

# Oak Views

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## And, 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 half way 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 two openings. Long-time principal Lou Tabone retired after over 30 years in education, 8 with OVHS. Our science position was open as well with Ms. Simmons on maternity leave and long-term substitute Craig Moore getting a job with Las Virgenes school district. What do do?

Fortunately, two well-respected educators already in the district were just waiting to fill these positions. Stewart McGugan takes over as principal and John



Above, returning senior Emmy Bonilla and junior Sean Harvey are greeted by counselor Jeremy Rogers and new principal Stew McGugan.

McManus as science teacher. Both have been wanting to be a part of our program for a number of years. Staff turnover is low (yes, it is a GREAT place to work), so this opportunity does not come along very often. McGugan served as an intern counselor at OVHS during the 2004/5 school year. Student comments about him during his previous tenure included, "He knows how to speak with kids. He understands and never under-estimates anyone" and "You're so helpful and positive, pushing for what's best." Mr. McManus is well known as an innovative and easy-to-get-along-with teacher. He designed the Fundamentals of Science class at OPHS and also taught chemistry

and AP Environmental Science.

With the continuation program going away in Las Virgenes and many other communities, we appreciate the continued support we receive from the school board and the district office personnel. They know what a great group of kids (and staff) we have here and value our program.

Our senior class is 26 students strong this year, and we have three "Super Seniors" who will graduate at semester break.

See pages 6/7 for more first day pictures.

## Check Out What Oak View Students Are Up To!



## Principal's Corner

I started our school year writing about how important it is for our students to exhibit resilience throughout their lives. I believe deeply in the power of resilience and where it can carry us in our daily decisions. However, I failed to mention what role our staff should be playing in helping our students develop this vital characteristic. A teacher, who I respect very deeply, reminded me of the importance of the staff's role by sharing the quote below by Maya Angelou. This is something we all will work at on a daily basis.

*"I'm not sure if resilience is ever achieved alone. Experience allows us to learn from example. But if we have someone who loves us—I don't mean who indulges us, but who loves us enough to be on our side—then it's easier to grow resilience, to grow belief in self, to grow self-esteem. And it's self-esteem that allows a person to stand up."* Maya Angelou

Thank you to all of the parents who attended our Back to School Night. It

was a great success and I thoroughly enjoyed seeing all who attended. While I have had the opportunity to meet some of you, I hope to be introduced to all of our parents this year.

I would like to take this moment to welcome John McManus, our new Science, Computers and Math teacher. We are very lucky to have him. He loves to paddle board and to spend time with his family. He has a passion for science, and is a fabulous science teacher for OVHS. He transfers to our school from OPHS.

**I believe deeply in the power of resilience and where it can carry us in our daily decisions.**

Every Thursday we have an hour of either sports, walking or community service. My favorite photo to date comes from one of our community service days,

where we painted the Oak Park Unified School District sign (see page 9). We have a special group of students and I am so happy to be with them. I feel the morale of the school is very high and we are all looking forward to more memorable experiences throughout the year.



OVHS is very lucky to have the wonderful and dedicated staff on site. The teachers here are hard-working and committed. It is apparent every day that they care for the student body very much. Although I would have loved to have been taught by this staff, I feel fortunate to be able to work alongside them. I have the utmost respect for each staff member, and I admire the drive that they have to make a difference in the lives of our students.

We are continuing the great programs that Lou Tabone, our former principal, had started. The Clean Teen Team and The Step Up assemblies will remain in place and will be coming up shortly. Clean Teen will take place on 10/3 and Step Ups will be awarded 10/25.

I would like to thank Linda Roberts for her hard work throughout the summer to ensure the school is ready to go at the beginning of the year. Her efforts resulted in a successful and smooth start to the 2013-2014 year. Also, a special thank you to Susan Allen for sending out the first newsletter "Oak Views"

## Alumni Roundup



At left, Jenna Hamilton ('10) shows off Jackson, her new baby boy. In addition to starting her family, she is finishing up school (online this quarter), taking classes that will enable her to work as a medical office staff member.

Jennie Kaidin ('12) brought by several boxes of books for Ms. Allen's library. She continues her studies at Moorpark College.



