

# Oak Hill Academy Newsletter #5 May 2016



## Headmaster's Message Joseph A. Pacelli

I have been writing about what I feel are the "Ten Things Every Child Should Master" over the last few newsletters. Today I highlight one of my favorites, "Being a Leader."

At Oak Hill we have had students who displayed their leadership skills in the military as officers in the various services, but many of our grads have led the way by their mere presence. They grew up at Oak Hill as people who were going someplace and were taking others with them. They realized that a team effort was necessary as a catalyst for elite performance that enabled them to achieve things they wouldn't achieve on their own. They never settled for "good enough" and always looked for constant improvement within themselves and others. Looking for constant improvement within the group and lifelong learning were the keys to success in group endeavors. At Oak Hill they developed a sense of accountability and trust.

As the successful Ohio State College football coach, Urban Meyer, states in his book Above the Line, above the line behavior is intentional, on purpose and skillful. Those displaying this behavior don't practice the blame game, rather they use  $E + R = O$ ; Event + Response = Outcome. All events have consequences and he suggests the following six discipline approach:

- R:1 Press Pause
- R:2 Get Your Mind Right
- R:3 Step Up
- R:4 Adjust & Adapt
- R:5 Make A Difference
- R:6 Build a Skill

Look at missteps as clues to improve.

**Mrs. Larkins**  
Director of Development

Grandparent/Special Relative Day  
Our annual Grandparent/Special Relative Day will be held on **Thursday, May 19 (Grades PreK and 5-8) and Friday, May 20 (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 social studies 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.

"Diamond Oak Gala"

**Miss Murray**  
Director of Personnel/Administration

### Red & White Day

On Saturday, April 30th, all of our new students were invited to get acquainted with each other. Games were played in the morning and concluded with tasty donuts! 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 27th, students in grades K-7 will be having their annual Field Day. Mrs. Mee, Mrs. Bordiuk and Mr. Rosenfeld will be sending home details. PreK details will be handled by Mrs. Weikes.

### Class Trips

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

#### Grade 5

- 10/6 Tuckerton Seaport
- 2/9 Junior Achievement BizTown
- 5/9 Liberty Science Center

#### Grade 6

- 10/2 IPS Games at Arrowhead
- 2/9 Junior Achievement BizTown
- 5/3 Franklin Institute, Phila, PA
- 5/6 UPenn Museum, Phila, PA

#### Grade 7

- 10/23 Low Ropes/Climbing Wall at Arrowhead
- 11/13 Sherlock Holmes @CBA
- 2/29 Shakespeare from Drew University @OHA
- 5/10 Old Barracks, Trenton, NJ
- 5/23 Ellis Island

#### Grade 8

- 9/15 Canoe in Pine Barrens
- 11/13 Sherlock Holmes @CBA
- 2/29 Shakespeare from Drew University @OHA
- 4/12 Sterling Hill Mine, Ogdensburg, NJ
- 5/31 Amish Country, Lancaster, PA

### Monmouth University Choir

Thank you to Mrs. Tyma who arranged to have the Monmouth University Choir sing for our students in grades 4-8. This talented group of college students sang many songs from Broadway!

**Mr. Bruckmann**  
**Communications Administrator**

[2016 Oak Hill Academy Summer Programs](#)

The 2016 Oak Hill Academy Summer Programs are on-line. The [summer program brochure](#) lists all of the programs. Check out the [Summer Program's page](#) for more information regarding individual programs. <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/summer-programs>

[Oak Hill Academy.com Updates](#)

**1. [Oak Hill Academy on Twitter, FACEBOOK and Google+!!](#)**

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

- "Follow us" on Twitter [@oakhillmustangs](#) or <https://twitter.com/OakHillMustangs>
- "Like" us at: [Oak Hill Academy on Facebook](#) or see the link at the top of our website.
- Add us to your [Circles on Google+](#) or see the link at the top our website.

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

**[35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alumni Reunion](#)**

- **Invitations have been mailed out and we are excited to get as many former Mustangs together as possible on Sunday, June 5 from 11am to 1pm.**
- **Check out the Alumni page for more information:** <http://www.oakhillacademy.com/alumni/alumni-activities>

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

Gr. 1 - We shared [The Enormous Potato](#) by Aubrey Davis. In this story, the farmer plants a potato that grows, and grows, and grows. When it came time to pull the potato out of the ground, he enlisted the help of everyone from his wife to the mouse. With the help of many, the potato was pulled up, cooked, slathered with butter and shared with the townspeople. This was a humorous tale that focused on the value of co-operation and the joys of working together to achieve a common goal.

Gr. 2 - We continued learning about good character traits through our stories from [Sippi, the Canine with Character](#). This month we focused on honesty and making good choices through the story "Sippi Learns the Meaning of Honesty."

In this story, Sippi and Kate were playing ball, and accidentally the ball went through a neighbor's window. Sippi and Kate made the wrong choice and hid behind a tree when the neighbor came to find out who had broken the window. Then, when Sippi got home, he lied to his father about the incident. Sippi realized he felt much better when he finally told the truth and got the lie off his chest. The moral of the tale is **HONESTY MAKES OTHERS THINK BETTER OF YOU.**

Gr. 3 - From [Friendship Fables](#), I narrated as some of the children took parts in the fable, "Be-Good Bee and Monkey-Around-Monkey Fix Their Friendship." In this fable, Be-Good-Bee needed some help in dealing with angry feelings toward Monkey-Around-Monkey. Be-Good-Bee could always use his stinger to get back at Monkey, but that would not be the way to solve the problem. Bee tried counting to 10 and flying away, but it didn't seem to calm him down. Lastly, he turned to his dad for advice. Dad suggested that he and Monkey talk about their problem. This way, they should be able to come to a solution that is good for both of them.

