



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
- PD Safety Tips
- Oakland Arts
- Oakland Recreation
- Building Department
- **Spotlight**—Oakland Community of Commerce

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WINTER MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to everyone. The year 2013 promises to be extremely exciting here in our beautiful town of Oakland. I hope we can move forward by working together for an even more productive year than we had in 2012. So much was accomplished during the past year but so much more is hoped for in 2013.

"In the teachings of the past, we find knowledge to live a better future."

Now that the library litigation is settled, we can now activate plans to complete construction of the Library.

Our lease with the Ramapough Conservancy is already a positive move. Work has begun on the roof repair with money obtained from grants and donations; not at taxpayer's expense.

After a successful freshman year, the Oakland Farmer's Market is expanding.

This year we should move forward to make affordable housing for seniors a reality on the land we purchased last year.

Weekly single stream recycling will continue this year.

In 2012, we broke ground for the much needed DPW building. This year we hope to open its doors. River stabilization and flood buy-outs are moving forward.



Proposal for a new recreation park in the former Pleasureland area is no longer a dream.

During my first year in office, open communication in government was a priority. I pledge to continue open communication in government in Oakland.

Town wide telephone communication announced emergencies and important information.



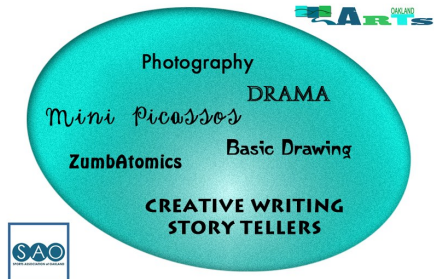
Oakland Mayor
Linda H. Schwager
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SAO AND OAKLAND ARTS CLASSES

The Sports Association of Oakland and Oakland Arts will again sponsor classes at The Oakland Public Library and Danny D'Elia Building this semester. The classes offered this semester are Photography, Mini Picassos, Creative Writing, Drawing, Drama and Zumba. Students age 4-18 are welcome.

The Classes will run for 8 weeks beginning the week of February 4th running through the first week of April. Spaces are limited so sign up early.

To find out more about or register for the classes please visit ThinkOakland.org.



Visit www.ThinkOakland.org to register and learn more about these classes.

THE OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Oakland Police Department would like to remind residents regarding important laws and ordinances and some safe driving tips for the upcoming winter months.

**Crosswalks:**

The driver of a vehicle must stop and stay stopped for a pedestrian crossing the roadway within any marked crosswalk, except at crosswalks when the movement of traffic is being regulated by police officers or traffic control signals.

**Clear Snow and Ice from the sidewalk and around fire hydrants:**

The owner, tenant or occupant of lands abutting on any street, highway or road within the limits of the Borough shall remove all snow and ice from the sidewalk or walkway areas in front of or bordering on said lands within twelve (12) hours of daylight after the same shall be formed or fall thereon. The owner or owners of any real property in the Borough upon which any fire hydrant is located shall maintain the area within a five (5') foot radius of the perimeter of any such fire hydrant free of snow. The removal of snow and/or ice shall be completed within twelve (12) hours of daylight after the snow has formed or fallen on or around any hydrant.

**Idling Law:**

No person shall cause, suffer, allow, or permit the engine of a gasoline-fueled motor

vehicle to idle for more than three consecutive minutes if the vehicle is not in motion.

The provisions of above shall not apply to autobuses while discharging or picking up passengers, motor vehicles stopped in a line of traffic or emergency motor vehicles in an emergency situation.

Driving safely on icy roads:

Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.

Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.

Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.

Keep your lights and windshield clean.

Use low gears to keep trac-



tion, especially on hills.

Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.

Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.

Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.

Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

Membership Drive!

NEW FRIENDS OF THE OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

The New Friends of the Oakland Public Library helps the library fulfill its mission as an intellectual and cultural center for the community. We fund the popular Summer Reading Program for children and high-demand books for adults.

We additionally support the New York Museum Pass program and the library's free concert series for families. In the past year, the New Friends have conducted a book sale, hosted a play and sponsored an art show featuring the work of local artists.

The New Friends are in the midst of their annual membership drive. To join the New Friends or to find out more about our activities, please see our webpage on the library's website: www.oaklandnjlibrary.org/friends.



