

Oak Views

Students Put Their Money Where Their Hearts Are

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OHVS has been busy doing good deeds these past couple of months. In November, we held our annual Turkey Walk to present a check to the folks running Santa Comes to Agoura, a local charity that provides food and other items to families in need.

While most schools collect food or toiletries, OVHS collects monetary donations. The organizers then use these funds to purchase food items in bulk at greatly reduced cost. Our donation of \$1,300 purchased over a hundred turkeys!

ASB organizers and participating parents were on



hand to present the check (see above). Later, all were invited to trek back to school for a burger feast to reward the generous participants.

In December, staff and students traveled to the Lokrantz School (for developmentally disabled elementary students). Every year Ms. Liepman leads us in

matching up giving OVHS students with needy children at Lokrantz. Our students purchase gifts for a child they choose from among a list. Then, we travel to their school and have the great pleasure of watching their eyes light up with delight! It is possibly the best activity we have all year. See pages 4-5 and 10-11 for pictures.

Special points of interest:

- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.

Fresh and Easy Fundraiser — We Need Your Help!

On January 18, from 4—8, OVHS staff, parents, and students will be helping bag groceries as a fundraiser for an OVHS scholarship. Fresh and Easy will give a portion of all profits made during

these hours to our school, which will be presented at graduation to one lucky senior as a help toward college.

You can help by coming to bag groceries

with us OR by just stopping by and doing some of your grocery shopping. For further information, please contact Ms. Allen at sallen@oakparkusd.org.

Principal's Corner

Happy New Year to our entire Oak View School Family! Students are working diligently to complete the second quarter coursework in time for finals on January 25-26, 2012. Our school staff and faculty continue to provide outstanding teaching and instructional activities that are personalized and effective for each and every student.

Community service is alive and well at Oak View High School, as Oak View participated in several unique projects. In November, our Turkey Walk for the Needy raised over \$1300 for local families. We returned from donating the money to the Westlake Junior Women's Club representatives and enjoyed a holiday school barbeque. Thank you again to Mr. Ferman, Oak View parent, for his generous donation of food and barbeque skills!

In December, our students presented gifts to the severely handicapped students at Lokrantz School in Los Angeles. As always, the event is so meaningful and important to all involved; Thank you students and Oak View parents. Finally, six Oak View students served lunch to the homeless at the Hope of the Valley Mission in San Fernando. We had a tour of the facilities and really enjoyed this special event at holiday time.

Fresh and Easy welcomes Oak View students, staff and parent volunteers on January 18th. Oak View receives a percentage of the sales that day and our seniors hope to put the funds to good use. Please support us by shopping at Fresh and Easy on the 18th!

Our school staff and site council parents are putting finishing touches on our Single School Plan. The goals and activities will guide us in providing the very best program that promotes success for all students at Oak View High School.

Jeremy Rogers, school counselor, is hard at work serving Oak View students and their counseling needs. Jeremy is well received at Oak View and is planning to begin our Teen Issues Young Men's Group in January.

All 10th graders and those 11th and 12th graders needing another chance, will be scheduled for February 7-8th, 2012. Passing marks are a graduation requirement for students. Good Luck, Oak View!

An additional measure of progress is under way, as our math students are reviewing everyday computational skills with decimals, per cents and fractions. These skills have a way of being forgotten, without some review along the way. A few problems are completed each day and on Friday a brief "quiz" is provided-complete with awards for progress!

Finally, the site council parents are discussing ways to provide informal support to each other-to parents of Oak View Students. The council parents may be contacting you for your ideas and to invite you to a "Parents Night Out," maybe for coffee or a light meal, to continue the dialogue.

Welcome to the January-February Edition of *Oak Views*. Enjoy these pages- dedicated to the success of our Oak View students.



participate in the Exit Exam
all Californian Public School

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Alumni Update

We were saddened to acknowledge a recent death. Kelly McCusker was a 1997 graduate of OVHS and working as an aide at Oak Park Neighborhood School. She is fondly remembered by Ms. Cohen and Ms. Liepman and will be missed by all who knew her.

