

Advocate

Connect Unite Succeed



The newsletter of the
Owen J. Roberts
School District

December 2016

Inspiring Each Student for Success Today and Greatness Tomorrow

Message from Superintendent Michael Christian



Over the past several years, we have developed multiple courses in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). While there is certainly a demand for such courses in high schools and colleges throughout the country, it is important to remember our

commitment to the arts and humanities. We are fortunate in Owen J. Roberts to have a Board of School Directors, in addition to our parents and teachers, who support a deep and wide curriculum that strives to meet the needs of all learners. Our commitment to the arts is critical in the development of the whole child, and we are pleased by some thriving examples:

- This fall, the North Coventry Elementary PTO sponsored the Claymobile from Old City, Philadelphia to come to the school to conduct after school ceramic art lessons for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students. Students utilized the computer program Claymation to develop storyboards, imagine characters, and write dialogue while creating objects and characters using clay. This challenging program blended art, narrative storytelling, and technology to create stop-motion mini-films that will be featured during the school art show.
- The Middle School presently has 201 students in the chorus, 120 students in the band and 63 orchestra members. The art club has 53 students participating.
- The OJRHS band program is seeing some of its strongest numbers in years, with both the marching and concert bands sitting at 150 members each. In addition, the high school students are taking it upon themselves to organize and run smaller music ensembles, examples being our student-run clarinet quartet, and our student-run "beginner band" ensemble, which meets after school and gives high school students a chance to learn a new instrument that they have always wanted to play.
- Currently, 110 East Vincent Elementary students from grades 4-6 are participating in chorus.
- French Creek Elementary 4-6th grade Art Club students decorated the school for Veterans Day with thoughtfully designed artwork to honor the brave men and women who served our country.
- The strings program at East Coventry Elementary includes 130 members.
- The West Vincent Elementary grade 6 Mural Club designs murals to reinforce positive qualities: Last year's theme was TEAMWORK, this year will be LEADERSHIP.

In addition to the arts, in this newsletter you can read about many other extracurricular, co-curricular, and community-based learning opportunities which support students' academic and personal growth guiding them toward long-term success.

Fieldwork Hybrid Ecology Course

In late September, a group of 24 high school students in the honors hybrid ecology course traveled to Crow's Nest Preserve to perform a density based tree survey. Using the knowledge base acquired from assigned self-study, a dichotomous key, and field expert guidance, students applied the point-centered quarter sampling method to survey two areas of the preserve's forest. The tree survey will help conservationists and ecologists understand the woodland community composition. The study was the first of several field-based labs, and was the first time the class met face-to-face. On October 10, the class physically convened again and performed a field study at Lehigh Gap Nature Center. During that experience they applied quadrat analysis techniques to determine the percent cover on a site managed by burn protocol verses a control plot. These activities allowed students to learn about succession, grassland ecology, and invasive species. On the same trip, students also participated in raptor migration studies. In the spring, students will participate in a stream study lab and investigate coastal wetlands ecology as well.

The title of the elective course is Ecology: Temperate and Tropical Ecosystems. The course is designed and taught by Mrs. Laura George, and has a novel approach to hybrid study with a biology prerequisite. Students participate in approximately three hours per week of independent asynchronous online course work, attend off-site labs such as the ones described above, and participate in a capstone experience. The options for the capstone experience include a Costa Rica trip, Wallops Island Chincoteague Bay Research Station, or an independent research project developed by the student and approved by the



teacher. Parents or guardians were required to attend informational sessions about the logistical and financial requirements which accompany the course and students are asked to participate in fund raising activities to lower trip costs.

Students have the opportunity to work in the field with other teachers, experts, and professors expanding the knowledge base of a traditional classroom. For example, on the Lehigh Gap trip, students worked alongside Diane Husic, Ph.D., Plant Biochemist and Dean of the School of Natural and Health Sciences for Moravian College; Gregory George, Ph.D., Ornithology and Ecology Professor for Delaware Valley University; and Richard Kolka, Biology Teacher at Owen J. Roberts—all complimenting the learning and instruction with Mrs. George.

With students involved in hands-on, long-term scientific research, they are exposed to actual scientific work, career opportunities, and ethical dilemmas in relationship to our natural world.



Attention Incoming Kindergarten Students

Kindergarten online registration for the 2017-18 school year will be opening on February 1, 2017 at 9:00 am. The district website will have a link to the registration webpage. At the end of the online registration you will be able to schedule an appointment with your attending school. Student registration must be complete in order to attend kindergarten roundup.

