

Oak Hill Academy

Newsletter #1

October 2014



Headmaster's Message

Joseph A. Pacelli
What's So Special?

That's the question I was recently asked about Oak Hill Academy. Well, my response was, "Do you have a few hours?" He didn't, so I had to give him the very short version.

Let me start with the most important part of the Oak Hill experience: our children. Without them, we couldn't do the kinds of things we do. They are open to learning and enjoying the process. They are bright, curious, and respectful. Our program is broad and multi-faceted, laced with learning opportunities at every turn. Without our children's willingness to sometimes venture into new areas our school would lack energy.

Next, we have our teachers who prime the pump and use their skills to engage our children in such a wide range of learning opportunities. They present a high quality curriculum which is challenging, but at the same time of high interest. Our teachers have a passion for their work and care deeply for their students.

The OHA mosaic would not be complete without our parents who have made the commitment to send their children to our school. With their support the sky is really the limit. They believe in our philosophy and are partners with our teachers in helping each child achieve to the best of their ability.

The bottom line is, as a unit, we give our children the tools, both mentally and physically, to grow into the leaders that our world desperately needs. Yes, this place called "Oak Hill Academy" is special!

Mrs. Larkins **Director of Development**

Enrollment

We are happy to report that applications have already been accepted in many grade levels and testing for the coming school year will begin in the coming months. If you are considering enrolling one of your other children for next year, please submit an application to the school office as soon as possible. If we know of your intention prior to the January 10, 2015 entrance exam, we can provide preference to families who already have children at Oak Hill. Please contact the school office if you need an application or if you have any questions about the admissions process. Applications are also available on the school website.

Annual Giving Appeal Begins

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

Miss Murray **Director of Personnel/Administration**

High School Information Night

On October 2nd, we held our annual High School Information Night. We had approximately 120 people in attendance! Our graduates and three parents represented 19 different high schools. They shared their personal experiences and insights on their high school. They all echoed how prepared they were for the rigors of high school. The hard work they had exhibited during their OHA years paved their way into their chosen schools. We thank the following alumni for coming back:

Alex Kelly '12 & Maile McCann '11
Marine Academy of Science & Technology

Emily Abate '13 & Katie Spencer '13
Allied Health and Science

Max Kelly '11
Bio Tech

Christiaan Bedrij-Arpa '11
High Tech

Ghillian Ferraiola '13
Communications

Mr. Soler (Richard '12)
Lawrenceville

Mrs. Sumski (Julie '12)
Hotchkiss

Mr. Small
(Brittany '06, Victoria '08, Blake '11)
Blair Academy

Mr. Burrell (Morgan '11)
Phillips Exeter

Gabriella Chinaea '13
Peddie

Madison Acker '11
Ranney

Dana Schioppo '13
Ranney

Salma AbdelBarry '14
Ranney

Alyssa Plodwick '12 & Josie Larkins '13
Red Bank Catholic

Morgan Shapero '12
St. John Vianney

Matthew Misson '13
Christian Brothers Academy

Kathleen Trevio '14
Mater Dei Prep

Colleen Egan '14
Trinity Hall

Cassie Jain '11 & Harry Jain '14
Red Bank Regional

Cristina Anne Medlin '12
Colts Neck

Roxanna Altus '13
Howell-Humanities

Also, our eighth graders heard presentations from the following schools that came to OHA during September and October: Lawrenceville, Phillips Exeter, Peddie, CBA, RBC, SJV, Mater Dei Prep, Ranney, Red Bank Regional, and Trinity Hall.

Veterans Day Assembly

Our annual Veterans Day Assembly will be held on Friday, November 7th at 8:45am.

We will have the United States Marines here to present the colors. Our theme this year will focus on "remembering the sacrifices our service members and families have made." Mrs. Tyma will also have her groups performing that morning. Parents are invited to attend!

CBA Math Contest – OHA WINS AGAIN AND SETS RECORD!!!!

Once again, Oak Hill Academy has won **1st place** at the Brother Christian Jones Math Contest held at Christian Brothers Academy on October 18th! **OHA set a record by having 6 students place in the top 10! 7th grader, Thomas Wang came in 1st place, an amazing feat!** 2nd place – Anna Effenberger (8th gr); 3rd place- Michael Zhang (7th gr); 7th place – Lucas Bruckmann (8th gr); 8th place – William Walsh (8th gr); 10th place – Dylan Servilla (8th gr). Also competing were 8th graders Hannah Gazdus and Mary Mahoney.

In the last 17 years, we've had 14 OHA students come in 1st place!! As a team, we've had 25 years as a top five finisher: 13 first places, 7 second places, 3 third places and 2 fifth places! No school can claim such dominance!! First place team for the last six years in a row!! Congrats to the advisor, Mrs. Palamara, and all of our math teachers who have prepared our students so well!

Marine Academy of Science and Technology Jeopardy Contest

On October 16th a group of seventh and eighth graders competed in the MAST Jeopardy Contest!

Oak Hill placed three teams in the top 5! Twenty-eight teams competed and OHA won two trophies by placing 2nd (8th graders: Zach Basile, Lucas Bruckmann, Hannah Gazdus, William Walsh, Dylan Servilla) and 3rd (8th graders: Anna Effenberger, Jonathan Giuffre, Mary Mahoney, Bryan Soler, Isabella Ybarra). Also, a noteworthy achievement was our 7th grade team placing 5th (Jason Wang, Thomas Wang, Aron Wiener, Leah Wilson and Michael Zhang). Congrats to all!

Middle States Association Re-accreditation

The faculty is continuing to emphasize "cultural diversity across the curriculum." This is our focus for our Middle States Association re-accreditation.

Mr. Bruckmann Communications

SchoolMessenger SMS Emergency Notification

Oak Hill Academy continues to use the SchoolMessenger 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.

Web Page Updates

1. Oak Hill Academy is also 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.

We are currently at 190 "Likes"; so please help us to increase our presence!!

2. See the "[Experiences](#)" link for student guided tours, photos, past news events and more!

Mrs. Livingston Lower School Guidance

Gr. 1

Jack's Talent is the story of a first grade class that spends time getting to know each other and sharing their talents. This worries Jack because he feels that he does not have a talent. He keeps listening to the other children tell their talent, but this is still not helpful. When it is Jack's turn, he goes through each classmate and their talent and ends with, "But I am not good at anything." His teacher reminds him that he remembered all of the other children's names and their talents; therefore he is good at remembering. We learned from this story that we have varied talents and we should each be proud of our talent.

Gr. 2

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

Gr. 3

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

Gr. 4

During my October meeting with the children, I shared the story "The Attitude Patrol." This story stressed how important it is to think positively (I studied hard. I know this material. I will do well on this test.), rather than negatively (I don't know what this is about. I'm going

to get a low grade on this test.). In thinking positive thoughts, we encourage ourselves, whereas with negative thoughts, we just slowly but surely tear ourselves down. We ended our time together with the "THINK BIG RAP."

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

School has begun, the leaves are changing color, the temperature is much cooler – it must be fall! Thanks to all the students, parents and teachers, Pre-K is off to a fantastic start!

Our back to school theme for the 2014 was Clifford the Big Red Dog. This year's group of students was welcomed to school on the first day by Clifford and their teachers. Each student posed for the camera inside Clifford's big red dog house. Clifford's exciting personality, kind manners and wonderful literature will provide a myriad of positive and engaging lessons for Pre-K throughout the year.

