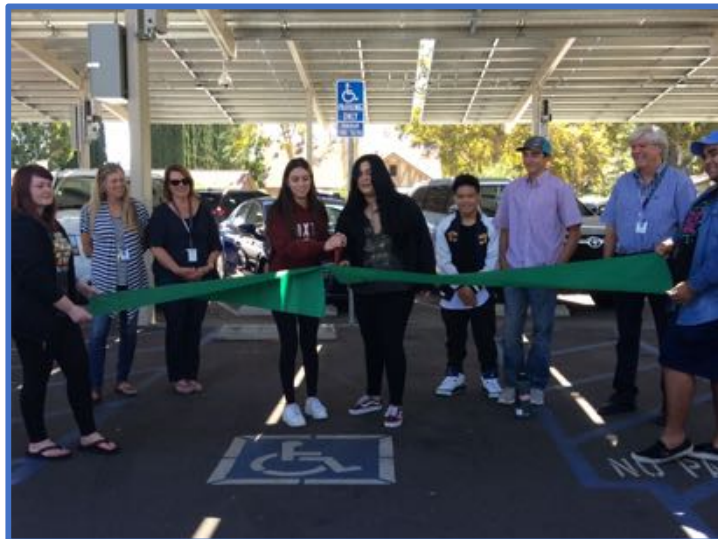


Solar Parking Structure Dedicated



October 17 was a perfect warm, sunny day to dedicate the new solar parking structure adjacent to the district office, OPIS, and Oak View High School. On hand for the celebration were Dr. Tony Knight, Superintendent, Martin Klauss, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Stew McGugan, Principal of OPIS and Oak View, staff members from OPIS and Oak View, district office personnel, and students. Oak View students spoke about the benefits of solar energy and its contributions to making our planet cleaner and greener.

Dr. Knight, who is committed to the OPUSD motto of “Educating Compassionate and Creative Global Citizens” spoke about reducing our carbon footprint and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He noted that the solar panels we use today evolved from the technology invented to power space craft in the 1950’s.

Since the solar panels were activated on July 1, they have generated \$110,000 worth of electricity, which exceeds expectations. What electricity OPUSD does not use is sold back to the power company and resold to other homes and businesses in the area. The funds that the district saves are used for education. This project is a win-win situation for our district, our students and our Earth.



Message from the Principal

Hello OPIS Knights – What a very HOT fall year we have had!!! We had a great opening to the school year with almost 200 students on our campus. We had a very successful registration with our office manager, Sue Meskis, overseeing the entire process. She did an amazing job arranging for students to get their ID cards, checking out textbooks, signing their independent school contracts, meeting with Mr. Rogers, if necessary, and turning in all registration paperwork.

Mr. DeLong and Mr. Barnett are currently writing/updating our history, math, and English curriculum for grades 9-12. The teachers are piloting the new changes with a couple of students and have had great reviews on what they have implemented so far. We are very happy with our new Aleks online program that supplements the new math textbooks for middle school and high school.

We offered one new Ventura County Innovates (VCI) course, TV Film Makeup Artistry, class that is being taught by Mrs. Renee Rudela. After much success, we are continuing to offer Digital Heat Imaging, taught by Mr. Ruben Reyes. This is a great way for our students to get a practical skill for their graduation requirements. Both of these classes are at their maximum capacity. YAY!!

Please ask your students to take advantage of our OPIS Associated Study Body clubs. We have a club for the middle school and high school levels. Times and dates are on our weekly calendars. They always have great philanthropic events planned for the fall and spring. Have a great year!

Thanks,

Mr. McGugan

Meet Our Talented Staff!





Principal **Stewart McGugan** was born and raised in the Conejo Valley. He grew up in Newbury Park and attended public schools in his community.

Stewart has always loved athletics. He played baseball and football in high school and is a true fan of all sports. He was in the US Navy for four years, on board the aircraft carrier UUS Nimitz. Throughout his time in the military, Stewart traveled all over the world and experienced many different people and events that taught him lifelong lessons. They helped him to realize how lucky he is to live in California, in particular Oak Park, and it is for this reason he resides here with his wife and three daughters.

