

Oak Views

Quarter 4—The Final Lap

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As seniors work off those last few credits and juniors anticipate their big year to come, all of us are enjoying the spring weather as we take on the challenge of the last leg of our year-long journey together.

Most classes remain the same. Mrs. Kelem's Marine Science focuses on the biological rather than physical aspects, but otherwise, Geometry, Algebra, US History, and other

classes are the same with two notable exceptions. Stained Glass class is off to a great beginning with a talented and energetic crew as can be seen above right. Also, Mrs. Liepman and Ms. Allen are team-teaching English! Students are learning how to create publications based on research. They will begin with a group project to create a How-To



Steph Griffin, Matthew Ruble, Taylor Devers, Michael Ruble

Guide for dealing with bullying at school. Then students will take on their own topic and create their own outcome in pairs, groups, or individually. Their projects will be featured in the newsletter as the class progresses.

We Say Goodbye to Award Winning Principal

Senior Doings

- Senior Pictures & Breakfast 4/25
- CLU Field trip 5/3
- Senior Dinner 5/8
- CSUCI Field Trip 5/10

Principal McGugan had a remarkable month. First, he was named 2017-18 ACSA Region 13 Continuation Education Options Administrator of the Year at the March board meeting. He had previously been feted at Oak View with a surprise party in room 104. During the meet-

ing, the board okayed the creation of a new position working out of the district office, Director of Student Support and School Safety. A few days later, Mr. McGugan was named to the position. He will finish out the school year at OVHS, then transition to his new job during the summer.

Mr. McGugan first came to us in 2004 as an intern counselor. After getting his certification, he was a counselor in Calabasas before returning to OPUSD first as a counselor at OPHS, then as an assistant principal. He has led

our school ably, re-vamping our campus and classrooms, creating our thriving VCI program, adjusting our schedule to provide Study Hall support and opportunities for internships and vocational classes on Fridays, and leading staff in getting our courses certified A-G. Plus, he's just a great guy who's fun to have around. We all wish him well and will miss him.



Our Mr. Resilient



Mr. McGugan at the March school board meeting.

Principal's Corner

Mr. McGugan is out recovering from shoulder surgery. In place of his usual message are excerpts from our staff's contribution to his award-winning application to be named 2017-18 ACSA Region 13 Continuation Education Options Administrator of the Year.

"His servant leadership guides us. His first question upon taking this job was 'What problem do you most want to see taken care of right away?'" When shown the rundown quad with broken lunch tables and crumbling planters, he rebuilt it himself. Ordering new tables right away wasn't enough. With the help of a volunteer mason, he rebuilt the planters before school started. Right out of the gate, he showed all of us what kind of principal he would be."

"Stew leaves no stone unturned in his quest to create a family-like school culture and enriching instructional program. Through formal programs like Thursday Activity, Clean Teen Team, and Step Up Awards to informal chats with students and staff, he makes us all feel like the congenial, supportive family every person deserves to have."

"Stew has a clear and strong personal code of ethics that he practices and improves upon every day.

He is courageous in speaking with students about his own struggles and development when it is helpful to them. He is unfailing authentic and open about himself. Stew speaks often about building resilience, making the best of the opportunities provided, and appreciating and building upon what one has, not focusing on what is lacking. He exemplifies all of this in his daily practice. Students see him struggle with his own challenges and he is able to laugh with them when his own foibles come in to play. This creates a school culture where mistakes are viewed as opportunities for growth and learning and where students come to see their lives and experience for what they really are - a foundation upon which to build a good life for themselves."

"He envisions all students building resilience and autonomy through discovering their own academic and life paths through a myriad of opportunities he has brought to our programs. He has greatly expanded

course schedule. He is balancing philosophy, basketball, and a business course along with his part-time job.

Tim Vermette ('98) graduated from Berkeley and he works for Apple as a store manager. He talked with Mrs. Liepman about his dream of earning a master's degree in English.

Alex Voneiff ('15) visited from South Carolina trying to decide between two different job offers, one in this area and one with family back in SC.

Alumni Update

Alex Feuer ('07) lead singer of Gut-tural Riot, a metallic punk rock band, was recently interviewed for a podcast by Wartime Entertainment.

Steven Spellman ('08) was just accepted into the Management Information Systems Program at San Jose State University for next fall.

Matt Hoffman ('17) is working and going to school with an interesting



our vocational education program, exposed students to new ideas and opportunities through increased numbers and kinds of field trips, brought in speakers and programs that develop student learning and understanding in myriad ways, and supported teachers in growing through professional development and self-chosen challenges. He is open to ideas and opportunities from any stake-holder and empowers all to engage in the realization of our shared vision."

He respects the knowledge and skills of each staff member and facilitates our chosen paths of development and growth. Whatever we need in the way of materials, time, or encouragement, Stew makes sure we get it.



Jenna Hamilton ('11) and her sons Jameson and Jackson are moving back to the area!