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New Buddies

Owen J. Roberts Middle School is excited to start an independent chapter of Best Buddies. Best Buddies is the world’s largest organization dedicated to ending the isolation of people with intellectual and emotional disabilities. For individuals within this community, Best Buddies helps them form meaningful friendships with their peers and feel valued by their community. Most Best Buddies chapters are at the high school and college level, but Owen J. Roberts has a strong high school chapter and there was so much interest at the middle school level, the International Best Buddies Organization supported an independent middle school chapter. With a strong 34-member group, the organization is working to build awareness and get established. Middle School Best Buddies has begun 1:1 friendship pairings and plans for school-wide advocacy campaigns.



Making a Difference



On October 28, our schools and office buildings ended the 11th annual Make a Difference Day food drive. Collectively, we packed a school bus full of provisions to be donated to the Coventry Food Pantry. It’s a collaborative effort; our district families show amazing generosity with donations, Gross Bus Company contributes use of the bus, students work to sort, pack and load donations; this year our varsity football team and coaches assisted high school Leo Club members in unloading the bus as well as stocking shelves of the pantry.

Pink Out



Friday, November 4, was a Pink Out day in many of our schools and Owen J. Roberts also played a Pink Out football game that night in support of breast cancer awareness. Mrs. Sue Weldon, Founder of Unite for Her came by to speak to the varsity football team the week prior to the game explaining a little about breast cancer, cancer prevention, and how her organization works to help those affected by breast cancer. Ms. Kira Rump organized a T-shirt design contest last spring and Jayna Bowman, (now grade 9), had the winning design for the 2016 Pink Out Unite for Her t-shirt, which many students and staff purchased. Shirts were also sold at the football game with profits donated to Unite for Her, who funnels money back into the district to support individuals who may be battling breast cancer or loved ones of those battling the disease.

Wall of Fame Awards

On Friday, October 7, the Owen J. Roberts Education Foundation presented Congressman Ryan Costello, Class of 1995, with the Distinguished Alumni Award. It was recognized that in the short time since his high school graduation, Congressman Costello has accomplished much toward improving the lives of those who live in Chester County and beyond. “I take a tremendous amount of pride in being a graduate of Owen J. Roberts High School,” said the Congressman, adding, “There is a lot to be said for how others regard this school district and the man whose name it bears. We remember Owen J. Roberts as a courageous and ethical leader who was highly regarded in a very tumultuous time in our history. The high school continues to flourish and put so many good public servants up through the ranks.” Also recognized that night were three recipients for the Community Service Award for 2015-16. Each of these three honorees has had an instrumental part in maintaining and growing services for the Coventry Food Pantry: Ms. Carol Gilligan, Ms. Kathy Storti, and Ms. Ginny Wade. These recipients have a long history in working to raise awareness for and looking for resolution to hunger in our region.



The Owen J. Roberts School District Wildcat is a popular guy, so popular that one mascot could not keep up with the demand of seven schools’ activities. An additional mascot costume was purchased this year so the Wildcat can be present at twice the events. #WildcatAlways

MakerSpace

This past spring, West Vincent Elementary librarian Mrs. Michelle Riggs applied for and was awarded a \$1500 OJR Education Foundation grant to create a MakerSpace in the West Vincent Elementary School library. MakerSpaces are innovative, dynamic learning spaces at which students are able to freely create, discover, share, fail, build, and explore using a wide variety of materials. The West Vincent MakerSpace currently includes five stations: Logic, Structures, Design, Electronics, and Coding. At these stations, students work on various tasks and projects, such as coding an Ozobot robot, completing circuits to sound an alarm, building vehicles that run, or making a duct tape wallet. The possibilities are endless!

The goal of a MakerSpace is to provide all students—regardless of their age, intelligence, or socioeconomic status—with the resources needed for them to become independent learners, creators, inventors, and explorers. Our students are endlessly inquisitive, and the goal for the West



Vincent MakerSpace is to provide students with interesting materials that allow them to use their natural curiosity to apply problem-solving, higher-level thinking skills to create and invent freely. A MakerSpace enables students to use the skills, attitudes, and knowledge they have learned in the classroom and apply them to a field that holds personal interest to them. This is where true learning occurs!

Positive. Attentive. Loyal. Students.