2013 New Friends Concert Series

The concert, featuring "The Canorous Quintet" will highlight the talents of the five member marimba group. It will be held on Sunday, February 24th at 4:00 P.M. at the Korean Presbyterian Church of New Jersey on Ramapo Valley Road. The concert, which is free and open to all, will feature both classical and non-classical works.

The New Friends of the Oakland Public Library are busily working on preparations for their annual Spring Used Book Sale. Donations of gently used books, DVD's, and CD's are currently being accepted at the library. Regretably, textbooks, magazines, encyclopedias cannot be accepted. Watch for further information regarding date and time.

OAKLAND RECREATION TURNS THE CALENDAR TO 2013

The weather is getting colder but Oakland's winter sports are heating up. Our recreation wrestlers are well into their season. They are participating in wrestling meets that showcase our boys' hard work and commitment. Wrestling's new head coach is Todd Schlenker, who along with his assistant coaches, are volunteering their time to teach and prepare our wrestlers with patience and dedication. Likewise our basketball program is in mid-season form. Those cheers you hear coming from the elementary and middle school gyms are the boys and girls dazzling the crowd with their great basketball moves and shooting skills.

The coolest game in town is the ever expanding roller hockey program. By all measures this program is experiencing its most successful season ever. The youngest and least experienced players are working hard on their skating and stick handling skills in the "Learn to Skate" program. With the enthusiastic instruction of Ed King and

his assistants, the participants are enjoying themselves and learning the skills necessary to ensure the success of our program for years to come.



For the next youngest and experienced group, the "Clinic Level" participants are expanding on the skills they were taught last year and getting prepared for their forthcoming scrimmage games with other towns. This group always learns a lot and has fun while preparing for competitive, league level

play in future years.

Both "Midget Teams", the National team led by coach Rick Weiman and the American Team coached by Andy Haas are both taking on some tough competition and have winning records. The oldest and most experienced group of players that we field, the "Junior National team" under the direction of Jimmy Stoddard, is also encountering quite a bit of success. Each of these head coaches wish to thank their assistant coaches and welcome anyone wishing to watch some fast pace roller hockey to come down to the roller rink on any given night and see our boys skate.

As always the Recreation Commission asks everyone to keep a continuous eye on our website at www.OaklandRec.org as all sign-up information, field closures and other important information is posted. Enjoy the rest of your winter Oakland!

OAKLAND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

As residents recover from the recent storm the Building Department reminds property owner with pools that fencing is a required barrier for pool enclosures. If your pool fence has been damaged the potential of an unprotected pool can lead to a tragic event. Any pool fence damaged must be repaired to insure its safety. If you observe an unprotected fence, please contact the building department at 201-337-1644.

Fuel for all gas powered equipment should be stored safely outside of the home in a detached garage or shed. Residents should dispose of unused gasoline or kerosene as these fuels will not remain stable for long periods of time. Additionally, filled propane tanks should not be stored in a basement or attached garage. Portable generators should also be run until empty or drained before being placed in storage. Permanent generators should be run on a periodic maintenance schedule to insure that they remain operational. All permanent generators must have permits and inspections by this office.



"fuels should be stored
in outside sheds."

All repairs to your house must be done by a licensed home improvement contractor. All contractors must be licensed with the State of New Jersey. The only exception to this is if the work is solely electrical or solely plumbing. Electrical and Plumbing contractors are licensed with the State for this work.



All underground tank removals must be done by licensed tank removal contractors.

Please be aware that during the cold weather season residents have been contacted by contractors and advised that their chimney needs to be relined or is dangerous. If a contractor contacts you but you have not requested an estimate for any work; ask for their license and call the building department. This has occurred to several elderly residents in the area. Don't allow work to be done at your house "because you have to". If you have a question about the work, get an answer. Call a family member or get another estimate. Reliable contractors will not pressure you or tell you "the price is today only".

The Fire Prevention Bureau reminds you to only use kerosene heaters with adequate ventilation. Space heaters should only be used if directly plugged into an outlet and are not near furniture or curtains. Residents that have fire hydrants on their property are reminded to keep these hydrants clear after snow. Keeping the hydrant clear can save time and lives in the event of a fire. Sidewalks should be kept clear of ice and snow so pedestrians don't fall or have to walk in the roadway and into traffic.

Have a safe and fire free winter season.



The Building Department would like to thank the Oakland residents for their help in having a safe and healthy holiday and happy New Year.

