

OAK HILL ACADEMY May 2013 Newsletter #5

Headmaster's Message Joseph A. Pacelli

Visual Literacy

Steve Berer of Museum Exploration Partners wrote a recent newsletter on Visual Literacy. Mr. Berer states, "The psychological research is definitive in showing what many of us know from experience: the more we have our students document their ideas, the better they will remember what they've seen, read, and done. Traditionally students 'document' their ideas by writing. That means taking notes; producing essays, stories, research papers; creating charts and tables; drawing; doing homework." But the modern classroom also opens the door to new documentary methods such as powerpoint, slideshows, and visual active presentations. And finally, learning is reinforced more deeply when students present their findings to others.

At Oak Hill Academy we emphasize that our children be active participants in their own education. The more they use their presentation skills, the more deep seeded their learning will become. Our recent "Arts Celebration" was a wonderful example of how our students learn by not only performing, but also by viewing and listening. Our world is rich in literature, the arts, and places to see, so I encourage all to use all of our senses to experience a richer life.



Mrs. Larkins
Director of Development

Grandparent/Special Relative Day

Our annual Grandparent/Special Relative Day will be held on **Thursday, May 16 (Grades PreK and 5-8) and Friday, May 17 (Grades K-4)**. Teachers have already started making arrangements for some creative and fun activities. **In order to accommodate the large number of guests, the program will once again be divided into two days according to grade.** Visitors will gather for refreshments in the Scire Student Activities Center at 8:30am and will be treated by a performance by Mrs. Tyma's school chorus and Oak Hill players. Then they will be welcomed by Mr. Pacelli. Next, they will visit student classrooms at 9:45. All guests are free to visit the Upper School science fair after their classroom visits. Visitors with students in multiple grades are encouraged to change classes during their assigned visit times.

Any guest with special parking needs should contact the school office. **Umbrellas are recommended in case of inclement weather.**

An invitation and reply form has been sent home and was mailed to those grandparents who have previously attended.

"Eat, Drink, and Party Chic Cash Raffle"

Our "Eat, Drink, and Party Chic" fund raiser including the Cash Raffle, Gala & Auction, and Ad Journal turned out to be a fantastic event that resulted in **651 raffle tickets being sold**. This relates to **\$16,275** being raised for educational technology and improvements of our campus. All of the current families, alumni families, and OHA friends who participated in the raffle were an important element to our success.

And the lucky winners were....

1st Prize \$11,392.50
Mrs. Kim Corrigan
(OHA students Mae & Miller, Grade 8, and Owen '12)

2nd Prize \$ 3,255.00
Mr. Stanley Pietrowicz
(OHA student Kara, Grade 4)

3rd Prize \$ 1,627.50
Mrs. Michele Corvisiero
(OHA student Christian, Grade 8)
Generously donated back to OHA's Music Department

Incentive Prize
The Servilla Family
(OHA students Brett, Grade 4 and Dylan, Grade 6)

The entire Parent Organization, especially chair people Mrs. Crystal Campitiello and Mrs. Joan Orlick and their committee, deserves our highest praise and our sincerest thanks for running an outstanding gala and auction. Their tireless work culminated in an evening filled with fabulous prizes, fine dining and dancing, along with many friendly faces.

The Program/Ad Journal was another attractive and high quality booklet this year that grossed nearly **\$9,000**. Many thanks to Mrs. Donna McShane and Mrs. Anna Giunta for their hard work.

Finally, I would like to personally thank **every person who participated** in the raffle, ad journal, and gala in any way. Whether you stuffed an envelope, sold a raffle ticket, donated a gift or service, decorated a prize, placed an ad, etc., you helped OHA party in style and pave the way for an even better future for our students!

Miss Murray Director of Personnel/Administration

Oak Hill Academy Celebrates with the BlueClaws!!

On Monday, May 6th, 612 Oak Hill Academy faithful attend a Lakewood BlueClaws game to celebrate another successful school year! Prior to the start of the game, we had a wonderful parade on the field! Mr. Pacelli, Miss Murray and the Mighty Oak mascot (Zachary Basile) led the parade. Each grade marched behind banners created by Miss DiMaggio, Mrs. Griller and the students. After the parade, four of our students had an opportunity of a lifetime to throw out the "first pitch!" Congrats to 4th grader Ryan Peduto, 3rd grader Ty Feiler, Kindergarten Cameron Feiler and 5th grader Morgan Feiler! They all threw strikes! Next up, was Mrs. Tyma and her chorus singing the National Anthem. The chorus sang beautifully and made all of us at OHA so proud!

Thank you to Miss Murray, Mrs. Hans and Mr. Bruckmann for organizing a great evening of fun!

Red & White Day

On Saturday, May 4th, all of our new students were invited to get acquainted with each other. Games were played in the morning and concluded with donuts and juice. Each student received a red

or white t-shirt. Our current students volunteered to help out that day.

Incoming parents were invited to stay for a coffee hosted by the Parent Organization in the Commons. They were able to meet new parents, as well as current parents.

Field Day

On Friday, May 24th, students in grades K-7 will have their annual Field Day. Mrs. Reago, Mrs. Bordiuk and Mr. Rosenfeld will be sending home details.

Class Trips

The Upper School has been on some fascinating trips, with still some more to come!

Grade 5

10/1 Tuckerton Seaport
5/7 Liberty Science Center

Grade 6

10/25 IPS Games at Arrowhead
5/29 U. Penn Museum
6/3 Intrepid

Grade 7

10/16 Low Ropes/Climbing Wall at Arrowhead
4/19 Franklin Institute
6/3 Intrepid

Grade 8

12/4 Amish Country, Lancaster, PA
4/16 Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg, NJ
5/30 Canoe in Pine Barrens

Mr. Bruckmann

Web Page Updates

1. Oak Hill Academy is now on FACEBOOK!!

Check it out for updates, photos, videos and more . . .

"Like" us at: [Oak Hill Academy on Facebook](#) or see the link at the top of our website.

2. See the "[Experiences](#)" link for recent videos, picture montages and more.

Mrs. Livingston

Lower School Guidance

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

Gr.1 - The Enormous Potato by Aubrey Davis is a humorous folk tale that focuses on the spirit of co-operation. In this story, a farmer plants a potato that grows bigger and bigger. He cannot pull it out of the ground himself so he calls for the help of his wife, who calls for the help

of their daughter, who calls the dog, who calls the cat, who calls the mouse. Success at last! Through our discussion of the story, the children came to the conclusion that it is much easier and more fun if we work together to accomplish something that we cannot do on our own.

Gr. 2 - Chester's Way by Kevin Henkes is the story of two friends Chester and Wilson, who do everything alike. Lilly, who is as different from them as can be, moves into their neighborhood. They refuse to play with her until one day when she comes to the rescue as bullies are trying to frighten Chester and Wilson. The twosome soon becomes a threesome as Wilson and Chester learn the advantages of accepting friends who are not 'exactly like themselves.'

Gr. 3 - The rewards of honesty are many. The children learned through the story The Empty Pot, that sometimes our honesty is being tested in the most unlikely ways. Discuss this story with your child to see how the Emperor knew that Ping was honest and find out what Ping's reward was.

Gr. 4 - "The Fiery Tale" from the collection Rhinos and Raspberries is a Chinese tale of true beauty. Through the reading of this story, we learn that true beauty is not in what we wear or how we look, but it is the way we treat others around us. Like Little Peacock, a character in the story, each of us also has the gift to make a difference in the lives of others.