East Coventry PALS (Positive Attentive Loyal Students) is a new program which pairs East Coventry Elementary School sixth grade student mentors with younger students in the school who may need support, encouragement, or company - such as newcomers to the school. Mrs. Jennifer Morgan and Mrs. Abby Meyers, program managers, trained student leaders on mastering team-building and mentoring skills. The PALS meet with younger students at least once per month and work with them on predetermined activities, such as games or projects. There is also PAL-time where leaders may check in on a recess or lunch. Each PAL is paired with two to three younger students. The goal is to foster relationships which help both the older and younger students so that every student may experience the most successful school year possible.

Fruit and Center

Location, location, location. Prime “real estate” is important to encouraging food selection in the cafeteria, and supporting kids in making healthy choices is a positive way to help them fuel up for optimal learning. Chef Rick Wray understood that eye appeal motivates people to make healthy choices. He worked with the district wellness council through a grant from the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation to assemble a farm market display of fresh fruits at the high school. “When you enter the cafeteria, the splendor of the fruit gets your immediate attention,” said Chef. Since they created the display, fresh fruit sales have more than doubled each day. The fruit may be purchased as a component of the federal school lunch or ala carte for .75 cents each. Using vendors who source locally as much as possible gives students a chance to take advantage of what is fresh and available in our region as well as other fruits such as citrus and bananas. As part of the display, Chef placed two water urns which dispense infused waters at no cost. “Our cafeteria staff likes choosing the infusions,” mentioned Chef. Infusions change every other day and have included mango-mint, strawberry, lemon-blueberry, and mango-orange. “There is really no limit to the possibilities, and the dispensers also have the eye-appeal that encourages a healthy choice,” Chef added.



“Running is not about being better than someone else. It is about being better than you used to be.” --Anonymous

This fall, thanks to a grant from the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation, each of the five Owen J. Roberts elementary schools offered an after-school running activity for boys and girls. The after-school activity promoted a fun, non-competitive introduction to the sport of running as lifetime exercise. Students were encouraged to accumulate miles walking, jogging, and/or running. Many of those students ran the OJRHS Best Buddies/Roberts Education Foundation Costume Run101 as a culminating activity. The community event occurred on the high school track in Wildcat Stadium and on central campus on Saturday, November 5th. About 350 participants ran or walked in the costume run 5K or 1 mile fun run this year. Many students, families, and professionals came out dressed in their best costume for the event to support our students. For more information, visit <http://ojrrun101.weebly.com>.



Thanking Veterans

Veterans Day celebrations took place in many of our schools the week of November 11. The High School marked the 11th year of honoring veterans with a special assembly and luncheon. Opening remarks were given by Mr. David Schwenk, Dr. Michael Christian, and Dr. Richard Marchini. The NJROTC Drill Team and Bugle Corps performed a tribute to all branches of the armed services.

Jacob Buckwalter, Student Government President, said, “I am thankful for this day because it gives me a chance to reflect on the fact that our liberties were paid for; our liberties are not a birthright.”

Government officials included U.S. Congressman Ryan Costello, Pennsylvania State Senator John Rafferty, Pennsylvania State Representative Tim Hennessy and Imani Johnson, from Senator Pat Toomey’s office, who all honored veterans with thoughts and gratitude.

Cadet Lt. Commander Tyler Scowden and Master Gunnery Sergeant Andrew Worley echoed their gratitude and shared a reading of “Just a Common Soldier” by A. Lawrence Vaincourt. The High School Choir injected the program with patriotic songs inviting everyone in the final chorus of “God Bless America.” NJROTC cadets lined the hallway for vets to process through to a luncheon served by Wildcat Ambassadors.