Gr. 4 - Our folktale this month from [Rhinos and Raspberries](#) was "Old Joe and the Carpenter." It is an Appalachian tale of building bridges. Old Joe and his neighbor, who had been friends for years, had their first argument over the boundaries of their land. Rather than talk it over, Old Joe's neighbor dug a creek to divide their land. This angered Old Joe, so he enlisted the help of a carpenter to build a fence along the property line. When Old Joe went to check on the progress of the carpenter, he found that there wasn't a fence at all, but a bridge that went from one side of the creek to the other. Upon seeing the bridge, his neighbor walked across with his hand stuck out, saying, "Joe, you're quite a fellow to build this bridge. I'da never been able to do that. I'm so glad we're going to be friends again. We discussed the tools we need to make and keep friends. In our relationships, we need to make an effort to "build bridges and not walls."

**Mrs. Weikes, Director**  
**Mrs. Wood/Miss Bonnano**  
**Pre-Kindergarten**

Spring has finally arrived at Oak Hill Academy, along with some beautiful weather. Pre-K students enjoy playing outdoors and walking across the campus to their special classes. The arrival of spring also provides us with the opportunity to enjoy exciting lessons and projects about insects, life-cycles, and

baby animals. Our chick eggs arrived mid-April from Quiver Farms in Pennsylvania. Following a presentation from Farmer Ed, students were allowed to turn the eggs in the incubator, check the temperature, and add water to create the ideal atmosphere for the hatch. We are proud to announce that all twelve eggs hatched and thrived under the tender loving care of the students. While exciting life-cycle projects continue, our classroom habitat of butterfly larvae will emerge from their chrysalis to be released in about a week. Spring is indeed the time for new beginnings. 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 for Early Learning, and enjoy an outdoor picnic complete with a tribute to our wonderful moms. After attending the Kindergarten May Day performance, Pre-K will deliver their handmade May Day floral garlands and poems to faculty and staff across the campus.

Our school wide character trait for April was "cooperation" and developing "teamwork." Examples of this have been strong in the classroom, while working with classmates, teachers, and playing outdoors. Practicing for the spring performance of "The Greatest Little Show On Earth," is another prime example of what it means to cooperate.

The Letter People continue to excite and motivate students to master their consonants and vowels. Ms. U has an upside down umbrella and Mr. Q asks unending questions. Rumor has it that they may "tie the knot" and marry under the "Big Top" following the Pre-K spring circus spectacular. Not too many people know that they both met during a Barnum and Bailey circus performance at Madison S"qu"are Garden in New York. They both have had a personal "qu-est" to someday join the circus. Stay tuned!

Our year-end review of the alphabet will include a Letter People parade. Students and teachers dress as their favorite Letter People character.

This month, telling time to the hour and half-hour and daily calendar work will continue to provide students with challenging work and activities to strengthen their thinking skills.

The school year is beginning to wind down, however things in the Pre-K are still going strong. Just like spring, our Pre-K students continue to blossom. We hope that everyone enjoyed a relaxing

spring break and you are now loving this beautiful weather.

Happy Springtime!

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

Spring is here!! The Kindergarten students have been enjoying the new pebbles that were put on our playground. Each month we take a picture in front of the same tree and we have been observing the changes in our environment. The biggest change has been how tall the children have gotten this year. This year has flown by!

The Kindergarten rocked the house with their lip sync performance! We'd like to thank Mrs. DiBiasi and Mrs. Verrinder who volunteered to put the performance together. Way to go – great show!

Kindergarten had the opportunity to experience their first Littletown Day. What a great life skill they learned in earning their tiny bucks and then getting to spend them. During all that fun they learned so much about Brazil. They made amazing Amazon River Tour guides. Thank you Mrs. Vacca for another wonderful Littletown Day!

Our trip to Huber Woods was very educational. We were able to see a variety of snakes and learn the differences between them. A few of us were even brave enough to touch them. We encourage all OHA families to take advantage of the wonderful park system we have in Monmouth County. We learned so much! We were also lucky enough to visit Count Basie theater to see *Seussical the Musical*. The children truly enjoyed all the singing and dancing.

We would like to thank the class moms for throwing us a wonderful spring party. The children had so much fun trying to find all of the eggs during the egg hunt. As is the case every year, there were a few eggs that proved difficult to locate but they eventually were found!

We continue to meet new Letter People. We now have all five vowels to help us make even more words. The students are doing a great job applying those sounds into their stories which we will see published in the upcoming Reflections. We hope you get a chance to read their terrific stories!

In Math we are working on our addition and subtraction skills and will start identifying coins with the children. We

encourage parents to let the children explore and count coins at home.

On April 29th we have invited the entire school, along with our parents, to watch us perform our Maypole dance. The children have practiced for many hours and this is a performance we look forward to every year. Good luck Kindergarten!

In addition to practicing for Maypole we are busy getting ready for our next big performance. On May 8<sup>th</sup> we will honor the Kindergarten mothers with a Mother's Day Tea and spring play. We look forward to spending a beautiful day with them!

**Miss Arcscott/Miss Colson/  
Mrs. Quagliato  
Grade 1**

What WONDERFUL progress the students have made all year long. Our stories are descriptive and very creative. Our illustrations are colorful. Our students have learned to be independent and responsible in the classroom and out on the playground.

We have learned many new math skills in our Singapore Math curriculum. These skills include counting within 40 by making tens first, interpreting two-digit numbers in terms of tens and ones, and adding one-digit and two-digit numbers using number bonds. It was good to see so many first grade parents attending the Singapore information session the first grade teachers held in our classrooms. Continue to review all skills and practice the addition and subtraction facts to 20.

We look forward to our final FIRST GRADE DAYS as the students prepare to enter Second Grade. Please continue to view our blog, which is loaded with pictures of our handsome and beautiful children while they are learning and having fun!!!

