



Oak Hill Academy Newsletter #5 May 2017

Headmaster's Message Joseph A. Pacelli

Confidence Is the Answer

Our children are learning new skills at a dizzying rate and along with these new abilities, they are also acquiring the confidence to put them into action. Children will thrive if they take the chance that they won't always be successful with every new attempt. They must be able to rebound and move forward building more confidence with each step. So the question is, how can we as adults guide our children to get the most out of their skills and talents. Notice we are coaching, not doing anything for them. Gaining confidence is really a do it yourself project, but by staying out of the way, we can still provide a healthy support system.

Here are a few suggestions how we can help with the confidence building process. First, we can be good role models and show optimism and preparation when we ourselves venture into new endeavors. We are not perfect, but we can manage any anxiety and focus on the positive. It is important we model a lack of the fear of failure and how to take setbacks in stride.

Next, we can encourage our children to try new things. Tackling a new skill makes kids feel capable and confident. Once again, trial and error planned correctly can spur kids to greater effort. They can make adjustments and try a new strategy. Praising perseverance without

success helps strengthen resilience enough to stay at it without being distressed.

Finding one's passion is always a great way to build confidence. Set some goals for a new adventure and let those desires and dreams become accomplishments. When the effort shows some goal attained through hard work, it is time for some genuine celebration of that effort.

Children build confidence by being part of something and by making contributions to the whole. Doing age appropriate chores around the house shows that their assistance is a valuable asset to the family. Pitching in either at school or at home teaches valuable lessons about empathy and cooperation, along with the satisfaction gained.

Finally, let your child know that you love them no matter what. Win or lose, remind them that being less than perfect is human and totally ok.

Mrs. Larkins Director of Development

Grandparent/Special Relative Day

Our annual Grandparent/Special Relative Day will be held on **Thursday, May 18 (Grades PreK and 5-8) and Friday, May 19 (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 9:40. All guests are free to visit the Upper School science fair after their classroom visits. Visitors with students in multiple grades are encouraged to change classes during their assigned visit times.

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

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

"Nobody Does It Better Gala and Cash Raffle"

Our "Nobody Does It Better" fundraiser including the Cash Raffle, Gala & Auction, and Ad Journal turned out to be a fantastic event that resulted in **537 raffle tickets being sold**. This relates to **\$13,425.00** being raised for educational technology and improvements of our campus. All of the current families, alumni families, and OHA friends who participated in the raffle were an important element to our success.

And the lucky winners were....

1st Prize **\$9,397.50**
Douglas Moini
(OHA students, Elise, Gr. 1 & Joshua & Reilly, Gr. 3)

2nd Prize **\$2,685.00**
Daniel Weber
(OHA students Jared, Gr. 4 & Justin, Gr. 7)

3rd Prize **\$1,342.50**
Yang Gao
(OHA students Sophia, Gr. 3 & Michael, Gr. 6)

Incentive Prize
The Robert Harris Family
(OHA student Rebecca, Gr. 6)

The entire Parent Organization, especially chairpersons Mrs. Kathleen Bellone and Mrs. Kristen DiBiasi, along with the great support of Mrs. Corey Small, and their committee, deserves our highest praise and our sincerest thanks for running an outstanding gala and auction. Their tireless work culminated in an evening filled with fabulous prizes, fine dining and dancing, along with many friendly faces.

The Program/Ad Journal was another attractive and high quality booklet this year that grossed over **\$5,000**. Many thanks to Mrs. Kathy Seetoo, Dr. Sue Lin and Mrs. Donna McShane for their hard work.

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

Mr. Bruckmann
Communications Administrator

[2017 Oak Hill Academy Summer Programs](#)

The 2017 Oak Hill Academy Summer Programs are on-line as well as in the office. We have streamlined our [Summer Program Registration Process](#) so that is easier for you to Register. Check out the [Summer Program's page](#) for more information regarding individual programs.

http://www.oakhillacademy.com/experiences/2017_summer_programs

[Oak Hill Academy.com Updates](#)

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

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

- "Follow" us on Instagram [@OAKHILLMUSTANGS](#)
- "Follow Us" on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/oak-hill-academy-lincroft-nj->
- "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.

Mrs. Livingston
Lower School Guidance

During the month of May, I will visit the classrooms and share the following with the children.

Gr. 1 — In [Team Dawg: It's All About Respect](#), Trevor's class was assigned to find the many meanings of respect. Trevor asked his mom, dad, a fireman, and a policeman. He just got more and more confused with the many different answers. In explaining his confusion to his sister, she said that the best explanation would be that respect is to treat others the way we want to be treated ourselves. At last Trevor understood, "RESPECT...you give it...you get it!"

Gr. 2 — From [Sippi the Canine with Character](#), I will share "Sippi Learns the Meaning of Respect." In this story, Rudy, the Rat, Sippi's classmate, was disrespectful to his classmates. Rudy calls people names, gossips, interrupts, and takes things that belong to others.