You Only Live Once



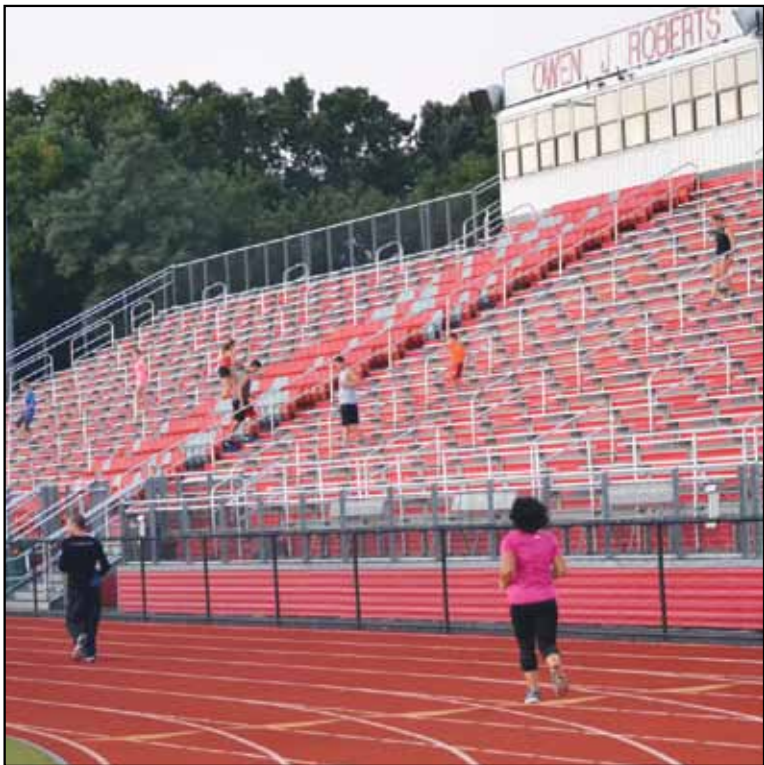
October 24-28, Red Ribbon Week was celebrated in our five elementary schools. Guidance counselors and staff used many strategies to capture the attention of students and help them learn the importance of a dependence-free community. The national theme for red ribbon week this year was YOLO: Be Drug Free. #youonlyliveonce.

At East Vincent Elementary School, in an effort to get students involved and committed to leading a healthy life, they encouraged students and staff to participate in a “theme of the day” all week long. In their own version of “Workout Wednesday—Work it Out, Keep the Drugs Out Day” invited students to wear sports gear, exercise clothes, or active wear. Classroom teachers were invited to be intentional with extra movements

and brain breaks throughout the day. In addition, via announcements, all students and staff were challenged to walk or run an extra five minutes at recess. The goal was to get students thinking about how small changes can impact their overall health, especially if they typically spend a lot of time on “screens”.

Homeroom teachers were provided with a red strip of construction paper for each child to write down a healthy goal or commitment. The strips were connected together in order to form one large chain that was hung in the building. Students at each elementary center received a “red ribbon” they could wear to school each day, funded through the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness grant.

Wellness Wednesdays



Dr. Rich Marchini, High School principal, on Wednesday mornings from 6:00 a.m. to 6:45 a.m., opens the OJRHS track or gymnasium to work out and has invited students, parents, community, and staff. Different levels of workouts are posted and participants are invited to walk, run, and/or do the posted workouts that the high school physical education staff develops. The workouts go from beginner with walking and talking to all-in track, bleacher, and fitness exercise craziness.

Dr. Marchini believes that “the really important part of this opportunity is to get out early and get moving”. He has held Marchini Mornings with staff and students prior to this and decided to do something where he could include area residents. Turnout has ranged from a dozen to about 50 people. One father reportedly brings his four boys every single week, saying they get him up before the alarm even sounds to come out and toss a ball and just run and have fun.

Digital Leaders

Approximately 50 student leaders collected on October 5 to explore both the positives and perils of social media. The session was facilitated by Owen J. Roberts Director of Technology Paul Sanfrancesco. “We want to empower students to be good, safe digital citizens,” said Mr. Sanfrancesco.

After examining some examples of unfortunate circumstances tied to social media posts, students began asking themselves when ones private life intersects with their professional life. What they learned from some cited cases, is that social media, which is public sharing, can affect professional interests and that any content has potential for consequences.

In small group discussions, students explored the steps that might be taken to prevent tarring ones reputation. It was widely agreed upon that social media can promote positive culture. The group will rejoin at a future date to create actionable steps toward a safe, positive digital community for Owen J. Roberts School District.

The Owen J. Roberts School District has partnered with Source4Teachers to manage its substitute teacher program. If you have a four-year degree and you are interested in working as a substitute teacher, please visit Source4Teachers’ website (www.source4teachers.com) to apply or call 877.983.2244 for more information.



College Resources

The High School Guidance Office has taken a number of steps this year to increase use of college resources. An increased and intentional use of email and social media attempt to reach students and parents with tips, reminders and more. Now, testing dates, scholarships, and other information is shared in many ways, making it harder to miss important news.

