



Community Newsletter

Congratulations, Graduates!

The Oak Grove Class of 2017 celebrated their graduation with a wonderful commencement ceremony on Thursday evening, June 1st, at Libertyville High School. In the presence of family, friends, and Oak Grove faculty and staff, this special 8th grade class enjoyed laughter, smiles and even a few tears.



The teaching faculty, PTO, and various community organizations presented numerous awards to many of the eighth graders. Stephen Richardson, an Oak Grove alumnus and LHS student, shared words of encouragement, wisdom and advice with the students as they prepare to transition into high school in August.



This year's eighth graders were a special class. Through unprecedented heartbreak and tragedy, they showed us adults how to remain positive, strong and compassionate. The circumstances our students dealt with this year helped them to form an unbreakable bond with each other. We thank them for being tremendous role models for the younger students at Oak Grove and for inspiring us each and every day. They will be missed.

Summer Music Video Camp

Under the direction of Dr. Jason Meltzer and Mr. Logan Farris, the first-ever summer school class for students at Oak Grove was a success! During the week of June 5th, the "Make Your Own Music Video" students worked in small groups recording and filming videos. In the end, they had created some fantastic professional-looking music videos.



Thanks to substantial funding provided by the Oak Grove School Educational Foundation, this first-ever class was a tremendous hit for our students. It was a wonderful team effort!

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Project Lead



Oak Grove staff, under the direction of 8th grade teacher, Kathy Mahoney, conducted a student leadership camp for incoming 8th graders during the week of June 12th. The first year of Project LEAD camp was fun and educational! The goal was to develop leadership skills with an emphasis on teamwork, problem solving and communication. Project LEAD conducted a field trip day to Main Street Libertyville, where eleven wonderful local business owners and entrepreneurs took time out of their day to talk to the children about their ideas, marketing, and financial strategies.



The end of the camp culminated with the students developing a business plan, and presenting it in front of a panel of experts. We were fortunate to have the State contest winners of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) from Wauconda High School act as mentors to the children as they wrote their plans. On Friday, our panel consisted of Dr. Sarah Cacciatore (OGS Director of Curriculum), Mrs. Kristin Dean and Kendra Dean (Serendipity Mrs. Pam Lockowitz (Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory), and Mr. Dan Wells (Elan Landscaping). The panel gave feedback and suggestions to the teams. It was a wonderful week full of amazing students and delightful Main Street entrepreneurs.



The opportunity for Project Lead was made possible by the philanthropy of an anonymous donor to the Oak Grove Educational Foundation. Without the donor's overwhelming generosity, the project would never have become a reality. The students send you their sincerest "thank you!"

Oak Grove Track & Field

Congratulations to the nine athletes who competed in the State Track and Field Meet in East Peoria on May 19th and 20th, 2017. Representing Oak Grove were 7th grade students Andrew Brooks, Reagan Kuypers, Christian Roberts, Joshua Sears, and Shane Wimmer as well as 8th grade students Claire Arnold, Jane Arnold, Faith Roberts, Lyann Tam and Samantha Skarbek.

Two of our athletes earned medals in their individual events. Christian Roberts earned 4th place overall in the hurdles, and Andrew Brooks earned 2nd place overall in the 800 meter run. Thank you for a great season...go Eagles!



OGS Sportsmanship

The eighth grade boys' basketball team demonstrated true sportsmanship and learned a wonderful life lesson in their last game of the season. Prior to their contest against Elm Place, OGS Coach Dave Izenstark and Elm Place coach John Whitehead, agreed to make the game special. The Elm Place team manager has Down's Syndrome and had never played in a game before.



During the 4th quarter, the young man entered the game with support from players on both teams. It was an exciting and emotional time for players, coaches and fans alike. It was a moment where the game was secondary, but the true purpose of athletics was on display.

Additionally, Coach Izenstark instructed Oak Grove's student manager, Nick Psimiras, to suit up for the 4th quarter. Nick has been a loyal and hard working "assistant coach" on the sideline, helping the team and coaches with every detail to help the games run smoothly. When he emerged from the locker room in full uniform for the 4th quarter, there was a huge roar from the team and parents. It was a great way to finish the season and reward Nick for all of his hard work.

OGEA Eagle Scholarship

The Oak Grove Education Association recently presented the second annual Oak Grove Eagle Scholarship, an award that was established to be given to an Oak Grove alumnus graduating from high school who demonstrates excellence in academics, character, extracurricular activities and service. The OGEA is comprised of educators who are committed to the success of all current and former students.

The 2017 recipient of Oak Grove's Eagle Scholarship has devoted her high school career to volunteering in our community, excelling in Varsity Track and Varsity Cross Country for four years and achieving academic excellence. The OGEA is proud of her commitment to her school and community. We offer our congratulations to **Audrey Paglia** (pictured with Oak Grove teachers Heather McCarty and Casey Dugan), and we wish her the best of luck as she enters this next phase in her academic career.



The Class of 2017 Presents...Peter Pan, Jr.!

