

Advocate

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The newsletter of the
Owen J. Roberts
School District

June 2016

Inspiring Each Student for Success Today and Greatness Tomorrow

Message from Superintendent Michael Christian



On June 10, we gathered in Wildcat Stadium to celebrate the 61st Annual Owen J. Roberts Commencement Exercises. We honored the Class of 2016, and equally importantly, recognized the outstanding support and encouragement

provided by faculty, counselors, coaches, classmates, parents, family, and community.

A week prior, we had collected for the Senior Awards Program. Each senior was congratulated for contributions toward making the Owen J. High School community a better place. A large number of outstanding seniors were honored for special achievements. Nearly \$700,000 in monetary award was distributed at the ceremony. Many of these awards were made possible through community organizations, families, district groups, recreation leagues, high school clubs and organizations. I am equally impressed by the dedication and support shown to our students as I am our students' accomplishments.

A few of the academic and community service spotlights from the awards ceremony include 89 students (more than 20 percent of the class) honored for graduating with a GPA at, or above, 4.0, demonstrating the ambition to enroll in challenging coursework and the commitment to achieve high levels of performance.

Owen J. Roberts students continue to make a mark at regional and national levels. Chandler Calisiti was the recipient of the \$30,000 Greater Pottstown Foundation Shandy Hill Scholarship, an annual essay contest for seniors in our region. Over the past six years, Owen J. Roberts seniors have been awarded four of six Greater Pottstown Foundation Scholarship for the Arts. This year, senior AP art student, Zachary Foreman, was awarded the regional \$10,000 scholarship.

There was one member of the senior class who earned the Girl Scout Gold Award and five students who earned Boy Scout Eagle Awards. Jon Westlake won the 2016 National Eagle Scout Association's Adams Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award recognizing valuable service of an exceptional nature by a Scout, and senior, Tim La Greca, was presented the award for 2015. Each year, local councils select a council-level winner, and from that pool, each region selects a region-level winner. A national winner is then selected from the four regional finalists.

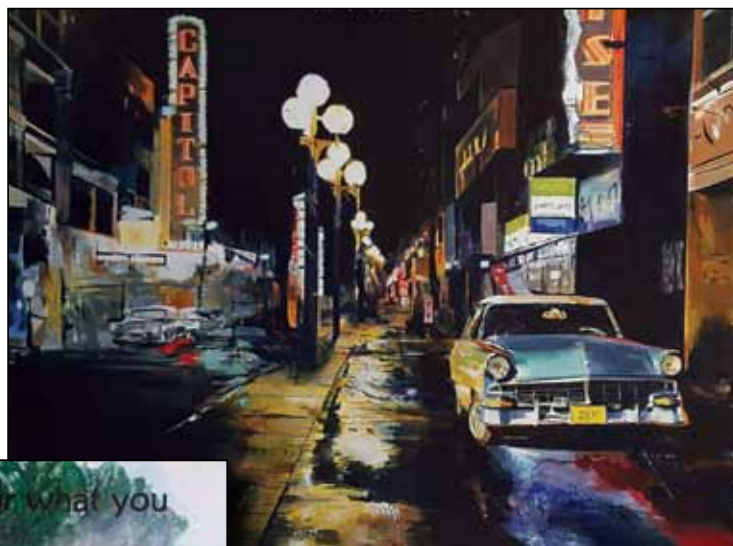
The United States Military Academy at West Point may be considered one of our nation's premier leader development institutions. Its mission is to develop leaders of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country, and prepare them for a career of professional excellence and service to the Nation as an officer in the United States Army. Cadets at West Point receive education and training valued at over \$300,000 which covers tuition, room, board, medical as well as monthly stipend. Upon graduation, cadets are awarded a Bachelor of Science degree and are commissioned

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Celebrating the Class of 2016 with Murals and Quotes

"Wouldn't it be amazing if one day in the near future, you wake up and discover that the Owen J. Roberts' Class of two-thousand-sixteen is running the world? You are about to embark on an Odyssey beyond all imagination; therefore, the possibility of running the world is very plausible."

~ Mrs. Pamela Clouser Wolfe,
President, Board of School Directors



Zachary Foreman



Kaitlyn Conner

"Think about it. There will always be someone with a better excuse than you - someone with fewer resources or a tougher situation. And despite this, he or she will rise to the occasion. If he can do it, then what's to say that you can't too?"

~ Kathryn Proffitt, Valedictorian



Maddie Schaeffer



Anita Zubarecz

"Class of 2016 - the opportunities you have ahead of you are limitless - be brave, be bold, be proud and when life gets challenging -and at times - ferocious - stand your ground, pick your moment, look the lion in your life right in the eyes - and ROAR - after all - once a wildcat always a wildcat."

~ Dr. Richard Marchini, High School Principal

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Emerging Leaders

Each May, the East Vincent Elementary School staff offers a Grade 5 “Field Trip” on the school campus with Thom Stecher and his associates with the focus on team building and developing leadership skills. Recognizing this group of students as the future leaders and role models of the school, the staff believes it is most important to cultivate their skills in this regard. Throughout the day the students participate in activities that are designed to encourage their participation in building relationships, taking risks, problem solving, and working collaboratively with others. The adjacent photo is part of a group challenge which was uniquely solved by groups of students. As a culminating activity, the students write a reflection to Dr. Bell relaying what was most helpful about the day’s experience and their goal as rising 6th grade students.

In the fall, this same group of students will travel for a Grade 6 “Field Trip” to a ropes course where more challenging activities will occur. This trip is by far rated as a highlight of elementary school for many students! Students also complete a guidance rotation under the direction of the school counselor, Mrs. Quinn. Students continue to build leadership skills including decision-making, goal-setting, middle school scheduling, and considerations in using social media.



Kick Start



Grade six students at French Creek Elementary School look forward to an end-of-year event that evokes friendly competition. For the third running, sixth graders challenge staff and administrators to a kickball game. The ballgame is tied to a Pennies for Patients campaign organized by the Lion Cubs/K-Kids groups. Nearly all the grade six students opt to play, while their peers in other grades form a cheering section. This year there was a raffle basket at the fun fair for special seating for the kickball game. The 2 winners and a few friends got to sit on decorated chairs to watch the game.

About 20 adults, French Creek teachers and staff as well district administrators, participate in the game. Students practice several times before the big contest, especially knowing they will enjoy playing with principals from the Middle School, and when he is able, Superintendent Mike Christian. The event supports a good cause, celebrates a successful school year and is a nice way to send off the sixth grade class.