Andrew Levine ('08) is working in Austin, Texas for a computer firm that originated in Simi Valley. According

to his parents, "He is working in technical support, assisting clients when their software is not working properly...He has had three raises in six months, was promoted to a supervisor position, and is both the youngest employee and the youngest supervisor in a 120+ employee firm." Staff is well aware of Andrew's prodigious computer skills; we're not surprised he is doing so well.

Ms. Liepman saw Scott Evans ('04) working at the UPS store. He is doing

well, working hard, and recently engaged.

Ashlea Sneed ('11) stopped by. She is out there looking for a job will still attending Moorpark College. There are many Oak View graduates attending right now, including Sean Thiele ('04). He is the assistant manager at Lamppost Pizza (stop by and have a slice!) but has decided to continue his education. He attended last quarter, while still working, and got good grades, so will continue this spring.

Notes from the Superintendent and School Board President

PREPARE FOR MID-YEAR TRIGGER

CUTS These are the warnings coming out this month from the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) and the numbers are not pretty. The budget that was passed by the state last June eliminated extensions of existing taxes on car licenses, income, and sales taxes. The hope was that an improving economy would bring in additional tax revenues to replace these. In the event that this projection didn't happen, the budget included a provision to impose 'trigger cuts,' at varying levels depending on the amount of the deficit. The LAO is projecting that the state will be short \$3.7 billion in this fiscal year. The way the trigger cuts are designed to work requires that the first \$2 billion be made up from cuts to various state programs and the CSU and UC systems. The amount after that would fall on K-12 schools. This means that K-12 schools may be expected to take a cut of about \$1.7 billion in THIS FISCAL YEAR. This translates to a cut between \$181-189 per student. For Oak Park, that cut would mean a reduction of about \$775,000. Based on the information that I have already shared with you about our fiscal situation, you know that we do not have the ability to absorb that level of cut.

This projection by the LAO is not the final word, however. On December 15, the Department of Finance will announce their take on the state's fiscal condition and the law requires that the state use the more optimistic of the two estimates. Everyone expects that the LAO projection is the worst of the two and so this should be the worst-case scenario.

It is highly likely that we will put in motion, a campaign to raise these funds here in Oak Park as we had discussed last year if reductions of this level were to be imposed on us. The alternative will be drastic cuts to the program in the middle of the instructional year, which would include the possibility of a shortening of this school year.

I will send out an updated email as soon as we hear the news from the Department of Finance or any further developments. As you think about making end of the year contributions to charities, please keep in the back of your mind that we may be asking for your help through this crisis in order to preserve the program and the school year for your children, recognizing that you are already being asked to

contribute to the schools on many levels.

I wish you and your family a very happy holiday season! I hope you can find some extra time to spend with your children as they grow up way too fast.

Dr. Tony Knight
Superintendent

A Note From the OPUSD Board President

Dear Parents and Community Members,

This month's Partner in Education Award was given to Barbara Vaswani. Barbara served as PFA president at Oak Park High School during which time she worked collaboratively with parents, teachers, staff and administrators to further the efforts at the high school. Barbara brought "Race to Nowhere" to Oak Park by working with our neighboring districts in a joint venture to bring awareness to this social phenomenon. Barbara also helped to bring a week of activities to the high school in regard to the dangers of drinking and driving. Barbara led an effort to improve registration at the high school and as an example of her selfless work, Barbara came back to help with registration this year even though her family has "graduated" from the district.

The bulk of our board meeting focused on two discussion items, the Common Core Standards and District Capacity. The Common Core Standards, a national approach to education, has been adopted by almost all states, including California. Our discussion focused on an overview of the program as well as the implications for OPUSD, including curriculum, materials and staff development. As this approach is very new, a lot is still unknown, but please be assured that the district is diligently staying apprised of its development and looking forward to incorporating it in a manner to further benefit the students in Oak Park.

