



"Where Students Come First"

Community Newsletter

Message from the Superintendent

Hello! I hope you enjoy this edition of our community newsletter. It contains a small sample of the many, many great happenings that occur within the walls of our school each and every day. We wanted to share some of the highlights of the spring semester at Oak Grove.

I also recommend you keep up with our school's events by reading the Oak Grove News. It is a weekly newsletter that is published each Monday afternoon throughout the school year. It is archived, so that you can "catch up"

with past editions. The Oak Grove News is accessible by visiting our district website, www.ogschool.org.

You are always welcome to visit. We are, in fact, your school. Have a Great summer!

With Oak Grove pride,

Lonny B. Lemon, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Best Wishes, Graduates!

On May 31, 2016, the Oak Grove Eighth Grade graduation was held at Libertyville High School, the school most of our graduates will call home for the next four years. Throughout the ceremony, many fond memories of Oak Grove School were shared. We are extremely proud of our graduates, and know that they are prepared to enter this exciting new phase of their lives. To the Oak Grove graduating class of 2016: We wish you the best!



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Renovations Continue at Oak Grove School

The District continues to follow its Master Facilities Plan to renovate and upgrade the campus at Oak Grove. This is the fifth consecutive summer of renovations and the culmination of the project. Once complete, Oak Grove School will be a state-of-the-art facility and a great teaching and learning environment for our students and staff. We have a school that the entire community should be proud of!

Mr. Ozzie Suarez, our Director of Maintenance, captures video of the project each week. Please visit our website, www.ogschool.org or our social media sites (found on page 5) to see the collection of videos to watch the project from start to finish.

Leave a Lasting Memory at Oak Grove!

The Oak Grove School Education Foundation is taking orders for custom-made brick pavers. Leave a lasting memory for your children, grandchildren, or family while supporting the OGSEF's mission to help with teacher curriculum initiatives! The brick pavers are the centerpiece of the new elementary playground and are visible to hundreds of people each and every day.

To view and order the pavers, please visit the OGSEF website at www.ogsef.org. The pavers can be located under the "Donate Now" tab.



Farewell to Retirees

Mrs. Barb Gilkison and Ms. Lori Leonard retired at the end of the 2015-16 school year. Both were beloved teachers at Oak Grove and were positive influences in the lives of thousands of children throughout their illustrious careers.

We thank them for their loyalty and dedication to Oak Grove and wish them the very best as they enjoy retirement!



Barb Gilkison



Lori Leonard

Class of 2016 Creates Mural

The recently graduated Oak Grove Class of 2016 created an "Eagle Mural" at the end of the school year. It is painted on the wall between the Junior High Cafeteria and gymnasium. Upon close inspection, one realizes that the eagle is comprised of individual words. The class members chose words they felt were inspirational and important to them during their days at Oak Grove. Thank you, Class of 2016, for leaving such a wonderful testament for us to view each day!



OGS Student Council

The Oak Grove Student Council spent the year staying active within our school and our community. The eighth grade officers, Albert Sterner, Victoria Villanueva-Guzman, Lucas Wilson, Scott Sanderson, along with help from Anna Heard, Cali Lichter, and sponsor Ashley Evans, opted to fund raise for a specific cause this year. Concentrating our efforts on the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and with assistance from community member Liz Howard and the Oak Grove PTO, the Student Council was able to donate \$3,500 to Make-A-Wish to help a child in Lake County. In addition, we were able to bring back a junior high dance, something that has not happened in many years. Admission to the dance was a food donation. In all, we collected 800 pounds of canned food that was delivered to the C.O.O.L. Food Pantry in Waukegan. Student Council has 47 junior high volunteers and 4 elected eighth grade officers.

Congratulations to the Oak Grove Track and Field State Qualifiers

Oak Grove is proud to have so many fine athletes at our school. The following student athletes finished in the top 15 in the state for their events and ran their season best times: Lyann Tam, Faith Roberts, Jane Arnold, Claire Arnold, Sam Kallas, Kyle Tayfel, Christian Roberts, and Andrew Brooks. Christian Roberts was a top runner in his preliminary hurdle race and qualified for the semifinals. Andrew Brooks ran an incredible 800 Meter Run, and finished 3rd in the state. Way to go, Eagles!



