

Message from Superintendent Michael Christian



On June 13, we held commencement exercises for the class of 2014 at Owen J. Roberts High School. While the weather was not exactly cooperative, it did not diminish the excitement and anticipation of our graduates and their families. We gathered to honor the Class of 2014, who diligently labored and enjoyed success in a variety of academic, service-learning, and co-curricular areas.

While our graduation exercises were a culminating event for the Class of 2014, it is also a beginning, hence the term, "commencement". It is a beginning that is accompanied by hope and anticipation of the bright prospects for the future. Our community has been inscribed with traces of our seniors' work:

While our graduation exercises were a culminating event for the Class of 2014, it is also a beginning, hence the term, "commencement". It is a beginning that is accompanied by hope and anticipation of the bright prospects for the future. Our community has been inscribed with traces of our seniors' work:

- Our National Honor Society students clocked more than 2500 hours of service
- 14 students have already committed to serve and protect our country through our armed forces and many have already completed boot camp during previous summers
- 90 students received the Presidential Academic Achievement Award earning a 4.0 or greater GPA
- An OJR record 9 students earned the rank of Eagle Scout
- 18 students were honored for donating blood at least 4 times in their high school career
- The class was offered more than 19 million dollars' worth of scholarships

I am confident these students have a great future, and through them, Owen J. Roberts has a great future. In the short two years that I have come to know the class of 2014, I have found them to be a talented and passionate class. Their talents span the spectrum from educational excellence, to artistic and musical prowess and championship athletics. This is where we, as adults, can learn a little something from the Class of 2014. We are living in politically challenging times. Unfortunately, we see daily examples in our society of distrust and disagreement. The Class of 2014 is able to talk to, and to listen to people whose perceptions are different than their own. They have exhibited enthusiasm, optimism, and belief. This class's passion, tempered with humility, will take each of them very far. In addition to the aforementioned comments I said the following to our graduates:

"You are a generation of abundance. You have things that people of my generation and previous ones could not imagine, but material possessions won't be enough to equip you and prepare you

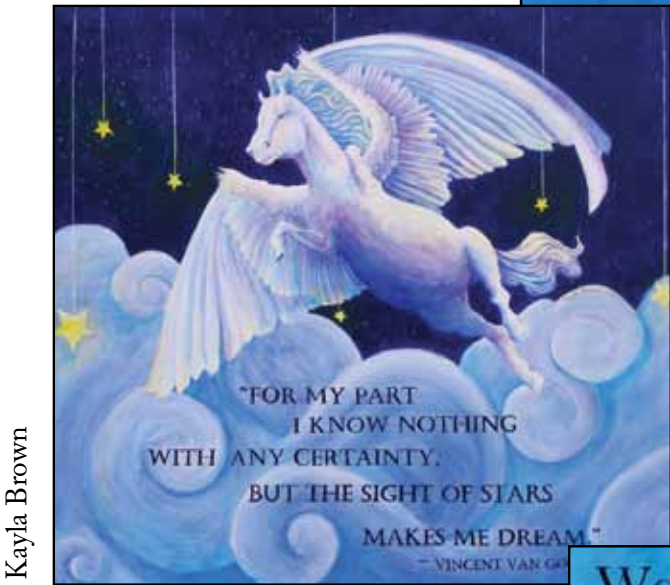
Celebrating the Class of 2014

On June 13, 2014, the Class of 2014 celebrated the 59th annual commencement exercises. Below are some of the nuggets gleaned from the esteemed speakers woven with some of the inspirational murals created by senior artists (see Class of 2014 Mural Project, page 2).



Lexi Lyon

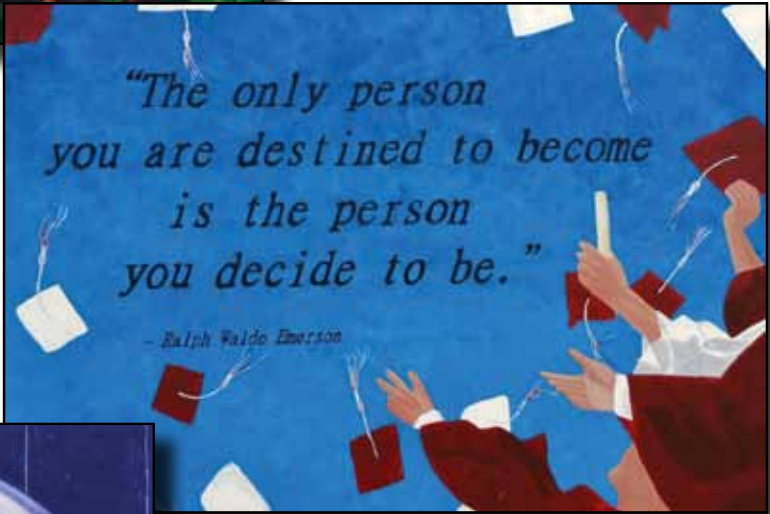
"...it only takes one decision, one event, one opportunity, to be remembered. What will you do to leave your mark?"
Christian Murray Wood,
President, Class of 2014



Kayla Brown

"Remember that Owen J. Roberts is not just a building of brick and mortar but a community made up of those who have supported you through the years and in which you are a part of... know that the community will continue to support and guide you whatever journeys your life brings."
James B. Frees II, President,
Board of School Directors

"...Never confuse failing with defeat, because being a failure is not defined by how many times you have faced loss, it is defined by how you let your losses affect you."
Noah Daniel Edgecliffe-Johnson, Director,
Student Government



Mikayla Chiparri

"Formal education is important no doubt, but there is so much more we've learned in our time at this school than what is contained in the curriculum. It is these lessons that will be the most important ones in our lives. In years to come most of us won't remember the grades we earned. What we will all remember are the people who made a difference. We'll remember the people who were there for us. We'll remember the people who were not afraid to step up and be leaders, and the ones who weren't afraid to make mistakes because failure is not something to fear. So let this serve as a reminder to us that it isn't as important what you can do, as what you choose to do and how you choose to do it."
Holly Ann Sullivan, Valedictorian



Amanda Ackerman

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Class of 2014 Mural Project

Allowing AP and Studio Art students the opportunity to work in a service/client setting, their final project was to create a mural to be displayed in the high school. The assignment gives senior artists a “real world” commissioned art experience. Instead of creating whatever they want, they have a client to please. Murals are about the message first and the visual aspects second, which can be another challenge for young artists who are typically centered on creating a well-designed visual image. Balancing WORDS and VISUAL IMAGE in a composition takes much more work.

