



# COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School  
District

June 6, 2017



# Board of Education Mission & Goal

The Oyster Bay-East Norwich Board of Education is committed to maximizing the experience of each member of the OBEN learning community in a safe and secure environment and has identified goals for the 2016-17 school year including:

Enhance two-way communication with all stakeholders



# Top 5 Ways Families Want Schools to Communicate

- E-mail from the district/school
- Online parent portal
- District/school e-newsletters
- District/school website
- Telephone/voice messaging system

According to a survey conducted by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) in 2011



# E-mail from the District/School

## **How it is used:**

Used for announcements or reminders from the District or building administration.

Used to notify parents of incidents that are brief in duration and do not pose an immediate threat

## **Examples:**

- Scholarship bulletin
  
- Email regarding suspicious vehicle in area, clowns, etc.

# Online Parent Portal

2004-Parent  
Portal Pilot:  
Progress  
Reports, Report  
Card Grades, &  
Schedules

2012-High  
School Student  
Portal Launched

2015/2016-  
Progress  
Reports Added;  
6<sup>th</sup> Graders  
Login to Student  
Portal

2007-Portal  
Opened for 6<sup>th</sup>  
Grade Parents  
(Report Cards &  
Attendance)

2013-Discipline,  
Assessments, &  
Gradebook  
Added

Fall 2016- K-5  
Report Cards  
Available

# District/School e-Newsletter



Striving for Excellence in Education

Volume 11, Issue 39, 5-26-2017



## Another Oyster Bay Treasure Opens its Doors to Students

The Kindergartners of the Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School were treated to a fun day of education and exploration thanks to the Oyster Bay Railroad Museum. Education is a key focus of the museum as evidenced by the students being greeted by Mr. Bill Burke, who is a retired school principal. The children were guided by former OBEN Board of Education President, Mr. John Specce. The children earned "Junior



## OBHS Students Excel in the Language Arts

Many Oyster Bay High School Students have shown excellence in a variety of writing and language arts. OBHS Senior Isabella Pace's poem, "Gifts of Mohic" was the winner of the Martin J. Kelly Writing Contest of the Irish Culture



## Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School "Brilliant Beginnings"

Tami L. McElwee  
Principal

May/June 2017

*"Learning is like building a sandcastle. Once you have the right tools, you can build anything. You can be anything you want to be."*

Dear Roosevelt Parents:

It's hard to believe we are about to close another school year. Sunnier, warmer days are upon us... Thoughts of lemonade, sand and swimming are dancing in our heads! This is certainly a busy and eventful time of year.

This is also a time to reflect on all of the learning our students have made across the school year. We celebrate the growth and look towards the next school year with excitement!

### "Happenings" at Roosevelt:

- Although we started May off with a rainy **K Orientation**, it was a successful and fun event. Our teachers enjoyed getting to know our soon to be kindergartners!
- Our PTA supported a wonderful **Book Fair** that ended on May 5<sup>th</sup>. We are thankful to all the parent volunteers, our school librarian, Roseann Davidson and our literacy coach, Chris Bartell. What a great opportunity to purchase new books for summer reading. We hope you continue to read, read, read!
- Our kindergartners went on a memorable, educational field trip to the Oyster Bay Railroad Museum. Our students learned about the history of our local train station and even had the opportunity to go on trains at the train yard. They received "railroad tickets" and became honorary conductors!!
- Megan Finnerty, our music teacher, led our students in their grade level **Spring Concert Showcases** on May 19<sup>th</sup>. We saw how our students have grown as singers, musicians and performers.
- Our students' science boards were on display at the **Annual Science Fair** on the evening of May 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Ms. Regina D'Onio for helping our students delve into the scientific process with enthusiasm.
- On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, our School Librarian, Roseann Davidson and Literacy Coach, Chris Bartell, coordinated an **Author Visit** with Laurence Pringle. What a great experience for our students to experience a true author's perspective on writing and the creative process.
- Our Site-Based Team held our last **Mindset Principal Tea** on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We thank all the parents who attended these across the year and partnered with us in our work around fixed and growth mindset. If you are interested in a copy of the text we used titled *Mindsets for Parents: Strategies to Encourage Growth Mindsets in Kids* by Mary Cay Ricci and Margaret Lee, please call the main office. We'd be happy to share a copy.

150 West Main Street  
Oyster Bay, New York 11771

Phone: (516) 624-6571

FAX #: (516) 624-6591

## JAMES H. VERNON

Winter 2017

### From the Desk of Dr. Vacchio, Principal

Dear Vernon Families,

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** As we kick off 2017, please join Vernon in a new year's resolution to promote kindness. I would like to remind everyone to embody Dr. Wayne Dyer's quote: *"If you have to choose between being kind and being right choose kind and you will always be right."*

If you have not already done so, I invite you to join Vernon on Twitter. Rigorous, relevant learning is happening in our classrooms every day. These memorable, teachable, inspirational moments are shared with the entire Oyster Bay school community. You can follow Vernon on Twitter by clicking the link on Vernon's web page (right-hand side of page). Visit this link: <https://twitter.com/vacchiovalerie>.

Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring the **Earth Balloon** for the 3rd grade. The Earth Balloon is a 19 foot inflated model of the earth. A naturalist from BOCES led our students in discussions on our planet's oceans and continents, land features, habitats, and much, much more!

Our 4th graders just completed the classroom lessons for "eBird", a program designed and taught by naturalists from the Audubon Society to build skills in bird identification and data collection and an understanding of local birds and their migration patterns. In the spring, 4th graders will apply what they learned about bird behavior and how to identify our feathered friends when they visit Sagamore Hill to conduct fieldwork.

On Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, members of the Vernon International Club will perform in Oyster Bay High School's Talent Show and International Night. Our dancers have been practicing to perfect their dance routine for the evening performance. Please come and support our students as well as get a taste of other cultures! The curtain goes up at 7:00 pm in the Performing Arts Center.

### The 6th grade students will be taking midterms as follows:

- January 18<sup>th</sup> - Science midterm
- January 19<sup>th</sup> - Social Studies midterm
- January 20<sup>th</sup> - Math midterm
- January 23<sup>rd</sup> - Makeups for midterms

Midterm and final exams are administered to 6th graders to help them practice and prepare for what will be expected of them in 7th grade.

Counselors from the High School have been visiting 6th grade classes regularly to answer questions students may have about 7th grade. Please also note that on January 26<sup>th</sup>, the high school LOTE faculty (Languages Other Than English) will visit the classes to answer questions about foreign language options available to study in 7th grade. Each student will bring home a permission slip and we



(Continued on reverse side)



## OBHS Middle Level Newsletter



Dear Oyster Bay Students and Families,

We are almost half of the way through our third marking period and students are engaged both inside and outside of class in a dizzying array of activities! Last week our seventh graders presented their science fair projects to their teachers, friends and families. Rehearsals for the OBHS Musical are in full swing and a number of middle level students are participating. Show tickets are available online via the district's website under "quick links." March is **Make a Difference** Month for the middle level and the annual "Moustaches for Charity" event will be held before school on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Finally, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams are pleased to announce an upcoming "Baymen of the Month" award for OBHS middle level students who embody our **BAYMEN** motto: **Be respectful, Actively participate, Your Voice Matters, Make a Difference, Empathize with others, and Notice the Good.**

As always, please contact the Assistant Principal's Office at 516-624-6545 if you have any questions or by email at [jgonzales@obenschools.org](mailto:jgonzales@obenschools.org).

Sincerely,  
Ms. Lara Gonzalez  
Assistant Principal, grades 7-9

### Upcoming 7th & 8th Grade Important Dates

March 16—@6:00 p.m. Parent-Teacher Conferences  
March 24-25—OBHS Musical  
Week of March 27<sup>th</sup>—English Language Arts (ELA) exams for grades 7 & 8  
April 2—Lazerland Middle Level Fundraiser  
April 23-25—8th Grade College Trip



### Middle Level SADD

By Meghan Cox

At the Middle Level SADD meetings, we talk about destructive decisions that students should avoid. We do really fun activities. The fun activities include Open Mic Night which is where people sing, make jokes, talk, play an instrument, and eat snacks. It may include talking about avoiding drugs and alcohol but it's about decision-making in general. We meet Fridays at 2:20 p.m. in room 114.

Volume 3, Issue 3

March 8, 2017

### OBHS Musical



Fri 3/24 @7:30 pm  
Sat 3/25 @7:50 pm  
Sun 3/26 @2:00 pm

Fundraiser:  
**Be The Change**  
Pocket Phone Holders \$5





# District/School Website

During the summer of 2015, we began the transition from a GoDaddy hosted website to a SchoolWires site.

Fall 2016- Departmental websites were standardized.

OBHS Homepage



Athletics Director Homepage





# Telephone/Voice Messaging System

## How “RoboCalls” are used:

- Phone Reminders
- Notify parents that attention or action is required
- Communicate significant safety events

## Examples:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Weather-related delays and cancellations
- Lock-outs, lock-downs



# Homework

**Second Grade**  
Oyster Bay-East Norwich

Welcome to Second Grade!  
Mrs. Patti's Homework

**Monday : Please check your child's agenda daily for a modified homework assignment.**

Reading: Read for 20 minutes, log due Friday  
Math: sheet  
Spelling: Trick Words, quiz Friday  
August laugh daughter

Grammar:  
Science:  
Social Studies:  
Special Reminders: Graduation Perm. Slip

**Tuesday : Please check your child's agenda daily for a modified homework assignment.**

Reading: Read for 20 minutes, log due Friday  
Math: sheet  
Spelling: Trick Words 3x each, quiz Friday

Grammar:  
Science:  
Social Studies:  
Special Reminders: Graduation Permission Slip

Welcome To The 3rd Grade!  
Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD

Teacher Homework Pages - Flatley/Dillon

**Welcome to The Flatley/Dillon Homework Page!**  
All assignments are subject to change. Please check your child's agenda daily for the most up to date assignments.