Math 24 Demo



At the Monday, April 18 Committee of the Whole Meeting, a group of East Vincent Elementary School students provided a thorough Math 24® introduction and tutorial to the Owen J. Roberts Board of School Directors. Directors and school administrators were able to test their skills with students for a few minutes before returning to regular business at hand. Math 24® is said to remove “answer anxiety” from mathematical problem solving. Students from several schools play Tournament Math 24 for opportunities to compete at the Chester County 24® Challenge Tournament hosted by Chester County Intermediate Unit.

Full Steam Ahead

A culmination of a year of work and planning, the second annual Middle School school-wide STEAM Day Celebration was held in June. The innovative event introduced students to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) ideas, careers, and projects, in hopes that students may become excited about working in these fields and continuing to take challenging courses in those areas. STEAM, at its nature, helps connect all learning disciplines and promotes collaboration, communication and problem-solving.

To prepare for the full-scale STEAM celebration, Mrs. Bickel organized a STEAM Team of students motivated to create interactive stations, run demos, and engage in the day in more ways than just displaying a project. Students were the creative muscle behind the day with nearly all the ideas for STEAM generated from their hobbies and interests. Some students did find inspiration for their projects from teachers, classes, and, most frequently, the Internet. For example, a “Zombie Bridge Challenge” station was based off of a TED Talk mind-game found by an 8th grade boy online while watching YouTube videos.



Student-focused STEAM stations were set up in several locations. “Art in STEAM Stations” were designed and presented by Mrs. Duffy. There was a “Careers in STEAM” room with energetic STEAM career professionals offering information about their jobs, industry and workplace. The visiting professionals were amazing this year, many bringing interactive demos to entice students. As part of the day, a Franklin Institute Interactive Traveling Show helped make real world science fun and amazing for students. As part of the program, students explored NASA’s Journey to Mars for 2030 where they were encouraged to problem solve about living and working in space and microgravity.

Super Reading



East Coventry Elementary School kicked off its summer reading program with a visit from OJRS’s very own Super Reader. The students were encouraged to continue their reading successes obtained this past school year by continuing to read throughout the upcoming months. Super Reader shared that the only way to build the students’ reading muscles is for them to continue to read, read, read.

The summer reading challenge encourages students to track their reading by recording the number of minutes read. Students can log on to the Scholastic Book website and record the amount of reading. One exciting feature of the Scholastic website is that students can see the minutes read of other schools from across the country.

Many East Coventry staff have committed to participating the summer reading challenge as well. Staff wore super hero attire to school and talked about favorite books and favorite story genre. The staff will be recording their reading and having a friendly competition against the students. The idea is to team up to promote more minutes spent reading over the summer.

Senior Walks

Owen J. Roberts School District started a new tradition this year. Senior students returned to “walk the halls” of their home elementary school so that current students and staff could offer their congratulations days before they were to graduate. United as one group for the past six years of secondary school, the senior students were issued their cap and gowns, took a class photo, then split up to visit East Coventry, East Vincent, French Creek, North Coventry and West Vincent Elementary Schools. Elementary students greeted the upcoming grads like rock stars. Principals, teachers and staff enjoyed getting out yearbooks, reminiscing and wishing each graduate well.



Music and PE Merge



West Vincent physical education teacher, Mr. Mark Hineman, and music teacher, Mrs. Alaena Silva, took an integrated approach on a two-week dance unit where they utilized the gym and combined music and physical education classes to form complex large group dances.

Combining PE and music classes, students worked to demonstrate an understanding of music through movement. The teachers believed the cross-curricular instruction could be a powerful teaching and learning experience, pooling teaching talents and areas of expertise. The opportunity allowed for peer learning among the teachers and also helped students understand the knowledge and skills they acquired as interdependent, rather than segmented.

Mural Project

On the cover of this publication you will find photos of the works from this year’s senior mural project. This is the 9th year for the project and the high school is approaching two dozen pieces on display as a result. This year’s senior art project was modified to give students the option of doing a fine art piece or a mural project based on a quote. If the student chose mural/quote art, the quote was to be one that student felt strongly about but would also be compatible with OJRHS community. This project forced students to use text as a major visual element in their artwork. The fine art piece project focused on designing fine art specifically for the OJR community. This option gave kids the opportunity to research master artist techniques and design and produce gallery-quality work on a larger scale, experiencing the entire studio process.

Three students selected the mural project this year. Kaitlyn Conner’s AP work this year concentrated on raising awareness to socially sensitive issues primarily in the medical arena. Her senior mural project focused on political awareness. By painting “The Bravest Go Unknown” Kaitlyn hopes to share with OJR students the importance of standing up against adversity.

Madison Schaeffer “Untitled”

(Manifest) used a quote is from her favorite book, “The Art of Racing in the Rain”. When people see her mural, Maddie hopes “that people see high school life is what you make of it. Yes, we have to be here every day and sometimes it gets really boring but people are capable of creating interesting and colorful lives that can be filled with great experiences.”

Anita Zuberecz chose to create “Wildcat”, a charcoal drawing on archival paper. She hopes that when future high school students see her work they have a sense of pride in being part of Owen J. Roberts.

Zach Foreman, 2016 OJRHS Honor Artist and winner of the Greater Pottstown Foundation Scholarship for the Arts \$10,000 Award, chose to do an impressionist-styled painting, “Capital”.

This is Zach’s largest painting and his second impressionist piece. He chose this composition because he wanted to continue exploring Impressionism, refine his painting skills and continue to define his personal style. He says, “Capital” gives you a sense of being on the streets in the 1950’s.” He hopes that future students look at his work and see that if you really want something you can make it happen--- IF you are willing to put in the time and effort.



Gross School Bus Service is looking for drivers

**Contact: April McCoy,
Gross School Bus Service,
610-469-0221**

Odyssey of the Mind Worlds

Knowing the value of learning to think creatively, problem-solve, and work as a team, the Owen J. Roberts School District has been a long-time supporter of the Odyssey of the Mind program. The elementary, middle school, and high school teams start in the fall with one of five problems offered annually through the program, and over the next five months, plan and create their solutions. Whether the team is solving the vehicle, technology, classic, structure, or performance problem, all members must create their own script, structures, devices, scenery, costumes, and props for their performance.

In March the teams compete in a regional competition. Top teams advance to the State Finals. Teams that place in the top of the state

contenders, represent their state at the World Finals.

