



*"Where Students Come First"*

## Community Newsletter

### Oak Grove Receives High Marks!

Congratulations to the entire Oak Grove community! Chicago Agent magazine reported that Oak Grove has been ranked as the 4th best school district in the state and the 78th overall in the entire nation based upon rankings conducted by the website [niche.com](http://niche.com)

The Digest of Education Statistics reports that there are 13,588 school districts across the United States and 132,183 individual schools. Based upon these numbers, Oak Grove would rank in the top ½ of 1% nationwide! Be proud, Eagles! You can read the original article at <http://bit.ly/1KbFfl3>

### Oak Grove Educator Honored

On April 22nd, Oak Grove Technology Coach Allison Honaker was selected as an Apple Distinguished Educator for 2015, the highest honor that an educator can receive from Apple. Since 1994, only 2,000 educators worldwide have received this honor!



Allison was selected to travel to Apple headquarters in Cupertino two years ago after being nominated for training as a Foundation Instructor. She spent a week learning the latest educational uses for Apple devices in school classrooms. At the time, only 127 teachers in the entire United States had been selected for this honor. Since then, Allison has trained nearly every Oak Grove teacher in many of the applications. Without question, the combination of Allison's training and her subsequent training of staff has significantly contributed to the success of our K-5 iPad initiative. Through the efforts of Allison, the rest of the technology team, and our teaching staff, Oak Grove is a leader in the area of technology integration in the classroom.

The administration, faculty, and staff at Oak Grove are thrilled for Ms. Honaker. We congratulate her for this tremendous honor and achievement, and thank her for helping to make Oak Grove a special place for our learners each and every day.

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Andrew Fenton  
*K-8 Principal*

Michelle Jackson  
*Assistant Principal*

# Welcome New Administrators

Oak Grove would like to introduce Mr. Andrew Fenton, our new K-8 Principal. Mr. Fenton began his duties in July. He was selected from a large pool of candidates, and is excited about becoming a part of the Oak Grove team.



Mr. Fenton has served as the Assistant Principal for Twin Groves Middle School, in Buffalo Grove, a feeder school for Stevenson High School. Mr. Fenton has also served as an assistant principal and preschool director in Round Lake and a classroom teacher in Northbrook and Chicago. He brings a wealth of experience in all grade levels to Oak Grove.

Mr. Fenton shares the following: *“I am honored and excited to be joining Oak Grove School, and I can’t wait to meet and get to know the wonderful students, staff, and community that make Oak Grove School so special.”*

We would also like to introduce Mrs. Michelle Jackson to Oak Grove. Mrs. Jackson will be the new K-8 Assistant Principal starting in August. Mrs. Jackson is a University of Illinois graduate, where she was named as a Bronze Tablet recipient, the University’s highest academic honor, and

began her career as an elementary teacher in the Barrington school system. She taught at Grove Avenue School for eight years.

For the past two years, Mrs. Jackson has served as a Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA) at Beach Elementary in Round Lake Beach. In this position, Mrs. Jackson assisted the building principal, specifically in the Teaching & Learning Department, where she was responsible for organizing all building testing, assisting in building discipline, and facilitating much of the faculty professional development. Additionally, Mrs. Jackson coordinated the summer school program and served as a site supervisor.

*“I am honored and excited to be joining Oak Grove School...”*

*“I am extremely excited for the opportunity to become a part of the Oak Grove team. I am looking forward to working with the students, the staff, the families, and the community in order to continue to strive for excellence for all students,”* says Mrs. Jackson.



Please join us in welcoming our new administrators. We are excited to have them on board, and we look forward to a great school year!

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## Board Member Election

On April 7th, the Oak Grove community voted in three board members; incumbent vice president Lane Hasler and new members Amy Frantz and Tony Giamis. Thank you to our departing board members Harold Sargent and Tony Pirih for your years of service to Oak Grove School.

## Contract Negotiations

The Oak Grove Board of Education and the Oak Grove Education Association, IEA-NEA are proud to announce that they have agreed to terms on a new 5-year contract. A special thanks goes to the Board of Education members and Oak Grove staff responsible for negotiating this agreement!



# “Kiss That Cow”

## Reading Challenge

Students in grades K-4 were challenged to read 8,000 books during the winter. If they reached their goal, Ms. Waehner promised to kiss a cow. Our students responded by reading more than 13,000 books! Chik-fil-A joined the fun by providing each student with a free kids meal and prizes to the top readers in each grade level.