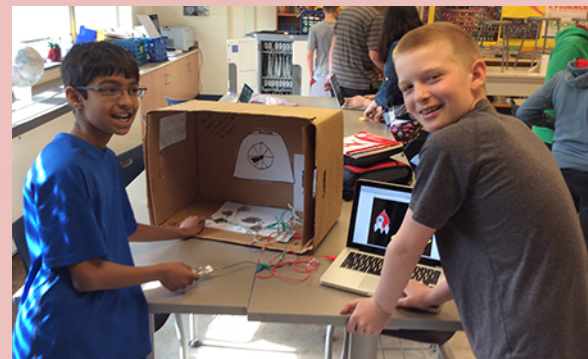
The 8th grade student body put on a series of amazing performances this year! Peter Pan, Jr. was a hit. We give our thanks to an incredible group of 8th grade students who impressed everyone with both their talent and perseverance. A huge round of applause also goes to stage director Mel Ludington, art director Erin Vance and music director Logan Farris. We appreciate your investment in our students, both on and off stage.

A production of this magnitude would not be possible without the help of many parent volunteers. While there are too many to thank here, we would like mention our sincere thanks to Carlene Lichter, Julie Kloser, Delynn Vang, Katie Griffith, all the party planners, Kathy and Brent Arnold, Jen and Mark Klainos, Liz Rose Fischer, Wendy Loffredo, Shellie Fahy, Amy Frantz and Shannon Schweiger.



Stellar Science Students!

This year, fifth grade science students learned to use the Scratch programming language along with Makey Makey, a 21st century invention kit that allows students to turn every day objects into touchpads. The students were familiarized with these tools while studying matter in March, and in April they created elaborate cyber “journeys to the stars.” Their peers enjoyed exploring the universe with these “puzzles” upon completion. These young scientists are BRIGHT!



Thank you to the Community

The Oak Grove faculty, staff, and most importantly – students - say “thank you” to the entire community for their support of our school system. We have much to be grateful, and proud of, at Oak Grove School.

We were named an “Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon School” for the first time ever last fall by the United States Department of Education. This takes the entire community’s support, for which we are grateful.



We have just completed our 5-year renovation of the building. It seems very odd to not have construction crews on site this summer for the first time in six years! Our building is a first-rate, world-class learning environment for our students. None of this would be possible without your continued support of Oak Grove. Thank you.



Congratulations to the OGSEF Soaring Eagle Scholarship Winners!

The Oak Grove School Education Foundation is honored to recognize **Evan Pinsel** and **Amanda Mudd** as the winners of the Soaring Eagle Scholarship. Thanks again to the strong support of the Oak Grove community, we were able to award two scholarships from an impressive field of applicants.

Evan Pinsel truly showcased his determination, patience, enthusiasm and grit in his application. He is clearly soaring in so many areas – academic, athletics, community work, and most of all, in character. Amanda Mudd demonstrated in her application how key character traits and values such as respect, hard work and personal responsibility can take you to new heights. She is a talented dancer and scientist, with a creative and curious spirit.

Congratulations to these exceptional young adults who truly represented the Oak Grove spirit throughout elementary, middle and high school. Best of luck on your future endeavors!



5th Grade Students Serve Others in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., OGS fifth grade students were inspired to serve our community recently. They collaborated in small groups and chose which organizations and/or parts of the community to help. With minimal support from parents and teachers, our fifth grade students served our community by participating in the following:

- donated books to Peggy Coleman’s “Little Free Library” in Mundelein
- created Valentines for Safe Haven of Lake County
- participated in Feed My Starving Children
- created a care package for Naval Officer Alberto Espinoza
- donated used sporting equipment to raise money for Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association (GLASA)
- collected various items and made homemade dog biscuits and blankets for Orphans of the Storm
- cleaned up Adler Park
- interacted with residents at the Libertyville Manor
- improved the environment at the Wilmot Woods Preserve



These service projects have motivated many of our fifth grade students to continue to serve others throughout the school year and hopefully for years to come. The teachers want to thank the parents who contributed to this successful program as well. We are so proud of our students who volunteered their time and participated by donating various items. As Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”



Student Council

The 2016-2017 school year was a busy one for the Oak Grove Student Council. Led by elected officers Jack Regan, Janie Arnold, Cate McCarty, Ella Schaffnit, and their sponsor, Mrs. Evans, the group set a fundraising goal. Their tireless work helped them exceed their goal! Throughout the year, the Student Council hosted two JH dances, collected over 100 toys for Toys for Tots, organized and ran school stores, hosted a Teacher Appreciation Week event, presented donations to local charities, and worked within our school to assist parents on conference days.

It is sad to say goodbye to our eighth grade group. They have worked for our school and community for three years, but we are excited to welcome new members next year, set new goals, and continue to work to help our school and community.

Spelling Bee

In January, Oak Grove held its annual spelling bee. The top 5 spellers from grades four through eight qualified to participate in the bee. Our winner was eighth grader Marilyn Yu and our runner-up was sixth grader Jack Shaw. Marilyn went on to win the regional bee in February. Her next step was the county bee at the College of Lake County. Marilyn finished the county bee in 8th place!