This makes Sippi angry. Mrs. Goff, Sippi's teacher, suggests that Sippi respectfully sits down with Rudy and explains how Rudy's behaviors bother him. She encouraged Sippi and his classmates to be good role models and treat Rudy with respect so that, hopefully, Rudy would then treat them with respect. We learned from this story that we must treat others with respect if we expect them to treat us with respect.

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 get together and talk about their problem. This way, they should be able to come to a solution that is good for both of them.

Gr. 4 — From [Rhinos and Raspberries](#), I will share "The Fiery Tale," a Chinese tale of true beauty. In this story, Peacock Fairy was looking for an apprentice. The problem was that she could not make a decision because all of the peacocks looked the same. Peacock Fairy sent them off with the charge to come back and not look the same. Little Peacock felt that he was rather ordinary and could not compete, so he gave away his feathers to people in need. When asked by the Peacock Fairy what had happened to his feathers, Little Peacock explained that he had given away all of his feathers to help people. Knowing that true beauty comes from within, Peacock Fairy chose Little Peacock to be her apprentice. Little Peacock showed us that our real beauty shines when we use our gifts to make a difference in the lives of others.

Mrs. Weikes, Director
Miss Bonanno, Mrs. Wood
Mrs. Menges
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 will soon arrive from Quiver Farms in Pennsylvania. Following a presentation from Farmer Ed, students will be entrusted to turn the eggs in the incubator, check the temperature, and add water to create the ideal atmosphere for the egg hatching. While exciting life-cycle projects continue, our classroom habitat of butterfly larvae will emerge from their chrysalis to be released in several weeks. Spring is indeed the time for new beginnings.

Students have been busy completing "top secret" projects for Mother's Day. Pre-K will play host to their Moms' on May 11th. Festivities will include planting flowers around the perimeter of the Center for Early Learning, and enjoying an outdoor picnic. Following the Kindergarten May Day performance, our students delivered their handmade May Day floral baskets 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. The hard work that that goes into preparing for the

Pre-K spring performance is another prime example of what it means to cooperate and work as a team.

Language Arts and Literature find us celebrating National Poetry Month. 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. Q cannot make a word without U and rumor has it that Q and U will "tie the knot" and marry during the Pre-K spring performance. 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 in Singapore Math students are working on ordering numbers. We continue our ST-math challenges which include subitizing, addition and subtraction concepts. 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 students continue to blossom. We hope that everyone enjoyed a relaxing spring break and you are now loving this beautiful weather.

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

Welcome back from break - spring is here!! Every month we take a picture in front of the same tree in our front yard and we have been observing the changes in our environment. The biggest change is that the tree is now blooming and the children have grown so much!

Kindergarten had the opportunity to experience their first Littletown Day. What great life skills they learned in earning their tiny bucks and then getting to spend them. During all that fun they learned so much about Australia and made amazing 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 would like to thank the class moms for throwing us a wonderful spring party before we went on spring break. The children had so much fun trying to find all of the eggs during the egg hunt and were thrilled to find special treats inside them!

We have met all of the Letter People! Having all five vowels helps us make so many 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 number bonds and addition/subtraction skills and will start identifying coins with the children. We encourage parents to let the children explore and count coins at home.

We have invited the entire school, along with our parents, to watch us perform our Maypole dance on May 1st. 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 12th 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 Colson/Mrs. Quagliato
Grade 1**

We held our AMERICANS ON PARADE in the SAC on April 4. Each student researched, wrote, decorated a poster, and presented their famous American on stage. Ben Franklin, George Washington, Sandra Day O'Conner, Walt Disney, Louisa May Alcot, the Wright Brothers, and many others were well represented by our studious first graders!! Families really enjoyed the presentation and commented on the creative way the students presented a slice of American history!

As we are winding down the school year, we teachers are SUPER PROUD of all the progress that our students have made. Not only are they doing homework on their own, but are READING UP A STORM!!!!!! We have one month more to earn a star and a charm in our WE LOVE TO READ program. By the end of May, each student will have officially read 80 books...not counting the endless books read from our school and classroom library.

Our Singapore Math program is super challenging this marking period. Our topics include not only graphs and charts, but halves and fourths, time, money, numbers to 100 and an introduction to multiplication and division.

**Mrs. Buchner/Mrs. Caprara
Mrs. Savarese
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. We have been counting and writing money amounts to \$20 and next we will be reading, comparing and ordering fractions. Please continue to practice the facts daily, especially the subtraction, multiplication, and division facts.

We look forward to our class trip on May 11th to Huber Woods. We can't wait for 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 finished up our unit titled "Meet the Challenge." The students 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 continuing our study of time and measurement. The students will be learning about pounds and ounces, liters and milliliters, and how to make conversions.

