

ACCESS

Oakton

oakton high school ptsa • vienna va • www.oaktonhsptsa.org

December 2012

OHS MISSION STATEMENT

Oakton High School will prepare all students for productive and ethical living, life-long learning, and innovative and responsible leadership.

OHS VISION STATEMENT

Through a culture of collaboration, continuous improvement, accountability, and community involvement, Oakton High School will provide rigorous, relevant, and well-rounded education for all students.

SUBMIT

If you have an article that you would like to have included in Access Oakton, please forward it to Marcia Pickett at: mpickett6@verizon.net. The due dates for articles for future publications are January 31, April 4 and May 30.

PTSA MEETINGS

All PTSA meetings are held in the OHS Library beginning at 7:00 pm. The next meetings will be February 6, 2013 and March 6, 2013.

Newsletter designed by Marilyn Yang and Madlin Mekelburg, Oakton Outlook Editors-in-chief

Letter from the President

Kirsten Rucker, PTSA President • ohsclub2012@gmail.com

Thank you for checking out this edition of the newsletter. Your PTSA has been working towards a better solution for moving forward into the digital education realm. A big thanks to all of the parents who came out to the November meeting to become educated on the online textbook issue and bigger thanks to those of you who took the time and energy to write thoughtful emails to both the FCPS leadership and to School Board officials expressing your experiences and concerns. Your voices were heard! We will be getting hard copy math textbooks for any student who would like one as soon as the publishers make them available.

This massive paradigm shift to digital education has been evolving over the years. It is critical that we stay plugged in to FCPS plans as they unfold so that our children do not become lost in the effort. It is especially vital that the issues around technology and access are addressed, but even more important to all of us parents are the issues around the health and well-being of our children. I have discovered a wide range of information on digital education, but an infinitesimal amount concerning health and cognitive impacts of children having to spend hours in front of a computer or electronic device to learn and do homework. This ongoing issue will continue to be discussed at our PTSA meetings.

Another issue coming to the forefront is the high school renovation schedule. Oakton High School is fast approaching the half-century mark. We have never experienced a major renovation and are slated to finally be renovated starting in 2018, but there is rumbling to push that further into the future. Our February

meeting will include a speaker who will explain the renovation process. Please join us.

A coffee for freshmen parents was hosted by the PTSA and the Guidance Office on November 13. Administrators and staff welcomed the parents, made presentations and answered parents' questions.

For parents of seniors, you should have received a mailing from the All Night Grad committee last week regarding discounted early purchase of tickets for the June 14 event. Consider buying your child's ticket as a holiday gift!

Thank you to all of you who have joined the PTSA. Your membership dollars are being used to support the school community in a wide variety of ways from underwriting planners to supporting teacher training. If you have not joined, you are welcome to go to our website, www.oaktonhsptsa.org and become a member now. You can either do it immediately online or print out and send in paper forms. Our meetings resume on Wednesday, February 6, 2013 starting at 6:30 pm and all of you are welcome.

Congratulations to the football team for a great run this season! And thank you to all our members, parents, teachers, administrators and students for your help in making Oakton High School an awesome community. Please enjoy your well-deserved winter break!

Best regards,

Kirsten Rucker

OHS PTSA President



Letter from the Principal: Latest Oakton Updates

John A. Banbury, Principal • john.banbury@fcps.edu

December 2011

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that the first quarter of the 2012-2013 school year is already past and second quarter interims are right around the corner! Before we get too further imbedded in our daily academic duties, I would like to introduce and welcome two new members to our administrative staff – Mrs. Kathy Martin and Ms. Martha Rodeheaver. Kathy Martin has taught chemistry at Oakton for the past 18 years and has most recently served as Science Department Chair. Mrs. Martin received her undergrad degree from Clemson University and a Master of Arts degree in New Professional Studies – Teaching and Education Leadership from George Mason University. Martha Rodeheaver has taught physics at W. T. Woodson High School for the past eight years and was the AP Coordinator and class sponsor there. Ms. Rodeheaver received her undergrad degree and Masters from the University of Virginia and, most recently, a Masters in Education Leadership from George Mason University. Interestingly, both Mrs. Martin and Ms. Rodeheaver attended Northern Virginia schools: Mrs. Martin – Marshall High School, and Ms. Rodeheaver – Yorktown High School. I am excited to have them on our administrative staff.

