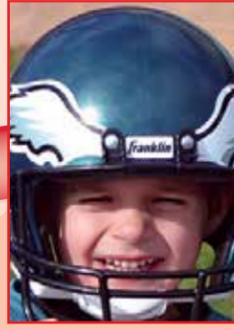


Advocate

Connect Unite Succeed



The newsletter of the
Owen J. Roberts
School District

Winter 2017

Inspiring Each Student for Success Today and Greatness Tomorrow

Message from Superintendent-elect, Dr. Susan T. Lloyd



Happy New Year, Owen J. Roberts School District! I want to express my gratitude for the support you've offered since I was appointed superintendent of our school district. If there's one thing you can count on in this new year, and in years to come, it's that I will give you my very best to meeting our

collective goals and move this district forward. Let me start my tenure as superintendent by sharing with you some promises.

First, I will never forget that the stated mission of the Owen J. Roberts School District is our ultimate policy and guiding light: to inspire each student for success today and greatness tomorrow. To make that mission tangible, I promise to reinforce our vision, which reminds us to always move from good to great, and to do the right thing at the right time for the right reasons.

Second, I promise to foster an effective, positive and transparent school board/superintendent relationship. Our mission and vision are mutual between administration and governance, and I will always remember that we are better together.

Next, I promise to make communication a cornerstone of my administration. So much can be achieved by ensuring consistent and collaborative messaging. We will strengthen family and community engagement, promote a constructive climate that is focused on student outcomes, and develop a healthy rapport between all stakeholders.

Finally, but certainly not the least of my promises, is to ensure students are academically, emotionally and socially successful. Inspired by the words of our mission, I will rally this administration, our faculty and our community to always keep student success at the center of our efforts. What else could be more important than that?

The superintendent's role provides essential leadership for everyone at all levels, ensures thoughtful and appropriate stewardship of funds and facilities, and enables communication between schools and the community. All of this will be achieved through active listening and authentic engagement (such as building tours; dialogue with students, staff and stakeholders; data analysis; media engagement; and, of course, taking into account everyone's suggestions).

As I assume these responsibilities, I will be hitting the ground listening and learning. I will also be working with our school board to establish measurable and relevant goals for my administration, and everyone will be made aware of what those goals are and how success will be measured. Remember, it's your job to hold me accountable! This is an exciting time in education and I look forward to continuing my service to the OJR community, now as superintendent.

OJR Certified as International Baccalaureate World School

Following a rigorous two-year process, Owen J. Roberts High School has achieved authorization to offer an International Baccalaureate Career Program (IBCP). The IBCP is a two-year certificate program which combines courses from the International Baccalaureate's highly regarded Diploma Program (DP) of coursework in connection with Owen J. Roberts High School's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math), Life Sciences, and/or NJROTC coursework, and the IBCP Core. The IBCP Core consists of four components: Community Service, a Personal and Professional Skills course, Language Development, and a Reflective Project. Owen J. Roberts High School is one of just 22 Pennsylvania schools certified in either IB Diploma or IB Career Program.

According to the IB learner profile, "The aim of International Baccalaureate programs is to develop internationally-minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world." All IBCP learners are issued Chrome Books for one-to-one computing. The one-to-one technology initiative is designed to create an environment where students can access global information and learn in meaningful ways.



Over the course of a student's junior and senior years, the DP courses, career courses, and IBCP Core will blend together to enhance critical thinking and intercultural understanding. After completing a culminating test in each of the DP courses and the successful completion of the other IBCP elements, the student will receive an IBCP Certificate. The certificate is in addition to his or her high school diploma. The potential for earning college credit is possible depending on the final DP course test scores (similar to AP test credit). The high school has trained over 15 teachers and administrators for this program, which will continue to grow. See program flow chart on page 7 for program details.

Honoring Tradition

The annual Thanksgiving rivalry game has been an important part of community engagement for both Owen J. Roberts and Pottstown School Districts for 59 years. Because families reunite for the holiday, the Thanksgiving match-up is tailor made for alumni and community residents to socialize and reflect on community spirit and nostalgia. Changes in PIAA play-off rules and schedules were cited when Pottstown School District decided to discontinue the tradition of the Pottstown versus Owen J. Roberts Thanksgiving Day football game, which originated in 1959.

In 1970, more than 10,000 spectators came to see Owen J. win its first Ches-Mont championship by defeating Pottstown. The Wildcats led the Thanksgiving Day series 35-22-1.

