



# Oak Hill Academy

## December 2016

### Newsletter #2

#### Headmaster's Message

Joseph A. Pacelli

I recently read a blog which spoke about developing confidence in our children. The article spoke about how to help children feel they can handle what comes their way. The main idea is that it is by experiencing mastery and rebounding from failure that they develop healthy self-confidence.

Here are some of the tips:

1. Model confidence yourself. Seeing you tackle new tasks with optimism and lots of preparation sets a good example.
2. Don't get upset about mistakes. Learn from them, don't dwell on them. Confident people don't let fear of failure get in their way.
3. Encourage them to try new things. Instead of focusing all their energy on what they already excel at, it's good for kids to diversify.
4. Allow kids to fail. It's natural to want to protect your child from failure, but trial and error is how kids learn, and falling short on a goal helps kids find out that it's not fatal.
5. Praise perseverance. Learning not to give up at first frustrations or bail after one setback is an important life skill. Confidence isn't about succeeding at everything all the time; it's about being resilient enough to keep trying, and not being distressed if you're not the best.
6. Help kids find their passion. Exploring their own interests can help kids develop a sense of identity which is essential to building confidence. Of course, seeing their

talents grow will also give a huge boost to their self-esteem.

I have six more tips and I'll hold them over to our next newsletter. Please have a wonderful holiday.

**Mrs. Larkins**  
Director of Development

#### Mid-Point in Annual Giving

Soon you will be receiving a reminder about our Annual Giving Program. Annual giving is an important opportunity for members of the OHA community to help us provide that something extra that makes Oak Hill so unique. All private schools count on Annual Giving to bridge the gap between tuition and the actual cost to educate each child at their school. In these current times, please know that no gift is insignificant and every gift is truly appreciated. Thank you to the many current parents, alumni families, grandparents, and friends who have already given. You've shown your commitment to the future of our students.

#### Admissions Update

Admissions to Oak Hill Academy for 2017-2018 are already in full swing. Testing for students entering grades K-8 will begin in January. Some grades may have more applicants than possible openings for September, so please remember **if you intend to send another child in your family to OHA in September 2017, you must apply before January 7 in order to receive preference in consideration for any openings.** Application materials can be obtained through the school office. Also, please remember to recommend Oak Hill Academy to your friends. Our next open houses are Friday, December 2 at 9am and Saturday, January 7 from 1-4pm and tours during the week are always available. **A Tuition Assistance program is available to our current and prospective families for September 2017. Information on requirements and qualifications can be obtained by contacting the school office or on the school website.**

#### THANK YOU LADIES!!!!

*The Harvest Holiday Happening Ladies Night Out on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> was a tremendous success! It was an evening filled with fine vendors, delicious food, wonderful prizes, and much friendly conversation. The support for OHA from the PO and all of the attendants was truly apparent. School spirit was high as*

*many OHA moms came out, and even brought their friends. The tireless efforts of the Parent Organization's committee were seen in every detail of the night. Special appreciation is extended to chairperson Ms. Karen Harris and assistant Mrs. Teena Patel who went above and beyond to make this Harvest Holiday a true success! Of course, our students reap the benefits of all your labors!*

**Miss Murray** Director of  
**Personnel/Administration**

#### Veterans Day

Please see Oak Hill Academy website for all Veterans Day details.

**Mr. Bruckmann**  
Communications Director

#### Web Page Updates

Stay up to date with Oak Hill Academy on all of our all of our social media links (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and Google+) all have links at the top and bottom of our pages.

Also . . .

1. See the "[Experiences](#)" link for student guided tours, photos, past news events and more!
2. Check out the scrolling "[Daily Announcements](#)" link on our homepage which is updated with the latest daily goings on for Oak Hill Academy.
3. Finally the new [Calendars](#) can all be found on-line to keep all of the wonderful and enriching activities at Oak Hill organized.

**Mrs. Livingston**  
Lower School Guidance

This month I shared books that touch on themes associated with social harmony such as friendship, acceptance, self-esteem, and diversity. To give you an idea of the beautiful words each author used to express the above themes, I would like to share with you one quote from each book that I read.

Gr. 1 - Our skin is just a covering, like wrapping paper. And you can't tell what a person is like by the color of their skin.

Taken from: [Shades of People](#) by Shelley Rotner and Sheila Kelly

Gr. 2 - My friends leave and I go downstairs. I am happy as I get out my paints. I think about all the wonderful colors I will make, and I say their names out loud.

Cinnamon, chocolate, and honey,  
Coffee, toffee, and butterscotch.

They sound so delicious. (Referring to the colors of her friends.)

Taken from: The Color of Us by Karen Katz

Gr. 3 - Children buzz with laughter that kisses our land,  
With sunlight like butterflies happy and free,  
Children come in all the colors of the earth and sky and sea.

Taken from: All the colors of the Earth by Sheila Hamanaka

Gr. 4 - And like flowers in the fields that make wonderful views,  
when we stand side-by-side in our wonderful hues...

We all make a beauty,  
so wonderfully true.  
We are special and different  
And just the same, too!

Taken from: The Skin You Live In by Michael Tyler

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

The month of October came to a close with the annual OHA Halloween Parade and Pre-K class party. Family members joined the Pre-K for pictures and walked along the parade route as students made their way to the soccer field showing off cute and creative costumes to the rest of the student body. Our class mothers organized a special "black and orange" themed party complete with games, crafts and delicious treats.

Miss Bonanno and Mrs. Wood introduced Thanksgiving with emphasis on family traditions, giving thanks and giving back. The students learned about the First Thanksgiving and made comparisons with regard to life "then and now." Each student decorated individual turkey feathers to create a cooperative turkey for our dining room bulletin board. Some of our Pre-K moms volunteered to help with many of our Thanksgiving projects.

For our annual Thanksgiving feast, students adorned authentic pilgrim and Native American costumes which they made in class. Mrs. Weikes led the students in song as they entertained special guests; Mr. Pacelli, Miss Murray and various members of our OHA staff. The class mothers worked alongside the teachers serving students and staff members from the festive buffet donated by our wonderful parents. Mr. Earle joined the festivities when he came to the feast and carved the 22-pound turkey that Mrs. Earle prepared at home. The feast was enjoyed by everyone and all contributions made by the parents were delicious. We are certainly thankful for the kindness and generosity extended to the Pre-K and staff by our class mothers and parents.

In literacy, we met Mr. I who has impossible inches. They cannot measure anything because they don't work together as a team. We reinforced the idea of teamwork and how that helps our class work together. We not only created an "I" word list; we built some middle /i/words too!

We practiced with the "-in" word family and built words like bin, fin, win, etc.

Math lessons included inches and measuring. We continued comparing quantities of objects with their associated number symbols. We learned to read and complete table graphs to represent numbers (using workbooks and whiteboards).

