

The Independent

Barbara Harrison, Editor

October 2016



Left to right: Samantha Lyons, Ty DeLong, Gayle Tribe, Stew McGugan, Lori Glazer, Barbara Harrison, Jim Barnett, Sue Meskis, Amy Kobayashi, Daniel O'Brien, Jeremy Rogers and Kate Thompson

WELCOME TO OPIS!

Whether you are new to OPIS or you are a returning family, we welcome you and wish you a happy and successful school year.



PLEASE HELP

Raise money for OPIS by collecting box tops



HALLOWEEN PARTY

Join the high school OSB as they celebrate Halloween October 31!



UPCOMING TRIPS

Sign up now for the Simi Valley Courthouse tour and mock trial

Principal's Message



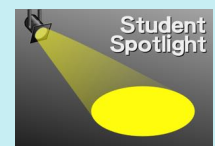
Stew McGugan

Field Trip Review



Gibbon Conservation Center

Names in the News



Piper Keesee

Dallas Young

Message from the Principal

Mr. Stew McGugan



I would like to welcome all new and returning students to OPIS. We have a fabulous staff who is ready and thrilled to work with you all. OPIS is predominately for students who have very busy schedules outside of school. I urge you to stay on top of your studies on a daily basis. We offer several different types of labs for students who would like extra time with teachers in specific subjects. Please do not hesitate to use these labs. When you are on campus, if I have not met you, I would love for you to stop by my office just to say hello. Looking forward to seeing you all.

REGISTRATION

We are started off the year with roughly 210 students. We had a very successful registration with office manager, Sue Meskis, overseeing the entire process. She did an amazing job with arranging students to get their ID cards, check out textbooks, sign their independent school contracts, meet with Mr. Rogers if necessary, and to turn in all registration paperwork.

REVAMPING HISTORY AND ENGLISH CURRICULUM

Mr. DeLong and Mrs. Thompson are currently looking at writing/updating our History and English curriculum for grades 9-12. Mr. DeLong is working with the district curriculum council to see if certain textbooks need approval. The teachers are piloting the new changes with a couple of students and have had great reviews on what they have implemented so far.

VENTURA COUNTY INNOVATES

We are offering a new Ventura County Innovates (VCI) course, Sound Engineering. We are excited to introduce George Gabriel. George will be teaching our new Sound Engineering class on Fridays. George is a talented composer, producer, and music director who shares our passion of providing engaging opportunities for students that can lead into potential career pathways. This is a great way for our students to get a practical skill for their graduation requirements. We have had very few options in the past.

OPIS STAFF ATTENDS MAY GRADUATION

The OPIS staff celebrated its 2016 graduates in grand style with a traditional Senior Brunch at Agoura Deli and at the 2016 graduation ceremony at Oak Park High School on May 26. Pictured from left to right are teachers Daniel O'Brien and Amy Kobayashi, Principal Stew McGugan, teachers Lori Glazer and Ty DeLong, Counselor Jeremy Rogers, and teachers Kate Thompson and Samantha Lyons.



UPCOMING EVENTS

HIGH SCHOOL HALLOWEEN PARTY



by Soni Bringas

Grab your vampire fangs, prepare your skeleton-inspired dance moves, and get ready for the OPIS 2016 Halloween party! Come and enjoy chilling drinks and bite into our yummy snacks. There will be music, games, and a frightening scavenger hunt. A prize will be awarded to those who make it out alive...good luck! Also, a photo booth will be present, so warn your vampire friends because they will not come out in the pictures.

The party is October 31st from 11:00AM - 12:00PM. All OPIS high school students are welcome. Broomsticks are optional.

OPIS is reaching out to the men and women who are serving our country and helping them celebrate Halloween. We would appreciate it if you could donate at least one bag of Halloween candy for the brave trick-or-treaters in the military. Your donations will be collected at the Halloween party.



SIMI VALLEY COURTHOUSE TOUR AND MOCK TRIAL

All 5th - 8th graders are encouraged to attend the November field trip to the Simi Valley Courthouse on Tuesday, November 8, 2016. Our two-hour tour, starting at 9:30, will include observation of live traffic court, one-on-one conversations with court personnel, participation in a mock trial, and a brief tour of the sheriffs' department. As an added bonus, our school has been selected to appear in a story in the Ventura County Star newspaper honoring the East County Courthouse's 25th anniversary!

WANTED: Students to play the parts of Judge, District Attorney, Defense Attorney, Court Clerk, Bailiff, Police Officer, Defendant, Girl Friend of Defendant, Car Owner, Jury Foreperson #1, Jury Foreperson #2, Court Stenographer and Jurors. **CRIME:** Car Theft!

This FREE trip promises to be a fun and educational experience. Sign up with Barbara Harrison in room R-2 by October 28.

Transportation by district SUV will be available for seven students for a \$5 donation. The trip is limited to 30 students.



The Middle School OSB will also be having a Halloween party on October 31. Don't miss the fun. Room R-1 from 10:00 ~ 11:00.

Gibbon Conservation Center



The Gibbon Conservation Center, located in the middle of nowhere at the end of a dusty road in Santa Clarita, proved to be a real “hoot” of a trip. The Center is home to five species of this small Asian ape: the Eastern Hillock Gibbon, the Pileated Gibbon, the Northern White-Cheeked Gibbon, the Javan Gibbon, and the Siamang Gibbon.