According to instructor Tracey Schiavello, this year’s murals were exceptionally successful and she hopes the experience will transfer into all areas of their lives. The kids inspired and helped each other.

“It was beautiful to see the critical thinking and problem solving throughout the process--- from design and collaboration with client to planning the time aspect - (it’s exponential - the larger the mural the more time required to complete), color theory, maintaining hue, mixing enough paint to finish the job, making sure the background doesn’t overpower the message and asking if the viewer be able to “get” the message in the seven or so seconds they will take to view the piece,” Mrs. Schiavello said.

None of the seniors had ever painted anything of this scale and the final products are stunning as you can see in these printed on page 1 of this publication.

Lilies for Life

After thorough research during a non-fiction unit, Mrs. Justine Taylor’s sixth grade class at East Coventry Elementary learned about the serious health issues that people face as a result of unclean drinking water. They were troubled to learn that water pollution has been suggested to be a leading cause of death and disease and that more than 14,000 people die each day from contaminated water.



Their continued research provided awareness of a relatively inexpensive water filter which can filter out up to 99.9% of bacteria. The class decided that to take action and made it a mission to raise enough money to buy a filter for a family in an undeveloped country.

As a group, they created a mission called “Lilies for Life” in which the class sold Tiger Lilies at just one dollar each to raise money to purchase a filter to provide a family clean water. The students integrated many digital tools to communicate their concerns and efforts and were able to help several families to have clean drinking water.

Tech Academy

It has been said we are living in the age of the Digital Revolution where technology is making sweeping changes in the way people across the world live, work, play and learn. Nearly 275 Owen J. Roberts educators were involved with Tech Academy the week of June 16-20 engaging in professional development that will assist in integrating technology into teaching and learning. The Academy, an approved graduate course through Neumann University, was in the planning stages for approximately one year. Both outside professionals and internal technology experts including approximately 25 OJR teachers delivered instruction through the academy. Teachers were enthusiastic about Tech Academy because they were able to tailor their learning and learn from peers who have tested many of the tools. The summer course allowed teachers

quality time to digest and practice new knowledge acquired during the classes and reflect upon how digital tools may enhance teaching and learning. Peers and experts were also able to explore and actively discuss many tools and ways to keep kids safe online.

At least fourteen courses were offered including topics in e-books, hybrid learning, interactive white board, iPad use, digital collaborative, as well as learning management and survey tools including Desire 2 Learn. Desire 2 Learn (D2L) will be introduced at the secondary level so that students have full access to teaching and learning tools 24/7. D2L is used by many major colleges and universities to support online education for faculty and students. Teachers also explored transdisciplinary STEM approaches which might offer students the ability to use project-based learning to address real-



world issues that affect their family, their community and their world.

Kutztown University brought some wow factor with their digital petting zoo allowing attendees to get their hands on some of the latest devices

including laser keyboards, interactive projectors and even mental acuity technology. Teachers and schools will thoughtfully leverage use of new technology to meet the needs of each student and each community.

Students Complete Behind-the-Wheel Driver Training

Since the program inception in late 2011, 221 students have participated in Owen J. Roberts Behind-the-Wheel driver training. During the 2014 prom week, Owen J. Roberts High School celebrated driver safety. In addition to the Safety Bug Program, attention was given to Owen J. Roberts Behind-the-Wheel Driver Training and those involved with making the program a success. Students who have received a driver license through the Owen J. Roberts School District Complete Driver Training Program met with Judge James DeAngelo, Patriot GMC owner, Mr. Jason Owens, and District Buick-GMC Manager, Matthew Lammers, who have all been instrumental in securing a vehicle for behind-the-wheel driver training. Superintendent of Schools Michael Christian, Principal Rich Marchini and Mr. David Rhen, instructor and certified PennDOT road tester, joined in congratulating students. Judge DeAngelo and Mr. Owens worked with the School Board of Directors to bring an On-the-Road Driver Training Program to Owen J. Roberts High School in the fall of 2011. In early 2013, Owen J. Roberts was approved as a road testing site for students to complete PA licensing requirements. 31 students have earned their driver license at the completion of OJR Behind the Wheel. Classroom driver training is part of the curriculum at Owen J. Roberts High School. The program is an excellent example of community and school partners working toward safety for all.



Safety Bug

On May 1, the PA DUI Safety Bug, which is a car custom engineered to demonstrate the loss of control one would experience if operating a motor vehicle while in an impaired state, visited the high school to be operated by licensed student drivers. The car – not the driver – simulates being “drunk”, causing the students to experience first-hand how alcohol impairs one’s reaction times. More than 250 students in grades 11 and 12 experienced the safety bug challenge.

While licensed teenage drivers are able to experience The Safety Bug from a vantage point behind the wheel, an equally valuable lesson is afforded backseat passengers. The youth who are “along for the ride” soon realize the helpless position they would be put in as passengers in the car of an impaired driver. The district hopes that classroom driver training, behind the wheel driver training, and lessons learned from a teen’s experience with The Safety Bug will have a positive impact upon participants’ future decisions and help each student make safe choices.



New Website Offers Easier Navigation

OJRSD.com is the information hub of the district and contains thousands of pages of important material. The district hopes to greatly enhance the user experience with thoughtful organization and a new design coming in August. Above is a sample of the look and feel of the new site. A flexible web solution should make



it easier to connect and interact with the information to support student, teacher and district success. The new design will be responsive—a design approach which helps optimize the viewing experience on many types of devices and browsers. In addition, a mobile app will aid users in accessing critical information like school contacts, calendars, and lunch menus on their mobile devices wherever and whenever they need it.