The high school guidance department also made a goal to increase face-time with parents. A simple and productive adjustment at the beginning of the year was to hold a meet-and-greet during

back to school night. They moved the guidance office to the crowd, setting up a table in the front lobby and creating an extra hour of availability to parents. Guidance counselors were pleased with a dramatic increase in personal interactions. Parents stopped by to make an introduction, get information, or gather literature for college/career planning. This increased attendance at an already well-attended guidance program, College Financial Aid Night. Guidance counselors have worked to equip themselves as in-house resources to students and parents by increasing efforts to visit college campuses. The department has also popularized evening hours for

junior and senior students and parents where counselors are available to help with the college process.

The high school presently uses a college and career-readiness technology called Naviance which, among other things, helps students match their interests and goals to colleges. College Application Bootcamp is offered in the summer prior to a student beginning his or her senior year. This course helps students get a jump on college applications. The small group setting allows personalized assistance with the admissions essay.

Bringing colleges to high school

with in-house college visits is one way students increase direct exposure to learning institutions. Use of scheduling software helps college admissions representatives easily schedule times to conduct small group informational meetings with students. College admissions counselors will use the same technology to participate in the annual college fair, which has space for up to 100 colleges, universities and trade schools. New this year is a program with Kutztown University to host an Instant Decision Day allowing seniors to meet with an admissions representative, interview for, and receive an admissions decision all in the same day.

Better Place

The artist-in-residence program allows students to work side-by-side with professional artists. North Coventry Elementary School welcomed Mr. James McCarthy the week of October 3, thanks to the generous sponsorship by the school's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

Mr. McCarthy—an accomplished songwriter, vocalist, instrumentalist, actor, and storyteller—worked with North Coventry grades 4 and 5 on a project called “A BETTER PLACE: Developing Bravery and Kindness through Drama”. Mr. McCarthy, who has a master's degree from Harvard and an MFA from University of Hawaii, is acknowledged as a Master Teaching Artist by the state of Hawaii and has worked with thousands of school age children using deepened engagement strategies. His teaching tools balance imaginative

expression with focused observation, reflection, and inquiry.

“Drama can be a way to look at things that are really true in human nature”, Mr. McCarthy informed a group of fourth grade students as he led them through the dynamics of acting out a tableau. “In fact,” he explained, “drama might even demonstrate the humor of being human.” Students worked in small groups on both individual skills and team skills as Mr. McCarthy invited them model motionless figures in a scene he described.

Mr. McCarthy also facilitated professional development on October 10 for the North Coventry teachers on student engagement strategies. “Both my students and I enjoyed working with James. I always enjoy learning from other educators,” said fourth grade teacher Kelly Beaver.



Seven Chapters Convene



Owen J. Roberts Best Buddies hosted Best Buddies chapters from seven different school districts for the annual Fall Fest Celebration at Wildcat Stadium. The fun-filled event allowed students to move around within intermingled groups through various autumn-inspired activities. The day is full of newly-found friendships and bonding among students of many different backgrounds.

Owen J. Roberts High School is fortunate to be one of the over 1,200 Best Buddies chapters in Colleges and High Schools throughout all 50 states and 22 countries. While participants find part of life's fulfillment in friendship, the Best Buddies pairs are also examples to their communities of acceptance and support for people with intellectual disabilities.

#ojrSTRONG



Owen J. Roberts High School held their third Challenge Day on November 9. The event provides students with an experiential program that demonstrates the possibility of positive connection through the celebration of diversity, truth, and full expression. The day-long event gave students the opportunity to work in small groups with adults on intellectual flexibility, leadership skills, diversity practice, self-confidence and social competence. There was a super-hero theme as participants were encouraged to learn that heroes can be ordinary people doing simple acts that uplift others. Challenge Day is supported by the high school, the local Lions Club, and a grant through the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation.

Creating Social Spaces

For the past several years, the Owen J Roberts High School student government has been involved in the beautification of natural gathering spaces in and around the high school building. Beyond ascetics, students concentrated on creating spaces that were comfortable and inviting. Wherever it made sense, they added features such as benches and tables to support socializing in natural gathering spaces.

All of the projects are financed through fundraising efforts. The work began in a main courtyard next to the large group instruction room, where eight trees and benches were added. At the flagpole area near the wildcat statue, they put in four trees and several plantings along with two benches. They also installed benches near the main entrance of the high school. They added indoor furniture where students can mingle in two hallways situated near large windows. At the bus pick-up area, they installed eight benches and eight enormous planters with grasses that sway in the

breeze that commonly flows in that area.

