

Advocate

The newsletter of the Owen J. Roberts School District

May 2017 *Inspiring Each Student for Success Today and Greatness Tomorrow*

International Baccalaureate Career Program at Owen J. Roberts

In August of 2016, Owen J. Roberts High School became a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate Career Program (IBCP). A committee of teachers and administrators united to create the vision and complete the application process for authorization as an IB World School. The application has now formally been submitted and the district is currently in the last step of the authorization process. This step includes a Verification Visit with IBCP staff in May 2017. Following this visit, if authorization is granted, the high school will begin offering the Career Program in September 2017.

The International Baccalaureate offers two programs for juniors and seniors in high school: the Diploma Program and the Career Related Program. Owen J. Roberts is a candidate school for the Career Related Program (IBCP). The IBCP was selected for its strong connection to the high school's newly-developed STEAM series of courses, which in

2017/2018, will consist of seven Engineering courses and four Life Sciences electives. The IBCP also is a good fit with the existing NJROTC program.

The IBCP is a two-year certificate program which combines courses from the International Baccalaureate's highly regarded Diploma Programme (DP) of coursework in connection with Owen J. Roberts High School's STEAM career courses, NJROTC coursework, and the IBCP Core.

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

Over the course of a student's junior and senior years, this program will take a minimum of two DP courses, two OJR Career courses, and two years of the IBCP Core coursework. After completing a culminating test in each of the DP courses and the successful completion of the other IBCP elements,

the student will receive an IBCP Certificate. The potential for earning college credit is possible depending on the final DP course test scores (similar to AP test credit). The DP courses, the career courses, and the IBCP Core are blended together to enhance critical thinking and intercultural understanding over a two-year certificate program.

The high school has trained over 15 teachers and administrators for this program and will offer four DP courses next year. There are 28 rising juniors who have scheduled courses for the IBCP Certificate program and the school is planning for 30-40 rising juniors for the following year. As the program grows, new IB DP courses, and new career areas and courses will be added to increase the number and type of students that the program will reach. Students or parents who are interested in more information about the program should visit the high school website or contact Mr. Bill Richardson, the IBCP Coordinator.

Tiny House Project

The Tiny House Project began in October of 2016 as the first project for Owen J. Roberts High School's STEAM Club. As part of the tiny house movement, an architectural and social movement to live small, the house will fit on a tandem axle trailer base. The move to finish the project outdoors on the trailer will begin soon. The club meets each Tuesday after school throughout the year. There are about 10-15 regularly attending participants. Some members are enrolled in one of the six high school engineering courses using the club as a way to pursue their interests beyond class, while others see the club as a way to expand their STEAM skills and knowledge base outside of their high school coursework. Participants learn safe and appropriate tool use. "I feel like I am growing in learning responsibility," said freshman, Marlene Langdon, "especially as it relates to tools and safety."

"It is especially gratifying to see the confidence level develop with students," mentioned co-advisor William Richardson. The project helps build specific engineering and construction skills including architectural planning, project layout, construction techniques, and materials use and repurposing/recycling. Problem solving, teamwork, and

communication are a part of each activity as the students actively build a part of the house each week. Many of the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Academic Standards for Science, Technology and Engineering Education (January 2010) are addressed during both the design and construction process.

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



The next big step is to divide up the modular sections, move outside to the trailer frame, and get it under roof. "The roof is the key to outside assembly," said co-advisor William Crowl. Students in the autoCAD course have worked up roof plans. Ultimately, the tiny home will be made available for sale and the club is exploring ideas about how to manage that aspect of the project.

Partners in STEAM

The High School is currently in year two of its STEAM initiative. New courses in Engineering, Ecology, and Bio Technology were introduced in this school year with the on-going development of a third Engineering course and a new Genetics course to be introduced in the 2017-2018 school year. In addition to new course work, the high school is also establishing partnerships with local universities for dual enrollment opportunities, industry partners for internships, and community vendors for current trends in equipment and technology applications. Most recently, a representative from Eppendorf Biotech Company met with STEAM teachers to discuss spectrometers, DNA amplification equipment, and micro pipettes. The STEAM teachers were able to provide the representative from Eppendorf with a tour of the high school classrooms, engineering lab, as well as a sneak peek at the blossoming tiny house.

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Park Design Offers Authentic Learning

South Mountain YMCA Camps was considering how to develop a parcel of 60 acres and wanted to pay attention to the recreational needs of those with disabilities. Using the STEAM poster project model, Mrs. Peg Tinder's horticulture students went to work on concepts for park development that would be accessible and engaging recreationally for special populations and those with mobility concerns. The student poster project began in December and included cross-curricular explorations in science, math, business and art. The assignment was designed to foster student research and presentation skills as well as pushing students to think visually. "The real-life application and interactions give students an organic understanding about project work," commented Mrs. Tinder.