Oakton has had a very busy and successful fall season for all of our activities. Congratulations to our Girls' Cross County and Girls' Vol-

leyball teams for winning the Concorde District. Congratulations to our Girls' and Boys' Cross County teams for being the Northern Region Runners-Up. Congratulations to our Varsity Football team for winning the Region title and advancing to the State Semi-Finals. Congratulations to the Cougar Marching Band for receiving a Superior Rating at the State Marching Band Assessment. We have a very talented student body and I look forward to celebrating their continued successes throughout the school year.

I know that many of you have concerns about the online math textbooks. As of right now, we will be placing an order for hard copy math textbooks for all students.

Believe it or not, course selection for 2013-2014 is just around the corner in February. Please take some time over the Winter Break to discuss what classes your child is interested in taking next year. Our Curriculum Night and Electives Fair is January 17, 2013, and counselors will provide an overview of courses during school in the first week of February.

I wish you a restful and safe holiday season and look forward to the New Year.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Banbury
Oakton HS Principal

From The Counselors' Corner

This is the season...

The Counseling Department is excited to see this time of year approach as we move into several important parts of our overall program. We have been working with seniors on applications, freshmen on transitioning to high school and a great deal in between. Our tenth grade program has focused on career awareness and offered our students the opportunity to fill out a personality profile and compare it to the careers that could match well with their results. Juniors will begin to look at planning for life after high school and college searches in the spring.

There will be a curriculum night Jan. 17th here at Oakton to inform parents about the course offerings available next year. This evening presentation highlights the elective choices that students can select from as well as providing guidelines on the honors and Advanced Placement programs. We invite you to attend prior to your student's registration, so the course selection process can be as smooth and accurate as possible.

We are working to bring a new Anti-Bullying program to Oakton which will incorporate different student groups and begin in the Teacher Advisory period on gold days. Our goal is to broaden the student's understanding of the types of bullying and exclusion that can occur in a modern high school and work to prevent them at Oakton. We hope your student will talk to you at home about this in January!

In an effort to help parents and students become more familiar with what the counselors can do for them, we have added a new area on the Oakton website. At the top right, there is a pull down menu for School Counseling, and a new entry there called "School Counseling Presentations." We will update this page with links to information on our tools and information of interest to various groups throughout the year.

One of our main tools in the Counseling Department is Family Connection, the county's online portal to college and career planning. This system offers a way to track extracurricular activities, develop a resume, explore colleges and much, much more. We encourage all grade levels to begin to familiarize themselves with the offerings, and if your student has had access from middle school, there are some changes in the high school version to check out! You can access the site from Blackboard, or get more information on our new webpage mentioned above.

As always, the counselors are here to help students and their family in a wide range of circumstances. Please feel free to contact us for support or have your student see us in our offices. The best times for students are before school, Cougar Time, lunch or after school.

Spring Sports Tryouts

Tryouts will begin on **Monday, February 18 (Presidents Day – no school) for Baseball, Crew, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Tennis and Outdoor Track/Field.** All athletes must have an emergency care form for the spring sports coach AND a doctor's physical dated after May 1, 2012 on file in the Activities Office ***in order to do preseason conditioning and tryouts.*** The physical must be recorded on the official Virginia High School League Physical Form. All forms are available in the Activities Office and the athletic website, www.oaktonathletics.org under Files and Links. Physicals should be turned in to or mailed to the Activities Office. **MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS. (OHS Activities, 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna, VA 22181)** If you mail in the emergency care form with the physical, write the sport(s) in the upper right hand corner so we can give it directly to the coaches. **Athletes will not be permitted to condition/tryout without these forms. Again this year, all athletes and one parent must view an on-line concussion power point before tryouts.** The link to view it is posted at www.fcps.edu/sports. Records from last year were cleared. Both parent and athlete must view it again this year. **Tryout updates will be put on www.oaktonathletics.org in late January. You should also email the head varsity coach to get on the team email distribution list. (Go to the team page on the website and click on Coaches for his/her email address.)** If you turned in a physical for fall or winter sports and conditioning, then it should be on file already. However, the emergency care form you turned in to school or to a fall/winter coach is not on file. You must give another to the spring coach. **There is a drop-in "registration" for all spring athletes on Wednesday, February 13 2:15-3:15 in the cafeteria to check to make sure all your paperwork is on file.**

