

CROSS ROADS

NEWS FROM THE VALLEY OF "THE PONDS"

SPONSORED BY THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND &
THE OAKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Mayor's Message
- Rec. Excitement
- Bicycle Safety
- Blood Drive
- Budget Controls
- Oakland Public Schools Updates
- November Ballot
- iPad Initiative

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As your Mayor I am happy to report that with the help of many I have accomplished goals and begun the initial stages of dreams in this short period of time. I have been continuing the theme of my term as Mayor "All things are possible until they are proved impossible—even the impossible may only be so, as of now." In my first 6 months in office, I have addressed the following issues and concerns that have been lingering for many years and proven that with hard work and volunteer help we can do what is needed and what is in our dreams:

First and foremost—this year there is zero increase in municipal taxes with diligent fiscal responsibility.



Sewers are no longer a "pipe dream," but can

STORY
CONTINUED
ON PAGE 4



**Oakland Mayor
Linda H. Schwager
Throws the FIRST
PITCH!**

RECREATION EXCITEMENT HEATING UP FOR THE SUMMER

Oakland Recreation is finishing up a very fun and enjoyable seasons for both recreation baseball and softball. The final pitches will be thrown as school lets out. Oakland diamond fans shouldn't fret because the travel baseball and softball seasons will run through late July. We invite everyone down to the recreation complex to watch our Oakland youths hit, pitch and catch.

On May 5th, the annual baseball/softball parade was held. As always there were laughs and smiles everywhere.

The players marched from the library parking lot down to the rec field. With fire trucks blaring and police cars trailing, the perennial fun continued. The parade ended with a ceremony honoring all the boys and girls that participated.

Spring in Oakland is always kicked off by the Mayor's first pitch. This year Mayor Schwager didn't disappoint as she threw a perfect strike to Softball Commissioner Dan Logatto.

With summer, starts our award winning summer camp program. Summer camp is a great way for Oakland's youth (K-8th grade) to enjoy daily fun of games, air rides and trips for the older kids. If you didn't register your child this year, you may want to seriously consider participating next year. Summer memories are made at our camp.

(SEE PHOTO ABOVE)

STORY

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NEWS FROM THE OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

With the hot weather here, the Oakland Public Library invites you to join us this summer for a wide variety of "cool" programs for adults and children of all ages. Come in, choose a book or a program, use our computers, view our art exhibit in the lower level art gallery or just say hello to a staff that is working hard to bring outstanding programs to our community.

For children, summer is always special and this year's 2012 Summer Reading Club is sure to be popular. Crafts, story times, games, a drama club and special events will focus on the "DREAM BIG, READ" theme. Children will earn merit stickers each week as they participate in a "Blast Off with Reading" rocket game that enables them to win a variety of prizes - the more

books they read, the more prizes they win! Thanks to the New Friends of the Library, the National Circus Project will present a variety of circus skills for the kick-off program on Monday, June 25th.

For teens, grades 5-8, the summer reading theme is "Own The Night," and they, too, will win prizes depending on the number of books they read. Tuesday Teen Time will



STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

THE OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Oakland Police Department Traffic Bureau would like to remind residents regarding important laws and ordinances and safety tips for the upcoming summer months.

Crosswalks:

The driver of a vehicle must stop and stay stopped for a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, except at crosswalks when the movement of traffic is being regulated by police officers or traffic control signals, but no pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of

a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield.

Bicycle Safety Helmets:

Anyone under 17 years of age that rides a bicycle or is a passenger on a bicycle, or is towed as a passenger by a bicycle must wear a safety helmet. In New Jersey, the law states a bicyclist must obey all state and local automobile driving laws. A parent may be held responsible for the child's violation of any traffic law.

Idling Law:

Idling limit is 3 minutes for diesel (trucks, buses, school buses, etc.) and gasoline vehicles (cars, some trucks and buses, etc.) Limited exceptions to 3 minute idling

include vehicles stopped in traffic, waiting for vehicle inspection or being repaired, emergency vehicle in emergency situation, bus discharging/picking up passengers, or vehicles with a power source used for necessary and prescribed mechanical operation (refrigeration, maintaining suspension, mechanical lifts, etc.)

Move Over Law:

Drivers approaching stationary emergency vehicles, tow trucks and other highway safety vehicles displaying red, blue and/or amber flashing lights must now move over one lane or, if not safe to move over, then slow down below the posted speed limit.

Clear View at Intersections:

It shall be unlawful for any person to:

Plant or permit the growth of any tree, hedge or other growth in such a manner that the same shall constitute an obstruction to clear vision at intersections

of streets and roads in the Borough of Oakland. The vision to be afforded at such intersections shall be such that it shall be possible for a user of said street or road to see the center line of such intersection and an area having a radius of fifty (50') feet in all directions from the said center line. No bush, hedge or growth shall have a height of more than three (3') feet. All such bushes, hedges or growths having a height greater than said three (3') feet shall be considered an obstruction. All trees shall be trimmed of branches and limbs from a point between the street or road level and to a height of not less than ten (10') feet therefrom. Any tree having branches or limbs between said street level and the point in height ten (10') feet therefrom shall constitute an obstruction to vision.