**Monday, May 29th**  
Memorial Day! Thank you to all who have served and continue to serve our country!

**Tuesday, May 30th**  
Math: Workbook pages 247-248  
Continue practicing all your multiplication facts.  
Vocabulary: Workbook pages 154-156...due Thurs./Quiz Fri.  
Reading: Read for 30 min. and log.

**Wednesday, May 31st**  
Math: Workbook pages 249-250  
Continue practicing all your multiplication facts.  
Vocabulary: Workbook pages 154-156...due Thurs./Quiz Fri.  
Reading: Read for 30 min. and log.

Honors Living Environment  
May 2017

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19
14	May 20	May 21	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25	May 26
15	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30	May 31	Jun 1	Jun 2





# In-Person Events & Activities

## Events

- Coffee/Tea with the Principal
- Transition Meetings
  - Transition Tea- CPSE to CSE
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Transition Meeting
  - Middle Level Transition Meeting
  - Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Athletic Orientation
- Counseling Center Information Nights
- Curricular-based Events

## Committees

- District and School Safety Teams
- Site-Based Teams
- Wellness Committee
- PTA, PTSA, PTA Council and all subcommittees
- Bond Communication Committee



# Back Pack Express/Letters Mailed

- Invitations to Special Events
- Book of the Month
- Weekly Activities/Weekly Bulletin/Weekly Calendar
- Student Handbooks
- Social Emotional Letters
  - Initiatives to Support Pro-Social Behavior
  - Thirteen Reasons Why

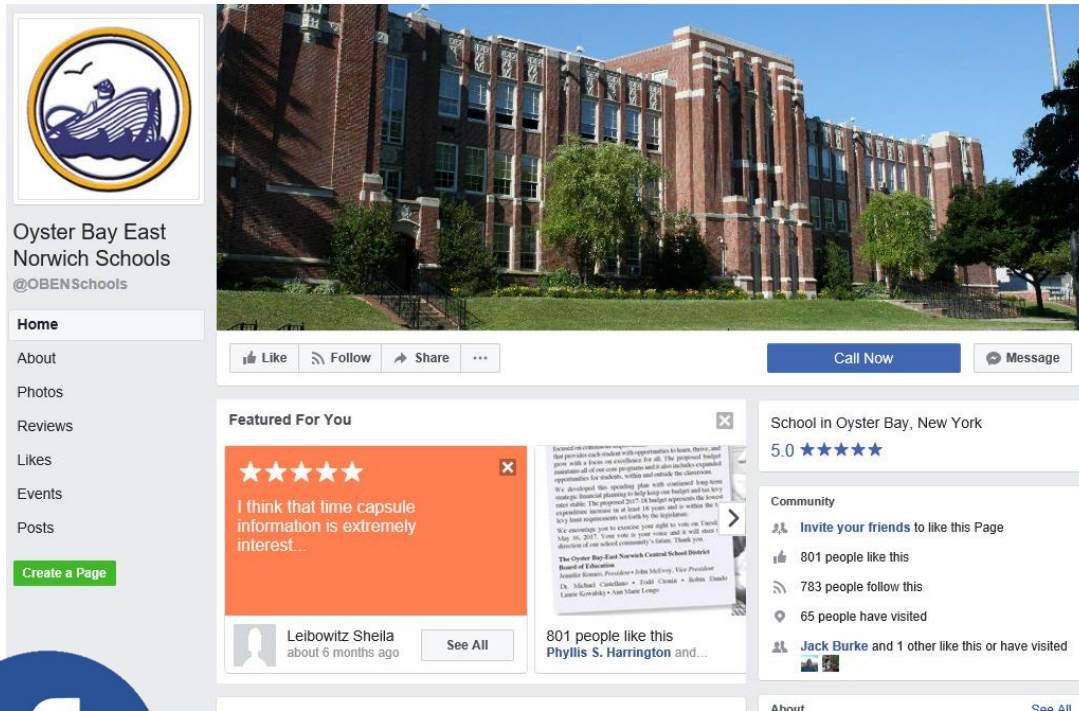
A decorative header consisting of a horizontal row of ten overlapping speech bubbles in various colors: pink, teal, orange, light blue, and yellow. The bubbles are arranged in a slightly wavy line, with some overlapping others.

