

O A K P A R K I N D E P E N D E N T S C H O O L

the
Independent

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Fall Edition

Barbara Harrison, Editor

Welcome to OPIS!



From left to right: Jeremy Rogers, Ty DeLong, Gayle Tribe, Cristina Sanchez, Kate Edwards, Lori Glazer, Jim Barnett, Kate Thompson, DJ Cook, Barbara Harrison, Stew McGugan, Danny O'Brien

Principal's Message



Dear OPIS Knight Families,
I am pleased to welcome our returning students and I am also very excited to welcome our new Oak Park Independent School families! I am honored to start my third year as the OPIS principal. I love working with our dedicated staff, family members and students.

ways to take part in our elective programs while attending campus on a more frequent basis. All of these classes require once a week participation, in addition to the weekly teacher meetings.

I am looking forward to a great year and I hope that you will all stop by to say hello and introduce yourselves. Lastly, I want to thank all of the parents who helped out with Registration. It was a great success. Here is to a great year!!!

Thank you,

Mr. McGugan

Our school is a WASC accredited school and we take great pride in offering a rigorous and supportive education to your children. Our faculty and staff are up and running, prepared to provide outstanding educational experiences. Returning teachers include Mrs. Kate Thompson, Mrs. Barbara Harrison, Mrs. Lori Glazer, Mrs. Kate Edwards, Mr. Ty DeLong, Mr. DJ Cook, Mr. Danny O'Brien and psychologist, Mrs. Gayle Tribe. I am so pleased to announce our new addition, Mr. Jim Barnett. Jim came to us from Oak Park High School where he served as the Math Department Chair. He is currently serving as the Vice President of the Oak Park Unified School District Teachers' Union. We are extremely lucky to have Jim!!

Cristina Sanchez, our Office Manager, has moved over to the Alternative Education Office. This move has allowed her to collaborate with Mr. Rogers and Mr. McGugan consistently.

Once again, our program is enriched with educational and exciting field-learning experiences. Throughout the week, our teachers provide valuable academic support opportunities in our OPIS labs. Students are required to attend labs in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. All other labs are for extra support. Please see the schedule of labs on our website.

We have offered three new electives this year that have more classroom-based curriculum. We are offering courses in Creative Writing, Digital Imaging, and Manufacturing Guitars. These courses are fabulous

OPIS Welcomes Jim Barnett



Jim Barnett has joined the OPIS staff as the high school math specialist. Jim comes to us with 18 years of experience teaching math at Oak Park High School where he also served as Math Chair. A graduate in Mathematics at Sonoma State, Jim enjoys working on model railroads. He will be teaching primarily juniors and seniors at OPIS. Welcome, Jim!

Get Involved – Go to Labs and OSB!

OPIS has many opportunities for students to become involved in group learning and social situations. We hope you will take advantage of these offerings.

Mondays

Monday is the day for middle school students to come to school. At 11:00 Lori Glazer teaches **Math Lab**. Bring your math assignments and questions and be prepared to learn something new. Room R-1.

After a brief lunch break, students in grades 4-8 may attend **Writers' Workshop** with Barbara Harrison in room R-1 from 12:15-1:30. Who knew writing could be so much fun?

Middle school students are encouraged to stay from 1:30-2:30 for **OPIS Student Body (OSB)** with DJ Cook where they will plan social activities and community service projects. Room R-1.

High School OSB with Kate Thompson and Kate Edwards will meet on Mondays in room R-3 11:00 – 12:00.

Wednesdays

10:30 – 11:30 High school **Creative Writing Class** (for enrollees only) in R-1 offered by Ty DeLong and Danny O'Brien

11:30 – 12:30 Danny O'Brien will offer a **High School Science Workshop** in R-1.

2:00 – 3:00 **High School Study Hall** with DJ Cook and Jim Barnett in R-5

Thursdays

11:30 – 12:30 **High School Science Tutoring** with Danny O'Brien

1:00 – 2:00 KC Kelem will offer **mandatory science wet labs** at Oak View for scheduled science classes.