In Social Studies, we completed reading Samantha Learns a Lesson. The students learned about life, school, and progress in the early 1900s. Students are presently writing news articles or comic strips about the rules for a school teacher in 1904. Everyone was impressed with our reports on modern day inventions or signs of progress. In the new marking period, students will create a timeline of inventions from 1875-1925, by going online using our Ipads.

In Novel Studies, we will be finished the story The Wind in the Willows. Students were enchanted by the tale of a few animal friends and how they stick together through life's ups and downs. In class, students are working on persuasive letters to Toad, trying to convince him to change his naughty ways. They are writing from the point of view of one of Toad's friends. For our final marking period we will be reading the book Emily's Fortune. We will also begin to work on preparations for our

Oak Hill Wax Museum. Remember to look out for news about the date!

Mrs. Cook/Mrs. Laffin **Grade 4**

Fourth grade was full of excitement in the fifth marking period! In Reading, we immersed ourselves in biographies and persuasive essays, and of course, while reading, we composed biographies and persuasive essays of our own! As the marking period came to an end, we began our third and final novel study of the year, *Because of Mr. Terupt*. In English, we studied adverbs and prepositions, and in the sixth marking period, we will apply all of our grammatical knowledge in our narrative essay compositions. Our poetry study focused on couplets and simple rhyme; check out our jump rope poems and class couplets if you're in the lower school hallway!

This marking period in Math, fourth graders began to study decimals. We learned about tenths, hundredths, and thousandths. We learned how decimals express parts of a whole, just like fractions. We compared and ordered decimals and began to talk about adding and subtracting them. Students used their prior knowledge of dollars and cents as a platform for understanding decimals. During the 6th marking period, fourth graders will be adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals. After that, we will move on to the study of graphs!

In Social Studies, students revisited our study of the Lenni Lenape, and they extended their learning with an experiential field trip to the P.I.N.E.S. Institute. Here they made food, examined artifacts, and played games. After this study concluded, they traveled back in time and across the world to Ancient Egypt! Students loved this unit and participated enthusiastically every day. We concluded our unit with an Ancient Egyptian Flashlight Tomb Museum. (This fun project connected our study of the Egyptians with a project from their earlier novel study of Wonder). For the rest of the year, we move on to another ancient civilization - Ancient Greece!



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 physical fitness testing for the second time this year to see if students' fitness scores have improved.

Students will receive their award certificates on Friday, June 9, at the Lower School Athletic and Field Day Awards Assembly. Next week we will begin to get ready for Field Day, which is Friday, May 26th. A letter will be going home explaining the specifics; parent help is greatly appreciated during this event!

Mrs. Cahalane **Lower School Science**

PreK students have been learning about astronomy. Kindergarten students have been working on dinosaur activities. First graders completed a unit on geology. Second grade students are using science to solve a mystery. The third grade students have been massing rocks and crystals. Fourth graders solved a mystery using science. Please see my teaching blog and Instagram account for some great photos of the students at work in science class!

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

This year's class concludes with our final destination to the world's largest island known as **Greenland**. Discovered and settled by the Viking, Erik the Red from Denmark who came upon this land back in the year AD 982. This island is 80% ice and not very green. It was called the land of the midnight sun and originally "The Land of the People" in Greenlandic language. Erik named it Greenland to encourage people to settle there rather than Iceland, therefore a confusion in the naming of these two islands.

Students have been enjoying sites on the iPads and learning about Greenland through tours, and video clips, music and the history and culture of the indigenous people called the Inuits. From the polar bear (national animal) to musk oxen, seals, arctic foxes and whales, students will be getting a glimpse of life in this icy, cold, snowy region. Most of the Danish live in the capital of Nuuk in very small, colorful homes along the coastline where fishing is their main source of food.

Diving below the icy waters and swimming amongst the beautiful glaciers was amazing to watch. The Northern Lights was another awe and fascinating video clip, appreciating all its' beauty.

Although students can no longer earn "tiny bucks" since Littletown Day is over, they can still bring in items that pertain to **Greenland** if they choose to. Also, please check out the picture collage of **Littletown Day 2017** on the OHA website under "general."

Mme Koar **Grades 1 & 2 Spanish**

The first grade has accomplished much since Spanish class started in January. We have explored vocabulary for colors, numbers, days of the week, basic greetings, family members, food, animals, and our body. Each new unit includes a song and story from a different Spanish speaking country. We have learned to express likes and dislikes using "me gusta/ no me gusta". The students enjoy practicing all of their vocabulary playing "quizlet live."

The second grade Spanish class is organized by theme and includes traditional stories and songs from Spanish speaking countries. Since January we have heard tales from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Uruguay, and Spain. Each story contains new vocabulary words with practice activities and a song. The students' favorite song this semester is "puedo ir al baño?" by Sr. Wooly. You can listen to the song on my website. Warning: repeated listening will cause this song to get stuck in your head.