News from Theatre Arts www.oaktondrama.org

It always amazes me how fast our fall season goes by. After the designing, casting, rehearsing, building, lighting, costuming, opening and closing of our first two showswe are now faced with winter. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our productions of Suite Surrender and Our Town. Both were such different and special shows I hope some of you were able to experience each one. In celebration of our successes, we are off on a field trip to NYC on Wednesday, December 5th to see "ONCE" and "NEWSIES" as well as a tour of the

famous Apollo Theatre.

Once we return we will be researching our One Act Plays to be performed at our Cougar Dinner Theatre on Monday, February 4th. An evening of food and entertainment that continues to grow in popularity as well as chili recipes!

On Sunday January 6th we will be driving down the road to Signature Theatre in Arlington to see the high energy musical "DREAMGIRLS." This field trip is open to all of my theatre classes and costs \$55.00. Please let me know if your child is interested in attending.

Drama Club will be hosting our Secret Santa cougar time party later this

month.

Students should check the Theatre Board outside of the Drama room for details.

AND just in time for the holidays.... Our new Oakton Theatre pullover fleece

has been delivered. The farmer's almanac says it's going to be a harsh cold winter. Stay warm and support our department at the same time. They are \$35.00 and checks can be made payable to OHS.

Happy Holidays everyone.

*Vanessa Gelinis
vlgelinis@fcps.edu*

Band Boosters

Jazz Bands Fall Performance - Thursday, Dec 6

Be sure to join the Oakton Jazz Bands for an evening of cool jazz at the Fall Jazz Concert in the Auditorium on Thursday, December 6 at 7:00 pm. Both Jazz A and Jazz B will perform along with the Oakton Jazz Choir. The Band Boosters and Chorus Boosters are joining forces to offer pizza and water for purchase and baked goods for donations. If you wish to order a pizza in advance for your student or family, please email directorassistant@oaktonbands.com. Finally, please support the Oakton Band's canned food drive for Reston Interfaith. There will be a collection table in the gym lobby during the concert. Thank you.

Citrus Sale: Next Order Due Monday Jan 7, 2013

The January citrus sale will be here before you know it, and January means Honeybell oranges!! Honeybells are known for their exceptional sweetness and juiciness so don't miss your chance as they are only available in January. Funds generated by this sale support the Band program and Band students. Details on fruit choices and prices are available on the web site - for more information or to place an online order go to: <http://www.oaktonbands.com/floridacitrus.cfm>. Orders or questions can also be sent to citrussales@oaktonbands.com.

Winter Guard

The Winter Guard is in the final audition process. If you are interested in participating this season or would like to learn more about guard, please check out the Color Guard page on oaktonbands.com or see Mrs. Hovanec in room 230. Rehearsals are typically held on Tuesdays and Fridays from 5-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 2-6 p.m., with competitions on the following Saturdays: Winter 2013 Show Dates: Feb 9- Broad Run; Feb 16- West Potomac; March 16- Potomac Falls; March 23- Thomas Jefferson; March 30- Tuscarora, Leesburg

Mass Chaos Winter Concert: Wednesday, Dec 19

Bring your instrument and folding music stand and play with the band at the annual Winter Concert, affectionately known to band members as the "Mass Chaos" concert. All three concert bands will be on stage, and all alumni, friends, parents, and anyone who wants to play are invited to join the fun! Sight-read music will include Christmas, Hanukkah and winter selections. The concert starts at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium. If you plan to play, be on stage no later than 6:30 pm and dress appropriately for a winter concert, i.e., collared shirt/blouse, nice skirt/pants. Pizza and baked goods will be available. Please support the Band's canned food drive by donating to the collection table in the lobby.