Mrs. Weikes, Director

Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Grobelny Pre-Kindergarten

Spring has finally arrived at Oak Hill Academy, along with some beautiful weather. Pre-K students enjoy playing outdoors and exploring the beautiful campus. The arrival of spring also provides us with the opportunity to enjoy exciting lessons and activities about insects, life-cycles, and baby animals. Our classroom habitat of butterflies will soon emerge from their chrysalis and will be released a few days later. This event will be followed by our inspiring chick hatching project. Mrs. Wood's classroom greenhouse offers students many opportunities to observe living things and the many changes that take place. Developing an understanding of what all living things need to grow and thrive is a big part of our Pre-K curriculum.

Students are busy completing "top secret" projects for May Day, Mother's Day, and Grandparents Day. Pre-K will play host to their Moms in early May when they plant flowers around the perimeter of the Center, and enjoy an outdoor picnic complete with a tribute to our wonderful moms. After attending this year's May Day performance by our Kindergarten, Pre-K students delivered their handmade May Day baskets to faculty and staff across the campus.

Our school wide character trait for April was "cooperation" in the classroom, working on projects, and outdoors. Our "Pre-K Circus" planned for May 22nd in the Scire Activity Center will be host to family, students and staff. The program will reflect the effort and teamwork of our Pre-K working together to learn the music and circus acts.

The Letter People continue to excite and motivate students to master their consonants, vowels and offers support to our Little Treasures Language Arts curriculum. Mr. Q has unending questions and Ms. U has an upside down umbrella and Mr. L has the longest laugh. To review the alphabet, a Letter People Parade will be held on campus with students dressing as their favorite Letter People characters.

Singapore Math lessons during April included graphing weather, daily calendar activity, coins, geometric shapes and recognition and of numbers and objects 1 through 10. Our classroom IPADS provide us with additional reinforcement and practice following the introduction of every new lesson. Individual assessments, group lessons, and one on one meetings with the teacher confirms that our Pre-K students have greatly benefited from the addition of Singapore Math to our Pre-K curriculum.

The school year may be winding down; however things in the Pre-K are still going strong. Just like spring, our Pre-K students continue to blossom. Their social, emotional and academic growth has been amazing. We are looking forward to upcoming events in May and to getting together socially with family and staff. We hope that all of our Oak Hill Academy families enjoy a beautiful spring season.

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

March was an exciting month in Kindergarten as is every month! In March we visited Huber Woods to participate in a snake program. In our Writing to Read Program one of our cycle words is "snake." Our field trip to Huber Woods was very informative. We learned lots of cool facts about snakes that live in Monmouth County. We even got to touch some and see the snake skins that were shed.

March is also Lip Synch month. This year the boys sang and danced to "Men in Black" and the girls sang and danced to Katy Perry's "Hot and Cold." They did a fabulous job. Thanks to all of our wonderful parents who helped with the choreography and costumes. Congratulations to everyone involved. We have some budding superstars here at Oak Hill Academy!

Spring has finally arrived. We celebrated this with our annual Maypole Dance. This was Oak Hill Academy's 20th Annual Maypole Dance. Special thanks to Mrs. Schwartz for bringing this beautiful tradition to our school! The children worked very hard and it certainly paid off. They did a spectacular job for the entire school and many parents and friends who came to watch. We would also like to thank Mrs. Tyma and the Maypole chorus for the beautiful job they did singing. A fun day was had by all!

We are now preparing to honor our Mothers with a Mother's Day Tea. There will be more about that in our next newsletter. We wouldn't want to give away the beautiful program and treats they are preparing for their wonderful Mothers!!!

We continue to work hard in Math with number bonds, an important skill the children will use again in first grade. The children are also reading, reading, reading. What a great job they all are doing. Boy, is it a lot of work. But they are certainly doing their best. Congratulations for all your efforts boys and girls! Job well done! Keep it up!!

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

Our first grade students have been going to Kateri Environmental Center for many years. Since 1979, it has provided unique educational opportunities for children of all ages. The goal of the Center is for children to gain respect for all living things through fun, hands-on, outdoor experiences. In their 260-acre outdoor classroom of woodland, wetland, field and stream, our children delight in the wonders of nature while learning important principles of science and nature. The Kateri teachers, led by beloved Miss Pat, are loving, caring and extremely experienced teachers. Even though it rained on our last class trip on April 12, Miss Pat offered a wonderful program about our 5 Senses. The children really enjoyed the games, activities and lessons---indoors.

In our National Geographic unit this month, we read and studied how animal babies resemble their parents. They share the same traits and characteristics as their parents from a very early age. We read about lemurs, bobcats, birds and alligators. Did you know that a baby alligator is called a hatchling? We then read about the different parts of a plant. We labeled a beautiful diagram of a sunflower---leaves, roots, stem and flower. Also, we read about seahorses and how they use their body parts to survive. Again, we enjoyed labeling the seahorse---tail, snout, eye and fin.

As we continue our Singapore Math program we are excited to learn how to use multiplication to find the answer to the total number of items placed within equal groups. We then introduced the concept of division as both a method for sharing a given number of items equally and for finding the number of equal groups formed with a given number of items.

We look forward to meeting all our grandparents and special relatives on May 17 !!!!

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

With the arrival of spring there has been a flurry of activity in second grade. We have spent a great deal of time working hard preparing for and then finally taking the ERB tests. We are so proud of the wonderful effort that the children have demonstrated while taking the tests.

Our writing skills have been in full bloom this season. We have been busy sprouting poetry and writing stories about spring. The children have shown much improvement in their writing skills.

In Singapore math our second graders are excited about learning many new concepts such as the mental addition and subtraction of numbers to one hundred, arrays, and the multiplication and division facts for the 3 and 4 tables. In our future units we'll be counting and writing money amounts to \$20, and reading, comparing and ordering fractions. Please continue to practice the math facts daily, especially the subtraction, multiplication, and division facts.

Just recently Oak Hill Academy partnered with Verizon in a "Verizon Green Contest." This contest focused on "What Green Means to You." A team from Verizon worked with our second graders giving a Green Presentation, explained how to use the Verizon tablets, and did an interactive lesson with each class. The children drew a picture on the tablet depicting what "Green" means to them. One school will be selected as the overall winner based on their drawing submissions.

We look forward to Grandparents' Day so that we may invite our grandparents into our classrooms to share many special activities, stories, and poems with them. It will be a fun and memorable day for all!

We wish all of our families a wonderful spring!

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

Earth Day, the recent meteor crash in Russia and keeping wild animals as pets are a few of the Scholastic News topics covered in this marking period. Using the "News," we also practiced reading skills like compare/contrast, active reading with text symbols, main idea and problem/solution.

In novel studies we just completed reading a Newberry Medal Award winning book, Sarah, Plain and Tall, by Patricia MacLachlan. Each class thoroughly enjoyed this beautifully written story. We are anxiously awaiting the presentations on this novel over the next week.

We are also pleased on how well the students are doing in handling the more challenging selections in Book Club.

In social studies we concluded our study of Samantha Learns a Lesson (1904) with students focusing on this era as the age of progress. They were introduced to the idea that even a good invention can have a bad side when they read about the character Nellie and her experience in a factory. For their final activity, students used the school laptops to find inventions dating from 1875 to 1925 which were then placed on a timeline of inventions. At home they researched a modern invention and presented it to the class.

We are looking forward to our field trips to Poricy Park (which had to be rescheduled due to Hurricane Sandy) on May 15 and 23. Please make sure your children have rain gear at school.

Continued practice of all the basic math facts will be beneficial to all our students.