The second discussion item focused on district capacity in anticipation of an action item at our December meeting. Setting a "District Capacity" is a requirement under the District of Choice program, which, as I think you are aware,

enables OPUSD to more easily accept interdistrict transfer students. In a perfect world OPUSD would be able to maintain enrollment at a level the district could financially sustain itself with Oak Park resident students. However, our current demographics present an otherwise declining enrollment. When combined with destructive state budget cuts, the declining enrollment would paralyze our program since public school funding in California is based on average daily attendance. The District of Choice students are currently bringing in \$6,684,432.00 more than the cost of the teachers and supplies necessary to educate these additional students, money that benefits all students in Oak Park, resident and non resident. Without these additional funds it would be difficult for the district to stay solvent, let alone offer the high quality education Oak Park residents expect and deserve, including honors and AP classes, electives, counselors, maintaining, to the extent possible, lower class sizes, as well as the avoidance of teacher layoffs and, at least at the time I write this note, furlough days. In other words, these District of Choice students are crucial to protecting the quality of education for which many residents moved to Oak Park.

The board did take action on an exciting program entitled "Educatus International", which will enable the district to receive students from abroad for up to a one-year period of time. The students will stay with a host family and the district will receive tuition for these students, which will more than cover the cost of educating them. Please know that although the additional funds brought in by these students will be utilized to better serve all of our students, the board's purpose in choosing to be a part of this program is to benefit our students by exposure to international students in an effort to better prepare them to work, function and collaborate in a global society.

I hope you and your families have a Happy, Healthy Holiday Season and New Year.

Barbara Laifman
OPUSD Board President

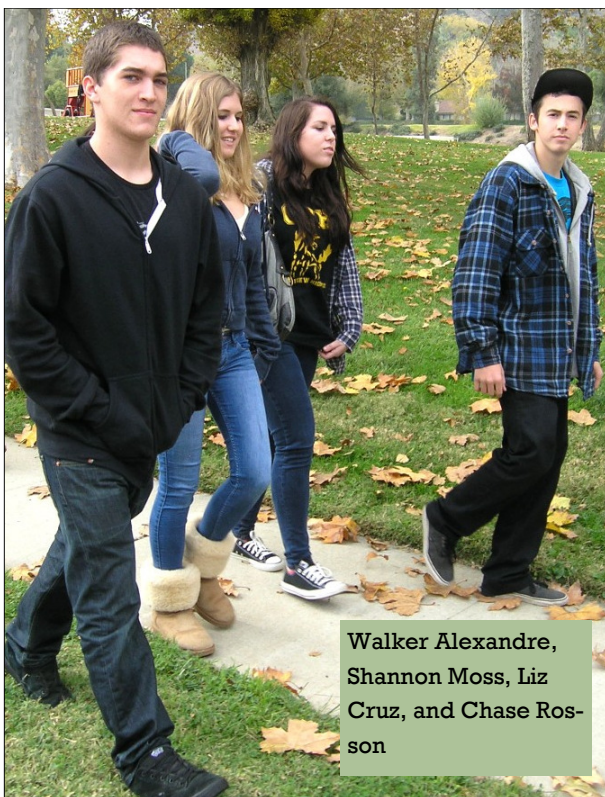
Turkey Walk



Josh Parsons, Claudio Renyer, Aaron Freeman, Sam Fields, and Jack Hannah



Participants including students, staff, parents, and alumni head out from OVHS.



Walker Alexandre, Shannon Moss, Liz Cruz, and Chase Rosson



Julia Ferman, Joe Melia, Blake Piloto, Jared Kovacic, Patrick Keane, Shane Moore, and Joey Melia



Linda Roberts, alumni Emily Wyse, Sharon Cohen, Mike Kovacic and other students.