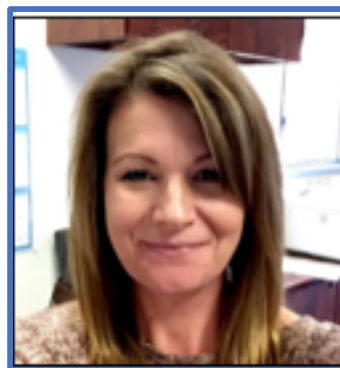
Professionally, Stewart has worked as a counselor at Calabasas High School. When he came to Oak Park High School, he was hired as the transition counselor, where he worked very closely with MCMS to ease and facilitate the transition of 8th graders into the high school system. The next year he was promoted to Assistant Principal at Oak Park High School. For five years, as Assistant Principal, he oversaw athletics, facilities, ASB, curriculum, counseling, SPED, attendance and discipline. He is a member of the district leadership team and he works closely with the union negotiations teams (classified and certificated) in the district. In his personal life he loves playing with kids and spends as much time possible helping coach them in soccer and softball. Stewart is also very involved with local athletic programs such as: WAGS, Real So Cal soccer club and the high school surf team. Stewart also likes to exercise and surf.



Counselor, **Jeremy Rogers** is now splitting his work between Oak View High School and Oak Park Independent School. Having grown up in Camarillo and

attending both Ventura Community College and UCSB he is familiar with local schools and communities. He has been in public education for over ten years and held the following job titles: Independent and Continuation High School Counselor, Comprehensive High School Counselor, "At Risk" Middle School Counselor, Elementary School Counselor, PE Teacher, Substitute Teacher, and Coach. He graduated from UCSB with a degree in Sociology and a minor in Sports Management. He went on to receive a Masters in Education. "I feel like it is a privilege to work in public education and it is my goal to help students reach their potential," states Mr. Rogers.

Jeremy lives in Camarillo with his wife and three daughters. He enjoys spending time with his family, good food, Notre Dame football, and beating Mr. McGugan's team during Thursday sports day at OVHS.



Sue Meskis, office manager, was born and raised in So. Ontario, Canada and moved to So. California in 2004. Prior to moving to the U.S., Sue worked

in the private sector for 18 years in business development, marketing and finance. Before coming to OPIS Sue spent a year at Brookside Elementary as an Instructional Assistant. In her spare time, Sue enjoys spending time with her family.



School Psychologist, **Gayle Tribe**, earned her BA in English at Boston University and began her career in the computer software field managing children's educational content.

She went on to earn her Master's in Education and her teaching credential at Pepperdine University and became a 2nd grade teacher. She loved being a teacher so much that she thought she would do it forever until one boy changed all that. He was a troubled youth who had several family stressors as well as academic and emotional challenges. Gayle became intrigued with the process of specialized education and later went on to earn another Masters in School Psychology at Philips University. Gayle has three children who are all students at OPUSD. When time permits, she enjoys going to art museums, the movies, and traveling. Gayle firmly believes in the importance of being able to rely on yourself. One of her favorite quotes is "Falling down is an accident. Staying down is a choice."



Jim Barnett is the Math Specialist at OPIS. A graduate in Mathematics at Sonoma State, he has over 20 years of teaching experience, primarily at OPHS where he served as

math chair. Jim is very active in the Oak Park Teachers' Association and enjoys working on model railroads.



Lori **Lori Glazer** has been teaching for the past 18 years. She has taught elementary through high school in both public and private schools. She has also taught independent study for many years at Laurel Springs. Lori's area of expertise is Math. She is very excited to be a part of the OPIS faculty.

Lori lives in Agoura Hills with her husband and four children. In her free time when she is not doing activities with her children she likes to read, relax, and travel.

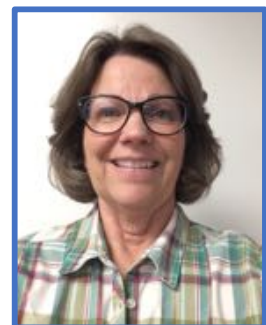


Amy Kobayashi was born and raised in Southern California. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Pepperdine University. She taught in the Conejo

Valley for ten years before taking a leave to raise her two boys. She is thrilled to be teaching again and to be part of the OPIS family. When Amy is not teaching she enjoys spending time with her family, reading, traveling and learning new things.

Barbara Harrison has been in the field of education for over 30 years. During the course of her career she has been a music specialist, classroom teacher, writer for Artists-In-Residence,

and independent study teacher for grades kindergarten through 8th grade. Her passion for home study began when she schooled her own children at home. This experience



makes her uniquely qualified as a teacher at OPIS, a position she has held for 14 years. With the expertise Barbara has gained from attending the Columbia University Writing Project, she has established a weekly Writers' Workshop at OPIS for 4th - 8th graders. She also plans monthly field trips for OPIS and edits the school newsletter. She is an avid card maker and hiker and enjoys attending all of her students' performances in music, dance, theater, equestrian events, synchronized swimming, rhythmic gymnastics, and gymnastics to name a few. Barbara has two adult children and lives at Malibu Lake with her husband.