The Horticulture Club also does a lot of work beautifying spaces and adding elements for students to gather, such as the gazebo and Adirondack chairs on the front lawn. The Horticulture Club maintains large planters in the cafeteria courtyard and Student Government added five market umbrellas for the outdoor tables. Future projects are being considered by both organizations.



Photo by Senior, Hannah Foster.

(above) The north courtyard in the new wing, once full of weeds, was just completed this past spring.

Walkathon

On Wednesday, October 12, students at French Creek Elementary School had an exhilarating morning break taking in the fresh, autumn air and strolling to music with teachers, staff, and friends. The parent-teacher organization at the school organized the fundraising walk-a-thon as their major fundraiser for the year. Students raised money by collecting donations and walking laps for one period during the school day. The PTA hired a disc jockey playing popular party and celebration songs to keep the crowd highly engaged during the walking time. The PTA earned \$20,000 which will be used for a variety of enrichment programs for students. Students had a great time and went back to class energized and ready to learn!



Another Safe Night

Community outreach becomes apparent in our schools almost from the moment the school year begins. For example, high school students got to work in early September transforming their building into a safe and inviting space for the annual Robert’s Education Association Safe Trick or Treat night, which was held on October 27. Tot-friendly decorating of the spaces within a 314,000 square foot building can only happen with the cooperation of many individuals, groups, and clubs. From water features to hundreds of twinkling carved pumpkins, students and staff worked for weeks to create spellbinding displays for the 1,000 children and 750 parents who visited.

District teachers, staff, club advisors, sports coaches, community organizations, and the School Board organized stations and fun activities. Not only did families enjoy a safe Halloween celebration, but the REA collected \$300 and enough boxes of food, paper goods, and personal care items for the Coventry Food Pantry to fill two pick-up trucks.



Star Gazing

Second grade students at East Coventry Elementary studied the solar system as part of their Earth and Space Unit. On Monday, November 14, second grade teachers and PTA hosted a star gazing event for families. More than 125 people spread across the school lawn in lawn chairs and on blankets. They came to enjoy the Super Moon while peering through telescopes, sipping hot chocolate and participating in lively discussion about the solar system presented by the ChesMont Astronomical Society. The ChesMont Astronomical Society has been dedicated to amateur observational astronomy since 1986, educating the public about the wonders of the universe. It was a great family learning activity highlighting local experts.



Circle of Friends Expands at West Vincent

Understanding that schools can be a powerful force in shaping the social and emotional lives of young people, faculty and staff at West Vincent Elementary School explored ways to build community and help students feel connected to caring adults. As a team, they came up with a mentor program which would help students work on important relationship skills. They created small student groups and involved every available adult in the building. Sarah Weber, Guidance Counselor, explained, “We hope to bridge boundaries between generations, provide a source of accountability, encouragement, and support. Most of all, we want to empower each student by giving them more of a voice.” The goal was to have consistent adults act as group mentors over the scope of each child’s experience, first through sixth grade, and for each student to establish a core base of friends who may not be in their typical sphere of influence.

The program kicked off in September with the theme “filling buckets”. Working in small groups, adults facilitated introductions while each student shared an attribute or strength. The facilitator followed up by asking, “What are the benefits of knowing your own and each other’s strengths?” and “In what ways can you use this information this year?” After a teambuilding ice-breaker and discussion, students had the opportunity to create a personal shield (like a family crest) and life motto. In the quadrants of the shield, students illustrated an important life moment, something that makes them happy, something they dislike, and something they want people to know about themselves. The shield activity was designed to stimulate the brain toward self-discovery by using only drawings, no words. The session wrapped up with more sharing, giving students a forum to express ideas, ask questions, or get feedback.



West Vincent is planning at least two or three more mentor sessions this school year. They are adding a citizen’s component to the next lesson plan with a focus on veterans and the larger community. The staff believes that the mentor program can provide an additional way for students to establish

trusting relationships. Staff has been encouraged that there is evidence in the halls and on the playgrounds that students have expanded their circle of friends. In addition, several students have made an effort to check in with mentors at various times outside of an official mentor meeting.