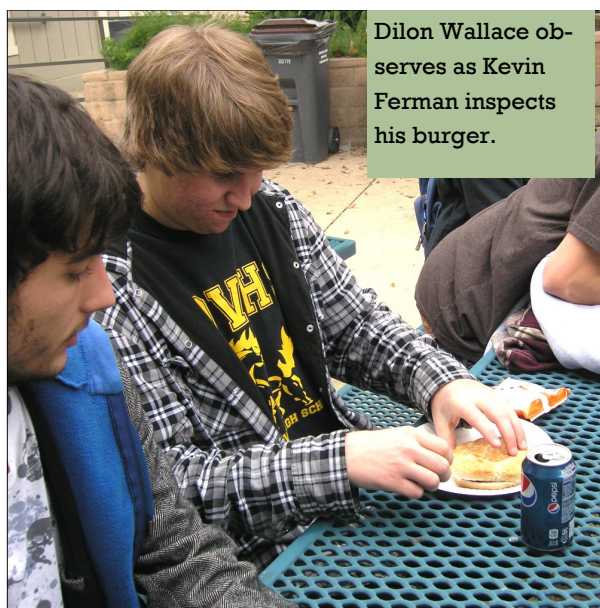
Reagan Clark, Shane Moore, Justin Karotkin, Chase Rosson, Anissa Hewett, Aaron Freeman, and Claudio Renyer wait their turn for burgers.



Vanessa Feliciano with daughter Shannon Moss and Liz Cruz



Nick Ros-siter and Principal Tabone help serve up a feast.



Dilon Wallace observes as Kevin Ferman inspects his burger.



Patrick Keane enjoys the opportunity to chat with friends and share a meal.

Resources for Students and Parents

Sometimes a situation comes along that is overwhelming to us. Sometimes we need help. Following are some community resources in times of need. Thank you to Counselor Rogers for sorting them out.

ACTION: A parent and Teen support program www.actionteen.addr.com or call 800-FOR-TEEN/800-3678336

Girls Empowerment Center (GEC) is a small registered non profit organization devoted to empowering the development of girls in the Conejo Valley. The goal of this organization is to act as a buffer against societal influences and provide a safe and nurturing place for girls to mature. Call 805-341-5735 or try www.girlsempowermentcenter.com/Welcome.html.

Teen Scene Outpatient Program: The goal of this program is to provide support and education to teens and their

families in order to teach them the skills and tools necessary to battle addiction and family dysfunction. It is our vision to provide support services to help each family achieve and maintain a more functional family unit. <http://www.teensceneoutpatient.com/>

Crisis Hotlines and Other Resources — 211 provides callers with information about and referrals to human services for everyday needs and in times of crisis. For example, 211 can offer access to the following types of services:

- **Basic Human Needs Resource:** food banks, clothing closets, shelters, rent assistance, utility assistance.
- **Physical and Mental Health Resources:** health insurance programs, Medicaid and Medicare, maternal health, Children's Health Insurance Program, medi-

cal information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention and rehabilitation.

- **Employment Supports:** financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance, education programs.
- **Support for Children, Youth, and Families:** childcare, after school programs, Head Start, family resource centers, summer camps and recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, protective services.
- **Volunteer Opportunities and Donations**
- For more information you can also go to their website: www.211.org

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Alcohol Abuse — Alcoholics Anonymous Ventura County (805)495-1111

Thank You Oak Park!!!

The Oak Park Military Club sincerely thanks you for your overwhelming support and generosity in donating goods and money for the care packages we sent to Afghanistan in memory of Brian Wolverton and in honor of all Oak Park High School alumni serving in the armed forces. Without your support we could not have accomplished our goals.

Since most donations were anonymous, we cannot thank specific individuals for the following items that we collected:

1,600 pounds of candy
Various food items, including beef jerky, nutrition bars, dried fruit, and popcorn
Over 250 brand new movies donated by a student
Over 100 toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, razor blades, chap sticks, and dental floss
Playing cards, bandages, socks, shampoos, soaps, rain ponchos, hats, gloves, small and large stuffed animals and tissue packs

In addition, thank you to the Garb and Baraghimian families for donating over 160 Beanie Babies, to Henesey family for donating a brand new Xbox 360, to Costco for donating a gift card used to purchase energy drinks, and to Oak Park Dentistry for collecting candy on our behalf. Also, thank you to the Brown, Goldstein, Kaplan, Paul, Swedelson, Thompson and Van Dyke families for contributing cash that helped pay for the shipping costs.

