

OAK HILL ACADEMY
JUNE 2016
NEWSLETTER #6



Headmaster's Message
Joseph A. Pacelli

Where did the school year go? As we started classes in September, it seemed like we all had a long road ahead. Like the little engine that could, our students moved forward with each new concept or skill as they used their talents to explore new ideas. The world of learning and adventure was viewed as a unique educational experience. As we approach those lazy/hazy days of summer, it is time for us to relax, cool off, slow down and enjoy the world around us. Some new places to go and see! If possible, I always suggest that we take this summer break as an opportunity to try something new or see a place that we find interesting.

I will spend my summer preparing for September, spending time with family, and of course catching up with reading all the books that have been piling up on my desk. Pleasure reading is such a joy, allowing us to visit places and meet characters who are interesting. A new topic, place or person is waiting for us just inside the cover of that book that we can pick up and enjoy at our pleasure.

So, I highly suggest young and old to read, read, read over the next few months.

Mrs. Larkins
Director of Development

Grandparent/Special Relative Day

Visitors abounded on Thursday, May 19 and Friday, May 20 as an estimated 300 people attended Grandparent/Special Relative Day. Due to the overwhelming response, the day was again broken into two days. The weather was cooperative for a third straight year! All visitors were enthusiastic as they started their day at the Scire Student Activities Center. The festivities began with a very impressive show by Oak Hill Academy's own Chorus and Oak Hill Players. Thank you to Mrs. Tyma and her talented students for a thoroughly enjoyable performance. Next, Mr. Pacelli related some of his personal jokes, thoughts, and experiences about the importance of the family to the healthy growth of our students. Everyone in attendance was treated to many refreshments thanks to the Parent Organization's Hospitality Committee. Then came the much anticipated classroom visit. Oak Hill students were at their best as they performed plays, read their original writings, competed in contests, worked on group projects, and shared memories during the class visits. Finally, the visitors enjoyed the Upper School's Geography/History fair which was exhibited in the gym.

We thank the visitors and we compliment our students, teachers, and parents for doing such a wonderful job in making them feel welcome.

A Special Thank You

A sense of true OHA spirit permeated every aspect of the 2015-2016 Parent Organization and their functions. The result was another wonderfully successful year. At the End of Year Appreciation Luncheon, Mr. Pacelli thanked the volunteers for all their hard work. Their successful year resulted in an end of year gift of **\$135,000!** As always, these funds will be used for the betterment of the educational experience offered to our students. Most notably, their generous end of year gift will help fund updating and expanded our technology at school including the addition of more laptops, Google Classroom, robotics, and teacher professional development. Even the playground area will get an update with the addition of pickle ball courts. Also the Parent Organization donated an **additional \$4,700** to grant the wishes of our teachers by providing a little something extra for each faculty member.

On behalf of the entire school, I would like to thank the officers of the 2015-2016 Parent Organization: President Joan Orlick and Secretary Eliza Antonio. In conjunction with their committee heads, these women organized events throughout the year that were each a social and financial success. On a personal note, I really enjoyed getting to work with these women and admire their dedication and loyalty to OHA. They were guided on the way by OHA Parent Liason, Corey Small.

The summer is sure to fly by and our chair people look forward to seeing everyone at the Parent Organization Welcome Coffee in September. As PO events approach, be sure to view the website at www.ohapo.org to learn more information and sign up to volunteer. It is a great way to help the school and a nice means to get to know other parents.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

**Miss Murray Director of
Personnel/Administration**

CHESTER J. GORSKI TENNIS &
BASKETBALL COMPLEX DEDICATION

On May 24th, the Oak Hill Academy school community came together on a rainy morning to dedicate the Tennis and Basketball complex. This beautiful facility is being used by our students during physical education classes, with the interscholastic and intramural tennis teams, as well as our current and alumni families!

Historically, we have had a tennis team at Oak Hill Academy for all 35 years! Mr. Pacelli coached the team in the first year, and Miss Murray has been coaching ever since! Oak Hill was the first middle school in the area to have a competitive tennis team. We had to schedule high school boy's freshmen and JV tennis teams to play us. Believe it or not, we were quite successful even against high school competition! We had to practice at the County Parks, CBA and any other school who would let us use their courts! We have had tremendous success, with many of our players, boys and girls, going on to play high school tennis and being recognized for the All-Shore Tennis teams. Many have gone on to play in college, too. In 1994, we had a family approach us about the construction of two tennis courts. The Weisleder family (Brooke, Sally, Travis '89, Courtland '91 and Devin '94) donated the funds for the two courts! The McCabe Family (Michael, Lorraine, Michael '00 and Joseph '03) and JoMac Construction were

instrumental in the construction of the courts.

Fast forward to the spring of 2015. Len and Lauren Gorski of L2M construction, and their son, 8th grader, Myles, approached us with the proposal of donating an additional tennis court, but also renovating the existing two courts! We were thrilled and so appreciative towards the Gorski's and work began almost immediately! L2M Construction took the lead, with Len Gorski overseeing the project. They worked in conjunction with Jack Hazinski from the Racquet Shop in Colts Neck. Jerry Molzon and Molzon Landscape Nursery was responsible for the landscape design.

What you see now is three beautiful tennis courts that have been used by our students and teams this year!

The Tennis and Basketball Complex was dedicated in honor of Chester J. Gorski. Mr. Gorski was an American hero! He enlisted in the United States Army in 1949 and was deployed to North Korea. He was captured by the Chinese Reds and was a Prisoner of War for three years. After his release, Mr. Gorski returned home to Keansburg where there was a parade in his honor. Mr. Gorski is the grandfather of 8th grader Myles Gorski. Mr. Gorski had attended every Veterans Day program at Oak Hill for nine years, until his passing last June. The Gorski Family dedicated the complex with this saying: "In loving memory of Chester J. Gorski 1932-2015, Korean War Ex-POW." "The quality of STRENGTH lined with Tenderness is an unbeatable combination." Dedicated by Leonard, Lauren and Myles Gorski."

Once again, the generosity of our families is overwhelming. Last fall, Mrs. Mary Ellen Harris met with Miss Murray and Mr. Pacelli and wanted to make the Tennis and Basketball Complex complete. Mrs. Harris and her husband, Dr. Robert Harris, have had one of the longest standing associations with Oak Hill Academy, that now goes onto the second generation! Three of their five children (Megan '93, Tim '95, and Kristen '99) graduated from Oak Hill and their oldest two sons, John and Bob have children at Oak Hill, and Tim will have his son start in PreK in September!

The Harris Family has been so instrumental in providing opportunities for the growth of Oak Hill Academy. They are continually there for us and we value the relationship and appreciate their unconditional support!

We would like to recognize and thank Dr. Robert and Mrs. Mary Ellen Harris and the Golden Dome Foundation for their unbelievable generosity! Their plaque reads, "Oak Hill Academy recognizes Dr. Robert and Mary Ellen Harris and the Golden Dome Foundation for their generosity in all things Oak Hill over the many years."

We would also like to thank and recognize our families who named the three tennis courts and basketball court. Their names appear on the wind screen behind the middle court!

Court 1: Josephine A. Pacelli

Court 2: Ragaa R. Girgis

Court 3: The Harris Family

Basketball Court: The Harris Family (their name is printed on the court)

The cabanas that you see on the courts will provide shade and a place for the players to rest! We appreciate the McConnell (Madeleine 1st grade) and DiBiasi (Caroline, 5th grade, and Madeleine, kindergarten) families for their generous donations.

To increase the viewing area, a wooden bench was placed outside of Court 1. This was made possible by an alumni family, Mrs. Karen Cangialosi, in honor of her two tennis playing sons, Jeffrey '05, who just returned from India and Peter '08, who just graduated from Duke a few weeks ago with a double degree in Neuroscience and French. Peter will be off to medical school.

The windscreens were generously donated by Jack Hazinski and The Racquet Shop of Colts Neck. We have had a very long standing relationship with the Racquet Shop and appreciate their involvement of completing these beautiful tennis courts!

We had a number of people who contributed to the "Purchase a Post" campaign, the Griffith, Peters, Skelton, Cieri and Olson families, as well as Miss Murray. We also had many families and friends of OHA participate in the "Purchased a Paver." We thank you. Your posts and pavers are located on the "Weisleder Walk" heading to the bleachers.

We also would like to thank those people who contributed to the McCabe Level of Game, Match and Set Levels. Their names appear on a plaque attached to the fence.