On February 6, students presented their posters to South Mountain YMCA officials. One group designed an adapted mini-golf course. "It was a fun idea to work from," said Wynter Patterson, grade 9, who worked with Breanna Moore, also grade 9. The mini-golf presentation included their goal to create a game that anyone could play. "We spent a lot of time researching and thinking about what would be included to present just the right amount of challenge," said Wynter, "We wanted all players to feel encouraged." Other students designed adaptive games including special basketball and other ball courts. Mrs. Tinder was especially pleased with the attention students gave to sensory elements in their projects. Through research, students learned that children with autism



often have sensory overload at a park or playground. Many students selected specialized playground equipment including pieces that may help to build a child's sense of balance or coordination. Others

paid close attention to how quiet spaces and nature could highlight a park experience. Poster projects that scored well are moving on for full consideration by the YMCA Board of Directors.

Make Way for...Aladdin

A cast of about 60 Owen J. Roberts Middle School students took audiences on a magic carpet ride of song and dance April 21-23, performing Disney's Aladdin. The procession of "Prince Ali, fabulous he, Ali Ababwa" and his "spectacular coterie" drew audiences in as if they were actually at the palace. The gala parade featured giant character face masks created by art students in the first semester this year. Auditorium aisles were filled with a pageant of characters—while perhaps not exactly "forty fakirs, his cooks, his bakers, his birds that warble on key"—the audience was engaged into the excitement of making way for Prince Ali. The show was a tremendous hit with students performing remarkably. The sets did justice to the Palace and city of Agrabah creating a stage for wonderful Arabian nights that audiences could enjoy.

Creating props for the musical allowed many students of various abilities to get involved in the production.



Hour of Code

In honor of Computer Science Education Week, December 5 - 11, students across the district celebrated computer coding with both plugged in and unplugged activities. Mrs. Gloria Houseman gave Computer Science students at the High School an opportunity to participate in a type of Post-It® Pandemonium, an engaging "unplugged" activity that teaches computer science principles without a computer. Post-It® Pandemonium was created by Professor J.L. Popyack, Ph.D., Drexel University College of Computing and Informatics. Dr. Popyack paid a visit to Owen J. Roberts High School on December 6, engaging and encouraging students in recreating an image, originally 3/8-inch by 1/2-inch, into an enlarged 6 by 8 foot image that students could take part of in the cafeteria over the period of one week. The final image was QR code that allowed students to view an Hour of Code video.

Careers in Holistic Vet Care



In early January, Owen J. Roberts Animal Studies students had the opportunity to explore careers in veterinary care with visiting veterinarian, Dr. Julie Oswald, from Warwick. Dr. Oswald informed students of her path through college to veterinary career, offering students options to consider in holistic veterinary services. Dr. Oswald specializes in acupuncture and herbal medicine and discussed emerging veterinary specialties in massage therapy, physical therapy, and aqua therapy.

Students were able to learn about international schooling options and were eager to hear about her education and career path, which included study in Scotland and the United Kingdom. Dr. Oswald also explained a bit about school accreditations and licensing routes.

Some students were already considering vet school and wondered about acceptance possibilities. There was dialogue about prerequisites, majors, and experience. Dr. Oswald encouraged students to work with animals in as many ways as possible telling them to get involved as early as possible. "There is a lot of value to volunteer work, especially in areas of exotic specialties," she informed. Students left with knowledge of veterinary career opportunities they may not otherwise have considered and better understanding of how to navigate the schooling necessary to achieve their specific career interests.

Heritage Talk

As a fourth grade culminating activity to their study of Native Americans, North Coventry Elementary School students were visited on March 30th by long time North Coventry resident, Patricia Harbach. Mrs. Harbach is of Navajo and Cherokee heritage and goes by the name Clanmother-Star. Students and teachers were mesmerized by her storytelling and intrigued by the Cherokee rituals for respecting nature. "This was the perfect end to our study of Native Americans. I hope that Mrs. Harbach will return next year," remarked fourth grade teacher, Faye Tedesco.



Going for Green

Each year, thanks to a generous grant from the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation, students in the district have extra opportunities to taste and celebrate green foods as part of the Go for the Greens program. This year, the focus was on powering up with spinach. Each day of the week, a unique spinach dish was featured on the school lunch menu. The celebration at all elementary schools included free Spinach



Smoothie Tasting. Owen J. Roberts Wellness Council partnered with Chartwell's Chef 2 School program to bring spinach smoothies to over 2800 elementary students. Students took home the recipe and feedback from parents indicated that a lot of green smoothies were being made at home. Graduate students from LaSalle Didactic Program in Nutrition helped analyze the nutrition intervention at our schools and the wellness council looks forward to structuring data-driven nutrition education programs for students in the future.