SELECTED NOTES FROM THE FEBRUARY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

March 20, 2018

Educating Compassionate and Creative Global Citizens

The Board recognized Susan Roberts, Director of Pupil Services on being named 2017-18 ACSA Region 13 Special Education Administrator of the Year and **Stew McGugan , Director Alternate Education who was named 2017-18 ACSA Region 13 Continuation Education Options Administrator of the Year.**

The Board took action and/or approved the following:

ACTION ITEMS BUSINESS

- **Discussed School Safety and Security and Approved 2017-18 Safe School Plans**
Mr. Vance Taylor, a parent in the District, requested the Board to look at ways to tighten safety and security at all our campuses.
Dr. Knight and the Board discussed looking into the possibility of requesting a patrol car dedicated to Oak Park. Dr. Knight also mentioned the steps Oak Park Unified School District has taken to increase student/staff safety and security on our campuses.
 - Lockdown and evacuation procedures are in place, and drills are held regularly at all of the schools.
 - The doors in every room have had new locks installed that allow teachers and staff to lock them from the inside.
 - Training of staff in recognizing and taking appropriate and immediate action in the case of threats towards student safety.
 - The Board commissioned a comprehensive safety review of all of our schools last year by the National School Safety Center. The District received high marks and implemented all recommendations.
 - Two standing committees that meet regularly, the Safe Kids Task Force and the Safety and Security Committee. These groups of teachers, counselors, parents, and administrators, review training programs and procedures, discuss current information and research on the topic, and make recommendations to continuously improve safety.
- The Oak Park Unified School District must annually review and update its Safe School

Plans to remain in compliance with EC 35294.2. These updates include staff responsibilities and procedures to be followed by students and staff in the event of disaster or emergency. These plans are available at each school site for public view.

- **Authorized the Establishment of the Administrative Position - Director of Student Support and School Safety**

This position will provide oversight related to Safety and Security, Attendance, District of Choice and Enrollment and Student Transportation.

- **Authorized Measure S Technology Project 18-13S, Purchase of Staff Computers and Technology Department Spare Devices**

Due to expanding staffing over the years, the tech department needs additional spares to have machines to provide to staff when their own machines are being repaired and for the newly hired staff.

- **Approve Certification of 2017-18 Second Interim Financial Report and Budget Revisions**

The Board approved a positive certification as the District staff has presented a balanced budget, a 3% reserve for economic uncertainties, and a multiyear projection demonstrating the ability to meet its financial obligations in the current and two subsequent years.

- **Resolution 18-10, Authorizing the Issuance of 2018 General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes, and Actions Related Thereto**

The Board deferred a decision on bond funding for priority projects until its meeting in September of 2018 when the new tax rates will be known. The Board committed to either issuing a traditional bond if the tax rate drops below \$60 per \$100K of assessed valuation or issuing a Bond Anticipation Note in an amount between \$10 million and \$17.7 million to be determined by the Board at that time and based on the credit rating by S&P.

CURRICULUM

- **Approved Technology Acceptable Use Policy for Students**

The District is committed to promoting a respectful, secure, and responsible learning environment in all areas of the educational setting, including the digital context. The Technology Acceptable Use Policy provides students and parents with the rules, expectations, and guidance for a student's appropriate use of District technology.

BOARD

- **Reviewed Updated Assessments of the Board Approved 2017-18 Goals and Moral Imperatives**

At its August 15, 2017 regular meeting, the Board of Education approved the 2017-2018 Goals and Moral Imperatives. The District Leadership Team has been adding assessments to these documents. The documents are available on the District website at this link: <http://www.oakparkusd.org/Goals-Moral-Imperatives>

- **Approve Resolution #18-12 Calling for Support of AB 2808 (Muratsuchi) to In-**

It's time that California ends decades of underinvestment in public schools and provide the resources needed to offer all students a high-quality education. The Board approved a resolution to urge the State Legislature to pass AB 2808, and the Governor to sign, this critical legislation that would fund California public schools at a level that is equal to or above the average of the top 10 states.

crease Local Control Funding for California's Public Schools

California funds schools at roughly \$1,961 per student less than the national average, which translates to approximately \$3,462 per student when adjusted for California being a high-cost state. It's time that California ends decades of underinvestment in public schools and provide the resources needed to offer all students a high-quality education. The Board approved a resolution to urge the State Legislature to pass AB 2808, and the Governor to sign, this critical legislation that would fund California public schools at a level that is equal to or above the average of the top 10 states.

Honor Roll for Quarter 3

Gold Honor Roll

3.50 – 4.00

Genevieve Aoury

Michael Cohen

Madison Eminente

Sierah Tew

Ryan McComb

Taylor Devers

Ashlyn Dobbie

Eva Melnik

Marc Funes

Silver Honor Roll

3.00 – 3.49

Cody Marshak

Emily Barber

Michael Rodriguez

Andrew Tamisen

Jonathan Trogman

Nate Kegley



Makeup Class Field Trip

Students attending the Friday Movie Makeup class got a special treat recently when they were hosted at Warner Brothers Studios for a tour.