Alexa Koff ('09) stopped by to pick up her transcripts. She has finished up her Associates degree and is applying to universities to finish her Bachelor's degree in psychology before ending with her MFCC. We look forward to welcoming her back to lead groups as she works toward finishing her clinical hours.

Emily Gilchrist ('10) came over to pick up some of her work and let us know she is back in college after traveling, working, and exploring her possibilities.



# Common Core State Standards Initiative: An Overview

Each month, I plan to contribute an article about some aspect of the Common Core State Standards Initiative. This first article will be an overview of the Common Core with subsequent articles addressing English Language Arts, Math, Professional Development and Assessments.

California is one of 49 states throughout the country to adopt the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These states realized the need to work collaboratively to develop standards that enable all students to acquire the necessary skills to succeed in today's global society. These Kindergarten-to-12<sup>th</sup> grade standards define the educational goals for our students and a new way to ensure those goals are attained.

This is not a new concept - for decades educators and policy makers have debated the importance of articulated, ambitious common standards. In 1959 President Eisenhower discussed the advantages of a national and common understanding of educational goals to help the next generation compete globally!

In August 2010 the California Board of Education began the process of adopting the Common Core State Standards. This came in response to the changing nature of work, technology and competition in the global market and research citing that the United States

is one of the few developed countries lacking national educational standards and a consistent level of achievement to determine proficiency. These Common Core Standards are internationally benchmarked and modeled after the most effective practices both in this country and worldwide. According to The Common Core Initiative's website, the standards

- Are aligned with college and work expectations
- Are clear, understandable and consistent
- Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills
- Build on strengths and lessons of current state standards
- Are informed by other top-performing countries so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society
- Are evidence based

We have developed a three-year implementation process in Oak Park. Our transition process includes professional development for all staff, the purchase of additional instructional materials and additional training and funding for technology. The State is providing a Common Core Grant to each school district to be used within the next two years for training, materials and technology.

As parents, the best way to prepare your children for the Common Core is to be comfortable yourselves with this new learning opportunity. There are a myriad of online resources to assist in this transition.

Resources specific to Mathematics and Language Arts:  
[www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cc](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cc)

The National Parent Teacher Association's Website:  
<http://www.pta.org/parentsguide>

This year, I will be presenting an overview of the Common Core at each school site. Please check your school calendar for information about these meetings!

Yours,  
Leslie Heilbron, Ed.D  
Assistant Superintendent,  
Human Resources/Curriculum and Instruction



## 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 went to Ecuador with her fiancé and visited the Galapagos Islands and the Cloud Forest, then on to Washington DC to visit her brother, New York for a family wedding, and Washington state for her father's 80th birthday. She also moved one daughter to her own place, one to college, and herself to Thousand Oaks.

In her twelfth year at Oak View, Ms. Allen teaches all English classes as well as Consumer Math, Careers, Design Crafts, Foods, Yearbook, and Stained Glass. "I love working here because the people — both staff and students — are just great."

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 23 and Sarah 18.

**"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, 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."**

### Mr. McManus



Mr. McManus is new to Oak View High School this year but not new to the Oak Park School District. He has been teaching chemistry and every other science at Oak Park High School since 1999. Before that Mr. McManus taught at Los Alamitos High School (where he was the boys varsity volleyball coach) South Fork High School, and Colegio American de Puerto Vallarta. Over the last 30 years he has taught everything from Intro to Theater to AP Environmental Science.

Mr. McManus is very happy to be at Oak View High School where he gets the opportunity to teach a wide variety of subjects. This year he begins with Geometry, Biology, Computers and Basic Film Making. He looks forward to a rewarding year.

Mr. McManus is a local kid. He went to Taft High School (Class of '73), graduated UCSB in 1980, and received his teaching credential and Master's Degree shortly thereafter.

Mr. McManus is married and has two children who began their Oak Park careers at Brookside Elementary and are now busy pursuing their college degrees.



## 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 and dog. Her youngest son just left to attend SDSU. 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 school.

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

She came to OVHS in 2002, so this will be her 12th graduation!

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

### Mr. McGugan



Mr. McGugan was born and raised in the Conejo Valley. He grew up in Newbury Park, and attended public schools in his community. Stewart has always loved athletics. He played baseball and football in high school and is a true fan of all sports. He was in the US Navy for four years, onboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz. Throughout his time in the military, Stew traveled all over the world and experienced many different people and events that taught him lifelong lessons. They helped him to realize how lucky he is to live in California, in particular Oak Park, and it is for this reason he resides here with his wife and three daughters.