Welcoming Others



Those who serve as High School Wildcat Ambassadors practice hospitality and welcoming activities to groups who may not have direct affiliation with the High School. Pictured above are some of the Veterans Day helpers. Now in its 14th year, the club was formed when guidance counselors recognized a need for a group of positive and trustworthy students to provide tours and orientation services for new students and their families.

The group’s biggest activity of the year is new student orientation, but the Wildcat Ambassadors offer hospitality throughout the year. They are very involved with acclimation of new students, including incoming freshman. They recently gave tours of the high school for class reunions for the classes of 1966, 1971, and 1976. They also volunteered at the Kelsey Klassic Lacrosse Tournament in West Chester, an event held in memory of Kelsey Kramer. You will find these good citizens working to serve others at events such as Cavalcade, the Veterans Day Luncheon and senior citizen events.

Spirit Week



Feelings of community spirit swelled as students prepared to welcome back alumni during spirit week leading up to homecoming. Participation in daily spirit activities was at an all-time high demonstrating tremendous school pride, camaraderie and a bit of friendly class competition.

Drill Competition

The Owen J. Roberts NJROTC hosted its first drill competition which included drill teams from six area schools. Drill teams compete by performing close order maneuvering which take hours of practice to synchronize. The teams arrived at Owen J. Roberts at 0700 on Saturday, October 29, and performed about seven drills, individual knockout and athletic competition. The regimented performances were kicked off by a more light-hearted “drill” called “Chair Force”. The Chair Force team also performed for the Board of School Directors prior to the official business of their November meeting.





This photo was taken at French Creek Elementary on the first day of school. Maintenance staff worked throughout the summer to assure that the hallways were shiny beacons of the possibilities for friendship, growth and learning that lie ahead.



The Middle School Varsity Singers, under the direction of Mrs. Cheryl Markofski, were selected to perform at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association conference in Erie, PA in April 2017. The choir was chosen from among 130 applicants from all across the Commonwealth. Congratulations!



Students have been participating in an after-school cross-country style run since 1972. This year, nearly 250 students in grades 4-6 from all five district elementary schools converged on Warwick County Park for special tutelage from the high school cross country team and an opportunity to try open-air running. Warwick Park is the home course for the varsity cross country team. Cross Country coaches and team members embrace sharing their sport and the beauty of the park with elementary students. Varsity athletes lead warm-up activities and preview the course with younger students. They also act as course marshals and cheerleaders encouraging the runners along the meadows and trails as they complete either a 1-mile or 1.8-mile run, depending on their age.

Mark Your Calendars!



Owen J. Roberts High School will present Cinderella March 16 - 19, 2017

Tickets and performance times will be available in February; check the district website.
Questions? Contact Mr. Joseph Hawkins at jhawkins@ojrsd.com

Go Wildcats!

Noted Accomplishments in Athletics and Other Arenas



The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test - a test which serves as an initial screening of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year - and by meeting published program entry/participation requirements.

- Congratulations to **Conrad Sager** and **Anna Stollman** who are semi-finalists.
- Congratulations to **Benjamin Hakun** and **Ciera McFarland** who received Letters of

Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise.

Congratulations to the **Middle School Varsity Singers** and **Mrs. Cheryl Markofsky** for being selected from more than 130 applicants to perform at the PMEA state convention to be held in Erie, PA. Best Wishes Varsity Singers!

Congratulations to senior, **Conrad Sager**, who joined the “best of the best” for the National Association for Music Education’s (NAFME) 2016 All-National Honor Ensembles on November 13, during the 2016 NAFME National In-Service Conference in Grapevine, Texas.

It was a successful fall sports season at Owen J. Roberts with **Soccer, Football, Field Hockey, Tennis, and Cross Country** teams all experiencing winning seasons. **Volleyball**, only in its second year as a varsity sport, had a successful season as well winning their first-ever game and capturing a total of five wins this season.

Congratulations to Junior **Liam Conway** for winning the Boys Cross Country PAC individual championship and making his third trip to compete in the PIAA State Meet.

Congratulations to Junior **Mary Bernotas** and Senior **Allison Brunton** for qualifying and competing in the

PIAA State Girls Cross Country Championships.

Congratulations to the High School **Girls Tennis Team** for winning the PAC championship, and special acknowledgement to Senior **Meredith Lee** for competing in the PIAA state Competition and achieving an amazing fourth place.

Congratulations to the High School **Girls Field Hockey Team** for winning the PAC championship.