In closing, Mr. Pacelli thanked the following individuals and companies:

L2M Construction, Len and Lauren Gorski
The Racquet Shop, Jack Hazinski and Bill O'Shaunnessy
Jerry Molzon and Molzon Landscape Nursery
The Harris Family and Golden Dome Foundation
Patrice Murray, Glenn Misson, Donna McShane, Chris Larkins

WALK-A-THON

On May 12th, the entire Oak Hill community of students, faculty, staff and a number of parents all gathered on our soccer field for a massive school-wide walk-a-thon! The afternoon started off with a parade, led by our three grand marshals: Myles Gorski, Skye Loures, and Tess Loures. The three students rode in Mr. Livingston's antique convertible. Mr. Pacelli also rode in an antique car! We had a Middletown Twp. Fire truck start us off with plenty of noise and lights! The students and teachers were grouped according to their grade levels and marched behind the firetruck and cars.

Once on the soccer field, it was time to walk the perimeter! Periodically, each grade level was called out into the middle of the field for some dancing! Ice pops and water stations were set-up in each corner. Music played throughout the afternoon.

We were so pleased and thankful for the **\$16,800** raised through the pledges! These funds have been earmarked for our new technology. New laptops are tops on the list!

Thank you to so many families and staff members who contributed to this worthwhile event! Everyone received a t-shirt commemorating the day. Students were entered into raffles, had a dress down day and received snacks! Congratulations to the following families who won the various raffles: The Corba's, Regan's, DeVivo's, Duffy's. Congrats also to Lauren Yu, Wyatt Slagle, Sara DeCresce. The grand prize winner, Andrew Ferguson, won a Go-Pro!

Thank you to Miss DiMaggio and Mr. Rosenfeld who ran the entire event!!

Headmaster for a Day

Fourth grader Owen Granahan assumed the role of Headmaster on April 25th! Owen assisted Mr. Pacelli with some of his duties. Early in the morning, he recited the Pledge of Allegiance over the PA to the entire school. Next, it was signing an important document declaring that May 10th was a special dress down day! Owen was introduced to all of the Lower School classes and some of the Upper School, too. He read a book to the Kindergarten and the Pre-K, played with a hermit crab and took a ride to the Soler Science Center on the golf cart! Owen and a few friends were treated to lunch at the Molly Pitcher with Mr. Pacelli and Miss Murray. At the awards assembly at the beginning of June, Owen was presented with a plaque, a photo album of the day, as well as a video of the day's happenings! Job well done, Owen!

Fifth Grade (Upper School) Orientation

Miss Murray, Mrs. Scheuer and Mrs. Livingston spoke with the fourth graders and some of our incoming Upper School students about the inner workings of the Upper School – how to read a schedule, when to change classes, questions about lockers, demerits, awards, etc. Michael Gao, Catherine Zhang, Caroline DiBiasi, Aditya Vyas, Lauren Jordan, Samantha Garber, and Robert Schweikert spoke about Spanish, drama club, math workshop, athletics, tech, student council and the Geo/History Fair, respectively. Olivia Bellone shared her tips on organization and Ilan Lozner explained the novels that are read in 5th grade. During the month of May, Mrs. Livingston had the fourth graders pair up with current fifth graders to actually go to a few class periods in the Upper School! OHA alum, Tessa Garbely created the "Garbely's Guide to the Upper School." Tessa took it upon herself to interview Upper School students for advice on organization, lockers, test-taking, homework and after-school. She organized all of the information and presented it to all of the fourth graders, as well as, any new incoming Upper School student.

American Scholastic Achievement League

NEW JERSEY STATE CHAMP – JAKE FRADKIN!!!

In February, a number of 8th graders voluntarily participated in the ASAL Scholastic Challenge. 14,000 students across the country competed. The top score in the nation was 93%. We are thrilled to have Jake Fradkin as the New Jersey State Champion! Jake had the highest score in New Jersey! This 100 question online test consisted of

questions on history, math, science, language arts, geography and general knowledge. The national average was 50%. OHA had 83% of students score above the national average who took the test, with the rest just barely missing the mark! Jake Fradkin was named as the OHA champ, scoring 81%! Other than Jake, the next top OHA scores were: Michael Zhang 77%, Stephanie Zhou 76%, Aron Wiener 75%, Liam O'Hara 71%

Mrs. Roehrig and Mrs. Bauer

Thank you to two outstanding staff members of Oak Hill Academy who have retired - Mrs. Nancy Roehrig for the 17 years of service she gave to Oak Hill Academy as a Fourth grade teacher and Mrs. Cathleen Bauer for the 15 years of service as a Teacher's Assistant in the Lower School. Both women were honored at the end of year assemblies with flowers and Waterford vases by Mr. Pacelli and Miss Murray.

High School Choices

We are fortunate that so many of our graduates have options when they graduate from Oak Hill Academy. There are a number of great high schools in our area. There are the traditional high schools (public and parochial), schools that specialize in a particular area, and independent schools (boarding and day). With a graduating class of 48 (30 girls and 18 boys), our graduates will be going to 19 different high schools!

Listed below are the number of students who will be attending a particular high school. The number of acceptances are higher than the number of the students who will actually attend that high school. Remember, students can apply to a number of different high schools):

| | <u>Accepted</u> | <u>Attending</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Parochial | | |
| CBA | 10 | 9 |
| RBC | 5 | 2 |
| SJV | 16 | 9 |
| Mater Dei Prep | 1 | 0 |
| Trinity Hall | 7 | 6 |
| St. Rose | 2 | 0 |
| Public | | |
| Pt. Pleasant Beach | 2 | 2 |
| RBR Engineer. | 2 | 1 |
| Middletown South | | 1 |
| Maryland | | 1 |
| California | | 1 |
| Specialized | | |
| High Tech | 1 | 1 |
| M.A.S.T. | 4 | 3 |

Freehold Reg. District

| | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Culinary | 1 | 1 |
| Global Studies | 1 | 1 |
| CN Law/Public Serv. | 2 | 1 |
| Howell Perf. Arts | 1 | 0 |

Private

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Lawrenceville | 2 | 1 |
| Phillips Exeter | 1 | 1 |
| Peddie | 3 | 1 |
| Hun | 2 | 2 |
| St. Paul's | 1 | 0 |
| Princeton Day | 1 | 0 |
| Ranney | 7 | 4 |

Grades 7 and 8 National Latin Exam Results

Once again, the results from the 40 question National Latin Exam were very favorable! Jake Fradkin, Aron Wiener, Leah Wilson-Lyons and Michael Zhang all received Gold Summa Cum Laude certificates (36-39 correct)! Liam O'Hara, Jason Wang, Summer AbdelBarry, Catherine Barone, Alexa Kulawiak, Kyle Harris and Stephanie Zhou all received Silver Maxima Cum Laude certificates (33-35 correct)! Aoife Picadio, Alexa Malson, Emma Nagy, Skye Loures all received Magna Cum Laude certificates (31-32 correct). Jake Rutkowski received the Cum Laude Certificate (30 correct)! Outstanding Achievement Certificates and ribbons were given to those 7th grade students scoring very high on the Introductory Level: Nicholas Geissler, Kushal Bhattacharyya and Sydney Yan only had one incorrect response each! William Hurley and Grant D'Orsi (38 correct), Sebastian Marchese, Kara Pietrowicz and Brett Servilla (37 correct). Achievement Certificates were given to those 7th grade students who did well on the Introductory Level: Lucas Ligato, Sebastian Basile, Mason Garber, Simar Arora, Emily Robertson, Elizabeth Lee, Anneliese Auletta, Charlotte Walsh, Jason Rich and Priya Kuruganti (33-36 correct). Congratulations to Miss Burke for preparing all of the students!

Mr. Bruckmann Communications Director

We have some very exciting news coming mid-June. The launch of the brand new www.oakhillacademy.com will go live. This new venture will be a mobile friendly responsive site that will enable Oak Hill Academy to be an even stronger presence in the world of education.

Also, remember to link up to all of our social media outlets: Check out our FACEBOOK, Instagram, Twitter and Google+ pages:

- <https://www.facebook.com/OakHillAcademyAlumni>
- <https://www.instagram.com/oakhillmustangs/>
- <https://twitter.com/OakHillMustangs>
- <https://plus.google.com/u/0/+OakHillAcademyMiddletown/about>

Alumni

I want to thank all of the Alumni that were able to make it to our 35th Reunion on Sunday, June 5. We had a range of Alumni from 1999 Liz Gough and as far away as Crystal Palace, England with James LeGrice ('02). It was great to see everyone in attendance and to learn what lies ahead for them, as well as all that they have accomplished. The Class of 2012 had the highest attendance followed closely by the Class of 2011.

The alumni questionnaire is out both on-line and in the mail to all of our alumni.

<http://www.oakhillacademy.com/alumni/alumni-update>

Please take the time to submit your updated information.