Advanced design tools will help display information better and include more audio and video capabilities. The new platform will play well with other technologies such as Skyward (the district’s student information system) so that users will be able to access all important technologies with just one user name and password. Registered users will also be able to customize all the news and information they need all in one place and change it when necessary. Watch for additional information on how to register.

There Goes that News Van



Action News appreciated the taste of the Upbeat Strings Orchestra campers this summer. About 73 students in grades 3 to 6 participated in orchestra camp playing music with an emphasis on fun. Students performed several familiar television theme songs including theme music from Batman, The Simpsons, West Wing and Pink Panther. But what caught the attention of the news show was Al Ham’s “Move Closer to Your World”— the Channel 6 (WPVI) Action News theme! WPVI broadcast a tape of students practicing the song on the morning news on June 25 and later came and taped them performing it, airing it on the evening news on June 26.

Wildcat Athletic Highlights

Boys Lacrosse and Boys Softball made the finals of the PAC 10 Championships.

The following varsity teams qualified for Districts: Girl Lacrosse, Boys Lacrosse, and Girls Softball.



Track qualified members of the team for Districts. Senior Jill Weston won the District 1 Track 300 hurdles and grabbed the school record in the event. She qualified for and participated in the PIAA State Championships at Shippensburg University.

Wyatt Scott was honored by the National Football Foundation as a Philadelphia area scholar-athlete.

Baseball pitcher Calvin Endy, 9th grade, pitched a no-hitter on May 13 against Perkiomen Valley. He was 1 walk from a perfect game.

A Day on the Farm

On May 20, all district kindergarten children had the unique opportunity to take on the role of “farmer” at a special Farm Day held at Owen J. Roberts High School. More than 60 high-school agriculture students worked with their teachers, Mrs. Julie Taney and Mrs. Laura Johns, to provide hands-on activities that included harvesting, animal care, and taking goods to market. All the activities were geared to help kindergarten students understand life on a farm, the food cycle, and how food finally arrives at the grocery store or market. Many high school students were able to bring in animals such as pigs, cows, horses and fowl and share facts about them with kindergarten students.



Spotlight on the Class of 2014

The Class of 2014 excelled in DECA, Odyssey of the Mind, Robotics and other competitions. Athletically, they participated on PAC-10, District 1 and State playoff teams, some have been PAC-10 Champions and individual state medalists. Some have broken OJR school records. The bios below give an impression of the diversity of interests and contributions of the Class of 2014.



Zoe Mattis believes so strongly in community service, she has been lobbying to make 10 hours of service a graduation requirement. She

is very involved with Relay for Life, embroidering pocket t-shirts to sell at the event. She is a national spokesperson for Race Against Drugs and has travelled the country as a race car driver.

Zoe now races a 305 sprint car and has her own website. Her car goes 120 m.p.h. average lap speed which she says is technically even faster. This may explain why she was the only student driver not to knock down the cones when the safety bug visited the high school this year.

As a student, Zoe played tennis and was part of DECA. She races every weekend from April to October, however, her racing schedule may slow down a bit as she enters Lehigh University to study engineering and business. She hopes that she can finish a five year degree in less time by applying AP credits.



Elliott Bennett Jr. was the president of the spring musical, four year member of 7ups, the tenor section leader of the concert choir,

active Smash Bros. player, proud member of the fall play, an active member of his youth group, as well as a self-proclaimed mischief maker. The stage has given Elliott an appropriate platform for his voice. As he tells it, "I feel as if I am well known for my performances, be it on stage and off, and I cannot recall a single day where I haven't been told to shut up." Elliott is proud to be part of the very talented Class of 2014, finding students to be "extremely diverse, passionate, talented, full of potential, paradoxical, and active."

Elliott has been inspired to become a playwright, and will be an English/Creative Writing major at West Chester University in the fall. At Owen J. Roberts, Elliot learned to analyze and think critically in

regards to literature. He also learned that English and learning aren't simply things that are the basis for test taking and paper writing, but are the foundation for living life to the fullest.



Jill Weston became interested in running in middle school and excelled to state qualifier in both varsity cross country and track, winning many

medals along the way and setting a school record in the 300 hurdles. Along with acting as team captain, she was the District 1 Hurdle Champion, a two-time member of First Team All-Pac-10 Cross Country and two-time Pottstown Mercury First-Team All-Area.

Jill will continue to be a Wildcat, attending the University of Kentucky in the fall where she will study accounting. She is looking forward to meeting girls with the same interest and excited to be running with talented athletes who can push her to be better.

Jill played the flute in concert and marching band and was a tutor for National Honor Society. She has a passion for horses and is considering a second major in equine studies. She has worked in the stalls and barn in exchange for riding time.

She feels that Owen J. Roberts High School has helped her prepare for college by learning to manage the workload of AP and other intensive classes. "OJR has made me a lot more independent," Jill told us. She also feels she has learned to become a little less judgmental—even finding comfort in the diversity of lifestyles and experiences of students. She will always remember her running experiences, especially those involving state competitions and rooming with teammates.



Aaron Gray was an officer in student government all four years of high school. He enjoyed being a Wildcat Ambassador and acted as DECA VP.

Aaron was a two-time state champion in DECA, ranking internationally in his junior year. He was a member of NHS and World Language Honor Society as well as Relay for Life.

Although Aaron is active in Shenkel United Church of Christ as an ordained deacon, he credits Owen J. Roberts High School for being a "crucial player in shaping [his] character". Aaron values his involvement with DECA where competitions have given him opportunities to apply real-world solutions to business problems. The rigor and demands of the high school

curriculum demanded that Aaron learn critical time management skills.

Aaron will study business and economics at Lehigh University and hopes to build a successful career in business while continuing to be a leader and benefactor in his community.



