



Community Newsletter

Message from the Superintendent

Happy Summer....it's FINALLY here! We hope you will enjoy reviewing a few of the highlights from this spring. Our students and staff accomplish so many great things on a daily basis. We truly have one of the best schools in the entire nation. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our children. Without you, we could not

accomplish all that we do to help them grow as students and citizens. Ours is a great community and we are truly blessed at Oak Grove to have such a wonderful school system. Thank you!



*Dr. Lonny Lemon,
Superintendent*

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2019 Variety Show

The 2019 Variety Show was a hit! Thanks to Susan Brooks, Mia Hughes, Kelli Kuypers, Christine Merrild, Stacie Nevins, Becky Rynes and Ashley Wilson, our parent volunteer directors.



A great number of other parent and teacher volunteers were key to the success of this annual event. The most important aspect to the show, of course, was our talented students. They did an amazing job! In addition to raising funds for the PTO, the Student Council ran a concession stand that raised \$435 for Lurie's Children's Hospital. It was truly a great night!



Eagle Breakfast

Representative Brad Schneider was the guest speaker at this year's Eagle breakfast recognizing students and their parents in grades 6-8. Students were selected by their teachers for demonstrating good character.

6th grade - Elise Jahnke, Shreyas Moorthy, Dakota Olson and Madi Sears.

7th grade - Shrawani Datar, Loreli Fisher, Liz George, Cole Manogura, Jayden Robinson and Grace Schulenburg.

8th grade - Shelby Buelow, Gianna Cathlina, Allison Chung, Sean Heard, Nicholas Ingino, Eli Johnson and Anusha Srivastava.



Fifth Grade Service Project

The 5th-grade class participated in a month-long project of service starting on Martin Luther King Day. Each student chose some type of service to be completed by Valentine's Day, and the event culminated with a session at Feed My Starving Children. Service projects included donating clothes, raising funds for ocean clean up, making Valentine's Day greetings for a retirement home and children's hospital patients, and performing music at a local nursing home. We are proud of our students and staff, and we are grateful that the idea of service to others is being instilled at such a young age.



Eagle Scout Project

Former Oak Grove student, Nate Stevens, completed his Eagle Scout project this spring. Nate approached two teachers, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Saia, and expressed his interest in providing an Eagle Scout project to benefit the students at Oak Grove School. Since both



Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Saia's classrooms face the eastern wooded border of the school property, the teachers envisioned bringing

more bird wildlife for their students to view. Nate planned, researched, designed, constructed and installed over a dozen birdhouses that would draw native birds to the school grounds. In addition, Nate visited both classrooms to introduce the Scout Program and to share his project. The children greatly enjoyed his presentation. Two first grade students stated, "We were excited that his project would help the birds and we could see special birds out our classroom windows." Thank you, Nate, for all of your hard work and giving back to your alma mater.

Battle of the Books

Oak Grove School held its 4th annual Book Battle on May 3, 2019. It was a busy day of intense battles for our judges and official time-keeper!

This annual event is enjoyed by so many of our students, and it is a great way to promote reading. Our thanks to Oak Grove librarian Mrs. Rappaport and to all the staff members who volunteered their time to help with this great activity!



Best Wishes For The Class Of 2019

On May 30, 2019, 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 2019: We wish you the best!



Farewell to Retirees

Kathy Mahoney, Kathy Schmidt, and Gayle Timlin retired at the end of the 2018-19 school year. These



Kathy Mahoney, Gayle Timlin & Kathy Schmidt

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!

“Ted Talks”

For the final trimester of the year, Mrs. Luce’s 5th grade TAG students chose a global or social issue to research deeply. They collaborated on their research, wrote scripts, and filmed TED talks to present their information.



These students researched animal poaching, the opioid crisis, poverty, peer pressure, and perfectionism, eating disorders, banning nuclear arms, air pollution, the foster care system, and technology addiction. They not only learned about relevant issues in our society, but they also learned how impactful digital storytelling can be to teach others about these problems.



