



Community Newsletter

Message from the Superintendent

Hello! We hope you will enjoy reading about some of the great activities and accomplishments of our faculty and staff. We have experienced a wonderful school year thus far. Our students and staff are the absolute best you would ever want to meet. This compilation is but a small sample

of the great happenings that occur at Oak Grove on a daily basis. Please enjoy the newsletter. As always, you are welcome to come visit. We are, in fact, your school.



*Dr. Lonny Lemon,
Superintendent*

Student Enrollment Increases

Oak Grove's student enrollment is on the rise! We are happy to report that our student population has grown over the past five years. Using October 1st as a guideline, Oak Grove had 807 students in 2013 and 914 in 2017. Since the start of the school year, we have added eight more students and currently have 922 students enrolled. Despite a prolonged period of time where we had Kindergarten classes of 65-70 and graduating classes of 115-120, our overall enrollment stayed level, or slightly increased due to new students coming to the District in other grade levels. For example, in one year we gained 22 fifth graders!

There are many factors contributing to our success and the desire for new families to want to be a part of the Oak Grove family. We have great teachers, a wonderful facility, very supportive parents, and our test scores are among the very best in the state. These factors also contributed to us being named a "National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence" in 2016 by the United States Department of Education. Another very important factor is the support of our wonderful community. We understand that 70% of the families living in our district do not have school-age children, but continue to support Oak Grove financially and academically, allowing us to be the great school we are - thank you!

7th Grade Girls Volleyball

They did it! Undefeated season! Conference Tournament Champions!! Congratulations to Coach Izenstark and the 7th grade girls volleyball team on a great season!



8th Grade Girls Basketball

The 8th grade girls finished the season 11-1 and first place conference tournament champions with a 40-12 win over Lake Bluff! Congratulations to Coach Kurtz and the entire team!



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Oak Grove Board Undertakes Strategic Planning

The Board of Education decided to undertake a process to update and renew the District's strategic plan. Starting in October of 2017, a committee comprised of 35 parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and board members met four times to review and revise the current plan. The process was led by Dr. Joe Porto, a former school superintendent, and was based on the theme, "Good to Great."

Considerable time was spent on the process, and the board is finalizing the goals and objectives coming out of the committee's work. The Oak Grove administration and board cannot thank the committee members enough for their efforts. Once the plan is finished and formalized it will be shared on all district communications. A new mission statement was also created: "The mission of Oak Grove School is to ignite a passion for learning in pursuit of excellence." The board plans to have the finished product by the end of February.

Oak Grove Custodians Receive State Recognition

We are excited to announce that our custodial staff has won a "Those Who Excel" award, sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education. This is the highest honor a school employee can earn. It was an extensive application process, requiring forms be completed and letters of recommendation written by administrators, teaching faculty, parents, and community members. As an entire faculty and staff we recognize the hard work they have been asked to perform over the past five years of our renovation and wanted them to be the first group to be nominated.



The team was recognized at a banquet in Bloomington-Normal on October 28, 2017. We are proud of Building & Grounds director Oswaldo Suarez and his entire team!

Building Security

As part of the District renovation projects, major security upgrades have been made inside and outside of the building. Dozens of security cameras have been installed on our campus, and the monitoring and archiving systems have been upgraded. In conjunction with local law enforcement and fire department officials, the District has also developed a new crisis manual and procedures. We appreciate everyone's willingness to help us as we attempt to make our school and facility as safe as possible. Student safety is our top concern and we will continue to review our plans and train our staff with the support of local law enforcement.



New security cameras and monitoring station

Senator McConchie Visits Oak Grove

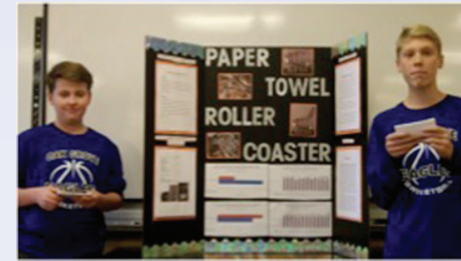
Oak Grove welcomed Illinois State Senator Dan McConchie to our school on October 30, 2017. Senator McConchie is a Republican who represents the 26th Senate district of Illinois. The senator toured the entire building, visited numerous classrooms, and also read to some of our students!



