



OAKMONT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Fall 2013

Administration

David Uminski, Principal
Greg Smith, Assistant Principal
Brian Sargent, Dean of Students

Main Office Staff

Gin Koski, Registrar
Pegi Deshayes, Administrative Assistant
Inga Morin, Administrative Assistant

ISSUE #1: What's happening at Oakmont

In an effort to increase communication with our communities, we are publishing a quarterly newsletter designed specifically for community members without children in our school. The mission of this newsletter is to keep you informed about what our school is offering to the students and the community, what are students and faculty are accomplishing and information about upcoming events. If you would like to comment or if you have any questions about what you read in the newsletter, please contact us at duminski@awrsd.org, gsmith@awrsd.org or (978) 827-5907. Thank you.

David Uminski, Principal

Greg Smith, Assistant Principal

MCAS SUCCESS

2013 MCAS results are In! The Mass. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education released the final 2013 MCAS results last week with some good news for our school and district. The Grade 9 and 10 MCAS are a summative assessment of how our entire district performs. This success is a result of the professionalism of all of these students' teachers K-12.

In English Language Arts, **99% of our students reached the Proficient or Advanced standard**, which is 8% higher than the state average and up from 93% last year. Oakmont's Advanced and Proficient percentage has increased 9% since 2009. Perhaps more importantly, 57% of our students scored at the Advanced level, 12% higher than the state average and a 2% increase from last year's results. Our ELA results place our students in the top 10% statewide.

Eighty-nine percent of our students scored Advanced or Proficient in Math, the state average is 80%. Our Math scores are in top third in the state.

In Science and Technology, 86% of our students scored at the Advanced or Proficient level, which ranks in the top 25% in the state. It also tops the state average by 15%. Since 2009 the number of Oakmont students scoring at Advanced and Proficient has improved by 13%.

We're extremely pleased with this year's MCAS scores which confirm a few important realities about our school. The results show that our students work hard, take their studies seriously, and achieve at high levels when compared to their peers statewide. They show that our district's elementary, middle and high school teachers are skilled, dedicated, and effective. Finally these scores show that our parents and communities are supportive and place a high value on the education of our young adults.

We congratulate the student and parents of the Class of 2015 for their MCAS achievement, but all of us in the Oakmont family have a lot of which to be proud.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 26	Student Council Haunted House	TBA	ORHS
October 29	Ashburnham Special Town Mtg	7:00 pm	Alumni Auditorium
November 7	Oakmont Fall Concert	7:00 pm	Alumni Auditorium
November 28	Thanksgiving Day Football	10:00 am	Hurd Field
December 19	Oakmont Holiday Concert	7:00 pm	Alumni Auditorium

SAVE THESE DATES!

April 5
Community Benefit Hockey Game

April 10-12
Spring Musical
"Kiss Me Kate"

May 2
Evening with the Arts

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

oak.awrsd.org

www.awrsd.org

www.facebook.com/ashburnhamwestminster

www.mwlma.org

www.marchingspartans.net

TEACHERS KEEP BUSY!

The notion that teachers have the summer off is inaccurate in our school district. This summer Oakmont teachers participated in a number of professional development workshops, conferences and graduate courses: AP Biology Certification, Harvard Forrest Pilot Program, Mass. Assoc. for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Clinic, Bigger Faster Stronger Certification, Modern Arabic Fiction, Playwriting, The Arabian Nights and the Art of Story Telling, Scholarly Writing in the Humanities, Teaching Technology, Discipline with Dignity, Teaching Climate Change through the Media, NEEDS Energy Course, Standards for Math Practice, Managing and Changing Difficult Behavior, Non-fiction in the Classroom, Issues in Professional Practice, Cultural Competency in Counseling, LGBT Training, Strategies in Facilitating Cooperative Learning, Chinese Culture Content in STEM, Fiction of Relationship, MAST Conference, Curriculum Mapping, and BioEthics Course. Two of our teachers were presenters at professional conferences: Business Education teacher, Wendy LeBlanc presented at the national Financial Literacy and Economic Education Conference and our Librarian, Jeff Aubuchon presented at the NH School Library Association Conference. Mr. Aubuchon also published an article in Knowledge Quest Magazine entitled "21st Century Thinking at the Local Level." Dr. Hart annually corrects AP History exams for the College Board.

As a district, all of our teachers devote a vast number of hours to further their professional practice. The AWTA polled its members: 81 k-12 teachers responded.

- 3,862 hours of PD workshops, grad courses, Common Core alignment, creating new curriculum
- 880 hours packing, unpacking, cleaning, setting up classrooms
- 225 hours on curriculum mapping
- 480 hours teaching summer school

We are fortunate to have this group of professionals serving our children and community.

READ OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AT:

oak.awrsd.org

Summer Reading Day



We celebrated our ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK summer reading initiative on Thursday, September 19, 2013- "Talk Like a Pirate Day." Students and staff read Robert Louis Stevenson's classic, *Treasure Island* this summer. A day of adventure was planned for students that included treasure hunting, code deciphering, map making and costumes.