Oak Grove Congratulates Retirees

The conclusion of the 2016-17 school year brought to an end the careers of three fantastic educators. Lynda San, Lynne Williams, and Kathy MacKinnon retired in June. They served 17, 25, and 35 years, respectively, at Oak Grove, making a difference in the lives of each child they encountered.

Faculty, staff, friends, and even former students honored and celebrated with our retirees on May 19th. The Oak Grove School District congratulates them all. We extend a sincere "thank you" to these wonderful ladies for their dedicated service. You will be greatly missed. Enjoy retirement!



Kathy MacKinnon



Lynne Williams



Lynda San



Camp Invention

The week of June 12th brought an exciting new adventure for 121 Kindergarten through Sixth graders. Camp Invention gave Oak Grove students the opportunity to explore four Learning Modules, which allowed the students to exhibit their creative spirits. Teachers Lynn Klunder, Amy Flores, Lynn Koehler, and Matt Oesch led the modules. Students could participate in "Have a Blast," "Operation Keep Out," "Mission Space Maker," and "Duct Tape Billionaire."



Patti Tazzioli served as camp director and was assisted by Amy Loumeau. Miss Jenna Poladian offered students opportunities to explore creative games and the use of recyclable materials. In addition to the Oak Grove staff members, fourteen high school students acted as leadership interns throughout the week.

It was a fun and exciting week of building and blasting rockets, creating electrical circuits, exploring outer space, and creating a new invention to showcase for the other camp participants.



School Board Election

Members of the Oak Grove 68 School District elected/re-elected four members to the school board on Tuesday, April 4th. Incumbent, Mrs. Jennifer Manski, was reelected to her third, 4-year term. New members elected to the board are Krysia Ressler, Cathie DeMoon and Jon Baffico. Both Krysia and Cathie are graduates of Oak Grove and are excited to "give back" to their alma mater. Mr. Baffico is the Principal at St. Patrick Catholic High School in Chicago. Each of the elected school board members has children who attend Oak Grove. We thank them for volunteering their time to help us thrive as a school district!



Jon Baffico



Cathie DeMoon



Jennifer Manski



Krysia Ressler

2017 Variety Show



This year's Variety Show was a tremendous success due to the incredible talent of our 5th-8th graders. The show included over 30 different student-led acts, as well as a special performance by some of our teachers. The show was directed by OGS teacher and parent Heather McCarty as well as parents Mia Hughes, Susan Brooks, Keli Kuypers and Stacie Nevins. The amazing sound production was provided by Mass Audio, Inc. We hope you will join us next year on April 20th, 2018 for another great show hosted by our PTO featuring our talented students.



Members of the skit "Bring It"



2017 Variety Show participants

Oak Grove School District 68
1700 S. O'Plaine Road
Green Oaks, Illinois 60048

**GREAT NEWS FROM
OAK GROVE SCHOOL!!!**

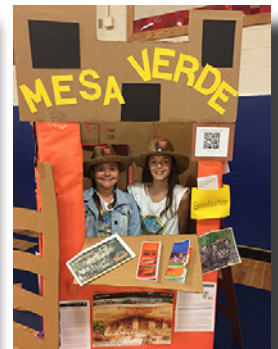
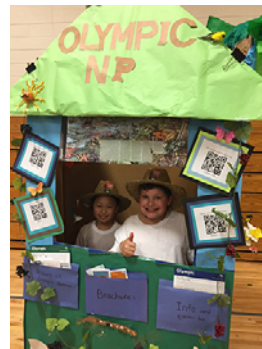
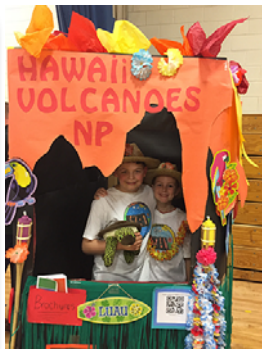
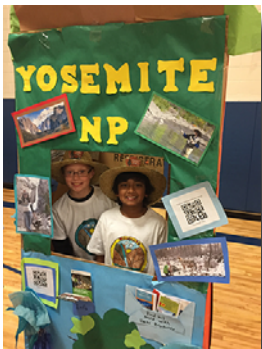
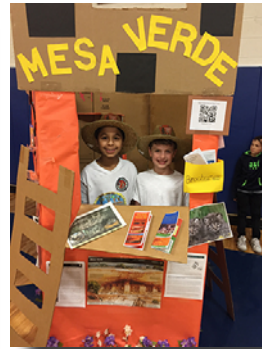
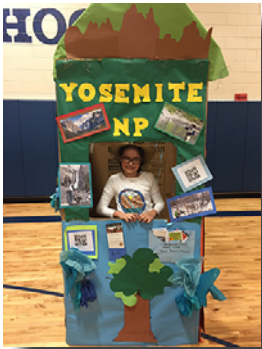


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Fourth Grade National Parks Project

Each year the 4th grade student body spends time learning all about our National Parks. Included in the many activities throughout this project is a chance for students to talk to, and ask questions of, Park Rangers via a Skype session. For open house, the students construct and occupy an information booth on their park. Below are a few pictures from this event. Great job, students!



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