doing work, inattention, generally less than could be reasonably expected.
1 - Unsatisfactory: Much incomplete work, numerous missing homework assignments, generally poor performance and attitude.

(Oak Hill Academy Student Handbook pp. 3, 12, 13)

Veterans Day

On November 29th, OHA students, faculty, parents and guests were all part of our annual Veterans Day assembly. It was delayed to the end of November due to Hurricane Sandy.

This year, the focus of the assembly was discovering the story behind the poem "In Flanders Fields" and its significance with our veterans and the poppies that all of the veterans, teachers, parents and guests were wearing at the assembly. Each year around Memorial Day, however, we had chosen Veterans Day, the Veterans of Foreign Wars members and the American Legion Auxiliary volunteers distribute millions of red poppies in exchange for contributions. Donations are exclusively to assist and support veterans and their families. The poppy also reminds the community of the past sacrifices and continuing needs of our veterans. The poppy has become a nationally known and recognized symbol of sacrifice and is worn to honor the men and women who died for their country in all wars. We also celebrated how patriotic music and a famous individual have supported our veterans and have been an integral part of the well being of our military. Finally, we also honored all of our veterans.

Eighteen of our students gave the background and inspiration of John McCrae, the Canadian doctor and author of "In Flanders Fields." Speaking were: Will Gilfillan, Madeleine Aanensen, Kevin Kinsella, Demetra Giannakopoulos, Brandon Klatsky, John Gabriel Bermudez, Harry Jain, Meredith Harmon, Julianna DeStefano, Travis Schuhardt, Katie Spencer, Miller Corrigan, Alexa Cieri, Sydney Hixenbaugh, Kerry Fell, Colleen Egan, Isabella Silvestri and Alex Klatsky. A video was shown of dancers and a singer, Anthony Hutchcroft, performing "In Flanders Fields."

Bagpipes and drums were a part of the assembly for the first time! Seven members of The Pipes and Drums of the Atlantic Watch performed three songs. They marched down the center aisle and up onto the stage! They played "The Marine Corps Hymn", "Scotland the Brave/The Rowan Tree" and "42nd Highlanders."

We were once again very appreciative to Janet and Tom Bender for their participation in the assembly. They performed "A Tribute to the Armed Services," on trumpet. As the song of each branch was played, the veterans in the audience of that in that particular branch, stood proudly. The Benders also

played "Taps" at the conclusion of the program.

Madison Rising is a band that has one of the most stirring versions of "The Star Spangled Banner" that you will ever hear! It was very well received by our entire audience!

Bob Hope was introduced to our young student body during the assembly. A short video told the story of how Bob Hope and other entertainers went around the world performing variety shows for our troops. Bob Hope used to start his radio broadcast with, "This is Bob (fill in the name of a remote location) Hope." He logged hundreds of thousands of miles and gave innumerable performances for our servicemen. In 1997, Bob Hope was designated an honorary veteran for his humanitarian services to the United States Armed Forces by Congress. He is the only individual in history to have earned this honor!

In a dance performance this year, Mrs. Bridget DeVivo and four Upper School girls, 8th graders: Sarah Zylka, Camryn Mercatanti, Kaitlyn Vogel and 6th grader Isabella Losordo, choreographed a beautiful dance to John Lennon's "Imagine." The dance began and ended with a single candle. It was a very moving production.

Zack Zwieback, Olivia Mandarino, Christopher Misson, Anneliese Auleta, Erin Gilfillan, Kyle Harris and Grant D'Orsi told us about the history of Veterans Day and who is veteran.

We were very thankful to OHA grad Christine Meisenhelter '11 who came back to perform "Armed Forces Medley" on the guitar and accompany the Chorus, too! 1999 OHA Grad, Anthony Preuster, came back in a military uniform to recite the poem, "In Flanders Fields." Eighth grader, Samantha Torregrossa sang a beautiful rendition of "In Flanders Fields." Seventh grader Logan Gruss played "You Raise Me Up" on the piano. He, along with Cameron Gruss, Josie Larkins, Kolby Scire, Matthew Misson, Ryan Gruss and Abigail Cieri recited the words to the song and narrated a power point presentation to thank the veterans.

We have seven Oak Hill parents who are veterans! Their children spoke about their service and the how proud they were of their parent. As each student came onto the stage, the parent accompanied them. A picture was displayed on the screen of the parent's military service years. We also had four staff members reflect on relatives in the

military. Not many students knew that Mr. Pacelli was in the Army!

Speaking were: Amanda Pieringer (6th grade), her father, Mr. Gary Pieringer, US Army

Kennedy Stead (7th grade), his father, Mr. Kevin Stead, US Army

Sydney Hixenbaugh (7th grade), her father, Mr. Michael Hixenbaugh, US Army

Wade Edwin (5th grade), his father, Mr. William Edwin, US Army

Melissa Rich (2nd grade), her father, Mr. Steve Rich, US Navy

Bella Ybarra (6th grade), her mother, Mrs. Leslie Ybarra, US Army

Kathy Trevino (7th grade), her father, Mr. William Trevino, US Army

Staff members: Mrs. Beth Ann Griller (her husband, John Griller, US Army Signal Corp)

Miss Patrice Murray (her father, Joseph B. Murray, US Army)

Mrs. Patricia Weikes (her brother, John French, US Army)

Mrs. Christina Larkins (her father, Joseph A. Pacelli, US Army)

Miss Murray read a Veterans Day proclamation from President Barack Obama as Mrs. Griller displayed over 40 veterans' pictures on our screen. As we have done each year, the United States Marines Corps 6th Motor Transport Battalion started the assembly with the presentation of colors. Our kindergarten classes led the school in the reciting of *The Pledge of Allegiance* and the singing of "My Country 'Tis of Thee." We are very thankful to the US Marines for their involvement in our assembly.

Mr. Pacelli and Miss Murray opened and closed the assembly with remarks that honored our veterans for risking their lives for our freedom. The veterans who were in attendance were asked to stand. They were thanked for their service with a lengthy applause.

As usual, Mrs. Tyma's musical groups performed beautifully! The Oak Hill Players played "A Musical Tribute to our Veterans." The Chorus sang "Peaceful River" and "America!" They were accompanied by Mrs. Pamela Momyer on piano, Alec Garbely on drums and Christine Meisenhelter on guitar. Members of Mrs. Tyma's Chorus and Players were (Third grade): Amanda Adams, Louis Ambrosio, Olivia Bruckmann, Doug Cannon, Kim Cannon, Zora Dancy, Aarya Doshi, Maria Giannakopoulos, Madison Gourlay, Anna Hindermann, Ansh Kulkarni, Paige Lane,

Tess Loures, Madison Mazza, Justin Weber, Elizabeth Wright, (Fourth grade): Simar Arora, Michael Crotty, Gia DeJohn, Isabelle Nolan Forsyth, Ekta Kuruganti, Priya Kuruganti, Kara Pietrowicz, Maddie Semet, Julia Shaffer, Charlotte Walsh, Sydney Yan, Jessica Yatvitskiy. (Fifth grade): Catherine D'Amico, Ella Gammino, (Sixth grade): Zippy Abramson, AJ Sandhu, Hunter Small, Melissa Chen, Elizabeth Hsu. (Seventh grade): Alec Garbely, Kristina Taylor, Dorothea Wotton, Catherine Curtin, Logan Gruss, Harry Jain, Natalie Petrillo, (Eighth grade): Rebecca Carmeli-Peslak, Amanda DeStefano, Aneesha Doshi, Jacob Yatvitskiy, Jasmine Shen, Zoe Sucato, Christian Corvisiero, Travis Schuhardt.

Special thanks to Mrs. Kristine Kayser Bermudez for designing the program cover and Mrs. Kathyann Gruss for her work with the power point tribute! Miss Murray was very thankful to Mrs. Tyma, Mrs. DeVivo and Mrs. Griller for all of the work they did in preparing this two hour show with over 120 students performing! Thanks also go out to Mr. Misson, Mr. Rosenfeld, Mr. Enderly, Mrs. McShane, Mrs. Livingston, Mrs. DiMaggio, Mrs. Hans, Mrs. Preuster and Mrs. Burnham! Thanks also to Molzon Landscape Nursery!