HAVE A SAFE SUMMER!



B O R O U G H O F O A K L A N D S E N I O R C E N T E R



The Senior Center is a facility to be utilized for and by senior residents of the Borough of Oakland. It entitles every senior resident, 55 and older, who functions independently or who has a companion to provide whatever individual assistance is needed, to participate in activities and programs at the Center.

The Senior Center has established itself as a community focal point where older adults can come together for services and activities that reflect their experience and skills, respond to their diverse needs and interests, enhance their dignity, support their independence, and encourage their involvement in and with the center and community.

The center provides Information & Referral Services, Social Events, Book Club Gatherings, Shopping Trips, Movies, Bingo, Cards & Games, Work Shops, Health Lectures and Fellowship. Several trips a year are offered.

A monthly calendar of events is available both at the center and the Borough Library. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9AM - 4PM. The senior center is a lovely facility, stop by and learn more about what it has to offer.

Currently the Center offers the following on-going programs:

Chair Exercise, Tuesday at 10:30AM—Level #1 exercise.

Fit 4 Life, exercise class on Mondays & Fridays at Noon Time—Learn how to use your muscles in everyday functional exercise.

Zumba Gold, Wednesdays at Noon Time, A high energy Latin-inspired dance workout, the Gold variety was designed for seniors.

Chi-Kung, the last 3 Wednesdays—Just as your body will relax, so will your mind. Learn to empty your mind of extraneous thoughts

Tai-Chi-Chi, Thursdays at 9:30—A series of simple, non-martial movements that are performed softly and continuously.

Art Instruction, Monday & Tuesdays at 10AM—learn the basics of drawing, and water color painting.

Yoga, Friday at 10AM—Gentle mat yoga consists of a series of Hatha Postures.

R E C R E A T I O N - C O N T I N U E D F R O M P A G E 1

The Recreation Complex is undergoing a modern day make-over. First the Danny D'Elia building will be updated including a new roof, reconstructed interior and peace mural. It's been 20 years since the building was dedicated in honor of Mr. D'Elia, this is a long over due project.

The complex will also be sporting 32 new trees. The Recreation and Shade Tree Commissions will be working together to spruce up the complex to make it more "park-like".

Finally a new playground surface will replace the old shredded dirty tires that

presently call themselves the playground floor.

This new surface will give our children a colorful, safe and CLEAN floor to play on.

Speaking about playgrounds, have you seen the Mullin's Park playground? After the hurricane and other mishaps to the playground, new apparatuses and flooring has been installed.

On June 10th a new bench unveiling and ceremony was held at the tennis courts in memory of Mrs. Virginia Contrino. The bench is a fitting tribute to a long time IHHS teacher and Oakland Team Tennis director.



We invite everyone to please keep an eye on the Oakland Recreation Website at www.OaklandRec.com where you can always find up to the minute information about sports sign-ups, recreation news and other interesting recreation tid-bits.

Enjoy your summer Oakland!

OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

feature different crafts and activities and Summer Teen Volunteers will also assist with craft preparation and children's' programs.

Video games, Nintendo, Wii, and XBOX 360 are a part of the library's newest collection and these games are particularly popular with teenagers. Video games help teens to learn about library programs and services, and help develop digital literacy, storytelling and social skills. If anyone has any of these games to donate, the Library would love to give the games a new home.

This summer ADULTS also have a Summer Reading theme - with this

year's "Between the Covers" weaving together books about quilting, knitting and romance. We continue to expand our adult fiction collection offering favorite new books. If it is on the "New York Times Best Seller List," we have it! Up-to-date non-fiction works are also being added. Another new adult program is the Writers Group currently being developed. This group, open to both established and aspiring novelists and poets, includes writing workshops and participation in "National Novel Writing Month" in November.

To sign up for this, please contact Pierre at the Reference Desk at 201-337-3742, Ext. 211, or come in and leave your name and e-mail address.

We are also delighted to continue hosting "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" - a volunteer, moderator-led organization offering free weekly support and networking meetings for people actively seeking employment.



For more information about any programs, or to pick up a calendar of events, please stop by - We would love to see you!

MAYOR'S MESSAGE—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

become a reality in our downtown.

Our water engineer is presently working on the proposal through the Highlands Council and for the Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority.

Library litigation *is finally settled. In the near future you will be hearing about the plans to move forward.*

Traffic: *We are moving in a more synchronized, faster pace. I am happy to say that the State and County have worked together to synchronize the lights on Ramapo Valley Road at Franklin Avenue and at the Route 287 exit ramp. Although only the first step, traffic flow has already improved.*

Van Allen House: *We are in negotiations with a non-profit group to lease the Van Allen House to rehabilitate and restore the building to house a*

museum with help from the Historical Society and volunteers. Lease negotiations are in the final stages.