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

In Language Arts, students finished their unit of study on paragraph development by applying their knowledge to create a well written research report on New Jersey. This was done by having random fact sheets about New Jersey in class that students reviewed. They then selected information that created a main idea for a paragraph. Each paragraph had to contain five or more appropriate supporting details and be closed with a sentence that either restated or commented on the main idea. This unit of study accompanied the Social Studies unit on New Jersey that Mrs. Tolleth taught. Students got to revisit their knowledge and see how to prepare and draft a research report, a very valuable tool for the future.

We then moved onto our next Writer's Workshop project of realistic fiction. We finished our review of what characteristics make up the genre of realistic fiction by studying some simple texts. Students then had to create characters for use in their stories. Using the character traits we gave our characters, we then set up scenarios that might make for an interesting story. We decided on a theme for our ideas which would help drive our story development. We are off and running producing some interesting drafts.

On April 10th, the fourth graders went to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. We had an awesome, beautiful, warm day. When we arrived we were greeted by Ranger Dave, a biologist, and a few adults from the organization called the Friends of the Swamp. We divided into four groups and walked on the boardwalks above the swamp and observed nature. Our guides showed us skunk cabbage, trees that have bark that sticks out and provides a place for bats to nest. We saw how land forms in the swamp. We saw turtles, snakes, frogs, geese, and birds. We saw a tiny turtle with bright green stripes. We spent almost two hours learning about this special protected place for wildlife. We did not see any big animals but were happy to know that all the creatures in the Great Swamp are safe. We had studied about the ancient Lake Passaic that is the bottom of the Great Swamp. We had a great trip, learning about this wonderful refuge and being outdoors in nature.

On April 29th, the fourth graders made our two four-foot New Jersey cakes. The baked counties came to school having been baked and cut out following the stencil at home. In the SAC, during our "Cake Day Event," the students each frosted their piece. The cake's 21 counties were frosted in five different colors and then each cake was put together like a giant four-foot puzzle. Then the students decorated as to the 'six faces' of New Jersey. The 'faces' are determined by their geographic features and how the land is used. The decorations consisted of chocolate cars, vegetables, fruits, and airplanes, Swedish fish, gummy bears and worms, sugary flowers, licorice, and Hershey kisses for the Kittatinnies, pretzel and gum drop trees, etc. We had a chocolate Governor's Mansion and, of course, a chocolate Oak Hill Academy complete with OHA lettered on the house. Our very diverse and beautiful state was well represented by our 4-foot replicas. Of course, we now know that our **New Jersey** was delicious, too. We each ate a piece.

We want to thank our Room Moms: Mrs. Basile, Mrs. Codispoti, Jordan Codispoti's grandmother, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Nappi, Mrs. Shallcross, and Mrs. Vogel, who helped on this day. They helped from weeks before to the culmination and Mrs. Tolleth so appreciated all their efforts. A special thank you goes to Mr. Misson, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Enderly and Mr. Maguire for all their help. We really appreciate you. Mrs. Tolleth wants to give a very **special thank you** for the New Jersey

book signed by all my fourth graders. It is awesome and I was touched by your thoughtfulness.

In English, we completed our unit on pronouns. We now understand when and how to use subject pronouns, object pronouns, and possessive pronouns. Our latest poetry form involved praises to our friends in the form of an Ode. We used the literary technique of metaphor to describe and pay tribute to our friends. We are looking forward to compiling all of our poetry into our own poetry books.

Our *Treasures* reading book has taken us from enjoying realistic fiction and fantasy stories to the non fiction topics of exploring undersea territories and wild horses. We have been practicing the skills of summarizing, making judgments, fact/opinion and cause/effect.

**Mrs. Cahalane
Lower School Science**

Students in PK have been learning about boats and buoyancy. We did many sinking and floating experiments in class and everyone took home a boat they made out of a milk carton! Kindergarteners have been learning about recycling. We ripped up scrap paper, blended it with water and made our own recycled paper bookmarks. First grade students completed a unit on animal classification and then color chemistry. Currently, we are experimenting with solids that dissolve in liquids. Second graders have been learning about plants and photosynthesis. I received a grant from The Herb Association of America and we are running an experiment that examines herb growth in the classroom compared to the greenhouse. Students in third grade completed a unit on sound and we are now studying astronomy. We received tomato seeds from the Canadian Space Agency and we are growing them in our greenhouse. Results from our experiment along with other schools across North America will benefit the upcoming Mars Mission! Students in fourth grade just completed a unit on biomes. After studying eight major biomes, all students created an imaginary creature that could live in a certain biome. I am always so impressed with our students' creativity!

Mrs. Reago/Mrs. Bordiuk
Lower School PE

This marking period we have been retesting for the Presidential Physical Fitness Awards. Anyone achieving a high degree of physical fitness will receive a National or Presidential Patch at the end of the year.

Our Jump Rope Unit was successful this year with the following students winning trophy awards:

Silver Trophy Award – Simar Arora,
Nicholas Troccoli, Charlotte Walsh and
Sydney Yan

During the last marking period, we will practice field day events. Field Day will be on Friday, May 24. Teams will be made up of students in grades K-3. Fourth grade will be placed on teams made up of students in grades 4-7. Each team tries to accumulate as many points as they can at each station. The top five teams are awarded ribbons. We need parents to help run the stations that day. Most of the parents who have helped in the past really enjoyed the day and we enjoyed having them. If you are interested please let the Parent Organization know.

All Presidential Fitness Awards and Field Day ribbons will be presented at the end of the year awards assembly in June.

The PE grades will be based on the student's physical fitness testing scores for the fifth marking period.

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

This year's class concludes with a unit on the journey and destiny of the Native American Indian and the Buffalo. Students have been watching video clips from United Streaming and a video about the Plains Indians and their way of life. The buffalo played a major role in the survival of the Indians as they depended upon them for food, clothing, shelter, and weapons/tools making. Students are learning about "*pictographs*" which was the Native American's form of picture writing through symbols. These pictures on animal skins (buffalo) were a way of recording history. Students have had the opportunity to examine a collection of arrow heads, and other items related to the Indians, such as a miniature tipi, canoes and drum. The emphasis of the importance of the buffalo has been stressed time and again and we are all grateful for two locations where the buffalo have been saved from extinction.

The Yellowstone National Park and the National Bison Refuge in Montana are both home to these 2,000 lb. brown, shaggy beasts. The Indian word for buffalo is "*tatanka*" and the students have been having fun saying this unfamiliar word. Students are enjoying decorating "*spirit shields*" and arrowheads while traveling back in time.

Mme Koar
Lower School French

The fun and learning continue in first grade French with our current theme of "le temps" (weather). We will play the "chaud/froid" game (hot/cold) as we search for the missing object in the classroom. The closer one gets to the missing object, the more the students will chant "chaud, chaud."

The second grade students are able to recognize numbers from 1-100. We practice our listening skills using the telephone game. The students hear the number in French and answer with "Allo!" when they hear their phone number spoken. We continue to practice our pronunciation through songs which can be found on the web page under my name.

The current theme in third grade is les parties du corps (body parts). We added sixteen new vocabulary words to our "dictionnaire" and learned a new song, "Comment ca va?" (How are you?) This song describes aches and pains "partout" (everywhere), even our hair hurts! You can view the video and listen to it on the web page, under "third grade."

Mme Simon
Grade 4 French

In the fourth grade, we just finished reading "Les 3 Ours" (Goldilocks and the Three Bears). The students have been very patient listening to their classmates read the book page by page, and the good news is that everybody benefited from the listening, and their pronunciation has improved tremendously. I will be editing the videos, and this will be transformed into a movie. Congratulations fourth graders.