Mr. Bruckmann
Communications/Alumni Coordinator

[SchoolMessenger](#)
[SMS Emergency Notification Option](#)
[Launched](#)

Oak Hill Academy is excited to announce the launch of a new service that will enhance communication by allowing us to deliver important information to you via SMS text messaging. This service will enhance the new phone call and email system put into place this year.

The service is also provided by **SchoolMessenger**. Information can be found at www.SchoolMessenger.com/tm Oak Hill will only use the service to provide information that is timely and relevant.

In order to participate in the new service you must indicate your willingness to receive text messages to your phone. The process is simple and only takes a few seconds to complete.

Simply text any one of the following words to the number **68453**: [subscribe](#), [optin](#), [yes](#)

You'll know you were successful if you receive the following reply message:

You are registered to receive aprox 3 msgs/mo. Txt STOP to quit, HELP for help.

You'll want to repeat the opt-in process for any wireless numbers that you wish to include.

Please note, although Oak Hill Academy does not charge you for this service, it does not pay for text message charges that may be incurred by you for sending or receiving text messages. Check with your wireless carrier for possible charges.

Mrs. Livingston
Lower School Guidance

November Character Education classes included:

Gr. 1 - I shared [Be Polite and Kind](#) from the 'Learning to Get Along' series by Cheri Meiners. We learned that when we are courteous, respectful, and kind, other people enjoy being around us. When we are polite, others return that politeness thus encouraging everyone to get along with each other. Through our discussion of this story, the children saw the benefits that courtesy brings. We always want to treat others the way we would like others to treat us.

Gr. 2 - In [Howard B. Wigglebottom Listens to His Heart](#), we learned that when we follow our heart, we are proud of the decisions we make and the person we are. We discussed that when we sometimes make wrong decisions by following the crowd, it hangs heavy on our heart and we don't feel so good about the action. It is important to be yourself and focus on the good things that you can do.

Gr.3 - [The Flower and the Caterpillar](#) is a story that shows students what can happen when they do not accept differences, and act in a conceited, self-important manner. The story tells of a flower that lives in the forest and bluntly tells the animals their faults. After all, she is so beautiful and does not need any friends. All she needs to do is to look at her own reflection in the pond. Winter comes and the flower knows that she cannot take care off herself. Only the caterpillar offered to help her by spinning a cocoon around the flower. When spring came and the flower saw the ugly caterpillar as a beautiful butterfly, she wanted the butterfly as a friend. However, the butterfly left because she knew that the flower liked her only

because of her beautiful outside, not what she was like on the inside.

Gr. 4 - [Rhinos and Raspberries](#) is a collection of folk tales, fairy tales, and fables from different cultures that all have a common theme of tolerance. This month I shared "Raspberries," an American tale of Cooperation. In this story, the children realize the value of teamwork through the actions of animals working together to achieve a common goal.

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

Respect and honesty highlighted the character traits for Oak Hill Academy and the Pre-K this month. Stories such as Spookly the Square Pumpkin, Pinocchio, and the Boy Who Cried Wolf, were used to stress these traits. Discussions also enhanced lessons on sharing and kindness.

On Election Day Pre-K voted with private ballots in the 2012 Presidential election. They also voted independently when choosing their morning snack. We are happy to announce that democracy is alive and well in the Pre-K.

Thanksgiving was introduced with emphasis on family traditions, giving thanks and giving back. Each student decorated individual turkey feathers to create a cooperative turkey bulletin board. Pre-K moms, Mrs. DeVona and Mrs. Duffy, came in to help Pre-K prepare for their Thanksgiving feast. We appreciated the extra hands during this very busy time of year.

For our annual Thanksgiving feast, Mrs. Wood's class adorned Native American and Pilgrim costumes for the celebration. Pre-K entertained Mr. Pacelli, Miss Murray, numerous OHA staff members and Pre-K parents with a medley of songs and finger plays. The buffet contributions made by the parents and Pre-K staff were delicious. We are certainly thankful for the kindness and generosity of our class mothers and parents.

In Language Arts the Letter People included Ms. K with her Kaboom Kick, Mr. D, a Dazzling Dancer and Ms. F with her Fancy Feet. Letter Light Mr. O likes Opposites and will add a new dimension to forming new word families in December.

The students in Pre-K are progressing nicely in Singapore Math. They began a new unit creating patterns using square

units to reinforce number sense and make the quantity/symbol connection. Our focus on calendar skills and counting helps to strengthen the concept of tens and ones while the use of tally marks to chart weather helps counting by 5's.

The focus during the month of December will turn to preparing for our annual Pre-K holiday performance to be held on December 17, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. This year's theme is "Everything Gingerbread." Holidays Around the World in December will also be highlighted; Christmas, Hanukkah, Las Posada, Kwanza and Lucia Day will provide an exciting curriculum during the month. Diwali, which began in November, was celebrated in the classroom.

The year began with "A Royal Welcome" for our Pre-K students. Treating students like royalty will continue with our "Star Prince and Princess" program. Individual posters have begun to appear in the classroom highlighting the uniqueness of each individual student. Family members have been invited to join their children at school to add to the festivities. Mom or dad (or both) should arrive at school with a book to read or special craft to share. The individual posters are presented at this time. Students may also provide a special yummy "Letter of the Week" snack. This program helps strengthen self-confidence and enables classmates to have a better understanding of what makes each individual special and unique.

It is hard to believe that another holiday season is upon us. We would like to wish all of our Oak Hill Academy families a joyous holiday season and a bright and prosperous 2013.

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

Well Hurricane Sandy certainly caused a great deal of changes to our calendar in Kindergarten. After several days out of school, we were grateful to come back and find that all of our friends were safe. We told stories of how we lived without power but are truly sorry for those here at Oak Hill who have been displaced from their homes and continue to live with uncertainty and inconvenience. We will continue to keep these families in our thoughts as we know that "normal" life has not yet returned for them.

Due to the storm our Halloween parade actually took place in November! Nevertheless, the children were thrilled to parade around the gym in costume and

then enjoy a fun and festive Halloween party back in Kindergarten..

Of course it wouldn't be November without the Kindergarten Thanksgiving play and feast! The children helped prepare the food and worked very hard to memorize their lines. We would like to extend a very BIG thank you to all the parents who came in to help make the children's costumes. It was a big task and we couldn't have done it without you. A special thank you to the Feiler family for the delicious turkey and to Mrs. Lucosky for baking the yummy turkey cake! We appreciate everyone's help in making the day such a success.

We continue to meet and greet the Letter People. It was very exciting to meet our first "letterlight," Ms. A. The children have learned that A is a vowel and we can now make words with her. We have also welcomed Mr. H, Ms. P, and Mr. Z to our Kindergarten family. We are so proud of the student's decoding skills this early in the year.

The children also had their first spelling test. It included the sight words that they have learned thus far. It was a great accomplishment for them and we praise their study skills and results. Keep practicing reading and writing these words!

In Math we are working on shapes, more than and less than, graphing, and writing our numbers beautifully. We are looking forward to an exciting month of December where the fun and learning are sure to continue.

We hope you all had a very Happy Thanksgiving – we know there is much to be thankful for.

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

Our Social Studies is very exciting in First Grade. In addition to our Oak Hill curriculum we use First Grade Studies Weekly newspaper. In the past issues we learned about the parts and purposes of maps. We learned how physical environments in other places are similar to each other but also different. We colored and cut out a compass rose in order to learn about the directions north, south, east, and west. We also expanded our knowledge of presidents and other patriotic men and women in the United States prior to 1880---George Washington, Betsy Ross and Crispus Attucks. Our Weekly Reader/Scholastic newspaper sent us a wonderful election booklet. We read all about the workings of electing a United States president. We

then cast our vote after reading and studying the lives and accomplishments of Barack Obama and Mitt Romney.

We really enjoy the challenge of our Singapore Math curriculum. We have studied making number stories, making addition and subtraction stories with number bonds, position and direction, ordinal numbers and naming positions.

We wrote wonderful stories describing how we celebrate Christmas and Hanukkah at our homes. We wish all our families a wonderful holiday season!!!!

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

November has been a very productive month, full of new and exciting learning opportunities for our inquisitive second graders!

In the reading program we are working on our second unit entitled, "Growth and Change." Besides expanding vocabulary and phonics skills, we are also working on improving the skills of drawing conclusions, summarizing, and making inferences

Although we are in the second year of our Singapore Math Program, we are continuing to learn many new terms and are doing a great deal of hands on activities using number discs, place value blocks and charts, and white boards. We have reviewed the part-whole concept of addition and subtraction and solved word problems involving mental addition and subtraction within 100. We are currently working on Addition with renaming and will be introducing Subtraction with renaming next. Please continue to practice the addition and subtraction math facts with your child at home on a daily basis and review the other math concepts as well.