This year, Owen J. Roberts sent four teams to Iowa State University to compete against other states and countries from around the world.

Our three elementary teams, East Vincent coached by Chris Palochak, French Creek coached by Pam Yarbrough, North Coventry coached by Patty Janda, and one high school team coached by Rose Vey, were up against over 800 of the best teams from the United States and around the world. All our teams performed well, especially our North Coventry team which took third place in their problem. The team’s members, pictured above, Brooke Banninger, Lauren Bodor, Connor Fennell, Elizabeth Meyers, Megan Reynolds, Hayden



Streeter, and Kaylee Uba proudly brought home their trophy and medals, continuing a long tradition of Owen J. Roberts teams making a

significant contribution Pennsylvania success at Odyssey of the Mind World Finals competitions.

Class of 2016 Senior Spotlight

The Class of 2016 achieved greatness in academics, in the arts, on the athletic fields, and in the service learning arena. The graduate biographies below give a sense of the diversity and accomplishment of the class, as well as a snapshot of some of the experiences available to our students.

Jonathan Westlake



Jonathan Westlake will “never forget the feeling of his involvement with the 2016 mini-THON and raising over \$50,000” for pediatric

cancer. President of the National Honors Society, Treasurer for Concert and Marching Band, Lacrosse Team Captain, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster were just a few of the many leadership positions he held at the high school and in Boy Scouts of America. As a rising senior, Jon found great value in shadowing local doctors, specialists ranging from pediatrics to joint replacements. He feels especially thankful to Dr. Frederic Liss, orthopedic hand surgeon, for helping mold future aspirations and for being a mentor.

Jonathan volunteered at the North Coventry Food Pantry, CityGate Mission, soup kitchens, lacrosse camps, and projects at the Friends of the African Union Church of South Coventry. He called his volunteer efforts “simple means to give back and impact others”. Jonathan received the All-Academic Award for Boys Lacrosse as well as the George Cruz award for excellence on and off the field for the PAC-10 lacrosse league. His Eagle Scout project won national recognition for excellence and impact. He plans to attend the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State admiring the small school feel available at a large public college.

Kim Pham



Kim Pham was a member of Wildcat Ambassadors, Key Club, Leo Club, National Honor Society,

National French

Honor Society, and GSA. She loves exploring new cultures and languages through films as well as through cooking and baking. During warm seasons, she enjoys helping her mom with gardening. She was very proud of her recognitions at Owen J. Roberts as her accomplishments reminded her of how lucky she was to have so many supportive teachers. She will always remember being a new student in a new school and country and winning the Student of the Month award. She shared that experience will continue to

motivate her to work hard and achieve more. Kim took great pleasure in helping with a tutoring program for elementary students during this school year. It was empowering for her to help children with homework and reading. Kim chose to attend Immaculata University to study physical therapy. She is excited to continue to live close to her parents and plans to work so she is able to pay her own college tuition.

Avalon Potter



After moving to Owen J. Roberts her junior year, Avalon Potter co-founded the OJR Environmental club with a friend to give students the oppor-

tunity to positively contribute to their environment and to help educate others about environmental protection. She was also Treasurer of Model UN, Varsity Academic Team Member, Assistant Editor of the OJR Gavel, and member of the Wildcat Ambassadors.

Avalon always loved to write. As Gavel editor she found great pleasure in helping other students publish their writing. Avalon worked as a professional online writer and brand representative for the craft company ILoveToCreate for about five years. Along with writing DIY tutorials, she represented them at multiple professional conferences and helped to educate consumers about their products. Avalon feels that the teachers and staff at the high school work incredibly hard to make sure students will be able to not only get into college, but to thrive there as well. Her AP Government teacher, Mr. Wallace, helped her prepare for a major in International Affairs with a concentration in International Politics. Mr. Wallace encouraged informed citizenship and deep discussion surrounding current news in politics. Being a part of his class, especially during a presidential election cycle, was a highlight of her high school experience.

Avalon will be attending The Elliot School at George Washington University for its perfect political proximity and for the school's International Relations programs and internships. She looks forward to a life in the nation's capital “that will be filled with adventure, knowledge, and (hopefully) endless political intrigue”. Avalon cannot wait to be immersed in the world of government and politics, and to finally work with real public policy issues.



Sinead Cummins

Sinead Cummins will never forget four years of football

games, parades, and cavalcades that she participated in with the Owen J. Roberts High School Marching Band. She was proud to be part of an organization that cared so deeply about their performances. Sinead attended the Technical College High School (TCHS) at Pickering where she was Student Ambassador, FFA Treasurer (2 years), and student worker. She enjoys horseback riding. She feels that Owen J. Roberts has challenged her academically to prepare for college and veterinary school. She is thankful for the opportunity to work hands-on with animals and to have earned several professional certificates at TCHS.

Sinead will be attending Delaware Valley University where she will major in Large Animal Studies and begin a pre-vet program.

Kathryn Proffitt



Katie Proffitt was Valedictorian of the Class of 2016. She lettered in Cross Country and Track and Field. She was most proud of her involvement

with Best Buddies, where she was president. She also held an office in Wildcat Ambassadors and was member of Leo Club, Spanish Cub, National Honor Society, and World Language Honor Society. She directed the preschool program of Vacation Bible School at her church.

Katie enjoys reading, walking her dog, and spending time with her nieces. Best Buddies inspired her to pursue a career in which she might help those with special needs. She would love to be a physical therapist for children with developmental disabilities, so that she can show how these disabilities aren't “disabling” at all. Katie joins her youth group for mission trips to less fortunate areas for a week each year. She participated in several community projects including working at the food pantry, the soup kitchen, In Ian's Boots, and her church's bazaar. Katie fell in love with the 660-acre, rolling hills of Slippery Rock University almost immediately. She looks forward to being part of their Physical Therapy program on an accelerated track so that she can finish school in less time. She plans to run Cross Country and Track on the division II level. Katie noted, “I would love to one day provide affordable physical therapy to children with special needs, but until then, I will help out by providing the best service I can while giving

back to my community even more than I do now.”