Libertyville Food Pantry

Second graders packed over 20 birthday bags for the Libertyville food pantry! Students had to use their own “money”, tickets earned throughout the school year, to purchase the following items: a cake mix, frosting, candles, balloons, bubbles, and a card. The children earned their tickets by showing consideration to others, completing assignments with their best efforts and being responsible for their weekly classroom chores. One student stated, “I felt so happy knowing that a girl my age could help out another 8-year-old.” Thank you to the township supervisors for suggesting such a wonderful end-of-year project.



Summer Camps at Oak Grove

The end of the school year does not mean the end of fun and creativity at the school! Oak Grove was proud to host a variety of summer programs this year.

Elementary Art Explorers was our first offering of a visual art camp headed up by Oak Grove art educator, Erin Vance. This five-day course offered students in grades 3-5 the opportunity to learn about jewelry making, ceramics, still-life drawing, watercolor painting, and printmaking.



Advanced versions of these topics were available for students in grades 6-8.

Make Your Own Video Games is a course designed by technology specialist Dr. Jason Meltzer and music teacher Logan Farris that offered students in grades 3-5 the chance to learn how to construct their own interactive animations, games, and stories using Scratch, a graphical programming language designed by MIT. Over the 5-day class, the students learned introduction to game design, basic character design, and interaction, how to create levels, timers, scoreboards, and other interactive tools, and how to incorporate sound and music into their games. Students were then able to play each other's games and provide feedback.

After two successful summers, *Make Your Own Music Video* was offered for the third time by Dr. Meltzer and Mr. Farris. Designed for grades 6-8, students were able to direct, edit, and choreograph their own music videos using high-quality cameras and microphones. Students learned the process of creating a music video, the various associated jobs/tasks involved, storyboard creation and video/audio recording, green screen techniques and multi-cam editing. Finally, students edited their videos using industry standard software.



Oak Grove also hosted *Camp Invention*, a program created by the National Inventors Hall of Fame that helps turn curious students into innovative thinkers. Building on the belief that every student can invent, this camp gives our students the chance to become innovators through teamwork and hands-on creative problem-solving.

This STEM-based program was led by Oak Grove staff members Kari Meyer, Elizabeth Bulley, and Erin Smith. Teachers from other districts included Amber Egan and Lisa Traiforos as well as high school-aged volunteer Leadership Interns Emily Yong, Danya Viveros, Grace Kraft, Jamie Feldman, Charlotte Surber, and Megan Graham.



We are grateful to everyone that participated in these wonderful camps, and we are very proud of the work our creative students were able to produce!

Office Consolidation

Starting with the 2019-20 school year, Oak Grove will be consolidating the two offices. Instead of separate elementary and junior high offices, there will be one "district office." The administrative assistants will all be located in the current elementary office location. Additionally, both school nurses will be located in the current elementary office area. Morning and afternoon bus and car procedures for dropping off, and picking up will remain the same.

We continue to see increased enrollment. This has created a space crunch in the building, so these consolidations will help us as we try to make our building more efficient. We are busy making these transitions now. Thank you!

Track & Field

Congratulations to Logan Howard, who competed in the IESA State Track and Field Meet in East Peoria on Friday, May 17th, 2019. She represented Oak Grove in the 100 Meter Dash, and competed against some of the best athletes in Illinois. Way to go, Logan!



Energy Efficiency at Oak Grove

Each year, Oak Grove undergoes an energy efficiency audit conducted by EnergyStar. The school began a complete building renovation in the summer of 2012. At that time, the school received a score of 59 out of a possible 100, even with just a few small office areas equipped with air-conditioning.

During the course of the next five years, the entire building was renovated. The entire building's lighting, heating, and cooling mechanisms were replaced with more energy efficient systems. The entire facility is now climate-controlled. These changes provide our students and staff with a greatly improved learning environment. This past spring, the school received a score of 93! So, even though the building is now air-conditioned, the systems now in place, make the building incredibly more energy efficient. Kudos to the Boards of Education, past Facilities committee members, district architect Peter Graves, and our Director of Buildings & Grounds, Mr. Oswaldo Suarez and his amazing staff, for all they did to make this vision a reality. We hope it is a testament to our ongoing effort to be good financial stewards to the community.