Samantha Lyons was born in Seoul, South Korea and adopted at 8 months old. She grew up in Kailua, Hawaii for the first 9 years of her life and Newbury Park, California for the next 9 years. She graduated from Newbury Park

High School in 1999 with an AP/IB diploma. She also participated in cross country, soccer, track, and Key Club. From 1999-2003 she attended UC Berkeley (go Bears!) where she graduated with Honors in Sociology and an Education minor. She attended graduate school at UC Santa Barbara, completing her teaching credential and Master's in Education. Since 2005, she has worked at schools throughout California (Castro Valley, Los Altos Hills, Oxnard, Westlake Village, and now Oak Park) and also abroad (Japan and the Netherlands). Samantha has lived in 6 countries on 4 continents and traveled throughout North America, South America, Asia, Europe, and Africa.



A professional educator for over 20 years, **Ty DeLong** has taught English, History, Technology, Civics, Yearbook, and Physical Education at the middle, high school and college levels. Both of his

children have been educated at home since kindergarten and are now in college. Ty holds a bachelor's degree in English, as well as master's degree in American Studies from Pepperdine University. He loves to travel, read, and laugh. In the summer of 2016, along with a group of students from Pepperdine University, Ty completed a 500+ mile walk on the Camino de Santiago in Spain, a feat he hopes to accomplish again.



Daniel O'Brien is the Science Specialist at Oak Park Independent School where he teaches grades 9-12. Daniel has been an educator in the Conejo Valley area

since 1997, teaching in both the Moorpark USD and Oak Park USD. He really enjoys sharing his knowledge and experience with all his students. Prior to joining the teaching staff at OPIS in 2012, Daniel was the Director of Instrumental Music at Oak Park High School. In 2015, Daniel completed his Master's of Education degree at Concordia University, Irvine. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from California State University, Northridge with a degree in Music Education. He also has an A.A. in Business from L.A. Pierce College.

Daniel lives in Moorpark with his wife, Kati. Together they enjoy camping, hiking and gourmet cooking.



Kate Thompson graduated from UCLA in 1996 with a Bachelor's Degree in History and a specialization in Education. She then entered the Graduate School of Education at UCLA where she earned

her teaching credential in 1997 and her Master's Degree in Education in 1998. Kate taught six years at Santa Monica High

School. She was dedicated to her work in teaching Humanities, Psychology, Sociology and acted as the Activities Director. Kate was named Teacher of the Year at Santa Monica High School in 1999. Kate joined Oak Park's Home School in the fall of 2002. She was awarded Oak Park's Stars Award in 2009. She enjoys encouraging students to learn on their own and explore personal interests. One of Kate's favorite aspects of the home school program is working with students in improving their writing skills and preparing them for college. In her spare time, Kate enjoys spending time with her family.

OSB News



Back row left to right: Matthew Komins, Will Murden

Middle row: Alicia Ortiz, Matthew and Benjamin Royer, Chip Baldwin, Jacqueline Mathers.

Seated: Davis Shapiro, Veronica Mikulasek, Jasmine Alveran, Kaylena Mann



The OPIS OSB under the direction of **Samantha Lyons, Kate Thompson, Lori Glazer, and Amy Kobayashi** has a wonderful year of activities planned for our middle and high school students.

If the Halloween party on October 30 is any indication, the year's events will be lots of fun. Students arrived in costume and participated in a costume contest, scavenger hunt and

other activities. Pizza and other delightful treats made this party one to remember!

In addition to social events, these groups take pride in performing community service and philanthropic events. In the month of November OSB will collect socks and gloves to donate to Hope of the Valley for the homeless. Please drop off gloves or socks in R4 before November 15th. In early December the OSB will be providing a meal and serving it at Hope of the Valley for the homeless. We have a very busy few months. If you are in grades 6-12 you are welcome to participate. OSB meets on the last Monday of each month at 10:00.



OPIS OSB, Matthew Royer, cereal killer, Writers' Workshop kids, Kayena Mann, steam punk girl



Fabulous Field Trip



California Oil Museum

Located in the 1890's Union Oil headquarters in Santa Paula, the California Oil Museum provided OPIS families with a historical perspective of the role of oil in Southern California from the time of the Native Americans to the present. We saw how oil is extracted from the earth using the authentic turn-of-the-century cable tool drilling rig pictured above, to the drilling rigs we can see off our coast. Our guide challenged us to name everyday items that are NOT made from this valuable non-renewable resource. The museum houses an impressive collection of vintage gas pumps and memorabilia, plenty of interactive displays, and interesting videos.