Margaret Duffy

Holding four officer positions her senior

year taught Margaret Duffy how to balance efforts while giving her all. She was Junior Classical League Secretary, Wildcat Ambassadors Executive Officer, Environmental Club Treasurer, DECA Vice President, Academic Team, Odyssey of the Mind, Cross Country, Track and Field, and Reading Olympics. Margaret enjoys painting and reading in her free time. She feels OJR presented her with countless new opportunities and friends. DECA played a huge role in preparing Margaret for a major in marketing and minor in international business. She took the course to fill a gap, but after working with Mr. Burtnett, and at his suggestion to continue her project in a DECA competition, she never looked back. She instantly fell in love with the interactive DECA competitive events which helped her feel ready for college and career. In the spirit of giving back, Margaret volunteered with St. Basil the Great Odyssey of the Mind team as well as their track and field program. She chose Penn State because she knew she wanted a big school where with the opportunity to continuously be making friends, participate in new activities, and be part of huge school spirit.

Andrew Griffin



Andrew Griffin was district and state finalist every year in OJR DECA, a business organization which prepares emerging leaders and

entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. He traveled to the international competition three times, and won a State Championship this past year, an experience he will never forget. Andrew has been a role-play mentor for the past three years, working very closely with other DECA members to teach them the skills needed to succeed. In addition, he was the Vice President of Competition for DECA, responsible for preparing all competitors for the competitions. Andrew was also a member of National Honors Society, Varsity Cross Country, and Varsity Track teams.

Andrew enjoyed playing sports like pick-up basketball, hockey, golf, and more with friends. His interest in sports helps fuel his role as President of a charity he and his brothers founded eight years ago, called Pass It On, kids helping kids, which provides gently used sports equipment to underprivileged children. Pass It On has benefitted the Boys and Girls Club of Philadelphia, Leaps Lacrosse, Hurricane Sandy victims, and even a lacrosse program in Uganda with thousands of pieces of equipment.

Andrew will always be proud of and thankful for Owen J. Roberts and the opportunities provided. He feels the school prepared him for the next phase in life because it provided the chance to take classes in several

different areas of study in order to find a niche. Favoring business classes, Andrew decided to pursue studies in Finance as a student in the Smeal College of Business at Penn State in the Sapphire Leadership Program.

Dylan McHugh



Dylan Chase McHugh reportedly did his first backflip at age 11 and has been hooked to Parkour as a training discipline ever since.

He said, "I enjoy open-minded, intellectual people, who still can appreciate a particularly abysmal pun." Dylan is an aspiring physician who found AP biology and Anatomy huge contributors and motivators. He was highly impacted by his science courses and especially found Mrs. George's Oceanography class to be one of his favorites. Dylan participated in the local charitable organization Triskeles' Side by Side program. Side by Side pairs teen mentors with youngsters in activities to build skills and a connection to the natural world. He liked mentoring children, baking, playing, doing arts and crafts, and exploring. Dylan plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh for pre-med. He said, "Call me a nerd if you must, but I am looking forward to stuffing every lobe of my brain with as much information as I can, whether that info be related to what I am studying or just a ridiculous fact that I can amaze my friends with."

Antoinette Montes



Nettie Montes was Tri-Captain of the Owen J. Roberts Field Hockey Team, a member of legislative council of Owen J. Roberts

Student Government, Events and Activities Committee, School Improvement Committee, Letterman's Club, National Honors Society, student store volunteer, National Spanish Honors Society, Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) Club, and OJR Boy's Lacrosse Team Manager. She played Xcalibur Club Field Hockey and was a member of the Puerto Rico Women's National Field Hockey Team. She was an active member of student government all four years, in which time she helped create and run events, change policies to benefit the student body, and improve the school. She will never forget winning the field hockey PAC-10 Championship this year with the girls she has played with since 6th grade. OJR has prepared her through academic and athletic challenges, both of which have prepared her to be a competitive student-athlete at Hofstra University Honors College. The AP Environmental Science course inspired her to major in

Environmental Resources and pursue alternative energy sources as a career path. She chose Hofstra because of the academic opportunities, the location near New York City, and the field hockey program. She offered, "I am most excited about pursuing my career dreams and one day having a job where I can make a difference in the world."

Gregory Hale



Gregory Hale participated in the Owen J. Roberts NJROTC program, where he was deeply involved in many types of community

service. He was also active in chorus, Wildcat Ambassadors and stage crew. Outside of school, Gregory participated in the reenacting unit in the community known as the 4th Texas Infantry Co. B. Gregory feels that Owen J. has provided a sense of leadership and pride in who he is now and who he will become. NJROTC provided a platform for demonstration of leadership skills. He is thankful for the help of Mr. McCormick through many years. He was involved in the Boy Scouts of America. He mentions that he plans on working, "because even though we are in the age of technology, there will still have to be people who work with their hands and not a screen and keypad."

Connor Loomis



Connor Loomis participated in Odyssey of the Mind a creative problem-solving competition that promotes teamwork skills, all

four years of high school. He has gone to World Finals (an international competition) three times. He devoted a lot of time working on that; they met for at least four hours every Saturday morning. He was also part of National Honor Society, National World Language Honor Society (German chapter), and was treasurer of German Club. He tutored every Wednesday for NHS and German. He admires the Class of 2016 for talented students artistically, academically, and athletically. Connor will never forget German class of high school, where he studied with many of the same students since seventh grade, "and have the most amazing teacher, Mrs. Dahl. Not only have we learned German and Germany's culture, but we have had laughs and built friendships that could last a lifetime." Connor is interested in a career in biochemistry/ molecular biology. Biology, Chemistry, and AP Biology all increased his interest in this area. "From the functions of a cell to the periodic table, I am excited to pursue this career because of the courses and teachers Owen J. Roberts has offered." Connor chose to attend

Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA. When he visited, he really enjoyed the small, close-knit campus and loved their science programs and other opportunities.

Tim LaGreca



Tim LaGreca liked to have fun and keep people laughing. When asked what his teachers' recollection of him might be a year from

now, he answered, "We should've kept one of his tests just so we'd have his autograph." Tim was active in Boy Scouts of America and achieved Eagle Scout. His Eagle Scout project won national distinction. He was active in DECA, OJR Leo Club, OJR Cross Country, and Student Government. He was Senior Class Treasurer. He will always remember Owen J. Roberts as a place of opportunity and new experiences including DECA, which introduced realistic business and marketing situations. He will never forget the afternoon he led the school in the homecoming pep rally. Owen J. Roberts has taught him, "to always begin in a friendly way, use your resources, and never be afraid to try something new". Calculus class with Mr. Lewis showed me that higher math is not all that hard... as long as you remember to avoid bad Algebra. Tim will be dual majoring in engineering and economics at Lafayette College.