These mammals are classified as either endangered, or nearly endangered due to the destruction of their habitat which is disappearing at a rate of 32 acres per minute! Many of the gibbons at the center have been rescued from the illegal pet trade. The goal of the center is to breed the animals and return them to the wild, however, in some cases there is no “wild” for them to return to.

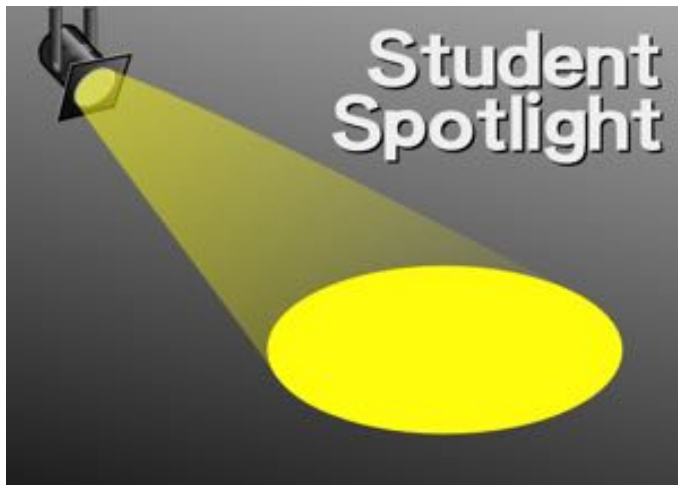
The most memorable event of our visit was listening to the gibbons’ “song.” This amazing and LOUD cacophony can be heard up to two miles away! The gibbons usually vocalize four times in the morning. On our September 16th visit, their song lasted about thirty minutes during which time our group was forced to move to a different area so we could hear our guide, Tiffany.

Tiffany was full of information about gibbons. We learned that their arms are about 1 1/2 times the length of their legs which makes them experts at swinging through the treetops at speeds up to 35 mph., leaping up to 50 feet at a time in the wild! She taught us that they are not monkeys since monkeys have tails and gibbons do not. We learned about their diets and their family groupings. It was a great trip to begin the year!



*Pictures at left
from
www.gibboncenter.com
At right - Nikolai,
Eli, Jeff, and
Dallas
preserving
memories*





Dallas Young

Fourth grader, **Dallas Young**, is the lucky young man pictured above with the retiring Dodger broadcaster, **Vin Scully**, and Dallas's dad, **Eric Young**, former Dodger second baseman and current coach for the Colorado Rockies. The picture was taken on the occasion of Scully's last home game at Dodger Stadium on September 25.

Dallas moved to Southern California from Houston, Texas just five months ago to pursue an acting career. And that is just what he has done! He has already appeared on two TV shows, "The Good Place" (episode 10) and "Murder Among Friends." Additionally he has appeared on nine commercials including Target (he is in the doughnut Halloween costume), Met Life, K-Mart, Mattel, and The Secret Life of Pets, to name a few.

Dallas keeps very busy taking classes in improv, voice over, acting, and scene study. Like his dad, he is very athletic and likes to play baseball, football, and basketball. He is also very dedicated to his studies at OPIS.

Dallas would like to get more experience in doing voiceovers but his main goal is becoming the next Denzel Washington!



Piper Madison

10th grade OPIS Student, **Piper Madison**, has just released her debut single,

THOSE GIRLS!

Enhanced by a musically eclectic groove featuring Piper Madison on guitar and vocals, *Those Girls* is a song about being a "typical American chic" influenced by society. The lyrics bring up subjects such as stereotyping and acceptance alongside current trends and the impact of media in our daily lives, making the song especially relatable to teens and parents of teenagers. *Those Girls* will be available for download on October 4th on iTunes and you can get updates on upcoming releases at www.pipermadison.com.



Help OPIS Earn \$

Ten years ago General Mills launched **Box Tops for Education** as a way to help schools earn money. Initially the box tops appeared only on General Mills cereals such as Cheerios, Lucky Charms, and Total. Today these specially marked box tops appear on hundreds of items, not just foods but on products made by Ziplock, Hefty, Kleenex, and Scott. By 2010 schools had redeemed these box tops for more than \$100 million! Today the total exceeds \$719 million!

How can you help OPIS earn some extra cash? Start saving your box tops! Each one is worth ten cents. Give them to an OPIS middle school student or deposit them in one of the specialty marked collection boxes located in each classroom. The middle school student who collects the most box tops by November 18 will win a prize. This fund raising event is being sponsored by the middle school OSB. Good luck middle schoolers!

The OPIS Middle School OSB welcomes all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. It meets in room R-1 on Mondays from 10:00-11:00. Faculty advisors are Samantha Lyons and Amy Kobayashi. Please join the group to promote community service and participate in social functions with other OPIS students. It's a lot of fun!



Galileo Was Right!



Students in **Danny O'Brien's Science Lab** recently set out to prove something. With help from district employees Oscar and Miguel who built the incline plane pictured here, students carried out Galileo's inclined



plane experiment. As they sent balls rolling down the ramp they carefully collected data from their experiments

and created a solid data table using Google spreadsheets. From this they more or less replicated Galileo's results and found that as the balls rolled down the plane, they traveled down the ramp with uniform acceleration. They also learned that physics is fun!

