



Reach

Vol. IV - Issue I

January, 2011

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Quality Learning for Every Student, Every Day!



Welcome from the Superintendent - Daveda J. Colbert, Ph.D.



Oak Park Family:
Wednesday, December 1, 2010 was the start of a new chapter for all of us. With great pleasure, I acknowledge my arrival to the Oak Park School District and show my appreciation for your support during the superintendent search process. As a resident, I am honored to serve as a leader in the community, and pledge to provide servant leadership of the highest regard. With a committed agenda, we can and will serve as the model for school districts providing quality educational opportunities for all students. Our students deserve the best, therefore, we will move forward future-focused and results driven!

Parent and community engagement is vital to the success of the district. I am asking all parents, alumni, residents, and business and community members to ensure the success of all Oak Park students. Our students are in need of your support, and I am requesting your assistance in areas of most comfort to you. For example, our students need volunteer readers and tutors, mentors, partnerships for community service projects, internship and shadowing opportunities, and summer and cooperative learning (employment) opportunities, just to name a few. I look forward to all stakeholders partnering with the District to provide the wraparound services our students deserve. The expectation is to increase parent and community engagement. As stakeholders, your input is appreciated and valued; therefore, I anticipate and welcome your engagement. I encourage and invite all parents and community to join in the quest to move Oak Park School District from “good” to “great.”

Currently, Oak Park School District is faced with budget woes, but clearly this is something that can be fixed over time with faith, a plan of action, and stakeholders working together with a defined

purpose. We must work smarter, not harder, to get the results intended. Our budget woes can’t hinder us from the value we place on academic achievement. We must remain committed to increasing student academic performance. I stand ready for the challenge and ask your support as we make bold decisions in the best interest of all students!

I invite and welcome all resident families to return home. Oak Park is the place to be! Great things are happening throughout the district. Please visit our schools! Open Enrollment Fairs are scheduled for Monday, January 17, 2011 and Wednesday, January 19, 2011. An announcement about the fairs is included in this publication.

You’re also encouraged to attend the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Day Celebration, Monday, January 17, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Oak Park High School, 13701 Oak Park Blvd, Oak Park, Michigan, 48237. Join us as we celebrate the life of the prominent leader who brought hope and healing to America.

Please look forward to new exciting initiatives throughout the district, which include a new career focused diploma program, Oak Park Alternative Educational Center for students ages 16 - 19, opening January 2011, housed in the former Lessenger Elementary School. Visit the school during the open enrollment fair to explore the exciting program offerings. Details highlighting the program have been inserted in this publication.

Again, this is a new chapter for the Oak Park School District and your input and support is encouraged! Together, we will serve as a world class school district providing quality teaching and learning for all students. REACH will continue to convey the message of academic excellence, current events, district initiatives, news and information for students, staff, residents, and business and community members. Also, peruse the website for a closer look at Oak Park School District.

My door is always open. Feel free to visit, call, or email me at your convenience.

Oak Park School District
BOARD OF EDUCATION



Maxine Gutfreund
Vice President



Terrence R. West, Sr.
Treasurer



Misty Patterson
Secretary



Menachem Hojda
Trustee

Greetings,

To all Residents and Stakeholders, thank you for being a part of the Oak Park School District.

Our District, just as many across the State and the Nation, have been faced with very challenging times; the most profound of course is the deficit. The members of the Board of Education have a renewed focus and commitment to provide a safe and healthy environment and the best quality education for every student enrolled in the Oak Park School District. We continue to work aggressively with our Administrative Team to eliminate our deficit.

Although we've had many challenges, there's been many positive changes in our District over the past two years. We are now a diverse school board, making decisions in the best interest of our students. We have reconfigured all of our schools within the District, adding an academy concept of education and a strict disciplinary academy for 8 to 15 year old students which is much needed in this region.

Please take a brief journey with me to reflect on the progress of the Oak Park School District as you knew it, no matter how long ago. If you take this journey now, you will be allowed to discard all the negative, if you choose, and only focus on the positive. Both the positive and the negative, in the past and the present has and always will define who we are as a District. Therefore, our job is to find those positive proactive ways to move the District forward, just as was done in the past.

In addition to the hard working and dedicated staff the District already had, on December 1st, we added the key piece to the Administration



Marie Reynolds
President

that we feel will be able to guide us through the maze we seem to have been trapped in for some years.

After a very intense search by MASB, several rounds of

interviews with the Board of Education and diligent site visits by Board Members, Staff and most importantly Members of the Community, the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Daveda J. Colbert as the next Superintendent of the Oak Park School District.

Dr. Colbert has stated and her actions are proving that she truly does have an open door policy. If you haven't had a chance to meet her, please do so very soon.

Finally, Oak Park School District is a work in progress and we have a long way to go. We'd love to have all of you make the journey with us. Members of the Board of Education are always open and welcome your comments and input to help us move the district ahead.

Afterall, "WE ARE A REFLECTION OF THE WHOLE AND THEREFORE A REFLECTION OF YOU."

Marie Reynolds
President



Cynthia Rice
Trustee



Rochelle Ward
Trustee



OPEN ENROLLMENT / DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. EVENT

Daveda J. Colbert, Ph.D., Superintendent (248) 336-7705



OPEN ENROLLMENT FAIR

Schools of Choice Welcome!
Enroll NOW for 2nd Semester

MLK Day Celebration January 17th, 2011 10am -12pm

Come see our annual tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., featuring student art, essays, music, & much more!

You'll also learn about the numerous educational programs the Oak Park School District has to offer. Information on all schools will be available!