2012 White House Christmas Ornament On Sale Now!

The 2012 White House Christmas Ornament honors our 27th President, William Howard Taft who introduced the automobile to White House transportation. Oakton Band is offering them for sale at a new lower price this year - \$20.00! Perfect for holiday gifts (personal or corporate), as well as weddings or anniversary presents. To view color photos and obtain ordering information for the 2012 ornament, please go to www.oaktonbands.com, click on Fundraisers, then on Ornaments. If you have any questions please email Susan Fuchs at who@oaktonbands.com.

Cougar Calendar

Date	Event
December 6	7 pm - Chorus Specialty Concert
December 13	7 pm – Orchestra Concert
December 18	7:30 pm – Chorus Concert
December 20	7:30 pm – Band Concert
December 22- January 1	Winter Break, No School
January 1	No Collaboration
January 11	7 pm Cougar Cabaret
January 16	7 pm Partners for Safe Teen Driving
January 17	7 pm Curriculum Night
January 21	Martin Luther King Holiday, No School
January 24	Chorus Pyramid Concert
January 25	End of Second Quarter
January 28,29	Teacher Workdays, No School
January 30	No Collaboration

Find it all @ your OHS Library

Databases Offer Information

If your student needs accurate, unbiased, reliable information from an authoritative source, Google may not be the best solution. Did you know that Oakton HS Library purchases excellent research databases that are aligned to curriculum topics? Remote access usernames and passwords are found in the @Oakton HS Library Blackboard course. Click Online Databases button and open the first item, FY13 DBs_remote.pdf. Please notify the library promptly if your student encounters any problems accessing databases.

Students may access additional database products through the Fairfax County Public Library by using the following number: 22769104753797. Students who do not have a FCPL card may fill out an application online at: <http://fcplcat.fairfaxcounty.gov/uhtbin/cgi-sirsi/0/0/0/122/2015>.

Student Overdue Notices and Bills Were Delivered

Students received notices in November for overdue library books and/or bills for lost or late materials and unpaid library printing fees. Printed notices are delivered once per quarter. Please ask your student if he received a notice and encourage him to resolve library obligations promptly.

From the Halls of Government

On December 4th and 11th, students in Jeanine Musgrove's and Sean Greeney's AP Environmental Science, Sidney Dillon's Honors English and Eliot Waxman's AP U.S. Government and Politics and USVA Government Honors classes participated in a Mock Congressional Hearing. As representatives of select Interest Groups, students testified before "Congress" on a proposed piece of legislation concerning hydraulic fracturing. The legislators consisted of representatives from several congressional offices, including Senators Mark Warner and Jim Webb and Congresswoman Ginny Browne-Waite as well as several people, both inside and outside Oakton, possessing professional legislative experience. This interdisciplinary simulation is designed to teach students important 21st Century skills as well as prepare them for their Advanced Placement exams next May. George Washington University intern Rachel Marrion provided invaluable assistance as well.

Throughout the First Quarter, all USVA Government students played an active role in learning about the 2012 election. In addition to classroom activities, dozens of Oakton students participated in the following activities: volunteering for individual candidates, serving as Election Pages and Election Officers for the Fairfax County Board of Elections on Election Day, acting as translators for citizens who immigrated from Asian and other Pacific Island countries and being first-time voters.

"You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch!"

Oakton High School Orchestra Concert on December 13, Tuesday at 7 pm in the Auditorium

The music department at Oakton High School has a great reputation known in Vienna, in Fairfax County, in the state of Virginia, and even in the entire United States. What is so special about Oakton's music department? The students are outstanding musicians, scholars, athletes and role models in the community. If you are not familiar with the orchestra program, now is the time to see and hear how much fun it can be to attend one of our concerts. There are three orchestras. Depending on a student's skill level, they are assigned to an orchestra. Typically there are 30-35 students per orchestra. The students play various types of music: Classical, Holiday, Folk, Jazz, Broadway, Movie themes, and Rock. When a student enters high school, they have orchestra class every other day. They often have been playing since elementary school but there are some students who started in middle school or even in high school. Some students play in youth orchestras in the area. There are several students who take private lessons. Oakton is proud to send their students to District Festival, Senior Regional Festival and All State Festival. In addition, they take a spring trip. This year, they will be going to Philadelphia to participate in a workshop with members of the professional symphony, THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA. In the evening, they will hear the orchestra perform in the concert hall. The trip also includes a competition, historic sites, Hard Rock café, Philly cheese steaks, and Six Flags Great Adventure.

