

“Our Children ... Our Hope ... Our Future”

Field Trips Bring our Classroom Learning to Life

Ask a graduating 6th grader what their favorite memory of OPS is and chances are you will hear about a special field trip they went on. While field trips are about making memories as a classroom community, they are also about connecting the learning that occurs in the classroom with the real world outside the classroom. So, whether students are visiting a farm, a zoo, a museum or just taking a walk outside, there is a purpose - a belief that the field trip will deepen learning. This fall, our students in fourth, fifth and sixth grade participated in some very exciting field trips. Our 6th graders



students participate in fishing, pond study, hikes which provide an opportunity to recognize different tree classifications, orienteering lessons and nature survival training. This year was made even more memorable by over a foot of snow during the trip! Students visited a December Board of Education meeting to share their

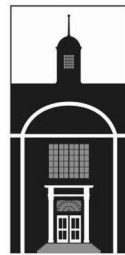
experiences with the Board and to thank them for continuing to support such a worthwhile educational experience.



journeyed to Camp Bernie to participate in team building exercises that help them see the importance of communication and supporting their peers. Whether zip-lining or rock wall climbing, students learned to take a risk because their classmates were there to support them and cheer them up. Our fourth graders traveled

to Sandy Hook as part of their science study of New Jersey habitats. Their book learning was brought to life as they collected through seining and other methods specimens in both the beach and saltwater marsh habitats. They then learned to identify the organisms collected and understand their purpose in the ecosystem.

Probably, the most memorable OPS trip of all is the annual fifth grade overnight excursion to Sharpe Reservation. During the trip,



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350 Prospect Avenue
Oradell, New Jersey 07649

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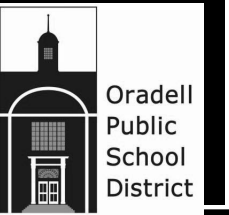
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ORADELL: Eye on OPS

Winter 2019



Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Community Members:

Happy New Year! As we head into 2019 I'd like to share some updates about key accomplishments, current events and upcoming news in the Oradell Public School. Please accept my sincerest appreciation for the support you have already afforded the students, faculty and administration during the first half of this school year.

Successful organizations, teams, schools, and individuals have many similar attributes. Focus, determination, commitment, talent and effective resource allocation are among them. However, unless we are goal driven and results oriented, no level of talent or resources will help us achieve our mission. That is, making sure that all OPS students acquire the knowledge and skills outlined by our curriculum and standards at the very highest levels possible. Everything that we do must be about teaching and learning. We must always ask, "How does this effort/initiative, etc. help students learn?" If the initiative or activity does not contribute to the academic and behavioral learning of our students, then we must reconsider why we are spending time and money on it.

Over the course of last winter and spring I met with a number of stakeholders as part of our Strategic Planning effort, in order to determine areas of focus. A number of common themes emerged, such as coherent curriculum, instruction, assessment, social and emotional learning, parent involvement, facilities, focused professional learning, and bolstering the support for student's individual learning needs. The School's Administrative Team then worked over the summer to develop a list of action steps to achieve each of the primary goals. Our NJ-SBA Rep. Matt Lee then met with the Board during the fall to present the Strategic Plan that will guide our school district for the next three to five years. Although we're still polishing the final version of the Strategic Plan, a draft version is available on our website at the following link: <http://www.oradellschool.org/osnj/News1/Strategic%20Planning/>. The ultimate objective is that all Oradell Public School students achieve at high levels. By selecting several high yield strategies that concentrate our efforts on achieving our goals we will increase our opportunities for success. The faculty and administration look forward to working with the Board of Education, parents and community to make our school the exemplar for education that all others look to as a model of excellence.

Finally, budget development is exciting because we have the opportunity to plan the next school year for our students. The budget is a financial statement of our values and beliefs about educating our students. On February 27, 2019 we will present the preliminary budget at the Board of Education Meeting, and invite public input. The preliminary adoption of the budget will be scheduled in March, and we will hold a Public Hearing and Budget Adoption on April 24, 2019. As additional information about State Aid becomes available we will continue to post important dates and other budget on our District Website.