Our school character traits tied in nicely with getting to know classmates, gaining independence and learning class rules. Practicing acceptance, respect, and showing growth in the area of responsibility are all part of what we do in Pre-K. The teachers choose special literature and activities to connect the curriculum to OHA's core values.

We traveled to Eastmont Orchards in Colts Neck for our first field trip, picking a variety of apples to take home. After leaving the orchard, we stopped at Thompson Park to eat lunch and play. The apples that we brought back to school were used to make applesauce and a delicious crumb cake. We also sorted, tasted and chose our favorite apples to complete a classroom graph and work in various lessons with Singapore Math. In celebration of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, we dipped apples in honey and enjoyed them with a slice of Challah bread.

Our October events for Pre-K include a trip to Huber Woods to experience a wonderful fall event called "Critters and Jitters." Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Caprara have been covering the "Five Senses" in class, and this outdoor fall trip will certainly add to classroom activities and discussions. During Music and Movement class with Mrs. Weikes, the children have been busy learning a variety of songs, poems, and finger plays, working towards strengthening confidence, gross motor ability and

language skills. Pre-K will perform for the parents during November's OHAPO meeting. In taking the "scare" out of "scary Halloween costumes," students will dress up in costumes to role play and learn that under all costumes are people just like you and me. We are having so much fun preparing for the Oak Hill Halloween Parade and class party scheduled for October 31st. Family members should check their calendars, grab a camera, and join us for the parade. Class mothers have been very busy planning an exciting, fun-filled "orange and black" Halloween Party. We appreciate their efforts as well as the generosity of all of our Pre-K parents that have volunteered to contribute to the class party.

Yoga has become a big hit in the classroom and during music and movement. Students are enjoying the challenge of each new "Letter of the Week" pose as well as the relaxation, breathing techniques, and tranquil music. The children have been eagerly requesting their new letter pose each week and a portion of Friday's music class has been designated "Yoga Friday."

October is Fire Safety month and students have been busy practicing fire safety rules such as; Stop! Drop! Roll! We are also looking forward to an October visit from the Fire Department, as our firefighter friends and fire truck are always a big hit. Mr. Quincannon, (Chris's Dad) a Volunteer Fire Fighter for many years, has graciously offered to bring the Colts Neck fire truck and equipment to school for Pre-K and Kindergarten to explore.

Clifford's "Top Dog" program has begun in the Pre-K. Each student will truly shine when they bring in their personal posters, family members, and special Letter People snack. What a great way to get to know our classmates better and gain self confidence. They quickly learn that what makes us different is what makes us special and unique and the fact that all families have so many things in common.

Our classroom Clifford also travels home with students on a weekly basis. Students are asked to draw and record in a journal their daily adventures and exciting happenings with this lovable character. The information and photos are shared with classmates upon returning to school.

This year's Pre-K has become completely immersed in the "Little Treasures" reading program. In addition, visits from everyone's favorite Letter

People engage the students in wonderful projects, artwork, and skill strengthening activities. So far we have met Ms. F, Ms. T, Mr. R and Ms. A. Ms. A is our first Letter Light (vowel) and she helps light the way to building words. Students enjoyed alphabet pasta for Ms. A and it was a big hit.

In Math this month, students have successfully completed the introduction to math manipulatives and patterns. Morning Meeting time and daily activities include calendar skills, graphing, and sorting. The use of our classroom iPads, White Board and Mimio have become an integral part of daily instruction and independent work. Mini lessons introduce shapes, size, and making comparisons. Science, French, Social Studies, lessons on Diversity, Library, Drama as well as Music and Movement further enhance the Pre-K experience.

The Pre-K staff is looking forward to the first week of November when parent/teacher conferences take place. Students will also participate in Election Day activities and prepare for our annual Thanksgiving Feast. We are anticipating another exciting and successful year in Pre-K and look forward to parent involvement in our program. We hope that our students, staff, and Oak Hill families enjoy the beauty and brilliance of this fall season.

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

This year we opened our doors and welcomed 27 new Kindergarteners! The children are well into their routine and enjoying school. The students are excited each week with each new Letter Person that comes to visit. So far we have welcomed Mr. M, Ms. T, Ms. F, Mr. N and Mr. H to our classroom. The children are embracing each letter and learning the sound and formation of each one. Along with each Letter Person the children are introduced to several high frequency words. We are amazed at how well they did on their first spelling test! Way to go Kindergarten!

Every Wednesday is Special Snack Day. The children look forward each week to one of our parents coming in to spend time in our classroom. We are grateful for the preparation and effort the parents put into making this time special.

In Math we incorporate our morning circle time as part of our lessons. The children are introduced to several number concepts including odds and evens and

counting by 2's, 5's and 10's. We have begun estimating the temperature each morning. This is when the children can implement their number skill to make their "best guess." In our Singapore program are working hard on our numbers 1-10. The children are extremely involved in the lessons and are learning both skills and vocabulary that will help them as they progress through the rest of the program.

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

Please remember to check the Kindergarten website (oakhillacademy.com – faculty - then choose any of the Kindergarten teachers) for important information and a photo or two!

Happy fall everyone!

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

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

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

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

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

Scholastic News is such an interesting source of information. The pictures are not only colorful but very realistic. We

read and listen to digital articles using our WONDERFUL mimio system. We watch nonfiction videos then work on skill-building activities and worksheets.

HAPPY FALL TO OUR FIRST GRADE FAMILIES!!!!

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

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

In reading, we are just finishing our first unit. Our theme was: Learning about each other and helping each other make our relationship stronger. We have had some interesting and meaningful exchanges about having friends and being a friend. We have also read some exciting stories and poems on friendship. We are summarizing our reading with the help of a Main Idea and Detail Web. This has also carried over into our writing exercises, where we have written clever rhyming poems and put them on black spiders which are hanging in our classrooms. We wrote creative stories about something hiding behind a pumpkin in the pumpkin patch, and we have learned the parts and format of letter writing. We also consider ourselves poets as we have been writing several different types of poetry.

In math, we continue to work with number bonds, and addition and subtraction facts. We are adding and subtracting two and three digit numbers and will start renaming in the next week. We are also reading and solving word problems.

We enjoyed our trip to Kateri Environmental Center for a program called "Awesome Autumn." We hiked in the woods, collected leaves from different trees and learned all of their names. We then made beautiful "sun catchers" using our leaves.

October is flying by and the children are being challenged by many new skills and concepts. We are eagerly anticipating our Halloween parade, party, and creative costumes on October 31.



**Mrs. Alexander/Mrs. Staley
Grade 3**

The new school year is off to a fantastic start in the third grade classrooms. Students are becoming used to our classroom routines – from unpacking in the morning to transitioning between classes and finally to collecting their belongings at the end of the day.

The students have just celebrated their first genre challenge with the watching of The Miracle Worker (the Disney version from 2000) while wearing their crazy socks. We are very proud of the effort that the students made in completing this first challenge.

The personal narrative was the focus of our writing workshop this marking period. Students learned about sequence and the use of time order words to help them logically present a story. They have been learning that writing is not an easy process with first drafts, revising, and editing.

In math, students reviewed place value and reading numbers to begin the year. Addition was about learning new ways to think about combining numbers. They are learning there is more than one way to solve a problem. They have begun using the Singapore math method of bar modeling to help solve word problems. To help them with this, we recommend visiting our web page. We have lessons that we have created along with links to sites that provide practice in this method of problem solving. Oh, yes, please remember to keep practicing math facts. Again, there are links on our site.