**Mrs. Buchner/Mrs. Caprara  
Grade 2**

With the arrival of spring, finally after our very long winter, there has been a flurry of activity in second grade. We have spent a great deal of time working hard to prepare for and then finally taking the ERB's 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 many new concepts such as mental addition and subtraction of numbers to one hundred, arrays, and the multiplication and division facts for the 3 and 4 tables. In the future units we will be counting and writing money amounts to \$20 and reading, comparing and ordering fractions. Please continue to practice the facts daily, especially the subtraction, multiplication, and division facts.

We look forward to Grandparents', Special Relatives' and Friends' Day so that we may invite everyone into our classrooms to share 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. Staley  
Grade 3**

Spring is in full bloom and as our school year begins to wind down, we look back to the start of the school year and are so proud of how far the third grade class has come. We would also like to say job well done to the third grade class for all of the hard work that they put into the ERBs. The tests can be very challenging, and your effort did not go unnoticed. Although the end of the year is quickly approaching, we still have plenty of exciting plans in store for third grade.

In Reading we will finish up our unit titled "Meet the Challenge." The students have read stories about characters who face different problems and have to figure out solutions to these obstacles. The students learned about point of view, compare and contrast, summarizing a story, and multiple meaning words.

In Math we will be starting our study of time and measurement. The students will be learning about kilograms and grams, liters and milliliters, and how to make conversions.

In Social Studies, we are beginning the reading of Samantha Learns a Lesson. The students are learning about life and school in 1904. There were many inventions during that time period. Students will be researching old inventions to create a timeline. At home they will be researching the invention that they consider to be the most important in our time.

In Novel Studies, we will be finishing the story Emily's Fortune where students learned about a little girl who has lost her mother and father. The story describes

the adventure she goes on to find her aunt and the challenges she faces when certain people try to stop her. The students recognize that there is a difference between a true friend and someone who becomes a friend for the wrong reason. We will begin to work on preparations for our Oak Hill Wax Museum. Remember to look out for news about the date!

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

In Language Arts, students are working on compare and contrast essays. Presently they are comparing and contrasting two animals of their choice based on their own research.

In English, we are working on our pronoun unit. We are learning 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 a personal friend. We are looking forward to compiling all of our poetry into our own poetry books.

In Reading, we were delving into fantasy, realistic fiction, informational text, and biographies. We know the components that make up each kind of writing. We discussed the essential questions of "What makes a new friend feel welcome?", "In what ways can you help your community?", and "How can one man make a difference?". We worked on identifying the point of view as either first, second, or third person and then discussed what the author was telling us in each selection. We focused on visualizing, context clues, synonyms and antonyms, and vocabulary words.

In Social Studies, we have been learning maps skills. We have worked with a map with a scale of five miles to an inch and one with 550 miles to an inch. We know about a map's key. We understand latitude lines and longitude lines and the four hemispheres. We have learned the seven continents and know which one we are part of. We learned a big word *contiguous*, describing the 48 continental states of the U.S. We know that Alaska and Hawaii are newer to the USA and apart from the contiguous states. All of this information is important so we know more than our street address. We will know our 'world' address. We are aware that there is a debate in the geographic world as to whether there are four or five oceans. "Five oceans!" some readers are saying. Some geographers believe that there is a Southern Ocean surrounding

Antarctica, instead of the southern parts of the Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans. This chapter in our studies also taught us New Jersey's thirteen symbols set by law. Ask a fourth grader what they are. We know the most important symbol is used on all official documents and on our flag – the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey.

On April 14th, the fourth graders made our four-foot New Jersey cake. 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 chocolate lighthouses, a chocolate Governor's Mansion, and of course, a chocolate Oak Hill Academy complete with an OHA sign. Our very diverse and beautiful state was well represented by our 4-foot replica. Of course, we now know that our **New Jersey** was delicious, too. We each ate a piece.

A big thank you goes to Mrs. Duffy, Mrs. Lucosky, Mrs. Patnaik, and Mrs. Shallcross for the shopping, planning, chocolate making, setting up and cleaning up. We appreciated their purchasing the five colors of frosting so we all didn't have to mix and mix our frosting. Their handiwork of making trees, factories, and skyscrapers was exceptional! We couldn't have done this project without them. Many thanks to Mr. Misson and all the security team for all their help.

**Mrs. Cahalane  
Lower School Science**

In science class, PK students have been learning about chemistry. Kindergarteners have been doing penny chemistry activities. First graders are learning about weather, clouds, and the water cycle. Students in grade 2 have been studying solids, liquids, and gases. Third graders are learning about the moon. Students in grade 4 are building a Mars colony. Please see my teaching blog for some great photos of the children in science class!

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

Spring swim classes have begun! All Lower School students are swimming twice a week; one day is dedicated to improving stroke technique, and the other day is more "fun." Swimming is an excellent full body workout, and students will be ready for the pool come summer. We began the Presidential Physical Fitness tests for the second time this year to see if students' fitness scores have improved. Students will receive their award patches on Wednesday, June 1 at the Lower School Athletic and Field Day Awards Assembly. Later in the marking period, we will begin to get ready for Field Day, which is Friday, May 27th. A letter will be going home explaining the specifics; parent help is greatly appreciated during this event!

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

This year's class concludes with our final destination to the small island country known as the "Land of Fire and Ice" or commonly known as Iceland. Discovered and settled by the Vikings who came from the Nordic region, Norway, came upon this land back in the year 807. This island formed from a volcano and it has many beautiful sites to see. From the Blue Lagoon, to the ice caves, glaciers and fjords, geysers shooting water up to 100ft. in the air, to the Gullfoss Waterfall and the Aurora Borealis or the Northern Lights. The capital: Reykjavik is home to 2/3 of the population, about 184,000 people, since the majority of Iceland is either volcanoes or glaciers. Iceland is known for its geo-thermal water which heats swimming pools, homes, hothouses for growing fruits and vegetables and the heat can even bake rye bread.

