

#### **Busy Fall for OPIS Student Body**

Both the middle school and high school student body organizations have been very busy this fall. They collected Halloween candy for our troops, made decorations for Meals on Wheels, and participated in scavenger hunts, potlucks, costume parties, pizza parties, t-shirt decorating, and more.



Kaylena won the award for the best Halloween costume. She is pictured above as Eleven from the TV show Stranger Things. High schoolers enjoyed a holiday potluck and Jiselle celebrated the season! The middle school OSB students made cards and table decorations for Meals on Wheels for Thanksgiving.





Congratulations to Makenna Barrett and Sivan Reese who both won OPIS goodie bags for collecting the most Box Tops for Schools.

## Message from the Principal



I would like to wish all of our parents, students and staff members a Happy New Year! As always, I hope you will enjoy reading the winter edition of our newsletter. It is always nice to read about our upcoming activities, the great things our students are achieving and our past field trips.

Our newsletter is a great place to find information about our school, but I would also like you all to know that on the front page of our website, we have "weekly updates" and "senior information." These weekly news updates include information about our required science wet labs, dry labs, and labs for extra help in specific subjects. They inform parents and students about upcoming events, field trips and turning in certain documents.

I am looking forward to the second semester and whatever adventures it brings. Several of you are closing out your last semester of your senior year. Soak it up and enjoy this time!!

Sincerely,

Stew McGugan



### **CAASP Testing Schedule**

#### TESTING SCHEDULE

updated 1/9/17

**CAASPP Testing Schedule** 

Grades (K-6) will NOT meet with their teacher March 27–31 Grades (7-12) will NOT meet with their teacher April 3 – 7 Students: Make ups April 17 – 21

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27	28	29	. 30	31
MATH 3rd , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade (17) (R-2) Barb (8:30 am -12:00 pm)	ELA 3 <sup>rd, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (17) (R-2) Barb (8:30 am -12:00 pm)</sup>	MATH 3 <sup>rd,</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade (17) (R-2) Barb (8:30 am -12:00 pm)	ELA 3 <sup>rd,</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade (17) (R-2) (8:30 am -12:00 pm) Barb	8 M 10 M
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade (10) ~ (R-2) Barb (12:00 pm – 3:00 pm)	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade (10) – (R-2) Barb (12:00 pm – 3:00 pm)	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade (10) (R-2) Barb (12:00 pm 3:00 pm)	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade (10) – (R-2) (12:00 pm 3:00 pm) Barb	0 0
				· .
3	4	. 5	6	7
MATH	ELA	MATH	ELA	CAASPP SCIENCE TEST
7th Grade (15) (R-1) 8:30 am-12:00 pm Lori	7th Grade (15)- (R-1) 8:30 am-12:00	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade (31) 8:30 am-12:00 pm	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade (31) 8:30 am-12:00 pm	10:00 am - 12:15
	pm - Ty	Last Names A-M (R-1)	Last Names A-M (R-1) –Lori/Danny	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade (5) (R-2) Barb
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade (27) 8:30 am-12:00	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade (27) ) 8:30 m – 12:00 pm	Amy/Danny	Last Names N-Z (104)	B <sup>th</sup> Grade (31) ( (R-1)Danny
Last Names A-M (R-3) Ty/Danny	Last Names A-M (R-4) Kate	Last Names N-Z (104)	Samantha/Jim	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade (40) ( (R-4) Lori/Amy
Last Names N-Z(104) Kate/Amy	Last Names N-Z (R-3) Danny	Samantha/Jim		
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade PE Testing (15) 12:30 pm (Bring a snack to eat, plenty of water, tennis shoes, and a towei.)Jim/Samantha	Jim/Samantha Rovers			5 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade PE Testing (43) 12:30 pm – (Bring a snack to eat, plenty of water, tennis shoes, and a towel.) Jim/Samantha
17	, 18	. 19	20	. 21
MAKE UP TECTING	***************************************			
MAKE-UP TESTING 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade (R-1)	MAKE-UP TESTING  11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade (R-1)	MAKE-UP TESTING	MAKE-UP TESTING	MAKE-UP TESTING
,	1	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade (R-1)	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade (R-1) 8:30 am 12:00 pm
8:30 am-12:00 pm	8:30 am-12:00pm	8:30 am-12:00 pm	8:30 am -12:00 pm	SUB
SUB	- SUB	SUB	SUB	