Grade 3 French

The students in French class are currently learning some common expressions to describe their daily routine. We practice these expressions by play acting each phrase. We will be able to express what time of day we perform each activity. You can view these expressions in French on my website, <http://madamekoar.weebly.com/>

Mme Simon **Grade 4 French**

The fourth graders meet twice a week. We learned the classroom objects and we are now studying the food.

We are also watching cultural videos on France and "Le Mont Saint Michel" which is one of the marvels of the world. If you are interested, you may watch it again on the fourth grade page of my website.

Mrs. Scheuer
Upper School Advisor

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.

Bravo to cast and crew participating in the OHA school play, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Congratulations on not one, but two amazing performances!

Det. Godley from the Middletown Township Police Department presented Cyber Safety programs to the 5th/6th graders and 7th/8th graders. Her candid discussion regarding the perils children face on line were eye-opening. One session ran 45 minutes longer than anticipated due to the number of questions the students posed to Det. Godley. Her primary message to the students: Do not ask for or send inappropriate pictures via social media. Her messages to the parents: Remember you are in charge and ultimately responsible for your children. To avoid problems, monitor your children's activity on a daily basis, check real and search for fake accounts, and remain vigilant in the weeks, months and years to follow.

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.

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, May 6th 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 finished reading Esperanza Rising in Literature and began an exploration of poetry. In addition to their novel projects, students wrote "Where I'm From" and "I am" poems from Esperanza's point of view. We continued our studies of the creative art form of poetry through reading aloud 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 27, by choosing a poem to carry throughout the day and share with each other. Next up in our literary explorations are folk tales, fairy tales, fables, and myths!

In Language Arts, we have been studying adverbs and prepositions, while also reviewing all of the other parts of speech we've learned. We have also been hard at work writing different kinds of poems based on our Literature studies, as well as our submissions to Oak Hill Academy's annual literary journal, Reflections. This year the theme is "Walking in Others' Shoes," and the 5th grade has specifically been focusing on the point of view of a shoe and its wearer. Everyone's creativity is shining through immensely! We are almost finished with 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 outside of class and try to incorporate them into our own writing.

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

Fifth graders are learning about World War II and the division and reunification of Germany. After learning about the Low Countries and Alpine Countries, they will move to Southern Europe.

Sixth graders are finishing their studies of the Indian Subcontinent with a Harkness Talk about Malala Yousafzai. We will finish the year with the study of China and Japan.

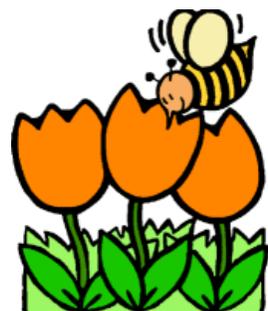
Mr. Bruckmann
Grades 5 & 6 Math

Grade 5

The fifth marking period coming to end, brought 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 5th grade program as we move into Units 11-13 during the 6th 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. June 13 is our Final Exam for Math, and all review packets may be found online on my web page. http://www.oakhillacademy.com/faculty_and_administration/bruckmann/mr_brickmann_s_5th_grade_math_class/.

Grade 6

The sixth grade class continues to progress nicely as we completed Unit 13 and have moved onto Unit 7 focusing in on Circles, and how to find Circumference, Area and Pi. We will finish the year with Units 8 and 11 as we study Mean, Median and Mode as well as Volume. Remember that corrections for the tests and quizzes are due the day following when the test/quiz has been handed back. All students need to be prepared with a sharpened pencil, all three books and a desire to learn and increase their math knowledge. Also, please use my website as a tool to enhance learning as well. June 13 is our Final Exam for Math, and all review packets may be found online on my web page. http://www.oakhillacademy.com/faculty_and_administration/bruckmann/mr_brickmann_grade_6_math_class/



Mrs. Cotterell
Grades 5 – 8 Math

Grade 5

Our focus this marking period was on decimals. The students learned how to read, write, round, compare and order decimals. They did exceedingly well on the corresponding quizzes. They then eagerly moved on to the four operations. They learned how to line up their decimal points when adding and subtracting decimals, they learned how to move their decimal points in and out when multiplying and they learned how to divide a decimal and a single or two-digit whole number. The last concept they will learn in this area is dividing by a decimal. Once they learn that we will move on to metric conversion and percents to finish off the year. This group of students have been working very hard. I am quite proud of their accomplishments this year.

Grade 6

This marking period started with solving order of operations expressions with positive and negative numbers, grouping symbols and exponents. Some of the questions were quite challenging! From there we moved on to solving algebraic equations with integers and rational numbers as well as analyzing their corresponding graphs. They took their big unit test on this very important topic right before spring break. Our emphasis since break has been on various three dimensional figures. We started by reviewing the names of each, how to find the edges of prisms and pyramids using Euhler's formula and defining and calculating volume. The students learned how to find the volume of rectangular and triangular prisms as well as cylinders. The emphasis was not necessarily to memorize the formulas rather than understand them and use common sense when finding the volume. For example, when finding the volume of a cylinder, we talked about how we want to find out how much a cylinder could hold so we cover the bottom (area of a circle) and then fill up the container (height). If the students multiply them together, they reach their answer! Memorizing is helpful for a day, but not very helpful when it is time to take a high school entrance test! Next stop, angles!