The third grade is learning just how fascinating biographies can be this marking period in novel study. The students have been learning about the life of Helen Keller and how a woman who faced so many obstacles changed the lives of so many. The third graders did an experiment to find out the difficulties a blind person faces on a daily basis. They watched footage of Helen Keller demonstrating how the vibrations of the vocal chords helped her learn to speak. The students also worked on projects to display all they have learned about Helen Keller. We are very proud of the students' independent work.

In Social Studies, students were asked to learn their world address to help them visualize their place in the world. We spoke about family heritage which will arise when we discuss cultural diversity as it applies to our own families. Students have been reading Felicity Learns a Lesson to learn about life and

school in 1774. They are learning about the reasons for the Revolutionary War. Students have begun writing letters to King George III as either a patriot or a Loyalist. We enjoyed seeing the creative caps that the students made to wear when they are successful.

We are looking forward to seeing your child progress as we work with you towards a successful school year.

Mrs. Roehrig/Mrs. Tolleth Grade 4

We welcome our fourth graders and their families to this 2014 – 2015 school year. Our reading series has challenged us right away with the skills of inference, and author's purpose. We learned about word origin, context clues, and primary sources. We've enjoyed historical fiction, and realistic fiction genres. We've read on differing topics: a new and different summer experience, women in baseball, immigration, and the incredible Ben Franklin.

Fourth graders have finished the Geology unit in our study of New Jersey. We enjoyed learning about the violence that shaped the land we live on and the ancient lakes that left us the Jersey Meadows, Paterson Falls, the Passaic River, and Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. We've learned that the Hadrosaurus Foulkii, the first dinosaur skeleton found in the USA, was found in our state near Haddonfield in 1858. We learned about other prehistoric creatures and about our "living fossils" - horseshoe crabs, which have inhabited this planet for over 200 million years. We are off to Rutgers to the Geology Museum to see the first mastodon skeleton found in New Jersey. We will also see dinosaur footprints and many, many other fossils, bones, and skeletons.

In English class fourth graders have been studying sentence structure. Along with it, we've been practicing our proofreading and editing skills. Our first part of speech was the noun, and we are now tackling singular and plural possessive nouns. We have been working with different poetry forms and have enjoyed creating our own autumn poetry.

The Language Arts students have been actively working on personal narratives. We have worked on two topics out of six given to develop their own narrative pieces. We have gathered seed ideas, worked on organizing and sequencing their thoughts, and made sure that we are expressing our feelings throughout our writing. Each time we write, we aim to grab our audience's attention at the

beginning, keep our readers enthralled and wrap up with a good ending. The students are embarking on their third piece and hope to improve each time they write.

Mrs. Bordiuk/Mr. Goldfarb Lower School PE

In September, we worked on movement skills to help improve coordination and agility.

In October, we will be involved with physical fitness testing. We use the standards that are set by the Presidential Physical Fitness Council. The description and standards are posted on Mr. Goldfarb's faculty website. These various fitness tests assess students' flexibility, core strength, upper body strength, agility, and endurance. We retest in March so the children have an opportunity to improve their scores as they continue to develop proficiency in their overall fitness. The award ceremony to give out the Presidential Physical Fitness patches is in June.

The mile run is one of the hardest and most demanding of the physical fitness tests. We would like to extend a special congratulation to the following students who placed in the top 3 places of their respective classes. 1K: Julian Lacher - 7:59, Sophia Zhou - 9:36, Yasin Alsharif - 10:25, 1Q: Logan French - 9:15, Nathan Acheampong - 9:55, Kyle Davis - 11:39, 2B: Sienna Domanski - 8:02, Nick Giannatasio - 8:22, Shayan Katiraei - 8:56, 2C: Benjamin Peters - 6:03, Frank Tackett - 7:17, Ethan Fianko - 7:17, 3A: Dimitry Corba & Luca Veltri - 8:21, Allen Fang - 8:50, 3S: Will Gilfillan - 7:09, Eric Lukenda - 7:43, Mitchell Oldham - 7:47, 4T: Anthony Matejicka - 7:35, Lauren Jordan - 7:39, Kevin Kinsella - 7:42, 4R: Tony DeJohn - 6:46, Declan Picadio - 7:16, Laura Hurley - 7:28

In November, we will be performing manipulative skills for "hand/eye" coordination using beanbags, hoops, soft Frisbees and playground balls.

We are practicing the skills in swim class along with increasing the student's stamina while also improving breathing and stroke technique in the pool. Please remember that the last day of swim classes is November 26th.



Mrs. Cahalane Lower School Science

PK students have been learning about the environment. We have gone on many nature walks identifying what we find. We learned about butterflies and their life cycle. Kindergarteners completed a unit called Penny Chemistry where they learned about what scientists do – observe, question, predict, and experiment!

First grade students studied geology. We examined the rock specimens in my classroom and we practiced measuring length, width, and mass using the metric system. Everyone took home a pet rock!

Second grade students solved a mystery using science. By doing chromatography and chemistry experiments, they figured out who sent the jailhouse cake!

Third graders have been learning about the Apollo moon mission and they had a chance to be engineers – designing and building parachutes for the astronauts' safe return home.

Students in grade four made cars out of Life Savers and straws – bringing the engineering design process to life! Please see my website for some fantastic photos.

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

Heading north to the second largest country in the world and British ruled is **Canada**. The name came from the Iroquois Indians meaning "village or group of huts". This country is home to a great diversity of peoples, customs, languages, and religions. Canada has the longest coastline, sharing four Great Lakes with the U.S. and six time zones. It consists of three territories and ten provinces, similar to our states each with their own capital and independent self-government, while recognizing the British Monarchy. Yes, Queen Elizabeth II rules here also.

Students have been watching video clips about the provinces and territories and the Niagara Falls, which is comprised of actually two falls that flow together. These two falls, the American Falls and Horseshoe Falls both around 190 ft. can be seen from both the U.S. and Canadian sides. Beautifully lit at night, the students enjoyed a colorful light show of the falls along with music. An earth cam showed live footage of the falls and surroundings. Students also have been learning some songs about Canadian money, the country's symbols, flag and

national anthem. Students have been learning about the Canadian geese and their V formation of flight, along with the Mounties, and even listened to a song called "UP" by Shania Twain, a pop singer from Canada. Books, iPads, informative websites and students' items and personal trips to Canada have made this marking period exciting.

Mme Koar

Lower School Spanish

In grades 1 and 2 students have completed several lessons in Spanish with our new interactive program from Middlebury College. The program is organized by theme and includes cultural stories and songs. Themes include greetings, numbers, colors and family. Students are given an opportunity each lesson to record their own speaking voice to practice their pronunciation, which they are finding very challenging.

Grade 3 French

The students are creating a French Dictionnaire with their own illustrations. In each class we add a few more words to our list of classroom objects. We practice our spelling with each new word. We will also review numbers and colors as we explore the objects in the classroom. You can listen to the song, "mon sac à dos" (my backpack) on my website to hear the new vocabulary.

Mme Simon

Grade 4 French

It is a pleasure to teach the fourth grade. The children have retained a lot of material taught by Madame Koar last year. We have reviewed the colors and the alphabet. We worked on a conversation relating to feelings, family, interests and pets. We studied the food theme and played a SmartBoard activity. For the weather theme, we used an Education video and then played "Millionaire."