Please visit our website for more details
www.oakparkschools.org



District Wide Open House January 19th, 2011 - 6pm to 8pm

See the Oak Park Advantage for yourself! Visit any one of our schools; meet staff, see classrooms, and discover our educational programs.

Oak Park High School **Oak Park Preparatory Academy**
Grades 10-12 **Grades 7-9**
13701 Oak Park Blvd. 23261 Scotia
Oak Park, MI 48237 Oak Park, MI 48237

Oak Park Alternative Education Center: Lessenger Campus
12901 Albany (Ages 16-19) Call: 248-802-8501
Oak Park, MI 48237

Kindergarten Round - Up January 19th, 2011 - 5pm to 7pm

Pepper	Key	Einstein
Grades K-6	Grades K-6	Grades K-6
24301 Church	23400 Jerome	14001 North End
Oak Park, MI 48237	Oak Park, MI 48237	Oak Park, MI 48237

Quality Learning for Every Student, Every Day!

OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES

Angela Smith, Student Services Coordinator, (248) 336-7708



The Oak Park School District Welcomes YOU!

K-12 Open Enrollment
Open Second Semester

Schools of Choice Welcome!

Classes Begin
Monday, January 24, 2011

Applications will be
accepted through January 2011

Return to:
Oak Park School District
Administration Building
13900 Granzon
Oak Park, MI 48237

The Office of Student Services welcomes parents and students to the Oak Park School District. We invite you to call anytime to discuss the overall application process as it pertains to enrollment and free or reduced lunch. Approval for enrollment is based on valid documentation; i.e., parent representation and identification, last report card, up-to-date immunization record, IEP (when applicable) and for non-residents, a positive behavior report.

Additionally, approval for transfer within the District is based upon seats available at a particular school. Interested parties should call (248) 336-7708 for more information. Please visit our website at www.oakparkschools.org to read all about the requirements and print an application. For further questions, you may also call Mrs. Angela Smith at (248) 336-7708.

"We are offering learning opportunities that prepare students for the 21st century, and we look forward to hearing from you!"

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH

Approval for free and reduced lunch is based on eligibility as it pertains to the number of household members and the applicant's income status. Please note, if you have been denied free or reduced lunch for any reason, feel free to reapply at anytime; especially if your income status changes. Moreover, parents are encouraged to complete the free and reduced lunch application even if they do not qualify in order to attain funding for after school programs where criteria for eligibility is based on the number of completed applications.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PARENT CONNECT

You may stay informed as to your child's academic progress, and/or attendance by viewing the Parent Connect feature offered on our district website, (www.oakparkschools.org). The assignments are updated regularly by teachers, making it a very quick and convenient way to monitor your child's success. Please feel free to call Mrs. Smith at (248) 336-7708 or email asmith@oakparkschools.org to obtain your pin number and password, or if you need additional information.

Office of Specialized Student Services

Jerry K. Oermann, Ph.D., Director, 248-336-7673

It is our goal to ensure that we are providing quality educational services to all of the students of the Oak Park School District. Students who experience physical, mental, or emotional difficulties can often benefit from professional support at an early age, in order to be adequately prepared to meet the demands of school when it is time for them to attend. If you, your physician, or some other professional suspect that your child is experiencing unusual difficulty with regard to their early development, please contact our office. We will arrange for a phone interview with one of our professionals to gather preliminary data. If it is determined that a direct evaluation of your child needs to be conducted, we will arrange a time and place for this, to gather additional information regarding your child's unique needs. Finally, our team will work with you to either provide appropriate educational services, or to assist you in finding other professional resources to assist you and your child.

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

Schools and Administration Offices

<p>ADMINISTRATION BUILDING(248) 336 -7700 Fax (248) 336-7738</p> <p>OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT(248) 336 -7705 Fax (248) 336-7778</p> <p>OFFICE OF CURRICULUM (248) 336 -7710 Fax (248) 336-7738</p> <p>OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES(248) 336 -7703 Fax (248) 336-7738</p> <p>OFFICE OF BUSINESS AND FINANCE(248) 336 -7715 Fax (248) 336-7738</p> <p>OFFICE OF SPEC. STUDENT SERVICES(248) 336 -7673 Fax (248) 336-7781</p> <p>OFFICE OF TITLE ONE(248) 336 -7713 Fax (248) 336-7781</p> <p>OFFICE OF PROJECT 21(248) 336 -7711 Fax (248) 336-7738</p> <p>OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES/REG.(248) 336 -7708 Fax (248) 336-7738</p> <p>OFFICE OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE(248) 336 -7725 Fax (248) 336-7738</p> <p>OFFICE OF PAYROLL(248) 336 -7720 Fax (248) 336-7738</p>	<p>TECHNOLOGY SERVICES(248) 336 -7668 Fax (248) 336-7781</p> <p>EINSTEIN ELEMENTARY(248) 336 -7640 Fax (248) 967-1209</p> <p>KEY ELEMENTARY(248) 336 -7610 Fax (248) 336-7618</p> <p>PEPPER ELEMENTARY(248) 336 -7680 Fax (248) 967-0340</p> <p>OAK PARK PREPARATORY ACADEMY(248) 336 -7620 Fax (248) 336-7638</p> <p>MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELING(248) 336 -7630 Fax (248) 336-7638</p> <p>OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL(248) 336 -7740 Fax (248) 291-6724</p> <p>OAK PARK ALTERNATIVE EDUC. CENTER(248) 802-8501 Fax (248) 336-7658</p> <p>HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING(248) 336 -7748 Fax (248) 336-7758</p> <p>FIRST STUDENT TRANSPORTATION.....(248) 336 -7601 Fax (248) 336-7781</p> <p>GCA - MAINTENANCE.....(248) 336 -7603 Fax (248) 336-7781</p>
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REFUGEE AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING - Hana Bahooora - (248) 336-7620 ext. 2545

In the last two years, the Oak Park School District experienced an influx number of Iraqi refugee students. The Iraqi students and their families have been forced to leave behind their homes, belongings, and country running towards safety and stability.