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 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). 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 – Algebra 1

Gone are those "easy" days of pre-algebra!! We learn something new (and sometimes challenging!) every day. This marking period began with solving and graphing compound equations and solving absolute value equations and inequalities. The students also learned how to graph linear inequalities and shade the corresponding section on the coordinate plane.

Right after break, we began our work on systems. The students started out by learning how to solve a system of two equations by graphing (they tolerated this!); we moved onto solving a system by substitution (they hated this!); we finished off by solving a system by eliminating (they loved this!). We will complete the chapter next marking period with learning about special types of systems (e.g. those that are parallel and have no solution) and graphing a system of two or more inequalities. We will finish off the year by working on exponents and their various properties. The students are working very hard and are always eager to learn something new!

Grade 8 – Algebra 2

We completed chapters 9 and 10 and began chapter 11 this marking period. Chapter 9 focused on rational equations and functions and chapter 10 addressed quadratic relations and conic sections. Chapter 9 was heavier on the math rather than the graphing. The students learned how to add, subtract, multiply and divide rational expressions as well as how to solve rational equations. Chapter 10 was heavier on the graphing rather than the math! The students graphed dozens of parabolas, circles, ellipses and hyperbolas. The graphing alone can be quite challenging since the students need to understand how to calculate the foci, directrix and asymptotes in addition to calculating the points for graphing. They were very happy to move on to chapter 11! Chapter 11 addresses sequences and series. We began with what sequences and series are and moved on

to solving finite arithmetic series. We will finish off the year by working with infinite geometric series, recursive rules for sequences, probability and some trigonometry.

Grade 8 – Geometry

We completed both chapters 10 and 11 this marking period. Chapter 10 focused on circles: measuring angles and arcs, learning about the characteristics of chords and inscribed angles and finding their measure, learning what tangents and secants are and how to find their measure. Some of the drawings can be quite challenging but this group of hard working students embraced the complex questions! Chapter 11 has been devoted to finding the area of parallelograms and triangles, trapezoids, rhombi and kites, circles and sectors, regular polygons and composite figures and similar polygons. While each of these topics sound very innocuous, these are not the figures from pre-algebra! For example, when finding the area of a parallelogram, the students were only given a slant height, an angle measure and a base measure. They needed to use their knowledge of special right triangles to solve for the height of the triangles. When calculating the area of a circle, it was only partially shaded so they needed to calculate the portion of the circle shaded versus the area of the whole to find their answer. When calculating the area of a hexagon or pentagon, they had to figure out the measure of the apothem using their trigonometry background in order to find the required measures! We will finish off the year by completing the final two chapters of the book: surface area and volume of three dimensional figures and probability and measurement. These students are a pleasure to teach!

Mr. Clapp
Grade 5 Science

For the fifth marking period all of the 5th 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
**Grades 5 and 6 Math Workshop/
Tech Classes**

Students were very busy these last two months in preparation for our JA BizTown site visit on Wednesday, April 26th. Jobs had been decided and the job descriptions explained, along with expense sheets for each business completed, checkbooks in order, newspaper and radio ads completed, and the JA Biz Town citizen pledge read and signed. Seventy students participated on Wednesday anticipating a fun, yet educational trip on financial literacy and interaction amongst our peers, parents, and teachers. Honorary guest was Maureen Raisch, who is the assistant to Middletown Mayor Scharfenberger, who swore in our 2 mayors of JA Biz Town. Both mayors Demetra Giannakopoulos and Thibaut Fabricant performed their duties well and oversaw all of the town businesses. A special thanks to all the parents who took the time to learn about their business and assist our students with their jobs within each business.

Mrs. Duffy
Grade 6 English/LA

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

The classes also flexed their creative muscles by writing a descriptive composition, using vivid detail and imagery that appeal to the five senses to transport the reader to a city, country, or beach scene. The students also wrote creative epilogues to the novel *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, using description, dialogue, and a strong plot to create life on the *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.

In Chapter 4, students learned how to graph lines, solve direct variation problems and evaluate functions. They graphed linear equations using tables of values and point-plotting, intercepts and

slope. They wrapped up the chapter identifying and evaluating functions.

Grade 8 Algebra I - Period 6

During this past marking period the students solved linear systems by graphing, substitution and linear combinations. They used linear systems to model real-life situations and determined the number of solutions in a linear system. They rearranged the terms in a system so that the corresponding variable are "stacked." They also learned that when the graphs coincide there are infinitely many solutions. When they are parallel, but not coincident, there are no solutions, and when they intersect in one point, there is a unique solution.