Following the museum tour, our group participated in a hands-on lab called The

Wonderful World of Rocks and Minerals. Each student was provided with a microscope, hand lens, and 15 different rock samples. Students were shown a film and then had to identify each of the rock samples. Our science curriculum came to life as our guide discussed the rock cycle and the formation of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks.





Making a Difference: Molly Vrooman

Upcoming Field Trips

Don't miss out on future OPIS field trips! It's never too early to sign up. Please see Barbara Harrison in room R-2 and fill out a [permission slip](#) which is available on our website. Parents are welcome and often drive their own children, however transportation is usually provided for a \$5 donation.

Medieval Times (Full)	Nov. 14
Titanic Exhibit, Reagan Library	Dec. 4*
Body Worlds @ Ca. Sci. Center	Dec. 14
Whale Watching	Jan. 19
Stunt Ranch Hike, Calabasas	Feb. 22
Drum Circle @ OPIS	March 7
Water District, Calabasas	April 12**
Zuma Beach Party	May 23
*Recently added	**Tentative date



Mark Your Calendars

Veterans Day Holiday	Nov. 10
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 20-24
Winter Break	Dec. 22 – Jan. 5
No School gr. 6-12	Jan. 8
Martin Luther King Day	Jan. 15
Staff Development Day	Feb. 16
Washington's Birthday	Feb. 19
Spring Break	Mar. 30-Apr. 8
Last day of school	May 25

Seventh grader, **Molly Vrooman**, is a remarkable OPIS student. When she isn't doing schoolwork or riding her beloved horse Razz, she is fulfilling her duties as a Junior Ambassador for Children's Hospital, Los Angeles. For years Molly has requested books for her birthday in lieu of gifts and presented them to the children at the hospital. This year Molly reached the age where she is eligible to provide tours at the hospital. She has been recognized as one of the top 10 junior fundraisers for the hospital. To collect donations, Molly has partnered with Chipotle in Newbury Park who generously donated a percentage of their earnings. At local farmers' markets and at Calabasas Saddlery, Molly has sold slime she has made, and pomegranates from her yard to try to reach her fund-raising goal of \$3500 for the month of October. This money will be used by the hospital to purchase a state-of-the-art video game system that can be wheeled to non-mobile patients at the hospital. Kudos to Molly for her service to others! If you would like to help Molly reach her goal, please go to http://connect.chla.org/site/TR/DIY/DIY_Fundraisin?px=1198566&pg=personal&fr_id=1090.



Molly Vrooman and her horse, Razz

Water District Field Trip Rescheduled

Due to a traffic accident on Malibu Canyon Road, our field trip to the Las Virgenes Wastewater Recycling and Composting Facilities had to be canceled at the last minute. The trip has been tentatively rescheduled for Thursday, April 12.

Mondays at OPIS

Take advantage of Mondays at OPIS!

9:00 – Math Lab with Jim Burnett R-1
(all grades) Bring your work and get help

10:00 – Writers' Workshop (grades 4-8)
with Barbara Harrison R-1

11:00 – (last Monday of the month) –
Middle School OSB with Amy Kobayashi
and Samantha Lyons R-1

11:00 – High School OSB with Lori
Glazer and Kate Thompson R-4



Come enjoy coffee with two OPUSD Board of Education members on November 6th from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm at Oak Park High School room I-7. The intent of the coffee is to increase communication with our broader community, including parents, students, and residents who live within district boundaries but do not have children currently attending district schools. Trustees will be available to answer questions, receive input and discuss topics of interest.

Sign Up Now for the Titanic Exhibit at the Reagan Library

The Reagan Library is currently featuring an exhibit on the Titanic unlike any that has ever been seen before. Artifacts from the ship and its passengers will be on display. You will also see Alvin, the titanium submersible, that took Dr. Bob Ballard down to the wreckage. Original film footage of the ship's maiden voyage, movie scenes and props from the movie and much, much more will be displayed. Our visit is scheduled for Monday, December 4 at 1:00. Ticket prices are \$29 for adults and \$13 for students. Payment is due November 16. Barbara Harrison will be driving students in the district SUV for a donation of \$5. Please email her at bharrison@opusd.org if you would like to sign up.

Ticket prices also include a self-guided tour of the museum and a special exhibit entitled *An American Christmas* consisting of 25 trees decorated to celebrate America's achievements from the revolutionary era to today. Also on display is a beautiful collection of hand-crafted Menorahs that were given to President Reagan while he was in the White House.



Attention Science Lovers

Did you know that Mr. O'Brien runs a high school Science Workshop on Wednesdays from 12:00 – 1:00 and offers chemistry tutoring on Thursdays from 11:30-12:30? Check them out in room R-1!