We now have four pen pals in France of our age group. We are currently creating a booklet titled "Our Life in New Jersey." We will send this booklet to Matis and Clementine (twins) and Astrid and Constance (sisters). We are sharing information about where we live and we hope to get a packet about Brittany in exchange.

This week we are starting to learn about classroom items with a video that you can find on YouTube "Le sac à dos." The song has a very catchy tune, and the students love it!

Mrs. Scheuer
Upper School Advisor

I hope all of our families enjoyed a restful spring vacation. Upon our return to OHA, signs of spring are evident throughout our beautiful campus: lush, green grass, trees and flowers in bloom, birds singing and butterflies fluttering.

One right of passage, ringing in spring at OHA is Kindergarten Maypole - a breathtaking performance by some of OHA's youngest students. Special thanks to upper school students participating in Mrs. Tyma's Maypole chorus. This event is so near and dear to my heart as Kindergarten (BTW - everything you need to know, you truly learned in Kindergarten) was my first teaching assignment at OHA. In addition, I had the privilege of teaching these children last year in Pre-K. Many happy tears of pride and joy among parents and relatives and former teachers too!

Bravo to cast and crew participating in the OHA school play, ***Parents Just Don't Understand*** by Bryan Starchman. All skits were very funny, perfectly cast and brilliantly performed! Equally impressive was the OHA Performing and Fine Arts assembly. Congratulations to all students, Mrs. DeVivo, Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. Tyma and Miss DiMaggio for an amazing presentation.

The conclusion of the fifth marking period indicates we are on the cusp of exciting transitions; our eighth graders preparing for graduation and high school and our fourth graders heading to the Upper School. I am proud to report that eighth graders are putting the finishing touches on an amazing year, working very hard in the classroom and coordinating exciting trips and memorable events. Our fifth graders have been outstanding ambassadors to fourth graders visiting in the Upper School. Morning visitations continue through May 20th.

Our Character Counts initiative continues to be driven this year by current events. Once again, OHA student council identified a way to help Newtown, CT as well as those impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Through their research, Mrs. Vacca and council members discovered The Sandy Ground Project. In an effort to restore the storm damage to the east coast, 26 playgrounds will be constructed in memory of those children. These

playgrounds will provide a safe, fun place as well as a symbol of hope and recovery for all children. We raised \$974.34 towards this project.

The events in Boston have affected our school community. Students spoke of their fears and anxieties and we as a faculty, continue to do everything in our power to reassure and keep our students safe. Security is our highest priority. We have an exceptional security team and action plan(s) in place. Per Governor Christie and the Office of Homeland Security, all schools will continue to be tested, without notification, and with increased frequency. It is with student safety in mind that we once again request complete cooperation during drills and lock downs.

Finally, special thanks to students and OHAPO members that volunteered their time on Saturday, May 4th to assist at Red and White Day. We welcomed new students attending OHA next year by getting to know each other with fun and games in the gym. After a photo opportunity, students and teachers enjoyed continental breakfast together in the Commons. It was another opportunity to demonstrate what makes Oak Hill Academy extraordinary...our students, core values and an amazing home/school connection!

Mrs. O'Connor
Grade 5 Literature/LA

We now start our last marking period for fifth grade. When we begin our Big Test review, we will be amazed at how much we have learned.

Reading Unit 9 in our Literature Book, Words in Motion Poetry, will enable students to appreciate and enjoy many different kinds of poetry. We will demonstrate our ability to use verbs effectively when we write original poems. This is when our Writing Tips Folder word lists will come in handy!

The third period class will present the play, Banish the Books, on Grandparents/Special Relative Day.

Mrs. Daly/Mrs. Scheuer
Grade 5 Reading

The fifth graders have been working diligently on their comprehension skills. Through a variety of texts, students are tracking developmental strategies daily. Our textbooks provide for great discussions, as well. Topics have included Louis Braille, UFOs, Olympians, and sea creatures. Each unit focuses on specific skill reinforcements and allows

for extension activities, as well. Using the technology in our classroom, students have seen short videos and have examined our reading themes closely.

Fifth graders are entering the final marking period of our year together. We are beginning our last novel study, *The Borrowers*. This is a delightful story about small people who constantly take things from the homeowners. Many character themes are addressed in this perennial favorite.

Mrs. Matson
Grades 5 & 6 Geography

5th Grade

Fifth graders will finish their study of Europe in the last marking period. Students have received the map of all of Europe, and should work on mastering it. They may try the website: ilike2learn.com, to learn all of the countries, using the easy version of the Map of Europe. Note that each practice Map Quiz on ilike2learn.com does not cover all of the countries of Europe. As with the US Map Quiz, students have to take the test several times to cover all of the map.

6th Grade

The sixth grade is finishing their study of Asia, and will move on to the Western Hemisphere. They're looking forward to learning how to write their names in Mayan, and exploring the cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean. They will apply their knowledge of the Mayan Culture when they visit the Penn Museum of Archaeology on May 29th. They will also be going to the Intrepid.

Students will be responsible for the maps of the countries and land forms of North America. They should also review the maps of the United States and its capitals. The US states and capitals maps as well as the map of the countries of North America are all available on ilike2learn.com.

Mr. Bruckmann
Grade 5 Math

Chapter 7 was completed by the students' investigation of multiplying and dividing of fractions as well as using those skills to find circumference and sequencing. We have begun Chapter 8 through exploring ratios, proportions and percents and see their close relationship not only to each other, but to fractions and decimals as well. Students will then use this knowledge to convert between fractions, percents and decimals and concluded with finding the percents of

numbers. The students continue to build their knowledge in mathematics using previous lessons as the foundation for new concepts. Chapter 9 will bring with it some newer topics and a break from the last few chapters, and that will be with geometry. The students will look at different types of angles and used protractors and compasses to measure, construct and bisect angles of all types. They will also have to use their skills to draw lines of symmetry in dealing with all types of two-dimensional figures.

Mrs. Cotterell
Grades 5 – 8 Math

Grade 5 - Period 2

We covered three chapters this marking period! We began the marking period with the chapter on proportions and percents. We followed that with a chapter on basic geometry i.e. angles (drawing and measuring), polygon identification, symmetry and congruence of polygons. Finally, we completed the chapter on area of polygons, identification of 3 dimensional figures and calculating the volume and surface area of rectangular prisms.

The chapters were not long which allowed us to cover 3 chapters in a short period of time. However, in spite of the length of the chapters the subject matter is very important and will be supplemented over the next several years of mathematics.

We began our chapter on integers and will continue to work hard and reach our objective of completing the textbook by the end of the school year.

Grade 5 - Period 3

We completed Chapters 7 and 8 this marking period. Chapter 7 focused on multiplying and dividing fractions and Chapter 8 focused on rates, ratios and percents. Both chapters are critical in building the foundation for the students. Future math classes as well as standardized testing will require a firm understanding of the subject matter. This group of hardworking students did an excellent job on the assessments for both of these chapters.

Grade 6

We completed chapters 8-10 this marking period. The primary objective of Chapter 8 was for the students to understand percents and proportions and how the two concepts are connected. Angles, two dimensional figures and tessellations were the primary topics for Chapter 9. The students were introduced to some new concepts such as square roots and the Pythagorean Theorem in

Chapter 10. They readily understood the concepts and did a great job on their assessments. The end of the year will be very exciting since most of the topics we will cover are new to the students. Many of these concepts have great application to the "real" world also.