Owen J. Roberts High School Principal Dr. Richard Marchini explained that when he informed stakeholders that 2017 was potentially the final Thanksgiving game, groups came together immediately to plan a pep rally event that would honor the spirit of community. "We have a tight-knit and caring community that this change deeply impacts," he said. The athletic office, the football



team and coaches, the high school marching band and directors, the cheerleaders and coaches, pep rally planners, game announcers, the alumni association, staff, and individual alumni went to work to structure a pre-game pep rally held Wednesday, November 22, 2017 at Wildcat Stadium and Henry Bernat Field. Colors were presented by the NJROTC followed by the National Anthem. Fall sports teams were recognized. The cheerleaders performed and Principal Marchini engaged the crowds in a roller-coaster cheer. A history of Owen J. Roberts' football program and the rivalry with Pottstown was presented with recognitions for present and alumni coaches and athletes. Fans from six decades gathered to sing, "Roberts High to thee we raise Alma Mater, hymn of praise..."

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National Merit Recognitions

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test—which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million entrants each year—and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

Congratulations to Jonathan Arditi, Henry Chronowski, Tristan Fish, George Kullen, Jacob Puderbach, and Eric Zhou, who received Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise.

Congratulations to Melinda Burns, Maxwell Gallagher, and Max Murphy who are semi-finalists. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state.



Veterans Day 2017

On November 10, Owen J. Roberts widely celebrated Veterans Day with more than 400 veterans and their guests visiting our schools. In many schools, veterans were honored and entertained with special poems, patriotic songs, and in some cases breakfast or lunch. Several veterans visited classrooms and gave short presentations. Heartfelt cards and crafts were created to thank veterans. East Vincent Elementary thanked all veterans including East Vincent sixth grade teacher and veteran, Mr. Jeremy Jahn, who served in active duty from October 2004 to February 2005 as a Combat Engineer. Mr. Jahn ranked as a Sergeant E-5 and was part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mr. Jahn shared many photos and videos of his

story during two assemblies.

The 70 veterans honored at the high school included those who served in all the different services and many different eras. The high school was happy to host a woman who had served with the Women's Army Corps (WACS), during World War II. Two men in attendance were 96 year-old World War II veterans. One gentleman, Mr. Taylor, served with the 4th Marine Tank Battalion throughout the Pacific campaign including the landing on Iwo Jima. The other, Mr. William Bull, was with the 28th Pennsylvania through the entire Battle of Bulge. It was also Mr. Bull's birthday on Veterans Day. The high school was honored to



host State Senator John Rafferty and State Representative Tim Hennessey to pay tribute to the veterans. The event included musical performances, speeches, and a luncheon. The

luncheon provided an opportunity for students and veterans to interact with one another and for students to express their gratitude and serve veterans.

Learning Remotely

Brian Baker, of West Vincent Elementary School, participated fully in class this fall. He reviewed his homework and solved math messages with his peers. He listened to his teacher give the math lesson and traveled with his fellow students as they transitioned to English Language Arts. However, there was something remarkable about Brian's day that set him apart from his peers. He did all of this without leaving his home.

Over the summer Brian underwent heart surgery which left him unable to attend school and participate in the daily routines of the normal school day. He was forced to miss the first month of school so that his body could appropriately heal and recover. Due to the advances in technology, on the days Brian was home healing, a robot took his place in the classroom.

Brian was able to control the robot from home using the keyboard on his own computer or laptop. An iPad hooked up to the robot streamed a two-way video which allowed Brian to see what was going on in his class. The amazing part is that it also let his classmates and teacher see him as well. The robot maneuvered around the classroom and traveled the halls. By having the robot in the classroom, Brian was able to keep up with his schoolwork and his friends when he couldn't physically be in the classroom. This technology allowed Brian to remain completely connected to his school and peers while receiving the same instruction on a daily basis. Now Brian is back at school and picking up right where he left off.

The telepresence robot allows students to continue to feel connected to their school and their peers and was developed and piloted by the Chester County Intermediate Unit. It was a project established specifically to support students who were unable to access their curriculum in school.



Peer Mentoring Presented



Mrs. Dana Breeden and Mrs. Stacia Bickel presented at AMLE2017, the 44th Annual Middle Level Education Conference in Philadelphia, November 6-8. The national conference inspires innovation and creativity among middle level educators and draws many of top researchers and authors.

Mrs. Breeden and Mrs. Bickel presented the Peer Mentoring program used at the Middle School, which allows gifted students to assist with same-grade level students who are struggling academically in a supportive and non-threatening environment. The teachers shared that peer tutors are a great way to connect students across all abilities. They provided a framework to other teachers to help implement and maintain grade-level peer tutors and offered advice on matching gifted students with struggling learners. Mrs. Breeden informed others, "We have seen so many positive gains from this approach including: increase self-esteem, new friendships, leadership growth, improved school outlook, just to name a few."