We want to express our appreciation to the following companies for their generous contributions:

THQ Inc. for donating cash, 21 video games and collecting candy on our behalf
3M for collecting goods and candy
DLA Piper, LLC for donating cash

The Military Club also thanks the Oak Park School District teachers and administrators for helping us with the donations. Additionally, we thank Dr. Knight, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Smith for their invaluable guidance, help and encouragement.

Finally, thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Wolverton for their patience, selfless hours of help, and logistical assistance throughout the entire fundraiser.

Last week we delivered an estimated 1,000 pounds of candy to Operation Gratitude at the National Guard Armory in Van Nuys. We also packed and shipped 78 care packages containing an assortment of the collected items and weighting a total of 873 pounds! We hope that these packages will brighten the holiday season for the men and women serving in Afghanistan and will convey our gratitude for their service.

Thank You!

Honor Roll for Quarter Two

Quarter 1 – 2010 -2011

Gold Honor Roll

3.50 – 4.00

Liz Cruz

Anissa Hewett

Jared Kovacic

Alexis Lewin

Shannon Moss

Blake Piloto

Claudio Renyer

Kevin Ferman

Ray Gregorchuk

Justin Karotkin

Amanda Martin

Jon Rizzo

Nick Rossiter

Katie Rytterager-Nickel

Dilon Wallace

Quarter 1 – 2010 -2011

Silver Honor Roll

3.00 – 3.49

Walker Alexandre

Mia Jacobson-Van Dyke

Shane Moore

Kelly DiFonzo

Breanna Kay

Austin Dominguez

Anthony Palacios

Carlos Plascencia



Check Out Checkouts



Regularly throughout the school year, we have Friday checkouts. Sometimes they are called to address a particular issue that has come up at school. Sometimes they are a celebration of student accomplishment. Usually, they are a mix of both. Every family needs to check out with each other on occasion, and the Oak View family is no different. The best part? Handing out or receiving Step Up Awards — given for growth in character. We recognize students for more than just their work in the classroom, we appreciate the work they do to improve themselves.

At left, Nick Rossiter, Justin Karotkin, and Griffin Greenhut celebrate with last year's CCEA District 6 essay contest winner Kevin Ferman as he FINALLY receives the prize — a check for \$200.

Be SAFE!

The Ventura County Department of Transportation has conducted a study and provided us with maps of all campuses and the safest routes for students to walk to and from school. We encourage students to walk to school to safely.

Elementary children should never walk without an adult and secondary students should never walk alone. Walking to school provides so many benefits to health, for the environment, and for our traffic situation. The link to the maps on our website is: <http://www.oakparkusd.org/maps>