Our class mascot, *Softie the Chameleon*, continues on his adventures as he travels to the homes of our Pre-K students. Pictures and journal entries showcase many fun-filled activities while visiting with each student. "Star Student" of the week continues to shine brightly as students present their individual posters to the class. Family members have been invited to join their children at school. They arrive with a book to read or a fun craft to complete. They also share a yummy "Letter of the Week" snack with classmates. This program strengthens the confidence of students and helps classmates have a better understanding of what makes each of us unique and special.

Music class with Mrs. Weikes offers the opportunity for students to develop confidence and emergent reading skills through rhyming, self-expression, exercise, creativity and gross motor movement. We continue utilizing the gym on Tuesdays to exercise, play large circle games, run relays and follow obstacle courses. Speaking of music, the students in Pre-K are looking forward to

experiencing a holiday classic, "The Nutcracker," at the Count Basie Theater.

Now that our Thanksgiving feast has passed, the focus for the month of December will be on celebrations of light in winter throughout the world. Students will also be busy making preparations for our Pre-K winter program to be held on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Our Pre-K holiday singers will dazzle you with their animated finger plays and delightful singing as they present "A Celebration of Lights." The program will be packed with surprises.

Lastly, many parents have already expressed an interest in our 2017 summer camp. The information for Camp Oak Hill will be mailed after winter break. We will also continue with our "Leaders in Training" group for our senior campers who wish to develop leadership skills and counselor training while having a great time. Extended Day camp hours will also be available. Please see Mrs. Weikes if you have any questions regarding summer at Camp Oak Hill for 2017.

We hope that all of our Oak Hill Academy families and staff members enjoyed a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday surrounded by those you love.

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

Kindergarten wrapped up October with a parade of characters for our annual Halloween Parade. The children were greeted on Halloween morning with a Halloween treat from Mr. C! What a fun way to start the day. We thank him for his smile and greeting each morning! We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our class Mom's for throwing our class a Boo-tiful party! A fun time was had by all!

Halloween wasn't over before we were already preparing for our Thanksgiving Play and Feast. The children were busy all month getting ready for our performance. From painting their costumes, to "cooking" the food, to learning their lines for the play, the children worked very hard. We give "thanks" for the parents that came in to help out with the costumes, for the food donations and to the Pollak family for the delicious turkey and stuffing. We are so proud of how well the Kindergarten did during their performance. Our appreciation goes out to Mrs. Tyma for working on the songs with the students and to Mrs. DeVivo for revising the Play.

Our Kindergarten family continues to grow with each new Letter Person we meet. We have added Ms. T, Mr. N, and our second vowel Mr. I. With these vowels we can now make words and the children are working hard on their decoding skills. We have also learned several new high frequency words to help us build sentences. In our Wonders Program we have been introduced to several weekly themes including bugs, baby animals and safety rules. During these lessons the children are learning about nouns, verbs and adjectives along with several new vocabulary words. We are so impressed when the children apply these skills in class discussions. They are being exposed to wonderful literature which is enhancing their love of reading!

We continue to reinforce several number concepts such as odds and evens and strengthening our counting skills during our Circle Time.

In Singapore Math we have completed a chapter on numerical order and are currently working on geometric shapes. We will soon be working on patterns. We reinforce patterns by lining the children up in an AB pattern, clapping out patterns and other fun activities. Patterns are an important concept in learning numbers so this is something we will continue to do throughout the year.

We are encouraged by progress the children have made thus far and look forward to what lies ahead. We hope everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving and we are excited to celebrate all the special holidays that are just around the corner!

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

Our First Grade Reading Festival was a huge success. Thank you parents and students for creating such interesting storyboards. Some of the books read included: IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE, STELLA LUNA, WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE and NO NO DAVID. Each student gave a synopsis of their book while talking into a microphone. The presentations were followed by a yummy snack while we socialized and enjoyed each storyboard!

National Geographic Young Explorer is included in our monthly curriculum. This month we read all about Our Bones, Sea Animals in a pool and Outer Space. We not only read about these interesting topics but completed interesting diagrams and writing assignments.

In preparation for Thanksgiving we made THANKFUL booklets. Family, friends, food, school and animals were illustrated and beautifully colored on each page.

Our November stories were entitled I HAVE A \_\_\_\_\_ IN MY Pocket. The creative students wrote about having a cell phone, candy, a crayon, money, gum or a mini-ipad. These stories were PROUDLY displayed on our story bulletin board.

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

November was a very productive month, full of new and exciting learning opportunities for our inquisitive second graders!

In our reading program we are just finishing our second unit entitled, "Animal Discoveries." Each week we discussed an Essential Question, then read about how animals survive, their habitats, how babies are like and different from their parents, what they can tell us in a story, and what we love about them. We had a different genre each week too. We read realistic fiction, narrative non-fiction, expository text, fable, and poetry. We have also been practicing our writing skills. Poetry, stories, letters, and journals are just some of the activities.

In the Singapore Math Program, we are continuing to learn many new terms and are doing a great deal of hands on activities using number discs, place value blocks and charts, and white boards. We have reviewed the part-whole concept of addition and subtraction and solved word problems involving mental addition and subtraction within 100. We are working on addition and subtraction with renaming and starting measurement this week. Please continue to practice the addition and subtraction math facts with your child on a daily basis and review the other math facts as well.

We are especially proud of the math books that each of the second grade classes have written and will actually be published in hard cover. Each child worked very hard to write and then illustrate two original math word problems. A cover was also designed for each of the books by a child in each class. The children enjoyed this wonderful experience of actually becoming authors.

We continue to enjoy Share-A-Story when we invite parents or a special relative to come into our classroom and read us their favorite book.

We are sure this month will fly by with all the activities that are planned and everyone will be looking forward to a well-deserved winter break!

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

It is that time of year when the daylight hours are shorter and the weather is getting colder. The third grade is lucky to have so many bright smiles to warm up our classroom! The students have had such a great time traveling through history in Social Studies, learning about the importance of education in The Year of Miss Agnes, and finding out how to connect multiplication and division problems to bar models. With so many interesting topics to cover, it's no surprise that December has arrived so quickly!

In math, students have learned how to bar model multiplication and division one and two-step word problems. Knowing multiplication and division facts is a must for your child. Encourage daily practice so that your child becomes fluent with the multiplication/division facts for 1 – 5 and 10.

In writing, students worked on several different pieces, which included a personal narrative writing, a letter to a soldier, and a persuasive writing piece from the point of view of a turkey before Thanksgiving. The students have been working very hard this marking period!

Students had a good time wearing their success caps at different times throughout the past few weeks. They were proud of good grades, good answers, and good deeds. For the culmination of our pre-Revolutionary War social studies unit, the third graders visited the Murray Farmhouse at Poricy Park. Students experienced activities for children in the 1700s - churning butter, baking cookies, writing with quill pens, and playing games like quoits. They also learned that Patriots and Loyalists were part of the history of Monmouth County. Back in the classroom, students learned about using coordinates to find places on a map. They also used a compass rose and the directions it shows to place buildings in a town's "Blocks and Lots."