### Where are They Now?

Joey Ambrosino attended OPIS from 2009 to 2015. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from OPIS in 2015. Joey talked about becoming a paramedic but secretly wanted to join the Marine Corp. He joined the Marines in October 2015. He was "in process" for 11 months until he finally got his orders to join the 3rd Battalion, Kilo Company in September 2016. He graduated in December 2016. He had 10 days of leave, began working as a Recruiter's Assistant at the end of December and will leave for Marine Combat Training in January 2017. After another 4 weeks of vigorous training, he will get his orders to move onto his MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) school. After his MOS training, he will get his new orders and find out where the military will be placing him. We at OPIS are so proud of Joey and wish him the best in the Marines.



Joey Ambrosino



Chad Costello and his girlfriend in Copenhagen, Denmark

Chad Costello graduated from OPIS in 2007 and went on to attend Yale University. At Yale, Chad majored in psychology and played varsity lacrosse for the Bulldogs where he was a member of the 2010 Ivy League Championship team. Chad graduated from Yale in 2011 and went on to work in marketing both in Philadelphia and Los Angeles, and he was fortunate enough to continue his lacrosse career playing a season with LMX PRO lacrosse tour. More recently, Chad has been continuing his career abroad and focusing on marketing analytics. He is now the Analytics Lead for Digitas LBI Nordics in Copenhagen, Denmark and is thoroughly enjoying living and working overseas. Chad remains grateful for OPIS and the innovative educational experience it offered him.



February 17 **NO SCHOOL - Teacher Buy Back Day** February 20 **NO SCHOOL - President's Day** March 27-31 **CASPP Testing** April 3-7 **CASPP Testing** April 10- 14 **Spring Break** April 27 **Open House and New Family Orientation May 17** 8th Grade Culmination Graduation **May 25** May 26 **Last Day of School** 







# Molly Vrooman Student with a Big Heart

Sixth grade student, Molly Vrooman, has discovered the joy in giving to others. She has served as an ambassador for Children's Hospital, Los Angeles for a few years. On October 20 Molly was able to take over the Newbury Park Chipotle Mexican Grill for three hours to raise funds for Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Chipotle generously gave her 50% of their revenue for that time, which generated over \$800 for her cause. Molly is shown in the picture above with Amanda Castillo, associate director of the Foundation department at CHLA, when she dropped off the Chipotle check and more books that Molly had collected for the hospital.

An avid equestrian, Molly also supports the All in Stride non-profit program that provides personal growth through experiential equine connections. The program solely runs through the work of volunteers, mostly former recipients of the therapy that the horses provided. Molly worked a weekend with Santa aka Marco (the horse pictured) helping set up family portraits for those who came out. The event generated a lot of money and new volunteers!

Kudos to Molly for her efforts to make lives better for children with special needs!



#### Meet Master Chef, Mashu Nishi

by Mashu Nishi, 8th grade OPIS student

I started showing interest in the kitchen way back when I was three years old. When my mom asked if I wanted to help, I ran like "the flash" to the kitchen. I really started cooking on my own when I was about 12 years old. Our family friend gave us a pasta machine and that is how my real adventure started.

If there is one thing I learned from my Master Chef Jr. experience, it is that you always have to try. You will never get anything if you don't try. You can catch me on Master Chef Jr. starting February 9 on Fox from 8:00-9:00 PM. You can also see my creations daily on my Instagram and Facebook @juniorchefmashu.

Congratulations, Mashu, on your culinary accomplishments!

Have you attended any of the monthly OPIS field trips? Most are open to all students and their parents unless the venue places an age restriction on attendees. Take a look at our recent trips.

Medieval Arts Center Located at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Long Beach, the center provided our students with a lesson in historical art in an atmosphere of medieval times. A docent explained that brasses were laid in churches in England as memorials 300-650 years ago to commemorate famous knights and their ladies, and other important people of the times. Our students chose from over 100 reproduction-engraved plates of brass to make a brass rubbing of their own. They rubbed metallic waxes in shades of copper, silver, and gold on special rag paper over brass plates to uncover a variety of images such as Mayan plaques, Chinese and Celtic patterns, Indian and Indonesian woodblocks, animals, people, and more. The students' rubbings serve as souvenirs of this unique and enjoyable experience.