As part of Go for the Greens and National Nutrition Week, at East Coventry Elementary School, Popeye and video game rock star Mario (principal Mr. Todd Oswald) visited the cafeteria to flex muscles with the students. After lunch, students were treated to The Magic of Nutrition, an educational magic show developed and performed by a registered dietitian.

Author Enchants Audiences

Owen J. Roberts School District was honored to have a world-class author spending time in our schools this March. Parent groups from the five elementary schools at Owen J. Roberts worked together to bring in an internationally-acclaimed story-teller, Patricia Polacco. Polacco is an award-winning author and illustrator of over 90 children's books including Thank you, Mr. Falker, The Keeping Quilt, Thunder Cake, and The Bee Tree.



Many of her enchanting tales are drawn from family history. When she speaks at schools, she brings with her a replica of the 117-year-old "keeping quilt". The original quilt, made from the fabrics of her immigrant family's clothing, including her grandmother's babushka, was an intimate part of Mrs. Polacco's childhood and has wrapped every baby born into the family since it was made. Children and adults love hearing her tell tales from her past. Mrs. Polacco is a gifted story-teller who believes she honed the craft because she did not have a television growing up and her family practiced story-telling every day. She became accomplished as an artist because of her struggle with undiagnosed dyslexia in school. She did not grasp the ability to read until she was nearly 14, but found peace and satisfaction in the practice of art, which she says is "like breathing" for her. Her books touch on themes such as acceptance, heritage, diversity, learning disabilities, and family.

CODELM Competition

On Wednesday March 8th, 2017 the Owen J. Roberts High School Computer Science Crew competed in the CODELM Competition at Lower Merion High School. More than 20 teams from 11 local high schools participated in the event. Each high school could enter up to three students in the Intermediate, Advanced, and Expert Divisions.

During Session 1 of the event students were tasked with writing programs to solve five different problems. Each program was tested several times and the students were awarded points based on the outcomes of each trial. In the second session students were challenged to write a creative code that would correctly determine a random five digit number in the least number of trials. Afterwards their solution and code was evaluated by the representatives from the Susquehanna International Group (SIG) who were the corporate sponsors of the event.

Throughout the months of January and February the team put in great effort under the supervision of Gloria Houseman at OJRHS. They spent many days after school practicing problems using programming languages such as C++, Python, and Java to write code. While each group did well in their respective divisions Owen J. Roberts took home first place in the Expert Division! The team competed in late April at Lockheed Martin's Code Quest in King of Prussia.

FOILBEE

In the month of February students in Algebra 1B classes at OJRMS competed in the first cross team Foil Bee. A Foil Bee is like a Spelling Bee except math students are given binomials that they must multiply together to simplify the problem. Here is an example problem:

Simplify $(x+2)(3x-5)$

Step 1: $3x^2-5x+6x-10$

Final Answer: $3x^2+x-10$

Students would be expected to find this product mentally without the use of pencil and paper. Students from Mrs. Yahr's, Mrs. Heiser's, and Mr. Bilodeau's classes all competed. After classroom level competition the top three FOILers were selected from each class and then competed against the other classrooms to determine a winner. Mr. Bilodeau said that the final 18 students went multiple rounds before bowing out of the competition. The Foil Bee winner simplified $(6x+1)(6x-4)$ in their head in less than five seconds!

East Coventry School Underway

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new East Coventry Elementary School was held on Monday, February 27, 2017. East Coventry Township officials, district administrators, teachers, staff, and community gathered with students who ceremoniously broke ground to mark the beginning of construction for the new school.

The building is being constructed off of East Cedarville Road, on property contiguous to the existing site. Students will remain in the existing building until the new building is constructed. The school is slated to be finished for the opening of the 2018-2019 school year.

With a love of literacy at the forefront, the media center will be the focal point featuring an outdoor reading court planned to be accessible from both the media center and art classroom. The front of the building will run parallel to East Cedarville Road with the main office, media center, and computer classroom housed on the first floor. Classroom wings will extend from both sides of the main entrance area utilizing two floors. Students, staff, and families are excited to have the new facilities to enhance learning.



Career Explorations

On February 28, West Vincent Elementary School hosted a school-wide career day. Students explored potential careers through activities, a career fair, resume writing, playing games, and listening to parents talk about their own careers. Students in kindergarten through grade 3 watched an assembly led by high school students from the Technical College High School (TCHS). They heard about the different courses and activities high school students did in school and tried to guess what careers those preparations would help them enter into. This helped students to continue to see the relationship between schoolwork and future career paths.