This marking period in Novel Studies the students read a wonderful story about growing up in Alaska in the 1940s. The characters in this story attended school in a one room building with children of all different ages. Education was not considered important by many adults because they had not been educated as children. When Miss Agnes arrived she changed the town's that with an

education, anything is possible. The students realized how much impact a teacher can have on his or her students during the time that they are in the classroom.

#### **Mrs. Tolleth/ Mrs. Cook Grade 4**

This marking period, the fourth graders went to the Math and Science Learning Center at Rutgers. Two professors engaged us in wonderful discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on experiments. One had to do with identifying bacterium, the other was a hands-on activity on locating oil reserves. We really enjoyed all experiences. Graduate students took us around the hands-on center in small groups and we experienced many science experiments. We did hands-on activities involving magnetism, static electricity, and surface tension of soap, motion, centripetal force, electricity, air pressure, and many more.

The favorite was the hair-raising experience with the static ball. After the Science Center, we went to the Geology Museum at Rutgers to see the skeleton of a mastodon that we read about in our textbook. We learned about mastodons and woolly mammoths. We saw the difference between the female mastodon's tusk and the male's. We saw first-hand the difference between a mammoth's tooth and a mastodon's. The difference taught us about what they ate. A highlight of the trip was seeing a real Egyptian mummy in her sarcophagus. We will be delving into the ancient world of Egypt later in the school year. The students were given a booklet to fill out answering questions while on a scavenger hunt. The answers were found from the two floors of exhibits in the museum. Each student completed the booklet and received a shark's tooth as a reward. The fourth graders shopped at the Mineral and Rock Shop and came home with many treasures from the earth. The fourth graders really enjoyed this day of learning.

Fourth grade just celebrated Heritage Day on November 18th. This is a traditional fourth grade event that is done in conjunction with our novel study of *All of a Kind Family*. We began our event by presenting "Our Medley of Customs and Traditions" in each homeroom. We had invited parents, relatives, and friends to share our day. After our speeches, our visitors took a look at the bulletin boards displaying our paper dolls that we each dressed representing our individual heritage. We then all walked over to the SAC for our Heritage Day feast. The SAC was decorated with an international

theme. Festive flags and centerpieces donned each table. There was a wonderful display of international dolls. All of our parents deserve a huge thank you for preparing a phenomenally delectable feast that we all enjoyed. We ate and enjoyed each other's company at this wonderful event!

A special thank you goes to our room mothers for all the organizing, shopping, decorating, and cleaning up: Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Weber, Mrs. Skelton, and Mrs. Garmany. Thank you also to all the people who helped with Clean-up (including several students!). We all enjoyed our Heritage Day!

While we are thanking people a fun time was had by all at our classroom Halloween parties. Thank you, room moms!

On another note, Mrs. Tolleth remains involved during her medical leave. We are all praying for her quick recovery. In the meantime, Mrs. Laffin, her sub, can be reached at the following address: [mlaffin@oakhillacademy.com](mailto:mlaffin@oakhillacademy.com)

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

During the second marking period, Lower School Physical Education classes continued to work on their swim skills and were tested on these skills prior to Thanksgiving break. The assessment of swimming skills included adequate floating skills, breathing technique, body rotation, stroke development, and conduct in the locker room. The second marking period grade is primarily based on students' swimming skills, along with their overall appropriate behavior and respect. A reminder of the PE class expectations was sent home this week. During gym time in the second semester, students worked on their hand-eye coordination through the use of bean bags, small frisbees, and small playground balls.

#### **Mme Koar Lower School French/Spanish**

The first and second grade students are learning French through songs and games. The first grade students especially enjoy the song, "Je suis une Pizza." We will continue to practice our numbers and colors, basic greetings and be able to tell others our age and our birthdays.

The second grade students currently are learning to ask and tell others about the weather. We will learn a few common verbs and be able to identify some

activities using manger, boire, écouter, jouer, sauter, courir, et dormir. We will practice these verbs with the video, "J'ai faim, J'ai soif", which can be found on my website.

The third and fourth grades are learning Spanish using Middlebury Interactive online course designed specifically for elementary school age children. We supplement with extra activities in the classroom to reinforce the online learning. Each unit is organized by a theme; health, greetings, hobbies, school, family, descriptions, etc. and includes an authentic story, songs, and vocabulary.

Currently the students are learning vocabulary about health and body followed by a unit on calendar and traditions.

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

##### **G' Day Mates!**

Students in grades K-4<sup>th</sup> will now be meeting every week for the next two marking periods. This will give students ample time to bring in items to earn those important "*tiny bucks*." Remember, this could be books, print outs from the internet, pictures, drawings, or any educational item that pertains to Australia.

Students continue to learn about a variety of interesting things in Australia. The "**K**" animals (kangaroo, kookaburra, koala) have been fun learning about, along with the cassowary and the Kiwi (from New Zealand). Video clips have been both informative and exciting to watch. We have even learned some songs such as; **Kookaburra Sits in the Old Gum Tree**. We have passports to assemble, design some Aboriginal Art while listening to some "Dreamtime" music and even make a didgeridoo.

Students will now start to brainstorm ideas for their businesses on Littleton Day, March 8<sup>th</sup>, while incorporating Australian info. We continue to read, research on the iPads, watch video clips and sing songs about this interesting country. A detailed packet will be coming home in January about this exciting day. Any questions please e-mail me.

A special "**Thank You**" goes out to Lily Verrinder's dad and mom for providing a wonderful, informative power point to the 1<sup>st</sup> grade students along with sharing items and speaking about life in Australia.

**Mrs. Scheuer**  
**Upper School Guidance**

OHA students talked the talk and walked the walk at the 36th annual Crop Walk held at Red Bank Regional HS on October 16th. Mrs. Vacca, student council members, faculty and students proudly represented OHA and helped reduce hunger in the world.

Our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders had a blast at the Fall Harvest Dance. The décor was festive, snacks delicious and the music rocked! Thanks to student and parent volunteers as well as chaperones for making the evening so special. Thank you to students that volunteered as tour guides for our fall open house on October 29th. Visitors to OHA are always impressed with our faculty, curriculum and facilities but when asked why they chose OHA, parents mention their experience with our OHA tour guides as one of the top reasons.

Oak Hill Academy's Veteran's Day assembly amazed those in attendance. Veterans from all branches of the military, soldiers both active and retired, located all over the country, joined us to celebrate America's greatest heroes. Although many schools close to observe of Veteran's Day, very few take the time to reflect on the significance of the holiday. Miss Murray's tribute to our Veterans is a daunting task to coordinate but the result is ALWAYS a powerful and moving tribute. The extraordinary traits: duty, honor and sacrifice are conveyed to every member of the audience. Kudos Miss Murray for another outstanding assembly!