Sincerely,
John C. Anzul, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Did You Know...?

•OPS continues to foster an environment where students are given the opportunity to learn the impact they can make through service. The students "can do" attitude was demonstrated during November's Turkey Trot, where 3171 items of food were collected and donated to the Center For Food Action. Collectively their actions made a difference.

•In December, our Student Government led their annual change drive. Students across the school were encouraged to do extra chores around the house to raise funds to donate. The funds went to buying gifts for thirteen students through the Frosty's Friends program. Once the gifts were purchased, students saw the project through completion and wrapped the gifts.

•This year, our fourth grade students participated in a special "Robotics Day" where students had the opportunity to operate and program Sphero robots, experience virtual reality using VR headsets, and explore augmented reality using Merge Cubes.

•This year's "Wear a Pair, Share a Pair Pajama Day" collected 350 pairs of pajamas that will be donated to the New Jersey Pajama Program. The Pajama Program donates pajamas and books to children in shelters and foster care programs.

•Did you know that you can keep up to date with the OPS happenings and stay current with OPS postings on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. You can also have access to all of these social media applications and submit your child's absence with the single press of a button by downloading the Oradell Public School app available in the iTunes and Google Play Store.

•It's Stock Market time in 6th grade. Each year, our 6th graders work collaboratively in teams to participate in the Stock Market Game, an online simulation of the global capital markets that engages students in developing an understanding of economics, investing and personal finance.

Couldn't attend the Board Meeting?



Log onto the
District Website @
oradellschool.org
and under the Board of
Education Tab
go to
Board Meeting Recordings

Board of Education – Reorganization & Student Presentation

The Oradell Board of Education held its annual reorganization meeting on January 7th. Returning and new Board members Robin Levy and Greg Derian were sworn into office by Board Secretary Nicole Schoening. Dorothy Watson-Nichols was re-elected to the position of Board President, and Greg Derian was elected as Vice President.



The Board of Education for 2019 is:

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Dorothy Watson-Nichols (2019)
Vice President
Gregory Derian (2021)

Members

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Robin Levy (2021)
Katherine Norian (2021)
Nancy Shapiro (2020)
Rita Walker (2020)
John Walsh (2019)
Dr. Eugene Westlake (2019)
Business Administrator/ Board Secretary
Nicole C. Schoening
Superintendent
Dr. John C. Anzul



Using Books and Technology to Develop Global Relationships

This year, fourth grade students in Mrs. Romer's and Mrs. O'Keeffe's classes participated in an exciting literacy initiative entitled *The Global Read Aloud*. Some of those fourth graders presented what they have been doing at the January 22nd board meeting. *The Global Read Aloud* was created in 2010 to allow for one book to connect the world. Now, over four million students from all of the world read the same book and are given opportunities to connect with other schools. The program states, "Global collaboration is necessary to show students that they are part of something bigger than them."

Oradell Public School students spoke with a class in Calgary, Alberta, Canada about their shared chosen book, *Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed. They discussed their thoughts on the book and learned about their respective areas of the world. OPS students were excited to hear that kids in Calgary go out for recess even when it freezing! Thank you to Mrs. Romer and Mrs. O'Keeffe for bringing this exciting way for students to interact with texts and their larger world to Oradell! For more information on *The Global Read Aloud*, please visit: <https://theglobalreadaloud.com/>.



Oradell is Made Better Because...

Oradell Public School is made better because of the many organizations that continue to support it. This year, the Oradell-Emerson Rotary joined with the Oradell PTA to



once again bring the Wizards back for an exciting night of basketball against the OPS All-Stars. The proceeds from the game will go toward the future renovation of the OPS Auditorium.