OGS Honor Society

On May 25th, thirty-two seventh grade students became members of the Oak Grove Honor Society. These students demonstrated academic excellence by maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.75 for the past three terms. Additionally, they have demonstrated good character and leadership qualities in the classroom and their daily lives. Congratulations to: Pavan Acharya, Claire Arnold, Jane Arnold, Angela Becker, Arianne Berner, Alyson Chu, Megan Feeney, Kaitlin Gowens, Julia Hasler, Sebastian Ingino, Zaina Kagzi, Tristan Keegan, Quinn Kurland, Cate McCarty, Grace Muller, Quinn Murphy, Desi Nainar, Allison Parker, Rebecca Parker, Lena Perry, Jack Regan, Faith Roberts, Hannah Sachs, Olivia Sauers, Ella Schaffnit, Katie Stone, Lyann Tam, Sophia Thompson, Avery Vang, Paige Vang, Marilyn Yu and Jonathan Zhang.



Incoming Honor Society Members

Tech Coach Represents OGS in Berlin, Germany

In July, OGS Technology Coach Allison Honaker will attend the Worldwide Apple Distinguished Educator Institute in Berlin, Germany. Participants are selected by an application process that includes a two-minute video showcasing technology use in their school district. The Institute is a 4-day intensive professional learning experience that brings 400 ADEs together to collaborate and share. By collaborating directly with peers around the world, ADEs return with content and ideas developed during the Institute to implement in their districts.



ICE Tech Conference

On May 10, 2016, Oak Grove School sent five people to the capitol building in Springfield, Illinois to present at the Tech 2016 Conference. The purpose of TECH 2016 is to raise awareness of the critical role technology plays in preparing students to succeed in today's world, and to show the need for increased funding for classroom technology. Students presented for lawmakers and the public the creative



ways technology is being used to enhance and accelerate student achievement in Illinois schools today.

Oak Grove 5th Grade Talented and Gifted (TAG) student representatives Paige Regan and Kaj Sorensen, as well as their 5th Grade TAG teacher, Maria Luce were able to present a student created video titled **Ripples: Kids Who Made a Difference**. Accompanying the group was Oak Grove Technology Coach John Mehnert, who acted as the technology advisor throughout the project. They showcased their long-term research project on young people who made a difference in the world. The project resulted in a 25-minute video created by the students that explained how the young people they researched were able to positively impact the lives of many others, as well as the lasting effects of their actions.

In addition to Regan and Sorensen, five other students in the 5th Grade TAG class also contributed equally in the creation of the video: Allison Chung, Lizzy Fu, Nicholas Ingino, Nolan Johnson, and Nate Merlo. The project was the inspiration of their 5th Grade TAG teacher, Maria Luce, who wanted the students to learn about leaving their own positive legacy. The group had already held a private red-carpet screening for their parents, school administrators, and members of the Oak Grove Board of Education.

While at the conference in Springfield, the group was able to meet and speak with Governor Bruce

Rauner, State Senators Dan McConchie and John Sullivan, and State Representative Carol Sente. The group also won a Chromebook at a raffle that kicked off the conference. The 5th Grade TAG students then raffled off the Chromebook to this year's 8th Graders with funds going to Oak Grove's Student Council's Make a Wish fundraiser. We are so proud of our students and teachers!



From Left to Right: Supt. Dr. Lonny Lemon, Paige Regan, Rep. Carol Sente, TAG teacher Maria Luce, Tech Coach John Mehnert, Kaj Sorensen

Geography Bee

Oak Grove crowned a new Geography Bee champion on Monday, January 11, 2016. Zachary Giamis outlasted 11 other contestants and earned an opportunity to represent Oak Grove at the State Geography Bee. Ramanan Srirajan was our runner-up and proved a worthy opponent; the championship round went to 7 tie breaker questions! Zachary was the only 8th grade student participating this year, so we expect an exciting competition in 2017!



8th Grade Musical

In March, the 8th grade student body put on a production of "The Music Man, Jr." They brought down the house in all four performances! After the final show on Saturday, all the kids involved enjoyed a night of relaxation and fun at a wonderful Cast and Crew party complete with DJ and dancing. Thanks to the teachers and many parents who made all aspects of this Oak Grove tradition a success.