**Happy
New Year!**

BEWARE...



***"It is our goal to "Promote,
Support & Advocate for
Oakland Businesses!"***

OAKLAND COMMUNITY OF COMMERCE

As the newest business development and advocacy organization for businesses in Oakland, we are committed to creating a healthy and vibrant economy while protecting and advancing the interest of our members and the community as a whole. We are dedicated to working with Oakland residents, businesses and educational and governmental partners to provide a positive business environment and to improve the quality of life in Oakland.

We will encourage all residents to shop in Oakland to help make Oakland more prosperous. The new executive board is available to the community in whatever capacity we are needed; to protect, encourage, and to preserve our life-style and the environment.

Our by-laws, as adopted by our new membership, encourages everyone to become a member; whether as a business owner or as a resident of Oakland, if you care about Oakland we want to hear how together we can make it an even better place to live, work and play.

Everyone is invited to attend our next group networking and strategizing event being held on February 4, 2013 at Cenzino's Restaurant beginning at 5:30 pm. The cost is \$25.00 PP. If you have any questions, ideas or suggestions or need assistance, please contact Chairman Peter J. Kikot via e-mail at chair@thinkoakland.org.

We also encourage you to visit our website www.thinkoakland.org to view our by-laws or to receive more information on upcoming events and sales or to download a membership form.

Thank you to our newly elected leadership!

Peter J. Kikot—Chair

Len Scully—Vice Chair

A. Robert LaNeve—Treasurer

Cynthia A. Myer—Secretary



MAYOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



If you have not already done so, please go to the Borough's website to register your contact information to receive the reverse 911 calls.

I remind all residents that I have office hours at Borough Hall starting at 5:30 p.m. before council meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. In addition, I have an "open door" policy in my law office located at 195 Ramapo Valley Road. I invite you to call me with any problems or you can contact me by email mayorschwager@oakland-nj.org.

Until next time,

Mayor Linda H. Schwager



THE RAMAPOUGH CONSERVANCY WHAT'S UP WITH THE HOUSE ON THE CORNER?

At the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Ramapo Valley Road in Oakland, you may or may not have noticed an older house sitting just a few yards away from the confluence of two of the busiest roads in Bergen County. If you take the time to stop and inspect the building, you'd find that it is more than just an old residence, it is an essential part of Oakland's history. This is Oakland's Van Allen House.

According to Jerri Angermueller, President of the Oakland Historical Society, the Van Allen House was constructed by the Van Allen Family in 1748, making it the oldest currently standing structure in town. The significance of the house dates back to July 14, 1777 when General George Washington passed through "The Ponds", the area now more commonly known as Oakland. As he and his troops were on their way north into New York, Washington slept over at the Van Allen House and then continued to follow Ramapo Valley Road the following day. As evidence of his stay, the Library of Congress is in possession of a letter Washington wrote saying he was "8 miles from Pompton Plains" and listed the Van Allen House as his headquarters.

Over time however, the Van Allen House and surrounding property was passed onto different generations and different families, the most notable family being that of Edward Day Page. Page, a wealthy New York businessman, decided that living in or near the city was not for him.

"Edward Page is interesting because he was one of many New York City industrials who decided to move out of the city into the countryside and start a gentleman farmer's life," explained Mrs. Angermueller. "He helped to bring Oakland into the 20th Century by helping Oakland to become an established Borough which could have its own schools, its own fire department, and its own local government."

Being a farmer, Edward Page also owned many cows, which produced much milk. While he expanded the Van Allen House considerably to make room for his family (and then later built a mansion on Hiawatha Blvd which burned down due to a fire), Page still did not have a suitable place where he could store his dairy products. To keep the dairy from spoiling, Mr. Page built the other building on the property, which is located a few yards away from the Van Allen House, called the Stream House.

After several years under the ownership of the Pages and a few other families, the Van Allen House was at risk of being destroyed in 1963, according to the picture-based history book called Images of America: Oakland written by Kevin Hefferman and John Madden. It was then that the Borough took possession of the property and the Oakland Historical Society was formed in 1966.

Since then, the Van Allen House has started to fall into disrepair, which has many local citizens worried. Several attempts were made to restore, preserve, and save the Van Allen House over the past few decades, including the demolishing of the expansions Mr. Page added on, but time had caught up to the historical society members and the Borough, prompting new action to be taken.