Andrea Hoheb admits that marching band can mean a lot of late nights and being outdoors in undesirable weather. But the friendships

forged during those times far outweigh any challenges. Andrea was also involved in concert band, choir, GSA, fall play, musical, and the Gavel newspaper. Her involvements and many of her teachers have helped develop a passion for theatre and also to shape her interest in communications and public relations. She plans to attend St. John's University and hopes to pursue public relations in fashion and the arts. About going to college in New York City, she said, "I want to inspire others in a place that constantly inspires me. When I am in NYC, the world just seems to open up." Andrea feels she learned something very valuable at Owen J. Roberts that seems to contrast the energy of the big city. "People here treat the landscape and land in beautiful ways," she said, claiming that she learned to value nature in a personal and respectful way that she will always hold onto.



Austin Stonebraker describes the Class of 2014, "Kids don't do something unless they can really make it work; they are go getters

dedicated and confident in their abilities. They do a lot of community volunteer work." Examples include a student who wrote a full blown musical, and students completely planned and managed charity events such as Battle of the Bands and Mini-Thon. As part of Relay for Life Swimmers for a Cure, Austin helped raise \$10,000 in four years partly from an annual midnight pancake breakfast.

Austin had his finger on the pulse of nearly everything happening in the high school as yearbook editor. He was active helping out in a multitude of areas taking every task seriously. He was involved in plays and musical and gained many skills in theatre production. He is excited to go to American University, Washington, D.C., to study theatrical production design and management and broadcast journalism.

Austin is excited to be heading down to D.C. to learn in a thriving city.

"It doesn't have the NYC speed, but things are happening! 3.1 million people come into that city every day. I can't wait to be in D.C. and pursue my passions in theatre." He also hopes to expand Relay for Life into D.C.



Kennedy Praweckyj won Most School Spirited this year. She was involved with a regional all-star cheerleading squad and eventually became

captain of the Owen J. Roberts varsity cheerleading squad. Kennedy thrived on the spirit prior to and during games.

Kennedy attended private school prior to high school but when she toured Owen J. High School she was struck by a comment made by Principal Rich Marchini. He said, "Whatever we do, we do with pride." She felt strongly she wanted to be part of that and has appreciated all the high school has offered her explaining that the high school is like a second home to her. She was president of the yearbook, president of Wildcat Ambassadors, active in Relay for Life, and involved in Shakespeare Festival and stage crew. She had the lead role in the spring play and believes that theatre has been an important part of her life where friendship bonds were formed.

Kennedy will be attending American University on academic scholarship majoring in international relations with a concentration in the Middle East. She is excited to start Arabic studies and learn more about diplomacy. She hopes to one day be U.S. ambassador to Iran, crediting Mr. Schwenk for giving her a background in global politics.



Master Gunnery Sergeant Andrew Worley reports that **Brandon C. Rodriguez** has a "never quit attitude" and has been one of the most

active and dependable cadets in the OJR Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC). Brandon recently enlisted in the air force and, being from a military family, had hoped to do so since he was a sophomore. Brandon's closest friends are part of NNDCC and he loves the regimen of the program.

Drills, formation, and use commands are his favorite part of NNDCC and he acted as group goal commander of the OJR exhibition drill team. Brandon also trained for two summers in the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps where he developed leadership skills by being part of team-centric environment that promoted the virtues

of community service and strong moral principles.

Brandon clocked more than 400 hours of community service. He thrived on the duties of NNDCC but will remember the friendships and social times. He explained that sometimes cadets would get together a few hours before serving at an event just to hang out with one another, or they would stay afterwards and maybe watch a movie or munch on some french fries.



Caitlyn Phillips has enjoyed studying with classmates “from all over the board” including foreign exchange students

who became part of her class. She feels that students become open and accepting in the diversity that exists. Caitlyn studied in Switzerland and also did a backpacking volunteer trip to Southeast Asia, but found it easy to transition right back in when she returned. “People accepted me like family,” she said.

Caitlyn enjoyed being part of Track and Cross Country. She liked participating in running sports that included both genders. She learned that you didn’t have to look a certain way to be part of the team, “because it sure isn’t about beauty when you are running in the heat of July.” She was active with Wildcat Ambassadors and Best Buddies, both of which she found helped her be a compassionate, welcoming person who helped new students assimilate so they wouldn’t “freak out.”

International experience really shaped her career interest. Caitlyn will study International Business and International Relations at the George Washington University in D.C. She is already thinking about election night in 2016 and how meaningful it will be in the nation’s capital.



Lisa Roth came to Owen J. Roberts in her sophomore year from Germany. She had to learn English, as well as a completely new school

structure and culture while taking a full schedule of classes. Lisa has been inspired to become an English as Second Language (ESL) teacher in the future. Lisa understands the value of hard work both at school and in the real world. Lisa spent a lot of her time working to help the family business succeed and volunteering at church with youth group and vacation bible school.

Lisa interviewed to be a Wildcat Ambassador by January of her first year at the high school and gained entry to the club by unanimous vote. “She has turned out to be one of

the most dedicated and enthusiastic members of the club,” said Jen Arnst, club advisor, adding, “She always makes new students and families feel comfortable. She reaches out to others when she is not on ‘official’ ambassador assignments. She is a true ambassador for our school and student body. She is a quiet leader and extremely appreciative of all she has been given at OJR”.



The silky smooth voice behind the high school morning announcements belonged to **Dylan Andreas Endlich**. He has a reso-

nance in his voice that lends quality to each word he speaks, but he would tell you that it didn’t come easily. One would not guess it, but he came to the U.S. and OJR as a 10 year-old who could barely speak English. “I was that foreign kid in elementary school,” said Dylan, who explained that the isolation and loneliness of that experience opened him up to living life fully and compassionately. Dylan was voted “Most Likely to Brighten your Day” by classmates.

Dylan enjoyed pole vaulting on the varsity track team. He was active in student government as treasurer and a member of National Honor Society. He loved hanging out after school on Thursdays to test strategies with opponents in chess club. He was passionate about spending time with his Best Buddies peer. He is a Black Belt in karate and plays guitar, but he spent much of his time working in his father’s restaurant where he developed quite a following for the brownies he baked to earn money for Relay for Life.