There are approximately 35-40 Iraqi refugee students in the “Refugee Academic Program” who have experienced severe trauma and grief from leaving their home country, Iraq, witnessing violence, and losing family members or friends. Most of the refugee students have no formal systematic education; have missed many years of schooling; and /or have seen a significant gap in their educational process. Some are illiterate in their own language; which make it impossible to transfer knowledge, since they have not previously learned the required knowledge. Others have not attended school for many years because of the war in Iraq. Thus, they are in need of a rigorous teaching during school, and after school hours. Therefore, the Oak Park School District applied for a grant that is sponsored by Oakland Schools to establish the after school Refugee Academy Program. In addition to many services that have been coordinated through ACC (Arab Chaldean Council).

The purpose of the grant is to strengthen the refugee’s student’s ability to become proficient in English language

skills, and support them in creating a safe environment for better learning, and help them improve their health and mental health concerns.

ESL teacher, social worker, and Bilingual Paraprofessionals from the Oak Park schools provide one-on-one academic support to the refugee students, and assist them to develop better adjustment skills in the new environment. In addition, the program is helping the refugee students and their families to adjust to the American Society, life style, while incorporating multicultural awareness/ survival skills, themes, and academic activities.



In conclusion, the Refugee Academic Program provides the refugee students with tools to integrate and adjust socially and emotionally at school, in the community and at home.

CURRICULUM AND TITLE PROGRAMS

Stan Trompeter, Executive Director, (248) 336-7710

Mission Statement: *Quality Learning for Every Student, Every Day!*

1. Oak Park High School

Exciting New Academies - Helping students decide which career pathway they want to pursue in connection with:

- ◆ Grade Level Content Expectations
- ◆ Course Expectations and Benchmarks from the Michigan Curriculum Framework
- ◆ Academy of Math, Science & Engineering
- ◆ Academy of Visual, Performing & Applied Arts
- ◆ Gifted & Talented Honors Academy
- ◆ Academy of Law, Business & Government
- ◆ Academy of Communications, Media & Technology
- ◆ Academy of Health, Sciences & Agriculture

2. Co-Teaching Initiative - Teams of Teachers at OPPA & OPHS General Education & Special Education Working Together to provide a quality education for all children.

3. New English & Math K-12 Teams of Teachers working together to write new Units of Instruction.

4. New Classroom Libraries of Grade Level Books at all Elementary Schools

5. Using Readers, Writers, & Math Workshops Concept to have students work in small learning groups and choose their own curriculum books on a particular subject.

6. New Online Programs:

- A. E2020 for Credit Retrieval and Enrichment
- B. Fast Forward Reading & Math Program
- C. Online Research Facility at OPHS
- D. New District Tech Plan - Having Students use Computer Labs to enhance curriculum using software & programs.

Please visit our website for information on our district testing calendar, Professional Development Calendar, our New High School Improvement Grant, our New NOVA Academy (Alternative School for 8-15 Year Olds, opening September, 2011), our New career-focused Alternative Education Center, diploma program for 16-19 year olds, opening January, 2011 and our Personal Curriculum Guide and New Core Standards.

TITLE I

Title I is a federal program that provides financial assistance to school districts to meet the needs of students experiencing challenges in their education. The goal of Title I is to provide extra instructional services and activities which support students identified as failing or most at risk of meeting the state's performance standards in mathematics, reading, and writing. Title I provides support for programs that meet the individual needs of all children, families and staff. Title I program promotes the belief that all children can learn and acknowledges that parents share the schools' commitment to educational success for all students. We recognize that a student's education is a responsibility shared by school, family, and community.



All of the elementary schools as well as Oak Park Preparatory Academy have School wide Title I programs that service all the students at the school. Each of the schools has designed its own program based on the unique needs of students at that school and coordinates it with their School Improvement Plan. Examples of services provided at the schools are:

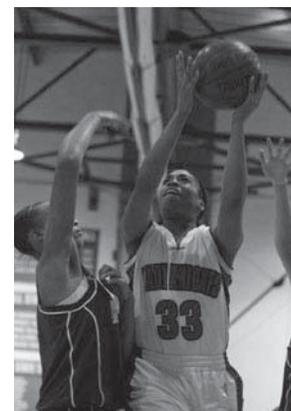
- ◆ Additional teachers and aides
- ◆ Extra time for teaching Title I students the skills they need
- ◆ Supplemental teaching methods and strategies
- ◆ Additional teaching materials which supplement a student's regular instruction
- ◆ Parent meetings to support parents with skills and techniques to reinforce their child's education at home.

The full time Title I teachers in the district are listed below:

- ◆ Einstein Elementary: Robert Graham
- ◆ Key Elementary: Gerisha Toler
- ◆ Pepper Elementary: Renea Dalloo
- ◆ Oak Park Preparatory Aca.: Yvonne Hammond Taylor
- ◆ Oak Park School District: Ann Rea Kopy

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Gregory Church, OPHS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, 248- 336-7740



ATHLETICS MISSION / VISION

The mission of the athletics program ultimately is “to engage the mind, to elevate the spirit, and stimulate the best effort of all who are associated with the athletic program.”