Spelling Bee

Seventh grader Allie Parker, our school and regional spelling bee winner, went to the Lake County competition to represent Oak Grove School. On March 17th, Allie correctly spelled "empanada", "flense", "karaoke", and "glasnost" to come in 8th place in the county. Congratulations to Allie on her big achievement!



OGS Staff Gets CPR Training

On March 11, 2016, 25 staff members participated in the 3.5 hour American Red Cross Adult and Pediatric CPR class. Staff members learned to check the scene for safety, call 911 for help, check for bleeding and then provide care. The previously used ABC sequence (Airway, Breathing, Compression) was updated in 2015. CPR guidelines now use CAB (chest compression, check airway, give breaths in order to reduce delaying the chest compression). Mannequins and masks were provided for hands-on practice and demonstration of CPR and choking techniques. Participants all indicated that they are now more confident in recognizing and helping someone in distress.

Follow Us/Like Us!



Oak Grove School is on Facebook and Twitter. Please bookmark/follow us for regular updates on the things happening at Oak Grove! Our Twitter handle is @OakGrovePride, but you can find both accounts easily by using these shortcuts:
Facebook: www.ogschool.org/facebook
Twitter: www.ogschool.org/twitter

2016 Variety Show

The 2016 Variety Show, under the direction of 3rd grade teacher Heather McCarty, was held on April 29, 2016. The students did a fantastic job of putting on a wildly entertaining show! We are so proud of our talented students. The student council provided concessions with the proceeds going to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. We look forward to seeing what 2017 will bring!



Soaring Eagle Scholarship

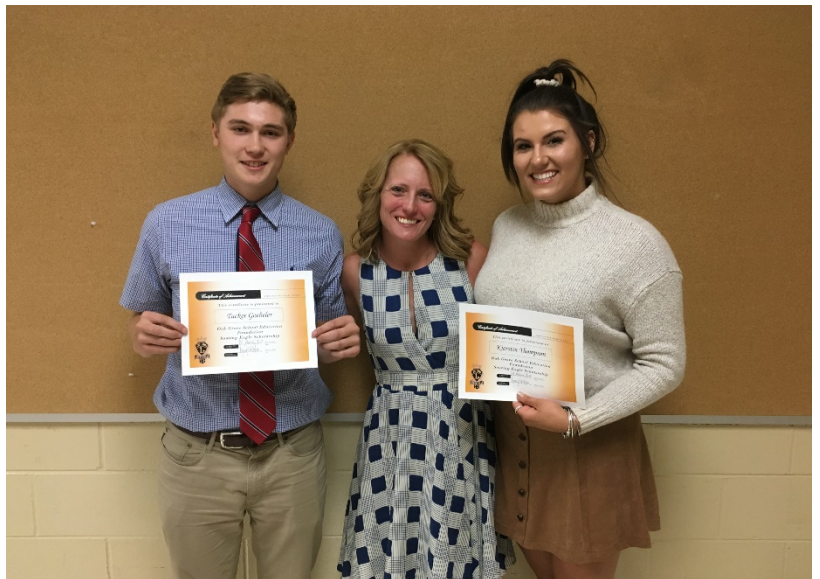
As support from our community has grown, so has the Oak Grove School Education Foundation's ability to support our Oak Grove students as they move through elementary and junior high -- and even past high school. The Soaring Eagle Scholarship was created to support a deserving student in their post-secondary studies. This \$1000 scholarship is open to graduating Libertyville High School Seniors who are Oak Grove Alumni.

2016 Scholarship Winners

The Oak Grove School Education Foundation was honored to recognize Tucker Goebeler and Kierstin Thompson as the winners of the inaugural Soaring Eagle Scholarship. Thanks to the strong support of the Oak Grove community, we were able to award two scholarships from a very bright field of applicants. Congratulations to these remarkable and exceptional young adults. Tucker and Kierstin truly represent the Oak Grove spirit. Good luck on your future studies!

Tucker Goebeler

Tucker attended Oak Grove from kindergarten through eighth grade and took his Oak Grove lessons to heart. While he is a strong leader both in the classroom and on the soccer field, what impresses us the most are his actions when no one is watching. Tucker created an anonymous foundation to financially support local kids in need, and the donations provide opportunities for kids to follow their athletic and academic dreams. Tucker states, *"Oak Grove helped me soar by teaching me the value of supporting others without the need for direct recognition."* In the fall, Tucker will continue his education at the University of Illinois where he was accepted into the College of Business.