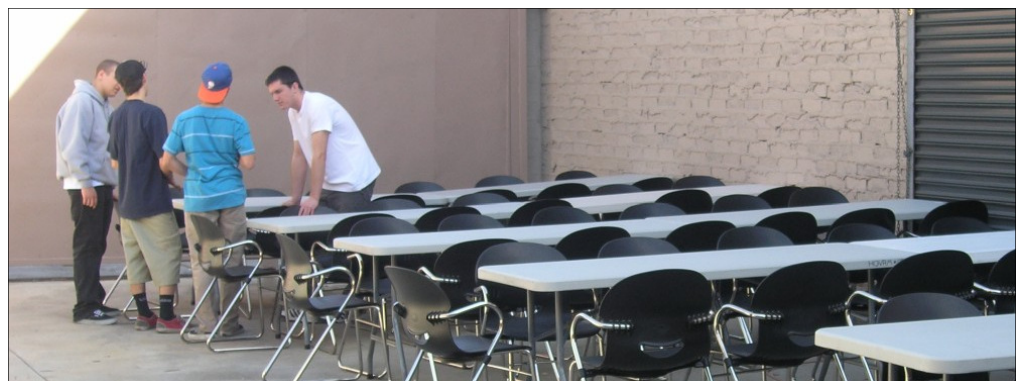


Our Trip to Hope of the Valley Mission

Principal Tabone and office manager Linda Roberts led students in a volunteer trip to the Hope of the Valley Mission. Student participants Kelly DiFonzo, Amanda Martin, Patrick Keane, Jared Kovacic, Blake Piloto, and Chase Rosson met with Director Jonathan Leeper, pictured far above left with Principal Tabone, and toured the facilities, which include a thrift shop. They then helped clean up the serving area and set up for lunch. Below left, Amanda Martin sweeps. At right, Patrick Keane carries out the canopy to set it up. Below right, Jared, Chase, Blake and Patrick



finish setting up for lunch. Students also helped serve. This is just one of the many community service projects that OVHS students and staff participate in year round.



Finals will be held according to the following schedule.

Please note the dismissal times:

DAY 1: Wednesday, January 25th

8:35 – 9:30 Period 1 Exam (Algebra, Geometry, Careers)

9:30 – 9:50 **Break**

9:55 – 11:20 Period 2/3 Exam (English, Biology, Parenting)

Wednesday Dismissal at 11:20 PM

DAY 2: Thursday, January 26th

9:30– 11:00 Period 4/5 Exam (English, Global Science, US History)

Thursday Dismissal at 11:00 AM. No Snack Shack

Please continue to support your student's progress with plenty of rest, nourishment and by arriving on time for our semester final exams.

Quarter 2 report cards will be viewable on Zangle Student Connect (oakparkusd.org) as of February 1st. If you do not have internet access, please contact the main office at 818 735 3217 to request a paper copy.

All Credit sheets for Quarter 2 outside hours (PE, Community Service, Work Experience, and Support Hours) **MUST** be turned in by Thursday, January 26th to receive credit.

The CAHSEE Is Coming! The CAHSEE Is Coming!

All tenth graders must participate on both February 7th and 8th.

Only 11th and 12th who have not passed one or both of the exams will participate in that exam.

All students in California public schools are required to pass the CAHSEE as a requirement to earn a high school diploma. Our school will administer the exam to your student from **8:45 am to 1:00 pm at Oak View High School, 5701 E. Conifer St., Room 104.**

Tuesday, February 7, 2012	English/Language Arts Exam
Wednesday, February 8, 2012	Math Exam

For further information about the CAHSEE and your student's participation, contact our school office at 735.3217.

Lokrantz School



Above left, Jack Hannah and Austin Dominguez help unload the gifts. Above right, the whole crew anticipates the event. At right, Anissa Hewett and Alexis Lewin get their smiles ready for the kids. It is only a short drive to the school in the valley, but we all enjoy riding the bus! Below left, Josh Parsons and Amanda Martin, and below right Griffin Greenhut and Katie Rytterager-Nickel are among the students who help Ms. Liepman coordinate and carry out the gift-giving. Ms. Liepman guides students in organizing the event and they eagerly participate.





Above left, Kevin Ferman interrupts his filming to spread some joy. Above middle left, Austin Dominguez enjoys his second trip to visit these kids. Above middle right, Bre Kay gets a kick out of her kid's reaction. Above far right, Nick Rossiter knows just the right gift to make a little kid happy!

Zach Mirza hasn't been with us long, but he got right into the spirit of this event. At right, he listens to his kid's teacher and enjoys the moment. Far right, Alaina Rosenthal-Guillot makes a little girl happy as other students look on.

Below left, Reagan Clark experiences the joy of giving. Below middle left, Jon Rizzo is an old hand at this, his third trip to visit the kids. Below middle right, Sam Field's smiling demeanor turned up yet a notch more at this happy event. Below far right, Justin Karotkin gets right into the gift-giving. He really knows his trucks.



Oak View High School

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Respect, Restraint, Responsibility

Advertise Here!



January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	No School 16	17	Shop at Fresh and Easy! 18	19	20	21
22	23	24	Finals 25	ALL Careers work due by 3:00 Finals 26	No School 27	28
Anthony Palacios's Birthday 29	30	31				