Students have been enjoying sites on the iPads and learning about Iceland through tours, and video clips. From the Icelandic horses, sheep, reindeer, puffins, seal, and whales, this island has much to offer. Some projects will include making a Viking ship from clay and creating a collage of Icelandic animals or beautiful sites.

Although students can no longer earn "tiny bucks" since Littletown Day is over, they can still bring in items that pertain to **Iceland** if they choose to. Also, please check out the slideshow of **Littletown Day 2016** on the OHA website under "general."

**Mme Koar**  
**Lower School French**  
**Mrs. Scheuer**  
**Upper School Guidance**

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 rite 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 was my first teaching assignment at OHA.

Bravo to cast and crew participating in the OHA school play, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown. Congratulations on not one, but two amazing performances!

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. Proud to report eighth graders are putting the finishing touches on their final year, working very hard in the classroom, coordinating exciting trips and creating memories to last a lifetime. Our fifth graders have been outstanding ambassadors to fourth grade students visiting the Upper School.

Finally, special thanks to students and OHAPO members that volunteered their time on Saturday, April 30th 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!

**Miss Lee**  
**Grade 5 Literature/LA**

This past marking period, we read a play about the life and work of the writer, Langston Hughes. In addition to learning about his life experiences, we were also introduced to some of his poetry. We continued our studies of the creative art form of poetry through reading aloud segments from Sharon Creech's book, Love That Dog, as well as other poems from our Literature textbook. This year

we celebrated "Poem in Your Pocket Day," on April 21, by choosing a poem to carry throughout the day and share with each other. I'm looking forward to our next literary exploration into the realm of folk tales, fairy tales, fables, and myths.

In Language Arts, we've been studying pronouns and adjectives. We've also been working on a few smaller writing assignments, including some poems and a personal definition of an abstract noun. Everyone's creativity is shining through immensely! Our final essay of the school year is about following the Golden Rule. This essay provides another great school-to-home connection. I encourage students to share their essay drafts with their families as we progress through the writing process. I also encourage parents to ask students about their essays. Next, we will study adverbs and prepositions and complete our vocabulary studies for the year in our Vocabulary Workshop books. As always, it is exciting to see vocabulary words pop up in other places!

In the upcoming weeks, we will start to review and reflect on all of the reading and writing we have done this school year - in preparation for our Big Tests in June. We have had a great year in 5th grade Literature and Language Arts!

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

**FINAL DUE DATES OF**  
**History/Geography Fair Sections**

Sections of projects will be handed in **on these deadlines**, using the following format:

**By APRIL 25th** (Wed – Monday): A neat description, or outline, of research, work and findings.  
Record your Bibliography!

**APRIL 28/29<sup>th</sup>: MATERIALS YOU HAVE OR WILL USE IN PROJECT LISTED AND THE PROCEDURE YOU FOLLOWED, OR ARE FOLLOWING.**

Each student should describe his or her individual part in a shared project.

Type or write each section separately and neatly, following this **example**:

**THIS DOES NOT GO ON THE DISPLAY BOARD!!!**

**MATERIALS**

- 1.Three-sided Posterboard
- 2.Anything (other than markers, glue, etc.) used on Posterboard
- 3.Special pictures, Maps or chart.
- 4.List supplies used to make a model, or diorama, if you are using one
- 5.**MUST LIST ANYTHING ELECTRONIC WHICH NEEDS TO BE PLUGGED IN, if you plan to use any electronics!**

Continue with anything else you have used or plan to use

**THIS DOES NOT GO ON THE DISPLAY BOARD!!!!!!**

**PROCEDURE**

- 1.Get books and look online for research
- 2.Finish research; write bibliography
- 3.Get supplies
- 4.Choose pictures, create diagrams, etc. for display
- 5.Build model, if making one.

Continue, ending with Write and Hand in Conclusion; bring project to school.

**MAY 9<sup>th</sup> (Mon.): SUBMIT A FINAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCES.** Type or write neatly. **Must be handed in to Teacher.** Does not need to be on display board. May go on table. Must have correct number of sources and **use correct bibliographical form.**

**Wikipedia may be used for background information, but it is NOT a Source!**

- GRADE 5 - three sources per student** (minimum; does not = 100%)  
**GRADE 6 - four sources per student** (minimum; does not = 100%)  
**GRADE 7 - five sources per student** (minimum; does not = 100%)  
**GRADE 8 - six sources per student** (minimum; does not = 100%)

**MAY 16<sup>th</sup> (Mon): FINAL CONCLUSIONS / COMPLETE YOUR PROJECT.**

**Each student in a shared project must have his or her own, not identical conclusion!**

The conclusion should be typed in correct paragraph form and should be approximately one page long. It should briefly summarize your topic, your research, and then explain completely, using examples and supporting details, your answer to the question or problem you posed. Conclusion does not necessarily have to go on display board.

**Conclusion must be handed in separately to teacher, even if a copy is on display board! Each student in a shared Project must have his or her own conclusion! Conclusions may NOT be identical!!! Conclusion may be placed on table in front of display, if there is note room on display board**

**MAY 18<sup>th</sup> (Wed): PROJECTS SET UP IN GYM BEFORE HOMEROOM.**

**All projects must be complete, and set up in the Gym by Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, or risk a seriously lower grade. Student name(s), Grade and Class Period must be visible on presentation.**

**Projects must be removed at the end of the day on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Mr. Bruckmann  
Grade 5 Math**

The fifth marking period coming to end brought with it the end of two rather compact units. First it was Unit 9 with percents from fractions and decimals using our understanding of the relationship of decimals and fractions. It was then on to Unit 10 that dealt with looking at math from a different angle. LOL! Students investigated the different types of Quadrilaterals as well as Triangles as well as how their properties may be used to find the measure of angles or even how to use a protractor and measure angles themselves. We are on schedule to finish the entire 5<sup>th</sup> grade program as we move into Units 11-13 during the 6<sup>th</sup> marking period. Please remember that corrections of quizzes and

tests is not optional and that homework is a very important step in the process of learning lessons of both that day as well as previous days. 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 took their cumulative test on composite figures right before spring break. Since we had a bit of time we worked on permutations and combinations. These are topics not typically covered in 5<sup>th</sup> grade so I thought the students would enjoy learning some higher level probability concepts.