In addition to the coursework, students are provided with career education through field trips and internships. Above right, Emily Barber, Wonder Woman, and Hady Tawil. At right, Emily Barber and Taylor Devers in the Ellen audience bleachers. Below, Nate Kegley, Taylor Devers, Emma Meek, Hady Tawil, and OPIS students.

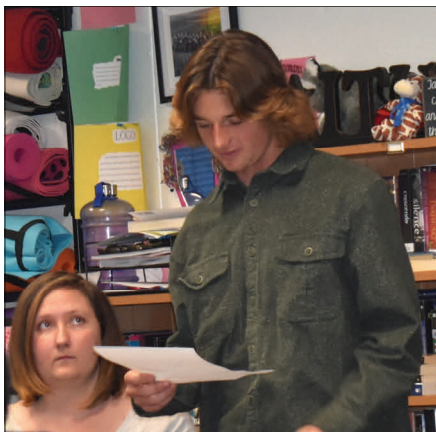


Students Take Over The Teaching Role

Senior Parisa Tarani plans to become a teacher and got some practice by taking over Ms. Allen's English class during the last weeks of quarter 3. She led students in a variety of lessons and activities building on their exploration of the criminal justice system. The culminating project was a retrial of a notorious criminal with students playing the roles of judge, jury, prosecution, probation officers, defense, and defendant. Parisa did a great job providing opportunities for student choice and interaction. She has interned with elementary teachers at Brookside, and after her experience teaching high school students is confirmed in her preference for the younger students, though she enjoyed teaching her peers.



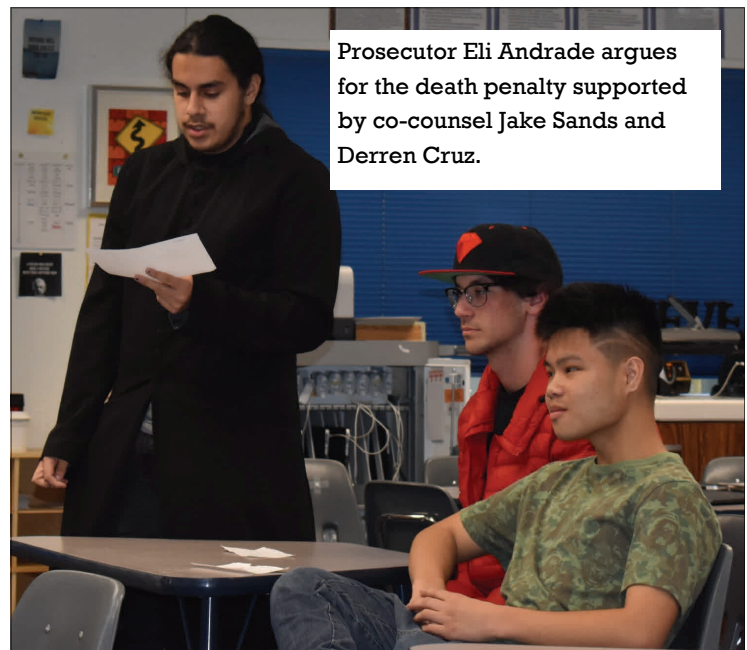
Parisa Tarani leads students through an assignment.



Above, Judge Jonny Trogman gets things started with a report from probation officer Cody Marshak. At left, Matthew Ruble gives a victim impact statement while Mrs. Gnatsowsky observes.



Teacher Tarani moderates student debate on various topics.



Prosecutor Eli Andrade argues for the death penalty supported by co-counsel Jake Sands and Derren Cruz.

We Take Safety Seriously

Matt Friedman, Taylor Devers, Andrew Tamisen, Steph Griffin, Aaron Villascusa, Marc Funes, and Michael Fuller



Principal McGugan leads our district and our school in creating a safe environment for all. As head of the Safe Kids Task Force and the architect of much of the district's response procedures to potentially dangerous situations, he is well-versed in the measures necessary to keep students and safe regardless of the circumstances. Here, he provides active shooter training for all as part of our ongoing practice of safety and security in the district. Students are aware of school shooting incidents and understandably concerned. Honest open communication and knowledge of safety measures help allay these concerns.



Early Grad Parisa Tarani



Parisa Tarani worked hard to earn the right to graduate early and is celebrated for her efforts. She is already working full time, saving for her schooling to become a teacher



A Surprise for Ms. Liepman

At left, Mr. Rogers, Mrs. Roberts and Principal McGugan prepare to treat Mrs. Liepman to a Phil-A-Palooza! She came out this year's winner of the Fantasy Football League for OVHS which comes with a prize, but refused her winnings. So, led by Mr. McGugan, the staff purchased and hung multiple stickies of her favorite team, the Chargers, and her favorite player, Phil Rivers all over her room while she was not at school. What a wonderful surprise awaited her the next day!

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**Respect,
Resilience,
Responsibility**



April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	Makenna Brown's birthday 2	Nick Tew's birthday 3	4 SPRING BREAK	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	Progress Reports 20	21
22	23	Clean Teen Field Trip 24	Senior Breakfast & Group Picture 25 CAASPP TESTING	26	27	28
29	30					