

Oak Views

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**. BRING IN
THOSE
Fresh and
Easy
receipts!!!!**

We're Off!

The year is off to a great beginning. Students and staff got right to work on day one and have already made it through quarter one. So many credits earned already!

Many students did directed study, attended summer school, and logged in those PE hours to get credits over the summer. We encourage our students to pursue opportunities to earn additional credits both in and outside of school. Mr. Rogers can help guide students in this quest.

We ended the year with low enrollment, so Mrs. Cohen's position as science teacher, she retired in June, was not refilled. Our enrollment has been steadily rising, and in October at mid-quarter, we added

Nicole Simmons as a part-time science teacher. When our enrollment reaches 51, the school board and the folks at the district office will look at making her full time. We are all looking forward to that happening!

Our senior class is 20 students strong this year, and we have three "Super Seniors" who will graduate at semester break.

This year, Ms. Allen is offering an opportunity for any student to earn additional English credit by reading a novel of her choosing and completing

assignments, tests, and essays on the book. First semester is *The Hunger Games*.

See pages 6/7 for more first day pictures.



Above, returning juniors Alleen Sedas, Alexis Lewin, and Anissa Hewett are REALLY glad to see each other!

Fresh and Easy — Our Community Partner

Our local Fresh and Easy is partnering with OVHS to help us raise funds. For every receipt of \$20 or over from their store that is turned in to OVHS, F & E will give the school \$1. Ms. Allen goes there a couple of times a week and has

already turned in several! Please have your son or daughter bring the receipts in — collect them from friends and family as well — so we can keep earning!

We need a parent to coordinate our night of bagging

groceries (which also brings in the largest amount of money). Contact Ms. Allen if you would like to participate or organize —sallen@oakparkusd.org.

Principal's Corner

What a great start to our school year! We had a fantastic Back To School Night with many of our parents in attendance. We cannot get the job done without informed and involved parents that share our excitement, hope and dreams for providing an exemplary program for all of our students. I hope to meet all of our parents and I welcome each of you into our learning community and school family.

It is my pleasure to introduce and welcome our new science teacher, Mrs. Nicole Simmons. Nicole is working very hard in order to provide her excellent science program for OVHS. Welcome, Nicole!

Kudos to our site council parents for stepping forward to serve Oak View High School: Mrs. Kay Fields, Mrs. Jody Melia, Mrs. Denise Keane and Mrs. Julie Gage, alumni parent/community representative. Welcome and thank you.

Recently, parents received the academic progress reports. Challenges

remain and we are hard at work to reinforce the positives for our students. As you browse through this newsletter, you will find pictures and stories that chronicle success in academic achievement, as well as updates about individual students that are "stepping up" in character. We are really enjoying the celebration of success as we share in "Triple A" award presentations and at the upcoming school assembly on October 26, our "Step UP" awards for character development.

We were very pleased with the students attending our first Clean Teen Breakfast on October 5th. Also, we enjoyed our School Wide Pizza Party on Halloween. Thank you to Ms. Dunn, Oak View parent for

sponsoring the food! The parents who joined us had a great time.

Congratulations to our ASB site council student leaders for this school year: Jack Hannah, Aryanna Dunn, Bre Kay, Anissa Hewett, Shannon Moss, Kevin Fatemi, Alaina Rosenthal Guillot, Claudio Renyer, Alleen Sedas, Mikey Bilo-

Make no mistake: Our students know their achievement is linked to our willingness and ability to support them when they need it. I am so proud of our teachers and staff at Oak View because students know that our teachers and staff are "for them." They can sense it. They can feel it.



deau and Shiana Ramos.

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I believe that all of our students can, and will, achieve academic success and will become productive and responsible citizens. We will work very hard to foster a culture of high expectations that supports the development of life-long learners. We will talk about teaching and learning every day. Students will be involved in decision-making to make our school even better. Students will have multiple opportunities to succeed and to meet their individualized, personal and school goals.

Finally, thanks to Ms. Editor, Susan Allen. I can't wait to share this edition of *Oak Views* with everyone!

gram at the LA School of Music and Film. Like many of our recent graduates, Katie Rytterager-Nickel ('12) is working and attending Moorpark.