Miguel Hingada



Miguel Hingada was a member of Wildcat Ambassadors, DECA, Leo Club, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Band, , Academic Team, National Honors

Society, World Language Honors Society, and Communications Officer for Environmental Club. Outside of school, he enjoyed biking, kayaking, and paddle boarding, while also playing and learning various musical instruments.

Among his most memorable experiences are the DECA competitions at Hershey because they provided an ability to understand how the world of business works, while also allowing him to spend time with great friends. Miguel felt that OJR only prepared him for writing outstanding essays or the basics of calculus, but also taught the importance of staying positive thinking and self-belief. Since he now plans on majoring in Accounting/Finance, both DECA and Economics helped prepare him for the world of business and further established his curiosity on the subjects. This fall, he will attend the Schreyer Honors College at Penn State Berks before finishing studies at Penn State Main as a Schreyer Scholar. He chose Penn State and

Schreyer for solid reputations for renowned education, as well as the countless opportunities with an extensive Alumni Association.

Andrea Shade



Andrea Shade was President of the Owen J. Roberts Horticulture Club, member of NHS, a four-year varsity letter athlete

on the swim team with one captain season and two PAC Championship Titles, a three-year varsity letter athlete on the cross country team with two Captain seasons and two PAC Championship Titles, a three-year varsity track athlete. She volunteered at the Pottstown Hospital, and was a lifeguard at the Phoenixville YMCA, and a member of the OJR NJROTC. Outside of school she runs avidly, belongs to a cross fit gym, and enjoys hiking.

She will never forget the memories from cross country and playing soccer freshman year. She will also never forget first touring the high school as an eighth grader and being lost from the start because the building seemed so big and full of opportunity. The two classes which have had the greatest effect on her were NJROTC and Horticulture. NJROTC and Master Guns prepared her for the Army and made her more involved in the community through the many volunteer opportunities. Throughout four years in Horticulture with Mrs. Tinder, her love for plants and flowers flourished. Andrea will be attending the United States Military Academy at West Point and majoring in either civil or environmental engineering. She hopes to travel after college so the prospect of being stationed potentially anywhere around the world after graduating was attractive. More than anything, Andrea looks forward to serving her country in the United States Army and to leading others.

Joe Zgleszewski



Joe Zgleszewski played baseball daily every summer and played four years for Owen J. Roberts. He likes to go hunting and

fishing during his free time. He will never forget the experience of the baseball team making it to the state tournament because of all of the great times we had as a team on and off the field. Joe was awarded the Physical Education Department Award. He feels OJR has prepared him in many ways for college next year. His business classes helped him in the career he plans to pursue-

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Class of 2016 Senior Spotlight

Continued from page 5

-sports marketing. An avid athlete, he found himself intrigued by the business side of sports. Joe plans to attend Lock Haven University to study business. He will play baseball for Lock Haven and is excited both about his studies and athletics.

Mike Styer



Mike Styer gets great joy from his business, Mike Styer Photography, which specializes in actor headshots. He also thrives as

a stage actor who gets tremendous joy interacting with others. He feels it is important to "give back" and has performed in and was a photo/video contributor to the Wings of Hope Benefit Concert, where each artist may dedicate his or her performance in honor or memory of someone whose life has been touched by cancer.

Mike spent countless hours taking photos, managing the photography server, and designing pages for the award-winning OJRHS yearbook. He was similarly committed to The Naturals Acapella Group as President and Communications Officer, the 7-Ups as Communications Officer, and to the high school musical.

Mike feels that the class of 2016 is very savvy. "The internet has given us access to a wealth of information, and as a result, opportunity. We have a variety of eclectic skills because we are able to learn about almost any topic imaginable," he said. Mike also said he would never forget his first professional performance opportunity ever with the 7-Ups, "We recorded in a recording studio to be the voices of the Youth Choir for the 6ABC Thanksgiving Day Parade and the National Cherry Blossom Parade in DC. We also danced live on TV as a featured group. Seeing the ethic of the professionals (and seeing myself on TV!) was something that left a huge imprint on me." Mike believes his OJR performance opportunities helped him have the ambition to pursue a career in performance. "Being able to hone my craft in a safe environment, pursue leadership opportunities, and engage in professional performances has

shown me how to be more successful in the business," he said. Mike is excited to attend Temple University in the fall and feels he will thrive in the city and in a university environment that is encouraging.

Tino Chigumira



As Owen J. Roberts High School Student Government President, Tino Chigumira, informed that the Class of 2016 carried the torch of

understanding and acceptance. He was active in service through Leo Club. He acted in both Fall and Spring plays. He was also part of Shakespeare Festival. Tino enjoyed dancing, singing, reading, writing, and acting. A memory that truly jumps out for Tino is from 2015-2016 Fall Play where he felt he learned and grew so much. "I had fun with my cast mates," he recalled, "and I had an opportunity to put my heart and soul into something tangible. It was a great experience." Tino felt that OJRHS puts a great emphasis on community. "Wherever life takes me, I know I can always come back here and find this school like a second home. That sense of community has been instilled INTO me: that will keep me grounded among all of the chaos and noise of the world." He credits Student Government for preparing him for his next phase in life because the leadership and service skills garnered will translate to anything he pursues. Tino will attend New York University, located in the heart of New York City.

Eva Rose Bove



Eva Rose Bove was VP of National Honors Society and president of the High School Robotics FTC Team. She started the first robotics

team at the Middle School, and mentored/started about a dozen other robotics teams (even outside of PA). Eva advocates and works for girls to participate in STEM. She feels her robotics team has influenced many

OJR students with future career paths and noted that outreach to different schools and areas has helped boost the participation of girls in STEM fields at both the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Robotics helped Eva learn teamwork and become a better leader. It also taught her how to design, innovate, problem-solve, and market ideas. Robotics also brought exposure to real engineers and scientists who helped her learn technical skills and engineering techniques. She credits her sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Reiche, for empowering her interest in science and math, putting no boundaries on gender. Eva was also very involved with Odyssey of the Mind for nine years, starting in fourth grade, and consistently placing in the state and international levels of competition. Eva contributed to the spontaneous portion of the challenge: the designing, brainstorming, and script writing. She was active with North Coventry Bible Club and enjoyed reading, writing, painting, drawing, cooking and baking. Eva appreciated the breadth of classes available to her and was able to take art, CADD, and Latin classes along with those in STEM. She will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts to major in Chemical Engineering where she hopes to tackle real-world challenges at both home and abroad. Eva offered, "I will do my best to give back to the community which helped me become who I am."

