

Oak Views

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We Are Officially a MODEL SCHOOL Once Again!

State Schools Chief, Tom Torlakson, today announced the 2014 Model Continuation High Schools and I am pleased to report that our Oak View High School was one of the 24 schools in California (out of 479 continuation high schools in the state) that was named.

Oak View High School has been in operation since 1982 and has graduated 456 students in 31 graduating classes.

Without Oak View, many of these students would have dropped out of high school. The

school is located on the same campus as the District Office on Conifer Street. The program is designed to provide an alternative high school setting with smaller class sizes, more individualized attention, and counseling services, in a family-like atmosphere to help students complete their high school diploma. Oak Park USD has a minuscule drop-out rate, typically less than 1% and one of the reasons for this is the success of Oak View High School.

to a variety of situations affecting their lives.

I would also like to congratulate the parents of our Oak View students who have always supported the school. Most of all, the students should also be congratulated for making the decision to work hard to complete high school even in the face of adversity when it would often be easier to simply give up.

Dr. Tony Knight
Superintendent

Special points of interest:

- Bring Donations for Many Mansions school supply drive until March 14
- No more paper report cards (see page 9 for details)
- No more cups for students (see page 9 for details)
- Join us March 14 for a BBQ and bring your donation for Many Mansions



I would like to congratulate teachers, Susan Allen, Randi Liepman, and John McManus; counselor, Jeremy Rogers; Office Manager and all around school mother, Linda Roberts, and principal, Stew McGugan. This team of professionals works tirelessly with students who often require intensive support due

Please Join Us!

**Model School
Celebration and
BBQ**

March 14

11:00

OVHS

Campus

RSVP please to
lroberts@oakparkusd.org

At left, senior and Star Scholar Alleen Sedas presents her gift to a student at the Lokrantz school. For more pictures of our annual community service project, go to pages 10 and 11.

Principal's Corner

In the last newsletter I had written about how we were preparing for our site visit for our Model School. You can imagine, as a first-year principal, that this is a big step for me personally and a little nerve-racking. I HAD NO DOUBTS!!! It is an absolute honor that we were recognized as a Model School and will be able to display that award for the next three years. I am extremely proud to be a part of our team, consisting of: Linda Roberts, Jeremy Rogers, Randi Liepman, John McManus, Christine Brown and Susan Allen. We all had a hand in this award. Parents, this is also a time for you to brag about how great your school is and that your son/daughter is attending a school that is a Model School. There were only 24 schools in the state of California that have received this honor. If you have any family members or friends who you think would benefit from attending Oak View High School, please let me know and I would love to have a personal meeting with the prospective parents. **Please join us as we celebrate at 11:00 am on March 14th, at our celebratory BBQ. We hope you can make it!**

As the semester ended at local high schools, it is always a time for us to obtain new students and families. I welcome all families and look forward to

developing a strong relationship with you and your child. Remember there are always tribulations when you come to a new school, and this is your time to expand your thoughts and develop new relationships with teachers and to explore educational courses that you may have never been offered. Please stop by or call if you have any questions. We have a relatively big senior class this year, which can sometimes lead to "senioritis." I encourage all of you seniors not to get into the relax-mode as your last year begins to wind down. Rather, this is a time for you to put your head down and push forward as you approach the end of 13 years of comprehensive schooling. This is an exciting time as you begin to think about your life after high school. It would be a shame to let the last assignments get in the way of your goals.

I would like to take this time to remind parents about the safety procedures at our school. Unfortunately, in this modern day we have to deal with emergencies on school campuses. I would like to ask you to review our Emergency Procedures Overview at the link below. We will do our best to keep all parents informed of any emergency situations and to take all cautions to keep your child safe and secure. I am always open to review our safety plans with parents or community members.