Thank You Monay and Sue

Huge thanks go to **Monay Zamani** and **Sue Buckley** who worked long hours over the summer and into the school year to inventory OPIS's textbooks, bar code them, check them out to students, and organize them on our shelves. This was an immense task and one that was long overdue. Keep in mind that now each book has been assigned to a particular student who is expected to return it at the end of the year, so please keep track of your own books and take care not to mix them up with someone else's.



Above, Monay Zamani sorts through books waiting to be shelved. Below, junior Ben Rosen checks out his books with Sue Buckley.

Field Learning at OPIS

Leave your textbooks behind and take advantage of learning opportunities outside of your home or school. Join OPIS as we travel to a variety of locales around Southern California that are rich in culture, history, tradition, compassion, artistic expression, wonder, and recreational activities. Transportation in a district Suburban will be provided for a limited number of students for each trip. Parents are also welcome to drive and attend. Sign up in room R-2 for any of the following field trips:

September 11 – Food Share of Ventura County, Oxnard

October 14 – Make Meaning (soap and candle making or painting) – Thousand Oaks

November 10 – The Gentle Barn, Santa Clarita

December 7 – Page Museum, La Brea Tar Pits, LA

January 13 – Guide Dogs of America, Sylmar

February 18 – Island Packers trip to Frenchy's Cove for tide pool study, Anacapa Island

March 16 – Los Angeles Flower Market and Grand Central Market

April 14 – Tree People, Beverly Hills

May 17 – Annual OPIS End of the Year Beach Party, Zuma Beach #12



8th Grade Culmination



A new tradition was established on June 4, 2015 when OPIS staged 8th grade culmination under a large white canopy on the grass near the school. Beautiful park views were the backdrop for the ceremony that included 8th grader Nina Paolicelli singing the national anthem, and Christian Schick and JJ Totah delivering entertaining and inspiring speeches. Thanks to Cristina Sanchez who provided beautiful decorations and refreshments to the 8th graders, their families, the OPIS staff, Dr. Knight and selected members of the Board of Education.

Annual OPIS Beach Party at Zuma

Kudos to DJ Cook who, along with the Middle School OSB, planned a wave of activities resulting in a whale of a time for all who attended the beach party in June. Celebrating the end of the year in the photo below are Madison, Kylie, Bianca, Alexa, Taylor, Mr. Cook, Tyler, Eliot, Andre, and a mystery guest.



New Classes Added to High School

OPUSD alternative education has been awarded a \$30,000 grant from Ventura County Innovates (VCI) to offer two new courses: *The Business of Digital Graphics, Design, and Heat Transfers*, and the *STEAM Guitar Building, CAD, CAM, CNC, and 3 D Printing*. Students will earn three credits for taking the courses and will have the opportunity to earn an additional two credits if they complete a 30-hour internship after the course is completed. Classes are offered on the OPIS and OVHS campuses. The credits will be applied to practical skills or general elective credits.

OPIS teachers Ty DeLong and Danny O'Brien have joined forces to offer a high school creative writing course. Attendance is mandatory at this weekly class, which is open only to the eighteen students who have enrolled. If you missed out this semester, note that the class will be offered again in the Spring Semester. The first unit of study will focus on short story writing. The second unit will explore poetry. Screen writing and writing op-ed pieces may also be covered throughout the semester. Students will use technology for feedback and collaboration. Danny and Ty hope to publish a short story anthology written by their budding authors.



Teacher Danny O'Brien engages his students in the new OPIS Creative Writing class, which meets every Wednesday morning in room R-1.

Get Your OPIS Apparel Now!

Now is the time to show your school spirit by purchasing OPIS t-shirts, sweatshirts, water bottles and other gear. Just visit the OPIS store. You will find a link in the left margin at <http://www.oakparkusd.org/Page/332>. The link will direct you to a page where you should see another link to the FRSG online store. Click on OPIS and start shopping! Kate Thompson looks great in her OPIS V-neck tee!