Music Education Tribute

Owen J. Roberts Marching Band (OJRMB) welcomed the Kutztown University Marching Unit (KUMU) as the feature band in the 47th Annual Cavalcade of Bands on Saturday, October 7. KUMU, like OJRMB, is a large ensemble with a great band tradition—OJR boasts 154 members this year. Displaying both discipline and joy in music education, the 2017 Cavalcade of Music event operated as a “showcase” event rather than a competition. Owen J. Roberts Marching Band is now a member of the Lancaster County Marching Band Coalition which gives high school bands adjudicated opportunities to receive professional feedback rather than rankings or numerical scores. Part of the energy of the event comes from the fact that all spectators, including students from other performing bands, are seated on the home sideline, so that everyone can listen, observe, and enjoy the performances as they were intended...from the front. This method of engagement allows performers the

ability to relax and have fun while providing a peer learning opportunity for student spectators. In lieu of an awards ceremony, the audience was entertained with a super, grand finale of music and visual energy.

In a unique display, KUMU and OJRMB converged on the field to play “America, the Beautiful” under the direction of Mr. Richard Wells. Wells, an Owen J. Roberts alumnus who served as band director with Owen J. Roberts from 1961-1968 when he was named an associate professor in the Department of Music at Kutztown University. Wells retired from KU in 1997 after 29 years of teaching and was named professor emeritus the same year. The large ensemble rehearsal space at Kutztown University was named for Wells in 2013 as part of a \$20 million renovation and expansion of Schaeffer Auditorium. At the cavalcade show, Owen J. Roberts and Kutztown University honored Wells’ 36 years as a music



educator and his influence on scores of students to aspire to excellence in music performance. A resident of the Owen J. Roberts School District, Wells remains loyal to the ideals

and benefits of music and education and may be seen at both high school and college events. He and his wife, Elizabeth, will be receiving Distinguished Alumni Awards by the OJR Education Foundation.

Super Reading Powers

Our youngest readers are donning capes and detective hats, showing their perseverance and determination for being “Super Readers” and “Word Detectives.” As part of the Owen J. Roberts English Language Arts kindergarten and first grade curriculum, teachers tap into the power of play to help students imagine themselves as readers at a critical time in their reading development.

Kindergartners learned to be super readers with a visit from OJR’s “Super Reader,” who helps students learn some emergent reading skills such as: pointer power, picture power, sound power, and reread power. Recognizing that superheroes never give up in times of trouble,

our readers learn that when we face trouble in our books we too can use super reading powers.

First graders build on those super reading powers in a follow-up unit of study on becoming word detectives. Students are assigned a top secret mission from the Super-Secret Detective Agency (SSDA) each day of the unit, learning to solve words with the following skills: paying attention to the beginning of the word, looking out for vowel teams, using parts of words one knows, watching out for unusual words, and noticing and stopping to solve problems with words. One first grader wrote, “I learned the word ‘ridiculous.’ I broke down the word to figwre [sic] out the sounds. I looked at the picture to see if

it made sense.” Students earn their official word detective certificates as a culminating celebration, distributed by the Chief Detective of the SSDA himself!



Both units bring together research on how students develop as readers and the importance of using play for engaging students in learning to read. Using the power of play ultimately serves to transform students into the kind of reader they

imagine themselves to be, while learning about the reading process at the same time, all in fun and joyful ways!

First “First” Day

On Monday, August 28, 2017, Owen J Roberts School District welcomed more than 5,400 students to its seven schools. At the new East Vincent Elementary School building, doors opened to welcome students for the first “first day” of school. While the building first welcomed students in April of 2017, the doors opened for the first official back-to-school welcome. Phase two of the construction project has been underway since April. All paved surfaces, sidewalks and playgrounds are finished, while many landscaping projects have continued into fall. The new school is designed with learning, collaboration, and student creativity in mind. There are plenty of spaces for students to work together and innovate including a science lab, STEAM room, and innovation center.



Ms. Seeley, the new principal of the school, was most recently Principal of Rose Tree Media’s Simon Youth Academy and before that Acting Principal of Indian Lane Elementary School. Prior to her career as an administrator she was both a classroom and instructional support teacher. Ms. Seeley brings with her a strong background in community partnerships and looks forward to fostering an engaged learning community at East Vincent Elementary School. She recently shared, “I already feel like a part of the Owen J. Roberts family. Our community of learners is kind, welcoming, and enthusiastic about education.”

Coding With Sphero

Students in Mrs. Romaniello’s fourth grade class at East Coventry have been provided a unique learning opportunity funded by the Owen J. Roberts Education Foundation.



Last winter she was awarded a mini grant worth \$2,000.00 and received twelve Sphero codable robots for her classroom. The Sphero is a translucent ball that connects to the student’s iPad through Bluetooth technology. Students are able to design a program to roll, spin, stop, and command other various functions. The technology focuses on inspiring curiosity, creativity, and invention through connected play and coding.

Coding enables students to design, define problems, and then generate solutions. Students began using the robots in September and learned the basic functions. Now they are problem solving and testing programs. “It really is amazing to watch students struggle and wonder why a particular part of their code isn’t working,” Romaniello stated. “They trouble shoot solutions and it causes them to think critically.” Students love various challenges they work on. Student Abby Kalbach said, “We can make it go around the bucket and come back and can even have it go forward, backwards, and do a dance.” The robots will be used to start a Robotics club for grades 4-6 in the spring. There are plans to expand the program by applying for additional funding for robots in the future.