From left to right: Principal Andrew Fenton, Senator Dan McConchie, Superintendent Lonny Lemon

7th Grade STEM Expo

From designing a trebuchet to making a water wheel prototype, the 7th grade students showed off their STEM projects at the Annual Science STEM Expo Friday, November 17th. Over 100 parents, siblings, and extended family members enjoyed looking at all of



the exhibits and were amazed by the complex problems the students set out to design solutions for. The students summarized their

designs for the parents and proudly answered questions about the projects they worked on for over eight weeks. They later boasted how important and appreciated the audience of parents made them feel about the work they did while building their two prototypes. Mrs. Edelson and Mrs. Flinger also attended with their classes and asked the student engineers some great questions.

The STEM project requires the students to use a computer sketching program to design two prototypes, build them, redesign them, and devise a test for each one. The students collect both qualitative and quantitative

data and publish the results in a final paper and an oral presentation. The engineering process is a skill required in the Next Generation Science Standards adopted by Illinois and one that has been added to Oak Grove Schools science curriculum in recent years. Learning the engineering process along with the traditional scientific method enhances the students scientific inquiry, computer graphing skills, analysis, research skills, and helps prepare them for future engineering jobs.



Some of the most popular projects were the jelly bean and toothpick towers, solar cars and boats, roller coasters, potato launchers, and walking bugs. Oak Grove is very proud of the work the students put in to making their prototypes. We also appreciate the amazing support from



the parents that together made this year another successful STEM Expo!

Bike Desks



The Oak Grove PTO recently purchased 10 bike desks to be used during Miss Kurtz's Health classes. The goal of replacing traditional desks with the bike desks is to create a kinesthetic classroom where students can learn while being able to move. This can help students get some physical activity while in the classroom as well as helping with student focus and concentration. In addition to the bike desks, the 8th graders also use FitBits during their nine-week health rotation. The FitBits are used to monitor student's level physical activity, sleep patterns and food intake.



Les Mis in Four Minutes!!

The Tech team paired up with Madame Grambo's 8th grade French students to pilot a stop motion animation project based on the musical "Les Misérables". The French students wrapped up unit on the French Revolution by watching Les Mis in class and recreating the scenes using new vocabulary and new stop motion technology! The students were interviewed after the project and indicated that they loved it. The majority of the students claimed that using vocabulary in a new and creative way was the best part. They thoroughly enjoyed the project and Madame Grambo plans to keep it in her curriculum! The result is a blend of key scenes, taken from different classes and students, from Les Mis! Use the QR code to watch it, or go to www.ogschool.org/lesmis.



Oak Grove PTO

The Oak Grove PTO is an organization that combines the efforts of parents, teachers and the residents of the community to academically and socially foster a closer relationship between the home and the school. We do so with a number of fundraisers and programs throughout the year. Our volunteers plan events and programs such as Book Fairs, Fine Arts Day, K-8 Social nights, Ice cream socials, the Variety Show, New Family Welcome event, Staff Appreciation Meals, Daddy Daughter Dance, Mother Son Night Out, Field Day, Various Programs and Speakers, Snowflake, 5th Grade Father/Son Night, 5th Grade Mother/Daughter Tea, Red Ribbon Week, and the Candy Cane Lane/Holiday Halls/Pancake Breakfast event.



We provide goods and services such as the School Directory & Calendar, PTO Lunches and recycling, Spirit Wear and Fannie Mae Candy Sales.

A few highlights from the 2017 - 2018 school year so far include the Family Fest, Candy Cane Lane/Holiday Halls/Pancake Breakfast event. The Family Fest is held in August and kicks off the year. Last August, over 500 people attended and enjoyed a DJ, inflatables, crafts and a host of activities for all age groups. The Teacher Dunk Tank, Soda Ring Toss and Cupcake Walk were extremely popular as families enjoyed a fun way to support the PTO.

The OGS halls were bustling Saturday, December 2nd for our 6th annual Holiday Halls, Candy Cane Lane and Pancake Breakfast. Our volunteers transformed the gym into a shopping wonderland yet again. It was so fun to see the children dressed in their holiday best while shopping with their personal shopper elves. Our amazing chefs treated our Oak Grove families to the best Pancake Breakfast ever! You could



smell bacon all the way down the holiday halls. Our incredibly talented vendors drew crowds down and around the Jr. High halls with new and repeat vendors, better than ever before! And none of this would have been as festive without Mr. Farris and our amazing OGS Choir. The talent really does run deep at Oak Grove School! Events like these wouldn't be possible without the support of our students, staff, parents and community.