The mission of the OPHS’s athletic department is to provide an athletic program that helps develop the whole person through education and competition, to stimulate a lasting attitude of discipline, sportsmanship, integrity, leadership, and social responsibility, to promote ethnic and cultural diversity within athletic programs, to ensure equal opportunity for all staff and student-athletes, and to make the athletic program an enduring source of pride for the student population, student-athletes, alumni, and community.

The vision of the OPHS’s athletic department is to provide student-athletes an environment that promotes and supports academic, athletic and personal achievement, to field athletic teams to perform at competitive levels in conference competition, to utilize highly qualified coaches, dedicated support staff, and administrative personnel to help individuals become better students, athletes, and citizens, and to prepare student-athletes to make transitions to the next level of participation academically and athletically.

OPHS CLUB ORGANIZATION NETWORK 2010-2011

CLUB/ORGANIZATION	SPONSOR
Book Club/Rdg. Coordinator	Kelli Temple
Business Professionals of America (BPA)	Bertha Hayes
Music Choral Festivals (Choir Club)	Michael Zaporski
Class 2011 (Seniors)	Shaunetta Cross
Class of 2012 (Juniors)	Linda Sparks
Class of 2013 (Sophomores)	Andrea Polley
Drama Club	Juliette Delabbio-Abbott
Foreign Language Club/ Festival Sponsor	Sandra Guzman de; Grimm
HOSA Club	Lisa Harris
National Honor Society	Jon Cherney
Yearbook	Steven Snead
Student Council & Y.O.U.	Kathryn Locano
Robotics	William Grimm
Varsity/PEP Club	William Washington / Charity Jones
Build On	Daniel Kraiza
PBS Committee	Patricia Perry / Andrea Polley
Female Mentoring	TBD
Male Mentoring	TBD

Einstein Elementary

JoAnn Wright, Ed.D., Principal, (248) 336-7640

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Albert Einstein Elementary school in cooperation with administration, staff, community, families and students is to challenge every student to achieve their maximum potential by encouraging academic and social excellence through effective instruction in a caring environment.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Albert Einstein Elementary is to create a school where...

- The environment is clean, safe and pleasant.
- Students reach their fullest potential through challenging and effective instruction with necessary support.
- Students and teachers behave toward each other in a manner consistent with good character – considerate, responsible and committed.
- The needs of the individual child are met.
- Personal connections and open communication between students, parents, staff members and other members of the Oak Park community encourages a sense of collaboration.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 1-17	Coat/Toy Drive
December 16	Lower Grade Dance
December 17	State Police Non-Bullying Assembly
January 3-7	PBIS Walkthroughs – all grades
January 10 & 11	Haven Presentations, K-3
January 11	Skating Party, grades 3-6
January 20	DTE Science Water Presentations
February 1-28	Black History Month Activities
February 9	Student Count Day Activities (TBD)
February 16	“The Ned Show” Character Education
February 18	Winter Dance, grades 4-6
March 1-31	Reading Month Activities (TBD)
March 24	PTSA Literacy Night
March 25	Millennium Theater Production (Junie B. Jones)
April 1-30	Poetry Celebration Month Activities
April 11	Vision Screening, grades 1, 3, 5
April 14	Parent/Teacher Conferences
April 29	Spring Concert
May 1-31	Career Awareness Month Activities
May 27	Spring Dance, grades 4-6
June 8	Kindergarten Promotion (9:00-10:00 a.m.) 6th Grade Promotion (1:00-2:00 p.m.)
June 13	Field Day Activities

At Einstein, we combine a celebration of Dr. King’s greatness and Black History Month. By doing so, students have a greater opportunity to recognize the merits and contributions African Americans have made to our society and to the world. Some of the many activities students and staff will be involved in are as follows:

- Door decorating contests – Theme: “What Dr. King Means to Me.”
- Black History facts read daily over the P.A.
- Display of books in our media center about African Americans, including Dr. King.
- Daily Black History Brainteaser/trivia question contest for students.
- Posters of prominent African Americans hung in all hallways.
- Classroom/instructional activities to support an understanding of Black History figures.

Other activities will be planned upon input from staff members.

PTSA MEETING DATES

January 27
March 24

April 28
May 26

Pepper Elementary
Emanuel Haley, Principal , (248) 336-7680

Greetings to the Oak Park Family,

Here at the Dr. James N. Pepper Elementary School our staff has devoted itself to the “Pepper Promise” which is “We are committed to excellence.” Our commitment is based on four fundamental principles:

- Parental Partnerships
- High Student Achievement
- Character Building
- Student Responsibility

We believe the best learning environment is one in which parents, students and staff work collectively to reach our shared objective, the education of all children who walk through the doors of our school. We believe students will be successful if they are held to high expectations. In setting those high expectations we are committed to assisting all children in their educational growth. It is our promise to create an environment where children will thrive and be successful. Our staff has dedicated itself to meeting the needs of each student through our rigorous curriculum, standards of high expectations and individualized attention.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S PEN

It’s hard to believe that it’s January already. I would like to thank the parents, students and staff of Pepper School for all of your support during the first half of the school year. I am looking forward to all of the great things that we will accomplish in the future. Also, I would like to remind everyone that we are a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) school. Students are taught acceptable and appropriate behaviors. We reward students practicing the behavioral expectations that are posted throughout the school. We are a Code of Attire School for all elementary students; this means that they are wearing navy blue bottoms and white shirts daily. Friday’s are for Pepper Panther spirit wear. If you would like to purchase our exclusive line of Pepper Panther products stop by the office. In closing, parents remember that school starts everyday at 8:25 a.m. and dismissal is at 3:25 p.m. Again, thank you for your support.