Grade 7

We essentially completed two chapters this marking period. Chapter 7 finished our study of fractions for the year. It was a very challenging chapter in that the students were required to solve and graph algebraic equations and inequalities with positive and negative rational numbers. This hard working group of students worked their way through the chapter even though the assignments at times were somewhat intense. Chapter 8 is a great chapter because of its applicability to the "real" world. The central theme to the chapter is proportions. The students were able to see how understanding what proportions represent and how setting them up properly allows them to complete an array of different problems. We will take the chapter 8 test in the last marking period and we plan to cover chapters 9 and 10 as well.

Grade 8

Yeah!!!! We are just about through with our chapter on slope, y-intercept, slope intercept form, simultaneous equations and graphing inequalities in slope intercept form. We took our time going through this chapter. These are key concepts for Algebra 1, so it is important that the students have a very good understanding of these. After several homework assignments, lots of work of the board and many class lectures, the students finally "get it!!" We will be moving on to some geometry related topics next including the Pythagorean Theorem and a little trigonometry.

Mrs. Schroeter **Grade 5 Science**

Fifth graders concluded the study of the cell by learning the organization of the human body into cells, tissues, organs, organ systems, and finally the entire organism. They also studied a brief summary of the systems of the body: skeletal, muscular, respiratory, circulatory, digestive, and nervous. Now the fifth grade scientists are learning each system in depth, beginning with the skeletal and muscular systems. Through the help of Bill Nye and "Nat Geo," the students were introduced to the structure of bones, muscles, the skeleton, and the connective tissues that people tear – tendons and ligaments. The construction of a very "colorful" skeleton and a lab on

voluntary and involuntary muscles concluded the study of these systems.

The next two systems to be covered will be the respiratory and nervous systems. Discussions of the Science Fair and possible projects for the students have also been of importance this marking period. The Science Fair projects are due on May 15th.

Mrs. Vacca **Grade 5**

Math Workshop

Students continue with their five minute warm-ups to earn those bonus points. The final project for this year is "**Party Planner.**" Students have been given the task of planning a party for 29 guests. First, students were given a shopping list of food/beverage and paper products that had to be purchased for the party. Prices had to be calculated along with quantities needed. A theme was then chosen and now the creativity comes into play. Students are working in groups with a project manager who is delegating jobs to be completed. This is a great teamwork project with real life math.

Grade 5 Tech

Students just completed a two day class on the history of Hot Air Balloons. They are now working independently on **New Jersey Firsts!** Students will research their topic and then put together a PowerPoint presentation on their firsts in New Jersey. A map of New Jersey locating where it all began along with other visuals are a must. Questions such as "Who invented it?" and "What time frame are we referring to?" and "How did your NJ First come about?" needed to be answered. Some topics that are being researched are: First Steam Locomotive, First Salt Water Taffy, First Cultivated Blueberries, First Miss America, First Drive-in Movie Theater, and the First condensed can of soup. Topics should be very interesting since they are all local discoveries right here in our home state.

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

During the fifth marking period, sixth graders began reading *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin. In this fun mystery, sixteen unlikely people are brought together and given the opportunity to become the heirs of the eccentric millionaire Sam Westing. The possible heirs must prove themselves worthy of Sam's millions by winning a tricky and maybe even dangerous game. This story keeps us guessing with each new clue and suspect as we eagerly read on.... to solve Mr. Westing's riddle.

The classes also flexed their creative muscles by writing a descriptive composition, using vivid detail and imagery that appeals to the five senses to transport the reader to a city, country, or beach scene. The students also wrote creative epilogues to the novel *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*. Grammar reviews of capitalization and mechanics supported our writing efforts and were also good practice for the ERB tests.

Mrs. Daly **Grade 6 Reading**

Sixth graders are enjoying our reading units as they practice skill development. Using our *Reading Drills* and *Signature Reading*, students have come face-to-face with new ways of thinking about the world. From learning about the *Kindertransport* trains during WWII to iron lungs and vaccines, classes have been reading nonfiction stories and using reading tools and strategies to enhance understanding.

We are starting our last novel together this year called *The Library Card*. Students find this short tale of four vignettes interesting and unusual. Classes have a variety of projects for our novel study, as well.

Mrs. Palamara **Grades 6 – 8 Math**

Grade 6 – Glencoe

This marking period focused on operations with fractions and then on integrating both measurements and geometry. We used fractions and mixed numbers to find perimeter and circumference. We learned to apply the associative, commutative, identity, distributive, and reciprocal properties of real numbers. We also practiced solving problems by eliminating possibilities. We explored ratios, proportions and percents. After a survey of ratios, rates and proportions we applied the concept of proportion to geometric figures and scale drawings. Percents were introduced as a kind of ratio and various problems were solved. We studied percents greater than 100% and less than 1%. We studied finding the percent of a number and explored the connection between percent and proportion.

Grade 7 – Gateways

Geometry is concerned with the size, shape and location of objects. This marking period focused on these various aspects of geometry. We discussed line and angle relationships, quadrilaterals, symmetry and transformations on the coordinate plane. We also used matrix

addition and multiplication to model translations, reflections and rotations.

We then began our studies in the language of algebra. This chapter introduced and reinforced many of the central ideas of the first part of the course. Topics were presented concretely, geometrically and abstractly. Our objective was to become comfortable with representing quantities with variables and to skillfully manipulate the variables. We solved inequalities and equations with absolute values, roots and exponents. The concept of a function was presented as a way of applying equations and relating them to formulas.

Algebra I

During this past marking period we focused on exponents and exponential functions. We formulated the rules of operation on powers and exponents that are central to their use in Algebra. We studied zero and negative exponents and learned to simplify expressions involving these exponents. We reviewed reading and writing numbers in scientific notation and then performed operations on these numbers. We also learned how to use the calculator to perform these operations and to write the result in scientific notation and decimal form.

Math-A-Thon

Congratulations to everyone who worked on the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Math-a-Thon. The 68 participating students raised \$7,183.00 to be donated to the hospital for research and patient care. Our gift will help the hospital's life saving work continue. The children at St. Jude receive their treatment without regard to race, religion or ability to pay.

I thank you and I am sure that the patients at St. Jude thank you for the generous amount you raised.

All students who participated will enjoy a dress down day in May.

Mrs. Billet Grades 6 & 7 Science

The sixth grade has been learning about living organisms and their characteristics. They use classification to organize living things into groups so that they are easier to study. We made fictitious organisms out of clay and gave them their scientific names. Please stop by Room 16 in the Soler Science Center to see the students' work. Viruses and bacterial cells are also on view.

In the seventh grade we are exploring the periodic table, the elements, and their

bonding. Chemical reactions will be examined and we will learn how to balance equations.

Mrs. Vacca Grade 6 Math Workshop

The current project is a time management one. Students formed groups, selected the location of their radio station, and are putting together a play list of songs and informative information such as weather, events and a public service announcement. Groups must follow the time schedule with three minutes of music and two minutes of information = a five minute presentation. Working together, coordinating music and info will be challenging, all within the five minute time frame. A chance to be a DJ for five minutes should be fun and entertaining for all.

Sra. Dotto Grades 6, 7 & 8 Spanish

The sixth graders have been working with the verb *gustar* (to like) to express their likes and dislikes together with indirect object pronouns. They have learned a good amount of vocabulary and expressions. All this was reinforced with games and by logging on to the website Quizlet for visual and auditory practice. In addition, students worked in groups on a dialogue. Each group presented their conversation in front of their classmates with great excitement and terrific pronunciation.

During this marking period the seventh grade students completed section 2 of Chapter 3 and have mastered the conjugation of the irregular verbs *to go*, *to do*, *to go out* and *to have*. Also, we have covered interrogative words, the weather, how to say what school items they have or need, and to talk about their school subjects and schedule.