Check out our FACEBOOK, Instagram, Twitter and Google+ pages as well:

<https://www.facebook.com/OakHillAcademyAlumni>
<https://www.instagram.com/oakhillmustangs/>
<https://twitter.com/OakHillMustangs>
<https://plus.google.com/u/0/+OakHillAcademyMiddletown/about>

Mrs. Livingston Lower School Guidance

Summertime is a time to unwind, relax, and enjoy your family. Take advantage of your less hectic schedule and set aside time to do special activities together. Every day is filled with opportunities to learn. Monmouth County has so many places to investigate, from the beach, to the museums, to the wonderful park system. Prior knowledge is so important, so, in preparation to an excursion, encourage your family to read about the destination. While there, have fun by observing and talking about your experience. Above all, take time to nurture your child's natural curiosity. Upon returning home, record

highlights of the day in a journal. At the end of the summer your family will have many wonderful experiences to look back upon. Have a wonderful summer and enjoy your family!

Mrs. Weikes, Director Mrs. Wood/Miss Bonanno Pre-Kindergarten

As the saying goes, "all good things must end," in closing out the 2015-2016 Pre-K school year. The months of May and June brought many exciting activities and celebrations as Pre-K showing wonderful maturity in their personal, social, and academic growth. The annual Kindergarten Maypole was delightful and very colorful as we welcomed springtime. This annual event provided Pre-K with the perfect opportunity to deliver their handmade May Day baskets and May poems to faculty and staff across the campus.

Our spring flower planting and picnic was another delightful activity in celebration of Mother's Day. The students honored their mothers with heartwarming songs and presented them with a special gift. The planting helped add color and beauty to the front area of the Center for Early Learning. We thank our moms for all the wonderful things they did throughout the year.

The June, circus themed Pre-K performance and circus nuptials of two of our favorite Letter People was the highlight of the year. Pre-K performed numerous circus acts and serenaded the happy couple with some of their favorite songs, particularly, "The Circus is Coming to Town." Mr. Bruckmann escorted the bride, Ms. "U" and Miss Murray stood for Mr. "Q." A wonderful time was had by all and an "Under the Big Top" buffet followed the event, provided by the Pre-K parents.

Field Day was held on the lawn in front of the building and proved to be exciting and rewarding for the children. The team spirit and individual efforts of the students shined bright in the relays, 3-legged races, sack races, flag exchange, obstacle course, and egg on a spoon events. The children were such good sports as they cheered one another on. A patriotic awards ceremony followed Field Day.

The butterfly life cycle and chick hatching projects were an exciting part of May lessons and strong science program. The students cared for, observed and documented the different stages of the butterfly and chicken life cycles. The children were presented with "Great

Hatch" ribbons from Quiver Farms, for a job well-done.

We could not forget to recognize our Dads. Our "Donuts for Dads Day" play was held in the Scire Student Activity Center. The students performed "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle and sang heartwarming songs before presenting our dads with a special keepsake. The children and their dads enjoyed breakfast together following the play.

We sure love our dads too and thank them for all they do for us.

We ended the year looking back on all the wonderful times spent together and the great things learned this past year in Pre-K. The teachers and students agreed that the 2015-2016 was an amazing year for all of us. Pre-K celebrated with an "end of the year" picnic lunch, outdoor games and sports activity centers sponsored by the class moms. Again, many thanks to our wonderful class mothers for all they have done for our Pre-Kindergarten throughout the entire year.

The Pre-K staff would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and warm appreciation to our class mothers and to all of our Pre-K families for supporting our unique and wonderful program. Your generosity, support, and kindness have meant so much to all of us.

Lastly, to all of our Oak Hill families and staff; have a safe and fun-filled summer. See you on campus in September!

Mrs. Colbert/Mrs. Gilfillan Mrs. Lambert Kindergarten

After the Maypole performance there was no time to rest as the children had to prepare to honor our Mothers at our Mother's Day Tea. Once again we are so proud of how well the children performed their play on stage and their voices were beautiful as they sang their songs. We thank Mrs. Tyma for preparing the children.

Next, we got ready for Grandparents/Special Relatives Day. After treating our guests to an encore performance of our play, "A Perfect Spring Day," the Kindergarten room was bursting at the seams with all of our visitors. They were so impressed by how well our students read their stories to them and showed off their Math skills by playing a game of War. Way to go Kindergarten!

Ready, set, GO!! The Kindergarten students truly enjoyed Field Day and the weather was absolutely beautiful! It was nice for the children to be on teams with their siblings, or with other older students, and to enjoy some time together out of the classroom. A special thank you to Mrs. Bordiuk for organizing the events and to all of the parents who helped in any way.

Our last trip was to Island Beach State Park. The weather ended up being great and the children loved flying their kites, building sandcastles, playing games and looking for sand crabs. It was a great trip to wrap up the year and so nice to spend a beautiful day together.

Of course one of the highlights of the year is when we honor our Dads, Grandpas and Uncles at our Kindergarten Swim and BBQ. Everyone was treated to a fun pool party, games and picnic. It is always wonderful for the children to spend time with these important men!

We would like to thank our class mothers for all they have done to make this such an incredible year. We congratulate Kindergarten on all of their accomplishments and wish you continued success in first grade. Have a happy and healthy summer and remember to keep reading and writing in your journals!

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

The end of first grade is both a happy and a sad time for us. We are extremely PROUD of the progress the children have made in so many areas of the curriculum. We are sad to see our students leave our "rooms" and to "give them over" to our WONDERFUL second grade colleagues.

We want to thank you for all your help and cooperation throughout the school year. You have helped to make our teaching careers even more rewarding and satisfying. During the months, continue to encourage your children to READ!! READ!! READ!!, and to practice and review all the addition and subtraction math facts up to 20 that were sent home during the school year.

It has been a pleasure working with your FANTASTIC children!! Have a safe and happy summer!!

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

The end of the school year has come so quickly for our second graders. It is both a happy and a sad time for us. As we look back on this year, we have observed your children transform into independent, confident workers who are now ready to move up to third grade. We have certainly grown in so many ways. We as teachers are so proud of them and know they will do well next year. We will miss them, however.

Our creative writing has taken a real flair this year. We have written many forms of poetry, published our own math book, written short stories, book reports, and done journal writing. The topics were varied and quite creative.

We have become mathematicians learning many new math concepts in our exciting Singapore math program. In our reading classes we have read various types of stories and enjoyed the many different genres we were introduced to. The children have also enjoyed cursive writing which is coming along beautifully.

We would like to thank our classroom mothers for all they did to make our holiday parties so special. We appreciate all your efforts.

Over the summer please encourage the routine of reading daily, as well as doing writing activities using their new cursive writing skills. In addition practice the math facts, especially the subtraction, multiplication tables and word problems with your child.

We wish everyone a happy and safe summer!

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

Our third grade had quite a successful year, culminating in two activities that show just how much they have accomplished.

We began the year challenging the students to read ten different genres and to report on them. At the start of June, the class celebrated the finish of the "genre challenge. We were very proud of the many students who completed this personal goal. We celebrated by showing that "reading is cool" with our accomplished readers wearing sunglasses and hats to school. They also enjoyed seeing the film version of one of our novel studies, "The Whipping Boy."

We ended our year with the Third Grade Wax Museum. The students completed a character study about the individuals that we read about in Novel Studies and Social Studies. Each student then wrote their own speeches explaining which character he or she was and what happened in his or her book. The third graders did an excellent job portraying each role. Their teachers, parents, and friends couldn't have been more proud of their accomplishments. We would like to thank our parents for all of their support throughout the school year.

We have one last request. Please help your child find some time to read, write, and practice math so that skills are maintained during the summer months.

Have a wonderful vacation.

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

The English classes finished up their grammar studies with adverbs and prepositions. We now can take apart sentences word by word, naming their part of speech. We compiled all of our original poetry into personal poetry books which we can look back on for years to come. We were very happy to see our poetry printed in *Early Reflections*.

On Friday, June 3rd, the fourth graders celebrated Egypt Day. The moms displayed vegetables and fruits grown in the Nile River Valley. They also made us Egyptian delicacies using real recipes. The feast was vegan and we did not partake in any hyena or antelope. We drank grape and pomegranate juice. Mrs. Aufderhar had a CD for us of Egyptian music. We had displays of costume, coins, papyrus paintings, a mask and demonstrations from The Geography Fair.

Each student hand built a pyramid with modeling clay. We were not dealing with 2.5 ton blocks or working for 20 years on each pyramid, but we had fun forming our own pyramid with four triangular sides or a step pyramid. The students were also creative and made sarcophaguses, mummies, and even boats. Thank you to Mrs. Aanensen, Mrs. Aufderhar, Mrs. Cameron (Ian's mom), Mrs. Cameron (Sophia's mom) Mrs. Patnaik, and Mrs. Thackeray, for the wonderful food and display and the help with the hand building. Thanks to the parents who dropped in to see the pyramid building. The students also enjoyed coloring stained glass Egyptian Art pictures that look fabulous in a window.

