

# Developing Critical Readers and Writers

Teachers in grades 3-6 have been busy implementing a new reading and writing curriculum this year. The curriculum, written by OPS staff members, was designed around our district language arts instruction philosophy to develop readers and writers to become thinkers and develop as global citizens.

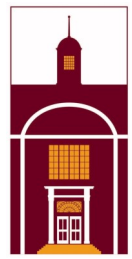
It has been exciting to see how the new units are engaging students and teachers. The new sixth grade unit entitled *Bringing History to Life* blended both reading and writing. In reading workshop, students researched different historical topics including the African American experience, influential women and the Holocaust. Then, in writing workshops, students wrote digital books in conjunction with their technology class and shared them with the school. This unit truly pushed students to be global readers and real-life writers.

One 6th grade teacher, Gina Stross, reflected on the unit by sharing, "Students loved learning about each topic, and they also enjoyed furthering their learning by choosing a person within their topic, becoming an expert on

their life and achievements, and presenting in first person point of view from their perspective of their influential person. This unit really kept students engaged, pushed them academically, and allowed them to explore history!"

This year, teacher teams from grades K-2 began rewriting their reading and writing curriculum. Teachers met throughout the year to plan out each unit and ensure that students will have a rigorous and engaging literary life in the primary grades. Some current units have been enhanced such as Kindergarten's Reading Superpowers, which helps students develop basic reading skills. Other brand-new units will include Independent Writing Projects in first grade and Expert Books on Ancient Egypt in second grade.

All of the units will take students on a literacy journey learning important skills that contribute to their lives as readers and writers in an ever-changing world. At OPS, we take our job of creating the next generation of readers and writers very seriously!



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Public  
School  
District

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# ORADELL: Eye on OPS

SPRING 2019



## Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Community Members:

Every year the month of June comes up faster than we think. The whirlwind of the last few weeks of school fills us with excitement for end-of-the-year festivities and the upcoming summer break. With the end of the year quickly approaching, I am also filled with gratitude for all we have experienced and accomplished this year. I'm grateful for our dedicated community, parents and families, volunteers, staff and teachers, and our talented students.

OPS would not be the enriching district it is without the crucial assistance of volunteers. Every day, they provide teachers and students with support for a multitude of activities. Throughout the year our PTA, and many others, have provided us with an incredible amount of volunteer service to help make OPS a great school.

Throughout this year the Police Department have also assisted us with ongoing safety and security drills and training on numerous occasions. In addition, we will also be partnering with the Oradell Police Department on the annual L.E.A.D. Graduation ceremony for our 5<sup>th</sup> graders, and on the Annual Torch Run which takes place right outside our building in June. We very much appreciate the Oradell Police Department's assistance and support.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the tremendous amount of dedication shown by our teachers, administrators, and staff. During Board of Education meetings in May and June we observed Teacher Appreciation Week. We also honored 18 staff members for continuing service to the District in increments of 5 years, including Ms. Eileen Choka who has served the District for 35 years, and who will be retiring at the end of this year, along with Elinor Romer who has completed 25 years of service, and Peter Kasturas, who has been with the District for 31 years.

Other notable honorees include: Helene Albrecht (30 years)  
Antionietta Boccanfuso (20 years) Patricia Hansen (20 years)  
Derrick Gordon (20 years) Aimee Pena (20 years)

In addition, we also recognized our Governor's Teacher of the Year Award winner, Ms. Rosemary Cataldo. In my opinion all of our staff are worthy of awards every day.

If you're looking towards the summer, there are several opportunities for students to continue learning beyond the school year. In addition to the several camps and activities running in our area, Oradell Public School will once again offer its Schaeffer Explorations Summer program this year. It is open to all students entering Grades K-6. For more information please visit our website.

I am looking forward to many of the end-of-year events and performances, especially our 6th grade graduation ceremony. As June approaches, I want to wish all of our Oradell School District families and staff members a great last few weeks of school and a relaxing, enjoyable summer.