<http://www.oakparkusd.org/domain/747>



Our staff has been working hard over the past couple months on creating a plan for a quiet time for all students in the morning to allow themselves to be free from life's distractions. This quiet time is designed to help students focus on being extremely present within them, while keeping an open mind. In April, we will be implementing this new daily mindfulness time for thinking. The staff is calling it "The Zone." We will have a new focus topic each day for the students to think about while they are participating in "The Zone" for five minutes every morning. We will have some special guests, from time to time, to lead us, but mostly, on a daily basis the teacher or myself will run it. I truly believe that this time will allow our students to think clearly and to be able to move forward in the day with a clear mind. Please, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you, Mr. McGugan

Alumni Update

We have been visited by many alums recently as they get transcripts to apply to post-secondary training and colleges. Below left, Alex and Anton Romanovskaya joined Mrs. Liepman, retired science teacher Sharon Cohen, and Ms. Allen for a chat about their adventures doing security work in Northern California. They are back in Los Angeles and registering for training with Job Corps in heavy equipment operation. At right, Nicole Franko relates that she has earned her AA and is moving to a four year university, with USC being her first choice. Alum Daniel Paris (himself a USC grad) is glad to help her. We also hear that Nick Rossiter has finished his first semester of auto technician training at Pierce College and Chris Ansari is a chef at The Lark, an upscale eatery in Santa Barbara.



Early Graduates Shine At Oak View



At right, early graduates participate in a congratulatory ritual. Mr. McGugan extolls the hard work and good attendance that led to the early graduation of many of these students, and the patience and determination of our fifth year seniors. We encourage students to go at their own pace. Some students are ready to move on with their lives — work, college, travel — before the end of senior year. Some students need a longer time at “home” to catch up on credits or just finish getting ready for adult life.

Students receive cards signed by staff and a Payday candy bar, because after high school, they will make their own way in life. From left to right, our early grads for 2014 are Etai Naor, Blake Piloto, Brandon Lugo, Claudio Renyer, Amanda Liszewski, Kelly DiFonzo. Mr. McGugan officiates.

Notes from the February School Board Meeting

- Expenditure of \$100,000 in Measure C6 funds towards the purchase of musical instruments, a portable PA, acoustic cabinets and other equipment and furnishings for the new Oak Park High School marching band program that will begin in the fall. The balance of the funds will come from a variety of parent support organizations.
- Architectural services required for the replacement of the Building R portable classrooms at Oak Park High School.
- The acquisition of new modular classrooms at Oak Park High School under Measure R to replace the aging Building R portables on that campus.
- Friends of Oak Park fee-based summer school resolution for grades 6-12. The Board also requested that the District pursue some form of intervention program through the use of ipads for elementary students who need

remediation.

- School Accountability Report Cards and Single Plans for Student Achievement for all of the schools were approved.
- The Consolidated Application Winter Release was approved. This is a mandated state application for categorical funding.
- A revised job description for the Director of Educational Technology and Information Systems was approved that adds responsibilities related to Smarter Balanced Assessments administration, District-wide VOIP telephone systems, networked video surveillance cameras, and entry ID badge systems. The salary schedule placement for this position was moved from H to L.
- The board voted for all four candidates from various Ventura County districts who are running for the California School Board Association Dele-

gate Assembly

- Bleacher replacement in the gym at Oak Park High School funded by a donation from Agoura Youth Basketball Association to Oak Park High School.
- Non-re-election of 13 temporary certificated employees was approved. These employees are replacing teachers on leave. Most of these employees are expected to be needed for next year and should be rehired.

Policies related to the approval of the school district budget, the operation of the Child Nutrition program; promotion, retention, and acceleration of students; administration of medicines and monitoring of health conditions; and addressing the needs of married, pregnant, and parenting students were all approved.

Student Writing — Sadara Polk

The top three virtues that should be exemplified at a continuation school I would think are trust, devotion, and strength. I think trust is a good virtue to have because in order for this small school to work, people have to be able to get along and let go with things they suffer from. Trust is a huge deal because when a student walks onto campus, this is like their second home. And if these students don't trust one another along with their supervisors, how in the world are

they going to get anything done at all? Along with trust, people also have to be able to trust themselves in order to get their work done and know that they can succeed and do many things in life. I think that the virtue devotion has to do with everyone, not only students but staff as well, because if they aren't devoted to their work, it won't work out as a school. And lastly, strength. A school cannot function without the strength of the students and staff. When everyone works with



each other, it creates a huge bond that

can be signified as strength. Working together can provide endless hope and can help every one of the students succeed and all of the teacher to feel successful.

What About the Common Core????