Kaitlyn Conner



Kaitlyn Conner was vice president of the Spanish Club, member of the robotics club, teacher's assistant, and yearly participant

in the mini-THON. She enjoys playing the piano, taking her dog to the park, knitting, drawing, painting, and highland dance. She felt that Owen J. Roberts High School gave her opportunities to take courses that directly apply to her chosen field. She especially benefited from Anatomy and Physiology which allowed her to gain knowledge of the human body before attending college and she was thankful for the competitive advantage. She felt that taking Spanish throughout middle and high school prepared her for future opportunities to travel and help those

of a different language. "I hope to use my Spanish speaking capabilities to do pro-bono work as a surgeon across the globe," she said. She participated in the Drexel Mini Med Program and the Harvard National Student Leadership Conference. She was involved in an organization at the Pottstown Library, created by Xochi Sykes, that gave Owen J. students the opportunity to work with Spanish speaking children in order to improve their learning abilities at school. She also volunteered at the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center for four years and more than 400 hours. She chose to continue her education at Pennsylvania State University because of the strong networking capabilities, the beautiful location, and the friendliness of all of the students and teachers. Kaitlyn said, "I can't wait to fulfill my lifelong dream to become a surgeon and help every single person I encounter."

Audrey Schwartz

Audrey Schwartz was a member of Academic Team and active with Wildcat Ambassadors since her sophomore year. As an officer this year, she really enjoyed coordinating events, especially those welcoming new students. "It's rewarding," she said, "kids come in looking so frightened of the high school, but they walk out looking forward to going here. There's always someone with a question that none of us have heard before, so that keeps it interesting." Audrey practices Taekwondo and when not doing that, tutoring, or homework, could be found scribbling in a notebook somewhere. She started writing for the sake of writing during the fifth grade, and just never stopped. She credits Madame Natalie Smith as having an enormous impact on her chosen path for college, "although I do love the French language, what her classes really showed me was how much I like linguistics. More than any one language in particular, I love learning about how language 'works' - how it developed over time, how it's influenced by the culture, why different countries have different grammatical norms, etc. Studying the mechanics of the English language with Mrs. Seiler strengthened my interest in linguistics, as well. It made me stop and consider our syntax - not just what we say, but how we say it." Audrey is thrilled to be attending Dartmouth College in the fall where she really wants to hone her writing and develop more of a focus for it.

Class of 2016 Destinations

Allegheny College: Samantha C. Awe

Alvernia University: Carly M. Benfield, Tristan Mark Kirby, Megan Christine Probert, Eric C. McKay, Skylar J. Thomas, Morgan Pearl Witte, Anita Vivian Zuberecz

American University: Christina Fluharty

Arcadia University: Colin R. Devine

Automotive Training Center: Jeffrey T. Williams *

Bloomsburg University: Colin Quinn Bauer, Petra Hester, Vincent M. Hunt, Tyler J. Kwornik, Anthony Jarred Lauletta, Haley Dalton McCrossin, Cameron Evan Moorhead, Walter L. Nelson, Samuel Pickford, Taylor R. Runkle, Matthew Irwin Rutherford, Chad S. Stephenson, Ian J. Van Wagenen, Kyle John Wunderlich

Boston University: Jason S. Wierzbicki

Cabrini University: Michaela M. Schukraft, Lauren M. Vuocolo

Cedarville University: Taylor Lou McKee

Cleveland State University: Austin V. DelGatto

Culinary Arts Institute at MCCC: Amyln Savarese

Dartmouth College: Audrey Schwartz

Delaware County Community College Victoria Atlee, Kimia Afkhami-Ardekani, Lindsey K. Lenarcik, Ashley P. Porch, John Andrew Toler

Delaware Valley University: Lea Rose Breden, Sinead Cummins, Annaliese Eva Hokulea Griesser, Micky Tyler Kohn, Charles Ashton McDonnell, Rayquon Hakeem Spriggs-Stewart, Kennedy Wilkinson, Michelle Wensel

DeSales University: Alexander T. Condello, Corey Hennessey

Dickinson College: Elena M. Malamed

Continued on next page

Class of 2016 Destinations

Continued from previous page

Drexel University: Emma V. DiBella

Duquesne University: Erica Weber

East Carolina University: Brandy M. Kilroy

East Stroudsburg University: Aidan Robert Brock, Kelly Starliper

Eastern Mennonite University: Nathaniel Tomlin

Eastern University: Megan Paige Bernotas, Brianna N. Summerill

Elizabethtown College: Benjamin C. Brill, Dallas Fleck, James Riley McGinley, Jessica L. Pron, Alec J. Schneider, Michael B. Snyder

Emerson College: Natalie Rose Bartlett

Fairleigh Dickinson University: Christian M. Krumenacker

Franklin & Marshall College: Taylor Baker, Darcy Robin Harris, Madison A. Schaeffer

Frederick Community College: Cody R. Addis

George Mason University: Kayla L. Hofmann, Kerry E. Huzzard

George Washington University: Conner J. Harlow, Avalon Potter

Gettysburg College: Ryan C. Smolik

Hamilton College: Maya Amy

Haverford College: William J. Hillegas

Hofstra University: Hayley G. Bono

Hofstra University Honors College: Antoinette M. Montes

Immaculata University: Kim Ngan Pham

Indiana University of Pennsylvania: Matthew David Fields, Brandon R. Frazier, Megan Paige Harpold, Jacob R. Karpinski, Courtney Marie Martin, Melissa A. Mullen, Jessica Radcliffe

Iowa Central Community College: Andrew Freerksen

James Madison University: Abigail Bailey, Eric Keppel

Juniata College: Rachel L. Mignona

Kings College: William Scherfel

Kutztown University: Emily Madison Deichert, Caleb Dixon, Hayden Gregory, Christopher Kerlin, Chelsea Jameson