Students in grades 4-6 attended a career fair. Each student filled out a career assessment and received a

career personality type. They then visited two or three stations at the career fair that most closely related to their personality type. Stations included criminal justice where they learned how to safely restrain a suspect, culinary arts where they watched a demonstration cooking a vegetable dish, health occupations where they listened to each other's heart beats and took their pulse and oxygen levels, carpentry where they practiced drilling in wood, and many more exciting career types for a total of 14 different stations. Afterwards, they went back to their classroom and had a lesson on resume writing. Each student filled out a resume and one student from each grade was "hired" and given a prize from TCHS. Many indicated on their resume that they would be "applying" for a career that they saw at the career



fair including robotics or welding. In the afternoon, parents came into the classes to speak about their careers. There was representation from local

police and fire companies as well as jobs from various industries such as healthcare, arts, education, business, communications, the environment, government, law, and the sciences.

Girls in STEM

On March 20th, a group of ten young ladies from the high school attended the first annual Girls in Tech STEM Symposium at Kutztown University. The goal of the Symposium was to inspire and motivate female high school students to pursue a STEM degree and enter the tech industry.

During the Cyber Café interactions, students visited each company's table for conversations on the company's innovative technologies. The ladies from OJR learned a lot about coding, programming, and how other technologies were utilized in these companies. Professionals from East Penn Manufacturing, Liquid Interactive, PSECU, FBI, FIS, PSECU, Computer Aid, Viddler, and St. Luke's University Health Networks were in attendance.



Royal Tea



The High School performed Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella March 16-19, showcasing an amazing level of talent in the cast. Many of the performers have backgrounds in singing, dancing and/or acting since they were toddlers. In addition to gaining experience at Owen J. Roberts elementary and middle schools, the students have performed at many community theatres, Walt Disney World, the Lincoln Center, Off-Broadway, Boston Conservatory, and the 2012 London Olympics. Prior to opening night, the cast toured elementary schools to give students a sneak peek of the show. On March 1, the Cinderella cast sponsored a Royal Tea bringing a host of princes and princesses together to sip tea, slay dragons, and nibble on crumpets.

Prestigious AP[®] Honor Roll

Owen J. Roberts School District is one of 433 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 7th Annual Advance Placement District Honor Roll. To be included on the 7th Annual Honor Roll, Owen J. Roberts High School had to, since 2014, increase the number of students participating in Advanced Placement classes while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. Owen J. Roberts School District is committed to expanding the availability of Advanced Placement courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds. The complete 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/OJRAPlink>

OJR Pre-K Counts at Warwick Child Care

If your child is three or four years old on or before September 1, 2017 now is the time to enroll your child in Pre-K Counts for the 2017-2018 school year. Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts is available at no cost to families and offers a standardized curriculum and assessment, highly qualified teachers who have experience working with young children and a smooth transition to kindergarten. Space is limited.

Who Can Apply?

- Children who are 3 or 4 years of age prior to September 1, 2017 and
- Children who reside in the Owen J Roberts School District
- Children who live in families earning 300% of the federal poverty level or less:
 - Family of 4 earning less than \$72,900/year
 - Family of 3 earning \$60,480/year
 - Family of 2 earning less than \$48,060/year

The program operates daily from 8:45am-3:45pm in conjunction with the Owen J. Roberts School District at the following Warwick Child Care Centers: South Coventry Center, 1190 Ridge Road, Pottstown, PA 19465, Krystle Mayberry (610) 469-0148; Cedarville Center, 16 E. Cedarville Road, Pottstown, PA 19465, Tana Rinehart (610) 326-4522

East Vincent New Beginnings

On Tuesday, April 18, students attended their first day of school in the new East Vincent Elementary School building. Before the bell, student council president, Rori Booth, grade 6, along with School Board Director and Buildings and Grounds Chairperson, Mrs. Melissa Booth (no relation), officially opened the doors of the building to students.

The move from one school building to another meant months of planning. In the final weeks, amazing efforts from a multitude of workers allowed students to enter the new space completely ready to learn. Parents have been big supporters in getting students ready.

The new school is designed with learning, collaboration, and student creativity in mind. There are plenty of

spaces for students to work together and innovate including a science lab, STEAM room, and innovation center. Students will be able to move through the entire campus and maintain Wi-Fi connectivity. The media center has an area for primary group reading, a study area on the other side, and a courtyard area outside. The innovation center allows space for students to create and collaborate with a perimeter of iMac desktops which will allow for seamless project work with classroom iPads. The north wing houses the sunny cafeteria, stage, gymnasium, music classroom, art classroom, and health and guidance offices.

The first day of school in the new building included many welcoming activities and a significant amount of time devoted to students becoming comfortable in their new surroundings.

Teachers led small group tours around the school noting restrooms, stairwells, and all key areas. Students learned and practiced how to exit the building. A special “brain break” activity encouraged some dancing and free movement in the new gymnasium space.

