

# Oradell Public School

REFLECT... CELEBRATE... DREAM

AUGUST 2015



“Follow effective action with quiet reflection. From the quiet reflection will come even more effective action.”

---James Levin

## Principal's Welcome

This summer, I added another state to my 50 state quest as I drove through South Dakota. I'm not the most patient traveler. I ask, "Are we there yet?" a LOT! This year's OPS theme was born in the hills of South Dakota. As we drove, I realized I was so worried about when we would arrive at our destination that I wasn't celebrating how far we had already traveled, and I wasn't appreciating the beautiful landscape outside my window. Life is a lot like a long car trip. We can become so focused on our goal that we forget to reflect on the past – identifying where we have come from. We forget to take time to celebrate our journey.

Last year, numerous staff members participated in a reading of "Mindset: The New Psychology of Success" by Carol Dweck, which focuses on

fostering a growth mindset – a belief that through hard work we can get better. Dweck's work speaks about developing grit, the ability to persevere through setbacks. As we continue to focus on developing the whole child, it is imperative that we help our children and ourselves learn to reflect, to celebrate and to dream. Each is an important step in developing individuals who learn to embrace and persevere through challenge. Each is an important step in developing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners as we prepare children to possibly one day have jobs that have not yet been created.

This year will be a year of reflecting, celebrating and dreaming at OPS. We will work to empower children to believe that challenges are opportunities to become more skilled in a specific area. We want our children to know that we are not

judging their learning but, instead, are *celebrating* their learning.

I encourage you to join with us and take on a similar approach at home. Begin by praising the process – don't focus on the end result, even for successes. Reinforce how proud you are of the process it took to achieve the end result. By praising the process, we will assist our students in developing important reflective practice skills and give them the ability to continue to set goals and monitor their own learning.

What better way to help our children grow in this area than to model with ourselves what it looks like. Our journey as a community is full of challenges; however, if we continue to work to persevere and celebrate our process, we'll continue to reach new heights amongst the stars!

-Megan Bozios

## Preparing for September 2<sup>nd</sup> . . .

Please complete the school information forms listed below in paper form. Forms can be found on *our* school website at [www.oradellschool.org](http://www.oradellschool.org).

\*Student Emergency Card

\*Milk Order Form

\*Annual Health Update

The following forms need to be completed IN THE PARENT PORTAL.

\*Afterschool Dismissal Form

\*Media Release/Publicity Form

\*Acceptable Use Policy

\*Student Handbook Sign-Off Form

## Meet the Newest Members of the OPS Community . . .

The new school year brings several new faces and names to our OPS family. Mr. Michael Hagopian joins the administrative team as Instructional Supervisor. Mr. Hagopian will assist with coaching teachers as they transition to new curricular programs and helping parents continue to stay involved through Parent Academies (look for an upcoming one on helping children develop a growth mindset). In the main office, Mrs. Amy Skroce takes on the role of main office secretary, and Mrs. Missy Simpson moves over from the library to greet you at the window as the Main Office Clerk. Taking over for Mrs. Simpson in the library is Mrs. Lisa Santangelo. Mrs. Santangelo is not a new face to OPS as she has served as an instructional aide for the past three years.

We also welcome several new classroom teacher. Ms. Nikki Del'Ollio will be teaching Kindergarten after spending the end of last year as our Pre-K teacher, and Ms. Katie Guinan joins us in first grade. You may also notice several new names in 5<sup>th</sup> grade with Ms. Carroll becoming Mrs. Hendricks and Ms. Giacomini becoming Mrs. Malenda. Rounding out the 5<sup>th</sup> grade literacy team is Ms. Gina Stross who will be teaching both 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade

literacy this year. Finally, Ms. Resichell Castillo will be filling in until Mrs. Min returns.

Along with classroom teachers, we also welcome Ms. Courtney Sole as an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher and Mrs. Jennifer Falkoff as a special education teacher. And of course, you will see many new instructional and lunch aides helping students in the classrooms and on the recess fields this year.

## Developing Responsibility, Preserving the Learning Environment and Creating a Safe Community

This year, we will continue to ensure that our students are in the safest environment possible by truly utilizing our secured lobby to its full advantage. New shelving has been purchased for the dropping off of lunches, homework, instruments, etc. The office staff will check the shelves frequently throughout the day and move materials into a matching set of shelves inside the building. **CLASSROOMS WILL NOT BE CALLED DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.** These calls disrupt learning for all children. Children will be reminded frequently to check the shelving for missing items. If they don't realize it was missing, it wasn't that important! Letting children deal with the consequences of a missing item will help them to be more successful later in life!

## Completing Forms in the Parent Portal

Four of the six **REQUIRED** forms must be completed in Oradell Public School's Parent Portal. Each is located under the "Survey" section. The forms are:

- Dismissal Form
- Parent/Student Handbook Sign-Off
- Media Release Form
- Computer Technology Contract

You must complete the forms (all four) for **each** of your children. Please answer every question and most importantly, at the bottom, click **SAVE and CLOSE** when you are finished. By just clicking "Save," it will not submit the document. If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Principal Toni Violetti at [Violetti@oradellschool.org](mailto:Violetti@oradellschool.org).

## OPS NEWS

- Our 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be one-to-one with new laptops during the school day.
- All students in grades K-5 will be using the GoMath Resources this year.
- The *Words Their Way* program will extend to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade this year.
- Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teachers will utilize a new resource called "History Alive!" this year.
- All OPS staff members will use the following email format this year: last name first initial @oradellschool.org. We will send out a blast when this change has been completed.

## REMINDERS

- Don't forget to encourage your child to keep reading and logging their reading in [billionarium.com](http://billionarium.com).
- Just a reminder, we continue to utilize an A-F schedule. The letter is always on the front page of the website, and your child's teacher will inform you of what special area class they go to each day.
- Don't forget to sign up for the PTA at [oradellpta.org](http://oradellpta.org). It is a great way to stay informed.