We are now studying the clothing theme, and then we will use iPads to play a Kahoot game (with instant feedback). All the activities that we play with different themes really engage the students and they learn French so quickly while having fun. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK !

Mrs. Scheuer

Upper School Guidance

The start of the new school year often begins with sheer excitement and nervous anticipation. Our fifth graders transitioned from Lower School to Upper School rather smoothly. The fifth grade adjusted to their new environs, changing

classes and having ten different teachers rather well. Way to go 5th grade!

We were delighted to welcome new students to OHA. Incoming students include Fifth graders: Tara English, Alexander Mitchell, Daniel Mooney, Christopher Skelton and Brian Walsh. Sixth graders: Jacob Dice, Steven Grumet and Kaley Hanlon. Seventh graders: Jake Fradkin and Julianna Mavica.

Prior to the start of the school year, the newest members of our OHA family were paired with an OHA buddy to answer questions and connect before school started. Several meet and greets occurred this summer including a pool party. Special thanks to Addy Basile, Justin Weber, Andrew Ferguson, Doug Cannon, Brandon Klatsky, William Hurley, Brett Servilla, Skylar Domanski, Aron Wiener, Christopher Misson, and Francesca Dodaro for acting in this capacity.

Our Character Counts theme for 2014-2015 school year is RESPECT! Mr. Pacelli and Miss Murray introduced our campaign during upper school assemblies with emphasis placed on students being respectful through their words and actions. Oak Hill Academy students were all given our Code of Respect in a Community of Kindness. Students also took an Oak Hill Code of Respect Oath pledging their support for maintaining and enhancing our school culture with appropriate behavior.

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

The upper grades are off to a fantastic start! If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, I am available five days a week. For your convenience, please see me, call (ext. 5) or email sscheuer@oakhillacademy.com to schedule an appointment. My office hours are Monday through Friday 7:30-10am and Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays afternoons 1:30-3:30pm.

Miss Lee

Grade 5 Literature/LA

The fifth graders have made an impressive transition to the Upper School and made it through the first marking period! Kudos to all!

In Literature, we kicked off the school year by reviewing and discussing different aspects of our summer reading books. Students had opportunities to work collaboratively and individually to look even more closely at the stories and themes in these novels. More recently, we began exploring some of the selections in our Literature anthology books, focusing on identifying and analyzing different narrative elements. It has been hard work, but everyone has put in tremendous effort. We will begin reading our first whole class novel, Bridge to Terabithia, this month.

In Language Arts, we have been doing an extensive exploration and study of sentences and sentence construction. In addition, we have been integrating what we've been acquiring in grammar and vocabulary studies into our own writing, namely our descriptive essays about our favorite places. We will be moving forward into our study of nouns, continuing to work steadily through our *Vocabulary Workshop* books to expand our vocabularies, and continuing to grow and stretch ourselves as writers.

Mrs. Grier/Mrs. Scheuer

Grade 5 Reading

The fifth graders are enjoying the Upper School Reading program. Our reading comprehension series, *Read For Real* provides students with excellent, non-fiction content while reinforcing comprehension skills. Topics included relocation of wolves, endangered species, optical illusions, mysteries and Native American games we play. Classes also love the *Surprises* stories with unusual plot twists and turns. While focused on skill development, students utilized *Comprehension Plus* to practice drawing conclusions, sequencing, steps in a process, and predicting outcomes.

The fifth grade also enjoyed our initial interaction with the first grade on Sept. 26th. Mrs. Klopacs and Mrs. Quagliato invited the entire fifth grade over to assist their students with a birthdays celebrated around the world project. Mr. Bruckman, Miss DiMaggio, Mrs. Griller and Mrs. Scheuer coordinated their period 4 schedules to make this event possible. The friendships cultivate in 1K and 1Q are still going strong in the hallways, lunch room and all over campus.

Fifth grades simultaneously embarked on their Act of Kindness project decorating 50 treat bags, stuffed with chocolate chip cookies for our senior friends at Sunrise Senior Center in Lincroft. Students in all Reading classes were inspired to continue the kindness all year long. We will be sending cookies to Sunrise Senior Center in Staten Island, New York in October and The Chelsea in Tinton Falls in November. Our fifth graders are great kids that know how to Pay It Forward!

Students have successfully navigated their way in the Upper School during the first marking period. Organizational and time management skills are improving each week. We are off to a great start. Keep up the good work! Stay tuned for our first novel study, the Julie Andrews classic, *The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles* beginning late October.

Mrs. Matson

Grades 5 & 6 Geography

Fifth grade students are beginning the study of climate after having mastered all of their map skills. Sixth graders all enjoyed reading the excerpt of The Lemon Tree, and are finishing their analytical essays about it. They are eagerly anticipating their study of Africa when they will design their Africa Games!

Model UN

The Model UN Club will be sending 20 plus students to Christian Brothers Academy on Friday, November 21st to participate in their second annual Middle School Model UN. Four Oak Hill students will serve on the Security Council where they will revisit Grenada in 1983, or the Balkan Crisis in the 1990's. Others will become members of the General Assembly where they will discuss what can be done about Cyber Warfare and Small Arms Trafficking. The final groups will be members of the High Commission for Refugees, considering the Syrian Refugee Crisis, and the rights of internally displaced persons, or the Human Rights Council, where they will study Child Labor and the Right to Education. All the participants are enthusiastically preparing for this event!

Mr. Bruckmann **Grades 5 & 6 Math**

Our fifth grade math students are well on their way to transitioning into their role as "upper schoolers." During this marking period we completed our first chapter test as Upper School students as well as the summer skills math test which was a review of their summer skills book. We are in the midst of working on the second chapter from our Singapore Primary

Mathematics 5A book which deals with more calculations with whole numbers including the order of operations; distributive property, mental calculations and word problems. Soon we will dive into Chapter 3 and our investigation into fractions. Remember that corrections for the tests and quizzes are due the day following when the test/quiz has been handed back. All students need to be prepared with a sharpened pencil, all three books and a desire to learn and increase their math knowledge. Also, please use my website as a tool to enhance learning as well. <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/mr-bruckmanns-math-class>. I am looking forward to another exciting and rewarding school year.

The sixth grade class began the school year continuing as we left off last year with some simple algebra lessons and using strategies to explore both expressions and equations all throughout Unit 1. Unit 2 was a brief look back at fractions and decimals with the new introduction of negative fractions and decimals and how they compare to their positive counterparts. Unit 3 has brought with it a look at the four operations of fractions as we transition into percentage in Unit 4. Remember that corrections for the tests and quizzes are due the day following when the test/quiz has been handed back. All students need to be prepared with a sharpened pencil, all three books and a desire to learn and increase their math knowledge. Also, please use my website as a tool to enhance learning as well. <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/mr-bruckmanns-math-class>

Mrs. Cotterell **Grades 5 – 8 Math**

Grade 5 – Period 2

The students have been transitioning well into the upper school. We realize this is a big adjustment from the lower school, so it is remarkable how quickly they learn to adjust.

We finished our first unit and have just started our second unit. The first unit encompassed writing numbers into the billions, estimating, evaluating exponents, identifying factors and multiples, preparing prime factorization trees and multiplying and dividing by 10's, 100's and 1000's. The students did very well on their unit tests.