Alumni Roundup



Alumni have been checking in since mid-August, getting transcripts to apply to university or just stopping by to say "hello." At left, Chris Weiner (2011) speaks to Ms. Allen's Careers class about the challenges and opportunities that are out there right now for recent high school graduates. He encouraged all students to get as much education as possible, work hard, and let other people help them get started. Wise words, Chris. At right, Amanda Martin ('12), dressed for work at Hot Topic, stops by to tell the good news that she is beginning an 18 month pro-

Messages from our Superintendent and School Board President

Is-

land
Ad-

ventures – an Example of an ‘Authentic’ Learning Experience

In October I journeyed with 5th graders from each of our elementary schools to Santa Cruz Island. We have integrated these annual trips into the instructional program thanks to Debby West, our science specialist and Friends of Oak Park Schools, who support her position. I go along as an extra hand with many years of experience leading and participating in these trips to the islands. I am also a member of the Sanctuary Education Team for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, a division of NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

This program is an example of what we refer to as an ‘authentic’ learning experience. Providing more of these to our students has been and remains a major District-wide goal. Authentic learning is an approach to teaching and learning in which students work on realistic problems, participate in activities that solve real-life problems, or create products that have real-life purposes.

When learning activities are authentic, students see the significance of what they are learning because the tasks mirror real-life experiences - activities that personally relate to students and their world. Students explore, discover, discuss, and construct concepts that involve their world. They learn to think critically, analyze information, communicate ideas, reach logical conclusions, collaborate with others, and create multiple solutions. The true goal of authentic learning is to help students find relevance in their learning and to apply what they have learned in the world.

Again, this year, students were able to get a view of the Santa Cruz Island Fox and in doing so, learn about and have direct experience with natural selection, which is easier to understand when it comes to islands but

applies to all life on Earth. This species of fox lives only on Santa Cruz Island. During the last ice age, the distance to the island was shorter due to the drop in sea level and that was when some animals made it out to the island – most likely by accident through a process called ‘rafting.’ This involves animals being carried out to sea on floating debris that washes down rivers in heavy rainstorms and then some of these animals making it to the island. Maybe even just one pregnant animal on a raft makes it, establishing a new population on the island if conditions allow. This fox is genetically related but different than a species of fox that lives on the California mainland. After thousands of years of isolation on the island, the animal became different, smaller, differently colored, etc. I am attaching a photo I took of one we saw. Charles Darwin had his ‘ah-ha’ moment about natural selection when he visited the Galapagos Islands and made similar observations. Today, our Channel Islands are often referred to as the ‘American Galapagos.’ There are four ‘endemic’ species of mammals on Santa Cruz Island meaning that they live only there.

It is difficult for children, and in fact for most of us, to conceptualize the diversity of life on Earth. Having an authentic experience with it can provide the ‘ah-ha’ moment that is necessary to come to understand the concept and invite further study and investigation.

Dr. Tony Knight
Superintendent

Board Happenings

Dear Parents and Community Members,

The school year is well under way although the weather has been more summer than fall. We have dealt with a norovirus at Medea Creek Middle School and I cannot compliment the school and district staff enough. They worked with Ventura County Public Health and the County Medical Officer and handled it beautifully. Medea Creek Middle School was also named a California Distinguished Schools "School To Watch" again this year.

At our October Board meeting we approved the annual teacher assignment report and heard a report on student assessments. We discussed test results by grade level and subject area. Oak Park students outperformed the rest of Ventura County. We had the highest district, high school, middle school, and elementary school scores. The Oak Park USD mean API score was 928 for the 2011-2012 school year.

We also reviewed the California Healthy Kids Survey results. This assessment reviews key indicators of risk and well-being. It is administered every other year to students in grades 5, 7, 9, and 11. To have more valid results we need more participation by our elementary students. Written parental consent is required for 5th grade students to participate. In grades 7, 9, and 11 where parents who want their students excluded need to make a request our participation rate was much higher and therefore the results much more useful.

We also discussed and approved change orders and a notice of completion on more of the summer repair and modernization projects.

Board goals were reviewed and updated and we approved and now have for the first time a Board Governance Handbook to guide us in addition to District Policies.

Policies amended concerned student health and social services, use of school facilities, recruitment and selection (of employees), civil and legal rights (of employees), professional standards, employees with infectious diseases, and Bylaws of the Board, closed session purposes and agendas. We also adopted policies on employee notifications and temporary/substitute personnel.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving, and until next month my best to all of you,

Jan Iceland

We Bring Back A Winning Line-Up! — Teaching Staff

Ms. Allen



Ms. Allen is glad to be back at work after a busy summer. She taught summer school and then spent most of August visiting family and traveling in the Pacific Northwest.

In her eleventh year at Oak View, Ms. Allen teaches all English classes as well as Consumer Math, Careers, Computers, Yearbook, Stained Glass, and our new online courses. "I love working here because there are so many opportunities for growth and creativity -- for staff as well as students."