Flooding and River Bank Erosion: *We are working on the plan and are closer to getting the needed State and Federal funding than we have been in many, many years.*

Senior Housing: *Senior housing is coming onto Ramapo Valley Road (within walking distance to the Senior Center) with the help of Mr. John Biale, President of the Housing Development Corporation of Bergen County.*

Oakland's first Farmers Market *begins on June 30th. I appointed a terrific group of volunteer residents who are making this happen. Oakland is hosting our Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings throughout the summer. The Farmers Market will be centrally located on the street exiting the*

Municipal Parking Lot between the Library and Valley Middle School. Parking will be in the municipal lot.

This is a very special year-- the 2012 phenomenon. This is just the beginning. I encourage all residents to volunteer and join us.

"First and foremost this year there is ZERO increase in municipal taxes with diligent fiscal responsibility."



**SEE YOU JUNE 30TH FOR OUR
FIRST FARMER'S MARKET**



BOROUGH OF OAKLAND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BLOOD DRIVE - The bloodmobile will be parked in the Municipal/Library parking lot on Saturday, June 30th, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Blood supplies are low, so please consider donating. Each donor will receive two free New York Mets tickets.

Call (201) 337-9254 to pre-register.

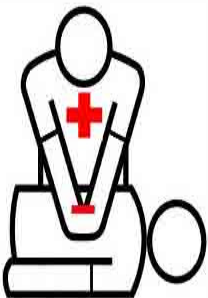
DEER ARE CUTE. LYME DISEASE IS NOT! - There are hazards associated with the feeding of wildlife that are not always apparent. Though deer are cute, they should not be encouraged to enter one's backyard. Residents who leave food accessible to wildlife, such as deer, are putting their family and neighbors at great risk, especially with the marked increase in the tick population this year due to the recent mild winter.

Ticks transmit Lyme disease and can occasionally transmit other tick-borne diseases, as well. Typical symptoms of Lyme include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic bulls-eye skin rash. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system. Most cases can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics. Steps to prevent Lyme disease include using insect repellent, removing ticks promptly, applying pesticides, and reducing tick habitat. For more info, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/Lyme>

The number of cases of Lyme disease in the community has been consistently high in recent years and is expected to surge. For the safety and well-being of your family and neighbors...don't feed the deer! Feeding wildlife, including feral cats, also runs the risk of attracting aggressive rabies into your and your neighbors' yards. Residents feeding wildlife, other than birds, should be reported to the Police Dept. at 201-337-6171.

DROWNING AND WATER SAFETY - According to the American Red Cross, about 3,500 Americans drown each year averaging 10 deaths per day with more than one in five being a child age 14 or younger. Everyone should know how to swim. If you don't, now is a good time to learn. Contact a local YMCA or the local chapter of the American Red Cross to find out where you can take lessons.

Drowning is not how it looks in the movies, according to US Coast Guard ASTC Mario Vittone. Vittone's website, <http://mariovittone.com/2010/05/154/> contains a video showing the signs of drowning as well as information on water and boating safety. Take a moment to watch so you'll recognize the signs.



Would you know what to do if someone you love or care about were to stop breathing for any reason? Brain cells begin to die in a matter of minutes without oxygen. Administering CPR protects the brain until medical help arrives. The new basic CPR techniques are so easy that anyone can learn. The Board of Health and The Oakland First Aid Squad encourage residents to learn CPR. The Oakland First Aid Squad offers three different levels of CPR, with and without first aid, ranging in cost from \$35.00 to \$65.00. Why not sign up today so you'll be prepared should someone's life depend on you. Call the Oakland First Aid Squad at 201-337-7385 for more information.

For further information about having fun and staying healthy and safe this summer, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/MovingOutdoors/>.

***"DEER ARE
CUTE.
LYME
DISEASE IS
NOT!"***



SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

THE SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF OAKLAND — QUIETLY GOING ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS FOR 54 YEARS



The Sports Association of Oakland, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has been helping Oakland Recreation for over 50 years. Until recently the SAO has been a behind the scenes organization. The main function of the group is to fundraise and assist with fundraising needs amongst the various sports in town. It also acts to facilitate payments for many sports, when recreation vendors will not accept the town's purchase order process. This also includes travel baseball umpires, roller hockey referees, summer camp trips and tournaments that recreation participate in. The past two summers the SAO has sponsored "Movie Night" at the Oakland Recreation field and this year will begin offering classes in the arts for children of Oakland.

Many people learned about the Sports Association of Oakland this spring when they volunteered to run the carnival. As a 501(c)(3) with a New Jersey State Gaming License, the SAO has the necessary credentials to run the event.