Over the past year, funds raised at events sponsored by the PTO have been used in a variety of ways. Some purchases include:

- new guitars for the 6th grade music classes
- new wrestling mats for our amazing wrestlers
- tubas for our talented band
- a shelter canopy for Cross Country and other outdoor sporting events
- alternate seating for the 5th grade class
- a TV for the elementary hallway that displays media from the arts and technology programs
- bike desks (see previous page)
- books for the popular "Battle of the Books"
- solar eclipse glasses

The PTO has made it possible for speakers and authors such as Erin Meryn to come talk to our students and parents. The PTO also gives \$10,000 each year to the Oak Grove teachers to use on supplies and other educational expenses.

None of these purchases, programs and activities would be possible without all of our volunteer and community support. There are many ways for OGS families and the community to get involved with opportunities for all levels of commitment. Please contact the PTO at pto@ogschool.org for more information or questions.



Oak Grove Renovations Highlighted at State Conference

Each year a major state conference for school board members and central office administrators is held in downtown Chicago. The "Triple I" conference is sponsored by the Illinois School Board Association (IASB), the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA), and the Illinois Association of School Business Officials (IASBO). It is the largest conference of its kind in the entire nation. Typically, over 12,000 people attend the conference. Over the course of three days, hundreds of educational sessions are made available to the board members. They cover nearly every topic that school districts encounter as they conduct business.

On November 18, 2017, architect Peter Graves, Business Manager Dr. Kurt Valentin, Superintendent Dr. Lonny Lemon, and Pepper Construction representative, Jay Ripsky, presented a workshop detailing the planning,

completion, and financing of our 5-year building renovation. The workshop was entitled, "Renovating Older Buildings-A Blueprint for Success." The District had to submit a detailed proposal to Triple I officials last year. It was evaluated and deemed worthy to be one of the panel sessions at this year's conference.

The Oak Grove team expected 25-30 persons to attend, but were ecstatic when approximately 100 people from all over the state of Illinois showed up for their session. It was a proud moment for our school and our community. Again, "thank you" for all that you did to make our renovation project a reality!



Spelling Bee

Congratulations to our 2018 Spelling Bee winner, 7th grader Matthew Berner and runner-up 6th grader Vanessa Zhang! With words like "laborious", "mimicking", "cavel", and "putrefaction" under their belts, the randomized word list popped up "cello" for our winning word! Matthew's next stop is the regional bee in February where he will take on other school bee winners. Good luck to Matthew!



Matthew Berner and Vanessa Zhang

Congratulations to all the spellers who participated in the bee!



Standards-Based Grading

We are in the middle of our second year implementing standards based grading (SBG) in grades kindergarten through 5th grade. Also we have been extending our understanding of SBG to the middle grades with a Year of Learning. Having a 'Year of Learning' allows teachers to continue to use their traditional grading practices for grades 6-8 while taking the time to learn more about the value and implementation of the standards based system. In addition, we have formed a Middle School Standards Based Committee to gain an even deeper understanding of SBG and to help provide feedback related to implementation in future years.

Our purpose in grading is to ensure that parents receive the most accurate information regarding their children's achievement and we are continuously striving to meet that goal.



Geography Bee

On January 18, 2018 Oak Grove was the scene for the most competitive Geography Bee in recent history. After an unprecedented 15 question tie-breaker, 8th grader Ramanan Srirajan was crowned the champion and 8th grader Nikhil Patel the runner-up. The future is bright for Oak Grove Geographers...finishing in third place was 4th grader Shriteja Patil! Two other 4th graders, Nyl Wagh and Nicholas Farmakis reached the final round of competition.



We are proud of all the contestants: 8th graders Shri Patil and Devashish Khatavkar, 7th graders Matthew Berner, Prajna Penmetsa and Paige Regan, 6th graders Marisa Tarica, Anna Dawson, Tarun Movva, Sashu Senthilkumar, 5th grader Hasan Suglatwala, 4th graders Maaz Suglatwala, Shrinidhi Satya Vadanabhatla, Shagun Poonia, Roohee Patil and Vaidehi Khatavkar.