Construction Updates

Construction of the new East Coventry Elementary School is progressing nicely with full anticipation of welcoming students and staff for the start of the 2018-19 school year. The school district has been paying attention to an aging East Coventry building and systems since 2004, saving incrementally for this project over the past decade. District's Chief Financial Officer Jaclin Krumrine noted, "The only immediate tax impact will be those indirect costs associated with maintenance of the building. Avoiding the issuance of debt will save the district enormous interest costs over the next 25 years." The East Coventry Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors approved the Preliminary Land Development Plans in April, 2016 and construction began in Spring, 2017. The district is grateful to the East Coventry Township Supervisors for continuing to work toward the shared prosperity of a project which is fiscally responsible, supports student success, and is a positive impact to the community. There are impressive drone construction progress videos taken by Mike Shelgren that may be found on the district website.



The construction project at East Vincent Elementary School was finished to the point of welcoming students into the new building in April of 2017. This fall much of the landscaping and pavement work was completed. The district is planning to have a Community Event/Open House in the spring of 2018.

Students as Researchers

A guest lecturer from Temple University presented his research to the Owen J. Roberts National Science Honor Society students the evening of October 16. Four faculty members, twenty-one seniors, and two sophomores from several different science courses were in attendance to work with Dr. Scott Rawls in this introductory SEADAP (Science Education Against Drug Abuse Partnership) presentation.

The purpose of the presentation was to teach students about how commonly abused substances (e.g. caffeine, sugar, alcohol, nicotine) work in the brain to produce addiction. Dr. Rawls and his team of researchers at Temple University developed an innovative series of eight lab activities

to demonstrate the addictive-like behaviors to substances such as alcohol, nicotine, caffeine and sugar (found in common beverages such as Red Bull, coffee, Frappuccino's, cigarettes, beer, and liquor).

The activity surpassed just encouraging students NOT to use drugs by demonstrating the science behind the addiction. The students' research findings raised even more questions about how addictions form and how they affect behavior. "If you tell someone not to put their hand in the cookie jar, they put their hand in the cookie jar when you're not looking," Rawls said. "We're showing these students the effects of addiction." The demonstration and hands-on nature of this opportunity makes SEADAP



an entirely new strategy for allowing students to learn about the science of drug abuse and the hazards of using addicting substances. Students

conducted three of the eight lessons developed by Dr. Rawl's team on October 16.

World Kindness Day



To kick off American Education Week, French Creek Elementary School celebrated World Kindness Day. Each grade planned special activities to promote kindness. Third grade classes colored the world a kinder place by wearing black to school then watching how kindness brought color into their day when colorful beaded necklaces were received for acts of kindness. This was a visual way to watch the kindness spread throughout the school community. Students were already recognizing kindness themes through books they have read this year.

Other activities for the day included writing acts of kindness in happiness journals and sharing with classmates and sharing original posters with kindness messages. Students collaborated to create a class calendar of ideas for random acts of kindness. Some classes made "kindness catchers" – a new spin on the classic cootie catcher of folded paper to tell fortunes. Another class painted rocks to participate in The Kindness Rocks project. One class created a heart-shaped rock garden. In another, students were encouraged to leave rocks behind in their travels and the class planned to follow rock placement as they study the state of Pennsylvania.

Pink Out & Make a Difference Day

Owen J. Roberts celebrated the 12th annual Make a Difference Day this year. The entire district banded together to support the Coventry Food Pantry by donating nonperishable food, personal care items, and paper goods between October 10 – 27. In addition,



in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, schools and offices participated in a PINK OUT DAY. The Homecoming Football Game was designated a PINK OUT GAME and the entire community came together to wear pink and support the cause. Thanks to our collective efforts, Owen J. Roberts made a donation of \$3,792.14 to Unite for Her, a local non-profit which funnels donations back into the communities from which it receives contributions. The organization has served many Owen J. Roberts School District families at various stages of breast cancer treatment and recovery.

On October 27, Owen J. Roberts' schools and offices filled an entire bus with provisions to be donated to the Coventry Food Pantry. The food pantry serves more than 100 Owen J Roberts School District families who are food insecure. Gross Bus Service donated the bus which was loaded and unloaded by many service-minded students including NJROTC and the High School Wrestling team. Owen J. Roberts consistently demonstrates tremendous kindness toward the strength of a healthy community and is thankful for every effort toward that end.