The SAO is made up of 9 voting seats, 8 of which are presently filled. There are 4 members of the Board of Directors: Chair Steve Wagoner, Vice-Chair Jim Folkerts, Treasurer Dave Altana and Recording Secretary Jim Fuhrman. Other board members include Caron McCormick who manages all the technology aspects and will also be directing the art classes. Mike Guadagnino and Bob Scalabrini are also the Oakland Recreation Chair and Vice-Chair and offer a

**SAO members after the carnival,
from left to right: Jim Folkerts, Mike
Guadagnino, Michael Kozak, Steve
Wagoner, Caron McCormick, Bob
Scalabrini, Dave Altana, Jim
Fuhrman.**

direct link to the Recreation Commission needs and help in their mission. Individuals who assisted SAO with running the Carnival were Michael Kozak and Serge Sarandinaki.

***To learn more about the Sports
Association of Oakland,
or offer to help please visit
the SAO website at
www.thinkoakland.org/sports***



OAKLAND FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

The Oakland Fire Prevention Bureau would like to remind residents that during the growing season overgrown vegetation can be unsightly and a fire hazard. All sidewalks should be maintained to provide access for pedestrians and if you have a fire hydrant keep the area clear for the fire department. Keeping this vegetation cut will also help motorists maintain a line of sight for other vehicles and pedestrians. Your help can prevent an accident and help the fire department.



When using your gas grille, remember to turn the appliance off when cooking is done. Propane cannot be stored in your house and should be kept in a detached shed or at a safe distance from your house. Remember that grilles can melt vinyl siding and can ignite a deck if left unattended.

Remember to check your smoke detectors regularly. If you need information or have any questions please call the Oakland Fire Prevention Bureau at 201-337-9616.

OAKLAND'S FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Summer is a time for swimming, hiking, picnics – and, unfortunately, new tax bills.

Now for some, new tax bills may not be the highlight of the summer season, but this summer the Borough is very excited about the tax bills due to be mailed out in August. That's because this year the Fiscal 2012 budget adopted by the Mayor and Council contains no municipal tax increase whatsoever. In fact, slight reductions in both the Library tax and municipal Open Space tax mean that all homeowners in Oakland will see a reduction in the municipal portion of their tax bill.

The Fiscal 2012 municipal budget also contains a number of components designed to try and keep municipal taxes stable into the future as well. Several years ago the Governing Body recognized that municipal taxes are vulnerable to increases from a number of unexpected, one-time, expensive expenditures. To lessen the impact these expenditures have on the municipal budget (and your taxes which go to support it) the governing body began funding a series of Trust Funds and Reserves that would ensure that these

expenditures could be paid without having to increase the municipal tax rate. For example, the Fiscal 2012 budget adds an additional \$100,000 to our Reserve for Tax Appeals which was established in 2010. Before this Reserve was set up, refunds resulting from tax appeals were added to the municipal budget and were a big reason for annual increases to the municipal tax rate.

The Fiscal 2012 municipal budget of \$18,339,994 is a \$642,560 increase over last year. But the Fiscal 2012 municipal tax levy of \$13,028,227 is exactly the same as it was in 2011. Along with continuing the Mayor and Council's tax stabilization policies, this budget also continues the effort to reduce our debt and the corresponding interest payments on that debt. Included in the budget is close to \$300,000 over the amount we are required to pay on our debt, as well as another \$600,000 specifically ear-marked to reduce old debt. New debt will be kept to a minimum as this budget also includes a \$500,000 cash down payment toward the construction of a new Department of Public Works building. By following these established policies we were able to reduce our total net debt by almost

\$3,000,000 from 2010 to 2011 – and the Fiscal 2012 budget continues these policies.

So this summer, relax and enjoy yourself! And while you're relaxing, remember that your Mayor and Council, Borough Administrator, CFO and the rest of the Borough Staff are doing everything possible to keep Oakland as affordable as possible this summer and for future summers as well.

"The fiscal 2012 budget...contains no municipal tax increase whatsoever."

**Chief Financial Officer
James A. Mangin**



OAKLAND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Oakland Building Department reminds residents that all pools and sheds need zoning approval and building permits. This includes any size pool and shed. If you are planning to do work and want to know what is needed please call the Building Department first. Consumer law requires that contractors performing any work to your home be licensed with the State of New Jersey as a Home Improvement Contractor. Consumer law also requires that a final inspection be completed before final payment is made to the contractor. Make sure that all permits are issued if needed by this office before any work begins. If you have any questions or want to know if permits are needed please call 201-337-1644.

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If you have any questions or want to know if permits are needed please call 201-337-1644.



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
DR. RICHARD G. HEFLICH

Dear Members of the Oakland School Community:

Valley Middle School's Graduation and the last day of school for our students is Tuesday, June 19. We wish our students and their families an enjoyable summer, and we appreciate the children's hard work during the school year. Although many of our students and their families will be at summer destinations during July and August, the District will continue to be a center of energy and activity.