Parents have received instructions about temporary vehicular circulation and parking while parts of the permanent parking remain in a construction zone. The new parking lot and new play areas will be ready by late August, when the district plans to have a ribbon-cutting and official dedication



of the new school building. District officials welcomed families with after-school open house celebrations in early May.

End the Word



The high school and middle school Best Buddies organizations took part in Spread the Word to End the “R” Word day. Each group ran campaigns to spread awareness to end the use of the word “retarded”. They informed that the word retarded can be very detrimental and hurtful to people with disabilities. Students were invited to take a pledge not to use the word and to speak up if they use anyone else use the word retarded in a derogatory sense. In the above photograph, middle school students sign a banner to make the pledge.

Measuring the Weather

Before sophisticated computers, satellites, and radar, many tools were used to predict and measure weather. Students learned that the wind direction corresponds to points on a compass. They also learned that the head of the weather vane will point to the direction from where the wind is blowing and how wind directions are named. In the photo above, East Vincent grade four students were excited to create usable weather instruments. They took their instruments outdoors to test and check the wind direction. Unfortunately, on that particular day, there was very little wind to report.



Manufacturing is Cool



What’s So Cool About Manufacturing?, developed by the Dream It, Do It PA partnership, is a student video contest dedicated to changing perceptions and attitudes about advanced manufacturing careers.

Eighth grade Introduction to STEAM students partnered with the USSC Group in Exton to create a “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing” video. The USSC Group designs and engineers world-class seating for various types of vehicles: transit, military, first responders, and rail and locomotive. The company’s focus is to manufacture safety and survivability solutions to the military and commercial transportation markets. Six student film makers spent the day with Mrs. Jen Armstrong at the USSC Group, where they learned first-hand why manufacturing is cool. The video the students created may be viewed at dreamitdoitpa.com in the Chester-Delaware contest section.

Students Rally Against Cancer



Photo by Hannah Foster

Mini-THON, a smaller version of Penn State University’s THON, a student-run philanthropy committed to enhancing the lives of children and families impacted by childhood cancer, is a twelve-hour dance marathon held in high schools across the country. Mini-THON raises money to support the Four Diamonds Fund, an organization that provides financial support to families affected by pediatric cancer. First held at Owen J. Roberts High School in 2013, students this year raised a record \$57,661.76. The event included hundreds of philanthropic-minded students and hours of dancing, games, sports, and other interactive activities.

Wildcat Buddy Bench Crew

Three French Creek 6th grade students worked to solve the problem of bullying. They felt that a project that builds community would be good for the French Creek community and also the good of the country. The students were disheartened to learn that 7-9 percent of children who are bullied may eventually commit suicide. The students were hopeful that a buddy bench, implementing a "Buddy Bench" program, and introducing the program with a kick-off assembly to inform students of its purpose, would encourage students to be more kind, considerate and empathetic to students at recess. They also hoped to inspire other schools and parks in and around our community to put additional buddy benches in place.

Students performed research including interviewing guidance counselors who already have a Buddy Bench at their schools. They were interested in both successes and challenges with the Buddy Bench. Students received help and guidance from a local contractor on the bench design and construction. They designed the bench in an angular fashion so that students would naturally be facing each other if there were more than one child on the bench. They thought that perhaps two students who were looking for playmates could become playmates themselves just by talking on the bench! They created a blueprint using Google drawings with exact measurements.

The team solicited "Buddy Bench Ambassadors" to help collect data



about the success of the bench at recess. They rolled out the bench at a student-wide assembly. So far the

team is happy with the results of the buddy bench program. The data has supported the criteria for success as defined by the students early in the project.

Outstanding Annual Inspection



The Owen J. Roberts Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit received an outstanding grade for their annual inspection on January 18, 2017. Inspecting Officer, Commander Jimmie Miller USN (Ret) conducted the inspection. Commander Miller described the NJROTC program as a citizen's development program focusing on honor courage and commitment. He distinguished parents, Master Guns, and the cadets for their hard work and dedication. "What is the area manager's priority for you?" Commander Miller asked cadets. "Have fun!" He explained that this is the one chance to have a high school experience and recommended that each day be remembered with joy and fun. The commander was excellent at bringing out laughter in the students, even at a serious event.

What Do We Know About Shadows?



Students in second grade have been studying the concept of time in how the revolution of the earth around the sun relates to time in years. In order to record observations for how the sun moves, students collected three measurements at various times during the day to record their observations and make comparisons. Is your shadow longer or shorter at noon? If you're not certain-- ask a second grader!

Paddle Options



In February, the Product Engineering & Design class took a field trip to Groff & Groff Lumber in Wakefield, Lancaster County. Students got the chance to talk to the employees and go thru a vast variety of both native and exotic hardwood and softwood species. Each student on the trip brought back several pieces that they purchased on their own to create Greenland style kayak paddles for their current assignment. The paddles will accompany the PVC kayaks they have been constructing. The PVC kayaks and Greenland paddles will be water tested upon completion.