Technology Enhanced PE



The Middle School Health and Physical Education program includes many strategies for students to learn and practice lifetime fitness activities. The staff works with students to set and achieve individual fitness level goals and adopt an ownership approach to health. This year, students were introduced to Adidas Zone wearable trackers designed for education. The wearable technology supports the development of lifetime healthy habits and generates heart rate data that both students and teachers can use. The technology allows for self-motivation and empowers students to make decisions that will maximize individual fitness outcomes. Trackers were purchased with a matching wellness grant through the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation. The Adidas ZONE technology eliminates all risk of losing a monitor as it tracks each device every time a student swipes it. Students see visual feedback in ZONE colors of blue, (low intensity), yellow (moderate intensity) and red (vigorous intensity). Teachers have noted more students working to improve cardiovascular fitness with the feedback the technology provides.

Play and Remembrance



On June 25, 2017, 4th grader Evan St. Clair of North Coventry Elementary School tragically lost his life in a house fire. The North Coventry school community collectively mourned his passing with a balloon release and an evening of Play and Remembrance.

In late August, the North Coventry PTO along with the school's Playground Committee, voted to purchase and dedicate a Gaga Ball Pit in Evan's memory as a tribute to his love for recess. The dedication ceremony was held on the evening of October 25 for Evan's family, 12 of his friends and their families, the parents who constructed the pit, along with Dr. Lloyd, teachers, and staff.

Operation Safe Stop

On Wednesday, October 18, the 21st annual Operation Safe Stop was conducted in Owen J. Roberts School District and in communities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as part of National School Bus Safety Week. Operation Safe Stop is a public awareness and enforcement effort to educate the motoring public that passing a stopped school bus is both dangerous and illegal. Each year, through Operation Safe Stop, law enforcement agencies, school transportation providers, pupil transportation associations and PennDOT combine their efforts to raise public awareness about the potential consequences and reduce the occurrence of illegal school bus passes. West Vincent, East Vincent, East Coventry, North Coventry and Pennsylvania State Police were all involved in monitoring high risk areas and submitting a citation report to PennDOT. The district also joined the Pennsylvania Department of Education, PennDOT, and other districts to use social media to heighten awareness within our community for school bus safety.

Color Run Benefits Best Buddies and Ed Foundation

The annual Best Buddies and Owen J. Roberts Education Foundation Color Run101 occurred Saturday, November 4th, on the high school campus. This year's running event was a neon color run with a 1980's theme. It was a beautiful day for "running in color" and getting down to some "far-out" 80's music! There was a 1-mile walk and a 5K run on the beautiful central campus. The event drew approximately 440 runners and walkers, over 125 volunteers, and many other family members to cheer on the students. Best Buddies and the Education Foundation were incredibly thankful to volunteers, sponsors, parents, running coaches and every person who assisted in any way to make the day a success.



Safe Night by the Numbers

Roberts Education Association held the 5th safe trick-or-treat night - a great night for little trick-or-treaters and also an abundant night for the Coventry Food Pantry. The event drew more than 1,100 kids and 700 parents and was hosted by over 400 volunteers.



The high school hallways became a beautifully-decorated and safe venue for community children. There were 33 trick-or-treat stations, 16 information tables by clubs and community groups, and 25 games and/or activities offered. In addition to those volunteer staffers the Leos, Anchor Club, and Wildcat Ambassadors offered up more than 40 student staffers to help direct visitors, collect and organize food, and hand out event lists. More than 15 cases of candy left over or donated on the REA Trick-or-Treat night were packaged and sent off to soldiers in active duty.

Attention Incoming Kindergartners



Kindergarten registration for the 2018-19 school year will open on February 1, 2018. The district website will have a link to the registration webpage. At the end of the online registration you will be able to schedule an appointment with your attending school. Student registration must be complete in order to attend kindergarten roundup.

Nuclear Challenges

This fall, the Introduction to Engineering and Principals of Engineering students participated in engineering “challenges” which introduced and reinforced sound engineering processes while getting students used to working collaboratively.

Students were given a design brief to kick off the assignment. The Intro to Engineering students’ challenge was titled Meltdown. In the scenario, teams learned they would be charged with preventing a nuclear emergency. They found out they would be separated from their specialized equipment and have no choice but to “improvise” a tool to accomplish the neutralization in the nuclear reaction chambers.

Each Meltdown Team was charged with working from a brief list of office materials including an unsharpened #2 pencil, 6-feet of para cord, masking tape, two rubber bands, four paper clips, and a plastic cup. However, upon learning of their assignment, students were allowed to empty their pockets and choose three additional items to assist in their strategy and design. You can see from the photo above, that students used the camera on their cell phones in creative ways.

Students had about a week to formulate ideas, plan, design, develop,



and launch from problem definition to final task performance. Meltdown teams had only five minutes to drop a cube of wood (neutralizing element) into only one “unstable” cylinder (reactor chamber) of seven. Cylinders were located in the center of a specified, taped off, 8-foot radius which students could not cross while performing the rescue. Students had no previous knowledge of which cylinder would be marked as unstable and were not able to identify the unstable cylinder from outside the allowable perimeter.

