

Oh What A Year It Was!

Each school year is like its own time capsule, with memories and moments that make the year unique. While there are OPS traditions, like the school-wide Halloween parade or the sixth grade Spring Fling, annual events we look forward to each year, there are also special moments that make a year stand out as one of a kind.



OPS students congratulate our 2023 Police Chief for a Day.

The 2022-2023 school year was full of memorable moments. On the fine arts front, every student displayed art work during our Spring Art Show. They showed off their work inspired by the likes of Andy Warhol, James Rizzi, and many more artists. Our fifth and sixth graders entertained all who were lucky to have a ticket for OPS's performance of *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* Our first graders had their first musical performance on the stage as they entertained their families with "Squirm!" And, as is tradition, our sixth grade instrumentalists served as wandering musicians throughout the building on the day before winter break, putting all in the holiday spirit.

As readers and writers, students continued to find ways to bring creativity to their text. Second graders worked to bring stories to life as they wrote scripts and stage directions for familiar fairy tales. Fifth graders wrote and filmed newscasts. Our kindergartners shared their writing from the year at a front lawn campout with their families.

Students once again went on field trips. The Bronx Zoo, Newark Museum, Secor Farms, and Liberty Science Center were some of the destinations. They learned through visiting experts in the classroom. For example, second



Kindergarten families enjoy a literacy campout.

graders complemented their study of water with a visit from Veolia, and fifth graders participated in the L.E.A.D. program via a partnership with the Oradell Police Department.



Fifth and sixth graders entertained the Oradell community with *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*

We came together as a community to recognize Oradell's Police Chief for a Day, and to cheer on police officers, teachers, and students who participated in the Torch Run for Special Olympics. We came together as a community during the holidays to collect food for Center for Food Action and in the spring to collect gently used toys for donation. We wore hats to collect funds for children fighting cancer, wore crazy socks to build awareness for Down Syndrome, blew bubbles in recognition of autism acceptance, and wore and collected pajamas to help provide a good night's sleep for children with housing insecurity and family instability.

And our year ended as it always does...with our sixth grade students participating in a whirlwind of events from the pool party to the Spring Fling, from the Sixth Grade Awards to commencement on the front lawn. They ended their days at OPS as they began them - together.

As we reflect on the 2022-2023 school year, our time capsule of memories is full. We learned together. We laughed together. We celebrated together. With another year in the books, we look forward to what our OPS family will accomplish together in 2023-2024!



Fifth graders studied journalism, chose a topic, and produced newscasts.

ORADELL: Eye on OPS

SUMMER 2023



Superintendent's Message

Dear OPS Community,

In a short time, we will ring in the start of the 2023-2024 school year. Each September brings an energy and excitement that is unparalleled. Students wonder what their teacher will be like, what field trips they will go on, and what books they will read. Teachers dream of what they will accomplish this year. What will this new class, their team for the year, be like? September is a time for dreams, a time for wonder...a time to set goals and make plans.



Fifth graders explore the possibilities of hydroponic gardening.

Just as our students and teachers set goals for the year ahead, so does the Oradell Public School District. Each summer the administrative team works collaboratively with the Board of Education to set goals for the upcoming school year. We set these goals based on the data we have collected in the previous year and our dreams for our students. The district goals we set then inform the professional development staff receives, and the goals and action plans staff members will set for themselves professionally.

Last year, our district goals saw us working on integrating STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) activities into the curriculum. We also worked on researching additional afterschool programming and ensuring that we implemented intervention activities for students who were struggling academically and behaviorally. To accomplish these goals, we hired a STEAM teacher/coach who worked directly

with both students and teachers to grow their knowledge. Students were able to design using 3D printing, learned about coding, and participated in a myriad of other projects aligned to the work they were doing in the classroom.

This year's goals focus on continuing to develop the whole child as we work to:

- Meet the needs of all learners via a differentiated approach to learning as evidenced by the number of students who meet or exceed expectations on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) with a target goal of 80% Meeting or Exceeding in Mathematics and 85% Meeting or Exceeding in English-Language Arts.
- Develop a comprehensive technology plan that addresses current and future hardware needs, operational and instructional software usage, and protocols for safety and security.
- Implement activities across the curriculum that foster creativity resulting in increased student engagement.
- Enhance the partnership between home and school through deliberate communication structures and increased opportunities for family involvement.



Sixth grade students developed new products as part of a STEAM Tank Challenge. They used a 3D printer to create parts for their invention prototype.

We teach our students that while having dreams is important, it is more important to set tangible goals and create action plans to meet those goals. We encourage all members of our community to have similar conversations with the children in their lives. Ask them what they hope to accomplish this year and what steps they will take to achieve their goals. We look forward to working with all of our stakeholders to move the district forward, always aiming to make the district just a little bit better each day.

Megan N. Bozios
Superintendent

Did You Know...?