As soon as the students returned from spring break we took a diversion from the Singapore books. Since this group will be heading on to 7<sup>th</sup> grade math, I thought it was important for them to learn the Pythagorean Theorem, scientific notation, metric conversions and solving and graphing inequalities. We covered the Pythagorean Theorem in great detail. The students worked out of several resources and solved many questions/word problems. Their assessments were outstanding. We just began exploring inequalities. The students learned how to solve and graph inequalities with positive and negative integers. We will work on learning how to solve inequalities when multiplying/dividing by a negative and we will learn how to solve inequalities with rational numbers before returning to the Singapore books.

The students continue to do outstanding work. They are a pleasure to teach.

Grade 5 Period 3

We started the marking period off by exploring three dimensional figures. The students learned how to identify the faces and vertices of the figures and how to use Euler's formula for determining the number of edges. We also reviewed how to find the area and perimeter of two dimensional figures and how to calculate the volume of rectangular prisms.

After break we moved on to ratios. The students loved this. They quickly grasped the concept of determining ratios between two or three quantities and how to calculate equivalent ratios. They even saw how bar models were helpful in solving some of the more challenging ratio questions.

They sadly moved on to decimals, but I am so pleased to say they have done

beautifully on their decimal work to date. They learned how to read and write decimals from words and fractions; they learned how to convert fractions into decimals; they learned how to round, compare and order decimals; they learned how to add and subtract decimals and we are now working on multiplying decimals. They love to work on the board and I enjoy having them work on the board so I can see where their mistakes are, if any.

After we spend a bit more time on multiplying, we will begin dividing. The students continue to work hard. It is very important that they do their homework with care every evening.

Grade 6

Integers was the word to describe this marking period. We covered the final two operations of multiplication/division, then incorporated that into order of operations questions. Since order of operations can be a bit tricky, we spent an entire week on this concept. The students put their homework on the board every day and explained their work to the class. The students then learned how to solve algebraic equations with positive and negative numbers. These equations were both one step and two step. Their assessment on this was excellent. From there we moved on to solving equations with two variables and graphing the resulting ordered pairs. I introduced words such as linear equations, parabolas and cubic functions to show the students how the graph changes depending on the exponent in the equation.

They will have a comprehensive test on all aspects of integers in the beginning of the new marking period. Next stop – circles!

It is a pleasure working with these students. Thank you for your continued support at home.

Grade 7

Proportions. Proportions. Proportions. Chapter 8 has ten lessons. Each one of these shows how to use proportions to solve any number of math questions. The students have learned and mastered percent proportions, they have learned how to change fractions into percents and the opposite; they have learned how to find the percent of change between numbers, how to find measurements using scale drawings. The students have learned how to solve dilations and how they are used in the art world to show perspective (depth and distance); they have learned how to use indirect measurement to find heights of certain

objects. (Ask your child about our lively discussion about measuring the flagpole outside of Oak Hill Academy.) And finally, the students learned valuable real life lessons about “good” interest and “bad” interest and how to calculate discount and mark up.

The students continue to work hard. I am very pleased with our progress. Thank you for your support at home.

### Grade 8 – Introduction to Algebra

The students have been waiting for this chapter! We are working on full blown algebra. We are spending enough time on each concept to ensure mastery. This will help these students so much as they enter high school. I am very familiar with high school algebra curriculum so I know with certainty that they will be required to learn all of these concepts next year. Some of the topics we have covered so far are determining whether ordered pairs are functions and identifying the corresponding domain and range, solving equations with two variables, identifying intercepts and graphing the corresponding equation and finding slope. The last marking period we will cover slope intercept form, solving simultaneous equations and graphing systems of inequalities. We will also cover square roots and the Pythagorean Theorem.

I am so proud of these students. Their work is beautiful. I have shown other teachers their work and have discussed their work ethic and their enthusiasm with Administration as well.

### Algebra 2

As per usual, we covered two chapters and started a third this marking period. These last chapters in the book are the beginning of pre-calculus so the students are building a great foundation for their next course work. We covered arithmetic and geometric sequences and series including finite and infinite series. We covered permutations and combinations, experimental and theoretical probability, independent and dependent events as well as the Binomial Theorem. They all loved Pascal’s triangle and agreed that it was very useful to solve equations with big exponents.

The last week of the marking period began a slow introduction to Trigonometry. We began with a detailed study of special right triangles and will be ultimately tying them into the Unit Circle. We learned the basic six trigonometric ratios and have solved many word problems using them. As I have told the students, the trick is to sketch the triangle right so you know which ratio to use. While at first this is not an easy task, as

they are exposed to more word problems, like anything else, it will get easier. The last concept discussed this marking period is the conversion of degrees to radians and the reverse. The last marking period will be devoted solely to trig concepts. Since we have worked so diligently throughout the year, we have the “luxury” of being able to use additional resources to help supplement their learning.

This is a terrific class and a true pleasure to teach.

### **Mr. Clapp** **Grade 5 Science**

For the fifth marking period all of the fifth graders became Geologists! We studied all about minerals and rocks and the properties of each. My students now know what it means to actually be a mineral and can name all kinds of minerals that we use every day. We then switched into rocks and saw all different kinds and types of rocks. They even made their own rocks out of crayon shavings. This showed how one rock can turn into other rocks based on certain situations or processes.