Additionally, both the Oradell Kids Foundation and the Oradell PTA once again provided mini-grants to staff members. Their contributions to OPS this year total \$13,355.47. Some of the exciting programs being brought to OPS as a result of these generous donations include:

- John Marshall's "Weather Tour" --- correlating to the science instruction in the classroom, students became weather forecasters learning how to predict the weather and conduct and televise a weather forecast.
- Ways of the Lenape --- students explored the Lenape culture and costumes, including the tools, clothing, toys, games, medicine and music of the Lenape people.



Teacher of the Year Rosemarie Cataldo

Congratulations to Rosemarie Cataldo, she is OPS's Teacher of the Year. For the past seven years, Mrs. Cataldo has been teaching 4th thru 6th graders and her passion for her students is hard to go unnoticed. Parents in nominating her for the award said: "She will always be the teacher of the year in our hearts and we will be eternally grateful for what she has done." "Mrs. Cataldo embodies what a great teacher should be". As Mrs. Cataldo puts it "one of her goals (as a teacher) is to be a life-long learner with her students." Mrs. Cataldo truly sees the staff and administration at OPS as her extended family. "There is always somebody to go to for support and bounce new ideas, always feeling supported and encouraged." And OPS acknowledges that she too is considered an honored member of the OPS family.



SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

Michelangelo, the Italian Renaissance artist, poet and sculptor, was quoted at 87 years old saying, "I'm still learning." Our teachers embrace the same philosophy. Each is still learning, still honing their craft, to bring the very best to the children of OPS. Ongoing professional development through the use of experts in the field and experts in our school continues to be a part of the fabric of the Oradell Public School professional culture.

Currently, staff are striving to improve their practice in implementing a balanced literacy approach, technology integration, differentiation for all learning during mathematics instruction and addressing the social and emotional needs of learners.



Providing Differentiated Mathematics Instruction

Teachers from grades 1-5 have been working with math education expert Denis Sheerhan to demonstrate and improve their math instruction with a focus on meeting the needs of each individual student learner. An important part of their work is observing each other teach while offering ideas and feedback.



Words, words, words!

Pam Koutrakos, our literacy consultant from Gravity Goldberg, has been working with second and third grade teachers on incorporating vocabulary and spelling in engaging ways. As a part of her hands on coaching, she models lessons for teachers that they can utilize in their classroom.

Implementing the Foundations Resource

We launched our new word study/phonics resource, Foundations, this year in Kindergarten and first grade. Teachers in those grade levels have been engaged in numerous coaching and professional development sessions with our consultant from Wilson Language. Along with the consultant modeling lessons in classrooms, teachers have also engaged in coaching cycles where the consultant observes their instruction and provides direct feedback.



Reading: It happens everywhere . . . even in the Art Studio!

During our January 21st Professional Development day, teachers across the school worked with Laura Sarsten, a consultant from Gravity Goldberg, on how important it is to teach reading in all subject areas. They also discussed how to engage students at all levels in discovery-based classroom projects.



While we do bring in experts in the field to help our teachers continue to receive high quality professional development, we are also fortunate to have so many talented staff members with strengths that they willingly share with their colleagues. Recently, staff members facilitated workshops on using iPads effectively in the primary classroom, dealing with behaviors proactively and imbedding mindfulness into the classroom.

SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

Congratulations to 6th Grader Brady He for winning our 2019 school OPS Geography Bee. As a representative of the school, Brady then took the online written test with hopes of qualifying for the state bee. Brady is pictured with his 6th grade teachers, Mrs. Amy Kennedy and Ms. Gina Stross.



Congratulations to 5th grader Gianna Pantano for winning the 2019 Junior Women's club Tri-Community Spelling Bee. Gianna, pictured here with her teachers Mrs. Nikki Hendricks and Ms. Jennifer Powers, joined nine other OPS students (each a homeroom champion) and 42 students total representing Oradell, River Edge and New Milford competing at this year's bee.