Professionally, he has worked as a counselor at Calabasas High School. When he came to Oak Park High School, he was hired as the transition counselor, where he worked very closely with MCMS to ease and facilitate the transition of 8<sup>th</sup> graders into the high school system. The next year he was promoted to the Assistant Principal position at Oak Park high school. For his five years as Assistant Principal, he oversaw athletics, facilities, ASB, curriculum, counseling, SPED, attendance and discipline. He is a member of the district leadership team and he works closely with the union negotiations teams (classified and certificated) in the district.

In his personal life, he loves playing with his kids and spends as much time as possible helping coach them in soccer and softball. Stew is also very involved with local athletic programs such as: WAGS, Real So Cal soccer club, and the high school surf club. In his free time, Stew also likes to exercise and surf. He loves watching Notre Dame football team lose!!

### 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 previously worked at Royal High and has had a total of twelve 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 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. He just had his third baby girl in September.

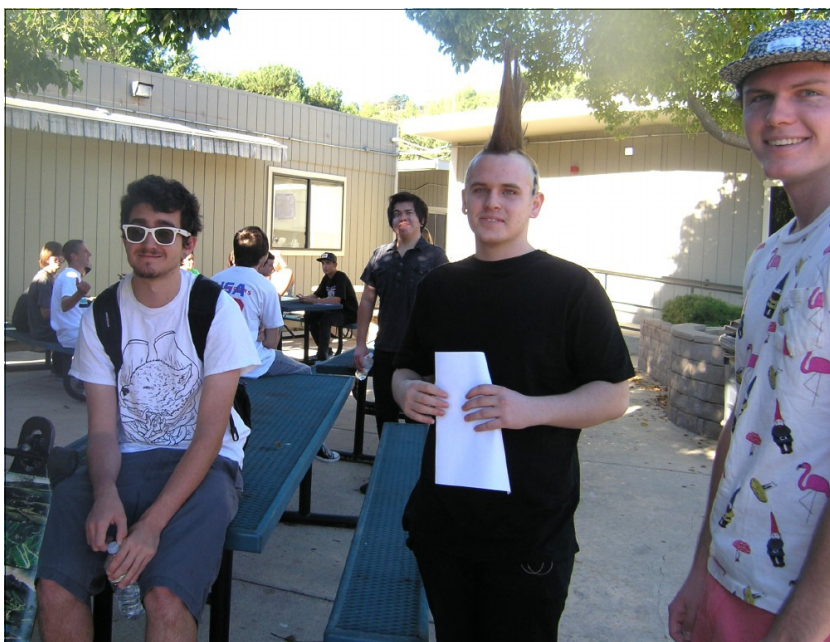
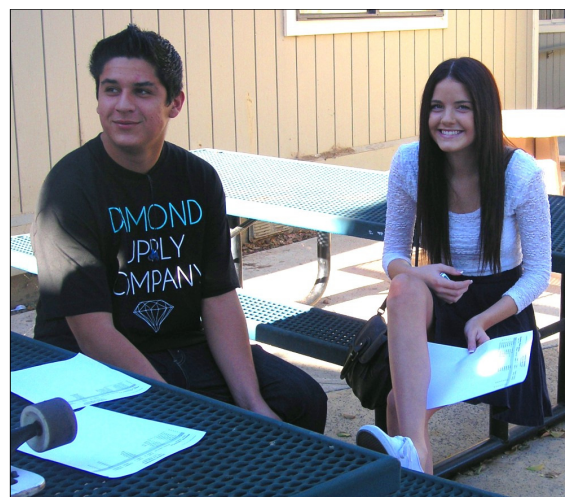
His favorite aspect of being at OVHS is working with the students and being part of the Oak View family. His goal is to help all students reach their academic, social, and career goals.



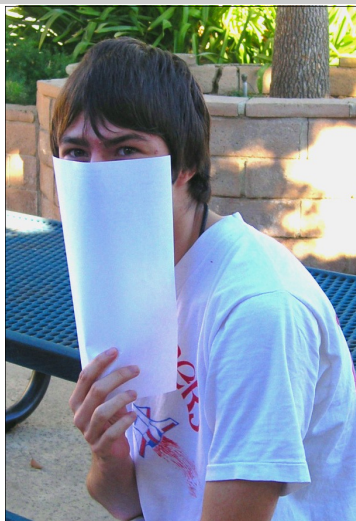
## First Day of School — It Only Gets Better From Here!



