

Oak Views

Inside this issue:

Principal's report/ alumni	2
Superintendent/Board Presidents reports	3
Natural History Mu- seum trip	4/5
What'cha Readin'/?/ Garden	6/7
Halloween	8/9
Calendars	10

- **Send in your Fresh and Easy receipts!**
- **Every \$20 puts \$1 toward a senior scholarship.**
- **Make sure to shop at Fresh and Easy on January 18 — staff and students will be bagging groceries and**

COLLECTING 5% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS TO BE USED TOWARD A SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP!

Happy Halloween!

Our day of shenanigans and festivities was as delightful as always. Regular classes were held, with the only difference being that they were run by a dead motorcyclist, The Bad Seed, and a witch, and attended by a giant banana, video game characters, a time lord, and various other creatures. Once more, Mr. Gil Ferman barbequed up his special brand of hamburgers, and staff and students alike enjoyed the feast. We had special visits from school board member Mary Pal-

lant and super-intendent Tony Knight. As usual, the doughnut eating contest was a favorite, and awards were bestowed for best costumes. We work hard, and we play hard here are The View!

At right, Sam Fields enjoys the day.



As in all things, OVHS has its own way of running an ASB board. Students who are interested in running the projects taken on by the student body are all welcome to participate. There are no elections, but

ASB Gets It All Under Control

plenty of leadership and team work. This year's board has already overseen Halloween and are collecting for the annual Turkey Walk. In December, our student leaders will work with advisor Ms.

Liepman to make sure our annual gift-giving trip to the Lokrantz school runs as smoothly as usual. Additional projects will be taken on as student interest demands. We thank the leaders who have stepped forward to facilitate our student activities. From left to right— Amanda Martin, Katie Rytterager-Nickel, Nick Rossiter, Mikey Bilodeau, Jack Hannah, Claudio Remyer, Liz Cruz, and Shannon Moss.



Principal's Corner

Holiday Greetings to our Oak View parents and students. We are so thankful for your generosity in support of our November 18th Turkey Walk for local needy families. Because of your outstanding support, Oak View donated over \$1300 to assist those in need. Our donation will provide all of the turkeys for the entire project! I am so proud of our ASB student leaders who led our drive. Kudos to our Site Council Parents for their support.

December 2nd, we travel to the Hope Valley Mission to serve meals to the homeless. Also, we will have an all-school visit to the Lokrantz Special Education School on December 8th to provide our holiday gifts to the multi-handicapped students. We are so proud of the outstanding citizenship demonstrated by our Oak View students-with the support of their families. We believe citizenship skills and experiences in community service nurture our entire school culture, and the attitude towards learning. Oak View is a great place to be....!

Congratulations to our first quarter honor students. Over 65% of the OVHS student body earned a 3.0 GPA or above. Outstanding!

Please visit our school to see the Oak View Garden grow! Our garden club students working very hard to prepare the soil, fertilize with organic ingredients, and plant our budding vegetables. The first members of the club are Michael Bilodeau, Chase Rossen, Jack Hanna and Shannon Moss. Thank you for your "green thumbs." Increasing awareness about the importance of healthy food, and putting in the labor to make it happen, is such an authentic learning experience for all of us.

Enjoy this edition of *Oak Views*, filled with interesting stories and activities about Oak View High School. Finally, we wish all of you a safe and peaceful holiday season.

Alumni Update

At right, alums Chris Gonzalez ('09), Spencer Lux, and Mike Lapine ('11) stopped by for a chat. Chris is working at a bank and going to school at Moorpark. Spencer, who attended OVHS for two years and finished up at Agoura, is now attending Moorpark. Mike Lapine is working full-time at his father's auto-body shop and reports that big brother A.J. ('10) has been accepted into BMW's program to use clay-modeling in designing cars and their components.

Scott Lubin ('05) has just signed up for another tour with the Navy. He is training to become an RN.

Cassie Nielsen, stopped by to pick up a transcript. She is working full-time and applying to UCLA to finish her degree in psychology. She plans to get her masters in behavioral management, and may join Ms. Allen in two years at CSUN to do just that.

Emily Carter ('09) has been accepted into and will attend UC Berkeley!

Steven Spellman ('08), a very busy guy, stopped by to catch us up. He is finished up at Moorpark, prior to



**Because of your
outstanding support, Oak
View donated over \$1300 to
assist those in need.**



transferring to CSUN. He also works full-time at Best Buy (he even has an office) and tours with a national dance company. Where does he find the time?!