Furthermore, the students memorized a dialogue, which they presented in front of the class with great enthusiasm and fantastic pronunciation. At this time we are in the process of learning common expressions with the verb *to have* and the culture of Costa Rica. All this has been reinforced with power point presentations, classroom interaction and by logging on to the websites Weebly, Quizlet, and Flashcard Machine for visual and auditory practice.

In Spanish, the eighth grade students have learned a great amount of vocabulary, identifying food items, talk about meals, take an order and make a polite request in a restaurant and comments on food. Furthermore, students

have learned the verbs *ayudar* (to help), *probar* (to try), *pedir* (to ask) *servir* (to serve) and are in the process to learn direct object pronouns. Finally, we worked in preparation for "El Cinco de Mayo" which was a tremendous success.

Mrs. Tirella Grade 7 LA/Literature

In Language Arts this marking period, we have just completed a unit on Capitalization and Punctuation. We have begun a unit on the various types of Pronouns which will benefit our essay writing for our literature units.

At this time, we have completed our Vocabulary Workshop textbook and will revisit the words again when we prepare for our June exam.

In Literature, we are beginning a new unit entitled: **Stories to Tell: Fiction**. We will focus on the Elements of Fiction and Fretag's Pyramid. We will also emphasize the literary devices of characterization, setting, plot, verbal irony, point of view, theme, and irony of situation through the stories that we read. We will investigate the "twist" or "surprise" ending in the various selections in the unit.

Mrs. Koar/Mrs. D'Amico Grade 7 Explorations

The students are completing their presentations on revolutions and moving on to their next topic, "Milestone Cases in Supreme Court History." We will research cases from 1803-1966. The students will be expected to research one of the cases from that time period and present their research to the class. They are encouraged to use both primary and secondary sources in the presentation.

Mrs. Williams Grade 8 Language Arts/Literature

In eighth grade Language Arts, students have continued their study of vocabulary, while concluding the grammar units: *Pronouns* and *Phrases*. In addition, students completed the research project. During the sixth marking period, students will continue vocabulary lessons and grammar lessons.

In Literature, students completed Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*. Furthermore, students began reading the novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. While reading, students took notes on the plot and characters. In addition, students worked in groups to evaluate and analyze the novel. In the sixth marking

period, students will complete this classic novel and watch the award winning movie.

Mrs. Daly
Grade 8 Critical Reading

The eighth graders are continuing to show mastery of reading comprehension skills. We are reading *Signature Reading* and focusing on explorers. Our unit of Jacques Cousteau ended with a short documentary on his life and his legacy. Students were amazed at some of the underwater footage shot around the world.

Students are continuing with news summaries. Classes have often found that there can be many differences of opinion when it comes to topics. Students have reported on app development, the use of surveillance cameras, world governments, outdated laws, and recycled orchestra equipment. Our last marking period focuses on the media as students practice skills.

Mrs. Mayer
Grades 7 & 8 History

The seventh grade has had a great marking period studying and analyzing our American Constitution. We have learned each Article and Amendment in detail, and have examined the numerous ways this "living document" has been put to the test through out history. The students truly enjoyed learning about Supreme Court cases and decisions that have changed the way Americans live in many ways. We are presently learning about the Presidencies of George Washington, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. The students love learning about the fierce battles that were fought over whether the Constitution should be strictly or loosely interpreted.

The eighth grade has been researching World War I, The Roaring 20's and the Great Depression this marking period. We are currently creating historical dialogues incorporating these monumental historical events. We are also continuing to work hard creating power point presentations on current events from our library visits. Students are truly honing all the skills necessary to meet and exceed all the goals required of them in high school.

Dr. Kuyat
Grades 7 & 8 Latin

In seventh grade Latin, we learned all forms for the imperfect tense and the imperative verb forms. We also learned the endings for all cases of Latin nouns for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Declension. We also learned about Roman slavery and the Roman household.

In eighth grade Latin, we learned the positive, comparative, and superlative forms of adverbs and adjectives. In addition, we discussed basic Latin conversations and the Roman calendar. We also continued our reading of the story of Aeneas.

Mrs. Schroeter
Grade 8 Science

This marking period the eighth grade completed the first chapter, "Earth Systems," in their new text, *Inside Earth*. The first lesson introduced a new ecological approach to the study of Earth Science. The four main parts of the Earth System that interact are the atmosphere (air), the geosphere (Earth), the hydrosphere (water), and the biosphere (life). All of these parts, or spheres, must be in balance. The labs performed by the students reinforced the concepts introduced. The next lesson introduced the interior of the Earth. In the main project of this lesson, the students constructed a scale model of Earth's interior (crust, mantle, outer core, and inner core) from four colors of clay. Some students cut out a quarter of their model so the layers were visible. Others stuck a straw into the model. The clay remained inside the straw and showed the interior of the model in its four vibrant colors with the correct thicknesses. The final lab demonstrated the differences in density of cold and hot water. This was also a very "colorful" lab! The eighth grade has now begun the study of minerals, presented with a chemistry approach in which the students are able to review and apply the chemistry learned last year. The class trip to the zinc mine in April should make the study of rocks and minerals more meaningful to the students.

Mr. Pacelli
Accelerated Algebra I

We have just finished the next to the last chapter in our book. We have studied rational expressions, proportional equations, and rate problems. Our students can now simplify, add/subtract, multiply/divide algebraic equations. Most of the topics are mostly found in an Algebra 2 program. Next comes

quadratics followed by some extra topics, time permitting.

Mrs. Larkins
Grade 8 Math Workshop

It was March Madness for the eighth grade this marking period as we entered into our college basketball project. We investigated the mathematics behind the process of a tournament and got to make our picks for the NCAA men's basketball tournament. We used this 64 team tournament to answer some questions on probability and statistics. Congratulations to Ryan Gilfillan and Amanda DeStefano for winning our in-school pool! Next, the students took on an alias and received their very own W-2 forms. With a new identify and income, they were required to file their own taxes. We examined how taxes are collected and spent by our government and then each student completed their own EZ tax form. It was an eye-opening experience for all of them!

Now it is on to the biggest (and usually favorite) project of the year...the fantasy baseball project. Let's play ball!

Mrs. Vacca
Grade 8 Explorations

Students just completed their individual projects as a travel planner for their families. Locations were chosen, and then flights, hotels, transportation, travel restrictions, and sightseeing options were researched. Some of the locations selected were: London, Japan, Hawaii, New Zealand, Machu Piccu in Peru, Ireland, Jerusalem, Barcelona, Spain, New Delhi, India, Sydney, Australia, Abu Dhabi, and even South Africa. Beautiful picture collages on the iPads, along with itineraries on the computer, made not only informative presentations, but also eye appealing to watch. We all learned so much about these spectacular places wishing our trips would become a reality!

Mme Simon
Upper School French

In the fifth grade, we have progressed at a very nice pace and have mastered the verb TO BE and about 15 ER verbs. With the mastery of these verbs, students can engage in a conversation regarding many topics, especially practicing a sport, singing, speaking, tasting, etc..... I also want to congratulate the new students on their hard work and the fact that they caught up with the rest of the class without prior knowledge of the French language. We use QUIZLETs to practice the vocabulary and auditory and create videos to study the material.

Remember that this material is posted on the WEEBLY.

This marking period, we will play games and have "iPad class" on occasions. Next, we will write a letter to Astrid and Constance (9 and 13 year old) who live in France and would love to communicate with the Oak Hill Academy students. I think it is a great opportunity to learn about the French culture through this program. BON TRAVAIL!