Oakland had come up with several ideas and solutions to fix the Van Allen House's problems, with the most immediate problem being a small hole in the house's roof, but there was a concern among Oakland residents if taxes would go up in order to pay for repairs. "The Borough of Oakland performed an extensive study to assess and determine the history and current state of the property two years ago," said Councilman Tim Jensen. "Then, the Ramapo Conservancy formed as an offshoot of the Morris County Land Conservancy to protect and rehabilitate defined properties and assets important to the Ramapo river area. They approached Oakland with a plan to rehabilitate the property without having to use taxpayer funds and that caught our attention."

Over the past year, the Borough has worked with the Ramapo Conservancy and has allowed the group to lease the Van Allen House property from Oakland. By doing this, the Conservancy can seek private funding from citizens and grants to help repair and restore the historic house to its former glory.

As of the writing of this article, the Ramapo Conservancy has successfully raised over \$8,000 from Oakland residents via mailings. The group has also received a matching grant from the Brotherton Foundation, a group that according to their website was "established to help fulfill the missions of "charitable organizations"... [with] main areas of interest [in] education, religion, historic preservation, and medical programs and/or scientific research."

"I am very excited about the partnership between the Borough and the Ramapo Conservancy so improvements can be made without our taxpayers dipping into their pockets," said Mayor Linda Schwager. "A sign has recently been erected and with the Brotherton Foundation's matching grant in place, the roof repairs should be started shortly, meaning Oakland residents will see changes very very soon."

While one could say progress is slow in the process of restoring Oakland's Van Allen House, it is of shared importance throughout the community that all work is done correctly, in order for future generations to continue to appreciate its value and historical significance to the Borough.

FROM THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS DR. JEFFREY FEIFER

Dear Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

After working for thirty-three years in Closter (nine as Elementary Principal and twenty-four as Superintendent of Schools); two years in Northern Valley Regional High School District as a Special Education Consultant; two years in Norwood as Interim Superintendent; and nine months in Oradell as Interim Superintendent and Administrative Consultant, I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to serve as your Interim Superintendent of Schools.

As an educational leader in Bergen County I have always heard positive comments about the excellent school system in Oakland. Success has been achieved through the efforts of a dedicated staff, the support of an outstanding Board of Education, the involvement and cooperation of parents/guardians and the community, and the devoted leadership and coordination of Dr. Heflich and the Administrative Team.

**New Interim Superintendent of
Schools.**

Welcome Dr. Jeffrey Feifer.

I am grateful to the Board of Education for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading our district during this critical period that begins now and will lead to the appointment of a long-term Superintendent of Schools. My objectives during this time of transition are to (1) maintain the very positive and supportive district culture that everyone has worked

so hard to establish together; (2) review school safety and security procedures; (3) develop a 2013-2014 budget to support district operations and our program of curriculum and instruction; (4) assist in the process of finding a new Superintendent and a new Business Administrator; (5) meet State mandates governing educators' evaluations, student assessments, curriculum alignment with the Common Core State Standards, and professional development; and (6) keep the district focused on our mission to promote high academic achievement in a supportive and challenging environment and to equip students with the academic and technological skills necessary for success in future educational pursuits and professional careers.

I look forward to working closely with you in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Feifer, Ed. D.

Interim Superintendent of Schools

DOGWOOD HILL SCHOOL – “SEASON OF SERVICE”



The students at Dogwood Hill School are celebrating the holiday season by sending messages of holiday cheer and goodwill to others. Under the guidance of Ms. Miggels, the Library/Media Specialist at Dogwood Hill School, the students are participating in, “Season of Service.” This project is coordinated by the New Jersey Department of Education, in conjunction with Operation Jersey Cares.

Through the first few weeks of December, the fourth and fifth grade students at Dogwood Hill

School will have the opportunity to create holiday cards or write letters of goodwill to the service men and women presently deployed overseas. Over the past years, the Governor’s office reports, these cards and messages have proven to be incredibly meaningful to the service members.

The Dogwood Hill School community is proud to add another one hundred holiday messages to this very worthy cause!

DOGWOOD KIDS BRING BOOKS TO THE NEEDED

During the months of November and December, Ms. Bosgra’s fourth grade class at Dogwood Hill School participated in Scholastic Book Club’s Classrooms Care program called, “Paws for Reading.” The goal was to motivate students to read at home every day—and get books into the hands of kids in need.