- ◆ Each year OPS students participate in the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge, learning about how heart health can prevent a myriad of health problems. Over the past four years, our students have raised over \$100,000 to support the American Heart Association's mission. Participation has also earned our school several gift certificates to purchase physical education equipment.
- ◆ We held our 7th annual Wear A Pair, Share A Pair pajama drive for the Pajama Program in February. The Pajama Program provides children facing adversity with what they need to have good nights in support of good days. This year, OPS students and staff wore their pajamas for the day and donated over 450 pairs of pajamas. This event was organized by our Student Government who advertised, counted, and packaged the pajamas for delivery.
- ◆ For the 11th consecutive year, an OPS team qualified for the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. This year, our team traveled to the campus of Michigan State University to compete against teams from across the United States, Poland, Singapore, China, South Korea, and Switzerland. The team placed 18th out of the 64 teams in their division.

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ALERT: Substitute Teachers/Aides Needed

The Oradell Public School District is ALWAYS looking for substitute teachers and aides. The job provides great flexibility as substitutes can decide when to work and what jobs to accept via a digital platform. You can choose to work one day a month or several days a week; you can choose to substitute for teachers across the grade levels or only accept jobs in specific grade levels. The district's substitute rate is \$125 for a full day (8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.), or \$62.50 per half day for either the AM shift (8:15 a.m. -11:45 a.m.) or the PM shift (11:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m.). Once a substitute has accrued 25 full days of substituting during a school year, the daily rate increases to \$150 per full day.

To be a substitute teacher, you must hold a valid New Jersey teaching certificate *or* apply online for a substitute teaching certificate. To apply for a substitute teaching certificate, you must have 60 college credits. The State of New Jersey has a Teacher Certification Fee Holiday through June 30, 2024; therefore, there is no fee to apply for a substitute certification during this time.

If you know you would like to apply to be a substitute, you can go to the front page of the Oradell Public School website and click on Employment Opportunities. If you would like to know more, we will hold a meeting on September 8 at 10 a.m. in the OPS auditorium to review details about the position and answer any questions.

SAVE THE DATE! September 8 @ 10:00 a.m.

Partners for Our Children

Oradell Public School works in partnership with many organizations, including the OPS Parent Teacher Association (PTA), the Oradell-Emerson Rotary Club, and the Oradell Kids Foundation (OKF). These partnerships benefit OPS students in many ways.

The Oradell PTA and the Oradell-Emerson Rotary once again joined forces to organize a basketball fundraiser pitting The Wizards against Oradell Public School staff. (The Wizards may have won the game, but our teachers and staff did not disappoint!) The Oradell PTA consistently sponsors author visits and grade-level grants that bring in additional programming, such as Smarty Plants in second grade or weatherman John Marshall in third grade. The PTA also supports the district with purchases, such as a new 3D printer in the STEAM lab and Wonder Workshop coding materials for the school.



A PTA mini grant brought hands-on learning to third graders.

The Oradell Kids Foundation is also a significant supporter of Oradell Public School. The foundation has been supporting the children of Oradell for over 25 years. While OPS students benefit from the bigger projects the foundation has taken on, including their modernization of the Memorial Field Playground many years ago, the foundation also supports ongoing programming and events at Oradell Public School. These programs have included visits from The Health Barn to teach the children about healthy eating and expose them to new foods, cultural assemblies focused on the fine arts, and science assemblies to bring textbook learning to life, to name a few visitors over the years.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Oradell Kids Foundation sponsored a visit from Grit Ninja. Grit, the ability to persevere when faced with adversity, is an area of focus for our students after the pandemic. To provide students with the opportunity to practice self-talk and show resilience when faced with a challenge, Grit Ninja set up their materials on the backfield. All 800 OPS students had the opportunity to demonstrate perseverance while tackling new challenges, whether that challenge was trying to stay in the plank position the longest, running an obstacle course, swinging across the rings, or reaching new heights as they jumped. The event also helped students see how important it is to cheer on their peers when they are pushing themselves to do something new.

This event was a springboard for the unveiling of OPS's 2023-2024 theme, Mission: G.R.I.T. (Growth, Reflection, Initiative, Tenacity). Knowing the importance of involving parents in the learning journey of their children, the Oradell Kids Foundation also sponsored a parent workshop. Coach Jim Stroker visited to talk to parents about the importance of allowing students to struggle and to tackle challenges. He used his own stories as a coach, teacher, and father to demonstrate the importance of obstacles and coaching our children through the obstacle instead of removing it for them.

One of the Oradell Kids Foundation's primary sources of funding is the annual Oradell Kids Foundation/Oradell Fire Department 5K and Fun Run. While this event directly helps the children of OPS as the money raised has paid for extensive programming in the past, it is also a wonderful day for our entire community to come together. In fact, the Fun Run will be started this year collaboratively by OPS Principal Michelle Hawley, River Dell Middle School Principal Robert Urbanovich, and River Dell High School Principal Brian Pepe. Registration is open for the run. We hope to see you there!