In conjunction with the evolving technological needs of our upper school students, our Cyber Safety program is being implemented during Computer class. The program identifies the perils of social media. Students are continually reminded of their basic responsibilities on line and via electronic messaging as well as the ramifications of improper usage in and outside of school.

Cyberbullying and sexting, via internet or text messaging have also been addressed and the legal consequences clearly outlined. Best tips for students: every key stroke leaves an electronic footprint, do not take or share inappropriate pictures, do not share passwords, do not let anyone follow you that you do not know and THINK before you post or send. Useful tips for parents: remain proactive, monitor your child's computer postings and cell phone messages on a daily basis, limit number of pictures posted with identifiable

markers and report inappropriate postings/texts to school or the authorities immediately.

One third of the school year is complete. Time certainly marches on! As the second marking period concludes, the bar is reset for the third marking period and preparation for exams in January. Warm wishes to our OHA families this holiday season. Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

In Language Arts this marking period, we will continue to focus on verbs in our grammar studies. Some topics we will explore include the differences between action verbs, helping verbs, and linking verbs, as well as writing verbs in the present, past, and future tenses. The verbs unit can sometimes be tricky, so students are encouraged to bring home their grammar textbooks and LA notebooks for extra study/review during the week. Something that may be helpful for students is looking for examples of verbs in other places, such as pleasure reading books, the newspaper, advertisements, etc.

We are also working on writing short stories, incorporating many of the concepts covered in our previous capitalization and punctuation unit. As always, students are strongly encouraged to share their writing with their families at home throughout the writing process. In addition, we will continue to work steadily through our Vocabulary Workshop books, and practice applying vocabulary words into our conversation and writing.

In Literature, we will be wrapping up Bridge to Terabithia. I have enjoyed our discussions exploring setting, characters, conflicts, and themes. We will return to our Literature textbook to read a short story and biography, in preparation for our next novel, Esperanza Rising. All three literary selections are about migrant farm workers. With winter approaching, we have read Robert Frost's poem, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," and are working to be able to recite the poem from memory later this month.

We will also begin preparing for our "big tests" in January. The "big test" is very much like a midterm; and there is a separate Literature "big test" and Language Arts "big test." The tests will cover everything we have done in Literature and Language Arts since September. While we will review together

in class, students will also need to study and review at home. This is the fifth graders' first time taking exams, but they are all so hard working and have demonstrated time and time again just how capable they are!

Please also visit the website to see homework, handouts, and other materials related to our current studies in Literature and Language Arts.

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

In the fifth grade, students are winding up their studies of Landforms. They have finished their River Stories, and are working on designing their own islands. After Thanksgiving, we will begin our study of climate and climate change.

Students in the sixth grade have finished half of their Middle East Studies, covering the Arabian Peninsula, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. On Monday, November 21, Mrs. Sonia Dhaliwal came and spoke to the students about her family's escape from Kuwait, when it was attacked in 1990 by the forces of Saddam Hussein. It was a truly terrifying experience, but her entire family did manage to escape. We thank her for taking time out of her busy schedule to speak to us!

The class has now started reading about Israel and Palestine, and will begin their reading of The Lemon Tree excerpt when we return from Thanksgiving. This will be followed by a longer essay about the two (real) protagonists and their differing viewpoints.

**Mrs. Matson**  
**Model UN Competition**

On Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, Oak Hill Academy took a group of over 40 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders to participate in the Christian Brothers Academy's Model United Nations competition. The students did a tremendous job preparing and presenting as was evident by the SIX individual awards bestowed! Oak Hill Academy received the most awards out of all of the schools at the Model UN Conference. Oak Hill had the largest contingent of students participate and were complimented for their preparation and seriousness.

The students receiving awards were: Sydney Yan (Holmdel): Best Position Paper (1<sup>st</sup> out of 125 students); Mason Garber (Colts Neck): Best Delegate (1<sup>st</sup> Place) – in SpecPol, or Special Economic and Policy Group: Israel – Palestine Committee of the General

Assembly, and Cakie Dym (Rumson): Outstanding Delegate (2<sup>nd</sup> place) – also in SpecPol. Nicholas Geissler (Middletown) received the Best Delegate (1<sup>st</sup> Place) – in the Historical Carter Cabinet, Détente to Confrontation; Emily Robertson (Holmdel) was Outstanding Delegate (2<sup>nd</sup> place) – SocHum, or Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Sub-Committee of the General Assembly; and Alexander Mitchell (Red Bank) was Honorable Mention (3<sup>rd</sup> Place) – Historical Kennedy Cabinet, Cuban Missile Crisis.

Congratulations to all of our participants!

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

Our fifth grade math students continued their work in our Singapore math book and have moved through Unit 3 and our investigation into fractions. We began by comparing fractions and understanding what a fraction is telling us as well as how it is very closely related to division. The class then proceeded to learn how to add and subtract unlike and like fractions on their way to using these skills with mixed numbers as well. This has progressed into their understanding of what a fraction of a set is and how “of” means to multiply the fraction. They will use this knowledge to convert measurements and finally solve fractional word problems. From there it will be on to the multiplication and division of fractions before we get into a little geometry prior to mid-terms in January. 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. Students also need to become more independent in terms of being responsible for any work missed. With the lessons, I put on-line, they have ample resources in addition to asking a classmate for notes from class. Also, please use my website as a tool to enhance learning as well. [http://www.oakhillacademy.com/faculty\\_and\\_administration/bruckmann](http://www.oakhillacademy.com/faculty_and_administration/bruckmann).

The sixth grade class continues to move steadily through our Singapore 6A books. Unit 2 was a brief look back at fractions and decimals with the new introduction of negative fractions and decimals and how compare to their positive counterparts. Unit 3 has brought with it a look at the four operations of fractions as we transition into percentage in Unit 4 which will include the study of percentages that included percent of a quantity; percent change; Sales Tax, Discount and both simple and compound interest.

Remember that corrections for the tests and quizzes are due the day following when the test/quiz has been handed back. All students need to be prepared with a sharpened pencil, all three books and a desire to learn and increase their math knowledge. Also, please use my website as a tool to enhance learning as well.

[http://www.oakhillacademy.com/faculty\\_and\\_administration/bruckmann](http://www.oakhillacademy.com/faculty_and_administration/bruckmann).

### **Mrs. Cotterell Grades 5 – 8 Math**

#### Grade 5

The students finished unit 1 and are well into unit 2. We are working at a pace to ensure that all students have a good understanding of the material before moving on to a new topic. Since math is a foundational course, it is imperative that the students have a good solid understanding of the material. If they have a gap in their understanding, then the foundation is going to be weak; we want a strong base.

Some of the topics covered in Unit 2 included order of operations, bar modeling, multiplying by two-digit numbers and division with a two-digit divisor. The students love to work at the board – especially when it is a competition!

Homework is carefully selected to reinforce concepts taught during class. It is very important that all homework be completed in a thorough, careful manner.