The orchestra program prides itself on doing regular community service and fundraisers. In October, we played music to support the Oakton Public Library. On Black Friday, we serenaded the customers at Barnes and Nobles. We have already had two car washes and sold cheesecake. Soon, we will be selling cookie dough. In December, we will perform at a Lutheran Church in Fairfax and the holiday open

house at the Oakton Public Library. We have more plans to perform around the Washington area. It is a gift to be able to play an instrument and music is a universal language enjoyed by all ages and all cultures. It is Oakton's goal to promote positive relations among our classmates, faculty, staff, administrators, as well as our local and metropolitan neighbors.

This year, I am proud to be the new orchestra director at Oakton High School. I grew up in McLean and went to Langley High School. I taught in Fairfax County in 1989-1995 and then my life took me around the world to teach and perform in Europe, South America, Central America, and the Middle East. Ultimately, I returned to the US and taught in Upstate NY. Fortunately, I am back home and am happy to be teaching these talented young people at Oakton High School

Come out and hear Oakton High School's amazing winter concert. The concert orchestra will be playing a selection of holiday music that includes the theme from the animated movie "How Mr. Grinch Stole Christmas." They also are playing "Home for the Holidays" and an Israeli folk song, "Havishenu". The symphonic orchestra will dazzle you with 2 holiday pieces and the first movement of the Mannheim Sinfonia #2. We will finish the program with the chamber orchestra performing the famous wedding march – Pachelbel Canon and Irene Lee, a senior and concertmaster will be the featured soloist for "Summer" from Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Why are we playing "Summer" in the winter? You will learn the answer when you attend the concert, Tuesday, December 13 at 7 pm in the Auditorium!

Margot Mezvinsky, OHS Orchestra Director

National Honor Society Inductions

The following students were inducted into the National Honor Society - H. Glenn Cunningham Chapter on November 12, 2012 in the Robert "Skip" Bromley Auditorium. Thomas Wilson, chorus student, performed the National Anthem. Ms. Jackie Fernandez, science teacher, was the guest speaker. A reception followed the ceremony.

Last, First

Ahmed, Yusuf
 Ajrawat, Kiren
 Almazan, Tunari
 Ambrose, Logan
 Amjad, Aisha
 Arbesfeld, Jaime
 Atkinson, David
 Atwal, Gurvina
 Baiou, Sabrine
 Baral, Alok
 Beach, Dana
 Beard, Charles
 Bettolo, Liliana
 Bezick, Kevin
 Boehm, Brian
 Bossert, Erica
 Brennan, Emilia
 Brown, Julia
 Bui, Kevin
 Bui, Tiffany
 Burke, Paul
 Burkly, Hana
 Capalbo, Annalise
 Carstens, Eric
 Caumeil, Mary-Madeleine
 Cerva, Amanda
 Cerva, Rebecca
 Cetinkaya, Ekrem
 Chen, Winston
 Chey, Jongin
 Chiao, Josephine
 Choi, HoJun
 Cooney, Megan
 Corridon, Jamie
 Cox, Christine
 Crum, Ryan
 Daenzer, Emily
 Datta, Reina
 Diez, Sofia Alexandra
 Dixon, Robin
 Donohue, Sophie
 Dougherty, Hailey
 Dunwoody, Katherine
 Duong, Trung