For every 20 minutes the students read each night one book would be donated to charity. The students chose a team, cats or dogs, and read each night and logged their minutes on the Scholastic website. Each morning the students were excited to see which team was in the lead and which classmate was reading the most minutes. On December 14, 2012 the program ended and in our classroom the Cats were the winners!

The students from both teams read 37, 490 minutes combined and helped donate 1, 874 books to children in need. Overall, with students from all over the country, Scholastic and its reading partners donated 1 million books.



“On December 14, 2012 the program ended and in our classroom the Cats were the winners! “



IPADS HELP MAKE LEARNING "CLICK" AT MANITO



Thanks to a coordinated effort between the Manito Parent Teacher Organization and the Board of Education, teachers and students are beginning to use iPads to enhance the learning process and carry it further into the 21st century. Supported by third grade "teacher leader," Ms. Holly Arisman, teachers are beginning to explore the various ways these amazing devices can be used to help students learn and reinforce just about any academic subject in the curriculum. Best of all, the children are thoroughly engaged and are clearly having fun as they learn. Knowing that many of our students have access to an iPad at home, Ms. Arisman and her Grade 3 colleagues have compiled a list of apps that would help support the work the children are completing in school.

The first recommendation is Splash Math. This app is a great resource for reviewing mathematics concepts. For example, after completing our place value unit, the children used Splash Math to keep their skills sharp. For spelling, we recommend using the Spelling City app. There are a lot of fun games to help students practice the weekly spelling lists. Do you like the game Boggle? Then you should try the Chicktionary app where students scramble letters to make words. Our third grade authors have enjoyed letting their imaginations go wild with the Toontastic app. This app helps our authors produce cartoon stories. Finally, we recommend the Brainpop app. This app helps us develop our non-fiction comprehension skills with a slew of interesting videos on a wide range of topics.



"There are a lot of fun games to help students practice"

MANITO CARES: STUDENTS "ROCK" TO HELP REBUILD LIVES AFTER SUPER STORM SANDY

During the past several years, Manito students have made a tradition of helping those in need. Thousands of dollars were raised through a variety of coordinated fundraising efforts to help those impacted by natural disasters in Haiti and Japan. This year, when our socially conscious students realized the extent to which Hurricane Sandy uprooted the lives of their school age counterparts right here in New Jersey, they were once again compelled to act.

Directed by student council advisors, Jennifer Grella and Heather Meyers, Manito's newly elected student council decided to "adopt" the Little Egg Harbor Public School District, as many of its students lost most, if not all of their personal possessions to the devastating storm. In a creative twist on past Walk-a-Thons, the children decided to stage a Dance-a-Thon to raise money for this worthy cause. On December 14, 2012, "Rockin' to Rebuild" became a reality. Students in Grades K-5 performed a different choreographed dance to twenty songs, each lasting only one minute.

Each time a child completed a dance, teachers and other members of the Manito staff frenetically punched holes in the children's pledge cards to ensure they received credit for the pledges they amassed prior to the event.

Once all of the donations were counted, Manito students had danced their way to the tune of almost \$8,000; which will be used to help offset the cost of purchasing new school supplies, toys and necessities for the children of the Little Egg Harbor Public Schools. No matter the circumstances, the Manito community never fails to demonstrate its overwhelming generosity, outstanding character, and its resolute spirit, especially in times of crisis. Way to go, Manito!

Way To Go!



HEIGHTS—SOMETHING NEW IS IN THE AIR...



In an increasingly technological world, the integration of technology based learning tools is becoming an essential component in the classroom. While many school districts are struggling to find the formula for the right amount of technology in the classroom, the Oakland Public School District has created its own iPad Initiative to help ease this difficult dilemma. While the district sees a clear role for the iPad in the classroom, it has chosen to provide a limited amount of the devices to specially trained teachers in each of its District schools.