In seventh grade this marking period, we learned the placement of adjectives and some students made their own "Bags" presentation on Keynote or Power Point to explain which adjectives are placed before the noun. Then, we studied a text about two teenagers traveling to France and planning their activities. The students presented their dialogues in front of the class. This allowed us to learn more about the province of Brittany where I come from. We are now studying a text on Tahiti which is a French territory. The goal of this assignment is to learn new vocabulary and to also be accustomed to the culture of the people living in Tahiti. Soon, we will also have "iPad Day": the students will study the material with a game that I create on "Quizlet" to reinforce the material learned in class and to prepare for the quizzes

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, videos, YouTube files, Quizlets and date of our quizzes.
<http://ohamadamesimon.weebly.com>

We will play "Who wants to be a millionaire" to learn cultural material on France. FANTASTIQUE !

As a French teacher who strongly believes in teaching grammar and verbs in order to communicate, I am very happy because the eighth graders are mastering the skills of Passé Composé which is not such an easy tense in French (past tense). We have to learn the future tense, and we will be done with the grammar for this year.

We will spend the rest of the year focusing on conversing and using the vocabulary we know in dialogues. We will also learn the lyrics of a song that the students enjoy listening to called "Les Ricochets."

Congratulations on the "TOP 10 National" winners on the French National Exam. The exam is comprised of an auditory part, a grammar part and a written comprehension part.

The winners are (in order) Julia Pardee, Jasmine Chen, Jacob Yatvitskiy, Zoe Sucato and Sofia DiAntonio. Travis Schuhardt will also receive a certificate of commendation. EXCELLENT TRAVAIL!

Signora Dotto – Grade 8 - Italian

In Italian, the eighth grade students have learned a great amount of vocabulary, the present tense of regular "IRE" verbs, "IRE" verbs –isc- type like *capire* and *finire*, the irregular verbs *andare* (to go) and *venire* (to come), the adjectives *bello* and *buono* plus descriptive adjectives (aggettivi qualificativi). In the communicative side we talked about costumes and costume parties (Il Carnevale), expressed preferences, described people, places, things and finally places where we and others are going.

Mr. Rosenfeld/Mrs. Bordiuk Upper School PE

The eighth grade has just completed their marking period of Health Education. They are back to Physical Education and Swim for this sixth marking period along with the 5th, 6th and 7th grades. We have completed the spring Presidential Physical Fitness testing in order to record the results for each child. The award patches for the Physical Fitness testing will be given out in June. We would now like to start a unit of Lacrosse with the upper school along with Kickball and Softball and Ultimate Frisbee. We would like to get outside as much as possible now that the nice weather is here.

Field Day for grades K through 7 will be held on Friday May 24, 2013. The students will get more information in the coming weeks.

Mrs. Griller/Computer

In first grade the students made fun art projects, flying fish and stick puppets, using Kidpix.

The second grade students used Internet research and Kidspiration to create graphic webs on a science or geography topic.

The third graders used Kidspiration to create a five fact chart about what makes someone a good person; they showed good character traits. They also created a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting two books that they have read using Kidspiration.

Fourth graders presented PowerPoint presentations about themselves that

included information, pictures, animations, transitions and slide timings.

In fifth grade they used the Microsoft Word draw tools and features to create a picture of a house.

The sixth grade classes ran a lemonade stand using an online math game and tracked their business results in Microsoft Excel. They then created several charts that show their results and put together a business portfolio.

Expanding on the features of Microsoft Publisher, the seventh grade created holiday cards for teachers and character education banners with their original sayings.

In eighth grade the students completed and presented websites that they created.

All students in grades three through eight have continued to practice their touch typing.

Mrs. Tyma/Music

Our spring classes began with a St. Patrick's Day celebration. We listened to music of the Irish groups *DeDanaan* and *The Chieftains* and identified the sounds of the tin (penny) whistle, the bodhran (Irish drum), Celtic harp, uilleann pipes (Irish bagpipes) and accordion.

In Kindergarten, we read a story about St. Patrick's Day festivities in Ireland and danced a jig to an Irish song while experiencing compound meter and learning movement vocabulary. We will be playing the barred instruments for the first time in the coming weeks. Games and songs using rhythm sticks will give us a feel for the mallets and the technique (large motor skills) required to play the instruments. Soon we will be playing simple accompaniments to our songs.

In a cooperative learning setting, the first graders created their own movement sequence for a song about shamrocks and leprechaun. Each group of four children incorporated elements of the movement vocabulary we had studied and embellished their dances with scarves. We added unpitched percussion accompaniments and then performed the songs in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

The second graders danced a traditional Irish folk dance called *The Waves of Tory* that depicts the waves and whirlpools that occur along the coast of the Island of Tory in Ireland. In addition, we've begun

our study of the brass and string families of instruments with the opportunity each week to see and hear a different instrument.

In the third grade classes, we're playing recorder countermelodies to several folk songs and enjoying the sound of the voice and recorder together. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a delightful Irish folksong and dance, *The Rattlin' Bog*. We're completing our study of the orchestral instruments by listening to musical examples that use the woodwind instruments and seeing demonstrations of these instruments.

The fourth grade classes are preparing for a listening unit they will experience in fifth grade of the ballet *Billy the Kid* by the American composer Aaron Copland. The second movement, *Street in a Frontier Town*, uses several American folk songs as themes. This year we are learning the five folk songs used which are excellent vehicles for vocal development and learning about various musical elements that are found in these songs (compound meter, sixteenth notes, major and minor tonality). In addition, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with the wonderful American folksong *Paddy Works on the Railway* about the Irish immigration in the 1840s. As we learned the barred instrument accompaniment for this song, we gained greater understanding of harmonic progressions and compound meter as well as strengthening our musicianship skills.

The fourth grade classes are looking forward to a concert by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra in Neptune on May 23rd. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to hear an outstanding symphony orchestra and to see in action the orchestral instruments that we have studied. This year's program is entitled "Dancing Around the World" and a performance by DanceVision Performance Company. The Dancers will interpret the music of the world's most famous dances by some of the greatest composers as well as dance music from Spain, Czechoslovakia, Arabia and China.

The seventh grade classes explored a drum ensemble in compound meter. The challenge was the introduction of an additional drum part in a rhythm that implied simple meter, thus creating the feeling of 3s against 2s. Next, we will experience the irregular meter of 9 with a composition for the barred instruments which requires more advanced percussion techniques (use of three mallets). After we learn the composition, we will use the harmonic progression as

the basis for our own improvised melodies.

The eighth graders completed their unit in African drumming which focused on the rhythms of simple and compound meter. A wonderful video of Ghanaian drummers and dancers in action was viewed. This drumming unit was a prelude to the study of the Blues since this style of music was heavily influenced by African music. We'll be listening to some of the greatest Blues artists and trying our hand at blues composition.

At press time, all the musical performance ensembles, the Forensics team and the Upper School Dance Ensemble were preparing for the annual Arts Celebration Assembly on May 3rd. In addition, a slide show of student art projects, accompanied by music provided by student pianists, was presented as well as displays of art work throughout the SAC.

The Oak Hill Players, Music Makers, and Chorus are busy preparing their program for Grandparent/Special Relative Day on May 16th and 17th as well as the end of year Awards Assemblies on June 13th. Please join us for all of our upcoming performances and enjoy our music making.

Miss DiMaggio/Art

First grade used the pinch method to make their first ceramic pot and they also made a slab method ceramic piece. We learned about artist Piet Mondrian and primary and secondary colors while drawing overlapping fish.