OPIS Office Moves To Oak View

Cristina Sanchez (above left) has joined **Linda Roberts** (above right) in the Oak View High School office. These two hard working ladies worked tirelessly over the summer and throughout August to ensure that school got off to a smooth start. Despite enrolling students, fielding questions, checking out and ordering textbooks, calculating attendance, collecting funds, and a myriad of other responsibilities, Christina and Linda always manage to have smiles on their faces. We are lucky to have both of them on the OPIS staff!

Kids Helping Kids



Molly Vrooman, OPIS 5th grader, is a Junior Ambassador for Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, as well as an actress and an equestrian.

OPIS students are learning the rewards of community service at an early age. Pictured above is **Molly Vrooman** who is having a bake sale at her dad's Thousand Oaks office to benefit Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. When Molly turned nine years old, she told her mom that she wanted to "give back" to the community. So, instead of getting birthday presents, she asked for new books that she could donate to Children's Hospital. Molly collected 36 books from her friends and family that were distributed to patients at the hospital and their siblings. Since then she has started her own web page to benefit the hospital. We are proud of the accomplishments of this Children's Hospital's Junior Ambassador! To learn more about this program, you may email acastillo@chla.usc.edu. Keep up the good work, Molly!

Joining Aubrey Anderson-Emmons at Wisdom Elementary School are boys from the ABC show, *Fresh Off The Boat*.



Modern Family star, Aubrey Anderson-Emmons, distributes backpacks to students in Highland Park.

Six hundred underserved students at Wisdom Elementary School in Highland Park are now the proud recipients of brand new backpacks filled with school supplies thanks to the efforts of OPIS third grader and *Modern Family* regular, **Aubrey Anderson-Emmons**, and kids from the ABC show, *Fresh Off The Boat*. Baby 2 Baby and Disney generously donated the gifts of these much-needed supplies which made hundreds of students very happy, including the ones below who learned the joy of giving first hand.





Attention OPIS and OVHS High School Girls!

Girls Empowerment Workshop

GOAL- provide OVHS and OPIS female students (grades 9,10,11, 12) education and resources

"The mission of the Girls Empowerment Workshop is to empower girls with the information necessary to make decisions for a positive, healthy, involved and successful life. To inspire, enrich and educate young women through raising awareness, teaching assertiveness and cultivating self respect."

"A young woman with a mind full of knowledge and a deep self respect, is better equipped to speak her mind clearly, step out of her comfort zone, set clear boundaries, know she is worthy of going after her dreams and being a part of healthy relationships."

"Our workshops create a safe, directed environment, where girls of all races, individualities and socio-economic backgrounds can find common ground and engage in intelligent, open discussions."

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED (will include but not be limited to)-

- Media Literacy
- Healthy relationships and communication
- Personal safety and assertiveness skills
- Sexual assault awareness
- Girls & Women and the way we treat each other*
- Comprehensive Sexual Education*

DATES and TIMES-

Wednesday, October 14 from noon to 1:40pm (snacks provided)

Wednesday, October 21 from noon to 1:40pm (snacks provided)

Wednesday, October 28 from noon to 1:40pm (snacks provided)

Wednesday, November 4 from noon to 1:40pm (snacks provided)

The workshop is intended as a four-week training (consecutive)- students will be expected to attend all dates if possible

LOCATION-

Oak View/Oak Park Independent School Room #104

GROUP FACILITATOR- Tobi Jo Greene

- Published Author
- Provides Girls Empowerment Workshops to female students in public and private schools in Ventura County
- Multiple speaking engagements throughout Ventura County

For additional information visit: www.thegirlsempowermentworkshop.com

On Facebook- www.facebook.com/girlsworkshop

Instagram- "Girls Empowerment"

Registration

- Space is limited to the first 25 students
- See Mr. Rogers (OPIS/OVHS counselor) for registration information and parent permission forms
- Please contact Mr. Rogers at 818-735-3262 or jrogers@oakparkusd.org with any questions

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