John C. Anzul, Ed. D.  
Superintendent

## Budget Goals and Information

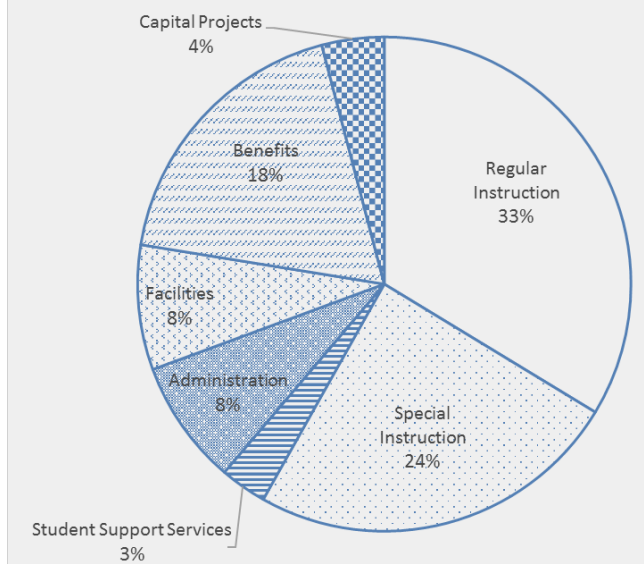
**Finance** – To continue to develop a fiscally responsible budget that accounts for all contractual obligations and fixed costs and maintains class size all in an effort to meet the needs of all stakeholders and continues to deliver creative educational experiences for the students

**Training** – To continue to increase professional development and curriculum writing so that all teachers are properly trained to deliver up to date curriculum to the students

**Technology** – To continue the District's technology plan to ensure its effective use in the classroom to increase student achievement

**Facilities** – To continue to develop realistic multi-year maintenance and capital budgets to ensure the students are learning in a safe and healthy environment

How are the Funds Spent?



	ESTIMATED				Annual Increase
	School Assessment	School Tax	School Assessment	School Tax	
	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20	2019-20
	\$ 300,000	\$2,160	\$ 305,000	\$2,231	\$ 46
	\$ 400,000	\$2,880	\$ 405,000	\$2,963	\$ 53
	\$ 500,000	\$3,600	\$ 505,000	\$3,695	\$ 62
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$ 545,894</b>	<b>\$3,931</b>	<b>\$ 549,563</b>	<b>\$4,021</b>	<b>\$ 69</b>
	\$ 600,000	\$4,321	\$605,000	\$4,426	\$ 77
	\$ 700,000	\$5,041	\$705,000	\$5,158	\$ 114
	\$ 900,000	\$6,481	\$905,000	\$6,621	\$ 152
	\$1,000,000	\$7,201	\$1,005,000	\$7,353	\$ 225



# Oradell Board of Education



Pictured from left to right: Nancy Shapiro, Katherine Norian, Robin Levy, Dorothy Watson-Nichols (President), Rita Walker, Gregory Derian (Vice President), John Walsh, Jeremy Griffin, Dr. Eugene Westlake, Dr. John C. Anzul (Superintendent)

## Did You Know...?

- Each year as part of the final year at OPS, our 6th graders participate in Give Back Activities. This year, they sang holiday songs at a local nursing home, made holiday cards for veterans, helped beautify their community and hosted a "Rise Against Hunger" food packaging event. Students packed, weighted, sealed and boxed over 10,000 food packages to be shipped internationally.
- The Oradell PTA continues to be the largest (and we believe) strongest PTA in the state! They work in a seamless partnership with the school, contributing daily by helping with lunches, sponsoring assemblies, facilitating fundraising efforts and service projects and organizing large school-wide events like the annual OPS Science Fair and biennial Talent Show. Every student at OPS benefits from their efforts!

- The OPS school counselor does not just counsel individual students, she also develops schoolwide programs around important themes and mental health topics such as gratitude, risk-taking, acceptance and stress management. She has also launched a new webpage with many ideas for families that can be found on the front page of the OPS website under "Counselor's Corner."
- Coding continues to be part of technology instruction at OPS. Students in Kindergarten through 6th grade participated in *Hour of Code* in December. Many students continued to explore the *Hour of Code* website with many students finishing multiple 20 hour courses. Additionally, we have a group of 5th and 6th grader who have been working with a high school student to learn more about programming. They accepted the challenge to work within the Greenfoot programming application which is often used in 9th grade!