Title I / PTO Meetings

All PTO meetings are held in the cafeteria.
 Meetings will begin with dinner at 6:15 p.m.
 Following dinner, there’s always a workshop / presentation.
 Children are welcome - childcare is provided
Door prizes!

Thursday, January 27, 2011
 Thursday, February 17, 2011
 Thursday, March 11, 2011

SPECIAL EVENTS	
Thursday, January 13, 2011	Coffee with the Principal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9 am – Cafeteria Special Guest - Dr. Daveda Colbert, Superintendent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Refreshments will be served
Monday, January 17, 2011	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10 am – Oak Park High School Enrollment Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 11 am – Oak Park High School o (No school for students)
Tuesday, January 18, 2011	Staff Professional Development Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o (No school for students)
Wednesday, January 19, 2011	“Beginnergarten”/ Kindergarten Round-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 5 – 7 pm – Pepper Elementary School o Enrollment for fall 2011 o Information for parents to help their child prepare for kindergarten o School supplies and “homework” for students o Refreshments will be served
Tuesday, February 8, 2011	Breakfast of Champions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 7:30 am – Gymnasium Coffee with the Principal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9 am – Cafeteria
Tuesday, March 8, 2011	Breakfast of Champions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 7:30 am – Gymnasium Coffee with the Principal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9 am – Cafeteria
Thursday, March 24, 2011	Family Game Night <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 5 – 7 pm – Cafeteria / Gymnasium o Dinner, followed by family games o Sponsored by Learning Gizmos
Tuesday, May 10, 2011	Breakfast of Champions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 7:30 am – Gymnasium Coffee with the Principal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9 am – Cafeteria



HOLIDAY MUSICAL CELEBRATION

The students at Francis Scott Key Elementary took time out of their busy classroom schedules to pay tribute to the various holidays that are celebrated in our community during the month of December. The building principal, Mrs. Brenda Snow, gave a warm welcome to all in attendance and Dr. Sharon Davis hosted the musical event held on December 16, 2010. There were two musical assemblies held, one was for the children in the lower elementary (Kindergarten through 3rd Graders) and a second assembly for the upper elementary (4th through 6th Graders). The children sang many songs that represented the true sentiments of the holiday season and all grades were involved in making this event a wonderful occasion. The parents and staff members were excited to see their children exhibiting their musical talents and showing such joy and happiness about the holiday season. Mrs. Snow and her staff are extremely involved in teaching students to be culturally aware of the world in which they live and how they can be productive citizens in our society. The Key staff is constantly reinforcing and modeling positive behavior for children to learn and execute in all of their social settings. The atmosphere in the school during the musical event was filled with bliss and excitement for the Holiday Season and the New Year.

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

Our Breakfast of Champions program sponsored by the Oak Park Business and Education Alliance has been very successful! Parents, students and staff come together once a month at Key and enjoy a full breakfast including: eggs, waffles, bacon, sausage, & juice as we honor students who have shown the most improvement throughout the month. Each student receives a certificate, badge and have their picture taken and posted outside the classroom for one month. We honored 24 students in the month of December!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Jan. 17 | No School – MLK, Jr. Holiday Celebration at OPHS - 10:00 am |
| Jan. 18 | No School – Teacher Professional Development |
| Jan. 20 | PTSA Meeting 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm |
| Feb. 4 | Report Card Distribution Day |
| Feb. 21 – 25 | No School - Winter Recess |

DETROIT PISTON'S CAMP

The Detroit Piston's will sponsor a basketball clinic for boys and girls at Key Elementary in February. The two-hour session will take place after school with emphasis on good sportsmanship, setting goals, and being good students in school; as well as tips on how to be a better basketball player! Coach Steve and his staff will conduct the clinic.



Oak Park Preparatory Academy
Angela Thomas, Ed.S., Principal, (248) 336-7620

Dear Oak Park Community:

The administration and staff are excited about the transformation of the “new” Oak Park Preparatory Academy (OPPA), home of the “Roaring Raiders.” Currently serving students in grades 7 through 9, we are proud of the special attention provided to our adolescent learners as we prepare them for successful transition to high school and beyond. Planted firmly in our school’s motto “Anchored In Excellence,” our focus is academic excellence, adolescent development, career pathways, and acquisition of life skills is our #1 priority. In order to successfully accomplish our mission, we view education as a partnership between home, school and the community. We are excited about partnering with all stakeholders in an effort to ensure student success. Check out the following OPPA “Points of Pride:”

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- Tutorial Services – Extended day academic support is available for students from 3:00pm - 4:00pm Tuesday through Thursday.
- Study Island - Oak Park Preparatory Academy has purchased a subscription to a research-based standards mastery program called Study Island. With this program, OPPA students can access Study Island free of charge! Study Island is completely Web-based, which allows students to access the program from any computer with an internet connection and a standard web browser.

“THOMAS TALK”

We are excited about partnering with OPPA parents in making sure students are On Task, Productive, Practice Safety, and Achieve. I would like to remind parents of the following building expectations:

1. Attendance: Students are expected to be in each class on time daily. Please note that students are required to be in their 1st hour classroom at 7:55am. Any student not in the classroom at 7:55am will be marked tardy or late.
2. Code of Attire: Students are required to arrive to school daily wearing proper and appropriate attire. New district policies require students at OPPA to wear a solid blue, black, or white button up, turtleneck, or polo style shirt.