We all enjoyed learning about these fascinating people that did so many creative, incredible, and resourceful things 5000 years ago.

Miss Murray hosted her annual sharks' tooth hunting trip on Monday, June 6th. A perfect weather day, long journey on the trail, and then the productive search in the flowing, cool creek led to many, many happy fourth graders. They were muddy, wet, and the proud owners of 25 million year old shark's teeth. A special thank you goes to Miss Murray, Mr. Bruckmann, and Mrs. Cahalane.

The fourth graders had an awesome party on the last day thanks to Mrs. Duffy, Mrs. Lucosky, Mrs. Patnaik, and Mrs. Shallcross. The games were fun, the pizza and ice cream sundaes were a treat, and the gifts were useful, bright, and thoughtful! AWESOME!!!!

A special thank you goes to our Fourth Grade Room Moms: Mrs. Aanensen, Mrs. Cameron (Ian), Mrs. Cameron (Sophia), and Mrs. Duffy, Mrs. Lucosky, Mrs. Patnaik, Mrs. Shah, Mrs. Shallcross, Mrs. Thackeray. You helped us with our special events and gave us fun parties. Have a relaxing and restful summer.

Mrs. Roehrig and Mrs. Tolleth want to thank this class for working, studying, and soaking up knowledge and skills. We wish you all a fruitful upper school experience!

Mrs. Bordiuk/Mrs. Mee
Lower School PE

In the 6th and final marking period at Oak Hill Academy, the Lower School Physical Education classes completed swimming and physical fitness testing. Throughout the swim classes, students gained competency and proficiency in stroke technique and rotary breathing. Field Day was a great day for the lower school students; it was so nice to have this fun event outside! We would like to extend a special thanks to all of the parents who volunteered to make this event a huge success: Desiree Dancy, Kelly Ryan-Gazdus, Lynn Basile, Diana Hindermann, Kristen and Alan DiBiasi, Mimi Aufderhar, Kathy and Mike Bellone, Lindsay Horowitz, Angela Incognito, Azita Assa, Mrs. Verringer, Mr. Aria (Eva Fennell's grandfather), and Surdeep Kulkarni. All of the students demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and teamwork during this fun day. At the awards assembly, students were given patches based upon how they scored on the Presidential Physical Fitness Tests. Students were also given jump rope certificates based upon how far they progressed in the jump

rope unit. Thank you to the second grade for their generous gifts to Mrs. Mee, Mrs. Bordiuk, and Mrs. Hans.

Mrs. Cahalane
Lower School Science

In Science class, PK students have been learning about plants and butterflies. Kindergarteners have been doing solar system activities. First graders are learning about sound and light. Students in grade 2 have been studying solids, liquids, and gases. Third graders are learning about genetics. Students in grade 4 are studying geology. Please see my teaching blog for some great photos of the children in science class!

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

We concluded this year's unit on Iceland, "The Land of Fire and Ice." Students enjoyed learning about this beautiful island. As always, I enjoyed working with all the students in all these grades, as each level absorbs the information that they can process at their age. Thanks again to all the families for encouraging their child to bring in items to earn those important "*tiny bucks*" and making another Littletown Day so successful. I want to wish all our OHA families a happy and safe summer!

Miss Lee
Grade 5 Literature/LA

Thank you all for a terrific year of reading and writing in 5th grade Literature and Language Arts! As we look back on the school year, we realize just how much we have accomplished and grown as readers and writers.

This past marking period we embarked on studies of folktales, myths, and fables! These literary works took us on a journey around the world. In addition to reading English, Japanese, and Jewish folktales, we also read Native American and Greek myths. After reading an English folktale about the legendary Robin Hood, we pretended to be journalists reporting on the exciting events in Sherwood Forest and Nottingham. We had fun creating our own newspaper names and headlines. I have really enjoyed swapping titles for pleasure reading books with you all. I hope you will continue to seek out a wide variety of pleasure reading books over the summer!

While reading the Japanese folktale, "The Magic Mortar," in English class, many made thoughtful connections to this year's school theme, the Golden Rule, which states, "Treat others the way

you want to be treated." This tied into our last essay of the school year, which was about three examples of following the Golden Rule. I appreciated everyone's thoughtful reflections throughout the writing process. In Language Arts, we also wrapped up our grammar studies by exploring adverbs and prepositions, while also finishing our vocabulary studies in our *Vocabulary Workshop* books. It's always fun looking for ways to use vocabulary words!

It's been a very productive and successful year. Thank you for your enthusiasm and hard work! Enjoy your summer, and best wishes next year in 6th grade!

Mrs. Grier
Grade 5 Reading

As the school year comes to an end, it is time to reflect on the year. The students were given numerous tasks to accomplish and hopefully enjoyed most of the assignments. Our last marking period was spent reading the novel, *Wednesday Wars*. The story takes place in the 1960's while the Vietnam War and President Lyndon B. Johnson was at the helm. Students learned quite a bit about that time in America while sprinkling the story line with a realistic story about a boy who stayed after school each Wednesday with his teacher. The book was divided into school months-September through June. Each month brought different challenges and the students were quizzed after each month and given a novel test at the end of the book.

The summer vacation has begun. I hope your student gained a lot from the fiction stories and drills given throughout the year. I know the students will be reading assigned novels during the lazy days of summer. I hope they will continue to enjoy the gift of reading and look forward to hearing about those selections and the extra books they have chosen to read on their own. I hope you have a wonderful, peaceful summer filled with the joy of reading.



Mrs. Matson
Grades 5 & 6 Geography

5TH GRADERS SAVE YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOKS! Many of you have already stored yours in Room 1, but if you took them home, DON'T THROW THEM OUT!

All Geography Students

Your Geography Projects were amazing! Many were among the best we have ever had on display at Oak Hill! Congratulations! Thanks so much for all the hard work you put in!

Enjoy your summer vacation! If you travel, take pictures of the important sights, but also of things that are just different from our way of life. Be respectful; always ask for permission, first of your parents and then, if they approve, of the subject of your photo.

5th Grade Geography: SAVE YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOK!!!

YOU WILL USE IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR!!! DON'T THROW IT OUT!!!!

Sixth Grade Geography

I will miss you all! Thanks for being such a wonderful class for two years. Good luck in U.S. History next year with Mrs. Mayer. I'd recommend keeping your Geography Book - it's always a good resource, or you can give it to a 5th or 6th grader for an extra book to keep at home.

LAST REMINDER: 5TH GRADERS SAVE YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOKS!!!!

Mr. Bruckmann
Grade 5 Math

The sixth marking period coming to end also marked the completion of the entire Singapore 5 series in all of our books. We completed Units 11-13 during this time. These Units included lessons on Average and Rate of all different units and moving on to Unit 12 and Data Analysis. Unit 12 dove into the measures of central tendency (Mean, Media, Mode and Range) as well as Histograms, line Graphs, Pie Charts and how to not only read them, but to construct them as well. Finally, Unit 13 was Algebra, which is how the 6A book in September will begin. We learned the difference between Expressions and Equations and how to solve equations with subtraction, addition, multiplication and division. This transition into the coordinate plane and ordered pairs. With a finale of linear graphs and for data and how they relate to algebraic expressions. I want to congratulate all of my students for their dedication and hard work throughout the

year. This is not easy stuff by any means. I want to thank my class (& parents) for a truly great year. They showed tremendous enthusiasm up until the last day, and it was a pleasure and highlight for me to be with them during fourth period every day. Have a great summer! I would like to wish everyone the best of luck to those moving on to new and exciting chapters in their lives.

Mrs. Cotterell
Grades 5 – 8 Math

Grade 5 Period 2

We finished off the year in as strong a fashion as we began. We took a step out of Singapore for about 5 weeks or so to study certain pre-algebra concepts not covered in the Singapore program: squares and square roots, the Pythagorean Theorem, metric conversions, scientific notation, both with positive and negative exponents, and solving inequalities with both positive and negative coefficients, as well as graphing the solutions on a number line.

In addition, we completed both of the 6th grade Singapore books in entirety and we took a few days in the last week to discuss the difference between permutations and combinations.

It has truly been my pleasure teaching this group of students. Their work ethic and math acumen will take them to great heights. I look forward to teaching them in a few years!

Grade 5 Period 3

We finished the year with our study of percents. This single topic is quite pervasive in the "real" world. We use percents to calculate sales tax, tips, discounts, commissions and income tax – just to name a few! The students did an excellent job in their work and were able to solve several word problems using percents as well.