#### Grade 6

We completed our unit on fractions and are well into percents. Being able to work with fractions is so important in future math classes, so we took our time ensuring that everyone mastered the four basic operations. In addition, the students solved many word problems using these same operations, so their work was not only skills based. You may have noticed that I also gave the students several worksheets to help supplement the curriculum. The students’ scores on their test were excellent.

We began our unit on percents with a thorough review of what percents are, how they can be converted into fractions and decimals (and the opposite). The percents they have converting go from very basic to quite challenging. We have done a very thorough review of how to make these conversions. The students seem to be very comfortable with this process.

Homework continues to play an important part in their growth. I appreciate all of your support at home.

#### Grade 7

The students have just completed chapter 3 which primarily focused on ratios, rates and percents – we will revisit percents again in the spring. I stressed to the students several times how important these concepts are in “real life”. I made the connection with rates to shopping in the grocery store. An informed consumer understands that in order to make the most economical purchase, he must look at the unit rate. We calculated several together and then the students were given the opportunity to earn some extra credit points by going on a “shopping” trip to a local grocery store. Consumer math is so very important. We also discussed how to calculate certain percents mentally, such as 15% if they are out to eat and need to leave a tip.

The students are going to have a bit of a reprieve from heavy math for a little while as we study our next topic – statistics. We will discuss what statistics are, how they are collected, presented, summarized and analyzed.

#### Grade 8 – Algebra

The students are working at a very steady pace. We finished Chapter 2 and are starting Chapter 3. Chapter 2 was chock full of new concepts – the hardest of which was using the distributive property and combining like terms. Overall, the class grasped the concepts pretty quickly; they probably simplified 100 or more expressions! They have an excellent work ethic and a true interest in learning.

While some lessons have a certain degree of familiarity, the book does an excellent job of weaving new information into each lesson. For example, the students have solved algebraic equations for two years, but now they need to write an algebraic equation for finding the perimeter of certain geometric figures and solve for the unknown.

It is a pleasure teaching this group and look forward to continuing our work into the new year.

#### Grades 7/8 - Algebra 2

Since we spent the first marking period fine tuning some lingering geometry concepts, we had to hit the ground running this marking period. We have completed four chapters and just started chapter 5. Some of the topics the students have covered include piecewise functions, absolute value functions, solving linear systems with two or three

unknowns, linear programming, graphing x, y and z on the coordinate plane, addition, subtraction and multiplication of matrices, finding the determinant and using Cramer's rule, calculating the identity and inverse matrices and solving systems with inverse matrices.

I hope to complete two more chapters by mid-terms.

### Geometry

We covered two chapters this marking period. Chapter 3 primarily covered lines. They studied how to determine if two lines are parallel (calling back some of algebra skills), they learned about transversals and the resulting angles such as alternate interior, alternate exterior, corresponding, consecutive interior, and they learned how to determine if two lines are perpendicular (again, calling back some algebra skills). As the students learn more theorems, the proofs get progressively more difficult.

Chapter 4 has primarily focused on triangles. It began nice and easy – we reviewed how to classify a triangle by its side and angles, but then moved on to the more difficult concepts. The students learned many new theorems in this chapter including those you would use to decide whether two triangles are congruent. We finished off the chapter learning about congruent or rigid transformations and writing coordinate proofs.

The students are bright and hard working – truly a pleasure to teach!

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

At the beginning of this past marking period the fifth graders began to learn about the different states of matter and how they can change based on temperature. We examined solids, liquids, gases and even plasma which they just learned is the 4<sup>th</sup> state of matter! We were able to see examples of plasma by looking at a plasma globe. The students loved it when I brought in dry ice for Halloween in order to show them a spooky example of sublimation (a solid turning right into a gas).

After that we dove right into the periodic table or elements, different properties of elements and the structure of an atom. We learned that many foods we eat contain metals in small amounts and they are very helpful in your body. My students now know what makes up an atom and what many of the elements of the periodic table are used for. At that start of marking period 3 we will be

looking at compounds, mixtures and chemical changes.

### **Mrs. Vacca** **Grades 5 & 6 Math Workshop/Tech**

#### Grade 5

We have been busy working on a variety of problem solving warm-ups, thus accumulating “**bonus points**” for a math workshop dress down day which will occur at the end of this marking period. So now it is time to plan a Thanksgiving dinner and each group is hosting a gathering of 20 people with a budget of \$200.00 First the students chose a partner and compiled a guest list and then put together a menu of their choice. Next the students were given local food store flyers to create a shopping list, quantities and prices included and then tallied their totals all for \$200 or less. Items were calculated according to each group's decision on what to purchase, such as appetizers, entrees, desserts, beverages, and even floral centerpieces, and napkins/plates.

This was a great project involving real math skills. The topics were researched and put into paragraph form with a visual. Presentations were interesting and informative.

#### Grade 6

In addition to problem-solving warm-ups, students are accumulating “**bonus points**”, for a math workshop dress down day which will occur at the end of this marking period.

Students have been diligently working on the “**Radio Project**,” which consists of a 5-minute presentation, of which 3 minutes are 13 second clips of 15 songs and 2 minutes of speaking parts. This would include the weather from their location, a news brief, current event, and a testimonial of someone who likes their station. Scripts have been put together and music downloaded and presentations will start within the next week. This has been a fun, group project involving time management and collaboration amongst the groups. The students will become DJ's for 5 minutes!

### **Mrs. Vacca** **Grades 5 & 6 Tech/ Math Workshop**

Students in these two grades will be participating in a program created by Junior Achievement, entitled: JA Biz Town. This project simulates real life experiences in both business and financial management. It introduces students to the principal characteristics of a market economy and the roles that consumers and producers play in the free enterprise system. Students will be

working toward becoming successful, productive citizens. Twice a week, students will be completing activities in their workbooks, from endorsing checks, making deposits, recording checks and deposits and balancing their checkbooks. This project will culminate with a field trip to the JA Biz Town facility in April. Here the students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge in an on-site environment.

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

Our language arts program continues to build vocabulary and grammar skills. In grammar we are studying nouns while in vocabulary we have ‘cycled’ through to Unit 6, mastering many enriching words along the way.

To celebrate fall students have written sensory poems about the season. After brainstorming about the sights, sounds, and smells of autumn, sixth graders created poems full of wonderful images, bringing to life the aroma of pumpkin pie, the brilliance of spice-colored leaves, and the warmth of flannel PJs.

During this marking period, students also completed the novel Old Yeller by Fred Gipson. This story tells of a young boy struggling to be the man of the house with the help of his devoted dog and the mature action the boy must take to protect his family.