The second unit began with order of operations. This is a very important fundamental principle the students are required to master. We have had two in-class assignments as well as 3

homework assignments on this single topic. We have just touched upon solving problems using the distributive property. This will serve as the foundation for our next unit which is mental calculations.

It is important that the students come prepared to class every day. Homework is posted on my web-site. In addition, the students have a hard copy of my assignments.

I look forward to a very exciting year with the students. Please feel free to contact me via email with any questions or concerns.

Grade 5 – Period 3

We have completed the first unit and are nearing the completion of the second unit. The first unit encompassed writing numbers into the billions, estimating, evaluating exponents, identifying factors and multiples, preparing prime factorization trees and multiplying and dividing by 10's, 100's and 1000's. The students did very well on their unit tests.

The second unit covers order of operations, mental calculations for all operations, bar modeling for basic word problems, multiplication of two and three digit numbers and division with two and three digit divisors. The students all groaned when we reached the bar modeling section, but the more experience they have doing these, the easier it gets. I was reluctant to adopt bar modeling since I never had to do this before, but it truly makes seemingly difficult questions quite simple.

This is a hard working group. I look forward to an exciting year!

Grade 6

There definitely was no easy transition into the sixth grade Singapore Math program. Generally math books begin with a review of prior year material. This was definitely not the case with this book. We immediately began by writing algebraic expressions and solving one and two step algebraic equations. I strayed from the book and showed the students the "high school" method to solve these. I stressed to the students that I was looking at their work for proper style in addition to the correct answer. These methods will be used through all of their higher level math courses yet to come, including Algebra 2 and Pre-calculus!

We all collectively breathed a sigh of relief when we began Unit 2 which was on converting positive and negative fractions to decimals, decimals to

fractions, graphing numbers on the number line and comparing fractions and decimals.

We are essentially finished with Unit 3 as well which covered all four operations as they relate to fractions. The students have been enjoying playing lots of “games” involving these concepts. We are mastering these very important foundation skills.

This group is lots of fun to work with. I look forward to an exciting year with them.

Grade 7

We are moving along at a nice steady pace. Our objective is to not finish the book; instead it is to move at whatever pace is necessary to ensure that all fundamental concepts are mastered. We solved lots of algebraic equations, both one and two step as well as inequalities with graphing on the number line. The students enjoy putting their work on the board or displaying their work with the document camera.

In addition to the concepts described above, we have been working very hard with our negative numbers. The students have learned how to add, subtract, multiply and divide integers as well as how to solve addition and subtraction of matrices. The only two concepts left in chapter two are learning how to solve algebraic equations with integers and graphing on the coordinate plane.

It is a pleasure working with the students. I look forward to an exciting year.

Grade 8 – Introduction to Algebra

The goal of this course is to ensure that there are no mathematical holes before entering high school. Many of the lessons will sound familiar to the students; however, almost every lesson has a little something new. For example, the students have already learned how to multiply integers. Now they will multiply integers as well as variables. So, while the students will be in their comfort zone by hearing a familiar lesson, I will be adding depth to their understanding.

We have completed the first two chapters of the book. Chapter 3 begins with using the distributive property. This is an essential part of solving algebraic equations.

It is a pleasure to have these students back with me for one more year. Though having math last period of the day is rather challenging, the students are handling this quite well!

Grades 7 & 8 Geometry

Wow!! What a class! As I mentioned at Back to School Night, I am treating this as a High School Honors class. Most evenings the homework is going to take between 45 minutes and one hour. Geometry is pervasive throughout the SAT so we have two things to consider: high school placement and performance on the SAT. I try to give review questions nearly every evening so we do not lose any algebra concepts along the way.

We have just completed our second chapter. The students have written lots of paragraph and two-column proofs as they relate to segments and angles of intersecting and perpendicular lines. While we will be using the theorems throughout the year to calculate the answers to lots of our questions, the students will not have to write too many more proofs!!

It is going to be a great year!!!

Mr. Clapp **Grade 5 Science**

The fifth graders just finished up learning about how scientists work, how experiments are set up, and proper terms to use. We have been busy learning how to use all of the equipment found in a science classroom by measuring mass, volume and temperature with triple beams balances, beakers, graduated cylinders and Celsius thermometers. For this whole marking period we have done many fun labs but we recently just did our most fun lab yet; making “Elephant’s Toothpaste”! This simple experiment takes hydrogen peroxide, yeast, and dish soap and creates a huge foamy explosion! It was loved by everyone and it was a great introduction into learning about matter and chemistry.

A few weeks ago we went on our first class trip to the Tuckerton Seaport. We learned a lot about the history and science behind the seaport and how important it was to the area back then. The students got to see the salt marsh and some of the wild life around the area as well. It was great to see them all enjoying themselves learning about a part of New Jersey’s history while also getting a cool science lesson at the same time!



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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Daly **Grade 6 Reading**

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

To reinforce reading skills, students have been analyzing ancient timekeepers such as Stonehenge and the Mayan Calendar Round. Using the MimioConnect technology, students can isolate facts and figures from the internet while completing graphic organizers. Comparing and contrasting observations have also been detailed as the students read about the ancient code of Hammurabi and its connections to our judicial system.

Our visits to the Harkness Room have enhanced understanding of curriculum themes and reading strategies. Students love the discussion topics and prepared well for each scheduled visit.

Students are developing their skills each week as we continue our program.

Mrs. Palamara
Grades 6 – 8 Math

Grade 6 Singapore

In this first marking period students extended their understanding about algebraic expressions in one variable to solve simple algebraic equations. They also covered algebraic expressions in two or three variables. These ideas are introduced using concrete situations followed by pictorial representations in the form of bar models. Eventually, the students will deal with algebraic expressions in symbolic form.

They also applied their understanding of graphs of functions to solve equations using a graphical method. They identified points on the coordinate plane, decoded a secret message using ordered pairs and drew a picture of Snoopy by plotting and connecting points on a coordinate plane.

The students then moved on to review the relationship between fractions and decimals. They combined their understanding of fractions, decimals and negative integers to learn about negative rational numbers (fractions and decimals).

Grade 7 – Gateways

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

Algebra I

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.

CBA Math Contest

Congratulations to the OHA Math Team on their first place win at the CBA Math Contest. We had six students place in the top ten.

Thomas Wang – 1st
Anna Effenberger – 2nd
Michael Zhang – 3rd
Lucas Bruckman – 7th
William Walsh – 8th
Dylan Servilla – 10th

Rounding out the team were Hannah Gazdus and Mary Mahoney.

Kudos to all for a job well done!

Mrs. Billet
Grades 6 & 7 Science

Grade 6 Life Science

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

Grade 7 Physical Science

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

Sra. Dotto
Grades 5, 7 & 8 Spanish

In fifth grade, students have been studying polite expressions, greetings, numbers from 0 to 199 and days of the week. This material has been reinforced with songs, games, videos and by logging on the site "quizlet" for visual and auditory practice of expressions and vocabulary. The students really enjoy these sites and their pronunciation is getting better each day. Over all, the

children have adjusted very well to the study of Spanish and are very eager to learn. Keep up the good work!