We spent a great deal of our time shoring up the fundamentals this year. As Mr. Pacelli often says, a student needs to master fractions, decimals and percents. And that is precisely how I would describe our year together.

We have made great progress, so it is very important that these skills be studied over the summer so they remain intact for the new year. I wish you a restful and happy summer.

Grade 6

We finished off the year by working on a few concepts outside of the Singapore textbooks. The students studied both metric conversion and scientific notation in great detail. I taught them some mnemonic devices to help them with their metric conversion: King Henry Died by Drinking Chocolate Milk and Kevin Helps Dear Uncle Dan Collect Money. Each of the first letters represents a metric measurement whereby the student can convert from one metric measurement to another with relative ease. We discussed why we use scientific notation and studied numbers that require both positive and negative exponents. The students did very well on both of these concepts.

They worked very hard this year. It has been a real pleasure teaching them again. I hope you enjoy your summer days!

Grade 7 – Glencoe

We finished off the year studying square roots and exponents and how they are related and then rolled those concepts into solving right triangles using the Pythagorean Theorem. This theorem is used in Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2, so it is very important that the students have an excellent understanding. We also studied special right triangles. The students will see these again in Geometry and Algebra 2, so the first layer to that level of work has been set in place. They will continue to build upon that layer as they take additional math courses.

It has been a pleasure teaching these students. I appreciated all of their hard work and dedication to our class. May you and your family have a peaceful, healthy summer.

Grade 8 – Introduction to Algebra

We finished off the year with a few different concepts. We reviewed squares and square roots and how they are connected, we studied triangles – how to classify them and how to solve for the missing angle, we studied the Pythagorean Theorem, we calculated the distance and mid-point formulas and finally we studied the basics to trigonometry. The students will see most of these again in future math classes.

I wish them much success and happiness as they take their next steps on their journey. It has been a pleasure teaching them and a pleasure getting to know the parent group as well. I wish you all much happiness and good health.

Grades 7/8 – Algebra 2

This newsletter is always bittersweet. Saying goodbye is never easy. I have had the pleasure of teaching some of these 8th grade students for 4 years! Math class will not be the same!

We finished the entire book – all 14 chapters without skipping a page. We worked hard and steady ensuring that concepts were mastered. We spent the last two months of the year focused specifically on trigonometry. The students can re-create a unit circle with ease and prove a trigonometric identity as well! For those students going into pre-calculus, we have now covered the first few months of the year, so the transition into that class should be with relative ease.

I look forward to teaching all of my 7th grade students next year and wish all of my 8th grade students all the best. May your next step be exciting and filled with academic success.

Mr. Clapp **Grade 5 Science**

The last marking period is over and summer is here! This marking period seemed especially fast. We had many labs this marking period where we examined soil and different forces of nature. My personal favorite lab we did involved using soil from our own backyards to see how it can act as a filter. We mixed water and lemonade mix and poured it through our soil filter and watched as the pink mix miraculously changed color because of the properties of the soil. This showed everyone how aquifers work and why some of the purest water is actually found underground!

I want to thank all of my students for making this an absolutely unforgettable year! I also want to thank the parents for all the hard work they did with helping their students study, get work done and for any school functions where they helped out. I cannot wait to see you all next year! Have a great summer!

Mrs. Vacca Grade 5 Tech Class

The year concluded with a fun topic of selecting a unique creature. First, students selected their topic and then briefly explained in their own words how they thought this creature evolved. Some creatures that were selected were the Thorny Dragon, Patagonian Mara, Vampire Deer, Tardigrade Water Bear, Ezo Momonga, Liger, Pudu, Proboscus Monkey, Angora Rabbit, Blue Parrot

Fish, Pink Necked Green Pigeon, Superb Bird of Paradise, and even the Blob Fish. Location, habitat, diet, predators and, of course, evolution of this unique creature were provided through powerpoint and keynote. Visuals were a must!

I want to wish all my students and their families a happy and safe summer!

Grades 5 & 6 Math Workshop

In grade 5, students continued with their weekly five-minute warm-up and then on to a variety of small projects such as “**Party Planner**,” which involved ordering food and paper goods for a party of 29 people. Each group had to choose a theme, create an invitation and even design plates, napkin, and a cake. Students also worked on “**Menu Math**,” which involved placing food orders and calculating subtotal, tax, and tip. Other activities included “**Fun with Geometry**,” “**Spy Gadgets**,” and “**100 Word Challenge**.” Bonus points were calculated from the last two marking periods and a dress down day was awarded during the last week. Students had fun while reinforcing their math skills. I want to wish all my students and their families a happy and safe summer.

In grade 6, students just finished presenting their final “**Radio**” project which involved creating a script of five minutes in total, of which three minutes were music and two minutes were of speaking parts. Thirteen seconds of each of the fifteen songs was a challenge along with researching a current event, weather, and news happening in their radio station location. Students collaborated together for ideas, song choices, and even visuals to enhance their production. It was definitely a fun time and a practical lesson in time management. Final bonus points from the last two marking periods were totaled, thus rewarding those students with the highest amounts, a dress down day. I enjoyed working with all my sixth graders this year. You are all such creative, hard workers. I want to wish everyone a happy, fun, and safe summer.

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

The sixth grade English/LA students worked diligently to the very end of the school year. Before reviewing for exams, six graders explored the elements of fiction through the reading of engaging short stories such as Lensey Namioka’s “Inn of Lost Time,” which has a surprising twist at the end. The students also managed to read and reflect on a smattering of poems, ranging in tone

from those somewhat foreboding such as “Once by the Pacific” by Robert Frost to those with lightness and humor such as “Into the Garden Elizabeth Ran” by A. E. Housman.

In addition to their literature studies, the students also reviewed grammar and vocab lessons...both of which helped in the writing of the five-paragraph essay on saving the environment, which, in turn, completed the marking period... and, a jam-packed year of reading and writing... Now that the school year has ended, I hope the new “seventh” graders enjoy the summer and continue to read...not only their required reading...but also “fun” reading.

Mrs. Daly **Grade 6 Reading**

The students have successfully completed a wonderful year of reading! Our last novel study focused on many different themes. The class participated in great round table discussions of friendships, loneliness, homelessness, and many others. *The Library Card* allowed students fictional glimpses of life for other six grade students.

The class performed well on the big test!

Have a great summer! Keep Reading!

Mrs. Larkins **Oak Hill Academy 6th Graders Win NJ State Mathleague Competition**

On Tuesday, April 26, 2016 fifteen Oak Hill Academy students from grades 4-6 competed in an elementary mathematics contest sponsored by Mathleague.org. This state competition was held at the Kent Place School in Summit and included 113 qualifying students from around New Jersey. Mathleague.org sponsors a number of elementary school contests to be held throughout the country each school year. The contests are structured in such a way that students find the tests good preparation for other elementary and junior high math contests. The contest features a number sense round, target round, sprint round, and team round. For the 4th grade participants, Oak Hill took home the 6th Place Award– Mitchell Oldham. For the 5th Grade participants, Oak Hill had 2nd Place – Michael Gao and 8th Place - Robert Schweikert. There were many participants in the 6th Grade and Oak Hill earned four trophies: 1st Place – Alex Mitchell, 4th Place – Elizabeth Wright, 5th Place Aarya Doshi, and 10th Place – Justin Weber.

The team of Alex Mitchell, Elizabeth Wright, Aarya Doshi, and Michael Gao won the 1st Place Team Award! In addition, the team of Robert Schweikert, Justin Weber, Maria Giannakopoulos, and Rahul Kavuru was the 5th Place overall. During the regional rounds, Oak Hill Academy had the first place team at competitions at Ranney School, Stuart Country Day, and Kent Place School.

Their success can be attributed to their hard work, as well as their challenging math curriculum at Oak Hill Academy.

Mrs. Palamara
Grades 6 – 8 Math

Singapore 6

In this last marking period students extended their understanding of volume of solids to triangular prisms and cylinders as well as solids made up of cubes, prisms and cylinders. They observed and appreciated the similarities and differences among rectangular prisms, triangular prisms and cylinders. They performed the calculation of the volume of triangular prisms and cylinders and how to apply this understanding of composite solids.

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 involved 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 used 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.

Grade 8 Algebra

In the last marking period the students learned to solve quadratic equations using square roots, graphing, and the quadratic formula. They moved on to sketching the graph of a quadratic function to find the x-intercepts. They also explored the quadratic formula to solve quadratic equations.

I wish for these students a most enjoyable and rewarding high school experience.