Cynthia Gleason presents Tucker Goebeler and Kierstin Thompson with the Soaring Eagle Scholarship in 2016

Kierstin Thompson












Kierstin Thompson also spent 9 years at Oak Grove School and has a strong passion for nursing with a desire to become a neonatal nurse in order to help premature and critically ill babies and their families. Her dedication and leadership skills enabled her to be the ambassador of her Certified Nursing Assistant Program at the College of Lake County's Technology Campus. Kierstin will enter Loyola University Chicago Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing in the fall to continue her studies. Kierstin noted, *"Oak Grove changed my life from the first day of kindergarten, and prepared me for a successful life. I will never forget my Oak Grove family that engaged, empowered, and inspired me to become who I am today."*

SHOP to EDUCATE!

Do your online shopping through OGSEF, and your everyday purchases can help support the students of Oak Grove!

Simply click "Support Us" on our website (www.ogsef.org) and then "Shop to Support" to view hundreds of great merchants and deals in the gallery. There's no need to sign up for any accounts. Just click a merchant link to be redirected to that online store and make your purchases as you normally would. The indicated percentage of the purchase price is automatically sent to OGSEF. It doesn't cost you anything extra, and every little bit helps!

Sample Shopping Contributions by Retailer (many more available!):

	3%		8%		3%
	\$10		3%		25%
NORDSTROM	2.5%		14%		9%
	3%	FOREVER 21	2%		5%
	\$6		6%		4%
	12%		2.5%		20%

Thank You for Your Support!!

OGSEF grants have provided Oak Grove School with opportunities to reach new heights in academic and community excellence. Thanks to your support, **OGSEF grants have funded over \$200,000 for projects and grants over the last five years:**

- Green Screen Room
- Science of Sport Curriculum
- K-2 Science Curriculum
- Kindergarten Teachers "Daily 5" Professional Development
- Library Technology & Reading Resources
- "Rekenrek" Math Manipulative Racks
- Science SPARK Lab
- Robotics
- Dance & Yoga Instruction
- Audio Visual Technology
- Playground Renovation
- Cafeteria Improvement
- Community Service Projects
- Motivational Speakers
- Stability Ball 'Active' Seating
- And much more!

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Detachment Petitions

This spring two subdivisions not currently within the boundaries of Oak Grove School submitted petitions to the Regional Board of Trustees asking to detach from Woodland Elementary School District and Woodland Township High School District. The residents asked to annex into Oak Grove and Libertyville High School District #128. The petitions were filed by citizens residing in the Daybreak Farms and Meadow Woods subdivisions.

The four school districts opposed the petitions to detach. Hearings were held in front of the Regional Board of Trustees in both cases. The Daybreak Farms hearing resulted in the ROE denying their petition. The Meadow Woods petition was dismissed, due to a lack of valid signatures on the petition. If they desire, both groups can appeal the detachment denial to the Circuit Court of Appeals. If you have any questions, or would like to know more about the matter, please feel free to contact Dr. Lemon at Oak Grove.

Oak Grove Eagle Scholarship

The Oak Grove Education Association, representing the certified staff at Oak Grove School, was proud to present the first annual Oak Grove Eagle Scholarship to former OGS student Dolores Palmieri at the recent graduation ceremony. Oak Grove educators are committed to the success of all current and former students, and the Oak Grove Eagle Scholarship was started to recognize an OGS alumni who exhibits Oak Grove's mission to educate and inspire all to reach his or her full potential. The scholarship is awarded to an individual who demonstrates positive character through service and volunteerism in the community and who is also involved in extra and/or co-curricular activities at Libertyville High School. Dolores Palmieri has devoted her high school career to volunteering in our community, spearheading fundraising events, and creating a foundation in memory of an LHS student. The OGEA is proud of her commitment to her school and community. Congratulations, Dolores, and good luck next fall!



*Outside: scholarship committee members Casey Dugan and Dan Henneberry
Center: 1st annual recipient Dolores Palmieri*