The second graders have also been busy practicing their writing skills. Poetry, stories, letters, and journals are just some examples of their activities. We are especially proud of the math books that each of the second grade classes have written and will actually be published in hard cover. Each child worked very hard to write and then illustrate two original math word problems. A cover was also designed for each of the books by a child in each class. The children enjoyed this wonderful experience of actually becoming authors.

In social studies among the topics we have covered this marking period was

the presidential election. We culminated the unit by having an actual presidential election in each classroom in order for the children to vote for the candidate of their choice. This helped them to better understand the democratic process.

We took our first field trip to Kateri Environmental Center where we spent a lovely autumn day hiking through the woods discussing our topic, "Awesome Autumn." The second graders especially enjoyed making the sun catcher necklaces out of leaves that they collected on their hike.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our classroom mothers for making our Halloween parties so successful. Your hard work is always appreciated!

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

Thank you parents, for making our Halloween parties so much fun!

We had a great experience on Election Day, from registration to marking our ballots in our very own voting booth. We also made a giant size American Flag with hearts and hands forming the red stripes. These hearts and hands represent the service our veterans have performed for our country. We need to respect their sacrifices!

In novel study, we have finished Helen Keller and each student presented their activity. What a wonderful job they all did. We just started reading Emily's Fortune which takes place in the wild, wild west. The students are getting a taste of what it was like to travel by stagecoach.

Multiplication and division math facts should be mastered. This usually requires practice both in school and at home. Please continue to encourage your child to make use of our website.

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

The fourth graders went to the Math and Science Learning Center at Rutgers. Two professors engaged us in wonderful discussions, demonstrations, and hands on experiments. One had to do with worms and the other was about air, air pressure and the Bernoulli Effect. We really enjoyed both experiences.

Graduate students took us around the hands-on center in small groups and we experienced many science experiments.

We did hands-on activities involving magnetism, static electricity, and surface tension of soap, motion, centripetal force, electricity, air pressure and many more. The favorite was the hair-raising experience with the static ball.

After the Science Center, we went to the Geology Museum at Rutgers to see the skeleton of a mastodon that we read about in our textbook. Lauren gave us a talk about mastodons and woolly mammoths. We saw the difference between the female mastodon's tusk and the male's. We saw first hand the difference between a mammoth's tooth and a mastodon's. The difference taught us about what they ate.

A highlight of the trip was seeing a real Egyptian mummy in her sarcophagus. We will be delving into the ancient world of Egypt soon. The students were given a booklet to fill out answering questions while on a scavenger hunt. The answers were found from the two floors of exhibits in the museum. Each student completed the booklet and received a shark's tooth as a reward. The fourth graders shopped the Mineral and Rock Shop and came home with many treasures from the earth. The fourth graders really enjoyed this day of learning.

Fourth grade just celebrated Heritage Day on Friday, November 16. This is a traditional fourth grade event that is done in conjunction with our novel study of All-of-a-Kind Family. We began our event by presenting "Our Medley of Customs and Traditions" in each homeroom. We had invited parents, relatives, and friends to share our day. After our speeches, our visitors took a look at the bulletin boards displaying our paper dolls that we each dressed representing our individual heritage. We then all walked over to the SAC for our Heritage Day feast. The SAC was decorated with an international theme. Festive flags centerpieces donned each table. There was a wonderful display of international dolls. All of our parents deserve a huge thank you for preparing a phenomenally delectable feast that we all enjoyed. We ate and enjoyed each other's company at this wonderful event for about 130 people.

A special thank you goes to our room mothers for all the organizing, shopping, decorating, and cleaning up: Mrs. Basile, Mrs. Codispoti, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Nappi, Mrs. Shallcross, and Mrs. Vogel. Thank you to all the people who helped clean up. We were very appreciative of Mr. Misson and Mr. Livingston's help with the tables and chairs. We all enjoyed our Heritage Day!

While we are thanking people a fun time was had by all at our classroom Halloween parties. Thank you, room moms!

The fourth graders just culminated their Social Studies unit on the Election. We are now starting our unit on the Lenape, the Native Americans that lived here on the land that they called Scheyechbi (Land Along Water).

Writer's workshop has been in full swing. The fourth graders are finishing their Personal Narratives in anticipation of our first Writer's Celebration which is scheduled to take place Tuesday, December 18th. Students experienced a writing community atmosphere where they have learned to rely on their peers for feedback and ideas. Learning how to use a working folder, to include necessary elements in their daily writing, coupled with peer interaction has helped many budding authors bloom. Moreover, students critiqued themselves and each other against a writing rubric which created a sense of responsibility. Many new and exciting writing techniques have been learned and applied to the students' stories. Get ready reading audience---we have some wonderful authors!

**Mrs. Cahalane
Lower School Science**

PK students have gone on several nature hikes around the grounds of the beautiful Science Center searching for leaves and wildlife. Students created leaf pictures using some of the leaves they found. Kindergarteners have started a unit on Color Chemistry. The kindergarten students are using test tubes, graduated cylinders and beakers to mix different solids and liquids together. First grade students completed a unit on solids, liquids and gases. They designed and carried out an experiment to see first hand what occurs in the water cycle. Second grade students completed the unit "Imaginative Inventions". Students explored the invention process by learning about inventions throughout history. They learned about improving existing inventions and everyone kept a toy invention journal. Second graders furthered their understanding of the risks and benefits of inventions by testing toys and comparing the fun rating and the safety rating of each toy. They then invented their own toy and presented it on posters to the class. The students' inventions were incredibly imaginative! Third grade students investigated forces, gravity and motion using ramps, toy cars, and small plastic animals. Students designed and evaluated their own device to slow the motion of a falling object.

Students in grade 4 completed a unit on animal and plant cells. All students created a 3-dimensional model of each type of cell using Model Magic. We used the classroom microscopes to observe cells at 400 times their normal size!

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

All the students in grades K-4 have taken the Presidential Challenge for Physical Fitness. It consists of five tests which measure five areas of fitness. Patches are awarded at the end of the year to students who qualify for the presidential level of fitness (blue patch) and the national level of fitness (red patch). There is also a white patch for participation.

Congratulations to the following students who have already qualified for the Presidential Award this year.

1st Grade – Will Gilfillan

2nd Grade – Giovanna Clemente, Ryan Stefko

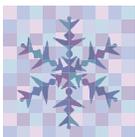
3rd Grade – Andrew Ferguson, Madison Lucosky, Brooke Tackett, Anna Hindermann, Brandon Klatsky, Chloe VanBerkel, Ty Feiler, Devin Mohr, Mia Stavola

4th Grade – Sydney Yan, Emily Robertson

Each year we have more and more students qualify for the National award. We are very proud of these students. Their names will be displayed in the gym show case on a red t-shirt. Presidential Award winners will have their name put on blue t-shirt.

The tests will be administered again in March. The children have the opportunity to improve in the areas of fitness where they are weaker. Please encourage your child to win a red or blue patch as this is a great achievement for them.

This marking period the grades are based on their physical fitness scores. Next marking period the grade will be based on their swimming skills. Also affecting grades are the effort they show in class and being prepared with sneakers or swim gear.



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

Students in grades K-4th will now be meeting every week for the next two marking periods. This will give students ample time to bring in items to earn those important **“tiny bucks.”** Remember, this could be books, print outs from the internet, pictures, drawings, or any educational item that pertains to Texas.

I am pleased to announce that our Littletown Press editor this year is Mrs. Harris, Becca’s mom. Thank you in advance for volunteering your help for this year.

Students will now start to brainstorm ideas for their businesses on Littletown Day, March 7th, while incorporating Texan info. We continue to read and research more interesting and fascinating facts about this vast and diverse Lone Star state. A detailed packet will be coming home in January with more details about this exciting day. Students have been on the iPads learning all about Texas Trivia, like the state flower (Blue Bonnet), the state’s small mammal (armadillo) and the large mammal (longhorn), the state fruit (red grapefruit) and then they can take a quiz challenging their memory. Students have also watched the “the flight of the bats” in Austin Texas and video clips of the NASA Johnson Space Center located in Houston. Astronauts in space also enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast, just freeze dried, of course! What was prehistoric Dallas like? After watching an amazing video on this timeline of dinosaurs and present day Dallas, students were able to observe the fossil beds and topography change over this long period of time. Students have also been learning about various types of cacti, focusing on the Saguaro, along with the rattlesnake and roadrunner. There is so much to learn about this interesting state.