Last, First

Eagen, Alison
 Eldridge, Savannah
 Eslami, Kasra
 Evans, Thomas
 Fagan, Connor
 Fama, Catherine
 Fleckenstein, Christina
 Fontaine, Julia
 Fontaine, William
 Garrett, Brennan
 Good, Dale
 Goodiel, Elizabeth
 Goodiel, Sarah
 Goodin, John
 Gregor, Matthew
 Gribble, Acadia
 Hamlin, Laura
 Hanratty, Monica
 Haque, Taseen
 Hartin, Gavin
 Harvey, Paige
 Heijst, Ellis
 Heier, Sarah
 Hemmig, Savannah
 Hemrich, Kirsten
 Henne, Brooks
 Hierholzer, Joel
 Hierholzer, Thomas
 Hildreth, Clarke
 Hippe, Kenneth
 Hirsch, Jessica
 Hite, Preston
 Holcomb, Neil
 Hollingsworth, Margaret
 Hu, Janet
 Hughes, Danielle
 Hughes, Elisabeth
 Humphries, Thomas
 Imtiaz, Omar
 Islam, Ornella
 Jacobson, Susanna
 Jain, Shinar
 James, Clayton
 Johnson, Ian

Last, First

Jordan, Anna
 Juliana, Kathryn
 Justin, Julin
 Kang, Hannah
 Kao, Edward
 Kassabian, Ani
 Kendall, Austin
 Kessler, Emily
 Khaldieh, Rami
 Khuram, Abdul
 Kurtzman, Robert
 Larsen, Monica
 Lawhorn, Carter
 LeBlanc, Michele
 Lee, Allen
 Lee, Timothy
 Lemieux, Samantha
 Levy, Dana
 Li, Daniel
 Liddell, Daniel
 Lindsay, Flora
 Livingston, Matthew
 Lopez, Thomas
 MacLean, Casey
 Mahony, Julia
 Malc, Jessica
 Marquis, Victoria
 Marshall, Jeremy
 McCleskey, Lacy
 McCullen, Kailey
 McRoberts, Meagan
 McTaggart, Elizabeth
 Mehta, Ajay
 Merten, Laura
 Metzendorf, Mikaela
 Miller, Catherine
 Minor, Alexandra
 Miska, Robert
 Moens, Elizabeth
 Moody, Brandon
 Mun, Alexander
 Munshi, Nirali
 Mustain, Brooke
 Narayan, Aditya

Last, First

Nguyen, Denny
 Noori, Neda
 Oh, Shin Yeol
 Palmucci, Danielle
 Park, Daniel
 Park, Erik
 Parker-Kepchar, Hayes
 Pearson, Rachel
 Peterkin, Olivia
 Peters, Alana
 Petrakes, William
 Pfeiff, Andrew
 Phan, Briana
 Phung, Connie
 Pickett, James
 Pionke, Mei
 Pohl, Evan
 Powers, Hadley
 Prosser, Jennifer
 Reed, David
 Rigo, Maryann
 Rodgers, Jia
 Ross, Matthew
 Rowley, John
 Rucker, Lars
 Rucker, William
 Rye, Rebecca
 Safferson, Benjamin
 Schlegel, Alexander
 Scoggins, Kathryn
 Seth, Pooja
 Shabti, Nadine
 Shah, Aditya
 Sharer, Grace
 Sharer, Jenna
 Singh, Rhea
 Smith, Melina
 Smith, Allison
 Smith, Danielle
 Smith, Gregory
 Sokolova, Ksenia
 Sommese, Victoria
 South, Eric
 Sperow, Ann

Last, First

Springer, Mackenzie
 Stangeby, Emily
 Stein, Samuel
 Stern, Nicholas
 Stoney, Emma
 Suh, Christopher
 Ta, Daniel
 Tate, Breana
 Townsend, Olivia
 Uitz, Bailey
 Van, Cynthia
 Veltman, Kathryn
 Votaw, Lucas
 Wagner, Grace
 Wakilpoor, Ceyer
 Wang, Evelyn
 Wang, Li-Chian
 Weisskopf, Claire
 Welham, Nicholas
 Wescoat, Ethan
 Wilkins, Tara
 Williams, Christina
 Wilson, Sheena
 Wilson, Thomas
 Wiltse, Madeline
 Wimsatt, Mary
 Winkelstein, Samuel
 Xenos, Alexander
 Xiong, Ruolin
 Yadav, Prateek
 Yaseen, Sara
 Yee, Caitlin
 Yen, Diana
 Yim, Julie
 Yoder, Grace
 Yoon, Chan Song
 Yoon, Seojun
 Yu, Charles
 Zamora, Madison
 Zhang, Tong
 Zheng, Zhiqing
 Zimney, Kristin