Many students dressed like a character from the book or a pirate. After taking a short quiz on the reading. (Two-thirds of our students scored 60% or better on the quiz, of all Oakmont students, 38% scored 80% or above on the quiz, earning coveted bonus points.) Two Students from each homeroom were chosen as treasure hunters, the criteria were that they needed to be in costume, passed the quiz and had a signed parent permission slip. They then started the hunt with the help of their classmates. As they followed the treasure map, they encountered clues embedded in QR Codes. They texted or emailed the code back to their homeroom where the students scanned the code revealing a clue in the form of a question related to the book. Each of the school's eleven departments submitted four questions that connected their content area to a theme of *Treasure Island*. Different questions were designed for Seniors, Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen. The answer was sent back to the treasure hunters and they received the directions to their next clue location. The first homerooms from each grade to successfully complete the map receive their "treasure." (Winning homerooms listed on the next page.)

Students in their homerooms were also very active. They tracked the path of their hunters, scanned QR Codes, researched answers to the clue questions, created murals and played a call-in Treasure Island trivia contest. The event was filmed and broadcast by AWCATV. The day concluded with a school wide closing ceremony in our new gym, at that time prizes were given for the treasure hunt, trivia contest, and best costumes.

The ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK Summer Reading Program is an important part of a student's experience at Oakmont Regional High School. The day's activities were designed to promote a love of reading and a sense of community. The activities added an element of fun and adventure that reinforced the importance of reading. It included creativity, problem-solving, and the use of technology that engaged nearly all of our 680 students, and showcased the commitment to excellence the school, community and parents have for our students. It was an embodiment of our Core Values: Communication, Self-Direction, Problem Solving, Responsibility, and Respect.



Help our school this year by shopping at Price Chopper! Each time you shop and scan your AdvantEdge card, we earn points towards **FREE** educational equipment and supplies! If you have not registered your AdvantEdge Card to support our school, you can do so at any Price Chopper Customer Service Desk or by visiting www.pricechopper.com. Each time you shop, our school earns points towards FREE equipment and supplies!

OAKMONT ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

rSchoolToday

www.mwlma.org
click on Oakmont

ALUMNI PAGE

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

A bulletin board has been placed in the main lobby to be used to promote the business ventures of Oakmont Alumni.

Alumni, who are business owners or service providers, are encouraged to provide a business card, pamphlet or notice promoting their business.

Parents and community members will be encouraged to refer to the bulletin board when in the market for goods or services that could be provided by Oakmont Alumni.

Please bring your posting along with your name and date of graduation,

- to the main office,
- send your posting, to:
David Uinski
Principal
Oakmont Regional High School
9 Oakmont Drive
Ashburnham, MA 01430
- Or email to duminski@awrsd.org

There is no cost for this service.

OAKMONT IN 1961



Nickname was the Chipmunks

Lunch-25 cents

School Day- 8:10 am-2:44 pm

Dress Code

Boys: Suit coats between Nov. – April

Shirts and ties required

No “dungerees”

No long sideburns or “ducktail cuts”

No cowboy or engineer boots

Girls: No slacks or shorts

Students were not allowed to drive to school



REUNION TOUR

Members of Oakmont’s first graduating classes (1961-68) held a reunion over Columbus Day weekend. One of the events was a tour of their old school, much different today than in the 1960s. During their time here the library was located in the current guidance department and the 1970 additions (400 wing, small gym) and 2004 renovations were not yet complete.

The group was appreciative and were impressed by the classroom space and examples of student work they saw during their tour.



THE ALUMNI WALKWAY

at Oakmont Regional High School is a wonderful way to keep both spirit and tradition alive while supporting the Oakmont Booster Club Athletic Foundation. The brick will be placed on the walkway leading to the Arthur Hurd Field.

A commemorative brick is available for purchase for any member of our high school family. The cost is \$100 for a 4X8 brick or \$225 for an 8X8 brick. A gift card is also available with each brick.

The Order Form is at the end of this newsletter and on-line at www.oak.awrsd.org. Be sure your engraving information is legible and that it fits the spaces provided.

Save \$20 or \$40 when you buy a Brick for a Graduating Senior

Checks should be made payable to *Oakmont Booster Club* and mailed to:

Oakmont Booster Club

P.O. Box 239

Westminster, MA 01473

For more information call 978-827-5040



OAKMONT

BOOSTER CLUB
ATHLETIC
FOUNDATION

ALUMNI WALKWAY



Commemorative Brick Order Form

Save \$20 or \$40 when you buy a Brick for a Graduating Senior

Your name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Please fill out this form completely. Be sure your engraving information is legible and that it fits the spaces provided. For more information call 978-827-5040

Brick Inscription

(Please print clearly 20 character limit per line)

Line 1																			
Line 2																			
Line 3																			
Line 4																			
Line 5																			
Line 6																			

4"x 8" Brick (3 lines) \$100.00
 8"x 8" Brick (6 lines) \$225.00
 Additional Donation (optional) \$ _____
 Total \$ _____

Checks should be made payable to *Oakmont
 Booster Club* and mailed to:
Oakmont Booster Club
P.O. Box 239
Westminster, MA 01473

Feel free to make copies of this for additional bricks.
 Oakmont Booster Club reserves the right to reject any request
 deemed inappropriate