For the last marking period we are going to get pretty messy and dirty. We will be examining soil and all of its components including: what is living in the soil and all of the non-living parts as well. One of our first labs will be to see how soil filters our water in aquifers.

### **Mrs. Vacca** **Grade 5 and 6 Math Workshop**

Students continue their 10 minute warm-ups of challenging math problems all compiled along with next marking periods’ bonus points towards a dress down day. This past marking period, students have been completing math worksheets on various sports that will be held at the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics. These worksheets involve scoring, salaries of famous athletes, equipment measurements, and calculating records of past Olympic winners.

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

Students are concluding their research on various sport events that will be held in the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics. A description of the sport, equipment used, rules of the event, and predicted medal winners will be presented through Keynote, Powerpoint, or Prezi. Presentations have begun and they are informative and creative including transitions and video clips.

### **Mrs. Koar** **Grades 5 & 6 Tech**

### **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 in the writing of an epilogue to *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi. Students used vivid detail, dialogue, and strong plots to transport the reader to life at sea aboard the brig, Seahawk. Grammar reviews of capitalization and mechanics supported our writing efforts and were also good practice for the ERB tests.

### **Mrs. Daly/Mrs. Grier/Mrs. Scheuer** **Grade 6 Reading**

Students have started their novel study of *The Library Card* by Jerry Spinelli. The author chronicles the lives of four different characters as they journey to discover the world of reading. Students like the novellas within the story as they studied each tale’s symbolism.

The classes are learning about timely news stories as we examine our *Storyworks* magazine. This month, students are practicing their comprehension skills as we connect scientific theories to fictional accounts of alien life form. The unit concludes with a short study of *The War of the Worlds* radio broadcast.

### **Mrs. Palamara** **Grades 6 – 8 Math**

#### Singapore 6

We began this marking period with the calculation of circumference and area of circles. Students compared the results when using  $22/7$ ,  $3.14$  and the pi button on the calculator. We also discussed the history of PI dating back to 1650 BC. Students then moved on to discuss circumference and areas of parts of circles using their knowledge of completed circles. They then were able to find the area of composite figures that have a curved side.

Students then began their study of negative numbers reviewing the four operations. They are currently working on mixed operations using negative numbers with and without parentheses and using exponents in their order of operations.

#### Grade 7 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.

#### 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 22 participating students raised \$2,694 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. All prizes will be distributed to homerooms.

#### **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.

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

##### Grade 5

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

All this has been reinforced with power point presentations, videos, songs, games, classroom interaction and by logging in to my sites, Weebly, Quizlet and Educreation for visual and auditory practice.

##### Grade 7

During this marking period the seventh grade students completed section 2 of Chapter 3, built a lot of vocabulary and expressions, mastered the conjugation of the irregular verbs *ir, hacer and salir*. Also, we have covered a few interrogative words, indefinite articles, seasons and weather expressions. At this time we are in the process of learning the verbs *to have, to come* and expressions using the verb *tener*. All this has been reinforced with power point presentations, audio CD's, videos, classroom interaction and by logging in to my sites, Weebly, Quizlet and Educreation for visual and auditory practice.

##### Grade 8

During the fifth marking period, the eighth grade students worked on affirmative formal and informal commands with regular verbs and stem-changing verbs, informal and formal commands with irregular verbs, negative informal commands with regular verbs and the

usage of direct object pronouns with singular and double verbs.

We are in the process of memorizing a dialogue which students will present in front of the class. In conclusion, students have been and still are working very hard in preparation for "El Cinco de Mayo" which will be celebrated soon.

#### **Mrs. Tirella/Mrs. Daly Grade 7 LA**

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

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

#### **Mrs. Tirella / Mrs. Murray Grade 7 Literature**

In Literature, we are delving into the world of Poetry. We will focus on the Elements of Poetry and read a variety of poems that we will analyze. We will also emphasize the various literary devices as we enjoy our investigation of different types of poems.

Our next unit will focus on the Pulitzer prize-winning play version of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. We will emphasize the Elements of Drama as we read the play together in class and focus on the background of the setting of World War II and the Holocaust.

#### **Mrs. Daly Grades 7 & 8 Critical Reading**

The seventh grade classes are eagerly finishing their vocabulary study through Latin prefixes and roots. Our final chapters have provided us with interesting words based on animals. Students have created online games and puzzles using the review words. These padlets are available to the students for test reviews, as well.

Students are also practicing for reading comprehension nonfiction stories. Some of these have included *Appollo13*, life on other planets, and animals that can communicate with humans.

The classes are working well during the last marking period.

Students in the eighth grade have just completed a unit on making value judgments in reading comprehension.

The classes are continuing to practice skill development in many different ways. Through visual literacy, students are studying maps, charts, and graphs to better understand reading passages. *Junior Scholastic* readings have included modern day slave trade around the world, video game addictions, and other current events.

Students are doing well as we get closer to graduation!

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

The seventh grade is hard at work learning about the amazing task it was for our first three presidents to make our constitution a reality. We analyzed and debated their decisions both domestically and internationally. Students are hard at work preparing for our upcoming History Fair. We are excited to share our research and creativity with our fellow students, families and community.

The eighth grade is working hard learning all aspects of the post World War II Era. We are researching interesting topics such as the baby boom, The Cold War, Korean War, Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War. Students are fascinated by this period of history, especially since some of their family members were directly affected by some of these events. Students are enjoying preparing for our upcoming History Fair.

**Mrs. Larkins/Mrs. Vacca**  
**Grade 7 Math Workshop**

**Mrs. Vacca**  
**Explorations**

Grade 6

The current project “**Mustang Toy Company**” is coming along nicely, and giving the students an opportunity to be creative while using geometrical shapes. Presentations were made of each student’s toys and then their classmates will decide on which ones to purchase all within a \$50 budget. Order forms will be tallied; sales tax calculated and then totals completed and a chance to write out a check for the amount. This was a fun and creative project implementing math in both monetary and geometrical ways.