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

Sixth graders have completed our first novel study, *Freedom Crossing*. This historical fiction story provides an in-depth look at the Underground Railroad, bravery, and growing up. Students loved the plot twists and turns as the story progressed. The classes created their own *Freedom Quilts* as a supplement to the novel study. During the height of the Underground Railroad, abolitionists would sew quilts with hidden symbols on them to show the runaway slaves the way north. Each quilt square gave hints to the slaves looking for food and shelter. After the patterns were studied, slave quilts were examined through the Smithsonian Museum collection. In groups of four, students then create sixteen-block replicas of the slave quilts. Codes were written and paths to free states or Canada were created. As an online supplement, we virtually visited historic Lewiston, NY, which is the setting for this novel. Historical homes, tailor shops, and the town square provided keen access for the plot lines. Students

really are developing an appreciation for this time in American history.

In addition to the novel study, reading comprehension skills were reinforced this marking period through our *Heroes/Monsters* series. Popular stories included *The Jersey Devil*, *Frankenstein's Monster*, and many more. Sixth graders are working hard this year!

Enjoy the holidays!

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

#### Grade 6 – Singapore

During this marking period, students reviewed addition and subtraction of unlike fractions using word problems and the idea of least common multiple. We extended this idea to more than two fractions as well as fractional algebraic expressions. Students then moved on to multiplication and division of fractions including algebraic expressions.

We then moved on to percentage and percentage of a quantity. Students extended their understanding about percent to percent of change and the application of percent to common daily situations involving interest, taxes and discounts. They also practiced tasks providing further examples such as commission, income tax and bank interest including compound interest.

#### Grade 7

A firm grasp of signed numbers is critical for success in algebra. We used real world applications of signed numbers as the basis of each lesson and made liberal use of number lines. Students practiced computation of signed numbers in a variety of contexts. Multiplication of matrices, in particular, provided a considerable amount of practice. We wrapped up the marking period with line and angle relationships, quadrilaterals, and symmetry.

During marking period three will begin our study of Algebra I.

#### Algebra I, period 3

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

operations and to write the result in scientific notation and decimal form.

#### Algebra I, period 6

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.

### **Mrs. Billet Grades 6 & 7 Science**

The sixth grade students learned why cells divide, the cycle of the cell, and how body cells reproduce. They also looked at the chemical composition of DNA, how DNA replicates, and how DNA directs the production of proteins. Please stop by Room 16 in the Soler Science & Environmental Center to see the visual display of mitosis and DNA.

In the seventh grade this marking period, the students were introduced to kinematics, the study of motion, and dynamics, the study of the causes of motion. Newton's three laws of motion were brought in to encapsulate the relationship between motion and force. From forces, students then moved on to the concept of energy, the various types of energy, and laws of conservation of energy.

### **Señora Dotto Grades 6, 7 & 8 Spanish**

#### Grade 6

This marking period the sixth grade students completed learning the conjugation of 25 regular –ar verbs, used these verbs to form questions and answered these questions in the correct format. They also worked on how to say the time (including a.m. & p.m.), and how to change civilian time to military time. To reinforce this material, we have used power point presentations, videos, songs, verbal drills, Smart Board games, and the site Quizlet for visual and auditory processing.

#### Grade 7

The seventh grade students completed Chapter 3 section 1 and section 2. In this chapter they built a lot of vocabulary and expressions that have to do with every

day activities and how often these activities are performed. They also mastered the conjugation of the verbs *to go, to play a sport, to do, to want and to go out*. At this time, we are in the process of learning the weather, expressions with the verb *to have* and the conjugation of two irregular verbs. All this has been reinforced with power point presentations, audio CD's, classroom interaction, YouTube videos, Kahoot game, Quizlet and Smart Board games to enhance the instruction.

#### Grade 8

This marking period the eighth grade students have continued building vocabulary. In addition, they have studied expressions on how to describe people and family relationships. In grammar, they have expanded their study on possessive adjectives, usage of the preposition "de" and covered over 15 stem-changing verbs *e→ie* and *o→ue* like *empezar, dormir, merendar, almorzar, preferir* etc. Also, we started reading a novel "Pobre Ana" which students are enjoying and acquiring a lot of vocabulary. All this material has been reinforced with power point presentations, audio CD's, classroom interaction, YouTube videos, Educreation videos, and Quizlet for visual and auditory practice of vocabulary and expressions.

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

In our seventh grade Literature program, we are exploring a new unit in our **MIRRORS & WINDOWS** textbook called **DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES**. The theme of the unit emphasizes how our own perspectives on life are shaped by our experiences. Each of the selections, including both fiction and nonfiction, focuses on the importance of seeing the world from a different set of eyes.

As part of our recently finished unit entitled **FINDING OURSELVES**, we have just completed our first poetry assignment on **FREE VERSE** dealing with the theme of reading. We learned the process for writing a free verse poem, did some brainstorming, provided a rough draft, and participated in a peer review - all in preparation for the ultimate final copy. This activity provided a great opportunity to develop our creative ideas and share our thoughts on the importance of reading.

**Mrs. Tirella**  
**Grade 7 Language Arts**

Our Language Arts program continues with building vocabulary skills from our **VOCABULARY WORKSHOP** series, including synonyms, antonyms, analogies, and contest clues. In grammar, we are working on our most challenging unit – **VERBS**. This unit will prove very beneficial for all of our writing activities.

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

The seventh grade was hard at work this marking period, learning about the settlement of the New World. Students are exploring the economic policy of mercantilism and evaluating the effects it had on the colonies. We look forward to learning about the American Revolution and more exciting collaboration at our Harkness Table. Happy Holidays!

The eighth grade had an exciting marking period learning all about the amazing inventions Americans made and their impact on every aspect of human life. We discussed the ramifications of industrialization at our Harkness Table with a focus on Social Darwinism. The students are truly flourishing in all capacities. We look forward to discussing imperialism and World War I. Happy Holidays!

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

It was an interesting time to invest in the market for our group of seventh grade stock brokers, but also the opportunity to learn a lot about the current state of our economy, especially in light of the presidential election. I was pleased with their pointed questions and enthusiasm. They became a little more aware of current events and learned about how the market works with such concepts as shares of stocks, dividends, P/E ratios, broker's commissions, and yield. When the project was said and done, Hershey proved to be the hot stock! Congratulations to Louis Ambrosio, Zora Dancy, Aarya Doshi, and Chris Skelton for coming in first place and earning a dress down day.

With many families traveling over the holidays, it was the perfect opportunity for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade math workshop students to review their map skills by completing the "Interstate Highway Project." In small groups, students analyzed U.S. highway maps in order to figure out the mathematical system of naming these interstates. We all brushed up on our

U.S. geography while answering some interesting mathematical questions. Next time you are on a road trip; don't be afraid to ask your son or daughter for help with directions!