Students prepared and shared presentations to classmates following the challenge. The report acted as written record and prompted teams to explore possible options and alternatives to overall design and execution strategies.

Tiny House Gets a Roof



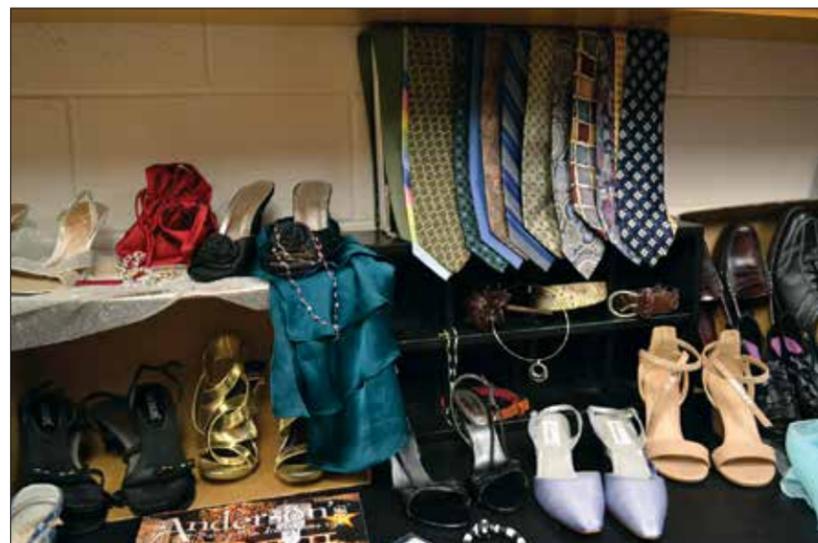
The Owen J. Roberts High School’s STEAM Club took advantage of having the afternoon off on November 21 to put a roof on the tiny house. The Tiny House Project began in October of 2016 as the first project for High School’s STEAM Club. As part of the tiny house movement, an architectural and social movement to live small, the house fits on a tandem axel trailer base. The project helps build specific engineering and construction skills including architectural planning, project layout, construction techniques, and materials use and repurposing/recycling. Problem solving, teamwork, and communication are a part of each activity as the students actively build a part of the house each week. Many of the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Academic Standards for Science, Technology and Engineering Education (January 2010) are addressed during both the design and construction process.

Construction of the tiny house is a multi-year project with the anticipated completion date as spring of 2018. The student-driven project focuses on using donated, recycled and repurposed materials. The club has collected much of the material needed to frame the house and is reaching out to local community members for donated materials. A fundraiser and Owen J. Roberts Education Foundation grant of \$1,000 was used to purchase items not secured by donation, such as solid foam insulation, laminate sheeting for floors and walls, screws, hardware, and fixtures.

Homecoming Loft

The Owen J. Roberts High School homecoming dance was held on October 21. Formal events are fun for students, but sometimes formal attire can be expensive and be a hardship to families. For several years the Community Connections students have organized Prom Closet and Homecoming Loft shops in a large classroom closet prior to the major events. The class seeks and receives donations from students and the entire district staff.

High School students were permitted to come in anytime during school hours to peruse the beautiful gowns, fetching suits, snazzy shoes and glittery accessories in a storage room at the high school. The community connections class provided the private service free of charge to the students who may not be able to purchase a brand new gown or suit due to financial concerns. The Prom Closet and Homecoming Loft have been a success in the past years and have helped quite a number of students. The class reported that the best reward is a student’s smile when they take their dress or suit out the door.



Low Ropes Shape Leaders

Owen J. Roberts sixth grade students learned about leadership and trust on the low ropes course at the local Althouse Arboretum in Upper Pottsgrove Township. The Althouse low ropes course was designed to encourage



leadership, expand communication skills, promote self-discovery, and increase self-esteem. Thom Stecher Adventure’s Education facilitated programs based on each individual’s actions and how those actions affect the group or persons around them. Facilitators worked with groups of students to address communication, listening skills, following directions, trust, power of group cooperation, physical and emotional support, decision making, problem solving, respecting individual differences within the group and being responsible for one’s own actions. As leaders in the elementary buildings, sixth grade students are able to put their skills to work in their schools.

Uncovering a Hidden World

Mrs. Neiffer’s 7th grade Life Sciences class participated in an introductory activity with handheld digital microscopes. Choosing from a variety of subjects to inspect, students



explored the microscopic details. Students used a class set of SmartMicroScope 5M handheld digital microscopes, which are extremely easy to use, display on a computer screen or smart board, and take five megapixel still images. The class set is shared among teachers at the Middle School. The uncomplicated single focus dial on the microscope allows students to explore that which is hidden to the naked eye. Students examined skulls, insects, fabric and other materials. They took photos of their most interesting finds to share with peers.