**Mme Koar
Lower School French**

The first grade students are learning the names for farm animals and practicing their vocabulary with a song, “Avec un gros nez” (with a big nose). All the animals have a big nose, even Alain, who doesn’t care because he likes his nose.

We also learned, “l’araignée gypsy” (the itsy-bitsy spider). Both songs can be viewed on my web page from the link on the Oak Hill website. We continue to practice our numbers and greetings each class.

The second grade is concentrating on the days of the week and months of the year. Just this week we read the story, “La chenille qui fait les trous” (the very hungry caterpillar) by Eric Carle. The children are familiar with the story in English and enjoy hearing it in French. You can find the YouTube version in French online. We practiced the days of the week with flashcards in the classroom, and we have learned to express our age and birthdays in French.

The third grades are learning a new song, “J’ai faim, J’ai soif” (I’m hungry, I’m thirsty). The students learn correct pronunciation and spelling of many common expressions in French while singing.

We will be learning to describe the members of our family and rooms in our house. Our songs and vocabulary can all be practiced on the web page next to my name in the list of faculty at oakhillacademy.com.

**Mme Simon
Grade 4 French**

This marking period, we studied the food theme and played our favorite game which is “Around the World”. The students really know the vocabulary well. In order to study, I use a Power Point presentation that you can find on my website. We are now working on a dialog “AU CAFÉ” which teaches the student how to order in a restaurant.

The site I created is called a Weebly site. The website address is : <http://ohamadamesimon.weebly.com>.

We will also soon play with the iPads and study with an App called FrenchieTeachie (a free App) and a program called “Quizlet.” The new theme is “rooms around the house.” BON TRAVAIL

**Mrs. Scheuer
Upper School Guidance**

OHA students talked the talk and walked the walk at the 32nd annual Crop Walk held at Red Bank Regional HS on October 21st. Mrs. Vacca, student council members, faculty and students proudly represented OHA and helped reduce hunger in the world.

Our seventh and eighth graders had a blast at the Fall Harvest Dance. The décor was festive, snacks delicious and the DJ rocked! Thanks to student and parent volunteers as well as chaperones for making the evening so special. We had a great turnout at our Fall Open

House. Thank you to students that volunteered as tour guides. Visitors to OHA are always impressed with our faculty, curriculum and facilities but when asked why they chose OHA, parents often mention their experience with our OHA tour guides as one of the reasons.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the devastation rendered the Jersey Shore almost unrecognizable. This unprecedented weather event closed OHA for a week. As the lines of communication gradually reopened, we were grateful to learn our OHA families were intact. Most without power, heat, short on gas for cars and generators, certainly inconvenienced but safe. Unfortunately, several families and faculty members suffered extensive damage to their homes.

During this period of uncertainty and loss, we witnessed the true OHA spirit. On Monday, Nov 5th OHA reopened its doors and returned to the new normal. We had over 90% of our students and 100% of our faculty back to school! The genuine care and concern students and faculty expressed to one another was touching and the resolve to help resounding.

In the toughest times, character is revealed. Several of our character initiatives for November had to be postponed. It was however the *teachable moments* in the days and weeks following that provided the most valuable life lessons. We witnessed both at home and school: families taking care of each other, neighbors helping neighbors and friends lending a hand. This inherent spirit within the OHA community; kindness, respect and good will inspired **OHA Helps Its Own & Others.**

The volume of food and supplies collected for local charities in need was astonishing. The outpouring of generosity for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Dress Down Day was simply extraordinary. In a broad sense, we will all gradually Restore the Shore. In our little corner of the world, there is still a great deal of work to be done. Our Helping Hands Dress Down Day certificates will give back 100% of the proceeds to our OHA families and faculty directly impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Your participation will go a long way to assisting OURS in need.

Mrs. O'Connor
Grade 5 Literature/LA

We will continue to read our anthology, Literature and the Language Arts, starting our new unit entitled "Adventures and Disasters." In this unit we learn and appreciate real-life adventures where people work together to overcome extreme odds.

The holidays are approaching and we will share our essays about our family traditions.

Winter haikus will adorn our classroom "oak" tree with the official start of the season on December 21.

Mrs. Daly/Mrs. Scheuer
Grade 5 Reading

Fifth grade reading classes are reading a mystery unit involving three continents. The stories of Machu Picchu, the Great Zimbabwe, and the Anazazi of the American Southwest helped students sharpen visual literacy skills including map, chart and graph interpretations. Classes traced the development and disappearance of these civilizations. Video presentations on these unique landscapes provided great class discussions.

Classes are also practicing skills through our *Surprises/More Surprises* reading series. Students are diligently working on skill development while reading great pieces. And, through *discoveryeducation*, students can understand background information on stories presented. Students are proud of their skill mastery!

Have a great holiday!

Mrs. Matson
Grades 5 & 6 Geography

Fifth grade students are finishing Climate, thanks to Sandy, and will soon be studying landforms. They are looking forward to designing their islands.

Sixth grade students will begin making their Africa games soon. They are continuing our study of Africa, in order to have success playing each other's games. They will begin learning about India next.

Mr. Bruckmann
Grade 5 Math

Grade 5 Math Glencoe

I hope that the end of the marking period is also the end of this crazy and destructive past month that we have all endured. I can only pray that everyone has begun to resume some sense of normalcy in our lives as we rebuild as a community and state. As for Math our class began the marking period by exploring the wonderful world of decimals. During this unit we investigated place value to the right of the decimal point and continued to use this knowledge in dealing with the metric system and how kilometers; meters; centimeters; and millimeters compare to one another. Students investigated comparing, ordering, adding and subtracting through the ten-thousandths place. Soon it will be time to continue our investigation to include the multiplication and division of decimals. This will include the use of the distributive property in breaking down multiplication problems into pieces that were more manageable to do mentally if desired. Calling upon previous years experience with division, dividing decimals added a whole new experience as we will be saying "good-bye" to the remainder and begin to divide past the decimal point to find the true quotient. We continued with checking all of our work by seeing if the answers we arrived at were reasonable. As we move on, it is important to encourage each student to continue to show all of their work in a neat manner, so that we can work together to understand each process.

Grade 5 Math Workshop

The fifth graders have been very busy over the last marking period. They opened up the marking period finishing up the "Trainer" paper airplane project investigating thrust, lift, drag and gravity. The class also took this project a step further by calculating the Measures of Central Tendency in terms of Mean; Median and Mode as well as Range of both their individual groups as well as the entire class. We have moved on to a project involving Weigh-out Catalog Calculations were students will be calculating shipping weights for mail order purchases. A very timely project given the season we are currently in.



Mrs. Cotterell
Grades 5 – 8 Math

5th Grade - Period 2

Decimal is the word to describe this marking period. We started Chapter 3 by reading, writing, comparing, ordering, rounding and adding/subtracting decimals to Chapter 4 where we were multiplying, dividing and calculating area and perimeter of various polygons. In addition, the students learned the remaining metric measurements related to mass and capacity and they learned how to convert from one measurement to another! This was all done along with the 6 days we lost for the storms. The students have been working so diligently. I know the homework for Chapter 4 was long (you may remember that I addressed this at Back to School Night); however, the homework going forward is much shorter. I gave each of the students a homework sheet which goes through mid-term review. If your child is out sick or if we have no school due to inclement weather, they should consult this homework sheet for their assignments. I wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.

5th Grade - Period 3

We completed Chapter 2, a study of basic statistics and essentially completed Chapter 3, introduction to decimals. The students did quite well in their statistics chapter. They learned how to make a variety of charts and graphs including frequency tables, bar graphs, line graphs and stem and leaf charts. They also learned to calculate the 4 measures of central tendency: mean, median, mode and range as well as identify factors that make graphs misleading. In Chapter 3 the students were introduced to decimals. We began by reading and writing decimals from words and fractions. The students then learned how to compare, order, round and estimate sums and differences. Finally, the students learned how to add and subtract decimals. We have not completed all assessments yet for that chapter, however, the students overall are doing very well. The next chapter will be the most time consuming chapter in terms of homework that they will have for the year. Once we get passed this chapter, the rest of the year should have homework assignments of moderate length again. I gave each of the students a homework sheet which goes through mid-term review. If your child is out sick or if we have no school due to inclement weather, they should consult this homework sheet for their assignments. I wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.