OGSEF Soaring Eagle Scholarship Winners

The Oak Grove School Education Foundation recently awarded the Soaring Eagle Award to Oak Grove students Matthew Huang and Harley Baskin. Here's what the OGSEF scholarship committee had to say about these two students:

"Matthew is an outstanding and well rounded young man. He has always been very diligent in his studies and an extremely hard worker. He has earned the respect of his classmates as well as his teachers. We know he will make a difference in our world. Congratulations, we are proud of you! Harley is a warm, caring, empathetic young lady. She is incredibly resilient and has such a positive outlook on life. We know you have a great future ahead of you. Congratulations!"



Dr. Lonny Lemon and Gayle Timlin
with OGSEF Award-winners
Matthew Huang and Harley Baskin

OGS Teachers Award Eagle Scholarship

The Oak Grove Education Association is proud to present graduating LHS senior Max Sauers the fourth annual Eagle Scholarship. This scholarship is given to an Oak Grove alumni who has demonstrated excellence in academics, character, extracurricular activities, and service. The OGEA represents the certified staff at Oak Grove School. Our educators are committed to the success of all current and former students.



Oak Grove Teachers Heather
McCarty and Casey Dugan with
Max Sauers

Max has shown the impact that Oak Grove had on his high school career which included volunteering in the community, excelling in LHS athletics and striving for academic success. The OGEA is proud of his commitment to his school and community, and cannot wait to see what the future holds.

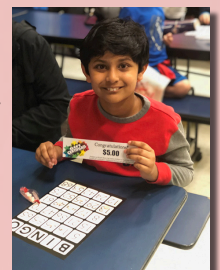
Congratulations Max Sauers and good luck at the University of Illinois!

Hope for Homeless

The Oak Grove Honor Society organized a fundraiser to raise money and canned foods to donate to PADS, a local homeless shelter. It included grades 5-8 and lasted from March 4th to March 22nd. The Honor Society would like to thank all the classes, students, and teachers for their generous donations. In total, \$762.49 was raised along with 316 canned food items. The Honor Society greatly appreciates these generous donations and gives thanks to all who donated to the cause.

Bingo for Books

Bingo for Books took place on the evening of April 24th in the Oak Grove elementary cafeteria. Students and their families gathered to play BINGO for prizes of Scholastic book fair gift certificates. Over 50 people were lucky enough to yell, "BINGO!"



Oak Grove School District 68
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Multicultural Week

Multicultural Week at Oak Grove began April 1st as the PTO lunch program featured *International Foods Week* for the first time, and it was a hit! Students were able to see, taste, smell and talk about all different types of food from a variety of cultures. We had a number of fantastic parent volunteers that taught lessons in the K-5 classrooms. Students learned about Brazil, Poland, China, India, Nigeria, and Peru. The week ended with our culminating event of Multicultural Night on Thursday, April 11th. We had students performing Kung Fu, Irish dancing, instrumental music, dancing, and singing from India. The Green Screen room run by



Dr. Meltzer was a hit as families took virtual vacations all over the world. The food provided by our wonderful families was delicious and the kids loved their souvenirs. Passports were stamped and students walked away learning about so many different cultures.



A special thank you to our amazing Multicultural Team! Thank you especially to our parent volunteers Raabia Khan, Elizabeth O'Neil, & Loucine Tokmakjian. Their countless hours of coordinating the booths, parent volunteers, evening volunteers and more made this night a huge success. Thank

you to school administrators Dr. Lemon, Dr. Cacciatore and Mr. Fenton for being so supportive. Thank you, Mrs. Vance, Mrs. Kiefer, Mrs. Demma, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Taylor, & Dr. Meltzer for making this event one of the biggest attendance nights at Oak Grove. We had over 900 people visiting booths and sharing different cultures. It truly was an unforgettable night!



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