On the day of the event, Mrs. Kiefer sang, “Kiss the Cow,” to the tune of, “Let it Go.” Students, dressed in farm gear, cheered as Pretzel the cow was brought to us by Yarc Farms. Pretzel

tolerated being kissed by the top readers in each grade level (or their chosen teacher) and by Ms. Waehner.



The top readers were:

- K - Chase Fitzpatrick, 185 books
- 1 - Ana Chou, 174 books
- 2 - Gregory Blackford, 191 books
- 3 - Wonu Chou, Kate Anderson, 143 books
- 4 - Matthew Berner, 62 books

Congratulations to all Oak Grove readers for reaching their goal! Thanks to Chik-fil-A and all the teachers who helped make this reading incentive such a big success.

# “Read With Me”

## Program

Oak Grove 5th grade students participated in the “Read With Me” program with 3rd grade students at A.J.Katzenmaier School. The program is run through Lake County Cares, the premier volunteer service hub of Lake County. LCC is an active center that strengthens communities by operating essential outreach programs and facilitating daily connections between their volunteer corps and local agencies, municipalities, schools, businesses, civic groups, and religious organizations.



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The A.J. Katzenmaier students came to Oak Grove twice during the 2014-15 school year, and each student was paired up with an Oak Grove 5th grader. The students spent time talking and comparing likes and dislikes on a survey they had completed earlier. The students read a book, played a comprehension game, had a snack, and spent some time playing on the new elementary playground. The “Read With Me” program was an enjoyable experience for everyone involved!



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# Oak Grove Highlights

Oak Grove 7th grade students raised over \$1,600 for OPADS of Lake County and collected enough food to make and deliver over 400 lunches to the homeless as their service project this year!



Our 6th grade students collected donations prior to spending a morning at Feed My Starving Children where they filled 138 boxes with 29,808 meals, enough to feed 82 children for a year!

The 7th grade Math Team consisting of Nathan John, Kevin Stone, Jason Sekili, Kaitlyn Brown and Constance Zanze, placed second in their division. Nathan John placed 3rd individually at the Carmel Math Contest. Great job!



Mrs. Savage's P.E. classes helped set a new Guinness World Record in sport stacking as they joined 2,970 schools and other organizations in 35 countries in a day of fierce sport stacking!



The Oak Grove Student Council had a successful 2014-2015 school year. Led by President Maggie Evers and sponsored by Mrs. Ashley Evans, the group helped to raise money for the purchase of a new scoreboard for Oak Grove School. Additionally, the group helped our school participate in a food drive in which they collected 1,238 items that were donated to the C.O.O.L. Food Pantry in Waukegan. Throughout the year, Student Council members assisted various grade levels throughout the building, assisted teachers as requested, and provided support at large-scale school events. The goal of the Oak Grove Student Council is to help our school and our community at large.



## Reenactments Enhance 5th Grade History

The Oak Grove 5th grade class participated in enhanced U.S. History studies this year as they "stepped back" and lived the history of our ancestors. One frigid February morning, students were in classes focused on instruction as usual, when teachers, reenacting Revolutionary Generals, burst into classrooms calling "Minutemen Revolutionaries" into service. Student soldiers quickly donned coats, boots and hats, then strapped on bedrolls and shouldered their hockey stick "muskets." As they stepped into the schoolyard, they were transported to December 1777 Valley Forge. They were drilled in various maneuvers all day. They ate a "mess" lunch of rolls, salami, raw apples, potatoes and carrots, and wrote poignant letters home to loved ones recounting their patriotic devotion.



In April, while students were studying the American Civil War, they sewed their own kepi style hat for the army of their choice and made a haversack to carry personal items like tin plate and cup. In June, Civil War re-enactors came to Oak Grove to give various presentations where students learned about surgeons, artillery, and civilian life in the 1860's. At the end of the day, students gathered to listen to a presentation from President and Mrs. Lincoln. These immersive activities helped bring history to life and will undoubtedly have a lasting impression on our students. We are proud to have such wonderful teachers that go above and beyond to enrich the education our students receive!