Across the nation, the state, and the district, staff and students are gearing up to transition to the Common Core standards. One big change this year will be that there will be very little

testing of the standards as schools across the nation collect the technology necessary for testing. Fortunately, OPUSD is ahead of the game in this respect. Instead of scrambling, we will be using laptops, desktops, and iPads throughout the district to study what is the best technology to use for next year, when testing will be comprehensive and reported again. Our juniors and seniors will participate in this testing in May.

not only to reduce the anxiety of such a major change, but also to let me practice and experiment with other professionals before implementing these changes in the classroom."

Mrs. Liepman has expressed an interest in taking the training next year if it is offered again. Teachers currently participating highly recommend it and are encouraging the district to offer it again and their peers to take the opportunity offered.

At our site, Ms. Allen will lead the way in the transition to the new standards. She has participated in the district sponsored Critical Thinking Institute conducted by staff at the UCLA lab school. "It has been among the best training I have ever received," she says. "Having the time to learn from experienced classroom teachers and to learn and plan with my peers helps



Above, Ms. Allen and other teachers sort through items at a training given at the UCLA lab school in cooperation with Trash for Teachers, which provides materials for classroom presentations.

Oak Park High School

CARNIVAL

Saturday, March 8, 2014
HOURS: 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Join Us & Bring Your Whole Family for Fun!

Food Trucks:

- Grilled Cheese Truck
- Palazzolo's
- WANNA SPOON?

See You There

Entrance Fee: \$5

ALL RIDES/GAMES FREE!

Games:

Rock 'Em Sock 'Em, Bungee Run, Double Shot Basketball, Express Train, Frog Flinger, Ice Cream Madness, Pop-a-Pimple, Bowl-a-Rama, Colossal Rollercoaster Inflatable, Slam Dunk Inflatable, And Slot Car Track!

Music:

Morning View Rock Band
The OPHS Choir
Barbershop Quartets
Broadway Soloists
OPHS Jazz Combo
MCMS Jazz Band & Choir

Careers Is Over; Careers Begins

All seniors take Careers, a course designed to prepare students for what lies beyond high school. This year's senior class was so large, two classes are scheduled. Most of the senior class took Careers semester one, and many — Brandon Lugo, Blake Piloto, Etai Naor, Claudio Renyer, and Amanda Liszewski — have moved on. The remaining ten or so are taking it now.

Those students are beginning to apply for scholarships, investigate colleges, and prepare to take on the final pro-

ject — a presentation based on an investigation of three careers and how they would match with that student's personality, values, and work preferences, among other factors. Students are also currently asking for and receiving letters of reference.

This senior class has been particularly good — with excellent attitudes and work ethics. Staff and other supervisors have found it easy to write these letters extolling student's fine quali-

ties. The final presentations are open for viewing and parents are especially welcomed. Above, Brandon Lugo poses with his mom after the successful performance of his Careers presentation.



Honor Roll for Quarter 2

Gold Honor Roll
3.50 - 4.00

Dakota Blaylock
Emmy Bonilla
Amanda Liszewski
Shannon Moss
Sean Harvey
Dylan Deri
Rebecca Gates
Devon Irribarren

Shiana Ramos
Steven Kobabe
Allison Borg
Renee Henderson

At right, a student's-eye view of time in room 101.

Silver Honor Roll

3.00 - 3.49
Eric Gonzalez
Max Ecklund
Julia Brown
Allien Sedas



At right, Dylan Deri rests up to take on the day. Far right, brothers Nico Renyer, a 2011 graduate, stops by to visit Claudio Renyer, a senior and prospective 2014 graduate,



Our Trip to the Zoo

Mr. McManus led his biology class on a field trip to the Santa Barbara Zoo in December, accompanied by Mr. McGugan. Students were particularly interested in the lowland gorilla and in comparing his physical structure to Mr. McGugan's as is seen in these photos. Students in attendance were Sean Harvey, Ethan O'Connor, Dakota Blaylock, Kelvin Pereira, Scott McIntosh, Brandon Klein, Brandon Lugo, Garvin Exline, Julia Brown, Renee Henderson, and Devon Irribarren. Mr. McManus made sure to bring his birding binoculars, just in case. As happens with many field trips, everyone capped it off with a stop at In-N-Out Burger.