Another class has started the **Radio** project which involves time management and putting together a script of a 5-minute presentation, which will include 3 minutes of music and 2 minutes of information such as weather, current event of their radio station location, and even a testimonial as to why someone

likes their station. This is a group project on a collaboration of musical selections and creativity. Presentations will start next marking period.

Grade 7

Students are putting their final touches on their debate topics and some presentations have begun. Both sides of the topic are presented through Keynote, Powerpoint or Prezi and are then discussed between the two debaters. Then a vote is taken to see if the students’ opinions have changed after all the information has been presented. An open discussion is also encouraged. Some debate topics have been: Should animal performances be banned in circuses, Year round school? Banning boxing, Does Extra-terrestrial intelligence exist? Should organ donation be compulsory for all U.S. citizens? Do credit cards do more harm than good? Should the United States significantly increase space exploration? Should marijuana be legal in all 50 states? Should there be a ban on plastic bags in the grocery stores?

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

**Mr. Clapp**  
**Grade 8 Science**

The eighth graders are still on the human body but this past marking period has had us learning about the circulatory and respiratory systems. They all now know how oxygen and blood cycle throughout our body. We wrapped up this marking period by doing a human body system project where their groups must teach their class about a body system that was given to them.

Next marking period will be focused on the nervous system and the brain. The year will be capped off by a pig dissection to show what all of the body systems together look like.

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

**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 Liam O’Hara, Abigail Cieri, Jake Fradkin, Erin Gilfillan, and Aoife Picadio 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!

**Ms. Burke**  
**Grades 7 & 8 Latin**

The seventh graders began the semester by preparing for and taking the National Latin Exam on March 7th, on which they performed impressively. After the exam, we continued our grammar lessons by learning the dative case and indirect objects. The students also learned to identify, translate, and form the imperfect tense, our second tense in Latin. As always, we reinforced these grammatical concepts by translating stories about the Roman family, the Corneli. As part of our cultural study, we completed projects on Latin mottos and the Greco-Roman gods.

In the eighth grade, we also began with preparation for the National Latin Exam. After the exam, the eighth graders worked hard on new uses of nouns, including the ablative of cause, the partitive genitive, and new ways to use the dative. We also began our study of fourth and fifth declension nouns. As always, we worked on translation with stories from *Ecce Romani*, including a story about Hannibal. In our culture sections, we started our unit on Roman spectacles by discussing famous sites of Rome and chariot races. We also read Books 7, 8 and 9 of *Aeneas* and completed several exciting projects on them.

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

Grade 6

During the fifth marking period, the students practiced studying the family vocabulary, learned the verbs to have and practiced a skit and presented the dialog from memory in front of the entire class. I was amazed to hear their wonderful accent. We are now studying a text from the book *Bon Voyage* about a group of friends who go to a restaurant with their dog Tango. Then we will be working on speaking skills

In order to review the material, we often play games such as KAHOOT (each student uses either their personal device

or one from the school) or we play Around the World. Bon travail!

### Grade 7

In the seventh grade, we reviewed the irregular verbs and learned the placement of adjectives and clothing, the verbs Pouvoir (to be able to) and Vouloir and we studied a text called "En voyage en Bretagne" and studied cultural aspects of Brittany, the province I come from. We are now studying a text "The meals in France" and the students are seeing similarities and differences of the eating habits between France and the United States.

On April 26th, we celebrated our event called "Carnaval" and the students showed great enthusiasm. Special thanks to all the students who were so kind to bring delicious dishes and drinks.

### Grade 8

With the 8th graders, we have been studying the passé composé which quite a complex tense. The Passe Compose allows students to express themselves in the past tense and they have been able to relate to events that occurred in the past while creating stories and expressing themselves in writing and orally.

On April 26th, we celebrated the "Carnival" event and the students enjoyed it a lot. Students did research about Carnival in various places such as Quebec, Nice, New Orleans, Belgium and Martinique.

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

The Upper School is back to Swim class once per week and in Gym class 2x per week. In swim, we have been working on increasing the student's stamina/endurance in the pool and we have been playing pool games. Swimming is a great overall body workout. Using their upper body through swimming is helpful for other sports and fitness.

In Physical Education, we are finishing up the spring round of President's Physical Fitness testing. The mile run is over for this year! Many students improved their time in the mile run. Kudos to them! Award patches will be given out at the June assembly.

We have started some Lacrosse drills in the upper school; to be continued. We have also been using the three new, beautiful tennis courts for classes.

Field Day for grades K-7 is Friday, May 27, 2016. Teams and colors will be posted soon.

We will have **ZUMBA DAY** again for grades 5-8 on Wednesday May 18, 2016 in the SAC. No swim classes that day.

### **Mrs. Grier/Library**

### **Mrs. Griller/Computer**

All grades participated in Code.Org's hour of code during this marking period. Students programmed several steps of code according to instructions and then at the last step programmed their own idea.

The First graders have made fun projects using Kidpix software. They also learned where they letter keys are located on the keyboard.

The second grade classes programmed robots to move. This was a STEM project coordinated with Mrs. Cahalane's science class. In addition they learned about the parts on the inside of a computer; their names and how they are used.

Third graders have been practicing their touch typing and learning about where each key can be found on the keyboard and the finger that is responsible for that key when typing. They also created Venn diagrams for books that they have read using the program Kidspiration.

Fourth grade students are creating PowerPoint Presentations about themselves. They have also practiced their touch typing trying to improve on accuracy and speed.

In fifth grade students designed created an acrostic poem about a country they heard of before and an April calendar using Microsoft Word.