Grade 8 Algebra I – Period 3

During this marking period students studied rational expressions and equations. They solved proportion problems using cross multiplication, least common denominator and factoring. They used direct and inverse variation to solve problems. They added, subtracted, multiplied and divided rational expressions and solved rational equations. They ended the marking period solving work problems and mixture problems.

Math-A-Thon

Congratulations to everyone who worked on the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Math-a-Thon. The 41 participating students raised \$6,505. 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 days of the week, months, seasons, colors, singular and plural definite articles, changing singular nouns and pronouns to plural as well as gender agreement, classroom items and the four forms of you *-tú, usted, vosotros and ustedes*. We are in the process of learning the remaining subject pronouns and afterward we will be starting verbs conjugation.

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, tener and venir*, plus the go verbs *hacer and salir*. Also, we have covered a few interrogative words, expressions using the verb *tener* and the weather. 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 8th grade students worked on the past tense of over 50 regular verbs, preterit of the verbs *-car, -gar, -zar* and, several irregular verbs also in the preterit like *hacer, ir, ser, estar, tener decir*, etc. We are in the process of finalizing the "Cinco de Mayo" projects and presentations. Students have been and still are working diligently to make their final product. We will be celebrating "El Cinco de Mayo" next week.



Mrs. Tirella
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. Duffy
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
Grade 7 Critical Reading

The 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.

Mrs. Vacca
Grade 7 Explorations

Students are putting their final touches on their "Travel Agent" projects and some presentations have already taken place. These "virtual trips" have been both enlightening and very eye appealing to watch. From the Maldives, to Tokyo, Myrtle Beach, S.C. to Athens, Belize, Hong Kong, Alaska, and even Novosibirsk, Russia, the students have been inspired to travel to these destinations. The audience had

numerous questions about these locations and perhaps will encourage their families to take some of these interesting trips as a vacation.

Mrs. Mayer
Grades 7 & 8 History

The seventh grade has been hard at work learning about the challenges our early presidents faced while forming our country. We look forward to learning about the events that led up to the Civil War.

The eighth grade has been hard at work learning about the up's and down's our country faced during the 1950's and 1960's. We look forward to learning about current events.

Mrs. Koar
Grades 7 & 8 Spanish

The seventh grade Spanish students have completed nearly fourteen of the sixteen units of High School Spanish I curriculum designed by Middlebury Interactive. By the end of this semester they will have completed the first semester of a High School Spanish I course. Each unit introduces vocabulary organized by theme. Each unit also includes a grammar lesson and practice activities. Writing assignments and speaking tests are also included in each unit.

Students are able to progress at their own pace and are encouraged to spend extra time listening to recordings for more accurate understanding.

The eighth grade students are working diligently towards completing semester two of High School Spanish I curriculum. At the end of this current unit, they will be able to follow and give basic directions in Spanish, use affirmative 'tu' commands and learn some facts about the island of Puerto Rico. Each unit includes a grammar lesson, new vocabulary, and cultural information of a Spanish speaking country.

Ms. Lewent
Grades 7 & 8 Latin

The seventh grade continued to work on differentiating among the five noun cases, with an in-depth focus on the ablative case. The classes also studied adverbs of time, place and manner. Students learned how to form the imperfect tense of all regular verb conjugations, as well as the irregular verbs "to be" and "to be able." Seventh graders studied the founding of Rome and its government, the significance and origins of Roman names and Latin

expressions used in modern English. Additionally, students progressed smoothly through several chapters of from *Ecce Romani IA*, translating many passages and learning new vocabulary along this journey. They also participated in the Introduction to Latin portion of the National Latin Exam on March 17th. Finally, students continued to build upon their assortment of classical influences with great success!

The eighth graders focused on learning all six of the Latin verb tenses in active voice: adding future, pluperfect and future perfect tenses to their repertoires of information. Additionally, classes worked on discerning the dative and the ablative cases in context of specific translations. Students also acquired a great deal of new vocabulary words as they moved toward completion of the *Ecce Romani IB* textbook in June. Students spent time converting verbs to and from all the different tenses as well as translating a number of passages from their textbooks, depicting the stories of several characters they initially met in seventh grade Latin. Culturally, classes studied history of the Roman government, the Roman conquest of Gaul, the features and purposes of Roman Aqueducts as well as Latin expressions used in modern English. Furthermore, classes completed the Latin I portion of the Latin National Latin Exam on March 17th. Students continued to collect and explain various classical influences found in our everyday society.

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 the students who won our in-school pool! Next, the students took on an alias and received their very own W-2 forms. With a new identify and income, they were required to file their own taxes. We examined how taxes are collected and spent by our government and then each student completed their own EZ tax form. It was an eye-opening experience for all of them!
Now it is on to the biggest (and usually favorite) project of the year...the fantasy baseball project. Let's play ball!

Mrs. Daly

Grade 8 Critical Reading

Students 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!