Lafayette College: Trevor Goodwin, Timothy David LaGreca

Lancaster Bible College: Cheyanne M. Seber

Lebanon Valley College: Jonathan Kent Heft

Lehigh University: Conor A. Mitchell

Lock Haven University: Joseph R. Zgleszewski

Longwood University: Emilie Elizabeth Kupsov

Loyola University of Chicago: Danielle M. Wood

Manhattan College: Gillian Fleshman

Mansfield University of Pennsylvania: Nicholas J. Wanczyk

Montgomery County Community College: Cheyanne Auen, Jackeline Aragon Becerra, Michaela Bedell, Anthony M. Cusic, Brandie D'Antonio, Kaitlyn Renee D'Ginto, Genevieve Donahue, Zachary Foreman, Eric Michael Frye, Emily Gray*, Tyler Groff, Gregory Hale, Austin Lee Henkel, Mackenzie Catherine Hine, John Lewis Hoffman, Scott James, Alicia Ryan Jamieson, Emma Rae Kathryn Van Horn, Payton Audrey Kooker, Gabrielle Long, Robert Long, Sean McCoy, Diller McGrath, Robert Mears, Shawn Meinhart, Caitlin Mossman, Zachary Moyer, Matthew Nagy, Gregory Ortlip*, Vincent Partlow, Hannah Patterson, William Jon Peeples, Abigail McKenna Pegler, Meredith Kate Pegler, Edwin Paul Perez, Kalie Radcliffe, Emily Christine Ratchford, Victor Axel Rosenwald, Cecilia Sophia Roskos, Alyssa Ruppert, Justin Scott, Emma M. Siegele, Jacob Silknitter, Molly Slaughter, Jake Smith, Uria Spease, Kaleena Sweinhart, Michael Swinger, Abigail Marie Tamburro, Lauren Tarves, Nicholas Tummillo, Leah Raye Willauer, Logan Zerby

Millersville University: Stone W. Bissland, Meghan K. Coppo, Nicole M. Chermak, Rebecca L. Cahill, Grey H. Jacobs, Keeley White

Misericordia University: Matthew A. Dinnocenti

Moody Bible Institute: Victoria Renee Allem

Muhlenberg College: John C. Colt

Neumann University: Victoria M. Ponto

New York University: Tinotenda Gerald Chigumira

Nova Southeastern University: Samantha Aguirre

Ohio State University: Alexis Leigh Kardelis

Old Dominion University: Evan Joseph DeNicola

Penn State University, Altoona: Harley Elizabeth Ginnona

Penn State University, Berks: Jacobus Burger, Conner Dunleavy, Samuel Ahlen Fisher, David Glanski, Alexander Hocker, Jacob Leonard, Matthew McCollum, Avery McDougal, Jacob Mullan, Connor Ott, Douglas Peterson, Bryan Trego, Cole R. Whitelock, Brooke Whitelock, Lilliana L. Williams

Penn State University, Brandywine: Kierra J. MacLeod

Penn State University, University Park: Liam Beitel, Steven Brady, Tajul Cauffman, Kaitlyn Mary Conner, Ethan Conor Conway, Jared Cooney, Margaret Kate Duffy, Taylor Evans, Samantha Garvey, Andrew Griffin, Juan Miguel Hingada, Sarah E. Hume, Emily Jackson, Brittany Love, Andrew O'Brien, Aaron Ott, Benjamin Smith, Oulimata Sow, Alissa Vining, Abigail E. Winand

Penn State University, Shreyers Honors College: Jonathan Westlake

Pennsylvania College of Technology: Jacob Endy, Connor Phillip Newman

Philadelphia University: Hanna Marie Glass, Rienn Hennessey, Cassandra M. VanDruff

Reading Area Community College: Allyson Marie D'Alessandro

Richmond Community College: Cameron Riley Wise

Rider University: Xavier M. Ferrizzi

Rochester Institute of Technology: Caleb R. Adrian

Rosemont College: Grant Houston, Cole J. Houston

Rowan University: Elizabeth Bealer

Rutgers University: Amanda Christine Lamb

Saint Joseph's University: Alexi Arias, Corinne Marie Gerber, Courtney Ann Gerber, Devin Swech, Emily Vance

Seton Hall University: Madeline A. Sager

Shippensburg University: Zachary Berry, Niall Cummins, Kurtis Jones, Brianna Erin Malason

Skidmore College: Fiona McLaughlin

Slippery Rock University Amanda McGuigan, Kathryn Proffitt

Smith College: Arianna D. Gutierrez

Susquehanna University: Brett Miller

Temple University: Rebecca Ellen Ardekani, Austin Edleman, Elizabeth Fitch, Paul Gadzicki, Madeline Gebert, Sara Helmers, Robert Himes, Chandler Rose Kalitsi, Jonathan Noah Kolb, Jacob LeClaire, Gabriella Megni, Adam Pinelli, Esmeralda Ramirez, Anne Lorraine Reisenwitz, Bennett Sigourney, Michael Styer, Michelle V. Intoccia, Kelly M. Werth

Texas A&M University: Abraham van Helmond

Thaddeus Stevens of Technology: Adam Kaercher, Bryce T. Weeks

The University Of Alabama: Madison Leclerc

Thiel College: Anthony M. Buehler

Towson University: Ericka C. Meyer

University of Northwestern Ohio: Nicholas Ryan Baradgie

University of British Columbia: Arielle Shakour

University of California: Ashleigh Renee Hartz

University of Colorado: Lillian Emmelia Barrett

University of Delaware: Erin Piechota

University of Hartford: Colby Boyd Albert Mullins

University of Miami: Benjamin T. Gindhart, Erika A. Shimer

University of Pennsylvania: Andrew J. Martin

University of Pittsburgh: Alexander Bulich, Daniel Carlton Dahmer, Patrick Daniel Flaherty, Navdeep Handa, Lauren Lotka, Dylan McHugh, Nathan A. Mest, Thomas Misciagna, Margaret M. Milantoni

University of Pittsburgh at Bradford: Mitchell Steven Dowd

University of Scranton: Daniel Mark Scheffer

University of South Carolina: Emerson L. Odagis, Sarah J. Vey

University of Tennessee: Griffin T. Hensley

University of Texas: Harini M. Cherupalla

Ursinus College: Mitchell Bradford, Christian Eagen, Kaitlyn Gibson, Katie May Hudick, Connor Loomis, Jacob Schaff, Amanda White

United States Air Force: C.J. Weaver

Valencia College: Angelina Caraballo

Wake Forest: Mark B. Dyer

Washington & Jefferson College: Marisa X. Sykes, Sara A. Maute **

Waynesburg University: Kelsey Schmale, Kira Schmale

West Chester University: Colton David Pence, Celia Jane Craig, Amanda Woodrow, Leighann Gdowik, Alissa A. Dantonio, Cierra Kercher, Andrew Kull, Emily McDevitt, Connor Beard, Victoria Nicole Bonenberger, Margaret Collins, Kelsey McHenry, Audrey Uebelhoeer, Michael Aaron Lipkowitz, Sophie Schilling, Anne Marie Lynch, Kristen Petrulio, Paige Vermeulen, Sydney R. Place, Richard Tyler Winget, Dayton Young, Christopher DiGuiseppe, Olivia E. Watkins, Makena E. Aberle