IBCP Certification Program 2018-2019

IB COURSES

Two Courses
3 Credits

- IB Information Technologies in a Global Society (one-year course) 1 Credit
- IB Philosophy (one-year course) 1 Credit
- Environmental Systems and Societies (one-year course) 1 Credit
- Language and Literature (two-year course) 2 Credits
- Mathematics SL (two-year course) 2 Credits
- Mathematical Studies SL (two year course) 2 Credits

3 Credits - Courses are AP/IB Weighted

STEAM/CAREER PATHWAYS

Choose 2 Credits

Engineering

- Introduction to Engineering H/CP
- Principles of Engineering H/CP
- Engineering Design H/CP
- Two 0.5 Credit Eng. Electives CP

Life Sciences

- Ecology H/CP
- Genetics H/CP
- Bio-Tech H/CP
- Anatomy and Physiology -Honors
- Allied Health-

NJROTC

ROTC offers various courses in each of the 4 years of high school. Students will take one ROTC course each year of the IBCP program.

Computer Information Systems

- AP Computer Science
- AP Computer Principles
- Web Design
- Computer Applications for Decision Making

2 Credits Required Honors or CP Weight

IB CORE

Required
2 Credits

The IB CORE includes the Personal and Professional Skills course and coordination of the following :

- Service Learning (required 50 Hours)
- Reflective Project
- Language Portfolio (required 50 hours of language learning)

2 days in-class TWO-YEAR Course

2 Credits-Honors Weight Hybrid –

Stepping Up for County

This year, when Owen J. Roberts School District learned that Chester County was vying for the title of Healthiest County in America and encouraging residents to collect steps toward the WalkWorks Chesco (<http://chesco.org/walkworks>) program, schools began working on programs to quantify the amount of steps taken by the students to apply toward Chesco's Billion step goal. North Coventry Elementary School was the first to hop on board involving 655 students, 85 staff, police and fire officials, and 125 parents and friends, they crashed through a goal of 10 million steps in a week tallying a grand total of 14,037,828 steps. The school was honored by the Chester County Commissioners and Chester County Health Department during

a Chester County Commissioners' Sunshine Meeting on October 3. East Vincent and West Vincent Elementary Schools PTA's sponsored walk-a-thon fundraisers giving students walking breaks. French Creek Elementary PTA saw an opportunity to encourage walking extension and purchased all students and staff members a pedometer. During their 30-minute Wildcat Walk, they measured 2,724,363 steps. They calculated that equated to about 1,090 miles, which could have taken them from French Creek to Disney World (1015 miles). Owen J. Roberts sponsored a public hike in Warwick County Park as part of the designated Chester County Walks Day on September 23 and promoted walking for the county at the Run101 event in November. East Coventry Elementary



returned to school with a Burn Off the Bird walking challenge for students and staff after Thanksgiving break. Any Chester County resident may

join the in collecting steps toward the Healthiest County goal by registering at chesco.org/walkworks.

NJROTC Re-establishment

Having regained full endorsement of the United States Navy, Owen J. Roberts High School will now again operate as a fully-endorsed Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC) program. A Reestablishment Ceremony was held on Saturday, October 14th, in the high school gymnasium. The entire Cadet Corps marched in review and presented a drill demonstration.

Owen J. Roberts Junior Officer Reserve training program has worked to meet a consistent enrollment threshold. The program has operated as NNDCC for the past six years, giving students an opportunity to participate in a program designed to expand students' opportunities to gain the

values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and sense of accomplishment. With enrollment over 100 students annually and outstanding annual Navy inspections, the thriving program was again considered and approved for government funding by the Navy. Now, the official Navy Junior Reserve Training Corps title will be reinstated, and the students can expect to get program perks for which they may not otherwise have qualified.

The unit is under the command of Master Gunnery Sergeant Andrew Worley, a former Marine who spent 33 years in active duty. Master "Guns" has worked with leaders in the high school to assure the program fully meshes with the newly authorized

International Baccalaureate Career Program (IBCP). The IBCP is a two-year certificate program which combines courses from the International Baccalaureate's highly regarded Diploma "Program" (DP) of coursework in connection with Owen J. Roberts High School's NJROTC, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math), and/or Life Sciences coursework, and the



IBCP Core. The IBCP Core consists of four components: Community Service, a Personal and Professional Skills course, Language Development, and a Reflective Project.

Sales Benefit Education

The Owen J. Roberts central campus became a one stop shop for bargains galore on Saturday, September 9. The Owen J. Roberts Education Foundation held a semi-annual children's consignment sale offering gently used children's clothing, toys, sporting goods and baby equipment in the Middle School gym. In the parking lot, the Music Parent Organization sponsored a huge community yard sale with both new and used goods. The sales were an excellent opportunity to sell all types of treasures. All purchases made a positive impact on Owen J. Roberts education. The Education Foundation benefits innovation in the classroom for all Owen J. Roberts students through classroom mini-grants used for educational materials and supplies, computer hardware and/or software, scientific or mathematical equipment, field trips, and other inventive educational initiatives. The Music Parent Organization assists and supports music education programs in the district by working to give students an opportunity to excel.