Grade 8 Literature

Students have just completed our final novel study, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. This timeless story of courage allows the class to travel back to the 1930s in the fictional town of Maycomb. Throughout the novel, students have analyzed, examined and championed Atticus, Scout and the other characters. After the novel test, students compared/contrasted the Academy Award movie with the book.

Our final literature unit is science fiction. Throughout the marking period, students will be reading Bradbury, Hitchcock, Asimov and other well-known writers of this genre.

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. Coming up will be the science fair!

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

During the fifth marking period we did an extensive study of exponentials and logarithmic functions. We covered their graphs and applications in many fields including medicine and business.

We will be closing out the year with our study of conic sections and trig. The conic sections include parabolas, circles, ellipses and hyperbolas. This will give our students a great jump on their high school studies.

Mme Simon
Upper School French

During the fifth marking period, the sixth grade students studied the family vocabulary and learned the verb "to have." They 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. 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!

In the seventh grade, we reviewed the irregular verbs and learned the placement of adjectives, the verbs Pouvoir (to be able to) and Vouloir and clothing vocabulary. We are studying a text called "Les repas en France" (the meals in France) and the students are seeing similarities and differences in the eating habits between France and the United States.

With the eighth graders, we have been studying the passé composé which is quite a complex tense. The passe compose allows students to express themselves in the past tense. 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 7th, we celebrated our event called "Francophonie" with awesome presentation and great foods. The students showed great enthusiasm. Special thanks to all the students who were so kind to bring delicious dishes and drinks.

Mrs. Bordiuk /Mr. Rosenfeld
Upper School PE

The upper school enjoyed a terrific fifth marking period as all grades were back into the gymnasium for Physical Education.

Students participated in a variety of games inside and also began the second round of the Oak Hill Physical Education fitness testing. This includes speed and agility, strength, and conditioning. Many students improved on their fall testing results which include push-ups, curl-ups, flexibility, the shuttle run, and the mile run. There is no doubt that there are some very fit students at Oak Hill Academy.

The fifth marking period also marked the return of swim classes. Students hopped back into the pool once a week and will continue to do so until the end of the school year. As we move into the sixth marking period students will be outside as much as possible enjoying the new pickleball courts, tennis, ultimate Frisbee, and kickball. We are looking forward to finishing the year strong!

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 New Jersey State symbol books using Microsoft Word. They also learned where they letter keys are located on the keyboard and discussed algorithms. They used algorithms and Tux Paint to make paper airplanes.

The second grade classes programmed Lego Robots to move. This was a STEM project coordinated with Mrs. Cahalane's science class. In addition, they learned about all the keys of the keyboard.

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 and five fact charts on what makes someone a good person using the program Kidspiration.

Fourth grade students are using Google Apps. In Docs, they created acrostic poems and sent Emails using Mail. They have also practiced their touch typing trying to improve on accuracy and speed.

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. They also created Bits and bytes riddles using binary code for their answers.

The seventh graders created character Education banners using Microsoft Publisher and learned the basics of JavaScript coding.

In eighth grade, the students designed 3D projects using TinkerCard software and printed them on a Makerbot printer.

They also learned the basics of JavaScript Programming.

Miss DiMaggio/Art

First grade used the pinch method in ceramics and made pinch pots. They also painted watercolor flowers while learning about Pablo Picasso.

Second grade drew animals and colored them like Piet Mondrian using only the Primary Colors. They used the pinch method of ceramics and started a foam imprint drawing that we will print using the printmaking technique.

Third grade used the slab method of ceramics and drew chameleons and colored them with oil pastels using warm and cool colors.

Fourth grade drew portraits focusing on proportion. They traced their hands and feet and then using their imagination, they filled in their body. They also used the slab method of ceramics.

Fifth grade used the pinch method of hand built ceramics and used yarn and chop sticks to make a God's Eye. They also learned about artist Salvador Dali and drew a very creative and imaginative drawing in a surrealistic style.

Sixth grade drew a funny face self-portrait using the grid method and learned about artist Chuck Close. They learned about American artist Jeff Koons and created mini replicas of the Koons' Balloon Animal Dogs with Model Magic. They also used Sculpey clay and used the slab method of hand built ceramics.

Seventh grade used the slab method of hand built ceramics. Using black sharpie, they made a positive and negative space drawing based on each class' chosen theme. They also used acrylic paint and painted a picture showing texture.

Eighth grade drew an Instagram inspired drawing in the shape of a circle using a compass and colored pencils. They used the slab method of hand built ceramics, used watercolor to paint a beach, and got very creative with liquid watercolor and a straw in our Blown Watercolor project.

All grades entered the Monmouth Day Care Center Art Journal Art Contest. This year's OHA winners are eighth graders Brett Servilla, Emily Robertson, Charlotte Walsh and Kara Pietrowicz and sixth grader Michael Gao. Their drawings will be published in the Two Rivers Time Newspaper.