Ramanan Srirajan (right) and Nikhil Patel (left)

Oak Grove Cross Country

Oak Grove Cross Country has a long history of excellence at the IESA Cross Country State Finals. In 2008, 6th grader Max Roberts came in 79th at State with a 12:08 2-mile. In 2009, the girls team placed 12th at State, and 7th grader Max Roberts came in 25th with an 11:31 2-mile. In 2010, the boys team placed 17th at State, and the girls team placed 12th at State. 8th Grader Max Roberts came in 3rd place with a 10:54 2-mile. In 2011, the boys team placed 12th at State, and the girls team placed 21st at State. In 2012, the boys team placed 12th at State. 7th grader Austin Becker came in 57th with an 11:49 2-mile, and 7th grader Alex Tam came in 25th with an 11:17 2-mile. In 2013, 8th grader Austin Becker came in 26th with an 11:11 2-mile, and 8th grader Alex Tam came in 7th at State with an 11:02 2-mile. In 2014, 8th grader Max Sauers came in 84th at State with an 11:44 2-mile. In 2015, 8th grader Emmet Burke came in 103rd at State with an 11:55 2-mile. In 2016, the boys team placed 14th at State.

On October 7, 2017, 8th graders Andrew Brooks, Ali Faiz, Brenden Max, Dylan McCarty, Caelan Riley, Shane Wimmer and 7th grader Ian Burke competed at the Sectional Meet at Millburn Middle School. It was a fight for first, but the boys took 2nd to a Millburn win. Finishing 2nd, however, resulted in an automatic advance to the State meet in Bloomington-Normal on October

14. At the State meet, they ran their final 2-mile race against 26 other teams and dozens of individual male qualifiers. The rain held off long enough for the Oak Grove boys team to run their best race. Brenden Max came in first out of the seven with a time of 10:44, setting a record for fastest time at State for an Oak Grove Eagle! The remaining six runners managed to cross the finish line before the clock struck 12:00. After watching both Max (8th place) and Faiz (17th place) medal at the award ceremony, the boys listened silently as the official announced the team places in reverse order from 27th all the way down to 5th. At that moment, the boys knew they were going to be recognized as a top team. When the boys ran down to collect their 3rd place plaque, it was unsure if they knew they were making history. This marks the first time Oak Grove has brought home a team trophy from State. Congratulations, boys!



OGS Student Council

At Oak Grove School, we value service. The Student Council, made up of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students, are volunteers who dedicate their time to serving our school and our community. This year, they have selected three important causes: Lurie Children's Hospital, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and our own OGS Alumni Scholarship Fund. Additionally, they do seasonal collections to help provide coats in Lake County, Toys-For-Tots, and a spring canned food drive. The most recent Toys-For-Tots collection provided over 200 toys for children in our area. The Oak Grove Student Council is led by Reece Wiatwroski



(President), Ethan Jun (Vice-President), Kajsa Hawkinson (Treasurer), Grier Glaisner (Secretary), and Mrs. Ashley Evans (Sponsor).

Veterans Day

On Friday, November 10th, Oak Grove School hosted the annual Veterans Day program led by the eighth grade class. Despite the cold temperatures, we had a record turn out. What an honor it is to be able to thank the men and women who sacrifice and serve for our freedom. Thank you, Veterans!



"Read With Me"



Oak Grove 5th graders participated in the "Read With Me" program again this year. The program is run through Lake County Cares, a non-profit, volunteer service hub that strengthens

communities by operating essential outreach programs. Our 5th graders will work with Forrestal School (in North Chicago) 3rd graders, three times this year. Each time the students get together, the Forrestal student receives a book to keep that they will read with their Oak Grove buddy. Everyone has a snack and friendships are made



through the reading of books! In February, our students will travel to Forrestal School, and the Forrestal students will return to Oak Grove in April for another session and an end of the year celebration...it is a positive experience for everyone involved!

Feed My Starving Children

On Friday, December 8, families from Oak Grove School volunteered at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in Libertyville.

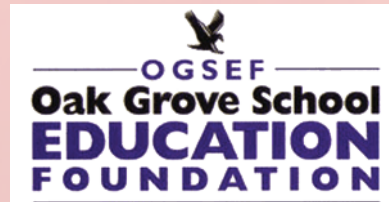


A total of 26,352 meals were created and boxed. This will feed 72 children for an entire year. To learn more about Feed My Starving Children, visit www.fmsc.org. Thank you to all who participated!