Ms. Allen worked as a waitress for seven years to put herself through school at The Evergreen State College where she earned her BA in English and History and her teaching credential. She taught in Washington and Paramount USD in California before taking some time to raise her girls -- Rosie 22 and Sarah 17.

"Every year here is exciting. The best people -- staff, students, and parents -- come through Oak View. Everyone leaves an impression. What will yours be?"

Mrs. Liepmann



Randi Liepman has been at Oak View since 1982! Working here was her first full-time teaching job, and she loved it so much she has never left. She is definitely a people person, having always worked at jobs that required excellent people skills.

She teaches all the social sciences here as well as Algebra, Psychology, Parenting, Evolution of Media, Film, and Current Events. She loves "working with a great group of people! Getting to know the students and becoming like a family." She also loves the beautiful setting where our school is located.

Ms. Liepman is married with two children who attend college. She grew up in Arizona, but attended college at the University of Redlands for her single subject credential, and UCI, for her teaching credential.

Her son Chris graduated from his master's program in London and moved to New York and her daughter graduated from UCSB

"I am excited to get to know the new students and see the new seniors graduate! I'm looking forward to being with my wonderful co-workers. I missed them over the summer."

Mrs. Simmons



Mrs. Simmons is very excited to be the newest member of the Oak View family. This past summer was quite busy with her getting married and spending 3 weeks in Europe visiting England, France, Finland, and Croatia. A wonderful summer to be sure, but she is happy to be back in the classroom doing what she loves.

Prior to coming to Oak View Mrs. Simmons worked in Newbury Park developing an integrated STEM academy called, DISCOVER. She also spends her summers at a scholarship-based science camp held at UCSB called, Tech Trek. Teaching is her passion and she will do whatever she can to ensure that her students succeed.

Mrs. Simmons is eager to see what this year will bring and to see the growth the students will make both inside and outside of the classroom. She teaches Marine Biology, Health, Biology, Physical Science, and Geometry (her favorite math subject). She loves to engage her students in the lessons she teaches- even if it consists of making a goofball of herself!

Before entering the teaching world, Mrs. Simmons worked in local restaurants and traveled around the world as much as she could. As of today, she has been to about 20 different countries and plans to continue traveling throughout the end of her years!

"I am so excited to get to know the students. They make a school what it is. And Oak View is a school that has cultivated a family environment and that's something special."

We Bring Back A Winning Line-Up! — Office Staff

Ms. Roberts



Ms. Roberts is a SoCal native. She graduated from UCSB and has worked in banking and the restaurant business before coming to Oak View. Ms. Roberts lives in Agoura with her husband, dog, and youngest son who attends Agoura High School. The Roberts have four other adult children living in the Southern California area. She began working for OPUSD in 1997 as a guest teacher coordinator and the office manager for summer

I always hope each year will be the best! I'm looking forward to a great year.

school. She came to OVHS in 2002, so this will be her 11th graduation!

Her favorite thing about Oak View is getting to know the students and working with our great staff.

Mr. Tabone



Mr. Tabone was raised in New York and moved to California in 1978. He is married with two lovely daughters and Daisy, his faithful dog. "I have always been in education, and I earned a Masters in Education in Boston, adding a few other credentials along the way, including counseling and special education. "My entire career has been in alternative education—continuation high school, court schools, independent study, and special education. I began my career in 1972." Wow! That's 39 years of experience!

He had a great family vacation in the Sierras fishing, hiking, relaxing, connecting with nature. He continues to work out and jog around the Conejo.

Mr. Tabone is very excited about working with "the fantastic staff in a fantastic school district. He has confidence in the success of all of our students—both new and returning—and the OVHS program, with all that it has to offer. His favorite thing about working at Oak View is the "GOOD FEELING when it **all works**. when the challenge facing a student, our faculty, our school, or internally in myself—is successfully overcome or completed.

Mr. Rogers



Mr. Rogers is working at three schools all within his regular workweek. He is working at OVHS, OPIS, and Medea Creek Middle School. Each school is different in its own way but all are fun to work at. He worked at Royal High for the past five years and has had a total of eleven years in working in K-12 education. He has held the jobs of substitute teacher, PE teacher, and counselor (K-5, Middle, and High School).

Having grown up in Camarillo and attending college at Ventura and UCSB he is familiar with the local schools and communities. He graduated from UCSB with a degree in Sociology and a minor in sports management. He went on to get his Masters degree in Educational counseling. "I love working in education", "I always tell people my job doesn't feel like a real job because I get to work at a school and talk to students every day."