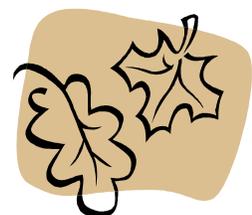
In seventh grade, we have spent a few weeks re-examining material covered last year including subject pronouns, the verbs *gustar*, *ser*, over 30 -ar regular verbs and indirect object pronouns. Currently, we are in the process of completing Chapter 3 section A. In this Chapter, the students are acquiring a lot of vocabulary and expressions that have to do with every day activities. They have mastered the conjugation of over 15 -er regular verbs, the stem-changing verbs *jugar* and *querer*, and the irregular verb *ir*. All this material is reinforced with power point presentations, classroom interaction and by logging on my "quizlet" or "education" sites for visual and auditory processing.

In eighth grade, after a comprehensive review we covered various verbs with the irregular first person like *traer*, *salir*, *dar*, *poner*, *hacer*, *ver* and the irregular verbs *tener*, *venir* and *decir*. In addition, the students have mastered the usage of the verbs *saber* and *conocer*. Both verbs mean "to know", but are used in different ways. At the present time, we are studying family relationships and the students will memorize a dialogue which they will present in front of the class. All this material is reinforced with power point presentations, classroom interaction and by logging on my quizlet site for visual and auditory processing.

Mrs. Vacca/Mrs. Koar
Grade 6 Tech

Students are researching various student opinion questions from current event topics chosen especially for their age group. Students are working collaboratively to create a persuasive argument for or against their chosen subject. All presentations are created using Keynote, or Power Point and presented to the class with reliable sources cited.

Some of the interesting topics include: "Does technology make us more alone?" "What kind of robot would you want?" and "Should college football players get paid?"



Mrs. Tirella
Grade 7 LA/Literature

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

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

Mrs. Mayer
Grades 7 & 8 History

The seventh grade started the new year by focusing on the ancient civilizations of The Fertile Crescent, Indus Valley and Aegean Peninsula. Each civilization let us assess the political and social contributions each has made to our world today. We collaborated and questioned topics on these civilizations in our Harkness Room and created newspapers utilizing our BYOD policy. We look forward to learning about Ancient Rome and American History.

The eighth grade picked up where we left off at the end of last year which is the period prior to the Civil War. We questioned and collaborated in our Harkness Room on an array of topics on this tragic war. We also created newspapers and look forward to learning about The Reconstruction period of our history.

Mrs. Larkins
Grade 7 Math Workshop

What a time to be studying the stock market! With the Dow going up and down, students can't help but see it on the news. They have had many questions about what is currently happening to our economy. Although I don't claim to have all the answers, we have tried to explain our country's current financial situation in simpler terms for the students. These seventh grade math workshop students are also learning how to invest using different research terms so as to make the greatest profit (or perhaps least amount of loss) on their investments. Each group is given an

imaginary bank roll of \$10,000. Using financial websites and project pages, students study terms such as the New York Stock Exchange, shares of stock, price/earnings ratio, history of companies, stock brokers, dividends, and yield. Each week the students are given four new companies to investigate and determine how to invest their money as well as when to buy and sell. It is an interesting project that takes a lot of teamwork. Hopefully you have noticed them taking more of an interest in today's economic news.

Mrs. Vacca
Grade 8 Explorations

This marking period started off with some interesting topics posed as questions for research such as: Why research other planets? Should Apple products be made in other countries? Should hunters be allowed to hunt elephant tusks? How do you design your own sneakers and market them? How do you become a CSI investigator? What sea creatures thrive in the Caribbean Sea? How did Apple revolutionize technology? What happened to the Dodo bird? Is Mrs. Obamas' healthy food plan working? and How do video, TV shows and movies affect behavior? The list continues with various topics such as Tiananmen Square, TSA scams, Amazon drones, Stonehenge, the Bermuda Triangle, and the Ebola Virus. Presentations have just begun through powerpoint slides or Prezi which is like a virtual posterboard.

Mrs. Carroll (for Mrs. Williams)
Grade 8 LA/Lit

Congratulations to Mrs. Williams and her family as they welcomed Avery, born on August 17th! I have had the pleasure and privilege to work with your children in her absence. In eighth grade Language Arts, students began their study of grammar units with an intense review of sentences and nouns. The students also accomplished four vocabulary units. Students produced the first of several writing pieces scheduled for this year. The Personal Narrative presented stories that include sensory details and descriptive imagery. Journal writing will continue on interesting topics as well. During the second marking period, students will continue demonstrating and refining their writing skills while they complete their Persuasive Essays.

In Literature, the class reviewed the summer reading novels: examining plot, character, and conflict resolution. Then students read fiction short stories. In the story, "To Build a Fire," the students evaluated the importance of setting and

identified the different conflicts in the story. In addition, students studied the literary movement Naturalism. Then, in "The Most Dangerous Game," students explored literary terms such as verbal irony, irony of situation, plot and conflict.

Mrs. Daly
Grade 8 Critical Reading

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

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

Mr. Clapp
Grade 8 Science

We started off the year reviewing major concepts that all scientists must know including the metric system, common science myths, and important branches of science. After that we jumped right into Earth science by learning about landforms, topographic maps, and latitude/longitude. By using clay to build scale models we learned how different mountains, plains and plateaus are from each other while at the same time learning how to build things to scale. All of my eighth graders are now master clay sculptors! They have also made topographic maps of the science center's

back yard in order to understand contour lines, elevation, and slope. We are about to start a section learning about the Earth system and all of the interactions currently going on between tectonic plates, water, the weather, and all life around us.

Mr. Pacelli
Algebra I – An Integrated Approach

We are off to a great start! Our class did such a good job with their summer prep by completing the first four chapters of our book that we have more time to go deeper into many topics. We are now finishing the unit on inequalities along with word problems dealing with real world applications. They are a wonderful class and I am excited to have them.

Ms. Burke
Grades 7 & 8 Latin

The seventh graders are off to a great start in Latin. We have learned some common endings for present tense verbs, such as –t for singular verbs and –nt for plural verbs as well as the singulars and plurals for first and second declension nominatives. We have also focused on the areas in which English and Latin grammar and vocabulary meet, and, as a result, the students have been hard at work at refining their English grammar and vocabulary. Besides grammar, we have worked on developing translation skills by reading stories about a famous Roman family, the Corneli, and oral Latin skills by learning basics, such as how to introduce yourself and ask how someone is doing. Moreover, we have examined several different topics in Roman daily life, such as family structure, and in mythology, the story of Remus and Romulus. Additionally, we have studied the geography of the Roman Empire.

In the eighth grade, we have begun the year with a rigorous review of last year's material, including a review of the three main noun declensions, the uses and meanings of Latin nouns, and the present and imperfect verb tenses. In addition to review, we have learned a new class of adjectives, third declension adjectives. We have also focused on honing their translation skills primarily through practice sentences and stories in their *Ecce Romani* textbooks. Finally, we have also explored the geography of Roman Italy and learned several legendary stories of heroes from the Early Roman Republic.

Mme Simon/Mme Koar
Upper School French

In Mme Simon's sixth grade, the first marking period started very well. We worked on learning the verb "To BE" and questions words, ER verbs and how to understand a story. The other themes that we study are food, the family, the verb Avoir (to have). We are now studying a dialog and the students will act it out in front of the class. We play games and will use the QUIZLETS and the Educreation videos that I create to learn the material. The QUIZLETS and videos are also posted on my website:

<http://ohamadamesimon.weebly.com>

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

In the seventh grade, after reviewing the main verbs and question words we worked on "Moi, je" an oral presentation about oneself. We worked on clothing, family and placement of the adjectives. We are now studying a dialog and the students will act it out in front of the class. The material is supplemented by "Bring your own technologies" activities created by the teacher (Socrative and Kahoot games). The students learn French so fast while having fun. The material, homework, Quizlets and additional videos are posted on Mrs. Simon's website

<http://ohamadamesimon@weebly.com>.