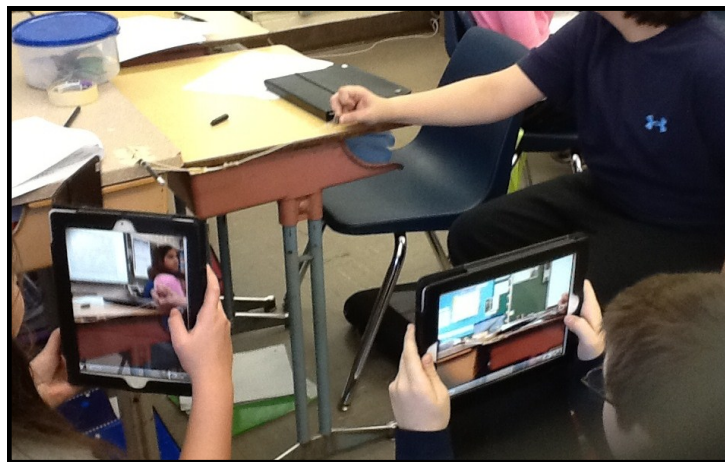
The role for these specialist teachers is to research, explore, and integrate the iPads into the classroom with district and curricular goals in mind. The effective strategies and applications that these teachers discover and employ are then carefully recorded for future use as the district makes calculated decisions about the effectiveness of the devices in its schools.

At Heights School, this process is being lead by the Library Media Specialist, Stacy Contreras and Grade 5 Teacher, Ryan Gilligan. These two iPad initiative specialists have volunteered to lead the integration of iPads into the school's instructional program. From the beginning of the school year they have been given specialized training through William Patterson University, and have been independently exploring the potential and best educational application of the devices. The knowledge and experience gained by these two teachers will gradually be spread to fellow teachers as the iPads are shared throughout the school.



Aside from the essential real world familiarity with technology, the children at Heights School have been given an opportunity to learn through the use of the iPad about grammar, story genres, elements of a story, and several scientific topics in a hands-on manner. As the iPad initiative at Heights School develops and more is learned about the use of iPads in the classroom, our teachers will continue their exploration of the various forms of technology that will enhance instruction and make learning more meaningful for the children.

We thank our PTO and our Board of Education for their consideration of this project. We are delighted that this opportunity has been afforded to our children and have great expectations for success!



"through the use of an iPad, the children at Heights School have been given an opportunity to learn in a hands-on manner"

VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL 2012-2013 HOLIDAY FOOD AND TOY DRIVE

Every year, the Valley Middle School Student Council gives back and donates to charitable organizations during the holiday season. This year was particularly and uniquely challenging, given the ramifications of Hurricane Sandy and the widespread physical and emotional toll this super-storm had on many of our homes and communities. Many of us had been left without supplies, food, or even shelter, and even more know someone who experienced such hardships. The impact was widespread, and the Student Council focused on getting our young leaders involved in helping one another during this most difficult situation. This platform provided an invaluable opportunity for our adolescents to engage and give back to their local and greater community.



The Food and Toy Drive, sponsored by the Valley Middle School Student Council, was a great success! During the months of November and December, our students brought in non-perishable food items as well as toys for children of all ages in their homeroom classes. Each of the Student Council Homeroom Representatives kept a running record of the number of food and toys items brought in on a daily basis. Not only was this a wonderful way for our students to give back and get involved, but also to learn the value and importance of helping their neighbors during the holiday season. To culminate the effort, the homeroom that had donated the greatest number of food and toy items were given a complete breakfast for their hard work and caring efforts

on December 18th, 2012. It was certainly a very tight race among the homerooms, and we were so very proud of our children for all of the generous donations that were made during this drive.

Our student population donated over 750 food items that were collected and provided to The Oakland Women's Club. The goods gathered were used to provide holiday feasts for local families. To add to this tremendous accomplishment, the students and faculty of Valley Middle School donated over 1,056 toy items for the Christopher Croker Toy Drive. Since 1996, this charitable organization has been providing many smiles to the faces of children at The Children's Hospital in New Jersey. With all of these kind gestures, these gifts made the holiday season a little brighter for everyone.

The Valley Middle School community came together in the spirit of the holidays to help their community through kindness and compassion. These actions are priceless in the life lessons of giving back to others.



The Kindness Wave™



**Start a ripple... Create a wave.
It begins with YOU!**

**"Kindness in words creates confidence.
Kindness in thinking creates profoundness.
Kindness in giving creates love."**

—Lao Tzu

OAKLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Sandra Coira, Timothy Jensen, Karen Marcalus

Pat Pignatelli, Elizabeth Stagg

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Peter J. Kikot

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© OAKLAND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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