Parents, please join us in our monthly PTSA Title I/ Parent Workshop Meetings from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in the

OPPA Media Center. Refreshments and give-a-ways will be on hand. Meeting dates are as follows:

Jan 11
Feb 08
Mar 08
May 10

OPPA is proud to be a PBIS School. PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention Support. With the PBIS philosophy, we believe that students should be taught and demonstrate appropriate behaviors daily. Here at the Academy our behavior characteristics represent the acronym O.P.P.A.: On task, Productive, Practice Safety and Achieve.

COUNSELING CORNER

OPPA is pleased to offer student support services to students in grades 7-9. Middle School Counselor Jaclyn Georgiou and 9th Grade Academy Counselor Tamarcus Southward are energetic, enthusiastic, and equipped to work with our adolescent student population. Our Counseling Team has implemented some outstanding support services to help our students maximize their full potential. Here are just a few:

- **Check-In and Connect Program**
Through the Check In and Connect Program, student progress is monitored daily by counselors in an effort to help promote academic success, student responsibility, and increase self-esteem. Students identified for this program are required to “check-in” with the counselor throughout the day for assistance and motivation.
- **9th Grade B.R.I.D.G.E. (Building and Reinforcing Images that Develops Graduation Expectations)**
The Oak Park Preparatory Academy’s B.R.I.D.G.E. Program is a high school to college preparation program specifically designed to assist 9th grade students in meeting the expectations of the new graduation requirements at the high school level. The B.R.I.D.G.E. Program is a threefold program that constantly re-teaches, incorporates real life experiences, and infuses technology across the curriculum to link relevance. The B.R.I.D.G.E. Program also introduces students to college admissions requirements and educates them on the high school system of credits, as well as how to calculate credit totals and grade point averages.

**“Quality Learning for
Every Student Every Day!”**

DISTRICT MOTTO

SIG CURRENT INITIATIVES

Introduction: Oak Park High School is using small learning communities as an approach to school improvement to enhance student achievement, to lessen the achievement gap among students from diverse ethnic backgrounds, and to personalize the learning experiences for our students. Small learning communities enable teachers to get to know their students’ learning needs and interest and to provide regular, individualized support throughout their high school experience as well as prepare them for post-secondary college and career goals. Our academy model provides six academies. Each academy focuses on a specific career and functions as a small, personalized, and communal learning community. The six academies offer college/career-focused coursework and learning experiences that are aligned with the Michigan Merit Curriculum. In addition, students can become involved in leadership and team building experiences, explore careers, clubs, organizations, sports, technology, creative arts, and on-line learning.

Purpose: to create smaller learning communities by utilizing career academies that give students an opportunity to study the fields in which they feel they may want to pursue. It will also provide learning experiences that gives relevance for academic studies and prepare a foundation for post-secondary college and/or career goals.

Benefits:

- Stronger student accountability and responsibility for learning
- Use of portfolio and performance-based assessments
- Use of project-based learning and hands-on activities
- Opportunity to bring experts from the field into the classroom and transform classrooms into learning labs
- Students have the opportunity to develop a strong educational relationship with at least one adult
- Increased attendance (student attendance is easier to monitor in smaller teams)
- Improved behavior due to students interest in content, relevance to real world, and built-in support with teaming
- Teachers can develop more personalized programs
- Increased learning time in content areas

SIX CAREER ACADEMIES

Academy of Visual, Performing, & Applied Arts	Academy of Communications, Media, & Technology	Academy of Law, Business, & Government
Academy of Health, Science, & Agriculture	Academy of Mathematics, Science, & Engineering	Gifted & Talented Honors Academy

Interventions for Students:

Purpose: provide opportunities for students to receive additional support to enhance learning and to maximize their potential.

Scientific Learning – Fast ForWord Program	Instructional Specialist/Tutors in the Classrooms during the School Day in ELA & MATH	Kaplan Learning Services for MME/ACT Test Readiness, Supplemental Skills, College Preparation
E20/20 for Credit Recovery & Supplemental Course Offerings	Mentoring Programs for Males & Females & Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS)	Access to Computer Technology; Saturday MME Workshops; Extended Learning Opportunities

CLUBS / ORGANIZATIONS

Y.O.U. (Young, Optimistic, & United) and Student Council share a lot of the same students and similar missions. Here is a brief summary of events/activities these groups will participate in (or have participated in) for the 2010-2011 school year:

- Jan: Complete DATT Phase I & plan for DATT Phase II
- Feb: Bullying Campaign
Will include: daily announcements about bullying (impact of, true stories, facts, how to deal with); pre-test, video, post-test and discussion to be done school wide on the same day and time, but in a small class setting with the direction of the teacher.
- March: Cyber Bullying Campaign
Will include: daily announcements about cyber bullying (impact of, true stories, facts, how to deal with); pre-test, video, post-test and discussion to be done school wide on the same day and time, but in a small class setting with the direction of the teacher.

Oak Park Alternative Education Center

Harry Bautista, Director, (248) 802-8501

Oak Park School District's opening of Oak Park Alternative Education Center – Lessenger Campus is yet more proof that our district is on its way to an exciting new direction. We are committed to giving parents the best choices to educate their children, and alternative education is another component for them to consider.

Using the latest technological advancements to achieve a comprehensive and quality driven education program in a virtual-learning environment, Oak Park Alternative Education Center – Lessenger Campus will provide academic courses that meet Michigan benchmarks and standards for 16 to 19 year old students. Students must earn 20 credits through a series of carefully designed academic and vocational courses to receive a high school diploma.