Oradell/Emerson Rotary and the Oradell PTA brought the Wizards to Oradell.



Do you have the grit to reach to new heights?



Welcome to OPS...



Erin Barry, Fifth Grade Teacher

Ms. Barry has a specialization in upper level math and has taught students in second through eighth grades. She strives to create meaningful learning experiences that impact the students both in and out of the classroom. Ms. Barry is excited to inspire and develop the young minds of the community.



Jennifer Delpino, Fourth Grade Teacher

Ms. Delpino earned a degree in English with a certification in elementary education from Montclair State University. She has previous experience in third and fourth grades, and served as a second grade teacher at OPS in the spring. Ms. Delpino is passionate about the learning experience and is eager to build meaningful relationships with her students.



Daniel Duval, Fifth/Sixth Grade Teacher

A graduate of Rutgers University Newark, Mr. Duval has been teaching in Wayne and Hamburg schools. He enjoys finding ways to make his class engaging and meaningful for his students, and he looks forward to helping them achieve their goals. Mr. Duval likes to spend his free time learning Mandarin and going to the library.



Jacqueline Vougiatzis, Sixth Grade Science Teacher

Prior to becoming an educator, Ms. Vougiatzis spent 10 years working in healthcare. She has been teaching for 14 years, most recently teaching sixth grade science for the last 11 years. Ms. Vougiatzis enjoys using hands-on activities and investigations to help students fully engage with the curriculum. She has also been known to break out in song during class.

Recognizing Our 2022-2023 Educator of the Year

In December, the Oradell Public School community stopped what it was doing for a special announcement – the naming of OPS's recipient of the 2022-2023 Governor's Educator of the Year award. With 32 years of experience, 27 of those years spent teaching at Oradell Public School, Lesley Maklin was recognized. Nomination forms for Ms. Maklin elaborated on her dedication to her students and her colleagues, specifically her steadfast commitment to meeting learners' needs.



Students and staff celebrate with Lesley Maklin (pictured center), OPS's Educator of the Year.

Reflecting on her time at OPS, Ms. Maklin shared that she has always loved working with children. She continued, "they are open to many new things, ask questions, and are inquisitive. What I enjoy most about OPS are the children." During her time in the classroom, Ms. Maklin has collaborated with many parents. She cites the involvement of families as one aspect of OPS she enjoys. Her advice to parents is always the same: "Be patient. Children can go through different phases in life, but they learn from each experience and become the person they become through those experiences."

Throughout her time at OPS, Ms. Maklin has also supported many new teachers. For those entering the field of education, she reminds them that, "Teaching is not easy and many of your friends coming out of college may make more money than you, but you will have the rewards of shaping a child's life and the future. Work hard and always continue to learn yourself so you can offer a student your best advice and guidance." Shaping children and working hard are two phrases that could be used to describe this year's Oradell Public School Educator of the Year – Lesley Maklin!

An OPS Retirement



Patty Hansen (pictured left) retired from OPS after more than two decades of service. She was photographed with one of the many students who will miss her.

As we transitioned into summer in June, one of our staff members began her transition into retirement. Patty Hansen has been an instructional aide at Oradell Public School for 24 years. During this time, she has worked with students across the grade bands. Ms. Hansen is known for creating strong relationships with the students she guided. She got to know each student's likes and interests, and she used that information to make school a comfortable learning environment. If a child liked to walk, she would add that to their day; if they enjoyed sharing a joke, that would become part of their daily schedule.

She also worked collaboratively with many teachers over the years. She was known to be the first to welcome new staff and answer any of questions about our community. She was always on the lookout for ways to make OPS better, readily sharing her ideas with staff members and administrators. She saw her job as to support both teachers and students – and that she did!

Staff Anniversary Recognition

The Board of Education recognized several staff members for achieving anniversary benchmarks. Each staff member was awarded a certificate and pin.

- 35 Years**
Tracey Schaum
- 25 Years**
Marie Menti
- 20 Years**
Jamie Caruana
Amy Kennedy
Lisa Maiella
- 15 Years**
Carole Natiello
Amy Rabinowitz
Robin Weinzierl

- 10 Years**
Hellen Kapp
Stephanie Kruczek
Jennifer Loschiavo
Blair McGrath

- 5 Years**
Elizabeth Barone
Sheila Daley
Mary Anne Doran
Gina Marana
Rosine Mazza
Victoria Mertens
Joan Novak
Kristen Scanlon
Danielle Westdyk

Congratulations and thank you for your service to the families of Oradell.

#PantherPride



Mark Your Calendars for the Oradell 5K & Fun Run on October 7th!

Scan this QR code or visit oradellkids.org to register for the 5K or Fun Run