## Giving Back



This past February, during her winter break, 5th grade teacher Jennifer Powers, went on a home build with an organization called *Homes of Hope* in Ensenada, Mexico. They built a two bedroom ranch home for a family. It was made on a concrete slab and it provided a roof over their heads. The change from a house constructed in mud to one built on concrete was life changing for the family. The mother and three sons worked right alongside everyone from the organization, making the experience even more special for Ms. Powers and the family.

Ms. Powers says "The best part of the trip for me was when we went shopping with the family and we got them all of the household items. We also bought each boy a bike as well. Every child deserves a bike growing up!"



Pictured above are 6th graders packaging food for their "Rise Against Hunger" event. They raised close to \$4000 during all of their give back events.

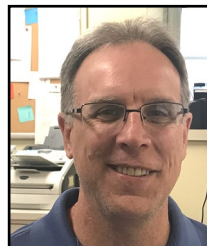
## Thank You for your Decades of Service to the Children of Oradell



**Elinor Romer** has been a fourth grade teacher at OPS for the last 25 years. She says that OPS prides itself on protecting the children and implementing procedures to keep the staff and children safe in the event of an emergency, especially recently. As to the children's basic needs, they have not changed over the decades. They want to feel secure, loved, respected and they want to learn new things. Her wish for her legacy "is that all the children whose lives I have touched felt that they were important to me. That they came to school excited to learn and that their successes were my successes. Teach from the heart."



**Eileen Choka** has been a teacher at OPS for 35 years. One of the most significant changes she has experienced has been the expansion of the building which included a brand new gymnasium. Significant events during her time at OPS include school-wide activities such as Field Day, Jump Rope For Heart and Turkey Trot, bringing school and home together for fun and fundraising. She has truly enjoyed sharing her love of play with her students, helping each one discover their interests at any level of ability, encouraging them to remain active throughout their lives.



**Peter Kasturas** came to OPS in 1988 and taught two years in third grade and 29 in the upper grades. He has created and led numerous activities through the years. To name a few: HoOPS, which also doubled as a vehicle for helping worthy causes, the Geography Bee, the Giveback Program, the Safety Patrol, the Seattle Study Skills Club, 6K's AAA Nature Club, and the Graduation Video. Many of those programs are still running today. With colleagues, he brought the O.P.S. Award, the Spring Fling, Family Math, the Science Expo, MVP Day, and Camp Bernie to OPS. With Ms. Maklin, he created an award-winning team building program and also organized and emceed the awards assembly for many years. He has deejayed or done sound for more events than he can remember and enjoyed emceeding and performing at the school talent shows. "I truly love the science *and* the art of teaching and have honestly never had a dull day on the job. It's always been about the kids. Seeing kids improve right before your eyes is thrilling. Enthusiasm is contagious, and I still have so much left to give...and I will!"

## Spotlight on Students



Congratulations to Ms. Pizza's 3rd graders who participated in the "Arcademics Cup", a worldwide online competition through the website Arcademics.com. The website provides arcade themed challenges to students across all content areas where students compete against other students across the country. Our 3rd graders worked together and placed 6th overall. With hundreds of thousands of games played and millions of problems answered this was truly an amazing accomplishment!



From October to May the Oradell Police Department taught valuable lessons to our 5th graders during the LEAD program. The students received lessons on the abuse of marijuana, alcohol and tobacco. They also talked about making good choices and refusing negative peer pressure. The students be-

came friendly with the LEAD officers who participated: Rich Ligouri, Joe Maddolin, Brennen Page and Glenn Zeszotarski. Pictured are 5th grade teachers with officers at the annual LEAD graduation.



This is OPS's seventh trip to *Odyssey of the Mind* world finals! *Odyssey of the Mind* is a creative problem solving program. Over the past six years, our teams have placed in the top ten in their respective problems and divisions and has placed second in the world twice!



Congratulations to 4th grader Henry Wacks, a member of the new spelling bee club, which met during the fall on Tuesdays after school. Henry won the School Bee and advanced to North Jersey Spelling Bee where he placed 65th out of 100 of the best spellers in NJ.