Mrs. Billet
Grades 6 & 7 Science

Again this year my students in grade 7 took the National Science League test in Physical Science. This test is designed by science and math teachers with experience from elementary to college level. The fifty multiple choice questions were based on factual knowledge as well as students' understanding of scientific processes. The time limit for the test was thirty-five minutes and was administered comfortably within one class period. The top scorers (10) for the test gave the team its point value and they were presented with certificates. The top scorer received a medal.

This year's winners were: Simar Arora, Kushal Bhattacharyya, Emily Robertson and Dillon McCann with 45 out of 50 correct. Elizabeth Lee, Lucas Ligato and Grant D'Orsi scored 46 out of 50. Sydney Yan scored 47 out of 50. The top scorers, Mason Garber and Nicholas Geissler tied with scoring 49 out of 50! Adding to my joy and delight was finding out that this OHA team placed **third in the nation!** Kudos to us!

I wish the seventh graders continued success in their academic endeavors. I will miss you.

Center for Talented Youth (CTY)

Students who participate in the CTY Talent Search take an above grade level test to assess their reasoning abilities. The SCAT test measures verbal and quantitative reasoning ability. The verbal section measures a student's understanding of the meaning of words and their relationships. The quantitative section measures a student's understanding of fundamental number operations.

The STB test (Spatial Test Battery) determines a student's ability to understand and remember spatial relationships among objects, manipulate images in space, and visualize how separate parts of complex physical systems interrelate.

The seventh and eighth graders are also able to take the ACT or the SAT test. Both objectively measure reading and mathematical abilities. These are the same tests taken by high school juniors and seniors.

This year our High Honor Eligibility awards go to fifth graders Caroline DiBiasi, Thibaut Fabricant, Michael Gao and Robert Schweikert on the SCAT test; Michael Gao on the STB test; sixth grader Elizabeth Wright on the SCAT;

seventh grader Jacob Dice on the ACT; and eighth grader Michael Zhang on the SCAT.

Congratulations to all!

Sra. Dotto
Grades 5, 7 & 8

Spanish - 5

This marking period, the fifth graders have worked very hard and have mastered all the material covered. In Spanish class, we learned the four forms of you, all singular and plural subject pronouns, the conjugation of the irregular verb ser (to be), descriptive adjectives, how to answer a question and formation of sentences in the plural and negative form. All this has been reinforced with power point presentations, videos, classroom interaction and by logging in to my sites, Weebly, Quizlet and Educreation for visual and auditory practice.

Students, I want to take this opportunity to tell each one of you how much I enjoyed getting to know you. It was a great pleasure to teach you these past few months.

We had fun and learned quite a lot. I am very proud of what you have accomplished and I am looking forward to seeing and working with all of you in sixth grade. ¡Buena suerte!

Grade 7 - Spanish

In the 7th grade, we have progressed at a very nice pace. We have covered expressions and vocabulary about making plans, inviting someone to do something, saying what you have and what you need, talking about classes, body parts, expressions with the verb tener, the conjugation of tener and the usage of the verb venir. The students have also learned the geography, history, and culture of Costa Rica and finally they participated to the Cinco de Mayo celebration.

All this material 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful, safe, and restful summer.

STUDENTS TAKING SPANISH IN 8TH GRADE. PLEASE KEEP YOUR TEXTBOOK AND WORKBOOK FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.

Grade 8 - Spanish

During the sixth marking period, the 8th grade students continued working on affirmative and negative formal and informal commands with regular, irregular and stem-changing verbs and mastered the present progressive.

Also, they memorized a colloquy and presented it in front of the class. Their pronunciation was outstanding and we had a great time. Furthermore, the students have learned the geography, history, and culture of Mexico.

Since the last marking period, the eighth graders have been working very hard to complete their assignment for "El Cinco de Mayo" celebration. This year we focused on historical sites and landmarks of Spanish Speaking Countries.

To get ready for this project, we formed groups and each group researched the topic assigned to them. After they accumulated the information the students wrote essays, and reproduced some of the landmarks/historical sites like La Sagrada Familia Cathedral in Barcelona and the Pyramid of KuKulkan also known as El Castillo in the center of Chichen Itza in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. In addition, students drew a Cinco de Mayo logo and we used the winning drawing to make t-shirts that we wore on El Cinco de Mayo.

On the day of the celebration, students read their projects to the audience (faculty, administration and 7th grade students) and simultaneously showed a PowerPoint presentation of photos related to each landmark/historical site.

Our 8th grade student Aron who played the piano version of the famous song by Enrique Iglesias "Bailando" and also three other 8th graders Emma, Alexa and Summer who danced the Spanish version of Si Chandler, which they choreographed, entertained the audience.

Furthermore, we had a salsa contest. Each and every student worked for weeks to create his or her perfect salsa and on the day of the contest, we invited all the Oak Hill Academy staff, administration, and our seventh grade students to be the judges. Well, as always our judges enjoyed the salsa tasting and had a difficult time choosing the one they liked the most. Congratulations to all of you for a job well done.

And now to the graduating class of 2016.....

Congratulations!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

It's been a pleasure to have known you and a great privilege having been your teacher. I am proud of all you have accomplished and I wish you great success in all your future endeavors. I will miss you!

¡Muchas Felicidades!

Mrs. Tirella/Mrs. Murray/Mrs. Daly Grade 7 LA/Literature

We have accomplished so many things this year in seventh grade Literature and Language Arts. Our writing samples have included such a variety, ranging from poetry, to literature-based essays, to innovative journal writing, to our Red, White, and Blue compositions on community service and improving our communities.

We have certainly tapped our creative juices in writing, strengthened our reading skills, and increased our vocabulary and knowledge of grammar.

The seventh grade English teachers would like to take this time to wish you all a wonderful and restful summer. Travel the world and expand your horizons through the enjoyment of READING!

Mrs. Mayer Grades 7 & 8 History

The seventh grade had a strong finish to the school year. Students worked hard learning about the War of 1812 and The Era of Good Feelings. We were excited to see our country growing and expanding, but realized the tensions over slave and Free states would ultimately lead to the Civil War.

The eighth grade had an excellent finish to their final marking period at OHA. We reached our goal of learning history to this present day!! I am very proud of the hard work each student has done over the past two years and I will certainly miss them. I am confident that each student has the skills to be successful in high school and beyond.

Ms. Burke Grades 7 & 8 Latin

To finish out their year, the seventh graders completed our study of the imperfect tense as well as learning four new uses of the ablative case and the neuter gender. We also did an extensive review of noun endings that including

learning a catchy song! We continued to read about the Corneli family through stories in their *Ecce Romani* textbook and studied Roman names and the seven kings of Rome, including Rome's mythical founder Romulus. To showcase their knowledge, the students completed a group project on the kings. Finally, we embarked on a broader review of grammar and culture in preparation for exams.

In the eighth grade, the students finished the year by learning fourth and fifth declension. We also reviewed the year's grammar and practiced translating by reading about the Corneli family. Furthermore, the eighth graders continued their unit on Roman spectacles by learning about gladiatorial games, Roman drama, and triumphs. Finally, we finished our reading of *Aeneas* and held a classroom discussion of the themes and major issues of the work.

Mrs. Daly Grades 7 & 8 Critical Reading

Using technology, seventh grade students have been very successful with word study. Padlets, Kahoots, Jeopardy, and other study aids provide the classes with fun games for test reviews. The students have completed their work for the year and should spend time relaxing and reading this summer!

Using technology, eighth grade students have been very successful with word study. Padlets, Kahoots, Jeopardy, and other study aids provide the classes with fun games for test reviews. The students have completed their work for the year and should spend time relaxing and reading this summer!

It has been such a pleasure spending the year with you! Always remember your time here at OHA! Good Luck in high school!

Keep reading!

Mrs. Vacca Grade 7 Explorations

During this final marking period, students were researching topics to consider for analysis. Some questions were: How can a person be color-blind? Why does cheese smell weird? Why do vehicles cost so much? Why are people shy? Why do people have appetites? Why are there homeless people? What do dreams mean? Why people resist change? What causes mental retardation? What causes depression? How does weather affect moods? Why do cats have tails?

Each question was first asked, an opinion documented, and then researched to compare answers. These were very interesting and varied topics presented and followed with comments from classmates.

Mrs. Larkins
Grade 8 Math Workshop

Congratulations to all our winners in our fantasy baseball project: 1st Place, The Jellynatos – Sarah Maes & Angelica Neidermeyer; 2nd Place, Senora Dotto and the Frads – Jack Ryan & Liam O'Hara; 3rd Place, OHA Baseball – David Burrell & Leah Wilson-Lyons. Hopefully, I was able to pass on a little bit of my love for baseball (and statistics!).

It was an honor to teach the 8th graders. Stop by and visit anytime!