SUMMER PROGRAMS

Our Summer Programs (with the exception of Safetytown) will begin on June 25, and they include the following:

- Threshold Program which provides Reading and Mathematics skill reinforcement for students completing Kindergarten and Grade 1.
- Multisensory Reading Program which provides a structured environment for students to learn word identification skills using a variety of modalities, such as visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile.
- Summer Enrichment Program which provides students an opportunity to continue developing talents in ceramics, drama, science, foods, and Singapore Math.
- Preschool Program which provides academic and social reinforcement and maintenance of skills learned during the year.
- Safetytown Program which provides entering kindergarten students with a safety education experience that will enable them to make good decisions and safe choices.

CURRICULUM

The District will operate 20 Summer Curriculum Committees, staffed by our teachers this summer. Committee members will assemble to align the District's curriculum with the new Common Core State Standards and the NJ Revised Core Curriculum Content Standards. Also, thirty-eight of our teachers and all of our administrators are enrolled in Singapore Math training sessions as the District implements this new teaching methodology that is aligned with the new Common Core Mathematics Standards.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Summer work to maintain grounds and school buildings will include two major projects this summer:

- At Dogwood Hill School, the District will continue its grounds renovation that began during Summer 2011. This year's project will correct drainage issues behind Dogwood Hill that have resulted in water seepage into the first floor classrooms and hallways. Additionally, the front sidewalk area needs to be renovated as a result of the settling of the ground underneath the sidewalk.
- At Valley Middle School, enrollment continues to climb upward. In 1997, student enrollment at the school was 381; in September, total enrollment is projected to be 670. As a result of this growth, there is a serious shortage of classroom space at Valley Middle. The Board has contracted with its Architect to study the school to identify spaces that could be captured to increase classroom space. In the interim, this summer, we are converting the Business Office into its original purpose – a classroom. Business Office personnel will be relocated within the Board Offices. The Board of Education has received State approval for this conversion, and the project will be completed during the summer. We are pleased that much of the work will be done by our custodial/maintenance staff.

CLASS SIZE POLICY

When State Aid was eliminated for the 2010/2011 school year, the Board needed to reduce staff to balance its budget. When the teaching staff was reduced, the Board needed to suspend its Class Size Policy. As a result, class sizes increased and exceeded the maximum class sizes included in the Policy. Since then, the community has approved two successive budgets and there has been a partial restoration of Aid. The Board has continued its financial constraint and has been very judicious about spending. As a result, the Board announced, at its June Meeting, that it now has the resources to reinstate the Class Size Policy in the elementary schools. Thus, in 2012/2013, the maximum class size for Kindergarten through Grade 2 will not exceed 23, and class size in Grades 3 – 5 will not exceed 25. Still, the Class Size Policy will remain suspended for the 2012/2013 school year at Valley Middle School, where some classes now have enrollments in the upper 20s. The reinstatement of the Class Size Policy has been a goal of the Board of Education and one of its highest priorities. We are grateful for the community's support during these difficult economic times and appreciate that the Board has "kept its eye on this goal."

IN CLOSING

It is a busy time of year in The Oakland Public Schools, and we are proud of all that our District is accomplishing. The trust that you place in the Board and your support for our schools and the children of Oakland are deeply valued. Thank you. We send our best wishes to you and your families for an enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,
Dr. Richard G. Heflich

DISTRICT LAUNCHES IPAD INITIATIVE

With funding help from the Federal Government, the Oakland Board of Education initiated the next phase of its Technology Program last summer. As a result of Stimulus funding, the District was able to purchase 50 iPads for a use in classrooms serving students enrolled in Special Education programs. This pilot program extended from Preschool through Grade 8. Students enthusiastically embraced this technology, and we learned, once again, how right these words of the Wired Educator are: "When I passed my iPad around the room there was absolutely no instruction needed. Every student just 'knew' how to use it." Additionally, our teachers were inspired to research the applications available to help their students use the iPad to enhance their students' learning, and they, themselves, acquired the skills to use this tool in the classroom. Our Technology leaders, also, researched how so many other school districts were already using the iPad to meet individual student needs, and reported the results to the Board.



"the Board of Education has launched an iPad initiative"

As a result of this pilot program, the Board of Education has launched an iPad initiative that will enable all students accessibility to the iPad. Because school budgets are "tight," the Board turned to its funding partners – our school P.T.O.s – to help with this initiative. And, after learning about the educational potential of the iPad, our P.T.O.s responded to the District's request for help. At its June Meeting, the Board of Education accepted, with much appreciation, gifts of twenty iPads from the Valley Middle School PTO, 30 iPads from the Heights School PTO, 20 iPads from Dogwood Hill School's PTO, and five iPads from Manito School's PTO. These 75 gifts will be ready for use by students in September, and, no doubt, will increase their engagement and involvement in learning.

To successfully integrate these technology tools into the curriculum, the District has called for teacher volunteers to serve as iPad Team Leaders. These Leaders will coordinate this technology initiative in each school, turn-key the initiative, and share research and applications with their colleagues. Further, the Team Leaders will be responsible for developing activities that will incorporate iPads into lessons that will foster differentiation and enhance student achievement. Already, numerous teachers have embraced this challenge and volunteered to serve their schools and students in this capacity. As a group, our Team Leaders will meet regularly as a Professional Learning Community to share their research and experiences, and will model lessons and strategies to other teachers at monthly faculty meetings. We are encouraged that this iPad initiative is creating as much excitement as the District's recent SMARTboard initiative.