2017-18 School District Budget

Although State and Federal support for education has consistently declined over the last two decades, sound financial planning has enabled Owen J. Roberts School District to keep tax increases close to or below the Act 1 Index for the last ten (10) years. While costs for major building repairs and construction were anticipated, we continue to work diligently to reduce expenditures and increase efficiencies in all areas while maintaining a high level of educational programming. The largest cost drivers of next year's proposed budget are unfunded state mandated costs for pension and special education, which have been shifted from the state to the local tax payers to fund. Budget presentations, thorough financial reports, and the district's proposed budget may be found on the district website in the Business and Finance Department section.

Community Art

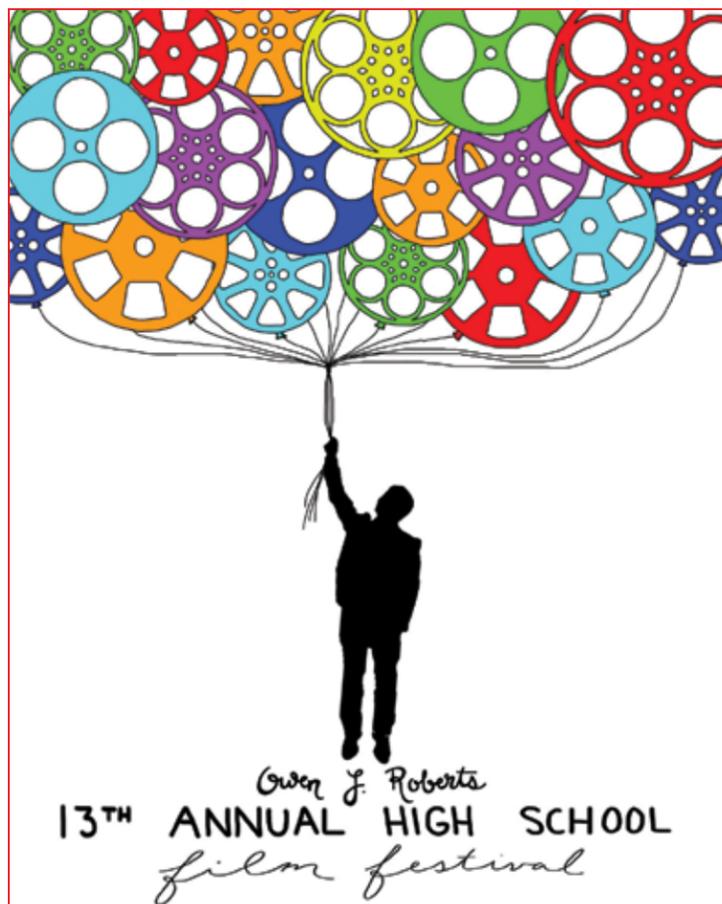
With the help of Senior Citizen workers and other volunteers, an estimated 5,000 art pieces were displayed at the Middle School in March. The Middle School Night of the Arts featured dance, music, and the visual arts and concluded with a performance by the Jazz band with many enthusiastic soloists spontaneously volunteering to please large audiences in the auditorium. Art teachers sponsored two "Circle Art" community art projects where any person could contribute by coloring portions of murals which will hang in the band hallway at the school as a symbol of the artistic community for which we all live and learn. Night of the Arts showcased and celebrated student work while fostering a sense of community.



Veteran Dad Welcomed Home



Army Reservist Steven Randolph put on a different uniform on February 20. Donned in the Wildcat mascot costume, he surprised his three North Coventry Elementary students, revealing his identity to them during a short assembly. The students had not seen their father for 11 months. Mr. Randolph had traveled in eight different countries for 11 months with the Army Reserve's 392nd, working on Operation Hair of the Dog. North Coventry Police and North Coventry Fire Department gave the Randolph family a police/fire escort from the school to their home in North Coventry while classmates cheered them on. Welcome home!



Above is a copy of the poster created by Hailey Stock, Senior, Advanced Film Production, for the Owen J. Roberts High School Student Film Festival. The students in the Advanced Film, Film Production and Video Production classes worked hard this year, writing, filming and editing their short films. While not all were entered in this year's OJRHS 13th annual festival, a record number of 43 films were entered. The 13 Alumni Judges screened the films and narrowed down the list to be screened by the public.

STEM Seminar

In supporting the national movement to expose students to STEM careers, as well as the school district's STEAM initiatives, Owen J. Roberts hosted the first-ever, after-school "Careers in Science STEAM Seminar" for students on May 3. Over 480 students attended to learn from three different professionals. Gregory George, PhD, Delaware Valley University, presented on ornithology, specifically about his work with population demographics of the Cerulean Warbler in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Barbara Forslund, Senior Consultant, Advanced GeoServices Corp., gave an overview of engineering and provided her educational and business background. FBI Special Agent Gregory Blanch (pictured above with students) spoke to the students about careers in forensics.