You can have access to it by going on the school website, go to Faculty and scroll down to Mrs. Simon's name and click on website. The parent and student can also email Mrs. Simon at www.mmesimonoha@gmail.com if they have a question. BON TRAVAIL!

In Mme Simon's eighth grade, after an extensive review, which is the basis for a good foundation, we studied the IR verbs, the prepositions and directions, the family and the placement of adjectives. We are now working on the verbs "Pouvoir + Vouloir" which allow the students to express what they want to do and what they can do. Soon, we will be studying the reflexive verbs and the routine of the day. The material is supplemented by "Bring your own technologies" activities created by the teacher (Socrative and Kahoot games). The students learn French so fast while having fun. I like to use a lot of technologies to help the students

improve their learning and pronunciation. The material, homework, Quizlets and Educreation videos are posted on my website

<http://ohamadamesimon@weebly.com>.

You can have access to it by going on the school website, go to Faculty and scroll down to my name and click on website. The parents and students can also email me at www.mmesimonoha@gmail.com.

Mr. Rosenfeld/Mrs. Bordiuk
Upper School PE

Congratulations to alumni Mae and Miller Corrigan who swam in a race in NYC – "NYC Swims Statue of Liberty." One hundred swimmers swam in the river around Liberty Island. Miller came in 4th out of the 100. YAY!

Congratulations to Mary Mahoney who swam for the NJ All Star Team this summer (11 and 12 yr olds). Mary swam in four events and it was quite an achievement to be selected for this All Star Team.

Phys. Ed. Notes: We are off to a great year! We started playing soccer in September. We are now running through the fitness tests for the Presidential Physical Fitness Awards that are given out in June. The President's Fitness Challenge tests five areas of physical fitness and compares results to all students in the U.S. by age. The five areas are: endurance (mile run), core body strength (curl ups), upper body strength (push ups), flexibility (stretch test) and speed and agility (shuttle run). The students will have a second chance at these tests in April and we will take the best results for each child.

When this testing is complete, we will resume our soccer unit and add in more Ultimate Frisbee. We would like to continue to go outside for Physical Education. Encourage your children to pack their PE bags for cooler weather.

Swim class will STOP on 11/26/14 for the winter months. Only a few weeks left! We will also be doing some swim skills testing in the pool before we take the break.

REMINDERS: Dress Down Day and Fabulous Footwear Day – The students are still required to wear sneakers in Physical Education class for their safety and participation. Sneakers prevent injuries.

Mrs. Grier/Library

When the doors open to the library each morning, it is great to see the children arrive eagerly looking for a new book to read. The library has checked out more than 2400 books this year. The children explore different topics that interest them or possibly will be by selecting a special genre that is related to their monthly "book-it" report. Some classes have the privilege of learning about different authors such as Chris Van Allsburg or Jan Brett while other children are continuing their research on the Dewey decimal system. When time permits, a favorite for the children is the scavenger hunt. Watching children use the computer to look up the specific book and then to locate it, sends a message that they too are engaging themselves in the library system.

Mrs. Griller/Computer

There has been a lot of processing of data in the computer room, as we started this new school year. The first graders have been creating wonderful pictures using Kid Pix software. The second graders have been learning about the parts of the computer and exploring fun Internet sites. In third grade the students starting created Venn Diagrams using Kidspiration about the books they have read and began learning how to properly hold their hands when typing on the keyboard. The fourth grade students have been creating fun presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint. All of the upper school students have been practicing their touch typing and creating projects in Microsoft Office. Fifth grade wrote acrostic poems, friendly letters and business letters in Word. Sixth graders tracked colors of beads that they counted in Excel, used formulas for totals, max, min and average number of beads and created several charts of their data. The seventh and eighth graders have been using Publisher. In seventh grade they made brochures about a current event of their choice and created character education banners that you can see hanging throughout the school. While in eighth grade they wrote their resume and began evaluating websites. Many exciting projects are ahead for the next marking period.



Mrs. Tyma/Music

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

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

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

The third grade classes are exploring triple meter and harmonic progressions as we learn to play an orchestration for a Halloween song on the barred instruments (xylophones, metallophones and glockenspiels). In addition, we will be creating our own choreography for "In the Hall of the Mountain King", a movement from the *Peer Gynt Suite* by Edvard Grieg. The concepts of contrast in tempo and dynamics are explored as we study this music.

The fourth graders began the year dancing by learning a square dance (stretching our musical and locomotor skills) and enjoying video performances of banjo, washboard, spoons, jaw harp and other instruments of the Appalachian Mountains. Also, we are brushing off the recorders, reviewing and learning new notes for a descant to an instrumental composition on the barred instruments. This composition is played in various tonalities to compare the difference in sound and structure; we will search for a tonality that will create the most effective Halloween sound. Later in the month we will enjoy guided listening lessons of the tone poem *Danse Macabre* by Camille Saint-Saens who based his composition on a poem by Henri Cazalis. Connections with the Language Arts curriculum will be made when the

students study this poem with Mrs. Roehrig.

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

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

The Chorus and Oak Hill Players are preparing music for the Veterans' Day Assembly on November 7th. We are very grateful to Mrs. Momyer for joining us again this year as our accompanist for the Chorus. A performance schedule for the year has been sent home to all members of the performance ensembles. If you did not receive it, please contact me (ktyma@oakhillacademy.com).

I encourage you to attend the family concerts offered by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. To find more information about these wonderful concerts, go to www.njsymphony.org to view "Education/Community" then "Family Concerts."

Miss DiMaggio/Art

First grade used watercolor to create a Y tree. They learned about symmetry and created a symmetrically beaded necklace. They also learned how to draw self portraits and drew themselves now and what they expect they might look like in 50 years.

Second grade worked together to make a large replica of Eric Charles famous book characters. They are currently working on their Piet Mondrian inspired animals using only the primary colors.

Third grade used the basics of color theory and followed the color wheel to make an abstract drawing using colors in the project called color collision. They also learned how to weave paper while making a paper quilt for a fuzzy friend.

Fourth grade worked in groups to create wooden sculptures based on artist Louise Nevelson and Pablo Picasso.

Fifth grade made creative color wheels while learning about the Elements of Art. They began drawing outdoors on some of our nice weather days, studied artist Wassily Kandinsky and created a Non-Objective drawing. We went outside and splatter painted after learning about American artist Jackson Pollock and learned a Mexican form of weaving while making a God's Eye.

Sixth grade learned how to draw using perspective and drew buildings in one point perspective. They are currently working on their Henri Rousseau inspired Jungles.

Seventh grade studied artist Georges Seurat and used tiny dots of paint to make a picture using the pointillism technique. They drew outdoors on our nice weather days and focused on composition, movement, value and shading. They are currently working on their black and white positive and negative drawings based on their class chosen themes (food, baby animals and art supplies).

Eighth grade used pastels to make their name in a graffiti style after learning about American artist Keith Haring. They are currently drawing a picture using tiny words and no lines called micro-calligraphy.