# Other Strategies

- Student Participation in Monthly Videos
- Good News Calls of the Day
- Increase Translations

# Social Media- Facebook

## Our Facebook Page



Oyster Bay East Norwich Schools  
@OBENSchools

Home  
About  
Photos  
Reviews  
Likes  
Events  
Posts  
Create a Page

Like Follow Share ... Call Now Message

Featured For You

★★★★★  
I think that time capsule information is extremely interest...

Leibowitz Sheila about 6 months ago See All

801 people like this  
Phyllis S. Harrington and...

School in Oyster Bay, New York  
5.0 ★★★★★

Community  
Invite your friends to like this Page  
801 people like this  
783 people follow this  
65 people have visited  
Jack Burke and 1 other like this or have visited

## Research

- NSPRA- Social media at the bottom of parents' communication preferences
- Pew Charitable Trust-  
% of Online Adults Who Use Facebook:  
79% overall, 68% Americans
- Age 18-29= 88%
- Age 30-49= 84%
- Age 50-64= 72%
- Age 65+= 62%





# Social Media- Twitter

## Our Findings

- Administrators are using Twitter to share events as they happen.
- Research:
  - Pew Charitable Trust-
    - % of Online Adults Who Use Twitter: 24% overall, 21% Americans
    - Age 18-29= 36%
    - Age 30-49= 23%
    - Age 50-64= 21%
    - Age 65+= 10%



Valerie Vacchio, EdD  
@VacchioValerie

Vernon Leaders Club members visit Harbor House in Obay!



Ostroff  
@ObenTech

Earth Science fieldwork at Caumsett



5/16/17, 2:03 PM



Lisa Mulhall  
@mulhall\_J

Congratulations to students recognized at the Breakfast of Champions! @OBENSchools





# Other Platforms-edmodo



Abygail S. to Mrs. Hauser's Class

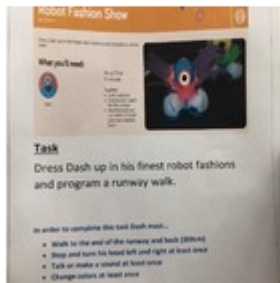
Today we have to modify our design. What happened in our last test is that the wipes container pops up, so we have to add weight by using the gram weights and it worked!!! We got Mrs. Hauser's approval and we decided to use 1,500 grams. Let's hope to meet the criteria !

We just pre-tested it and no [More...](#)



Mr. Agostini to Mr. Agostini's Second Grade Class 2016-2017, Mr. Agostini's Second Grade Class 2016-2017...

Robot Fashion Show!



May 1, 2017



Where learning happens

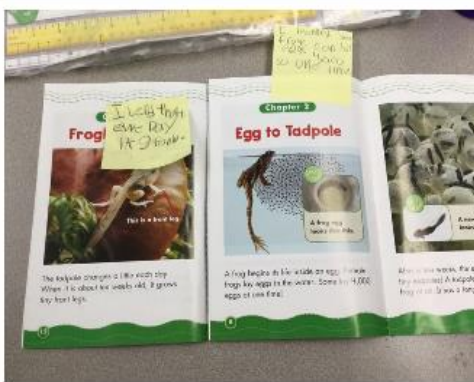
# Other Platforms- Seesaw

JP Jennifer P... 1 Class Mrs. Patti

Happy Tuesday! Today the students will be reading with their Book Clubs about life cycles. Each club will read and participate in discussion on what they are learning. Stay tuned for pictures and posts. We would like to wish Minsoo and his family good health and happiness as they journey off to Korea to visit family. We will see him in September at Vernon!

JP Jennifer P... 1 Class Mrs. Patti

Gabriella Vergara Gianluca Carleo



May 16, 2017

**Gabriella Vergara** I learned that each day the tadpole grows

**Gianluca Carleo** I learned that frogs lay eggs in the water. Some lay 4,000 eggs at one time.

JP Jennifer P... 1 Class Mrs. Patti



Seen by: Dan Bradley, Kristen Bradley May 30, 2017

♥ Jennifer Patti, Kristen Bradley

🗣 **Mosie Bradley** I learned that ladybug eggs are small and yellow.

**Dan Bradley** Caterpillars eat their eggshells? i didn't know that. Welcome ladybug babies!

**Jennifer Patti** So interesting!!

JP Jennifer P... 1 Class Mrs. Patti

May 30th

I am so proud of the work you did during this endangered animals unit! You researched an endangered animal and taught others about it using Chatter Pix. Watch the other videos posted here to learn more about endangered animals. Comment on 3 other videos. Remember to THINK when you post!

:) Mrs. D'Orio





# Moving Forward

- Streamline various media for communication
- Continue to gather feedback from families around communication preferences
- Explore new tools and expand the use of tools that are working well