District Attorney Presents

As part of ongoing professional development for faculty, coaches, and staff, Owen J. Roberts School District was pleased to host Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan to present to coaches on June 7, 2017, and to teachers on August 23, 2017, about appropriate behavior with students. The Chester County District Attorney's Office made Chester County superintendents aware of the opportunity for educational sessions with employees in early May and Owen J. Roberts immediately scheduled sessions.

The presentation given to both groups was direct and powerful. District Attorney Hogan defined harassment and provided five potent rules to guide behaviors. He spoke to the consequences of blurring or crossing boundaries, really engaged the audience in peer policing, and clearly defined the issues of professional transparency and reverence. Owen J. Roberts has been involved in ongoing training for teachers in relation to communications and social media, and District Attorney Hogan reinforced potential pitfalls and reviewed distinct guidelines for best practice. Feedback from coaches and staff has been excellent.

The safety of students and staff is of paramount importance to Owen J. Roberts School District. A variety of ongoing trainings for all staff members ranging from suicide awareness to social media training is provided each year. This year, the District will be using Safe Schools to supplement in-house and guest speakers as part of our overall professional training.

Compassion under Construction



Owen J. Roberts High School students were able to choose to participate in Challenge Day, which took place on November 8. The event provided students with an experiential program that demonstrated the possibility of positive connection through the celebration of diversity, truth, and full expression. The day-long event gave students the opportunity to work in small groups with adults on intellectual flexibility, leadership skills, diversity practice, self-confidence and social competence. The theme was "Compassion under Construction". Students watched a Mike Rowe "Returning the Favor Video" where Rowe travels the country looking for people who are making a real difference in their community. Students then brainstormed how they could make a difference in their community. Challenge Day was supported by the high school, the local Lion's Club, and a grant through the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation.



Chester County Technical College High School (TCHS), Pickering Campus, visited the Middle School to introduce programs, potential careers, and career pathways in several fields including commercial and graphic arts, cosmetology, robotics and avionics, automotive technologies, sustainable energy engineering and health careers.

Save the Date!

The next Education Foundation Consignment Sale is slated for March 24, 2018!

If you enjoy working directly with children, consider applying as a substitute nurse or substitute para-professional within our district. Substitute nurses with LPN or RN may apply at www.source4teachers.com or call 877-983-2244 for more information. Substitute paraprofessionals may apply directly through the district website in the Human Resources section or at <https://owenjroberts.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>

Go Wildcats!

Noted Accomplishments in Athletics and Other Arenas

The student athletes from Owen J. Roberts High School had a very successful fall athletic season this year.

Tennis: 9-4 overall

Volleyball: 7-11 overall

HS Field Hockey – The HS Field Hockey team acquired a record of 17-9 taking 2nd in the PAC, 4th in Districts, and made it to the quarter finals in the states. The HS Field Hockey team lost a tough one to Emmaus High School on Saturday, 11/11/2017 by a score of 1 – 0. Congratulations girls and coaches on a great season!

HS Football – The HS Football team competed in the first round of PIAA District 1 playoffs vs. Downingtown East.

Congratulations to the HS Boys & Girls Cross Country teams for advancing to the PIAA State Cross Country Championships. The boys finished their season by taking 2nd in the PAC, 3rd at Districts, and 7th at the PIAA State Championship meet. Liam Conway, took 3rd at Districts, and 8th at the PIAA State Championship. Andrew Malmstrom took 9th in the Districts and 17th at the PIAA State Championship. The Girls' team took 1st in the PAC, 2nd at Districts, and 8th at the PIAA State Championships. Liam Conway went on to place second at Nike Cross Northeast Regionals earning the opportunity to compete in the Nike Cross National Finals in Portland, Oregon, on December 2.

HS Boys Soccer: Congratulations

to the Boys Soccer team, 11-7-2 for the year, for advancing to the 2nd round of district playoffs. They lost to Conestoga (the #1 seed).

The High School Girls Soccer team defeated Pope John Paul in Wildcat Stadium by a score of 1-0 to claim the PAC Girls Soccer Championship! The girls placed 4th in the Districts and the team defeated Central Dauphin High School and advanced to the PIAA State Semi-Final Game.

Golf: Boys went 10-3 while Ward McHenry medaled in 10th place at the PIAA State Golf Championship.

In the musical arena, Daniel DiMarino may be congratulated for being selected for NAFME (National Association for Music Education)



All-National Orchestra from among hundreds of students across the United States and U.S. Territories. Additionally, his composition, Temptations, was selected as the first-place composition in the NAFME student composition contest. Daniel recently represented Owen J. Roberts High School at the Coronado Resort and Conference Center in Orlando, Florida where he was not only be a member of the All-National Orchestra, but his composition, Temptations, had its world premiere at the concert.