Oak Park Alternative Education Center – Lessenger Campus will operate at the previous Lessenger Elementary School located on 12901 Albany Street, Oak Park, Michigan 48237. Registration for Winter Semester begins on December 20, 2010 and ends on February 9, 2011. Registration hours are between 8:00am to 4:00pm, Monday thru Thursday, 8:00am to 3:00pm, Friday. Winter Semester begins on February 7, 2011.

Students must be at least 16 years of age by September 1, 2010. Qualified students must be a non-high school graduate and be able to produce a birth certificate in order to register. Class hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:00am to 2:30pm. Classes are also accessible from any computer with internet access. Vocational training for Winter Semester 2011 will consist of Information Systems, and Medical Office Assistant. Additional vocational courses, such Building Trades, Culinary Arts, Video/Music Production, Hair Culture, and Manicuring will be available beginning in Fall Semester 2011. For more information, please call (248) 802-8501.



NOVA Academy (New Behaviors to Create Opportunities for Vocational Awareness and Academic Achievement) **Eric Scott, Director, (248) 336-7785**

The Oak Park School District is pleased and excited to introduce N.O.V.A. of Oak Park, the new and comprehensive Alternative Educational Program, set to open in the fall of 2011. N.O.V.A. will serve students in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties from the ages of 8 to 15 years old who are in need of a smaller more personalized environment. Many of the students enrolled in N.O.V.A. will have a history of academic struggles, lack adequate social skills and have personal challenges inhibiting their educational progress. N.O.V.A will allow these students an opportunity to maximize their full potential in a safe and caring setting.

In addition to the regular Core classes (English, Math, Social Studies and Science), N.O.V.A. will offer:

- Social skills training - students will learn techniques in anger management and conflict resolution.
- Mentoring - learning to foster caring appropriate student/adult relationships.
- Career awareness component - providing students with the opportunity to learn about realistic career choices available to them and interface with professionals in the vocational area of their choice.
- Computer-based instruction - addressing literacy and numeracy allowing all students to receive instruction based on the individual functioning level, improving areas of deficiencies.

Office of Project 21
Phyllis Davis Williams, Director - SKC

On October 1, 2010, Project 21 began its third year of a five year 21st Century Community Learning Centers' Grant from the Michigan Department of Education. Thanks to our very capable Project 21 operations team, led by our hardworking committed Logistics Director, Clara Sanders Stevens, all four sites are running full speed ahead and once we have the final input from our principals at the sites, student "Success Plans" will be finalized as the basis for a snapshot composite report of the academic and social progress made by our students to be reported in future editions of the REACH Newsletter.

During the new year of 2011, we can celebrate the wonderful progress that has been made in our work to create the seamless connections between the school day, after school, and community experiences that enhance learning for all students. For enrollment information, please contact Clara in the Project 21 Office in the Clinton Building or call (313) 674-0008.

Peace in the New Year!

**Oak Park Business
& Education Alliance (OPBEA)**
Lori Fidler, Director

Non-Profit Organization is all about Oak Park Students!

Oak Park Business & Education Alliance (OPBEA) has been bringing opportunity exclusively to Oak Park students since 1993. Working closely with the community, OPBEA supports and enhances the initiatives of the Oak Park School District in its efforts to prepare students for success in higher education and the workplace. We bring a variety of programs and experiences to the students that expose them to career opportunities as well as reward programs that support students' accomplishments.

Elementary Schools:

- Breakfast of Champions
- School Liaison/Junior Achievement
- Camp Tamarack Adopt-A-School Program @ Einstein

Oak Park Preparatory Academy:

- Student Improvement Luncheon
- Faces of the Future Mentoring Program (9th grade)
- School Liaison/ Junior Achievement (8th grade)
- Junior Achievement Financial Park Program (7th grade)

Oak Park High School:

- Career Exposure Luncheon
- HOSA/Beaumont Program
- OPBEA Student Leadership Program
- Scholarships

All of the activities we do strive to bring out the best in each student! To succeed we need your help. Please call the OPBEA office, 248-967-0457, to talk about how you can help shape a young person's future!

Michigan Works
Mona DeFrancesco, Director, 248-691-8437

**Unemployed &
Looking for a New Job?**

Changing Careers?

All Services are **FREE!**

. Resource Center

. Career Counseling

. Workshops

. Skill Enhancement

and More...

Call or Visit us today!

22180 Parklawn Oak Park MI 48237

Michigan Relay: (800) 649-3777 or 711

Customer Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday

Oak Park Youth Assistance
Edna Williams, Director

"Strengthening Families through Community Involvement"

As the New Year gets underway, Oak Park Youth Assistance, is settling into our new home in the Clinton Center (the Old OPPA building), thanks to the generosity of Oak Park Schools. Our new address is: 22180 Parklawn, (across the hall from the Special Ed. Office). OPYA is a juvenile delinquency Prevention Program co-sponsored by Oakland County Circuit Court, Oak Park Schools, the City & the Charter Twp. of Royal Oak. The partnership between the Schools and local municipalities makes this program unique & very effective. It is an inter-governmental collaboration designed to strengthen our families and in turn our communities.