The sixth grade classes completed Business Portfolios using Excel and Word. They ran a lemonade stand business on coolmathgames.com, tracked the results in Excel, created Excel charts representing the results and then created a cover and wrote their business strategy using Word.

The seventh graders created character Education banners and greeting cards using Microsoft publisher.

In eighth grade the students designed 3D projects using TinkerCad software and printed them on a Makerbot printer. They also evaluated websites in preparation for designing their own website.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 folk song *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 third and fourth grade classes are looking forward to a concert by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra in New Brunswick on May 26th. 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 "Athletes of the Orchestra" – how the orchestra works as a team to produce the symphonic sound. The music performed will feature each section of the orchestra and will include compositions by Mozart, Gounod, Rimsky-Korsakov, Leroy Anderson and John Williams.

The seventh grade classes have completed a study of Indonesian Gamelan music, as well as explored an Orff composition for the barred instruments that focused on tonalities in music (major, minor, modal, etc.). Now we are working on two drumming compositions to explore how uneven rhythms are expressed in compound and simple meter. Next we will work on an Orff composition that focuses on mixed meter.

The eighth graders completed their unit in African drumming which focused on the rhythms of simple and compound meter. 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.

The applause for the Chorus performance was energetic and sustained at their concert for the OHA Parent Organization meeting on March 4th. Our thanks to Sydney Yan who joined the Chorus on violin for one of the numbers. Bravo to the OHA Chorus and Sydney!

The Oak Hill Players and Chorus are busy preparing their program for Grandparent/Special Relative Day on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. And the Music Makers will join the other two performance ensembles for the end of year Awards Assemblies on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Please join us for all of our upcoming performances and enjoy our music making.

### **Miss DiMaggio/Art**

First grade made symmetrical beaded necklaces and ceramic pinch pots. They painted watercolor flowers based on the artwork of Pablo Picasso.

Second grade used the pinch method of ceramics. Using the primary colors and rulers the class made Piet Mondrian inspired animals.

Third grade used the slab method of ceramics. They worked in small groups to make tissue paper collages based on Claude Monet.

Fourth grade used the slab method of ceramics. They learned about the foreground, middle ground and background of a picture and made a picture using this concept.

Fifth grade drew flowers using oil pastels based on American artist Georgia O'Keeffe. Using yarn and chop sticks, the class learned a Mexican weaving technique called Ojo De Dios also known as a God's Eye. They carved linoleum blocks and made several prints, and used the slab method in ceramics.

Sixth grade learned how to draw buildings in perspective. They used the slab method of ceramics, and used model magic to make a replica of American artist Jeff Koons' famous Balloon Animal Dogs.

Seventh grade used sharpie to draw a themed positive and negative drawing. They used the slab method of ceramics and they used acrylic paint to paint a picture showing texture.

Eighth grade drew a distorted or enhanced picture cropped in the shape of a circle using colored pencils. They used the slab method of ceramics to make a slump bowl inspired by glass blower Dale Chihuly, and they painted a beach using watercolor.

All spring semester students participated in the Monmouth Day Care Center Art Journal. Congratulations to our winners Daniel Mooney, Sydney Yan, Aron Wiener, Katie Freeman, Angelica Niedermeyer, and Emma Nagy! Their advertisements will be published in the Two River Times Newspaper on June 2, 2016.

Boat Building – The Boat launch is scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup>. More information to come.

### **Mrs. DeVivo/Drama**

### **Mrs. Vacca/Miss Arscott Student Council**

Oak Hill Academy recently received another wonderful note from our young man, Kendy Louis, who has been with 'Danita's Children's Orphanage since he was 8. Finishing up his senior year, Kendy has learned much about Biology and Chemistry that he would like to pursue more studies to become a doctor. He is most appreciative of all the monetary contributions we have made to provide him with a warm, caring and educational environment. Always good to hear that we at OHA are making a difference in someone's life! Kudos to us!!!!

Thanks to everyone for their monetary donations made on the March 4<sup>th</sup> dress down day for the "March of Dimes." We were able to make a contribution of \$408.74.

The student council members will be going to the Monmouth Day Care Center on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> to donate and read books to the children. I encourage everyone to attend the Barnes and Noble book fair on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> and purchase a book that will then be donated to the center. These children look forward to our visit and the interaction of our students with them. They love to be read to and played with.

**SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS:** Student Council elections for the upcoming school year 2016-2017 will be held in May. A packet has been handed out 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. **FYI: Student Council meetings are always held on Mondays!** Good luck to all the candidates!

### **Directory Changes**

### **ATHLETICS**

#### **Cross Country**

Mrs. Gilfillan and Mrs. Scheuer have been conducting cross country practices this spring! Every Friday, which started in April, 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 35 students have been practicing for the Mustangs this season. The team will play seven matches against other schools. Since only seven players 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 intact from last year! The team has already defeated Red Bank Charter 5-0 and will have upcoming matches against Bay Head, Ranney, Monmouth Beach and Holy Cross. The season will conclude with a doubles tournament against the faculty at the end of May.

### **Softball**

Mrs. Porzio's Softball Team has been practicing hard and gaining confidence with a relatively young, but talented, team. The team lost to Maple Place, but had a convincing victory over Rumson Country Day! A few more games against Keansburg, Keyport and RCD are still to be played! Their schedule will conclude with a game against the faculty at the end of May.

### **Baseball**

Mr. Bruckmann's and Mr. Rosenfeld's team will open up with a game against Keansburg on May 6. Veteran players and some new younger players make up this year's team. Games against RCD, Brielle and Keyport are still to be played. Their schedule will conclude at the end of May.

### **Spring Lacrosse**

Lacrosse has been introduced on an intramural level for boys and girls in the Upper School. Practices are held on Friday afternoons. A good number of students have been working on their lacrosse skills. Mr. Andrew Todd is instructing.