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 will complete 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 5th 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 at New Jersey Performing Arts Center on May 25th. 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 "Let's Dance" featuring music inspired by the dances of many times and places. The music performed will include compositions by Gounod, de Falla, Smetana, Borodin, Bernstein and Leroy Anderson.

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 are listening to some of the greatest Blues artists and trying our hand at blues composition.

The Chorus received a wonderful reception of their performance for the OHA Parent Organization meeting on March 10th. 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 have been asked to present a program for the Realtor Open House on April 28th. This is a wonderful opportunity for the group to be ambassadors of the school.

The Oak Hill Players and Chorus are preparing a program for Grandparent/Special Relative Day on May 18th and 19th. The Music Makers will

join the other two performance ensembles for the end of year Awards Assemblies on June 8th. Please join us for all of our upcoming performances and enjoy our music making.

Mrs. DeVivo/ Drama

If William Shakespeare was still alive this year on April 23rd, he would have celebrated his 453rd birthday! The students celebrated Shakespeare's birthday this marking period by learning about his life as a young boy, a playwright, and the famous Globe Theatre.

In Kindergarten, students read a story entitled "A Child's Portrait of Shakespeare." They saw pictures of the house he grew up in, the church he went to and the Globe Theater. The students also enjoyed playing a game that Shakespeare played as a young boy called Teetotum. It is very similar to driel.

First grade students read the same story and played Teetotum as well. Then, they had an opportunity to write on parchment paper with a quill pen. It was fun, but not easy. In the middle of writing their names, they would have to go back to the ink and dip their quill in it again. They concluded that Shakespeare must have had a lot of patience when he was writing his plays.

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

The third graders will dive into the world of Shakespeare a little later this year. They have been busy perfecting their reading and public speaking skills for an upcoming presentation of "LIVE: It's Fairy Tale News." Parents are invited to attend this sharing on the following dates and times. Mrs. Staley's class on Friday, May 12th at 11:00 am and Mrs. Alexander's class on Wednesday, May 17th at 10:10...SHARP! Presentations will take place in the Drama room. You don't want to miss it. The students will be reporting on all that is going on in Fairy Tale Land. And they also have some creative and original commercials to share with you as well!

The fourth graders, as well as the fifth, graders worked in teams and went on a scavenger hunt around the drama room to gather facts about William Shakespeare. They also watched some video tours of Stratford-Upon-Avon, a mini-doc biography on Shakespeare, and

got to see a tour of The Globe Theatre and in some cases it really felt like we were there!

And in sixth grade, the students wrapped up their musical theater power-points by giving their final presentations to the class. Presentations included "The Lion King," "West Side Story," "Oliver," "Hamilton," "South Pacific" and so many more! These presentations were extremely informative and very entertaining!

Congratulations to the cast and crew of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory!" Your hard work and dedication paid off once again. I'm so proud of all of you! The performance was held on March 23rd, a matinee for the entire school and an evening performance for families. We celebrated the following day by having a cast and crew party. A good time was had by all!

And finally don't forget to sign up for **OHA's Summer Drama Camp!**

LIGHTS UP: PUTTING ON A PLAY:

**June 19th – June 23rd 9:30-12:00
Session A**
**June 26th – June 30th 9:30-12:00
Session B**

This camp is open to students entering grades 2-9. You can join one session or join 2 and receive a discount!

Budding actors will perfect their performance skills by participating in a variety of games and exercises that will improve their stage presence, diction, projection, and movement. A large part of the day will be spent working together devising and creating scenery for an **original play** that will be performed in the Student Activities Center for family and friends on the last day of class.

DISNEY ON BROADWAY: **June 26th – June 30th 8:00-9:15**

This camp is open to students entering 1st through 3rd grades. Students will bring the magic of Disney to life by learning songs and dances from Disney's most popular musicals such as "The Lion King," "Frozen," "Peter Pan," and "Aladdin" just to name a few. Students will also participate in a variety of drama games and activities such as improv, mime, and mask making and puppetry.

**Mrs. Vacca/Mrs. Savarese
Student Council**

Thanks to everyone for their monetary donations made on the April 6th dress down day for the "March of Dimes". Monetary donations totaled \$275 which we were happy to send to such a worthy organization.

On Thursday, March 16th the eighth grade Student Council members went to the Methodist Church in Red Bank, the location of the (Back Pack Crew) to help sort and pack non-perishable food items for those families less fortunate. Thank you to the Dice family for providing our students this meaningful opportunity to help others.

The student council members will be going to the Monmouth Day Care Center on Wednesday, May 24th to donate and read books to the children. I encourage everyone to attend the Barnes and Noble book fair on Wednesday, May 10th 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.

Friday night, April 28th, was our Spring Fling dance for the seventh and eighth grade students. We had a lot of fun dancing and interacting with our classmates.

SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS:
Student Council elections for the upcoming school year 2017-2018 will be held in May. A packet will be 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!