Mrs. DeVivo/Drama

Welcome back!

The Pre-K students are having a wonderful time in Drama! Their imaginations are running wild and they are such a joy to work with. Each class meets once a week for 30 minutes and in that time the students are role playing and reenacting some favorite children's books. One book that the students especially enjoyed was *"Caps for Sale"* by Esphyr Slobodkina. They had a great time playing the roles of the mischievous, silly monkeys that take the peddlers caps.

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

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

Second grade also spent time reviewing drama skills. They, too, have been reading and acting out a variety of plays in class. The first play was entitled, *"Rhymin' Liz and the Rhyme Time Kids,"* which dealt with how to make new students feel welcomed at school. They also acted out a Columbus Day play entitled, *"Getting to Know You."*

The third graders began the year reading a variety of Readers Theatre scripts such as *"Charlotte's Web," "And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon,"* and *"The Enormous Turnip."* The students also read and acted out a play about Christopher Columbus entitled *"Christopher's Dream."* Then, staying in character, the students wrote letters back and forth to other characters in the play. The fourth grade read and acted out a play called *"CSI: Mother Goose Land."* In this mystery play, Humpty Dumpty didn't accidentally fall off the wall, he was pushed! Detectives Jack B. Nimble and Miss Muffett have the tough job to find out who committed this terrible crime. After reading the play, the students designed costume sketches for the characters and made model set designs.

The seventh grade just completed a unit on Vaudeville. They watched excerpts of Abbott and Costello's *"Colgate Comedy Hour"* and the Marx' Brothers' *"Duck Soup."* We ended the lesson with each student preparing and presenting a vaudeville act in class. Students danced, sang, told jokes and did magic tricks just to name a few. Soon, the 7th grade will enter the world of William Shakespeare and the Globe theatre. The students will read excerpts of *"A Midsummer Night's Dream"* and then modernize the dialogue.

The eighth grade students have been writing original skits that deal with the themes they created for the Character Trait Banner's they made in Computer last year. We are hoping to perform these skits for some of the lower school classes.

DRAMA CLUBS

Forensics team is working hard preparing for our first competition of the year. It will take place at Rumson Country Day School on Saturday, November 15th. This club meets Mondays 2:20-3:00.

4th Grade Charades meets on Tuesdays from 2:20-3:00.

5th & 6th Grade Charades meets on Thursdays from 2:20-3:00. Both clubs are having a blast acting out a variety of scenarios each week.

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

Mrs. Vacca/Student Council

We're off to an exciting start with our new student council body. They are full of wonderful ideas. Members went to a Crop Walk Rally in Red Bank and then came back full of creative energy in preparation for our motivational Crop Walk assembly which took place on Wednesday, October 8th. Students recreated their own version of a television station, with broadcasters, Kaila Domanski and Zach Basile. William Walsh along with Jonathan Giuffre composed a series of commercials and a slide show of the students' posters. Student Council members then reported their informative posters to the audience. Aron Wiener (7th grade student) also presented his very creative powerpoint while playing a very beautiful piece on the piano. A DVD started the program and our dear friend Mrs. Janie Schildge joined in with some personal words that hopefully inspired and motivated all of us. Special guest was William Gleason, and alumni of OHA, who has been active with the Crop Walk since he was seven years old. William addressed the student body and faculty with some interesting and informative insight about the Crop Walk. The 34th RED BANK Crop Walk was held on Sunday, October 19th and we had an awesome Oak Hill turnout of over 55 students. Even alumni came for our family photo which proudly displays our OHA banner. Beautiful weather and walking with friends for a good cause made the five miles seem not so long. Remember: WE WALK, BECAUSE THEY WALK! We want to give a big thank you to everyone who walked, or raised money or contributed food. It's **AMAZING** how selling crop walk stickers for \$.25 and bracelets for \$1 can raise \$234. Thanks to everyone who purchased them. Please remember to

turn in your pledge envelopes as soon as possible.

The **Innisbrook Gift Wrap** sale has been extended until **Friday, November 7th**. Remember to use the **EZ** steps to order. OHA will receive 50% back from all orders placed and remember, you can continue to order all year long.

The **FALL HARVEST DANCE** for seventh and eighth grade students will be held on Friday, October 24th from 7:30-10 pm. in the Gym. Pizza, snack and beverages will all be provided for \$5. Students have the opportunity to wear their Halloween costume again if they choose to; otherwise please remember to wear sneakers and always appropriate clothing.

Lastly, calling all fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students! After reviewing the first marking period report cards, the "**S-Elections**" will be held on Wednesday, October 29th and results will be posted on Thursday, October 30th. Forms will be handed out during homeroom on Friday, October 24th.

Directory Changes

New Student for Grade 3 – Mrs. Staley

Liam Simpson
57 Waterman Avenue
Rumson, NJ 07760
Home: 919-308-3725
Email: saraellensimpson@yahoo.com
Parents: Neal and Sara Simpson

Remove from Grade 2 – Miss Colson

Laila Raquel Apolito

Phone Number Corrections

James Forsyth, 2B
Skyler Forsyth, 4R
Nolan Forsyth, Grade 6 Library HR
All the above – 732-410-4573

Emma Nagy, Grade 7, Room 3
(908) 433-3349

ATHLETICS

Boy's Soccer

Mr. Misson's team has an undefeated regular season record (12-0) heading into the play-offs! We have had wins over St. Benedict's (twice), Henry Hudson (twice), St. James, Asbury Park (twice), Keyport (twice) and Ranney (twice). We've outscored our opponents 58-8! We are seeded 4th and will play the 13th seed, Red Bank, on October 24th. Congratulations to eighth grader Lucas Bruckmann who has been named as an All Star for the Soccer League.

Girl's Soccer

This is the third year in a row that Mr. Bruckmann's team has qualified for the play-offs after a 21 year absence! The team is heading to the play-offs with an 8-3-1 record! The team has a number of young players, and coupled with the experience of the older players, have proved to be a winning formula! The girls have defeated Holy Cross (twice), Keyport (twice), Rumson Country Day, Ranney (twice) and Red Bank. We've outscored our opponents 45-24! The play-offs will start on Oct. 25th with OHA seeded #7 playing #10 St. Benedict's. Congratulations to eighth grader Catherine Stolbof who has been named as an All Star for the Soccer League.

Cross Country

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

The team did well in their meet against St. Jerome's of West Long Branch on September 30th! Oak Hill won the race with a combined score of 60-61! In the boy's race, OHA defeated St. Jerome's 21-41 with 7th grader Greg Dolan coming in 1st place! Placing in the top 10 were: 3rd place - 5th grader Brandon Klatsky, 4th place - 6th grader William Hurley, 6th place 7th grader Jake Rutkowski, 7th place - 4th grader Anthony DeJohn, 8th place – 7th grader Jason Wang.

For the girl's race, St. Jerome's outscored OHA 20-39. Fourth grader Lauren Soler was the first finisher for OHA! Also finishing in the top 10 were: 5th place - 4th grader Laura Hurley, 8th place – 6th grader Jordan Codispoti, 9th place – 3rd grader Jennifer Miao.

On November 2nd, the team will compete in the "Run for the Roses" race at the St. Rose athletic fields in Wall Twp.

Intramural Tennis

Mr. Goldfarb has his Intramural tennis program playing once a week. The students in grades 5-8 play doubles against each other and learn the skills of tennis!