Second grade studied Dutch artist Piet Mondrian and made an animal using his style of primary colors in squares and rectangles. Using pieces of construction paper, students made a ripped paper collage based on their favorite food. We also had a chance to make a very special ceramic project.

Third grade made a keychain out of Shrinky Dink and used Model Magic to make a coil pot.

Fourth grade studied artist Frida Kahlo and drew self portraits using everything they learned about the correct facial proportions. Using the slab method the fourth graders made an imprinted ceramic slab dish.

The fifth grade, using yarn and chopsticks, learned a special weaving technique and made a Mexican inspired God's Eye. They also carved linoleum blocks and, while learning about Pop

artist Andy Warhol, they used their extra print to make a Pop Art inspired piece. They began learning about one point perspective in preparation for next year.

Sixth grade are finishing up their Henry Rousseau inspired Overlapping Jungles and they used the slab method to make an imprinted ceramic clay vessel.

Seventh grade tie dyed t-shirts, and are currently using acrylic paint to add anything of their choice on a canvas board. They focused on texture, color mixing and balance.

Eighth grade studied glass blower Dale Chihuly and made a ceramic bowl based on his style. Using professional grade watercolor they painted beaches.

We had six winners for this year's Monmouth Day Care Centers Art Journal, which will be published on May 31st in the Two River Times. Congratulations to Giada Incognito, Riya Singh, Angelica Neidermeyer, Kolby Scire, C.J. Gorman and Jasmine Shen.

Also, congratulations to Ella Gamino, whose drawing was bought at the Jersey Shore fundraiser on April 21st at the Middletown Arts Center. Thank you to those who attended!

Mrs. DeVivo / Mrs. Carroll- Drama

A star is born!! Darcie Rachael DeVivo was born on March 25th to Mrs. DeVivo and her husband, Jim. Max and Bowden love their new, adorable baby sister. Congratulations and best wishes to a wonderful family!

If William Shakespeare was still alive in 2013 on April 23rd, he would have celebrated his 449th birthday! The students celebrated Shakespeare's birthday this marking period by learning about his life as a young boy, and his acclaimed achievements.

In Kindergarten, students read a story entitled, "A Child's Portrait of Shakespeare." Then they acted out the story in mime to experience William's life and its many events. They finished their Shakespeare experience by drawing their favorite part of William's life and then we assemble their own class book complete with captions.

The first grade students also read the same book and completed their own illustrations portraying Shakespeare's life. Then they had an opportunity to write and draw with a quill pen on parchment paper. In the middle of writing their names they would have to re-dip their

quills into the ink. We discussed the patience Shakespeare must have had to complete his collection of plays and sonnets.

Students in the second grade learned about how William Shakespeare obtained a Coat of Arms for his family's name. They had an opportunity to create their own Coat of Arms which displayed their favorite hobbies and interests using favorite colors and designs.

The third and fourth grade students embarked on a scavenger hunt in the Drama Room in order to find out more about Shakespeare and the Globe Theatre. They had to find answers to questions such as, "How did the Globe Theatre burn down?," "Who were the Groundlings?" and "If Mrs. DeVivo were alive in 1599, could she perform in Shakespeare's plays?" Everyone worked in teams to enjoy the thrill of the hunt! The third grade then played a word invent game to create new words as Shakespeare did.

The fourth grade played Shakespeare Jeopardy, an exciting game of knowledge with information from the scavenger hunt.

The fifth grade students enjoyed reader's theatre with women's history plays like, "*Harriet Tubman-Pathway to Freedom*," "*Babe Zaharias*" and "*Nellie Bly*." After we discussed these ground breaking accomplishments, the students then imagined themselves as famous people and wrote their own scripts. These scripts were presented in an interview format and included details of their achievements in the arts, science and sports.

The sixth grade students participated in reader's theatre with Greek mythology plays, such as, "*The Trojan Horse*" and "*Echo and Narcissus*," "*Daedalus and Icarus*" and "*Prometheus and Pandora*."

OHA would like to congratulate the following students who participated at the Ranney Forensics Festival that took place on Saturday, April 13th, 2013. Those students were Riyah Singh, Maya Shah, Julia Pardee, Roxanna Altus, Gabriella Chinaea, Jacob Yatviskiy, Anesha Doshi, Amanda DeStefano, Christian Covisiero, Rebecca Carmeli-Peslak, Travis Schuhardt and Zack Basile. Honorable Mention Awards were presented to Anesha, Amanda and Gabriella and a Special Commendation Award was presented to Maya in the category of Humorous Interpretation. Their hard work and dedication was amazing! We concluded the Forensic

Team season with an after party that included food and photographs of the competition participants. A special thanks to their coach and Dramatic Arts teacher, Mrs. Bridget DeVivo. Bravo to all for great work!

Finally, please don't forget to sign up for the **OHA's Summer Drama Camp!** The one week play is open to students entering grades 2-9. Budding actors will perfect their performance skills by participating in a variety of games and exercises that will improve their stage presence, diction, projection, and movement. A large part of the day will be spent working together devising and creating scenery for an original play that will be performed in the Scire Student Activities Center for family and friends on the last day of camp. The camp runs from June 24th to June 28th from 8:30-11:30. Sign up forms are located on the school's web site or in the Drama room.

Mrs. Vacca/Student Council

April's dress down day this past Thursday, was for a wonderful organization to honor those 26 children who perished at the Newtown School in Connecticut. Twenty six playgrounds are being built along the east coast from New Jersey up to Connecticut, which will also help restore the damaged shores from Hurricane Sandy. We were able to raise \$974.34. dollars and our contribution will go towards the playground in the Highlands.

Our final project for this year is a "Birthday in a Box," and the collection for these items will be held within the next couple of weeks. A list of suggested items will be sent home.

SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS

Student Council elections for the upcoming school year 2013-2014 will be held in June. A packet was handed out last Wednesday with all the details and time frame that must be followed. Please adhere to all the guidelines and not to deviate from them or you will be disqualified. Good luck to all the candidates!



ATHLETICS

Cross Country

Mrs. Gilfillan and Mrs. Scheuer have been conducting cross country practices this spring! Every Thursday, which started on April 12th, Mrs. Gilfillan and Mrs. Scheuer are having the team practice and race against each other. This is a great way to stay sharp and to get ready for the fall season!

Tennis

Miss Murray's tennis team has been practicing and honing their skills for a few weeks. An enthusiastic bunch of 28 students have been practicing for the Mustangs this season. Since only seven can play during each match (three singles and two doubles), a number of exhibition matches are also played to give some of our players a chance to gain experience. The team will be tested early as they look to keep their winning ways in tact from last year! The team has defeated Holy Cross 5-0, Monmouth Beach 3-2, and St. Leo's 4-1 so far! The ten match season will conclude with a doubles tournament against the faculty at the end of May.

Softball

Hoping to pick up where they left off last year, Mrs. Porzio's softball team has been practicing hard in order to continue their winning ways. The opening games have been wins over Forrestdale (13-0), Rumson Country Day (9-0) and Ranney (11-1). We've had close losses to Henry Hudson (4-1) and Ocean (1-0). Their nine game schedule will conclude with a game against the faculty at the end of May.

Baseball

Mr. Bruckmann's Baseball team has gotten off to a good start with wins over Rumson Country Day (17-3), Lavallette (13-0)! Rainouts have postponed a few games. Forrestdale, Ranney and Ocean are all coming up on the schedule. Veteran players and some new younger players make up this year's team. Their nine game schedule will be held during April and May.