He currently lives in Camarillo and enjoys being with his family, good food, watching Notre Dame football, and going to the beach whenever possible. Something you don't know about Mr. Rogers is he ran with the bulls (made sure not to get hit) in Pamplona Spain in 2006.

His favorite aspect of working at Oak View is working with the students and being part of the Oak View family. His goal is to help all students reach their academic, social, and career goals.

First Day of School — It Only Gets Better From Here!



We were glad to welcome a number of new students while seeing a return of last year's wonderful juniors and sophomores. New students are coming in every day! There is always room for one more at OVHS> Top row, left to right, Zachary Lewine and Ziv Haikin, Jared Kovacic and Mr. Rogers. At right, returnee Jack Hannah, welcomes back Antonio Plascencia and greets newcomer Kevin Fatemi, all seniors. Below, very glad to be back are Anissa Hewett, Renee Henderson, Alexis Lewin, Bre Kay, and Alleen Sedas. This year we have as many juniors as seniors and a small sophomore class. Our numbers have been rising since the first day, and we are almost at capacity. This is a very welcoming and kind group of students. We are all so glad to be back together again!





Top row, left to right: Mia Jacobson VanDyke, Sam Zaretsky, Chase Rosson, Sam Fields. Middle row, left to right, Brandon Levine, Patrick Keane, Faithe Thogode, Mackenzie Tinker. Below right, Shiana Ramos. Below left, work time in English!



PARENTING YOUR GIFTED CHILD Parenting a gifted child or teen can present special rewards and challenges. Perhaps your child...

- is unusually intense and sensitive,
- has a high energy level; may seem scattered and disorganized,
- has very high expectations of self/others,
- can be argumentative or perfectionistic,
- has trouble finding friends his own age,
- is a rapid, curious, innovative learner who may be disruptive or bored in school,
- has an intellectual level far beyond her emotional level,
- has learning disabilities or other exceptionalities in addition to being gifted.

You are invited to join a discussion group with other parents of gifted kids. SENG groups offer parents an opportunity to share ideas, strategies and support in a relaxed setting, guided by SENG-trained facilitators. We emphasize positive parenting, avoiding power struggles, developing life skills, and enhancing relationships.

SENG: Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted SENG's mission is to empower families and communities to guide gifted and talented individuals to reach their goals: intellectually, physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually (www.sengifted.org)

When: November 6 – December 11, 2012 (no meeting November 20) Five Tuesdays from 10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Where: Oak Park Library, Film and Lecture Room (south end of OPHS campus) 899 N. Kanan Road, Oak Park, CA 91377

Leader: Judy Wiener, LCSW, LMFT Psychotherapist, SENG-trained facilitator, and parent

Cost: \$95 for the series (limited scholarships available) \$40 for second parent/grandparent in the same family Full refund after the first session if this group is not for you

Text: *A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children* by James Webb, et al (available for purchase prior to or at the first meeting) Many handouts provided

Contact: JudyWiener@gmail.com or (818) 706-0140 Sponsored by the Oak Park Unified School District GATE Advisory Council Pre-registration is required, as space is limited.

-----"
 Name(s) _____
 Email _____ Phone _____ #
 Children _____ Age(s)/Grade(s) _____ School(s) _____
 Please send registration and check to: Judy Wiener, 30497 Canwood Street, Suite 103, Agoura Hills, CA, 91301

Help Us Stock Up On Supplies for the Year!!

First, thank you to parents, such as **the Fields**, who have already brought in supplies for our school.

A special thank you to the Ramos, Bilodeau, Richards, Haikin, Renyer, Melia, Jeraffi, Fields, Levine, Zaretsky, Keane, and Sedas families for their very generous cash donations!

With our site budget cut to the bone, we rely on parent donations of goods and money to make it through the year. **Our students are not required to bring any supplies to school; we appreciate your assistance in making sure they never go wanting.**

If you can, please make a monetary donation (tax deductible) to the school or send in school supplies such as copy or lined paper, pens, pencils, notebooks, etc. Ms. Roberts always has information on what is needed. She can be reached at 735-3217.

In the Classrooms.....



All students appreciate hands-on experiences, but none more so than OVHS students. In English, students worked in groups to construct replicas of

ancient Greek theaters in conjunction with their study of Greek drama. In Marine Biology, students conducted an Oil Spill Lab, testing various methods of cleaning up an oil spill and determining which was most efficient, taking into consideration cost, time, and effectiveness. They also created models of plankton to demonstrate their structure. It was a race to sink their plankton to slowest using clay, tin-foil, straws, and Styrofoam!