AP Economics sparked Dylan’s voracious interest in world policy and economics. “It is a field that influences everything in this world,” he shared. He believes that empathy is the single greatest virtue than will help the global economic system. He will study at Fanklin University, Lugano, Switzerland, a small, American liberal arts institution. He sees himself one day impacting the world economic system and working toward “an era of prosperity for all.”



Since 2011, **Gabrielle Lomanto** volunteered over 300 hours as a “Volunteer” at Pottstown Memorial Medical Center. She served as Student

Government Class Council Assistant Director Freshman-Senior Year, was a member of National Honor Society and National Spanish Honor Society. She was also a competitive gymnast at Berks East Gymnastics.

Gabrielle echoed what many seniors expressed about the Class of 2014. “The class is a friendly and diverse

group of individuals who form a welcoming community. Our class breaks social boundaries in the sense that the typical high school cliques do not really exist. I am proud to come from a class that not only strives for excellence, but is proud of each member’s achievements.”

Gabrielle noted a strong connection with her teachers at OJR. She feels they go out of their way to create a caring environment where students and adults connect in ways that enhance learning.

Gabrielle feels she found her voice by being a part of student government all four years of high school. Gabrielle plans to enter the medical field and will study at Ursinus University.



Natalie Burgos was a varsity runner for Cross Country and Track. She was the French Club President and in the French National

Honor Society, National Honor Society, Latin Honor Society, and Junior Classical League. Like many students at Owen J. Roberts, she was very active with Relay for Life. In the summer she participated in World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms.

Natalie explained, “although there is not an exact word for it, the Class of 2014 deserves some props for basically winning four consecutive fall spirit weeks.” Natalie shared that she has a lot of home-schooled friends. “They’re not socially inept or anything like that,” she said, “but they’ve always been completely in control of what they’re learning and with whom they’re learning. When you go to public school, you’re not always going to get what you want. That’s a really important lesson. Sometimes you have to work with people you don’t like and you just have to deal with it. I feel like the “real world” is less shocking for us, whether we realize it or not.”

“I’ve jumped around a lot-- I’ve wanted to be a brain surgeon, a cognitive scientist, a chemist, a zoologist,” she said. Realizing that one always has options freed her from what she dubbed a “college-work-retire-die” narrative opening her mind to explore multiple options and opportunities.

Natalie has spent a lot of time volunteering on small, organic farms in the summer, usually in California and Massachusetts. She is really proud to have been given opportunities to work in a variety of sustainable communities



and support proper stewardship of the earth.

Matt Dielman enlisted in the National Guard in January of 2013 and spent the

summer prior to his senior year in basic training. He has wanted to serve and protect his country since he can remember. “My parents had to be convinced,” he shared. Matt left three days after graduation for seven weeks infantry training at Fort Benning, GA.

In a “system based on grades and numbers”, Matt felt teachers at the high school helped him see past the grades and really enjoy the learning. He loved physics and political science and is extremely excited to study engineering at Northeastern University, Boston. He will spend his first semester in a Northeastern study abroad program in Greece. The idea is to get 2-3 years of school in prior to deployment.

His senior year, Matt had an aggressive academic load with three AP courses. One weekend per month, Matt, along with friends Chris Keyes, Nick Neopolitan, Evan Yaeger and Pat Magury served in the National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program. Matt was a member of NHS and the Ski & Snowboard Club. A competitive snow boarder, he was able to get in a couple of competitions this year. He volunteered at Main Line Animal Rescue, a community service in which his whole family became involved.

Matt may be most known as “that break dance kid”. Matt was able to entertain the crowds at many high school events with his dancing talents and was part of a dance team invited to the 2012 London Olympics. “Northeastern and the military will afford me to do whatever I want to do if I really set my mind to it.”



Jessica Venonsky was active in student government, holding an office all four years. She deeply valued the opportunity to collaborate

with adults in the school community through student government. She hopes that she has helped to improve the school community in small ways. Jessica is an enthusiastic community servant who volunteered at many levels. She was a member of National Honor Society and Best Buddies, an organization which promotes one-on-one friendships for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. She also volunteered at Paoli Hospital and has career aspirations in nursing. She will be attending Saint Joseph’s University in conjunction with Thomas Jefferson University this fall.

Jessica feels thankful to have attended a school which offered her many opportunities. She feels prepared for nursing with a solid science and math base. She deeply appreciates being able to take Anatomy and Physiology. It was exciting to her to be able to study relevant information which may create a solid foundation for success in college level courses.

OJR Graduates Have Their Pick of Schools*

Albright College: Noah Beebe
Alvernia University: Christal Britton,
Madison Cantello, Sheniah Cooper,
Megan Dantonio, Donald Dudley,
Brian Schay
American University: Kennedy
Praweckyj, Austin Stonebraker
Antonelli Art Institute: Joshua
Barnes, Alexzandria Carl
Arcadia University: Helen Arm-
strong, Christopher Kolb, Gianina
Reid, Fergus Sampson
Arizona State University: Kriste
Emig
Art Institute of Philadelphia:
Christina Musser
Automotive Training Center: John
O'Keefe
Bard College: Bronte Baker-Blake,
Becker College: Sean Wolstenholme

Blinn University: Peter Butz
Bloomsburg University: Mercedes
Carfagno, Jason Diefenderfer, Samuel
Feiser, Christian Marks, Alexander
McCullough, Logan Moyer, Travis
Wunderlich, Brianna Zeo
Boston College: Noah Edgecliffe-
Johnson
Bryn Mawr College: Sarah Vince
Bucknell University: Allen Taylor
Cabrini College: Justin Bullivant,
Danielle Kinckner
Central Michigan University: Sarah
Iezzi
Chestnut Hill College: Benjami
Condello, Andrew Lewis
Clarion University: Zachary Brouard,
Kathryn Cross
Clemson University: Matthew Petru-
lio
Coastal Carolina University: Bryce
Challenger, Roxana Cumpian, Jared