We were glad to welcome a number of new students while seeing a return of last year's wonderful juniors, sophomores, and freshmen. New students are coming in every day! There is always room for one more at OVHS. Top row, left to right, Mr. Rogers greets Shelby Young. Devon Irribarren comes prepared. Erik Gonzalez gets his schedule from Mr. McGugan. At right, Alex Alger and Renee Henderson get reacquainted. Below left, Claudio Renyer, Mikey Bilodeau, and Patrick Keane look forward to their senior year. Several seniors, including Claudio and Patrick, have worked so hard, they are likely to graduate early, at the end of semester one. Below right, Sean Harvey, Jessica Daniels, and Natali Schneider share a laugh before class starts. We begin the year with one of the biggest senior classes ever. How many more will we pick up along the way?







Top row, left to right: Steven Kobabe, Brandon Levine, Scott McIntosh, Kelvin Pereira. At left, Becca Gates and Madi Wescott get acquainted. At right, Aryanna Dunn is excited to be moving into senior year.

Below, we celebrate summer birthdays at an end of the day gathering. From left to right, Sean Harvey, Marilynn Funes, Michael Flores, Emmy Bonilla, Mikey Bilo-deau (and Mohawk), Scott McIntosh, Julia Brown, Jessica Daniels, and Dakota Blaylock

We have all school meetings regularly during the school year to celebrate student successes, review school policies, and just have a chance to get to know each other better.





## In the Classrooms.....



We are busy in our classrooms writing, investigating, filming, figuring. Above left, Sadara Polk checks in on her fish for a lab in Biology. Above right, Scott McIntosh reports data for the same lab. At left, Eric Gonzalez, Vince DeFalco, and Jack Hannah work through language mechanics and write in their journals in English class. Below left, Jared Kovacic and Claudio Renyer set up equipment for film-making class.

## Help Us Stock Up On Supplies for the Year!!

First, thank you to parents who have already brought in supplies for our school.

**A special thank you to the Blaylock, Renyer, Keane, Kovacic, Polk, DeFalco, Moss, and Borg families and Kelly McGugan 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.**

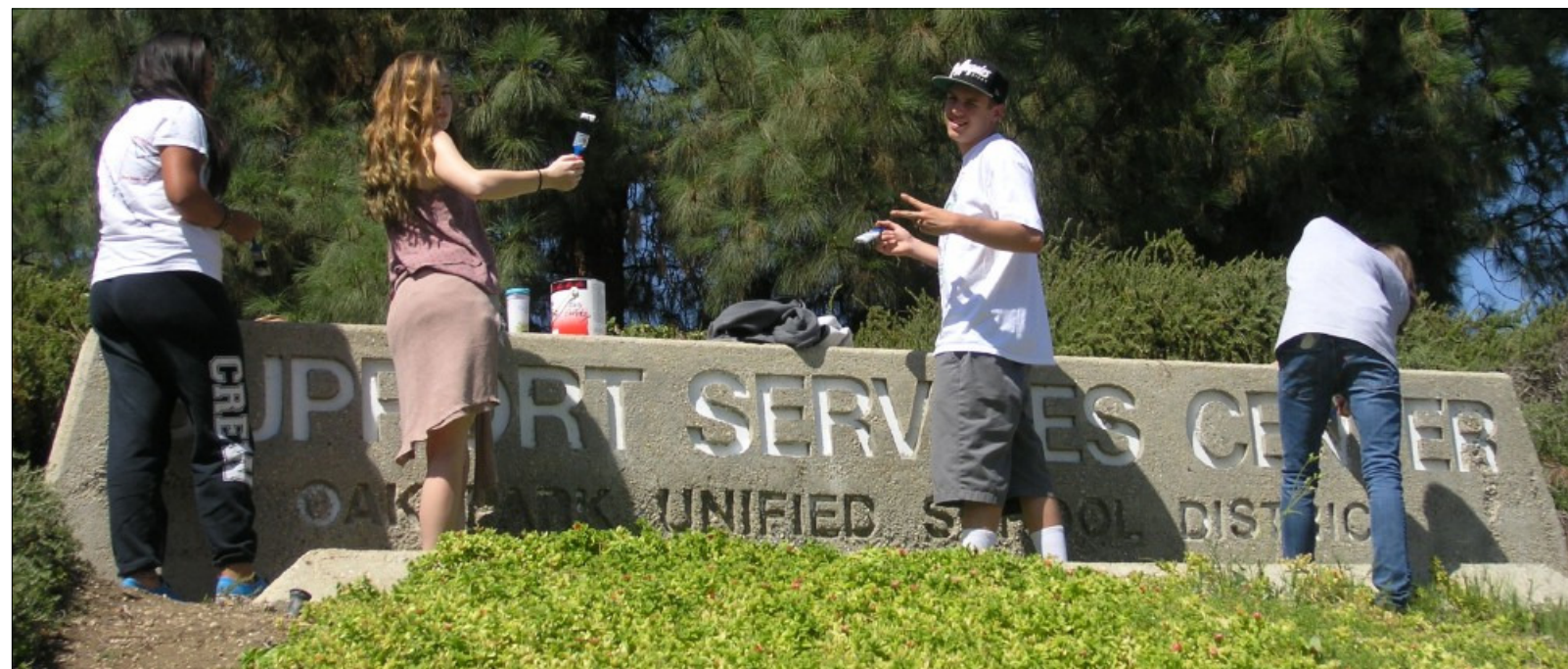
If you can, please make a monetary donation (tax deductible) to the school or send in school supplies such as copy or lined paper, pens, pencils, notebooks, Kleenex, plastic cups, etc. Ms. Roberts always has information on what is needed. She can be reached at 735-3217.