West Point Military Academy: Andrea Grace Shade

Widener University: Sierra N. Fish, Alexandra DiMino, Abbi Rose Eves

Worcester Polytechnic Institute: Garrett D. Otteni, Eva Rose Bove

York College of Pennsylvania: Katie C. Casto, David Dinius

*National Guard

**ROTC

Authentic Artist Work



Spanning a timeline of six months, Ms. Tracey Shiavello’s fifth period Studio Art Class worked with Friends of Warwick Park on a logo project. The entire process was honored in a way in which professional design firms operate. From an initial client meeting to final design, students worked with the “client” to achieve a final product which would represent the organization visually. An initial meeting with the members of the park organization allowed students to learn about the organization, their mission, and how they hoped to use a logo. Once sufficient time was spent on research and sketching, each student was tasked to create 15 draft logos. Friends of Warwick Park was then tasked with choosing 5 works per student. At that time, they were able to provide feedback and make requests. Students went back to the drawing table and further developed their brand images, adding color. In the end, each of the nine students in the class created a professional logo for final consideration by the members of Friends of Warwick Park. “It was really difficult (for our organization) to make a final selection—all the designs are professional quality,” offered Friends member, Susan Smith. Friends of Warwick Park ultimately chose the logo of high school junior, Julia King, partly because her work included a map of the park. The project provided all students with an authentic feel for whether they like doing this type of client-based work.

NHL Future Goals



Students in Exploring Technology class completed an online program titled “Ignition,” that is sponsored by the NHL. Ignition is a Digital Literacy and Responsibility program that covers key concepts such as digital footprint, security, privacy, cyber bullying, and digital time management. Students complete hands-on activities that build skills ranging from choosing the right computer to identifying credible sources while doing online research.

This spring Exploring Technology students were able to preview a new course, Future Goals-Hockey Scholar that will be a component of a new STEAM elective in the Middle School next year. Hockey Scholar brings science, math, and engineering concepts to life using the exciting game of ice hockey! Through immersive hockey simulations, students explore real life applications of fundamental STEM concepts.

- September 10: Ed Foundation Consignment Sale
- October 1: Cavalcade
- October 7: Homecoming Game
- October 14-28: Make a Difference Day
- October 27: REA Safe Trick or Treat
- November 4: Pink Out Game
- November 5: RUN101 Costume Run, Best Buddies/Ed Foundation



Superintendent Message

as 2nd Lieutenants in the United States Army. Congratulations to Andrea Shade on her well-earned appointment to West Point. This was the second year in a row that an Owen J. Roberts student achieved an exclusive appointment to a United States Military Academy.

The Army Reserve Officer Training Corps receives tens of thousands of applications each year from those who wish to become United States Army Officers. Very few are accepted to the AROTC program. Those accepted receive a scholarship worth \$180,000 for a 4-year college. Sara Maute, was one of the elite few selected for an AROTC scholarship. Sara will be attending Georgia Tech and upon graduation she will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

As I mentioned in my commencement speech, as superintendent for four years, I have been privileged to witness the many key moments that are so pervasive throughout the halls, auditorium, gyms, and playing fields of the high school. I’ve seen students haggle to fill in the right bubble on a test, I’ve seen their attention to detail in their artwork, I’ve heard the perfect pitch at their musical performances, and I’ve seen them shout in victory as they win a crucial game in PAC-10 playoff contests. I’ve had the privilege to witness some of the Class of 2016’s greatest moments.

The daily moments and the outstanding moments form stories and images which are permanently etched into my mind. My wish is that the graduating members of the Class of 2016 keep these images in their minds as well. I encourage each graduate, not only to continue to learn in life, but to enjoy the process. I applaud those who have helped usher our students into this grand new beginning. Congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2016.

Prom 2016



Photo by Christopher Murphy

Megan Harpold and Kyle Baldwin take their turns on the dance floor at Prom 2016.

Go Wildcats!

Noted Accomplishments in Athletics and Other Arenas

Congratulations to the Girl’s Lacrosse team for capping off an outstanding regular season with the PAC title. The team made the finals and advanced to the second round of the PIAA State Tournament.

Congratulations to the Girls Track and Field team for winning the PAC team title.

Congratulations to the Track and Field team members who qualified and competed in the PIAA State Track and Field Championships held at Shippensburg University: Liam Conway, who qualified for the finals of the 1600 meter run finishing 10th in 4:27.82; Teneisha Myers, who qualified for the semi-finals in the 100 meter dash and 200 meter dash, running

12.39 in the 100m and 25.21 in the 200m; Ally Brunton, who finished 14th in the 800 meter with a time of 2:16.38; Morgan Shronk, who finished 17th in the 400m with a time of 58.38; and the 4x800 meter relay team of Megan Bernotas, Emma Torak, Mary Bernotas, and Ally Brunton, who received a state medal for placing 7th with a time of 9:18.37.

Congratulations to the Varsity Baseball Team who qualified for the District One AAAA playoffs and made a run at the District One Title.

Congratulations to the following Odyssey of the Mind students who competed in the world finals at Iowa State University in May: East Vincent Elementary School: Simone Bollinger,

Addy D’Arcy, Tristan Dietrich, Sarah Ewing, Sofia Loiacono, Aman Pothakamury and Marie Tokay. French Creek Elementary School: Anna Bunting, Sarah Cass, Nick Cerimele, Grace Dales, Anya Groth, and Sophia Lineman. North Coventry Elementary School(3rd Place Worlds): Brooke Banninger, Lauren Bodor, Connor Fennell, Megan Reynolds, Elizabeth Meyers, Kaylee Uba and Hayden Streeter. High School: Eva Bove, Maggie Duffy, Petra Hester, Connor Loomis, Sydney Morrison, Sarah Vey, Danielle Wood.

Congratulations to the High School GSA Club for being recognized with an Honorable Mention for Most Improved Organization of the Year for an increase

in membership and a presentation to our Middle School faculty this winter.

Congratulations to the members of the Class of 2016 for serving and protecting our country through our armed forces:

- Emily Gray - National Guard
- Gregory Ortlip - National Guard
- Vincent Partlow - National Guard
- CJ Weaver - Air Force
- Jeffrey Williams - National Guard
- Andrea Shade - Army
- Sara Maute - Army