Faust, Matthew Lenge, Skye O'Leary
Colorado State University Pueblo:
Patrick Meyer
Delaware Community College: Janna
Barney, Michael Fatula V, Aaron
Gonder, Justin Johnson, Kalli Krier,
Sabrina Sorensen, Haley Steed, Karlee
Whitworth
Dickinson: Leah Curran
Drexel University: Tristan Alan,
Laura Chamberlain, Stephen Daloisio,
Jason Davis, Caitlin McLaughlin
Duquesne University: Laura Hack-
man, Anders Opitz, Emma Trudgeon
East Stroudsburg University: Madi-
son Meredith, Haley Kuchta
Elizabethtown College: Emma
Christman, Taylor Cooney, Dru
Schneider
Franklin University, Switzerland:
Dylan Endlich

George Washington University:
Caitlyn Phillips
Gettysburg College: Jordan Sellers
Green Mountain College: Emily
Stollman
Grove City College: Timothy
Graybill
Harcum College: Amanda Malasics
**Harrisburg Area Community
College:** Douglas Hornung
High Point University: Allison Walker
Immaculata University: Taylor Perry,
Christian Simpson, Theresa Walsh
Indiana University of Pennsylvania:
Tyler Frazier, Marisa Keefe, Patricia
McGarry, Madelyn Mullen, William
Puccino
James Madison University: Jordan
Beaver, Savannah Kerchner, Alexis
Pope

Continued on back page

If Walls Could Talk

Artist, Jessica Gorlin Liddell, worked with teachers on a teambuilding project last summer to create a mosaic that would represent what the West Vincent Elementary community meant to them. Together, they brainstormed traits they found important in their community: kindness, courage, happiness, trust, perseverance, integrity, honor and respect.

Ms. Liddell returned as an artist-in-residence to work with the 2014 sixth grade students on break out mosaics of each theme. Students designed and created beautiful mosaics which now adorn the wall leaving a legacy. The artwork takes meaning from the themes teachers first represented. For example, the kindness mosaic captures the spirit of the food drives of with an image of a food basket and symbols of hugs and kisses around the border.



Superintendent Message

Continued from page 1

for what lies ahead. To do that, you will need strong ideas accompanied by equally as strong principles.

These principles were simplified by Robert Fulghum when he wrote about them in his wonderful little book, *“All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten”*. You know them: Share everything. Don't hit people. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Hold hands and stick together. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody and play fair. Many of us remember the list. I suspect, like myself, you've broken some of them. However, even when you violate them, it always comes as a pleasant surprise to parents and educators to learn that the seeds we planted years ago eventually do take root. That's encouraging.

Graduates, I thank you for that lesson. I have the utmost confidence that you will meet each of those challenges. I wish success and happiness to the class of 2014.

CONSIGNMENT SALE



Saturday, Sept. 13
8:00 am to 12:30 pm
Owen J. Roberts Middle School

Contact Dr. Kathleen Hocker
khocker@ojref.org or 610-469-5333



Summer Camp Fun



Science explorers searched for treasures.

Learning goes on all summer long at Owen J. Roberts where our schools are lively and the acquisition of new knowledge and skills never ends. Some students have chosen to practice athletics, some are taking courses to advance their academics and others just want to have fun.

Fun science-themed camps include the Junior Investigative Team for campers aged five and six. This team of curious tiny techs explores a new theme each day. They will create an edible ocean, experiment with a “magic” magnet bottle, investigate butterflies, discover how birds adapt to their environments and make colorful sidewalk chalk proving that children are never too young to be scientists!

Manatawny Creek Steam Survey and Electrofishing thrills middle school aged students with information about aquatic science, local fish, and what a day in the life of a Fisheries biologist is like. Campers spent four days sampling various parts of the Manatawny Creek electrofishing, collecting, and identifying fish, crayfish, and any other critters. They also collected habitat data, water chemistry data, and identified plants.

Relay for Life

Prevention, empathy, and how illness can be random were all discussed in a school-wide assembly at North Coventry Elementary School where students and staff have been actively engaged in the fight against cancer. One team, North Coventry Cancer Busters, celebrated their 16th year of involvement with Relay for Life and another year of stretching for and hitting a goal (\$5,000 this year).



A teacher dressed as an Asparagus Super Hero high-fived students as they entered the assembly—a reminder to keep trying vegetables with cancer-fighting properties. During the assembly, students learned that they were part of 11,000 students in 36 schools in our region who were celebrating Relay Recess as part of Pottstown Relay for Life. Throughout the year, North Coventry Elementary students took part in preventative activities including Cooking for Real Kids—an after school program where 5th and 6th grade students learned to make their own whole food snacks. All students participated in Tasty Tuesdays and had the opportunity to be part of a walking club and yoga for kids.

An area resident, Mr. Jim Miller, who had donated copies of “Mrs. Fiddlesticks Wears a Hat” by his sister, Becca DesJardin (illustrated by Beth Ower-mohle) shared how his sister got the idea for the book. Students learned that cancer treatment affects hair cells. Students listened attentively as a teacher narrated the story and also learned about how the author, a teacher, saw an important issue and put her feelings to paper.

Students had all colored their own sun visors and wore the hats to practice sun safety AND to honor people who have been affected by cancer! Two staff member cancer survivors were celebrated with a walk around the school track.

Celebration of STEM



On Friday, April 25, the elementary academically talented students provided a celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at the high school. Over 100 student STEM projects were on display. Wildcat Ambassadors and other high school student leaders served as building “greeters” to help direct parents and visitors to the display spaces.

The program was planned by students in second grade. These seven- and eight-year-old students learned how and triggered the STEM celebration events with the use of QR codes, generating their own. Parents, administrators and other visitors were prepared to utilize QR code to view the project titles and complete the presentation survey.

A team of third graders worked on a media/communications goal and set up a “TV-type news station” where they could interview groups of students about their STEM projects, and then edit/compile the clips into a STEM day documentary. Above, two East Vincent students interviewed and filmed a guest.