**OHA Wins Team Trophy at Mathleague Competition at Stuart Country Day**

A group of 17 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders competed in a regional round of the Mathleague Competition at Stuart Country Day School in Princeton on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Oak Hill Academy was the second place school among the ten that participated! The team of Thibaut Fabricant, Michael Gao, Robert Schweikert, and Audrey Yan came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. In the fifth grade, Mitchell Oldham won the 4<sup>th</sup> place individual trophy and Karan Patnaik came in 7<sup>th</sup> place. In the sixth grade, Michael Gao won the 2<sup>nd</sup> place individual trophy, Thibaut Fabricant was 7<sup>th</sup>, and Robert Schweikert was 10<sup>th</sup>. Eight Oak Hill students advanced to the Mathleague state competition in the spring. They are Mitchell Oldham, Karan Patnaik, Isabelle Darman, Thibaut Fabricant, Michael Gao, Cadence Li, Robert Schweikert, and Audrey Yan.

Go OHA!

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

In eighth grade Language Arts, students continued their study of vocabulary and grammar. Students also continued their writing assignments. Students wrote poems personifying autumn objects. Next marking period, students will continue with their writing, vocabulary lessons, and grammar lessons.

In Literature, students completed the novel: *The Outsiders*. They recorded major events and character descriptions while reading the novel. Also, they examined the plot and analyzed the "outsiders." Students really enjoyed reading this novel.

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

The seventh grade Critical Reading classes are finishing a cluster of Greek mythology in *Echoes From Mount Olympus*. Gods, goddesses and other ancient deities were studied, discussed and examined. Online discussion questions helped students plot the myths, create family trees, and write their own interpretations of events occurring in nature.

Using our vocabulary book, *Vocabulary From Latin and Greek Roots*, students have created online interactive chapter reviews. This is a collaborative, simultaneous effort using personal devices. Once the review is complete, students can send the work to their own google accounts for at-home review.

Enjoy the holidays!

Eighth grade classes have been diligently studying comprehension skills in many different ways. Our last unit showcased endangered and extinct animals. Students traced the effects of pollutants such as DDT in streams and rivers. Using an interactive timeline, species were examined and recorded. Classes really are becoming more aware of the importance of ecology and creating safe environments for all creatures.

In addition to our weekly news summaries, students are enhancing their writing skills in many ways. With the release of the 2016 World Almanac, students explored population changes, climate issues, and government policies. Charts were mapped, interpreted, and analyzed for different countries' literacy rates, finances, and social issues. Students wrote essays about their findings. The two-week lesson will finish after Thanksgiving with an online game. Classes are working well and are eagerly anticipating the holidays!

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

We started off marking period 2 by learning about Earth as a system, and all of the parts of Earth that make up that system, such as the biosphere that includes all of the living organisms on the planet. We discussed how all of these parts interact and affect each other and how they affect us as well. After that we began learning about Earth's interior. My eighth graders learned all of the many layers of Earth and all of their specific characteristics. We did a lab that demonstrated how the convection currents in the mantle work and how that is the driving force behind tectonic plates moving to eventually lead to earthquakes.

That was a nice segue into our lessons on plate tectonics. My students now know where, why and how Earth's plates move. In order to visualize how these plates move we did an edible lesson using Oreo's, graham crackers, and frosting. Hopefully now they think about this every time they decide to snack on them!

**Mr. Pacelli**  
**Intermediate Algebra**

We have just completed chapter 3 where we studied systems of equations and inequalities. We used the Desmos on-line graphing calculator to accurately find points of intersection as well as overlapping regions. We also explored various kinds of word problems having to do with finding as many as three variables. We also did many challenge problems which stretched our thinking skills.

Our new chapter deals with polynomials and factoring. We will use our skills to solve higher order equations. Oh, the marvels of mathematics!

**Mrs. Vacca**  
**Grade 8 Explorations**

Students are finishing up their research and putting the final touches on their current project of interest. The majority of the topics are “**Conspiracy Theories**”, such as The Bermuda Triangle, The Mandela Effect, the Sinking of the Titanic, Elvis Presley’s Death, the Moon Landing, Historical Cloning, the Hadron Collider, and Do Ghosts really exist? What is the most popular sport in the U.S. and which one has the most injuries? Debating topics such as the pros/cons to Vaccinations and the Monster Power lines in Middletown. Is time travel real? Living Amish, Do secret societies control the world? And who was Lizzy Borden? Presentations have started and are most fascinating to learn about and question about. Some good discussions are in the forecast!

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

With the fifth graders, we studied the verb to Be, the text “Une journée à l’école” (a day at school) and “Sophie à l’école” (Sophie at school). I am following the curriculum from the book Bon Voyage and during the 3rd marking period, we will study chapter 3 including classroom objects.

To review the material learned in class, we use Educreation videos, Quizlets and we play our favorite game “Kahoot.” We also learned cultural information about France and French speaking countries. Good job!

This marking period, the seventh graders reviewed the verbs Pouvoir and Vouloir (to be able to and to want) and studied a dialog about going shopping which the students had to present from memory. The accents of the students were

wonderful. By listening to the dialogs on my website, the students are able to improve their pronunciation tremendously.

We are now learning the family vocabulary and we will soon work on a project about a province, a French territory, an island or a country where French is the official language (33 countries all together). We will have some crêpes in the classroom so that the students can experience some specialty from my province. Excellent work!

With the eighth grade, we studied the reflexive verbs and the routine of the day, a text called “L’internet c’est cool” about the internet and social networks. We also started to work on a project relating to cultural information about various regions in the francophone world. Our class combines vocabulary, grammar, dialogs and cultural aspects of French speaking people. We are now studying a dialog between two teenagers who were talking about going on a trip to Tahiti. Bon travail!

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

The upper school continued their terrific start to the year in the second marking period! Students finished up their Oak Hill Physical Fitness testing with some outstanding performances. There were a few students who finished with a mile time of less than six minutes showing their excellent conditioning. In addition, students impressed while performing pushups, curl-ups, the shuttle run, and flexibility test. As testing was wrapping up the students began transitioning to Team Handball. Team Handball is an Olympic sport and was a big hit. Some even remembered watching it during the Olympic games this summer. Students will continue to play Team Handball and will also be starting their basketball unit as winter approaches.

We have hit the pause button on swim classes until the spring. Fifth and Seventh grade students will be in Health for the third marking period learning about a variety of topics as sixth and eighth grade will be in the gym for Physical Education.

**Mrs. Griller/Computer**

We have been busy in the computer room trying out some new programs! Both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders learned JavaScript coding on CodeAcademy.com. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade students designed 3D printed objects. They used an online CAD program for their design

called Tinkercard. Seventh graders also created character education banners that you see hanging up around the school. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade students ran a lemonade stand business on coolmath-games.com and tracked their results in Excel. They then created charts, portfolio covers and wrote up their business strategy. All of it was put together in a business portfolio. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade students wrote an MLA essay and learned to use the draw tools in Microsoft Word. Then they created a presentation using digital cameras, recordings of their voices and the program PhotoStory. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes created an acrostic poem using Google Docs and learned about Google Classroom. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders made graphic displays using Kidspiration and Wordle. Second graders also worked on a STEM project in coordination with Science to program Lego robotics. First graders also worked on a STEM project in making a paper airplane. The All students continue to practice their typing skills through various tests, lessons and games. Keep checking my website for pictures of our computer work. Right now you can see the 8<sup>th</sup> grader 3D projects, 7<sup>th</sup> graders programming in JavaScript and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Lego Robotics.