Mrs. Williams
Grade 8 Language Arts/Literature

In eighth grade Language Arts, students have continued their study of vocabulary, while concluding the grammar unit: *Clauses*. In addition, students completed a poetry unit.

In Literature, students completed a unit on science fiction. They examined the literary tools: theme, personification, mood, and motivation. At the conclusion of the unit, students read "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street," a screenplay written for the television series, *The Twilight Zone*.

Mrs. Daly and Mrs. Williams wish the class of 2016 the best of luck in high school and in all of their future endeavors.

Mr. Clapp
Grade 8 Science

Their long journey at Oak Hill has come to a close and I am honored to have been a part of it. This marking period flew by with all of the trips, events, labs, and games. We continued on the human body looking at the circulatory and nervous systems. My students now know exactly how blood travels through the heart and around the body. They also know the major sections of the brain and how much each one controls. The most memorable event of the marking period was definitely the pig dissection. The students got to see up close all of the body parts we had been discussing in class. I don't want to brag but it looks like I had a class full of surgeons!

I want to thank all of my students for making this an absolutely unforgettable

year! I also want to thank the parents for all the hard work they did with helping their students study, get work done and for any school functions where they helped out. I cannot wait to see you all next year! Have a great summer!

Mme Simon
Upper School French

Grade 6

I feel that we have accomplished a lot during the 6th marking period. Overall we have learned a lot of vocabulary, the verb "to be" and "to have" as well as the ER verbs. Students also got the opportunity to practice their speaking skills with a personal presentation.

Playing games is very important to reinforce the material. We play "Around the world" and Kahoot with school or personal devices. Kahoot is a very engaging game and students see questions/answers on the big screen. They love to see when their name appears on the big screen.

I wish you a wonderful summer. Bon travail !

Grade 7

I feel that we have accomplished a lot during the three marking periods. We have covered a lot of vocabulary, practiced speaking skills with dialogs, learned irregular verbs (including "to be able to" and "to want" and IR verbs). We also learned a lot of culture with texts called "En voyage en Bretagne" and "The meals in France."

Playing games is very important to reinforce the material. We play "Around the World" and Kahoot with school or personal devices. Kahoot is a very engaging game and students see questions/answers on the big screen. They love to see when their names appear on the big screen.

It was a pleasure having you in my class and I wish you a wonderful summer.

Bon travail et a bientôt !

Grade 8

What a wonderful year with my eighth grade class. As a teacher who believes strongly in teaching grammar and verbs to communicate, I am very happy because the eighth graders have mastered the skills of future and past tense. The passé composé is very difficult tense because it is quite complex.

We also covered a lot of vocabulary and the students were able to put it into practice in speaking skills activities.

Lip sync and our event called Carnival were a lot of fun too and we are going to remember them for quite a while!

Congratulations on the students who will be taking French 2 honors next year. It has been a privilege to be your teacher and I wish you "Bonne chance" in High School and good luck on your future endeavors.

Congratulations on your graduation. Keep in touch with Madame Simon.

Mrs. Bordiuk/Mr. Rosenfeld
Upper School Physical Education

Another year has come to a close. The awards and certificates have been given out. We wish our eighth grade graduates the best of luck in High School. We wish everyone else a happy and healthy summer break.

Field Day was a great success. We have to thank Kyle Harris, Myles Gorski, Mike Favilla and Chris Misson for helping out with field day. They were such a help!

The Zumba Day in May was fun for all as a Phys. Ed. Class. We will try that again next year.

The three spring units that we participate in are: Lacrosse, Kickball and Ultimate Frisbee. We also played some Whiffle Ball this year.

We will be looking into the new standards for Physical Fitness testing for the Fall. The Presidential "patch" program is being replaced by a program call "Shape USA."

Mrs. Grier/Library

The school year has come to an end, but hopefully the love of reading will continue to flourish throughout the summer. Reflecting back on this school year, it has been a pleasure introducing our OHA students to our beautiful library. Each week, the students were exposed to different genres from biographies, historical fiction, mysteries, adventures, etc. Our students were introduced to the Newberry and Caldecott award winning books. Third and fourth graders took a fun test to see who absorbed the most information throughout the school year. Winners were announced at the activity awards assembly.

My goal for your student is to open their imagination to the wonderful world of reading! I wish you a wonderful summer surrounded by good reads!!

Mrs. Griller/Computer

Another year has come to an end and I wish all our families a safe and happy summer. This was a challenging year in computer class, with many wonderful projects to show our creativity and computer knowledge. The first grade ended the year by creating animated slide shows in Kidpix, along with other creative projects like stick puppets and picture magnets. The second graders learned about the parts on the inside of the computer, created information wheels about our president and graphic webs about a country. While in the third grade kept practicing their typing skills through lessons and games, made a five fact chart on what makes someone a good person and a Wordle about themselves. The fourth grade students presented PowerPoint presentations about themselves and continued to practice touch typing. In the fifth grade students worked together to create various tours of OHA using digital cameras and Photo Story. The sixth and seventh grade students worked on animation programming projects. The sixth grade students created animated stories using Scratch. The seventh graders designed a computer game using Game Maker. In eighth grade they completed website development and began learning Microsoft Access. All classes worked diligently and produced amazing computer creations! Best wishes to all our 8th grade graduates.

Miss DiMaggio/Art

The first grade drew a beach scene still life. They drew fish and colored them in using the primary colors to make secondary colors. They also used acrylic paint to show the different tints and shades of a color while making an ice cream cone.

The second grade drew a beach scene still life and drew their favorite summertime activity.

Third grade drew a beach scene still life and finished their group Monet project.

Fourth grade drew a beach scene still life and finished their foreground, middle ground and background picture.

Fifth grade drew outside under our beautiful new gazebo. They drew a beach scene still life, zentangles, and surrealistic drawings based of artist Salvador Dali.

Sixth grade drew funny face self-portraits, zentangles, oil pastel trees, stacked and patterned tea cups, oil

pastel bubbles, and a beach scene still life.

Seventh grade drew outside. They made a monochromatic color scheme name painting. They drew zentangles and a beach scene still life. They also tie dyed t shirts.

Eighth grade used liquid watercolor to make very creative blown watercolor pictures. They made zentangles and aluminum foil figures with shadows. They used acrylic paint to show the different tints and shades of a color with a silhouette over the top, and used hatching cross hatching and stippling to shade and draw a beach scene still life.

Mrs. Tyma/Music

How delighted I was to be able to showcase the outstanding musicianship of the music performance ensembles at Grandparents/Special Relative Day and the Awards assemblies! These students' commitment to doing their very best was evident by their enthusiasm and hard work as they prepared the music. Congratulations to all of the members of the Chorus, Music Makers and Oak Hill Players on outstanding performances! My thanks to Mrs. Pamela Momyer, our accompanist for the Chorus again this year.

There has been lots of singing, dancing, drumming and playing of barred instruments this spring in music classes!

The eighth grade classes tried their hand at improvisation in the Blues style. This precursor to Jazz had its beginnings in the early 20th century. By listening to a number of Blues artists of the past and present, we learned about the form, the harmonic progression, and melodic elements of the Blues. Then we were ready to try creating our own riffs and melodies. In addition, we discussed the origin and evolution of the Blues and its relationship to Jazz.

The seventh grade classes finished the year with a composition for the barred instruments written by the composer who designed these wonderful percussion instruments – Carl Orff. Written in the unusual meter of 9/8, this music is a challenge rhythmically. And with a fast tempo in a minor tonality, it is a surprise to the listener on multiple levels and broadens our musical experiences. In addition, we explored the music of several 20th century composers who found new ways to play traditional orchestral instruments (John Cage, Krzysztof Penderecki), who created new instruments that could play tones beyond

the 12 tone range (Harry Partch) and who created new sounds using computers (Morton Subotnik).

The energy was high in the fourth grade classes as we finished learning the barred instrument accompaniment to the folk song *Paddy on the Railway* (a complex piece in compound meter with a two-chord harmonic progression). After learning a folk dance for the song, we experienced the fun of weaving together the song, dance and instrumental accompaniment, everyone taking his/her turn as a singer, dancer and instrumentalist. We finished the year learning a recorder piece in calypso style with a harmonic accompaniment on the barred instruments (a three chord progression). We created a contrasting section to the song by improvising on the bongos using syncopated rhythms that are common in calypso music. Please put recorders in a safe place for the summer. We will be using them in 5th grade.

The third graders are bringing home their recorders and music they learned. I hope they will entertain their families with their newly learned skill. As mentioned in the letter sent home with the recorders and folders, please keep them in a safe place since we'll be playing them again in the fall in fourth grade. We closed out the year viewing videos and listening to music that featured the woodwind family of orchestral instruments and learning a song and an accompaniment for barred instruments that gave us a better understanding of and much practice with sixteenth notes.