6th Grade

We completed the chapter on statistics which included new topics such as back-to-back stem and leaf plots as well as the dreaded box and whisker plot. Since we took a long pause in the midst of this chapter because of the storm, I made a decision to allow the students to take their assessments using their notes. If they did not use their notes (and many of them did not!), they were given an extra 5 points on their quizzes. In spite of the storm and the break in our routine, the students did quite well.

We essentially completed chapter 4 as well though the final assessment will be during the next marking period. Chapter 4 lays the foundation for fractions. It includes important concepts such as divisibility, prime factorization, GCF and LCM among others. The concepts of GCF and LCM will come back to the students in Algebra, so it is important they have a good firm grasp of these topics.

The students are continuing to do their homework conscientiously. Thank you for all of your support at home. I wish you and your family a very happy and healthy holiday season.

7th Grade - Glencoe

This marking period was essentially devoted to Chapter 2 - a study of integers. This is an extremely important chapter since the students will be using signed numbers not only for the rest of this year but also for future math courses as well. We took our time with each lesson ensuring mastery. The overall performance was excellent. To help solidify understanding, we planned some math "games" including war with regular playing cards and well as rolling dice with negative numbers. The new topics introduced were adding and subtracting matrices as well as solving one and two step algebraic equations with signed numbers. The students are doing an excellent job on their homework. Thank you for your support at home. I wish you and your family a healthy and happy holiday season.

Introduction to Algebra

We completed chapter 3 and started chapter 4. Chapter 3 started with the very important concept of distributive property and combining like terms. After six homework assignments, class work and manipulatives, the students "got it"! We spent whatever time was necessary since these topics are critical in their algebra next year. Once we passed these hurdles, the balance of the chapter was routine. Each lesson has a bit of a twist, but the students handled them

quite well. The final chapter assessments were excellent. There were several high level word problems in which the students had to translate the data into two step algebraic equations. I was very pleased with their performance.

Homework continues to play a very important role in class. Thank you for your support at home. I wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.

Mrs. Schroeter
Grade 5 Science

The fifth grade concluded its study of mass, volume and density with the lab, "mystery masses." The students were able to figure out, by knowing density, whether objects will sink or float. After a review of the use of thermometers and the discovery of the Celsius melting/freezing and boiling points of water, a unit about the four states of matter (solid, liquid, gas, and plasma) was completed. A favorite lab was observing the relative melting points of several food items (which then became a food lab in the making of smores – the students are so creative). The Periodic Table of the Elements will now become the focus of study in the third marking period.

Mrs. Vacca
Grade 5 Tech

Students are finishing up their research on their projects about Ancient Civilizations. Some presentations have started and already students have proven that they have become proficient on the iPads. Students have put together their slideshows with great pictures and maps and have even included some transitions. These visuals make presentations more eye appealing.

We have been busy working on a variety of problem solving warm-ups, thus accumulating "**bonus points**" for a math workshop dress down day which occurs every other marking period. Students have just completed their UNICEF packet. This was a brainstorming group activity in which "needs vs. wants" was discussed. Every day items we take for granted such as food and shelter vs. luxury items such as our iPods and cell phones. Students were given the task of packing a suitcase with much needed supplies for children in other countries. Priced items such as water filters, blankets, nutritional supplements, vaccines, jump ropes and basketballs, to name a few were some of the options they could bring with them. How much could they afford with only \$100?

Quantities of items were calculated according to each group's decision on what to bring. This was a great project involving real math skills and the compassion for those less fortunate.

Mrs. Duffy
Grade 6 English/LA

Our language arts program continues to build vocabulary and grammar skills. In grammar we are starting a unit on nouns and will move on to action and linking verbs while in vocabulary we have 'cycled' through to Unit 6, mastering many enriching words along the way.

To celebrate fall and Halloween sixth graders have 'crept' into the literature unit called "Chills and Thrills," filled with ghost tales and spooky stories. The culminating thriller of this unit is the Poe classic "The Tell-Tale Heart."

In keeping with the fall theme, students are writing poems about the season. After brainstorming about the sights, sounds, and smells of autumn, sixth graders are creating poems full of wonderful images, bringing to life the aroma of pumpkin pie, the brilliance of spice-colored leaves, and the warmth of flannel PHs. Soon students will be working on a compare/contrast essay, featuring two characters from the literature unit "Finding Your Place in the World."

Mrs. Daly
Grade 6 Reading

Sixth graders are studying our first novel study, *Freedom Crossing*. This historical fiction story provides an in-depth look at the Underground Railroad, bravery, and growing up. Students love the plot twists and turns as the story progressed. The classes are creating their own *Freedom Quilts* as a supplement to the novel study. During the height of the Underground Railroad, abolitionists would sew quilts with hidden symbols on them to show the runaway slaves the way north. Each quilt square gave hints to the slaves looking for food and shelter. After the patterns were studied, slave quilts were examined through the Smithsonian Museum collection. In groups of four, students then create sixteen-block replicas of the slave quilts. Codes are written and paths to free states or Canada are created. Students really are developing an appreciation for this time in American history.

In addition to the novel study, reading comprehension skills were reinforced this marking period through our *Heroes/Monsters* series. Popular storied

included *The Jersey Devil*, *Frankenstein's Monster*, and many more. Sixth graders are working hard this year!

Enjoy the holidays!

Mrs. Palamara
Grades 6 – 8 Math

Math 6 – Glencoe

This marking period focused on statistics – the collecting, organizing, and summarizing of data. Students used frequency tables; found scales and intervals; interpreted line and bar graphs and scatter plots; and analyzed graphs to make predictions. They also made line plots, stem-and-leaf plots, and box-and-whisker plots. They worked with three statistical measures of central tendency – the mean, median, and mode. They also examined ways in which statistics and graphs are misleading.

Math 7 – Gateways

This marking period has been filled with various types of measurement and estimation. The students measured lengths using both customary and metric units. They learned to recognize various polygons and investigated linear measurements associated with them. They learned to use scientific notation to express large and small numbers. They reviewed rounding numbers to a specified number of decimal places and to express results to a reasonable degree of accuracy. They worked on solving equations with "style." They moved on to geometry and learned to name angles and to use a protractor to measure and construct angles. They then used a ruler and protractor to make accurate drawings of geometric figures.

Algebra 1

During this marking period students learned how to solve linear equations and to use formulas, ratios, rates and percents. They learned to solve linear equations which involve multiple steps; to solve decimal equations; to solve a formula for a specified variable and to solve real-world problems involving ratios, rates, and percents.

Students are using a variety of methods to explain mathematical reasoning including words, numbers, symbols, and models and developing strategies that can be used with more complex problems.

Math Team

Congratulations to the OHA Math Team on their 1st place win in the CBA Eighth Grade Math Contest held in October. More than 20 schools participated in the parochial and private school division.

The team scores are based on the total of the five highest individual student scores from each school.

Eighth grader Jacob Yatvitskiy won the entire competition coming in 1st place! Gilbert Rashkovsky took the 3rd place award. Jasmine Shen took 4th place and seventh grader Harry Jain took 5th place. Oak Hill Academy performed an amazing feat by placing four students in the top five!

Rounding out the team were Cameron Gruss, Aneesha Doshi, Evan Semet and Matthew Prince.

Kudos to all for a job well done!

Mrs. Billet
Grades 6 & 7 Science

The sixth grade students learned why cells divide, the cycle of the cell, and how body cells reproduce. They also looked at the chemical composition of DNA, how DNA replicates, and how DNA directs the production of proteins. Please stop by Room 16 in the Soler Science & Environmental Center to see the visual display of mitosis and DNA.

In the seventh grade this marking period, the students were introduced to kinematics, the study of motion, and dynamics, the study of the causes of motion. Newton's three laws of motion were brought in to encapsulate the relationship between motion and force. From forces, students then moved on to the concept of energy, the various types of energy, and laws of conservation of energy.