**Miss DiMaggio/Art**

First grade learned about the primary and secondary colors while drawing stacked birds, color based on the pattern of the color wheel. They used the pinch method in ceramics to make a pinch pot.

Second grade used the pinch method in ceramics and used the primary colors to make a Piet Mondrian inspired animal. They also made a paper collage of their favorite food.

Third grade used the slab method in ceramics, made model magic coil pots, worked in small groups to make a Monet inspired tissue paper collage and drew Pablo Picasso inspired Abstract Self Portraits

Fourth grade used the slab method in ceramics to make an imprinted bowl. They learned about foreground, middle ground, and background and made a paper building silhouette using perspective.

Sixth grade used model magic to create a miniature balloon animal dog based on artist Jeff Koons. They entered drawings for the Doodle for Google contest and drew funny faces using the grid method based on artist Chuck Close.

Seventh grade used sharpies to make a positive and negative drawing based on

a theme that the class chose. They also entered drawings for the Doodle for Google contest and used acrylics to paint a picture on a canvas showing texture.

Eighth grade used watercolor to paint a beach. They entered drawings for the Doodle for Google contest. They drew a zoomed in picture of a photograph they took while learning to draw a perfect circle using a compass in our Instagram inspired project.

### Mrs. Tyma/Music

During this Thanksgiving season, the students in music classes enjoyed songs, dances, books and poems that reflect the season. The Kindergarten, first and second graders have listened to Native American music played on an authentic woodland flute and accompanied the playing on a drum made by the Taos tribe in New Mexico.

The Kindergarten classes love to dramatize songs. We've produced scenes about turkeys and ducks, Native American Indians, and Pilgrims. In the fun we experienced high and low voices/sounds, phrasing, and rhythm patterns.

The first graders identified long and short notes in a Georgia Sea Island song about harvesting root crops. We looked at a variety of fresh root crops from a local produce store (rutabaga, parsnip, turnip, sweet potato, etc.), talked about the science of their growth, and then created new lyrics to describe these crops in a way that fit the rhythm patterns in the song. Also, a Sioux Indian lullaby was learned with an accompaniment on the barred instruments that emphasized the concept of beat versus rhythm. As an introduction to sign language, we learned to sign some of the words to one of our favorite Thanksgiving songs.

In second grade, we learned the *Bear Dance* of the Ute Indians and danced it to recordings of authentic Ute tribal music. We created an unpitched percussion orchestration for a poem to serve as our B section for a song about pumpkin pie. The song challenged our musicianship skills with its three-part instrument accompaniment. In addition, we built upon the sign language skills learned in first grade with a new Thanksgiving song.

The third and fourth grade classes enjoyed the Shaker song *Simple Gifts* while working on choral singing skills and their recognition of chord changes in the harmony. The third graders listened to Aaron Copland's "Variations on Simple

Gifts" from his ballet *Appalachian Spring* and discovered the ways Copland uses timbre, tempo, and dynamics in this movement. Activities highlighting meter were enjoyed when we created our own lummi stick patterns in the way that children of the Chippewa tribe did years ago. The fourth graders extended their understanding of harmony when they learned a barred instrument accompaniment for *Simple Gifts*. We learned a new note on the recorder so that we could add a descant to this song.

In the fifth grade classes we brushed up on our recorder skills to play a song from the Caribbean Islands in calypso style. We are continuing to work on the barred instrument and drum parts which are complex syncopated rhythms. It is a delightful challenge for our listening and performance skills. In addition, we learned new notes on recorder so that we could enjoy a lovely Sioux lullaby as the Native Americans would have on their flutes. We had first experienced this lullaby as Lower School students, but now we were able to play the barred instrument accompaniment and to work on playing musically.

The Chorus and Oak Hill Players received rave reviews for their performance at the Veterans' Day Assembly. I appreciate their hard work and how professional they have been in their approach to the performance. Thanks to Mrs. Momyer for her work as our piano accompanist for the Chorus and to Mrs. Amoroso for being our soloist with the Chorus.

Your interest in your child's musical education makes a difference. SING, SAY, DANCE, PLAY, LISTEN, CREATE! These are things you can do at home to enrich your child's musical interest and skills.

**SAY** – Talk with your child about what they learn and enjoy in music.

- What songs are you singing? Do you have a favorite? Can you teach it to me?
- Have you played any instruments lately? Which ones?
- Do you have a favorite singing or movement game? Can you show it to me?

Next time.....**DANCE** and **PLAY**.

### Mrs. Vacca/Mrs. Savarese Student Council

Student Council welcomes our Homeroom Representatives for grades 5-7. These students are randomly selected as liaisons to inform their homerooms as to what transpires during student council

meetings. They are an integral part of the student council as they can also bring feedback from their homerooms to the meetings.

Thanks also to everyone for their spare change that helped to fill up those orange boxes labeled **UNICEF**. We were able to send a check for **\$94.18** and continue "kids helping kids" in need around the world.

The Mercy Center also sent a note of thanks for helping to fill their food pantry which provided Thanksgiving meals to about **320** local families.

Starting on **Monday, November 28th**, we will once again have our **Mitten Tree and Food Collection which will go to the 2nd of December and extended into the following week**. The tree has been set up in the upper school hallway where students may adorn the tree with new mittens and scarves and hats. Non-perishable food items will be collected on the stage in the gym. A flyer has gone home making requests from each grade level as to gifts that we will be collecting for various organizations. Remember to remember those who are less fortunate than us especially at this upcoming holiday season. Everything is always appreciated!

Pre-K, K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade- "Toys for Tots"  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade- "SPCA"  
4<sup>th</sup> grade- "180 Turning Lives Around"  
5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade- "Harbor House"  
7<sup>th</sup> grade- "Holiday Express"  
8<sup>th</sup> grade- "Deployed Troops"

\*All students in grades 5-8<sup>th</sup> during their Tech/Explorations classes have compiled letters to deployed troops wishing them "Happy Holidays" and thanking them for their service. These letters of encouragement and joy will be included in the care packages to be sent abroad. Every year we hear that these letters from our students are truly appreciated!

I am pleased and thankful for all the purchases made through "**Mixed Bags**" this fall. We made a **profit of \$1,250.28** of which goes back to the school to help fund the rides on Littleton Day, dances, and year-end gifts.

Please remember that you can shop at [www.mixedbagdesigns.com](http://www.mixedbagdesigns.com) all year long and Oak Hill Academy will make a 50% profit. Click on GO to: SHOP, our school #442089, place your order and the items will be shipped directly to your home.