The third and fourth grade classes were treated to a wonderful concert by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra in which these students were able to see and hear in action all of the instruments of the orchestra that we have studied.

The second graders explored simple meter while enjoying a song about the wind, creating an unpitched accompaniment for a poem in the B section. We also explored the brass and string instruments of the orchestra, which were brought to class to see up close, and then we viewed videos and listened to recordings featuring each one. We ended the year experiencing compound meter with an American folk song and dance.

The first grade classes learned how to read and write the rhythms that we've experienced in movement. We are reading rhythms of eighth notes (which we call *ta-te*) and quarter notes (which

we call *ta*). We finished the year with a rousing American folk dance.

The Kindergarten classes loved playing the “big” instruments (the barred instruments) for the first time. We learned the names of each instrument, the proper mallet and playing technique and then explored the instruments through poetry and songs. Lots of steady beat games and songs kept our voices and rhythmic bodies growing musically.

The summer is upon us, and many of you have asked what you can do to keep your child growing musically during the days ahead. There are some excellent websites for children to explore. For younger children there are a number of sites created by the major orchestras in the country: try www.nyphilkids.org, www.sfskids.org, www.dsokids.com and <http://pbskids.org/chuck/index.html#/jazz>. Students will enjoy the New York Philharmonic site called *Kidzone* at www.nyphilkids.org/main.phtml. There is something for everyone at www.classicsforkids.com. And many of these sites are linked to other terrific sites to explore. Have a wonderful summer vacation!

Mrs. DeVivo/ Drama

During our last few weeks together Pre-K acted out several books by Eric Carle such as “The Very Hungry Caterpillar,” “The Mixed Up Chameleon,” and “Little Cloud” just to name a few. The use of props was introduced. When we acted out “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” we used food props and the students really enjoyed wiggling on the ground like a caterpillar going from food to food.

Kindergarten enjoyed revisiting some of their favorite lessons from earlier in the year such as “This is not a Box” and “The Toy Shop.” We continued to work on our pantomime skills by playing Charades.

First grade students were introduced to Reader’s Theatre. They read and acted out several scripts including “*How I Became a Pirate*,” “*The Ugly Duckling*,” “*The Enormous Turnip*” and “*The Shoemaker and the Elves*.” After reading these scripts, the students enjoyed playing several drama games like *Who Started the Motion* and *Charades*.

Second grade enjoyed reading and acting out a variety of Reader’s Theatre plays as well. The theme: mixed up fairy tales! Some titles included “*Once Upon a Hundred Year’s Nap*,” “*Two Pigs, a Wolf and a Mud Pie*,” and “*Cinderella Loses the Glass Slipper*.”

Third grade students were introduced to the basic skills of improvisation. We played many improvisation games such as Improv Ball Toss and Press Conference. Then the students tried performing improv duet scenes. They learned that while improv is fun it is MUCH harder than it looks.

Congratulations to the fourth grade for a wonderful puppet show presentation of “The Great Kapok Tree.” The students performed for several lower school classes and the audience really enjoyed it. Then, the fourth grade spent the last few weeks in Drama working on their improv skills in preparation for 5th grade Drama

After completing their unit on William Shakespeare and The Globe Theatre, 5th grade students enjoyed playing Shakespearean Jeopardy and Shakespeare Charades. They also spent time writing short skits in groups and learning proper play writing format.

The 6th grade students were challenged to create a 2-minute skit with no words or sounds. It had to be entirely pantomimed. These skits were inspired by a piece of instrumental music and their skit had to match the mood of the music. After some rehearsal time they presented their scenes to the class with the music playing in the background. Their performances were fantastic and looked like something right out of an old time movie!

Congratulations to the forensics team. They attended Ranney’s Forensics Invitational on May 7th. The results were as follows:

Dramatic Pairs 7th Grade:

1st place: Jordan Codispoti & Kaley Hanlon
2nd place: Skylar Domanski & Mason Garber
3rd place: Gia DeJohn & Addy Basile

Dramatic Pairs 6th Grade:

1st place: Alex Mitchell & Maria Giannakopoulos
3rd place: Tess Loures & Paige Lane

Humorous Interpretation 6th Grade:

2nd place: Zora Dancy

Best Overall 7th Grade Performance:

Jordan Codispoti & Kaley Hanlon

Best Overall Dramatic Pairs Performance:

Jordan Codispoti & Kaley Hanlon

AWESOME JOB AND CONGRATS TO ALL!!!

Finally, **it is not too late to sign up for OHA Summer Stage Drama Camps!**

Session A June 13-17 and/or Session B June 20-24 from 9:30-12:00 students entering 2nd – 9th grade.

Finally, have a wonderful summer and see a play! Movies are great, but live theater is magical and inspires the imagination!!

Mrs. Vacca/Miss Arscott—Student Council

I would first like to thank all the families at Oak Hill Academy for their continued support for all of Student Council’s Dress Down Days and other fund raising events. Without you, we could not continue to give back to the community and to the school.

I would like to thank everyone for their generous monetary donations and item collections during the year. On Monday, May 23rd, Miss Arscott and I took 11 eighth grade students to the Monmouth Day Care Center to read and interact with all the children. It was such a joy to see our students reading and playing with the children. Everyone had a fun time. The center truly appreciates the time and donation of the children’s books and also the food items for their food pantry. Thanks to Mrs. Antonio for all her help in collecting donated books from the Book Fair at Barnes and Noble. Thanks again to Mrs. Antonio and also to Mrs. Barone for providing transportation to and from the Day Care Center.

Our recent and last dress down day of this school year was for the Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch. We were able to send them a total donation of \$386 for this “Home Away From Home.”

During our school assembly on Thursday, June 2nd, our Student Council members presented our gifts to the school. We made the following monetary donations: \$250 to the Edward P. Felt Scholarship Fund, \$200 to the Chris Ferrara Foundation, and \$360 for our continued sponsorship of Kendy Louis at Danita’s Orphanage. We also provided food and beverages for **Movie Day** for the 5-6th graders, the DJ and refreshments for the 7th and 8th grade dance and Littletown Day rides and pretzel warmer for the lower school. A gift of \$100 also went to Mrs. Cahalane’s Lower School science students for fall planting. We also made a contribution to

the Library for some additional books. We also will be funding the cost to have swim lanes put in the pool and made a contribution for some additional pool equipment. Lastly, we will be purchasing tennis scorecards and pickle ball equipment which is a new game for Phys. Ed.

The assembly also provided the opportunity for the newly elected Student Council officers and project coordinators to take the "oath of office." President - Sebastian Basile, Vice President - William Hurley, Secretary - Michael Jordan, Treasurer - Grant D'Orsi and Project Coordinators - Jordan Codispoti, Jacob Dice, Julia Shaffer, Gia DeJohn, Kaley Hanlon, Joan Hager, Emily Robertson, and Julia Nappi. We are looking forward to working with our new Student Council this upcoming school year.

Miss Arscott and I enjoyed working with the past Student Council and thank them for all their hard work and dedication to the school. We now look forward to working with our new committee. We want to wish all our 8th graders a great beginning and continued success as they embark on life in their new schools and new challenges come September. We want to wish all our OHA families a happy and safe summer.



ATHLETICS

Softball

Mrs. Porzio's team finished the season with a 2-2 record. The team had two exciting wins over Rumson Country Day! The team improved throughout the season.

There were a number of younger players on the team that gained valuable experience. 8th grader Rebecca DeStefano will be missed!

Tennis

Miss Murray's team ended the season with a 3-1 record! This year's Tennis team had a mix of starters from last year and some newcomers to make up the top seven players. The team had defeated Red Bank Charter twice, and Holy Cross. Three starters will be back next year plus a number of younger players who gained valuable experience by playing in many matches!

The 8th graders will be missed: Thomas Wang, Jason Wang, Myles Gorski, Erin Gilfillan, Francesca Dodaro, Catherine Barone, Catherine D'Amico, Jake Fradkin and Michael Favilla.

Baseball

This season, Mr. Bruckmann's and Mr. Rosenfeld's team ended up 3-0 record. We had a balanced team with pitching, hitting and fielding, despite having a small team in numbers. The team had big wins over Rumson Country Day and Keansburg! The 7th and 8th graders were the dominant players on the team however the 6th graders gained experience and will help lead the team next year.

The graduating 8th graders were: Kyle Harris, Wade Edwin, Michael Favilla, Matt Mandarino, Christopher Misson.

Cross Country

Mrs. Gilfillan and Mrs. Scheuer kept the students working their running this spring by having weekly practices! The cross country team will benefit in the fall from their hard work!