Mrs. Vacca
Grade 6 Math Workshop

Students continue with 10 minute warm-ups to start off the class and earn those "bonus points." Our first big project entitled: **The Mustang Toy Company** is underway and students have been given the guidelines and expectations of this individual project. Students will design a toy, give it a clever name, construct it using numerous geometrical shapes, and with a good description, try to sell their toy to their classmates. Toys will be made using construction paper and can be 3-D. Students will learn how to write a check, figure out tax, compute the cost of the toy versus the selling price, thus determining their profit. This is an excellent chance to be creative using their practical math skills.

Señora Dotto **Grades 5, 7 & 8 Spanish**

The fifth grade students have been working on singular and plural definite articles, classroom items, months, seasons, days of the week, rules for changing singular nouns and pronouns to plural as well as gender agreement. We are in the process of studying the four forms of you (tú, usted, vosotros/as and ustedes) and the geography and history of Spain.

During this marking period the seventh grade students completed section 2 of Chapter 3, built a lot of vocabulary and expressions, and mastered the conjugation of the irregular verbs *to go* and *to do*. Also, we have covered interrogative words, indefinite articles and the weather. At this time we are in the process of learning the verb *to have* and the culture of Costa Rica. All this has been reinforced with power point presentations, classroom interaction and by logging in to my sites, Weebly, Quizlet and Flashcard Machine for visual and auditory practice.

This marking period the eighth grade students have continued building vocabulary. In addition, they have studied expressions on how to describe people and family relationships. In grammar they have expanded their study on possessive adjectives and covered over 15 stem-changing verbs **e→ie** and **o→ue** like *empezar, dormir, merendar, almorzar, preferir* etc. Also, they memorized a skit and presented it in front of the class. Their pronunciation was outstanding and we all had a great time. All this material has been reinforced with power point presentations and by logging in to my site, Weebly.com and Quizlet for visual and auditory practice of vocabulary and expressions.

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

In our seventh grade literature program, we are exploring a new unit called WORKING TOWARD YOUR DREAMS. The theme of the unit deals with setting goals and fulfilling our dreams. Each of the selections including poetry, fiction, and nonfiction focuses on the importance of the process involved rather than reaching the ultimate goal.

As part of our recently finished unit entitled OPEN A BOOK, OPEN A WORLD, we have just completed our first poetry assignment on FREE VERSE dealing with the theme of reading. We learned the process for writing a free verse poem, did some brainstorming,

provided a rough draft, and participated in a peer review - all in preparation for the ultimate final copy. This activity provided a great opportunity to develop our creative ideas and share our thoughts on the importance of reading.

Our language arts program continues with building vocabulary skills, including synonyms, antonyms, and analogies. In grammar, we are working on our most challenging unit – **VERBS**. This unit will prove very beneficial for all of our writing activities.

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

It was an interesting time to invest in the market for our group of seventh grade stock brokers, but also the opportunity to learn a lot about the current state of our economy. Mr. Bruckmann and I were pleased with their pointed questions and enthusiasm. They became a little more aware of current events and learned about how the market works with such concepts as shares of stocks, dividends, P/E ratios, broker's commissions, and yield. We even took the opportunity to talk about how the recent election affected the market and discussed the fiscal cliff that is approaching. When the project was said and done, only two groups made money! Congratulations to Caroline Meehan, Nick Robertson, Megan Scafaria, and Gerald Sharpe for coming in first place and earning a dress down day.

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

With many families traveling over the holidays, it will be the perfect opportunity for the seventh grade math workshop students to review their map skills by completing the "Interstate Highway Project." In small groups, students will analyze U.S. highway maps in order to figure out the mathematical system of naming these interstates. We all can brush up on our U.S. geography while answering some interesting mathematical questions. Next time you are on a road trip; don't be afraid to ask your son or daughter for help with directions!

My eighth grade apprentice architects have finally completed their model home construction project. They impressed me with their creative ideas for design and their enthusiasm for the project. Of course, the trick was keeping track of all the costs along the way and to account

for extra fees beyond labor and materials such as site improvement, lawyer fees, advertising, permits, etc. Getting the roof to fit properly also proved to be a challenge, but I was pleased with the results.

The eighth grade also completed a project just after Election Day on how our voting system works and how districting can change the results of an election. Throughout the marking period, the students worked on some difficult warm-up problems and handed in weekly homework.

Mrs. Williams/Mrs. Daly **Grade 8 English**

In eighth grade Language Arts, students have been continuing their study of vocabulary. In addition, they concluded the grammar unit: *Verbs*. Students also continued their writing assignments, which included persuasive writing, journal writing, and poetry. During the third marking period, students will continue their writing, vocabulary lessons, and grammar lessons.

In Literature, students read nonfiction short stories. They made connections to history and examined the literature for figurative language. Moreover, students read the novel: *The Outsiders*. They recorded major events and character descriptions while reading the novel. Also, they examined the plot and analyzed the "outsiders." Students engaged in many discussions on the societal issues, including why certain groups are considered outsiders. Overall, students seemed to enjoy this book!

Mrs. Daly **Grade 8 Critical Reading**

Eighth grade classes have been diligently studying comprehension skills through our new activists, and mass species extinction. Students are tracing the effects of pollutants such as DDT in streams and rivers. Using an interactive timeline, species are examined and recorded. Classes really are becoming more aware of the importance of ecology and creating safe environments for all creatures.

In addition to our weekly news summaries, students are enhancing their writing skills in many ways. Monthly topics are released by *The Asbury Park Press* and students answer writing prompts ranging from musical influences to technology in the classroom to New Year's resolutions.

Classes are working well and are eagerly anticipating the holidays!

Mrs. Mayer
Grades 7 & 8 History

The seventh grade has had an exciting marking period learning about Ancient Greece and the Roman Empire. The students researched and examined how these two civilizations contributed to our American Government. We look forward to learning about The Middle Ages, The Renaissance and The Age of Exploration. Students will engage in a number of group projects utilizing technology and our school library.

The eighth grade has spent this marking period researching and learning about the Industrial Revolution, Westward Expansion, and how these events led to growing tensions between the North and South. We are currently learning about how the Civil War tore the country apart. We are examining this complicated war from all perspectives and engaging in a number of heated debates.

Mrs. Schroeter
Grade 8 Science

Our eighth grade Earth scientists are continuing their study of Earth's surface. Weathering and soil were the topics covered. While studying chemical weathering, the students made the two gases that are responsible for rusting (oxygen) and for the deterioration of marble in buildings plus cave formations (carbon dioxide). After making the gases in the lab, they then learned the methods used to test for their presence – the glowing splint or the burning splint! Other labs included how the amount of surface area exposed affects the rate of weathering of substances (a delicious lab using sugar cubes and the mortar and pestle), the oxidation (rusting) of iron and its destruction, and the amount of mass lost after the action of acid (like acid rain) on marble chips. The students were surprised at the percentage of the marble that was weathered away – from 50% to 98%. In the final lab of the chapter, the students observed the effects of acid on limestone, marble and granite. Due to the fizzing as carbon dioxide gas was released from limestone and marble (both carbonates) and the lack of any effect on granite, the students concluded that granite is a more lasting building material.

The best lab of the marking period, according to the students, was the making of hydrogen gas – a very shocking experience for the ears when the burning splint was used to test for the

presence of the gas (in a very small amount)!

Mr. Pacelli
Algebra I – An Integrated Approach

Our accelerated Algebra I students are making great progress. We have made up for lost time due to Sandy and are back on schedule. Topics missed are being integrated into lessons as we go.

This marking period we have completed Chapter 5 and are getting ready for our chapter on graphing. We have also been doing Singapore Math word problems as well as problems having to do with coins, consecutive numbers and distance. Key lessons for each chapter have been posted on the Oak Hill website under my web page.

Mrs. Vacca
Grades 8 Explorations

"It's All About New Jersey!" Students meeting (3) times per week have chosen topics that will enhance the fourth grade curriculum's unit on New Jersey. Some of the topics are the Sandy Hook Lighthouse, the Molly Pitcher Hotel, the New Jersey Devil, the Mars Chocolate Headquarters and the Nabisco Company, Fort Hancock, Princeton University, Lucy the Elephant and the Atlantic City Pier, the 1st drive-in movie theater in Camden, Jenkinson's and the Twin Lights. Topics have been clearly researched in depth with visuals, music and information that fourth graders will be able to comprehend and then presented either through powerpoints on the iPad or computer. The eighth grade students will then present their projects to the (3) fourth grade classes.