# Oak Grove Sports

## Cross Country

Cross Country is a great way for students to challenge themselves. This Fall, all students in grades 5-8 were invited to participate in Cross Country. Dozens of students joined the team, and steadily improved their time technique at away meets and on the track that winds through the property behind Oak Grove.



The fifth and sixth grade girls took 1st place at the Libertyville High School Invite halfway through the season. Sixth grade students Lyann Tam, Faith Roberts, Claire Arnold and Jane Arnold happily accepted their trophy at the award ceremony. The fifth and sixth grade boys came in second place, losing to Hawthorne South by only 14 points. Sixth grade student Sam Kallas was less than one second away from coming in 1st place. At Conference, the boys varsity runners came in third place. Eighth graders Max Sauers and Max Wood both received individual medals for their two-mile times.



## Golf

The Oak Grove golf team took first place as a team and the Lakeside tournament. Carson Darnall (1st) Nick Obourn (2nd) and Ryan Considine (3rd) as individuals.



## Wrestling

There was a lot of exciting wrestling this year! In DeKalb, at the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) wrestling State Finals, 10 wrestlers from our Sectional received All-State honors! Brandon Murphy and Charlie Foltz both had well-wrestled first matches... we are extremely proud of them! Meanwhile in Rockford, Danny Pucino placed 4th in the Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation (IKWF) State Finals. He is the first Oak Grove wrestler to earn All-State honors in the IKWF tournament. Congratulations to all our wrestlers for a fantastic season!



## Engineering For Kids® Partners with Oak Grove

This year, Engineering For Kids® launched after-school programs for K-8 students at Oak Grove School. Students explored Mechanical Engineering in the Fall/Winter session and Aerospace Engineering in the Spring session. We were thrilled to have over 80 students participate in the various classes!

In the Aerospace Engineering class, students explored the science involved in aerospace engineering while building cool projects such as rockets, hot air balloons, parachutes, and other fun flying creations. In Mechanical Engineering, students used the engineering design process to design, create, test, and improve a variety of machines and mechanical systems including roller

coasters, catapults, and air powered dragsters. The students learned a great deal and had a fantastic time! Engineering For Kids® look forward to partnering with Oak Grove School during the upcoming school year.

Engineering for Kids® brings Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) to children fun and challenging ways through after-school classes, in-school field trips, workshops, and camps. You can learn more at [www.engineeringforkids.com](http://www.engineeringforkids.com).

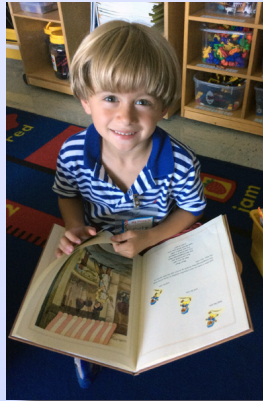




# Kindergarten Highlights

## Daily 5 and Cafe Reading

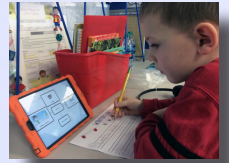
All Kindergarten classes have implemented the early literacy programs “Daily 5” and “Cafe” and our students LOVE them! The Daily 5 literacy activities are based on student choice, covering Read to Someone, Read to Self, Listen to Reading, Work on Writing, and Word Work. The Cafe skills include comprehension, accuracy, fluency and extended vocabulary. By making their own choices on what to work on and in what order to enjoy each activity, students demonstrate an invested understanding in their reading and writing development. The Daily 5 provides a way for teachers to structure literacy time to increase student independence and allow for individualized attention in small groups and one-on-one. The Oak Grove School Education Foundation provided a grant for Kindergarten teachers to attend training by the authors of these wonderful programs, Gail Boushey and Joan Moser.



## Technology

Our youngest students have shown their ease in using iPad minis as they keep track of literacy activities and while they enjoy

reading books for Daily 5 literacy. They also learned to create “Popplet” graphic organizers that assist in their understanding of learning. “Book Creator” was a favorite of Kindergarten students. The program was used to demonstrate knowledge of letter sounds in phonics, to make their own books, and to create an end-of-the-year digital portfolio, which displays student projects and photos created throughout the school year. Each student keeps the collection of their work on their own iPad, creating their personal portfolio.



## Annual Farm Field Trip

Green Meadows Farm in Waterford, WI is one of the biggest highlights in kindergarten. After studying a unit on the farm, students enjoyed a hands-on children’s farm where they milked a cow and held small animals like chickens, ducklings, puppies, and kittens. They also rode a pony and enjoyed a hayride, among many other fun farm activities.