East Vincent Memories

Alumni and friends of East Vincent Elementary School were able to visit and reminisce in early March prior to students moving into the new building on April 18. Hundreds came through the building originally dedicated in February 1954 and recalled teachers and time spent in classrooms. The East Vincent PTA hosted and served refreshments offering wooden ornaments commemorating the building. Tours were provided and student performers entertained visitors. There were photos and news clippings on display from all the way back to one-room school houses. Generations of families have gone through the school, and many generations attended to share fond memories. The new school building will serve area families for generations to come.



Mock Crash

Sponsored and funded by State Farm Insurance in cooperation with Paoli Hospital and the Main Line Health/Bryn Mawr Rehab's Cruisin' Smart Program, Owen J. Roberts High School hosted the 2017 Mock Crash event on Tuesday, April 25th. The staged automobile crash was live theater creating a realistic demonstration of what happens at an accident scene when drivers may have been distracted or impaired.

The Mock Crash event featured professional actors from the Media Theatre as well as OJR student actors and a professional sound crew. Pennsylvania State Police, local municipal police, the OJRSD Security Department, Houck & Gofus Funeral Home, and emergency medical personnel from Goodwill Ambulance and Ridge Fire Company have been

working together over the past months to coordinate this event in hopes of encouraging responsible driving behaviors among the community's youth.

Following the outdoor presentation, students assembled in the high school auditorium for the Main Line Health, Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital's "Cruisin' Smart" assembly. Cruisin' Smart emphasizes the importance of responsible decisions and highlight the dangers of driving while impaired or distracted. A guest speaker named Bobby shared his honest first-hand account of coping with life-altering injuries. He said, "This is the dream I never woke up from." Principal Dr. Rich Marchini invited students to look at the positive in every decision. "When you do good, good things come from it," he informed. He asked



students to use their phones for good because every act, whether it is a message on social media, or a decision to text while driving, can impact others.

The mock crash and assembly are used

in conjunction with a comprehensive education and prevention plan for Owen J. Roberts High School students including mandatory driver training class and optional behind-the-wheel driver training.

Go Wildcats!

Noted Accomplishments in Athletics and Other Arenas

Congratulations to Owen J. Roberts High School, who is the recipient of a prestigious Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association 2013 through 2018 Golden Globe Award for providing high quality, standards-based, proficiency-oriented foreign language instruction.

The Owen J. Roberts DECA Chapter attended the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Anaheim, California on April 25 to April 30. The following Owen J. Roberts DECA members participated in the DECA ICDC with awards as noted:

Lucas Gray, Quick Serve Restaurant Management (Top Role-Play score x2 and Event Finalist (TOP 10)); Liam Conway and Dan Duffy, International Business Plan (Event Finalist (TOP 10)); Julia Brennan and Madeline Zarkoski, Fashion Promotion Plan; Katie Kerlin, Fashion Promotion Plan; Laura Brigandi, Hospitality and Tourism Professional Selling; Jillian Dracup, Financial Operations Research; Mia Flavin and Sarah Tabatabaei, Advertising Campaign; Olivia Harmanos and Heidi Joyce, Business Services Operations Research; Emily Haverstick and Emily Stoner, Buying and Merchandising Operations Research; Austin Koury and Matt Lewis, International Business Plan; Claudia Schneider, Business Growth Plan, Holden Smith, Sports Promotion Plan; Courtney Thomson, Business Services Operations Research; Jennifer Weston, Financial Services Operations Research; Jonathan Ardit, Business Financial Services; Jackson Braun, Sports and Entertainment Marketing; Caitlin Daly, Aspire Leadership; Kyle Surette, Aspire Leadership; and Owen Gift, Aspire Leadership.

Congratulations to the following members of the High School Wrestling Team for winning the Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC) Championship: Alejandro Acosta, Jacob McLeod, Nicholas Duliakas **, William Meredith **, David Forrest, Antonio Petrucelli

*, Griffin Gerber, Luke Resnick **, Dan Mancini ***, Ryan Resnick **, Patrick McCutchen, Eric Shanahan, Tyler McCutchen, Jason Zollers *. Congratulations to head coach Steve DeRafelo, Liberty Division Coach of the Year for the Pioneer Athletic Conference.

* Qualified for PIAA regional championships. ** Qualified for PIAA state championships.