Currently, Apple's App Store has thousands of educational apps available to educators for the purpose of engaging students in reading, writing, science, math, shapes, spelling, the arts, voice recognition, problem solving, and more. As the District launches this initiative, one thing is certain: our students are growing up in a digital world and they require the tools that will prepare them for their future, and school districts need to respond to this reality. With 125 iPads and approximately 1700 students in the District next year, more iPads, of course, are needed. Ideas for funding and additional gifts will be welcomed.

REMINDER: PETITION TO PUT A QUESTION ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT

Please remember that the Oakland Board of Education has decided that the voters of Oakland should decide whether they want to change the annual school election from April to November. Although State legislation permits boards of education to act on this issue independently, the Board decided that the people should decide. In order to get the question of whether the election date should be changed on the November ballot, a minimum of 1,066 registered Oakland voters must sign a petition.

A signature on the petition does not mean that the individual supports or opposes changing the date. A signature simply means that the voter would like the question to appear on the ballot.

Petitions are available for signatures in all school offices, the Borough Hall, the Public Library and the Senior Center. Additionally, properly trained individuals are circulators of the petition. These include the P.T.O. Presidents and the Mayor.

The deadline for signing the petition is June 30. Please come to one of the locations to do so, or contact the Board Office or a circulator with any questions. Thank you.



AS SCHOOL ENDS AT MANITO SCHOOL

At Manito School this year, a record number of students earned recognition as a pillar of character and an equally impressive number of students were cited with Random Acts of Kindness for doing small things that make a big difference. The outstanding character demonstrated by the children continues to be a great source of pride for the Manito community.



"500 bags of groceries...were donated to the Center for Food Action in Mahwah and given to families in need."

The Manito student body also participated in three school-wide projects during 2011/2012 that were designed to give back to the community. Sponsored by the Manito Student Council, this year's "Best Medicine Cart" featured hundreds of toys and activities that the students donated to other children who were hospitalized during the winter holidays.

Manito's generosity extended to our autumn and spring food collection drives. Combined, The Manito Turkey Trot and The Manito Bunny Hop helped to generate over 500 bags of groceries, which were donated to the Center for Food Action in Mahwah and given to families in need.

In academics, students participated in Manito's first annual Colonial Day. Fifth grade students created various Colonial artifacts and dressed the part to explain interesting historical facts to the younger children. The experience culminated with a Colonial feast that was enjoyed by fifth grade students and teachers.

While our fifth graders were journeying back in time to the Colonial Era, fourth grade students were participating in the Celebrate New Jersey writing contest, which provides the students with an opportunity to write about an aspect of life in the Garden State. As a result, six Manito students earned honors in "The Best of the Best" category.

Students and their parents were honored at a gala in Newark.

In June, several current and former Manito students displayed their artistic talents at the annual District Art Show, which was held at the Oakland Public Library. This year's show featured an impressive variety of works that included sculptures, mosaics, portraits, paintings, and pencil drawings. Guests were also treated to musical accompaniment by some of the District's very talented musicians.

One of the perpetual highlights of each school year is the Manito Spring Fair. Because of the heroics of scores of volunteers, this year's Fair was one of the most successful in recent history! Children of all ages enjoyed various games, activities, crafts and cuisine. In addition to being a fun-filled afternoon, the Manito Spring Fair always brings the community closer together, and this year was no exception!



END OF YEAR HIGHLIGHTS AT HEIGHTS SCHOOL

With the State assessment behind us, May brightened the calendar with Global Education, an intensive school wide cross-curricular unit that inspires children to take a virtual journey to countries around the world. Global Education exposes the children to the food, culture, and climate through a variety of clever hands-on methods, including various speakers and presentations. This immersion lasts for two weeks and is a learning experience for all.



The annual Heights Olympics was held on June 1. The Heights Olympics is a highly sophisticated and coordinated event that encourages students to celebrate with their peers and promotes their spirit of teamwork and sports-person-ship through a variety of races and feats of skill. A surprise Torch Runner, the Olympic band and chorus, and the release of homing pigeons added to the activity's pageantry.

"Remember....September is just around the corner!"

June brings our annual fifth grade musical production to Heights School, which, this year was, "The Wizard of Oz." Once again, our night performance was a sell-out success.



Our PTO sponsored our Grade Five picnic on June 6 at the Oakland Recreation Field. On June 19, the annual Honors Assembly occurred, during which students will be recognized for their participation in special events, excellent attendance, etc. At this special assembly, the "Mr. Al Kindness Award" is bestowed upon the student who accrued the most random acts of kindness during the school year.