Words from our Fearless Leaders

This past month I had the wonderful opportunity to participate and help lead the 5th grade field trips to Santa Cruz Island for all three elementary schools. I have been taking children out to the Channel Islands for more than 20 years and I find this to be one of the most unique and interesting experiences for our students and parents. We had close encounters with humpback whales that have become summer residents in the Santa Barbara Channel in recent years. We also encountered enormous pods of dolphins on our 50+ nautical mile journey. On the island we learned about the unusual geological formation of the islands and could actually see the evidence of it for ourselves. On one of the trips we met a researcher who was trapping and tagging the Island Fox that lives only on Santa Cruz Island. We were able to ask her questions about her work and her career as a biologist. What is a biologist, anyway? We found out!

In the photo above we made our own sunscreen out of diatomaceous earth that was formed by the skeletons of plankton that died millions of years ago. This is what the Chumash did for the 13,000 years that they lived on the island. We learned that archeologists have evidence that the island may hold the oldest paleo-Indian artifacts of any place in the Americas. Wow! We saw some of this evidence when we visited two 'midden' sites or ancient trash heaps.

Scientists come from around the world to explore and study the wonders of the Channel Islands National Park and yet it is the least visited of the National Parks by Americans. I'm glad that all of our children become scientists and naturalists for the day and I hope that they are inspired by the awesome beauty of the wild ocean and the mysteries of the island. This is what we call 'authentic' learning and we place a high value on it in Oak Park. These learning experiences truly stay with us and change us.

I would like to thank our science specialist teacher, Debby West for organizing and leading these amazing trips for us and for preparing the children for their visits. Of course, we would not have Debby if it were not for Friends of Oak Park Schools who fund her position. Also, many thanks to the parents who came along and paid for the trip for their children and of course, the great 5th grade teachers and the principals who also prepare the students and make this all happen.

And Happy Thanksgiving later this month!

Dr. Tony Knight
Superintendent

*A Note From
the OPUSD
Board President*

Dear Parents and Community Members,

I want to use this opportunity to explain what happens with the standardized test scores that our district receives yearly from the testing that occurs at each of the school sites during the spring. Last year's assessment results, (CST, Early Assessment Program, California High School Exam, Physical fitness results, DIBELS and SAT scores) were a discussion item at the board's October meeting, which I would like to use as an example to illustrate the importance of analyzing the results on a yearly basis with the overall goal of constantly striving to better educate each of our students.

As you are aware, OPUSD's mean API is 918, placing us in the top 1% of schools in California, with Oak Hills and Medea Creek having the highest elementary and middle school APIs, respectively, in Ventura County. Although these are very strong results, which continually climb, and are something to be proud of, the analysis of what is working, why is it working and where there are gaps is of primary interest to the Board. The scores suggest that for the large majority of our students the strategies employed in the district, as well as the moral imperatives that drive the education, are effective, and for the most part becoming increasingly effective. For instance, our continued and increased emphasis on authentic learning, remediation needs of students, literacy at the elementary and middle school levels, data utilization by teachers, curriculum alignment to the standards, articulation to achieve equity and consistency, differentiation of instruction, professional development and 21st century classrooms are mak-



ing a difference. We also believe, backed by research, that the district's emphasis on the whole child sets the foundation for these techniques to be successful. Undoubtedly another important factor is the support from the families, the learning community and the community at large. We spent an even greater amount of time on the areas of weakness, trying to pinpoint ways to be better aware of which students are struggling and how to be more effective in meeting their needs. Please know that this analysis is not done in a vacuum, but cooperatively with the leadership at each of the school sites, and while it is always nice to keep improving the scores, the more important goal is to ensure that each of our students is achieving to the best of his or her potential.

Another discussion item at the October meeting was a summer school report, which perfectly blended with the above dialogue, as summer learning whether for remediation or enrichment furthers the potential of each student that participates. As you know, summer school was run this past summer by our education foundation, Friends of Oak Park Schools since the state no longer funds summer school. The report shows that the summer program ran very smoothly and successfully. The Board is very grateful to our education foundation for taking on this responsibility in the joint effort to better educate our students.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful Thanksgiving and time to reflect on how much we have to be thankful for.

Barbara Laifman
OPUSD Board President

Field Trip to See the Dinosaurs!



Above, right, Superintendent Knight enlightens students on the wonders to be seen at the Natural History Museum. At left, Nick Rossiter and Alaina Rosenthal-Guillot get ready for the IMAX movie. Below, Ms. Roberts and Ms. Liepman enjoy the day.