# Community Service



All students appreciate hands-on experiences, but none more so than OVHS students. We put some of this energy toward community service, and we start here at our own school district. At left, Dakota Blaylock, Alex Alger, Jake Riebel, and Superintendent Knight work to take care of the district's tank of exotic fish as part of Aquarium Club. Below left, Claudio Renyer sands the OVHS quad's benches in preparation for painting. Below right, Sean Harvey, Ms. Allen, Brandon Lugo, and Aryanna Dunn week the WAGS softball field. Below, Emmy Bonilla, Shelby Young, Jared Kovacic, and Dakota Blaylock paint the district office's sign.





## How To Access Your Child's Zangle Account!

- Go to the district website: [www.oakparkusd.org](http://www.oakparkusd.org)
- Select "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 — 10/31

Quarter 2 grades — 1/23

Quarter 3 grades — 3/28

Quarter 4 grades — 6/12

**We get active!** Because our day is compacted, we don't get many breaks during the school day. Sure, students get out at 1:40, but they also only get a 15 minute lunch and no other breaks except for 5-minute passing periods. So, on Thursdays, we blow off a little steam. One of the options is team sports. Students have played touch football and kickball and will compete in badminton, basketball, Frisbee golf and other activities. It's a fun time for all — while Mr. McManus is in charge of the class, he often gets "help" from Mr. McGugan and Mr. Rogers, whenever they can participate. At bottom left, Kelvin Pereira rests after running home. Bottom right, Blake Piloto uses his soccer skills to dominate at kickball. At right, Mr. McManus shows the boys how it's done.







## Down Time

Every day, we take time to share a meal, and every Thursday, we take time to share activities. Once a week during period 6, students perform community service, play team sports or go for a walk together. Above left, Julia Brown, Madi Wescott, Sadara Polk, and Becca Gates. Above right, Kelvin Pereira, Eric Gonzalez, and Alex Voneiff. At left, Allison Borg, Aryanna Dunn, and Marilyn Funes. Below right, Jake Riebel, Dakota Blaylock, Etai Naor, Kelvin Pereira, Devon Irribarren, and Steven Kobabe.

Below left, Ms. Liepman leads her crew for a walk on a lovely September afternoon.



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# October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 CAHSEE for 11th/12th graders	2	Max Ecklund's Birthday 3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	Claudio Renyer's Birthday 14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	Taylor Smyth's Birthday 29	30	Halloween BBQ Minimum Day End of Quarter 1 31	Pupil Free Day	