Quarter One Report Cards Are Now Viewable!

- Go to the district website: www.oakparkusd.org
- Select "Zangle Student Connect"
- Enter ID # (your child will know this if you do not)
- Enter Password (same as above. You can also get this by calling Ms. Roberts in the OVHS office)
- Select *Demographics* to see address, phone numbers, etc.
- Select *Marks* to see report cards
- Select *Transcript* to see high school academic history
- Select *GPA* to see grade point averages
- Select *Graduation Requirements* to see requirements, met and short (not completed yet)

Quarter 1 grades — 11/7

Quarter 2 grades — 1/31

Quarter 3 grades — 4/3

Quarter 4 grades — 6/18

Please contact our school office with any questions at (818)735-3217



Led by Mr. Rogers, our students can shake things up once a week on Thursdays period 6 with a rousing game of flag football, basketball, kickball, or Frisbee golf. It's hard to say no, especially in this beautiful fall weather. From left to right, Corey Spero, Aleck Richards, Antonio Plascencia, Jonas Verma, and Chase Rosson.



WILDFIRE CONDITIONS:

Hot Temperatures, Low Humidity, Dry Fuel, Santa Ana Winds

WILDFIRE: Deciding to *Evacuate Early* or *Stay and Defend*

Are physically fit to fight spot fires for up to 10 hours or more?

Are you and your family able to cope with intense heat, smoke, noise, and stress of a brushfire while defending your home?

Can you protect your home while caring for your family members?

Do you have the necessary equipment to effectively fight a fire?

Does your home have at least 100 feet of cleared defensible space?

Is your home constructed to resist fire?

If you answered “No” to any of these questions, plan to *Evacuate Early* when instructed by professional first responders.

The above was taken from the Ventura County Fire Department's "Ready, Set, Go!" Wildfire Action Plan <http://fire.countyofventura.org>.

**Stay Alert-Stay Informed of Weather Conditions-
Have an Evacuation Plan**

Submitted by: Di Starzak

Oak Park CERT

For publication through

November 2012 OPUSD Newsletters



Students play knockout on the court behind the school. Antonio Plascencia and Blake Piloto go head to head while other students await their turn.

New Student Bathrooms Are Finally Up and “Running”



The long-awaited student and staff bathrooms are operational! Though we await a few amenities, such as automatic hand-dryers, the bathrooms are fully operational and in use. There are three stalls in each of the student facilities and a handicapped access bathroom as well, which teachers will use. Soon, the bathrooms in the office will be remodeled to provide a staff lounge and a sink more appropriate for classroom project use. Mrs. Roberts cannot wait!

Get Ready for Santa Comes to Agoura

This year, OVHS will join the rest of the district in collecting items for Santa Comes to Agoura. We are assigned breakfast cereal, oatmeal, and breakfast bars. Period 2/3 classes will compete in November to see who can bring in the most items. Get started collecting food now! **Deadline for delivery 11/16.**

Happy Halloween! Like We NEED a Reason to Get Dressed Up!



Above, we all show off our costumes. At right, Michael Kovacic, Claudio Renyer, Patrick Keane, and Mia Jacobson VanDyke



and Renee Henderson. Bottom row from left to right, Shannon Moss and Marilyn Funes. Halloween is a traditional celebration here at Oak View. We appreciate the opportunity to get a bit silly and spend some fun time with each other.





Top row, students participate in the doughnut eating contest. Alas, there were no winners this year. Students also participated in a worm pie eating contest and played kickball. Far right, students enjoy the pizza lunch provided by Aryanna Dunn's mom, Loretta Dunn. Also at right, Mrs. Fields, and Mrs. Melia, site council members help out with the feast. Below from left to right, Mrs. Simmons, Mackenzie Tinker, Sean Harvey, Alaina Rosenthal-Guillot, Jack Hannah, and Sarah Kaplan.



Oak Park Unified School District

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Email: sallen@opusd.k12.ca.us

Respect, Restraint, Responsibility

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Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5



November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	End of quarter one 2	3
4	5	6	Site Council 7	8	9	10
11	No School 12	13	14	15	Food Drive Ends 16	17
18	19	20	Minimum Day 21	Thanksgiving Holiday 22	Shannon Moss's birthday 23	24
25	26	27	28	Faithé Thogode's birthday 29	30	Ms. Liepman's Birthday