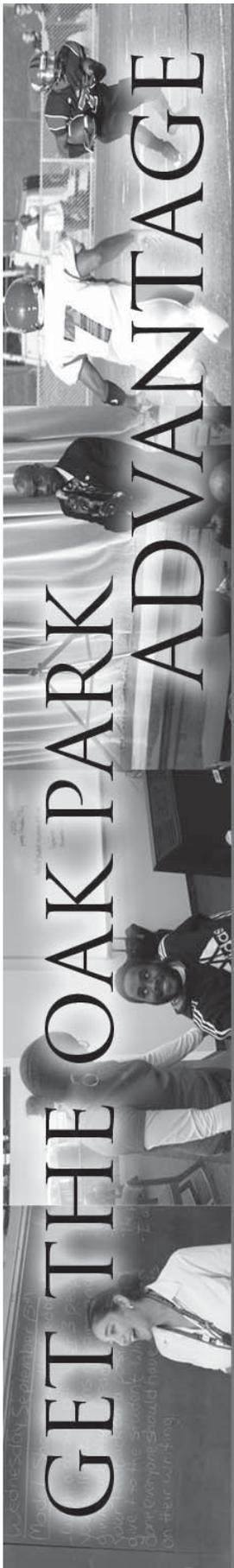
We are a referral-based program that offers short-term counseling to youth and families. Community volunteers along with the Caseworker provide programs through our various committees.

In addition, we provide camp and skill-building scholarships to qualifying youth, parent education programs in partnership with Oak Park Schools, an annual "Youth Recognition" awards dinner and program that celebrates the positive changes our student are making in their behaviors, grades, attendance and in performing community service.

Whether you have a question about community resources, need help for your child (ren) or want to involve your child in positive activities, call Oak Park Youth Assistance. We will work together for change! Volunteers are needed to help us reach more of our youth and families. To volunteer, please contact us at Oak Park Schools (248) 336-7679.

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Quality Learning for Every Child, Every Day! Call 248-336-7708 to enroll today!



GET THE OAK PARK ADVANTAGE

Quality Learning for Every Child, Every Day!

All Oak Park Schools Feature

- ✓ 100% Certified Teaching Staff
- ✓ Student Support Services
- ✓ Clean, Safe Facilities
- ✓ Free & Reduced Lunch
- ✓ Computer Technology
- ✓ Reading & Math Tutoring
- ✓ Online Access to Grades & Attendance



Alternative Education

Oak Park Alternative Education Center

- Lessenger Campus (Ages 16-19)
- Vocational/Certification Programs
- Free for Qualified Students
- Earn H.S. Diploma-20 Credits
- Online Classes
- NOVA (Ages 8-15)
- Opening Fall of 2011
- Strong Discipline Academy
- Vocational Project Based Learning



Elementary Schools (K-6)

*Einstein
Pepper
Key*

**All Elementary Schools
made AYP in 2010!**

All Elementary Schools Offer

- Aligned MI Curriculum Framework
- Title I Academic Support
- Before/After School Latchkey
- Project 21 - After School Program
- Sports (Basketball, Cheerleading, etc.)
- Positive Behavior Support
- Grade Level Classroom Libraries
- Student Achievement Awards
- Universal Breakfast Program
- Community Service Projects
- Parent Organizations
- Small Group Instruction
- New Computer Labs



*Secondary Schools
Oak Park Preparatory
Academy (7-9)*

- Leadership Development
- Co-Teaching Classroom Program
- Before & After School Tutoring
- Rigorous Curriculum
- Variety of Extra- Curricular Clubs
- English Language Learning Program
- Made AYP in 2010

Oak Park High School (10-12)

- College Prep Curriculum
- Advanced Placement Courses
- Honors School Partnership (CASA)
- Vocational Courses (OSTC)
- Credit Recovery
- Class A Athletics; Fine Arts
- Robotics; Dual Enrollment
- 6 Career Focused Academies



US POSTAGE
PAID
DETROIT, MI
POSTAL PERMIT 153
PRESORTED STANDARD

Oak Park School District
13900 Granzon Street
Oak Park, MI 48237

Requests for Oak Park School District News Items

In an ongoing effort to effectively showcase student and staff achievements throughout the district, your input and support is essential.

Please submit your articles, acknowledgements and all other pertinent information relative to staff and student achievement to Lorna J. Wadlington, Coordinator to the Superintendent and Executive Director of Curriculum and Title Programs, by the fourth Friday of each month.

It is our goal to acknowledge all that strive to **REACH** for their very best.

Sincerely,

Lorna J. Wadlington, BBA, MAT
Coordinator, Administration Office
Email: lwadlin@oakparkschools.org
Telephone: 248.336.7705

2010-2011 Calendar of Events

- ◆ Jan. 17, 2011 ----- No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Honored
- ◆ Jan 18, 2011 ----- Teachers Only - Full Day PD
- ◆ Feb. 4, 2011 ----- Report Card Distribution
- ◆ Feb. 21 - 25, 2011 ----- No School - Winter Break
- ◆ Feb. 28, 2011 ----- School Resumes
- ◆ March 11, 2011 ----- Teachers Only - Full Day PD
- ◆ April 1, 2011 ----- Teachers Only - 1/2 Admin. Address
- ◆ April 4 - 7, 2011 ----- No School - Spring Break
- ◆ April 11, 2011 ----- Classes Resume
- ◆ April 14, 2011 ----- Parent Teacher Conferences
- ◆ April 22, 2011 ----- Good Friday - No School
- ◆ May 30, 2011 ----- Memorial Day - No School
- ◆ June 17, 2011 ----- Room Clean Out (Last Day for Teachers)

Schedule for Upcoming Board Meetings

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| ◆ January 24 | ◆ April 11 |
| ◆ February 14 | ◆ April 25 |
| ◆ February 28 | ◆ May 9 |
| ◆ March 14 | ◆ June 13 |
| ◆ March 28 | ◆ June 27 |

Meetings convene at 7:00 PM, Administration Building,
13900 Granzon, Oak Park, MI 48237 unless another location or time is specified.