In the Classroom

We have passed the half-way mark. Many seniors are done with Careers, other classes have finished as well, new activities and learning has been introduced. Here are some of the highlights of quarter two. At right, Mr. McManus leads his community service group in creating the OVHS garden. Students Shiana Ramos, Aryan-na Dunn, Alleen Sedas, Brandon Lugo, Dakota Blaylock, and Claudio Renyer created and tended a beautiful garden..... only to be thwarted by an ingenious and ravenous gopher. Once Jared Kovic finishes building our new gopher fence, they will replant and anticipate spring's abundance.



Above left, students in Foods practice food preparation techniques. Claudio Renyer, Mikey Bilodeau, Brandon Lugo, Steven Kobabe, Aryan-na Dunn, and Dylan Deri practiced their craft with diligence and skill and even delighted other classmates with the creation of their own special dish. Above right, Superintendent Knight and Jared Kovacic continue the duties of Fish Team together. The makeup of the squad may change, but the care and tending of the fish continues.



Above left, Ethan O'Connor does research in Ms. Liepman's classroom. We all appreciate the up-to-date technology provided by the district. Above right, Ms. Allen leads Emmy Bonilla, Marilynn Funes, and Jared Kovacic in learning to knit for Community Service Club. Quarter 3 brings with it Design Crafts and even more students learning to knit.

Are You an Asset or a Liability??

Picture this—You're stranded on the highway gridlock for hours (in the cold, or rain, or 100 degree weather) with no **WATER** and your car just ran out of gas. The nearest restroom is at least three miles away and you don't know when you'll be in the comfort of your home again. Will your kids/spouse/elderly parents know what to do without you? Disasters happen everywhere.

Unlike some natural disaster; earthquakes give no warning.

Being caught unprepared turns a disaster into a catastrophe.

Go to www.readyventuracounty.org and familiarize yourself with steps to take before, during and after a natural disaster. Sign up for **VC ALERT**.

Make an Emergency Response Plan and practice it with family, friends and coworkers.

Build an emergency kit for home/car/office/babysitter—do it today!

WATER-FOOD-SUPPLIES for *at least 7-10 days!!*

Sign-up for Community Emergency Response Team Training (CERT). Email: distarzak@sbcglobal.net

Pat Keane Off To England

Who says you can't go to university right out of Oak View? While the California system, UC and CS schools, does not accept students right out of continuation high school, that is not true of private, many out of state, and out of country schools. Pat Keane applied to and was accepted into two universities in London — the University of East London and London South Bank University. He has chosen the former where he will complete a three year course in Hospitality and Tourism. Schools in England do not require the general education classes that US colleges and universities do. Pat will jump right into learning what

he must to earn a job in his field. For the first two years, he will take classes, but will finish out with a placement year where he will get on the job training. He could be posted at a variety of places, perhaps even Dubai.

Pat's mother Denise, a teacher at Brookside Elementary here in Oak Park, attended school at Cambridge. Pat became interested in pursuing acceptance at a London university during his visits there last summer and over winter break. He has friends there already who await his arrival. He first looked into furthering his music education, but finds himself most

"It seems like a good opportunity to learn about a new culture."

Pat Keane

fascinated with hospitality. While in London, he will reside in one of the university's dorms. One key difference from those in the US is that he will not have to share — by law all dorms in England must be single user!

Author Sherry Shahan to Visit Via California Readers Award

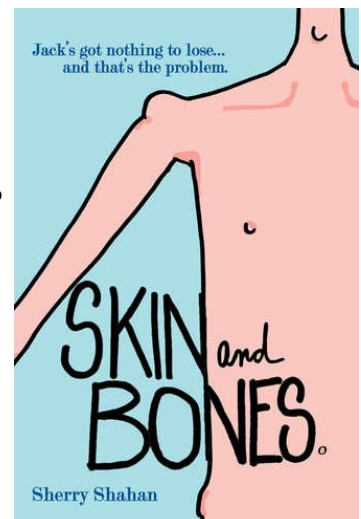
OVHS is the recipient of the prestigious Literacy Award presented for the first time this year by California Readers, whose mission "is to connect children, young adults and their school communities with California

authors, illustrators and their creative works.

As part of the prize, author Sherry Shahan will visit on April 3 to give a presentation to students about her work and her life as an author. All are welcome to attend. RSVP to sallen@oakparkusd.org.

Ms. Shahan will also be present at a

lunch with students who have read one of her books. Both *Purple Daze* and *Skin and Bones* are available in room 101.