Author/Illustrator Awakens Storytelling

Author, and illustrator, Eric Wight, visited French Creek Elementary School May 2. Working in small groups, Mr. Wight told students that he too was once a first grader wondering what he could do in life, and that he just never quit on his dreams. He talked about how he creates stories and characters, making it all very approachable for kids. He demonstrated how he creates illustrations and how easy graphic illustrations can be. He engaged the students in creating a collaborative graphic story. Mr. Wight also allowed students a sneak peak at his new character, Jiminy Sprinkles, and shared how the ideas for character names come directly from life’s situations.



Stream Studies

by Dawn White, Green Valleys Association Education Coordinator

Sixth grade students from three Owen J. Roberts elementary schools visited Welkinweir in East Nantmeal Township this spring to learn about life in our local streams and ponds. The visits were conducted by Green Valleys Watershed Association’s Education Department staff, and complimented school watershed curriculum.

Students participated in a pond and stream study during their full-day visits. They performed water quality studies at a section of Beaver Run stream, located in the forest at Welkinweir. To discover the best indicators of how clean our streams are, and the threats to stream health, the students first collected and identified macroinvertebrates found on the rocks in the stream. They also assessed the surrounding habitat, looking at the quality of the buf-

fers (trees and other plants) at the water’s edge; as well as the clarity of the water, current weather conditions and surrounding land use. Finally, the students assisted Green Valleys’ staff in conducting tests for phosphorous and nitrites that may be in the water, using instruments to test water samples. The majority of the groups found that there were very few traces of either pollutant in the stream. Using all data, they concluded that the stream is healthy!

At the main pond, the students learned about the food web of Welkinweir’s pond community. They collected macroinvertebrates and other aquatic wildlife found in the pond, and examined the smaller animals under microscopes. They also assisted in calculating the pH and dissolved oxygen levels of the pond’s water, learning what the results mean in



terms of supporting life within the pond. Perhaps one of the favorite activities at the pond was a short walk around the pond in search of the resident beaver family’s handiwork. Students observed the lodge and examined multiple, chewed trees.

OJR Graduates Have Their Pick of Schools*

Johns Hopkins University: Ryan Cummings
Johnson and Wales University: Catherine Skonieczny
Kutztown University: Nicholas Bellini, Haley Burdette, Garrett Kennedy, Amanda Mawson, Nicholas Phillips, Robert Rausch, Emily Sakal, Francis Sheppard, Jacob Spence, Clinton Trego, Colin Tucci, Danielle Wolfrom, Evan Yeager, David Yocum
Lancaster Bible College: Leanne Mowrer
Lehigh University: Aaron Gray, Zoe Mattis
LeTourneau University: Sarah Copeland
Liberty University: Gabriella McKee
Loyola University Maryland: Aidan McLaughlin
Lycoming College: Colby Frank, Kyle Hinrichs
Marymount Manhattan College: Jensen Condra
Marymount Manhattan Honors College: Emily (Rayne) McGowan
Military: Michael Rodgers, Brandon Casto, Brett McConaghy
Montgomery County Community College: Cody Adamson, Dylan Becker, Mariah Betts, Kayla Brown, Emily Brunton, Kevin Bukay, Jamie Burry, Amarilys Caraballo, Mikayla Chippari, Anthony Confino, Emily Davis, Ryan Dibattista, Shane Fegan, Lauren Gilleland, Eric Griesser, Christopher Jackowski, Chad Johnson, Andrew Kearney, Katherine Kelsey, Sarah Kerwin, Nicholas Lanahan, Mason Little, Alexandra Lyon, Arielle McClary, Kevin Miller, Deanna Miller, Robert Morris, Marissa Oister, Joshua Pollitz, Thomas Proffitt, Ashley Raser, Tyler Reitnour, Morgan Shiposki, Ian Simon, Kyle Stephens, Dallas Strus, Jacob Sweigart, Michael Taylor, Kara Thorpe, Anthony Tuski, Ashley Wright
Middlebury College: Lauren Schweppe
Millersville University: Kyle Copenhaver, Kyndal Jacobs, Carson Jarvis, Matthew Lebet, Scott Moore, Stephen Muscovitch, Kyle Quittner, Lauren Wiegand
Misericordia University: Bryson Cahill, Wyatt Scott
Moore College of Art and Design: Amanda Ackerman
Moravian College: Margaret Heft
Mount Saint Mary’s University: Madailein Cobb
Neumann University: David Clay, Kutter Endy
New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts: Amy Jannotti
Northampton Community College: Quran Bey-Lee
Northeastern University: Matthew Dielman, Eric Gift
Penn State Abington: Matthew Giongo, Michaela Mast, Kelsey Pursel, Elizabeth Seber
Penn State Altoona: Anthony Acree,