Oak Grove Gala '18

Fundraiser to Support Educational Enrichment at Oak Grove School

OGSEF is a 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT CORPORATION



With the help of the parents, community residents and businesses, Oak Grove Education Foundation (OGSEF) invests in students at Oak Grove School by funding teacher-driven initiatives focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs and more. The Foundation funds differentiated curriculum, programs, training, technology and other tools necessary to make sure our children have access to the highest possible standards of education. Our program grants include:

- K-2 Science Curriculum
- Project LEAD Leadership Development Program
- Green Screen Room
- Science of Sport Curriculum
- Kindergarten Teachers "Daily 5" Professional Development
- Library Technology & Reading Resources
- "Rekenrek" Math Manipulative Racks
- Science SPARK Lab
- Robotics
- Audio Visual Technology
- Playground Renovation
- Community Service Projects
- Motivational Speakers
- And much more!

Our biennial Spring Gala will take place on **February 24th, 2018 at Independence Grove**. The Gala is OGSEF's biggest fundraising initiative and we need the support of our community, parents, faculty and students to make it a great success. In addition, this year we have a spotlight project we are funding: Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Funds raised at the Gala will support lessons, equipment, training and staff directed toward NGSS curriculum enhancements for grades K-8.

We invite you to consider making a commitment to support the Gala, which in turn funds innovative educational initiatives right here in our community.

There are several ways to support the OGSEF and the Grove Gala.

Eagle Business Partner Program

Sponsorship Amount: \$2,500

As an Eagle Business Partner, you will receive two tickets to the Grove Gala and your branding will be featured

in our Gala marketing materials – web site, collateral, email, signage and more. You will also be featured as the primary sponsor for one of our key Gala entertainment items: DJ, Wine Ring Toss, Step & Repeat Banner or Photo Booth. In addition, as a business sponsor, your logo is featured on our website and at OGSEF sponsored events for 2018 and 2019.

Eagle Champions Circle

Sponsorship Amount: \$1,750

Members of the Eagle Champions Circle will receive two tickets to the Grove Gala, recognition in the event materials - web site, collateral, email, signage and more. You will also be featured as the primary sponsor for one of our key Gala entertainment items: DJ, Wine Ring Toss, Step & Repeat Banner or Photo Booth.

Eagle Fan Club

Sponsorship Amount: \$1,000

Members of the Eagle Fan Club will receive two tickets to the Grove Gala and recognition in the event materials - web site, collateral, email, signage and more.

Eagle Sponsor

Sponsorship Amount: \$500

Eagle Sponsors will receive two tickets to the Grove Gala and recognition at the event.

Auction & Raffle Donations

Our Silent Auction & Raffle is a highlight of the Grove Gala and we welcome any and all donations. **No donation is too big or small & all your creative ideas are welcome!**

To purchase tickets or commit to one of our Sponsorship Packages, please visit www.ogsef.org/gala-2018. If you are interested in making a custom donation or contribution, please visit www.ogsef.org/donate-now.

If you have any questions, please contact ogsfoundation@yahoo.com.

Our Foundation strives to unify the community, corporate partners, families and the school around the common purpose of making our District a better place in which to live. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.



ENJOY A FUN NIGHT

WITH YOUR FRIENDS & COMMUNITY
TO SUPPORT THE LOVE OF LEARNING

SPOTLIGHT PROJECT

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS

OAK GROVE GALA '18

OPEN BAR — FOOD — AUCTION

**FEBRUARY 24, 2018
6:30PM — 12:30AM**

INDEPENDENCE GROVE / AUDUBON HALL

For more information or to purchase tickets:

www.ogsef.org/gala-2018

Ticket quantities are limited!



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



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Oak Grove Students Participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress

Thirty 8th grade students participated in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) on January 31, 2018. NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subjects. It is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is different from our state assessment because it provides a common measure of student achievement across the country. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public.

Our randomly selected students took the technology and engineering literacy assessment, which measure students' capacity to use, understand, and evaluate technology as well as to understand technological principles and strategies needed to develop solutions and achieve goals. Students completed problem-solving tasks based on scenarios reflecting realistic situations, as well as multiple-choice and short-answer questions. In addition to subject area questions, NAEP survey questionnaires were completed by students. The questionnaires provide valuable information about participating students' educational experiences and opportunities to learn both in and out of the classroom. We are excited that our school was able to participate in NAEP!



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