# Olympic Day Field Fun!

The thrill of victory.....the agony of defeat!” For those of you old enough, remember the introduction of Wide World of Sports on ABC? It was a staple of Saturday afternoon sports for many years.



We had a GREAT Olympic/Field day on the last Friday morning

at Oak Grove! Every student and faculty member participated in a great morning of fun activities. This was the only activity throughout the year that involved

the entire student body at one time. It was fantastic to watch the junior high students encourage our younger students. They were great “buddies.”



This wonderful event could not have taken place if we hadn’t had two spectacular organizers: Dana Huennekens and Susan Gilbert. These ladies worked countless hours preparing for the day. Additionally, we had over 100 parent volunteers “running” the events. It was a total team effort. Thank you to everyone involved!





## Honors Society

The Oak Grove Honors Society is proud to have inducted 22 new members on June 3rd. These 7th graders have demonstrated exemplary character and academic excellence. As 8th graders the members will select service projects to improve our school and community. Congratulations to the following students: Kaitlyn Brown, Sammi Burkett, Helen Clifford, A.J. Frantz, Emma Gleason, Anna Heard, Maggie Hutchins, Kavi Jalota, Autumn Jermakowicz, Nathan John, Tyler Jurczyk, Jessica Li, Sara Manian, Hope Moody, Rebecca Rockenbach, James Schmidt, Jason Sekili, Kevin Stone, Victoria Villanueva-Guzman, Maddie Weaver, Colleen Welch and Constance Zanze.



## Teachers Present at National Conference

In November 2014, Oak Grove teachers Maria Luce and Alyssa Osterman presented at the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) conference in Baltimore. Their session was about their 20% project which gives students the opportunity to explore a self-selected research topic. In November 2015, they will again be presenting at the NAGC conference, this time in Phoenix. Their 2015 session will demonstrate ways to create classroom book clubs based on thematic novel units. Generous funding from the Oak Grove PTO and OGS Education Foundation is making it possible for the teachers to attend and present at the 2015 NAGC conference.

## Thank you, Mrs. Sorensen!

Mrs. Marie Sorensen retired at the end of the 2014-15 school year. We congratulate and thank her for the many wonderful years of service to the students at Oak Grove. We will miss her in 2nd grade, but wish her well as she enters her retirement years!



## Class of 2015 Donates Bench

The recently graduated Oak Grove Class of 2015 donated a bench to the school. Special thanks to Mrs. Formica for spearheading the project and especially to Mr. Kirk Townander who built the bench from scratch. It will be a lasting testament to the Class of 2015 for years to come!



## 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 summer classroom renovations continue and upon completion, the entire facility will be air-conditioned!

Mr. Ozzie Suarez, our Director of Maintenance, has captured video of the project each week. Please visit [www.ogschool.org](http://www.ogschool.org) and click on the weekly videos to get a brief overview of how the project has proceeded this summer!

Oak Grove School District 68  
1700 S. O'Plaine Road  
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## **OAK GROVE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2015-2016**

### **August**

- 21 Teachers Institute Day – No School
- 24 Teachers Institute Day – No School
- 25 Full Day for All Students

### **September**

- 7 Labor Day – No School
- 18 SIP – 1:00 p.m. Student Dismissal

### **October**

- 9 Teacher Institute Day – No School
- 12 Columbus Day – No School

### **November**

- 23-24 Parent Teacher Conferences – No School
- 25-27 Thanksgiving Recess – No School

### **December**

- 21 Winter Break Begins – No School

### **January**

- 4 School Resumes
- 18 Martin Luther King Day – No School

### **February**

- 12 SIP - 1:00 p.m. Student Dismissal
- 15 Presidents Day – No School

### **March**

- 10 Parent Teacher Conferences – No School
- 11 Teacher Institute Day – No School
- 21-25 Spring Break – No School

### **April**

- 15 SIP Day – 1:00 p.m. Student Dismissal

### **May**

- 20 SIP Day – 11:30 a.m. Dismissal
- 30 Memorial Day – No School

### **June**

- 2 Last day of school (Full day, all students)
- 3-9 Emergency Days if Needed

[www.ogschool.org](http://www.ogschool.org)



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