Cartoon by Nick Rossiter



At left, students take a rest from their museum wanderings. We were fortunate to have Superintendent Tony Knight with us on the field trip. He has much knowledge to impart and his excitement about all things dinosaur made it a fun and informative

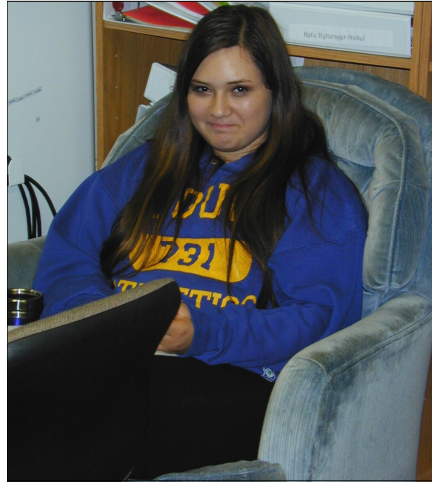
Below left, Principal Tabone ponders a fossil.

Below right, staff and students head into the museum after the walk from the 3:D IMAX movie *Flying Monsters*.



Below left, Griffin Greenhut demonstrates what it would have been like to be in the jaws of a saber-toothed tiger. He barely survived the incident. There were spectacular fossils on exhibit. In addition to those seen here, the museum featured skeletons from three different stages of a Tyrannosaurus Rex's life. Below right, Anissa Hewett, Bre Kay, Mia Jacobsen-Van Dyke, Liz Cruz, Alexis Lewin, Shannon Moss, and Reagan Clark finish up their lunches. The grounds surrounding the California Science Center are beautiful regardless of the time of year.





There is nothing quite like a good book, a comfy chair, and a hot drink on a cold day. Students read regularly in English class, but on this day were treated to hot chocolate and snacks while they settled in for a good read. Reading is the best way to improve language skills, experience the world on the cheap, and learn about virtually everything. Students are encouraged to read as much as possible.

What'cha Readin'?

Students continue to read up a storm, which is actually a great activity for when the winter storms occur. Though English class students are reading *All Quiet on the Western Front* as a class, each student also has a personal book to read. All are encouraged to read on their own time or whenever done with class work and needing something to do.

Justin Karotkin is reading a Sci-Fi classic, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, which he finds enjoyable and very entertaining.

Patrick Keane is a dedicated cyclist. He is currently reading *Long Distance Cycling*, which he finds very informative.

The encyclopedic tome *The Holocaust* has captured the interest of Chase Rosson. He says of its importance, "If we don't pay attention to history, it will repeat itself." Wise words, indeed.

Kelly DiFonzo is reading *Damned*, by

Chuck Palahniuk. Ms. Allen read it first, then passed it along to Kelly who, as she guessed, loves it. "I love it because it focuses on the truth and the reality of life and being a teen-aged girl."

Liz Cruz says of *Elsewhere*, "It really helps me take my mind off things and takes me into Elsewhere. It's about a teenage girl who died and this weird after-death world. I love it."

Speak is an excellent book that has also been turned into a movie. Katie Rytterager-Nickel is reading it. "I love this book because it shares a story about how you get the courage to speak out about things instead of keeping things to yourself. I love that speaking out is better than keeping quiet."

Sometimes, students stretch themselves and read books they wouldn't normally. "I love that it's something I'm not used to reading and challenging me. The book is fantastic so far, and I'm taking it slow," says Amanda

We always welcome contributions of young adult novels and gift cards to book stores to purchase books students are interested in reading.

Martin about *The Butcher's Boy*.

Ray Gregorchuck has many questions about *Inheritance*. "It's got a weird name. What is being inherited? Who died? Who done it???" Reading piques our curiosity as well as our interest.

A perennial favorite, *A Child Called "It"* is being read by Anissa Hewett. "I really enjoyed reading this book because it keeps me on the edge of my seat. It also somewhat makes me feel like I'm feeling the same emotions as the little boy in the book." Continued on page 7.

What'cha Readin'? Cont.

Carlos Plascencia explains the plot of the book he is reading, *Why I Fight*: "Wyatt is a young kid who burned down his house, and he runs away with his uncle Spode to a wild lifestyle of fighting." A good read for the fight fan.