Additionally, our District held its Third Annual Art Show at the Oakland Public Library on Tuesday, June 12, 2012. Beautiful works of art, created by VMS student artists and our elementary school special art students, were on display for all to view and enjoy. Adding to the elegance of the evening, former Heights students, Sydney and Noah Lee, played their cellos as the art was viewed. Colette Barca from VMS also played beautiful pieces on her violin. Critics raved. The Show was coordinated by Ms. Ciambra, District Art Coordinator, and presented by our lead artists, Ms. Jill Jeune, Ms. Vanessa Telischak, and Ms. Lori Devanna, District Art teachers. The musical touch to this perfect summer evening was organized by Ms. Marcia Marino, District Instrumental Music Coordinator.

June is now over; summer beckons; and, students look forward to pools, barbecues, and a chance to unwind. Some of Heights School students will be attending Oakland Recreation Camp and others may enroll in the Summer Enrichment program offered to students. However students choose to unwind, they should get their rest, because September is just around the corner!

AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE WITHIN OAKLAND

Valley Middle School and the New Jersey Japanese School created a special partnership this year to celebrate diversity and understanding. The activities included a letter exchange that lasted months leading up to a school day exchange for the sixty students and ten teachers involved. During the visit to Valley Middle School, the Japanese students were able to experience American School Culture by going to lunch with their exchange partners, practicing archery in physical education class, and studying novels in reading classes. Students from the Japanese School were excited to see how American schools worked and enjoyed the variety of classes, going between classes, and experiencing an American cafeteria.

As the students from Valley Middle School visited the New Jersey Japanese School, they had a chance to experience Kendo, Japanese calligraphy, cooking, and science. All of the classes were taught in Japanese, which taught the students to rely upon their exchange partners. Each school exchange also included a celebration ceremony with ice-breaker activities, music, food, a banner exchange, and speeches from student leaders and administrators from each school. It was a wonderful experience for students to understand and appreciate the diversity within Oakland while giving the Japanese students an opportunity to learn about their host coun-

STUDENTS TEACHING STUDENTS

On Thursday, June 14, 2012, the Valley Middle School seventh graders visited Oakland's elementary schools during their Reading classes to share the children's books they created. This culminating language arts activity has been a long-standing tradition at in Oakland. Reading teachers use the project as a means for students to apply the skills they learned throughout the year, including narrative elements such as foreshadowing and flashback, character and plot development, and figurative language.

First, seventh graders were exposed



to the different formats of children's books. Some students were inspired by books such as *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka and decided to retell popular fairy tales and added their own creative twist. Other seventh graders wrote memoir type books based on their own experiences. After the stories were written in paragraph form, the teachers used the writing process for revision and editing. Storyboards were created before students had the opportunity to actually lay out text and create illustrations in a hard-bound book. Teachers were amazed at the time and effort students took to creatively illustrate their stories. A variety of materials were used: water color, paint, pop-up style, photos, and computer art.

When the books were finished, students were bubbling over with excitement in anticipation of visiting the elementary school classrooms to read their stories. Each seventh grader was paired with several second graders or kindergartners from all three

elementary schools, Dogwood, Heights, and Manito, so that reading classes could share their stories. In just a short time, 35 minutes, middle school children shared their stories with their new elementary school friends and made a connection that warmed the hearts of all involved in the project.



"When the books were finished, ...the...students were bubbling over with excitement"

LITERARY TALENTS BIND GENERATIONS



Valley Middle School has proudly announced that JOY (Joining Old & Young), a poetry group comprised of middle school poets and senior poets from Bergen and Passaic Counties will be featured in Classroom Close-up, NJ, a television program that focuses on innovative education in New Jersey's public schools.

JOY poets meet monthly at Valley Middle School to critique their poems and share their dreams, life experiences, and feelings. The program culminates with a publication of their works and a poetry reception and reading at Barnes & Noble Booksellers. At this year's reading on May 29, Project Coordinator Ms. Judith Vihonski received a special award that resulted from an entry in the Barnes & Nobles' "My Favorite Teacher Contest," which was written by eighth grader Jade Pace. Both Ms. Pace and Ms. Vihonski were recognized that evening.

The JOY Program has received a Best Practice Award from the New Jersey State Department of Education and an A+ for Kids award. It was also featured in Writing magazine. This year, the program celebrated its 28th year in Oakland.

Classroom Close-up, 30-minute weekly series features the students, teachers, and communities that create and participate in successful school projects and events. Classroom Close-up, NJ is a co-production of the New Jersey Education Association and NJN Public Television, with additional funding provided by K. Hovnanian® Homes® and PSE&G. The program will be aired in 2013.



VMS – EIGHTH GRADERS JOURNEY TO PHILADELPHIA

The Grade 8 overnight trip to Philadelphia took place on May 22, 23, and 24. The first stop on the tour was at the Battleship New Jersey. Students and teachers had an amazing time on our guided tour learning about the critical role the battleship played in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Following the tour, we arrived at the Bourse building for lunch. Many students were excited to buy real Philadelphia cheese steaks!