Congratulations to the following members of the High School Girls Swimming & Diving Team for winning the Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC) Championship: Kira Alderman, Emily Hughes, Haley Cargo, Brianna Kerley, Lilia Crew *, Quinn Kratz, Katherine Dietrich, Lillian Kull, Jennifer Dinnocenti *, Alexis Little, Laurel Fink *, Alexa Rae Luecke, Giannina Marie Flamiano, Riley Moran, Madison Gadzicki *, Meredith Mutter *, Grace Girard, Mikayla Niness *, Ella Greenholt, Veronica Roach, Morgan Hansen **, Helena VanNatter, Riley Hansen

* Qualified for PIAA district championships. ** Qualified for PIAA state championships in the 200 individual medley and 100 butterfly.

Congratulations to the following members of the High School Boys Swimming & Diving Team for winning the Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC) Championship: Ryan Alderman, Adam Gorrell, Jonathan Ardit, Jackson Keating, Logan Baker *, Ryan King *, Charles Blackledge, Robin Mailum, Ryan Bowker *, Carter Niness, Simon Crew *, Matthew Rantz *, Daniel DiMarino *, Jordan Roach *, Aidan Dunn, Jack Savant, Hayden Fink, Matthew Snyder *, Anthony Fiorito, Stephen Waskiw, Maxwell Gallagher *, Jordon Zakarevich, Daniel Gerhart

* Qualified for PIAA district championships.

Congratulations to the following High School Orchestra students for qualifying for the PMEA District 12 Orchestra Festival: Daniel DiMarino - violin ***, Emma Flinchbaugh - flute *, Daniel Horning - trumpet *,

Madeleine Simmons - cello *

*Qualified for PMEA Region 6 Orchestra **Qualified for PMEA All-State Orchestra.

Congratulations to the following High School Band students for qualifying for the PMEA District 12 Band Festival: David Bicer - trombone, Melinda Burns - bass clarinet, Emma Flinchbaugh - flute *, Daniel Horning - trumpet *

*Qualified for PMEA Region 6 Band

Congratulations to the following High School Choral students for qualifying for the PMEA District 12 Choir Festival: Daniel DiMarino - Bass 1 **, Rebecca Emery - Tenor 1 **, Alena Feldman - Soprano 2, Madison Frederick - Alto 1 *, Maxwell Gallagher - Tenor 1 *, Lucas Gray - Bass 1 *, Cheyenne Hails - Soprano 2 *, Michael Maher - Tenor 1 **, Robin Mailum - Tenor 1 *, Cassandra Marks - Alto 1 *, Emily Reitz - Soprano 2, Jordan Roach - Bass 1, Kaiden Roberts - Alto 1

*Qualified for PMEA Region 6 Chorus ** Qualified for PMEA All-State Chorus

Congratulations to Daniel DiMarino - Violin 1 and Conrad Sager - Bass 1 for qualifying to participate in the NAFME All-Eastern Honors Ensemble.

Congratulations to all students who competed in the CCIU County and the 69th Delaware Valley Science Fairs 2017. Placing in DE were OJRHS: Jonathan Ardit - Honorable Mention in Biochemistry and OJRMS: Zoszia Zabrenski - Third Place in Zoology, Future Scientist/USDA Eastern Regional, Res. Ctr., Future Scientist Award, Broadcom MASTERS Middle School, Broadcom Masters - Middle School Award, Harrisburg University Scholarship

Congratulations to the eight teams of Odyssey of the Mind students who qualified for the Pennsylvania State Finals and to the following for advancing to Odyssey of the Mind World Competition: Mrs. Vey's East



Coventry Elementary Team, Mr. Palochak's East Vincent Elementary Team, Mrs. Yarbrough's French Creek Elementary Team, Mr. Palochak's Middle School Team, and Mr. Palochak's High School Team. Congratulations to Mr. Palochak for coaching 50 Odyssey of the Mind World teams!

In April, 18 high school artists received 29 awards including three Gold Key Awards, 16 Silver Awards and ten Honorable Mentions at the Scholastic Regional Arts and Writing Scholarship Celebration in Philadelphia. The three Gold Key Award winners were Julia King, Colette Dellaquila, and Ashley Tammany.

Congratulations to OJR's Coding Crew (Computer Science Club), Advanced Team, on their 3rd place finish in Lockheed Martin's Code Quest 2017 in King of Prussia: Ahmed Alveed, Andrew Kwiatkowski, and Joe Taylo. Coding Crew teams also competed at CCIU's PA Computer Fair. Programming team, Playmakerz Plus including Ahmed Alveed, Ryder Defibaugh, Jake Iyooob placed second. Programming team, Changing the World with Friendly Competition, with Sam Coroniti, Ben Diamond, and Josh Diamond placed third.

For the 25th consecutive year, Owen J. Roberts School District received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). In addition, the district budget received the Meritorious Budget Award for the 22 consecutive fiscal years. The Owen J. Roberts School District was the first school entity in the nation