Those exploration classes that meet once a week have just finished their projects and are now starting to present to the class. These historical landmarks around the world were very interesting to learn about as students traveled the globe identifying these magnificent wonders both natural and man-made.

Dr. Kuyat
Grades 7 & 8 Latin

In seventh grade Latin we continued to work on Latin sentence structure. We now are able to translate and compose sentences with singular and plural subjects and verbs, direct objects and infinitives. In addition we learned that adjectives in Latin must agree with the nouns they modify in their use, gender, and number. We are beginning our study of Greek and Roman mythology. There

were two tests during this marking period and four vocabulary quizzes.

In eighth grade Latin, we completed all tenses for Latin verbs and moved on to the crazy world of Latin pronouns. We learned all forms for demonstratives (this and that, these and those), personal pronouns, reflexive pronouns, and possessive adjectives. We are continuing our work at solidifying our abilities to apply all the many concepts and forms we have learned into the translation of Latin sentences, while continuing to practice Latin composition as well. We have begun looking at the story of Odysseus, after which we will begin reading the story of Aeneas and his journey to find a new homeland. During our readings we will look at what goes into designing memorials (Aeneas sees one built for the Trojan War) and the current trends in the number of displaced persons in our world today (Aeneas is a refugee). In Latin, we will be beginning the *Ecce Romani II* text.

Mme Simon
Upper School French

In seventh grade, we learned the placement of adjectives and the students learned about the BAGS which are the adjectives placed before the noun. Then, we studied the clothing and food themes. Now we will study a text about two teenagers traveling to France and planning their activities. The students will present their dialogs in front of the class.

Remember to take a look at my website for information regarding the material that we are learning. This website allows me to update power point presentations, YouTube files, Quizlets and EDUCREATION videos that I create in order to enhance the learning process and correct pronunciation. The website also lists the homework and the date of our quizzes.

Soon, we will play "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" to learn cultural material on France. Excellent work!

With the eighth grade, we studied the placement of the adjectives, and possessive adjectives. Regarding vocabulary, we studied "la technologie" and "la classe de Madame Bardot va à Paris," a text regarding a class trip to France.

We now have started to review important grammar rules that are used in every day conversation. Our next project is to listen to conversation (auditory comprehension) and to focus on listening comprehension.

Remember to look at my "Weebly" website:

<http://ohamadamesimon.weebly.com>

This site is updated on a weekly basis with material such as power point presentation, grammar links, Quizlets and date of our upcoming quiz

Signora Dotto – Grade 8 Italian

In the eighth grade we have covered definite articles, plural formation of nouns, the time, how to change civilian time to military time, the conjugation of over 25 regular ARE verbs and a lot of vocabulary. We completed the regions and capoluoghi on Northern Italy and at the present time we are in the process of learning central and southern regions with according capoluoghi. All this material is presented with power point, videos, audio and by logging to my sites Quizlet and Weebly.

Mr. Rosenfeld/Mrs. Bordiuk Upper School PE

The seventh graders and fifth graders will be starting Health Education for the third marking period. Health Ed. replaces Phys. Ed. and swim for the whole marking period.

The sixth and eighth grade will continue with Phys. Ed./Swim for the third marking period. The sixth and eighth grades will swim EVERY week for the next 3 weeks until the Holiday break.

Physical Education classes will be starting the Basketball unit along with regular Phys. Ed. games. Swim skills will be evaluated before the Holiday break.

Swim will stop on December 20th and will resume in March 2013. January and February will only be Physical Education or Health depending on the grade.

Mrs. Grier/Library

As the second marking period comes to an end, the children are in full swing using the gifts that the library offers to them. The lower classes continue to explore the various authors and titles of books as well as fiction and non fiction selections. The third and fourth graders continue to define the Dewey decimal system and are encouraged to practice finding such selections on our shelves. As they move through the lower years, the student should be confident in their search of books they will need to research specific topics given in their classes. To date, OHA children have borrowed over 33,000 books. Now that's special!

Mrs. Griller/Computer

Look around the school and in the computer room to see the many wonderful computer projects created by the OHA students. The first grade made stick puppets and coloring books using Kid Pix. In second grade, they created graphic webs using Internet research and Kidspiration. In third grade the students have been taking typing lessons to learn how to use the right fingering on the keyboard. The fourth grade students presented their Power Point presentations about themselves and practiced touch typing. The fifth graders drew an outside picture of a house using Microsoft Word draw tools. Sixth graders learned how to create charts for spreadsheet data in Excel and ran a lemonade stand business. Then they tracked, charted and summarized their business into a portfolio. In seventh grade they made banners reflecting good character education traits and in eighth grade they developed a website. During this marking period we discussed cyber safety in all classes.

Mrs. Tyma/Music

During this Thanksgiving season, the students in music classes enjoyed songs, dances, books and poems that reflect the season. The Kindergarten, first and second graders have listened to Native American music played on an authentic woodland flute and accompanied the playing on a drum made by the Taos tribe in New Mexico.

The Kindergarten classes love to dramatize songs. We've produced scenes about turkeys and ducks, Native American Indians, and Pilgrims. In the fun we experienced high and low voices/sounds, phrasing, and rhythm patterns.

The first graders identified long and short notes in a Georgia Sea Island song about harvesting root crops. We looked at a variety of fresh root crops from a local produce store (rutabaga, parsnip, turnip, sweet potato, etc.), talked about the science of their growth, and then created new lyrics to describe these crops in a way that fit the rhythm patterns in the song. Also, a Sioux Indian lullaby was learned with an accompaniment on the barred instruments that emphasized the concept of beat versus rhythm. As an introduction to sign language, we learned to sign some of the words to one of our favorite Thanksgiving songs.

In second grade, we learned the *Bear Dance* of the Ute Indians and danced it to recordings of authentic Ute tribal music. We created an unpitched percussion orchestration for a poem to serve as our B section for a song about pumpkin pie. The song challenged our musicianship skills with its three-part instrument accompaniment. In addition, we built upon the sign language skills learned in first grade with a new Thanksgiving song.

The third and fourth grade classes enjoyed the Shaker song *Simple Gifts* while working on choral singing skills and their recognition of chord changes in the harmony. The third graders listened to Aaron Copland's "Variations on Simple Gifts" from his ballet *Appalachian Spring* and discovered the ways Copland uses timbre, tempo, and dynamics in this movement. Activities highlighting meter were enjoyed when we created our own lummi stick patterns in the way that children of the Chippewa tribe did years ago. The fourth graders extended their understanding of harmony when they learned a barred instrument accompaniment for *Simple Gifts*. We learned a new note on the recorder so that we could add a descant to this song.

In the fifth grade classes we brushed up on our recorder skills to play a song from the Caribbean Islands in calypso style. We are continuing to work on the barred instrument and drum parts which are complex syncopated rhythms. It is a delightful challenge for our listening and performance skills. In addition, we learned new notes on recorder so that we could enjoy a lovely Sioux lullaby as the Native Americans would have on their flutes. We had first experienced this lullaby as Lower School students, but now we were able to play the barred instrument accompaniment and to work on playing musically.

The sixth graders have finished their first composition by Carl Orff for the barred instruments. It is a very complex canon (like a round) that stretched our musicianship and listening skills as well as reinforcing our understanding of sixteenth note rhythm patterns and intervallic relationships in a pentatonic scale. The students were very surprised to see the complexity of the music score once we had learned it (entirely by ear). After reading Jane Yolen's poetry in her book *Harvest Home*, we are improvising melodies in various tonalities based on the compound meter rhythms used in the poem.

The Chorus and Oak Hill Players performed during the Veterans' Day Assembly on November 29th. I appreciate their hard work and how professional they were in their approach to the performance. We welcomed back an alumna, Christine Meisenhelter, who accompanied the Chorus on bass guitar and performed a guitar solo to honor the veterans in attendance. Thanks to Mrs. Momyer for her work as our piano accompanist for the Chorus.

Miss DiMaggio/Art

1st grade – using the pinch method made their first ceramic pot. They also made a bouquet of flowers with watercolor and traced their hands on construction paper to replicate the artwork of Pablo Picasso's "Bouquet of Flowers."

2nd grade – using pieces of construction paper, students made a ripped paper collage. They also had the opportunity to make anything they wanted in ceramics.

3rd grade – using their prior weaving knowledge the students wove a paper blanket for a furry friend in the project "Tuck Me in Weaving."