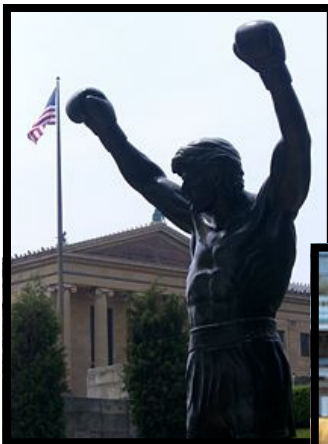
Next, the 193 students and their teachers walked to the National Constitution Center. Students were able to explore the museum that explains and honors the U.S. Constitution, with more than 100 interactive exhibits. The evening activity was a dinner cruise on the Spirit of Philadelphia. Students had a fun time dancing and enjoying the scenery.

On the second day, each group enjoyed an hour long Duck Tour, on which the Valley Middle School class travelled through the streets of Philadelphia and the Schuylkill River. The Duck Tour drivers really kept the students entertained. Half-way through the day, we stopped at Maggiano's for lunch, a restaurant that certainly lives up to its reputation. The food and service were excellent.

Then, each group went to the Eastern State Penitentiary for a guided tour of one of the most expensive, high-tech prisons ever built. The tour guides were so informative and really kept the students attention. Following the Penitentiary, the group visited the National Liberty Museum. Students were separated into groups, and each group had its own tour guide who explained the exhibits.

A delicious dinner at Dave & Buster's was the last stop of the evening. Students were given a set menu from which to choose and then went into the game room to play games and win prizes.

The last day began with a trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art where our 2012 class photo was taken. After the picture, many students ran up the steps just as Rocky did in the movie. The last stop before heading home was a visit to the Philadelphia Zoo. The students really enjoyed and were excited to see all of the animals and the exhibits that the zoo had to offer. Following this visit, we began the bus journey back to Oakland, where parents awaited their children's return.



POSTCARDS From Philadelphia.



***"The Valley Middle
School Class of 2012
had a great a time in
Philadelphia!"***

LEARNING UNTIL THE LAST DAY AT DOGWOOD HILL SCHOOL

Although the calendar may tell us that the school year is coming to a close, at Dogwood Hill School the instruction has remained in high gear! Teachers continue to address the learning objectives for the students in imaginative and exciting ways until the last bell at the end of June.

This year the fifth grade Social Studies curriculum included Colonial Day, an opportunity for the students to explore the customs and culture of Pre-Revolutionary America. Dogwood Hill School was extremely fortunate to have two parents who are experts in the era. Ms. Elizabeth Benducci, who is a docent at the Van Allen House, was one of the guest speakers. Students viewed games, dolls and cooking utensils, and they also explored the art of calligraphy, and learned about pre-revolutionary pirates, as well as a variety of other Colonial customs.



For nearly a quarter of a century, Earth Day has focused the attention of children and adults on protecting the earth and preserving its natural resources. During Earth Week 2012, Dogwood Hill School students had the opportunity to volunteer to read an earth-themed book to support, "A Billion Acts of Sustainability," a program sponsored by Earthday.org. Half of the students in grades 1 - 5 pledged to read a library book. Choices included a wide range of earth-related subjects, both fiction and non-fiction. Of the 134 pledges, nearly 74% returned their signed pledges from home, adding 99 acts of sustainability to the website's goal. Students received a Certificate of Participation acknowledging their efforts.



One of the stimulating activities that has become an annual tradition at Dogwood Hill School is the Fourth Grade Egg Drop. Students are challenged to devise a miniature spacecraft to have an uncooked, "EGGstronaut," land safely without breaking, after being dropped from Dogwood Hill School's roof. This critical thinking project has students designing and building a variety of apparatuses. Mr. Gerry McMinn lifts the spacecraft up to the roof of Dogwood Hill School where they each receive a countdown and are dropped off of the roof. The children cheer for each successful landing. Some parents were present as well to watch the event. Following the outside portion of the lesson, the children returned to their classes to brainstorm why some eggs survived the fall, while others did not.

***"June school days may be
ending, but the students
haven't stopped learning!"***



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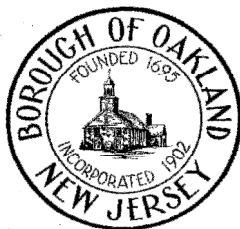
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George Washington and his officers stayed at the Van Allen House on July 14, 1777, on their way north to join more of their forces near West Point, when the troops and supply wagons got bogged down on the muddy trail that was the Ramapo Valley Road of those days. The troops camped down along the Valley Road. Washington wrote two letters addressed from the Van Allen House, of which we have copies at the House. History has recorded that General Washington led his troops up and down the 'Valley Road' on other occasions also, and stayed at other Old Dutch Houses in Mahwah, Wayne and Ho-Ho-Kus as well as Morristown. In honor of General Washington's visit in Oakland (The Ponds), we make a point of celebrating his birthday here each year.

EXCERPT COURTESY OF THE OAKLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.oaklandhistoricalsociety.org