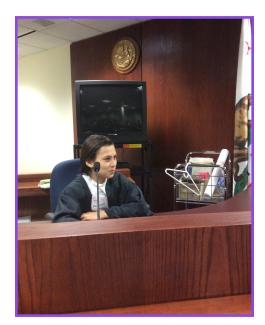


#### **Artists At Work**

Clockwise: Budding artists, Hailey,
Nikolai, Mason, Sofia
Center: one of the
more intricate brass
plates. You may see a
rubbing of this plate in
room R-2 and a
rubbing of
Shakespeare in R-3

**Simi Valley Courthouse** Traffic Court was our first stop on this educational trip to Ventura County's East Valley Courthouse. Our group observed four citizens as they exercised their right to a hearing after receiving traffic citations, three relating to cell phone use while driving, and one who allegedly did not give the right of way to a pedestrian crossing the street in a crosswalk. One of the three cell phone users was able to convince the judge of his innocence but the other two were fined. Unfortunately, we didn't stay to hear the outcome of the fourth case.

After leaving Traffic Court, our group was ushered into another courtroom where we participated in a mock trial involving a stolen vehicle.





Judge Valentino presides over the courtroom as the jury contemplates the case



OPIS students have their day in court.

Witness Sofia is aided by stenographer, Riley

**Cal Tech Seismology Center** As luck would have it, our trip to Cal Tech coincided with a 6+ magnitude earthquake in Northern California! Fortunately for us, the media had gone by the time of our visit so we were able to see the incredible computer images of the likely path of destruction that may occur when the promised "Big One" hits Southern California. If we learned anything, it was to BE PREPARED! We were told that it could take 18 months to recover from the devastation of a large quake!



OPIS students learn about earthquakes in the Cal Tech Media Center

#### **Upcoming Field Trips**

February 22 Mission Produce, Oxnard

March 21 Santa Barbara Watershed\*

April 21 Renaissance Faire, Irwindale\*

May 22 Zuma Beach Party (grades K-8)

\*Deadline for both of these trips is March 14.

#### Middle School Study Group

If you are interested in joining a middle school study group please contact Helen Ladon at <a href="mailto:helenladon@yahoo.com">helenladon@yahoo.com</a>. She would like to organize a weekly time for students to gather to do school work together, learn, eat, and socialize. Helen lives in Calabasas.

Be sure to read your OPIS weekly eNews to keep up to date on class schedules, meeting changes, field trip deadlines, counselor information, upcoming dates and events. Check our website for up-to-date information:

http://www.oakparkusd.org/Domain/1068

Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple in Hacienda Heights was the destination for our January field trip. The temple, completed in 1988, sits on 15 hilltop acres and has a floor area of over 100,000 square feet. It is one of the largest Buddhist temples in the Western Hemisphere. As we passed through the first gate, the distinctive architecture immediately immersed us in a uniquely Chinese culture, the predominant colors of red and gold symbolizing the colors of the Chinese emperors.

In the Bodhisattva Hall, we saw offerings of fruit, sweets, and flowers being presented to five large statues. Then we took a meditation walk across the courtyard to the main shrine which is home to 10,000 Buddhas. We learned that anyone can become a Buddha. In the shrine, our guide, Evelyn, spoke to us about Buddhist teachings. Our tour ended in the great dining hall where we enjoyed a vegetarian buffet lunch. Our trip was enhanced by thousands of colorful lanterns, flowers, and decorations in preparation for the Chinese New Year of the Rooster. What did our students think of their visit? Here are some of their comments.



"Yesterday's field trip was very interesting to me because I liked learning about the culture." Logan, grade 6

"My favorite part of the trip was Evelyn explaining to me what a monk is and getting to see one in real life." Mariya, grade 5

"I loved the vegetarian meal." Molly, grade 6

"I really liked the meditation walking." Kaia, grade 6

"What I liked most is when we learned about Buddhas and bodhisattva." Eli, grade 3

"My favorite part of the tour was how colorful and beautiful the temple was." Olivia, grade 3

"I loved learning about the temple and the many traditions such as not walking through the middle door." Madison, grade 8