Bradley Beard, Robert Donohoe, Austin Gunson, Shane Kelly, Alex Labella, Gretchen Lederer, Chase Line, Ryan Magee, Rachael Niedelman, Christopher Patrick
Penn State Berks: Blake Caldwell, Alex Fair, Ashley Hatten, Luke Hozey, Taylor Jacquette, Madison Kurtz, James McIntyre, Joshua Mullan, Eric Shewchuk, Danae Snyder, Wesley Walters, Cameron Whitelock
Penn State Brandywine: Josephine McGarry
Penn State Harrisburg: James Emery, Amelia Ianiro, Lisa Roth
Penn State University Park: Brittany Brovey, Kevin Diguisepppe, Jacquelyn Fenton, Jacquelyn Fili, Morgan Fink, Steven Hatten, Chad Jordan, Elizabeth Karcewski, Anthony Maenza, Alexander Mathews, Carley Miller, Samuel Murphy, Steven Myers, Nathan Pennypacker, Alexis Shimkonis
Penn State University Schreyer Honors College: Elizabeth Miller
Philadelphia University: Rachael Tobinus
Pennsylvania College of Technology: Kent Wilkinson, Hayden Guest, Anthony Smiley
Point Park: Matthew Marks
Police Academy: JosephSwank
Pulse Beauty Academy: Hayley Lakhicharran
Purdue University: Natalie Burgos
Quinnipiac University: Kendall Porter, Madison Sutton
Reading Area Community College: Phillip Fryberger Jr.
Randolph-Macon College: Rachael Smith
Rochester Institute of Technology: Joseph Bartelmo, Rosalee Hacker, William Tarr
Rosemont College: Shelby Bergstresser
Saint Joseph’s University: Kyle Maurer, Jessica Venonsky Salem, Justin Kelly
Shippensburg University: Elaine Allen, Isabella Cabibbo, Miranda Carfagno, Sarah Moloney, Allison Mooney, Ashley Nguyen, Brittany Pniewski, Amanda Sallade
Simmons College: Veronica Bennett
Skidmore College: Joshua Sager
Slippery Rock University: Zachary Stephenson
St. John’s University: Andrea Hoheb
St. Olaf College: Cecelia Sagona
St. Petersburg Community College: Nicholas Villarosa
Stevenson University: Tyler Stewart
Susquehanna University: Basil Mokhallalati
Temple University: Cory Ardekani, Rachel Bloemker, Hendrik Burger, Tess Cremers, Zachary De Carlo, Christian-Michael Keyes, Ashley Kucera, Olivia Love, Tyler Maute, Lydia McMurray, Edward Meyer, Alec Pupo, Rebecca Roat, Allison Seigel, Barbara Wadsworth
The Ohio State University: Elizabeth Tamburro
The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College: Aaron Massi

The University of Kentucky: Jill Weston
The University of South Carolina: Hanna Condrack
Unity College: Zane Fasel
Universal Technical Institute: Matthew Schwartz
University of Alabama: Denise Krasley, Richard Molinaro
University of California - PA: Rebecca Horvat, Kyle Hozey
University of Colorado: Sheila Gleason, Matthew Restuccia, Haley Siana
University of Dayton: Baxter Rechtin
University of Delaware: Liv Jancic, Emma Ruggiero, Collin Sager, Tazia Thompson
University of Massachusetts: Tara Christensen
University of Miami: Austin Cassidy
University of Notre Dame: Christian Wood
University of Pennsylvania: Juliana Provini
University of Pittsburgh: James Delcollo, Lindsay Gratton, Conner Hassinger, Matthew Lane, Kayla Maurer, Christopher Stout, Brandon Walker
University of Pittsburgh - Greenburg: Parth Dadhanian
University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown: MicaelaPupek
University of Scranton: Trevor Andresen, Anna Dollinger
University of South Carolina: Cassidy Jameson, Sarah Taylor
University of the Arts: Kaitlyn Gaito
University of Virginia: Shannon Harris, Holly Sullivan
University of Wisconsin- Madison: Erin Zimmerman
Ursinus College: Ciara Blazak, Robert Boas, Gabrielle Lomanto, Alexandra Montes
Universal Technical Institute: David Collins
Valley Forge Christian College: Kyle Rodriguez, Faith Duncan
Villanova University: Devin Hassinger, Spencer Miller
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University: Tristan Nguyen, Virginia Western, Daniel Hankins
Washington College: Maura Matthews, Christopher Antich
Wesley College: Montee Atkins
West Chester University: Katrina Albrecht, Elliott Bennett, Matthew Crider, Marissa Fogal, Maya Grosch, Breanna Harabalya, Jessica Haverkamp, Angie Hunt, Stephanie Jimenez, Corwin Mancuso, Margaret Mawson, Alexandra McCutchen, Nicholas Napolitan, Cailin Popp, Aubrey Syrek, Jordan Walker,
Widener University: Christina Mariotti, Sean Tevis, Mason Tracewell
York College of PA: Kate McConaghy, Rebecca Vanderwerf

***as reported by students June 1, 2014. A full list of 2014 graduates may be found on the district website.**



Congratulations to the Class of 2014 Valedictorians, Shannon Harris and Holly Sullivan and Salutatorians, Cecelia Sagona and Elizabeth Miller.

Kudos to the Owen J. Roberts Anchor Club, who was awarded the Outstanding Anchor Club of the Year for the Northeast Potomac District.

In May three East Vincent teams joined nearly 80 teams of students from across the commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the first annual K’Nex STEM Design Challenge State Championship. These three teams of students earned a spot at the state competition by placing either first or second in their division at the regional tournament held in April. Representing East Vincent Elementary, The Chauffeurs earned second place, winning a K’Nex Super Nova Roller Coaster Building Set for each member of the team and a \$300 K’Nex Education shopping spree for the school. In the middle school division, The EV Energetic Engineers earned third place, winning a K’Nex Super Nova Roller Coaster Building Set for each member of the team and a \$150 K’Nex Education shopping spree for the school.

Congratulations to Senior Kayla Brown, who won the high school award in the 4th annual open juried art event, “Art on the Hill--The Pottstown Art Show”. The Pottstown Area Artists Guild presented Kayla with a \$500 scholarship.

High Five to the East Vincent Elementary School, Middle School, High School Performance and High School Engineering Teams, who were recognized for qualifying by becoming State, then Regional Odyssey of the Mind Champions. The four teams went to WORLD FINALS at Iowa State University.

Praise to East Vincent sixth graders Will Blackledge, Annie Ardit, and Sean Zubey, who recently placed won the first place at the state level in the 2014 eCybermission competition for their science research project winning \$1,000 savings bonds from eCybermission.

Twenty DECA members competed in the International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in May. Thirteen of the twenty Owen J. Roberts DECA members in attendance received DECA’s Certificate of Excellence Award, which recognizes the DECA member/team as one of the top scores in their competitive event.

Congratulations to Owen J. Roberts High School student Rebecca Gorrell for being selected as a finalist in the Penn State College of the Liberal Arts Department of English’s annual Penn State Essay Contest, sponsored by the Program in Writing and Rhetoric (PWR).

Props to Latin student, Anna Stollman, who won Monmouth University’s Bernice Fox Classical Creative Writing Contest for her twist on the Hercules myth. Her paper won top prize against 130 entries from around the country.



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