4th grade – using the slab method the fourth graders made a ceramic slab dish. They also finished up their "Fun Things to Do Instead of Drugs" art contest. We hope to hear back soon about some winners.

5th grade – using yarn and chopsticks the class learned a special weaving technique and made a Mexican inspired "Gods Eye." They studied American artist Jackson Pollock and splatter painted. They also studied Georgia O'Keefe and drew an abstract enlarged flower with oil pastels. They entered an art contest about saving energy and recycling. They also carved linoleum blocks and are currently working on their prints.

6th grade – studied artist Henry Rousseau and drew overlapping jungles with watercolor pencils. Using the slab method they made a ceramic clay vessel. They also studied artist Chuck Close and using the Ipad drew Funny Face Self Portraits using the grid method of drawing.

7th grade – tie dyed t-shirts and created their names using a monochromatic color scheme using a variety of mediums.

8th grade- used sculpey clay to make their choice of a covered pen or beads. They also chose a picture that they had distorted or focused on a portion of the picture and drew what they saw, coloring

with colored pencils in our Instagram projects.

Upcoming Art Contest – the 2013 International Aviation Art Contest "My Favorite Air Sport." Paper size-11-3/4" x 16.5", colored pencils, watercolor, markers, crayons and pens are permitted. Any students not currently in art come see Miss DiMaggio for details. Deadline for finished work is Jan 17, 2013.

Mrs. DeVivo/Drama

In Kindergarten we continued working on pantomime and good audience skills. We also read a variety of *Aesop's Fables* such as "The Boy Who Cried Wolf," "The Ants and the Grasshopper," and so many more. After acting out each fable, we discussed how the lessons in these stories teach us about having good character. In the weeks leading up to Halloween we played drama games such as *Witch's Brew*. They each pantomimed an object that could be found in the witch's cauldron and the audience guessed what it was. There were frogs, worms and many other gross items! Recently we read and re-enacted "Caps for Sale."

First graders made animal masks and when they were complete they acted out a story about animals that escape from the zoo and experience many wonderful adventures. They also enjoyed a variety of Halloween drama games such as *Witch's Brew*. The students also performed a Halloween themed reader's theater script based on the story, "The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything."

In second grade, the students also took part in some Halloween activities. The students recently finished reading a play entitled, "A Native American Welcome," which tells the story of how Squanto helped the Pilgrims when they first arrived in America. The students also learned to play the *peach stone game*. It is a traditional game played by the Native Americans at their Green Corn Festival and they taught it to the Pilgrims on the first Thanksgiving.

The students read quite a few plays in third grade. First, they read a Halloween play entitled "The Ugly Pumpkin." This play deals with the theme of acceptance. In the end, we found out that the ugly pumpkin was really not ugly at all, just different. He was a squash! The students also had fun playing a new drama game called Press Conference. We also read a play entitled, "Squanto's Home" and learned what it was like when

the Pilgrims came to America from the Native American's perspective.

Fourth grade students completed their costume and set designs for "CSI: Mother Goose Land," and they look great! Around Halloween, the students enjoyed working in groups and making costumes out of newspaper. The students also had a brief lesson in Charlie Chaplin and the silent movie era. They had fun devising and performing silent (pantomime) skits to music. We also read a Thanksgiving play entitled "Fish Heads and Snake Skins" which focused on the Pilgrim's very first days in America and the origin of the Mayflower Compact.

Seventh grade students are getting to be very good improvisation actors. They performed a variety of original skits and scripts for their modern versions of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". We've just embarked into the vaudeville and silent movie era. We will be watching some Marx Brothers, Abbott and Costello, and Charlie Chaplin clips. Then the students will create their own silent skits.

The eighth grade students are working in groups and just completed writing original plays. Now, they are staging and costuming these pieces and will present them to some of the lower school classes in the weeks to come.

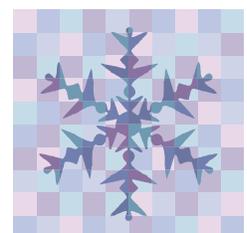
DRAMA CLUBS

The **Forensics** festival at Rumson Country Day School has been postponed to January. Exact date TBA. We will continue to rehearse on Thursdays from 2:20-3:00 in the Drama Room.

Fourth Grade Acting Ensemble has been hard at work rehearsing their play "Goldilocks and the Christmas Elves." They have also learned a variety of new improvisation games. Date of performance TBA.

Tiny Dancers continues to work on excerpts from "The Nutcracker." Date of sharing TBA.

Auditions for the **Upper School Play** are just around the corner. Details to follow soon!!!



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

Student Council welcomes our Homeroom Representatives for grades 5-7. These students are randomly selected as liaisons to inform their homerooms as to what transpires during student council meetings. They are an integral part of the student council as they can also bring feedback from their homerooms to the meetings.

November's Dress Down Day on the 15th was for The American Red Cross, its local relief for Hurricane Sandy. Thanks to everyone who made an extra donation as we were able to send them a total contribution of \$1,218.50.

Starting on Monday, December 3rd, we will once again have our **Mitten Tree and Food Collection** which will go to the December 7. The tree will be set up in the upper school hallway where students may adorn the tree with new mittens and scarves and hats. Non-perishable food items will be collected on the stage in the gym. A flyer will also be coming home making requests from each grade level as to gifts that we will be collecting for various organizations. Remember to remember those who are less fortunate than us especially at this upcoming holiday season. Everything is always appreciated!

Student Council will hold their **Winter Wonderland Dance** for 7th and 8th grade students on Friday, December 7th from 7:30-10 pm. \$6 admission and pizza will again be served. Please remember to wear sneakers or other soft soled shoes.

I am pleased and thankful for all the purchases made through Innisbrook this fall. We made a profit of \$1,251.84, which goes back to the school to help fund the rides on Littleton Day, dances, and year-end gifts.

Please remember that you can shop at www.innisbrook.com all year long and Oak Hill Academy will make a 50% profit. Click on GO to: SHOP, our school #105201, place your order and the items will be shipped directly to your home.

Happy Holidays!!!!

ATHLETICS

Fall Athletics

Boys Soccer - Mr. Misson's team finished the season with an 8-4-1 record. The team was seeded ninth in the playoffs and lost to a tough Union Beach team (#8) team. The following 8th graders will be missed: Nick Hempstead, Matthew Misson, Paul Ramsey and Jack Wilt

Girls Soccer - Mr. Bruckmann's team finished the season with an 8-2-1 record! Quite a turnaround from last year's 2-11-1 season!! The team qualified for the playoffs as the #3 seed, but lost to a talented Eatontown squad (#14). The following 8th graders will be missed: Brittney Barrone, Sofia DiAntonio, Ghillian Ferraiola, Josie Larkins, Maddie Ryder, Katie Spencer, Sarah Zylka

Intramural Tennis - Mrs. Hunter's group finished up tennis three weeks ago. The students in grades 5-8 had six weeks of doubles play.

Cross Country - Mrs. Gilfillan, assisted by Mrs. Scheuer, had a large group of runners all year. The team improved throughout the season, besting their times at practices. Unfortunately, the culminating meet, The Run for the Roses, was cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy.

Winter Athletics

Boys Varsity Basketball - Mr. Bruckmann's team opened their season with a win over Eisenhower 38-33 on November 30th! The season continues with games the week of December 3rd. Please check the website for schedules and updates!

Girls Varsity Basketball - Mrs. Porzio is getting her team ready for their opening game on December 6th vs. Little Silver, home at 3:45. The girls have been working hard in preparation for their season. A number of the JV players from last year have joined the varsity team this year.

Girls JV Basketball - Mrs. Scheuer has a nice turnout for the JV team this year. These 5th and 6th grade girls have been working hard to improve their fundamentals. While the schedule is not complete yet, the first game will be later on in December.

Cheerleading - Mrs. Wood has been working hard with the largest number of girls that we've ever had on the squad! They will be leading the cheers at our home games.

Scorekeeping - If you'd like to learn to control the basketball scoreboard and keep score, please see Miss Murray!

Boy's JV Basketball - Mr. Misson's 5th and 6th grade boys opened the season with a 36-30 win over a tough Eisenhower team! They have been working hard and are eager to get the season going! The schedules will be out shortly.

Swim Team - Mrs. Schwartz and Mrs. Bordiuk have started their practices. The first meet of the season (there will be six) will be held on January 9th vs. Neptune. The season will conclude with the Ranney Invitational Meet at the end of February.