The children of Many Mansions are low on school supplies for the remaining school year! We are asking for school supply donations such as:

Backpacks, Pens (blue black and red), Pencils and pencil Pouches/ boxes, reinforcements (for paper holes), Pink Erasers Page protectors, Sharpeners (with a catcher), tape white out (not bottled), Highlighters, Scissors, white board markers, Rulers, Protractors, Calculators (basic, graphing, and scientific), 3X5 Index cards, Subject tab dividers, Scotch Tape, Binders ½ inch up to 2" needed, College Ruled Paper, Wide Ruled paper, Graphing Paper

participated in Barbershop Mania with two different award-winning groups. In one, the foursome sang a song based on Star Wars, featuring the music of John Williams. All costumed themselves as characters in the movie, and Kevin (who sings bass) was dressed as Darth Vader. This group won for best costume, but was musically hindered by the

We Care About The Environment

Friendly reminder: we are now going cupless at our school. We are requesting that all students bring their own reusable water bottles to school, so we can fill them up from water stations. We would like to keep in line with our National Green Ribbon School District values. Please remind your students to bring their environmentally friendly refillable water bottles to school every day. Also, following with the theme of National Green Ribbon Schools, we will not be sending report cards home via US Mail. The on-

ly way to view your student's grades will be using our online Parent Connect "Q" student information system. You may receive your student's password through our administration office.



What do Kevin Christensen and Darth Vader Have in Common?

Kevin Christensen is a multi-talented student who transferred here recently from OPHS. He continues his choir class at the other high school and recently partici-



tenor's recent illness. Kevin's other group The Tropics sang "Coney Island Baby" and placed third overall in the competition. Kevin has been singing for about five years in school groups. Though he plans to become a veterinarian, he will continue to explore his musical possibilities with a friend who is already in music school and is interested in recording with Kevin. He was offered a spot in Honors Choir, but is too busy with his other activities, including his participation in two basketball teams, his part-time job, and his current studies.

Above and at left, Kevin plays point guard for the men's basketball team sponsored by his church.

Lokrantz

This really is the best thing we do all year — our annual gift-giving trip to the Lokrantz school for developmentally disabled children. Every year, Ms. Liepman and the ASB organize a trip to the school. Our students choose from among a list of Lokrantz students at the school who are economically disadvantaged and would appreciate a gift. Our students purchase the gifts, usually with their own money, and we all travel to the school to hand



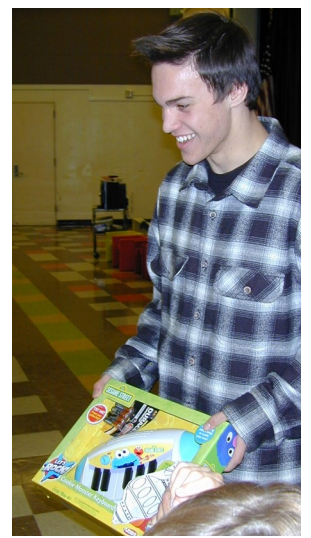
the presents off to those smiling children. Above, all students prepare to enter and enjoy. At right, Mr. McGugan communicates with his recipient. Below left, Scott McIntosh and Brandon Klein share a moment with a new bear-owner. Below middle, Shelby Young gets to eye level with her young gift receiver. Below right, Steven Kobabe enjoys the wonder these gifts usually evoke. All gifts are vetted by the Lokrantz staff and are safe and age-appropriate.

Toys that move, make noise and/or have flashing lights are the most requested, but doll, balls, and stuffed animals also remain very popular.





At left, Allison Borg. At right Jared Kovacic and Etai Naor. Below, left to right, Shannon Moss, Pat Keane, Alex Alger, Ethan O'Connor. Far below, left to right, Julia Brown, Claudio Renyer, Alleen Sedas, Kelly DiFonzo and Brandon Lugo. Brandon is holding what has become one of the highlights of our trip — thank you cards from the Lokrantz kids, hand-crafted and beautiful, each a heartfelt expression of thanks.



Oak View High School

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**Respect,
Restraint,
Responsibility**

Viewable online at:

www.oakparkusd.org/Domain/630



March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	Ms. Allen's birthday 6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	Model School BBQ 14	15
16	No School Professional Development 17	18	19	Kevin Christensen's birthday 20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	End of quarter 3 Ethan OConnor's birthday 28	29
30	31					