In preparing for his stint in the Marine Corps, Nick Rossiter is reading *The Greatest U.S. Marine Stories Ever Told*. "This book contains stories of the greatest fights that the marines have entered during war time." Though no book can ever entirely capture an experience, reading can give us a window into many times, places, and events.

Jon Rizzo is a real Steven King fan, currently rereading *It*. It is very interesting and dark. I love the way King writes — very salivating."

Students' interest in world affairs is often evident in their choice of reading material. Reagan Clark is reading *Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, which exposes the chilling practice of using children to fight wars. "It is a very moving book. It has a lot of detail and creates clear images in my head."

Alexis Lewin says of *Forget You*, "I like this book a lot so far. It's about a girl whose family is separating. The girls gets in a car crash and loses her memory. It is really good!"

Both Blake Piloto and Jared Kovacic are reading *Runner* but have different

opinions of the book. Blake says it is a "good book. It's interesting about how he makes his money. Jared disagrees, saying, "It's okay, but I want to choose a new book." It's not uncommon to read a bit into a book and find that it is not your cup of tea. Students are encouraged to find literature they can connect to. That makes for good readers.

The Talisman is Claudio Renyer's new pick, "I didn't even read a page of this book yet, but it looks interesting. Never underestimate the power of a good book jacket!"

Finally, Ms. Allen is reading *Ms. Perigrine's School for Peculiar Children*. "Like Claudio, I just couldn't resist the book jacket. What a title!"

How Our Garden Grows!

It is great to live in California where the sun shines all year round! Our garden spot is kept busy all during the school year, even though prime growing time is in the summer. Cold weather crops such as lettuce and cabbage do quite well over the winter. Principal Tabone supervises students in tending the garden regularly throughout the week. For students, it is a great opportunity for a physical outlet and to reconnect with nature. At right, volunteers Mikey Bilodeau, Jack Hannah, and Chase Rosson get the winter bounty planted. You can come by



The \$ Finally Arrives!

Last year, Kevin Ferman won first prize in the CCEA District 6 essay contest. Students from over 20 continuations schools in three counties submitted essays, and Kevin's was deemed the best of them all! One paperwork glitch after another delayed the cash prize for his essay until just recently. Congratulations once again to Kevin for his big win. Enjoy spending it all! At left, Kevin with Justin Karotkin



Happy Halloweening!



At left, Griffin Greenhut lives his dream — being in a real, live video game! At right, the faces of Oak View — Chase Rosson in mask, Claudio Renyer shows off some scary eyes, and Patrick Keane startles with an arrestingly graphic cover up.



Below left, staff members Ms. Cohen and Ms. Roberts chat with Kay Fields and Ms. Pallant. Ms. Pallant came to visit and hand out candy. Parents are always welcome at OVHS celebrations. At right, Anissa Hewett, Shannon Moss, Bre Kay, and Mia Jacobsen-Van Dyke enjoy their barbequed lunch.

Students brought chips, cupcakes and other snacks to go with the burgers. Below, staff and students gather to show off costumes. Contest winners included Griffin Greenhut, Mikey Bilodeau, Katy Rytterager-Nickel, Amanda Martin, and Sam Fields.





At left, Justin Karotkin, Joey Melia, and Griffin Greenhut get ready for the traditional donut-eating contest. Below left, Jack Hannah gets the hang of it. At right, Ms. Liepman, the "Bad Seed," and Amanda Martin, aka Dr. Who, enjoy the day. Below right, Gil Ferman once more generously provides and barbeques thick, juicy burgers for all who come. Jared Kovacic watches carefully as the precious cargo is delivered.. Far



below right, Nick Rossiter, Justin Karotkin, Anthony Palacios, and Alaina Rosenthal-Guillot chow down. Far below left, Dr. Knight accepts **The Gandalf Award** from ASB officer Katy Rytterager-Nickel. It was given in appreciation for all of the wisdom and guidance Dr. Knight provides OVHS students presently and in the past.



Oak View High School

5701 E. Conifer St.
Oak Park, CA 91377

Phone: (818)735-3217
Fax: (818)735-3290
E-mail: sallen@oakparkusd.org

Your business tag line here.

Advertise Here



November 2011

December 2011

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
		1	2	Austin Dominguez's birthday 3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	Shannon Moss's birthday 23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
				Randi Liepman's birthday 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	Carlos Plascencia's birthday 16	17
18	19	Blake Piloto's birthday 20	21	22	23	Anissa Hewett's birthday 24
25	26	Chase Rosson's birthday 27	28	29	30	31