The Senior Pinning Ceremony is an annual tradition which allows Oak Park High School Seniors to invite a meaningful person in their life to celebrate and "pin" them with the OPHS crest. During the program, parents and guardians pinned the custom pins on the students while reciting the Parent’s Creed. The Class of 2017 then followed with the Senior Creed, consisting of several promises to act responsibly and remember the important life lessons learned thus far. It is a symbolic event representing all the support the student has received from the influential people in his/her life.

The Senior Pinning Ceremony, held at Burton Manor in Livonia, featured a mistress and masters of ceremony, greetings by Dr. Colbert, a performance from the dance team, reflections from a few seniors, and a scene from the upcoming OPHS Drama Club’s play, “The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet.” The ceremony included a delicious meal, a live DJ, and a photo booth to capture the memories made that night. Many thanks are extended to all OPHS staff who made the event such a success, especially the Class of 2017 Senior Sponsor, Mrs. Linda Sparks.
Oak Park Schools’ Teacher of the Year Program highlights a few of our most talented teachers. Although we value all of our teachers, and truly believe that they are highly effective in their efforts to increase student achievement, while preparing students to become productive citizens, each year, a teacher is selected at each level (elementary, middle, and high school) to represent the district in the Oakland Schools’ (Oakland County) Teacher of the Year Program. Since we have three elementary schools, Einstein, Key, and Pepper, there is one teacher selected from each of them, along with one teacher from the middle school, and one from the high school. Then, out of the three teachers selected from the elementary schools, one of them is selected to serve as our elementary district representative for the Oakland Schools’ (Oakland County) Teacher of the Year Program. In next week’s edition, you will find pictures of each of our Oak Park Teachers of the Year, and you will hear more about the three teachers that will represent us at the county program. Congratulations are in order to all five winners, Mrs. Stephanie Sumler, Mrs. Charlene Sipe, Mrs. Shaunetta Cross, Mrs. Sarah Krafo-Borrci, and Mr. Douglass Eiland. Job well done!

**Shaunetta Cross**
**10th - 12th Grade Teacher**
**Oak Park High School**

Mrs. Cross is focused on student success. She identifies the learning styles of all her students, uses formative assessments to gauge their needs, and adapts her teaching to reflect these areas. Mrs. Cross thinks systematically about her craft and continuously learns from students and adult experiences, because she is an active participant of the OPHS learning community and utilizes the data team’s process to manage and monitor student learning. Since literacy and media have no boundaries, Mrs. Cross is constantly learning and crossing content areas to have a thorough understanding of what she’s teaching and how to teach it using the most effective, best practices. This focus on data gave way to Mrs. Cross being nominated for High School Teacher of the Year.

**Charlene Sipe**
**Kindergarten Teacher**
**Einstein Elementary**

Mrs. Sipe provides her students with updated and exciting lessons and materials each year, as they are tailor-made, based on her students, their individual needs and their prior knowledge base. She is consistent and fair with all her students, and her classroom environment is student friendly, safe and inviting. Students always feel welcomed in her classroom: they are greeted at the door at the beginning of the day and wished a great evening at the end of the day. Mrs. Sipe show a true love for her students. She takes them under her wing and supports them anyway she can. She can be described throughout the district as a spokesperson for students’ right to a safe, nurturing and productive learning environment. For these reasons, Mrs. Sipe has been nominated for Elementary Teacher of the Year.

**Douglass Eiland**
**8th Grade Teacher**
**Oak Park Preparatory Academy**

The Middle School nominee for Teacher of the Year goes to Mr. Eiland. On an annual basis Mr. Eiland provides his students with engaging and purposeful lessons, which are designed to meet the needs of each individual. On a daily basis, students are provided opportunities to engage in critical thinking and substantive conversation to deepen their understanding of Social Studies concepts. Mr. Eiland fosters positive teacher-student and student-student relationships to ensure all are equal partners in the learning process. Mr. Eiland’s classroom routine cultivates an environment that encourages risk-taking, collaboration, respect, and shared learning. He has exceptional skill in developing student engagement that minimizes distractions and maximizes time on task.

**Sarah Krafo-Borrci**
**1st Grade Teacher**
**Pepper Elementary**

In Mrs. Borrci first grade classroom she provides huge amounts of balanced, comprehensive instruction. She offers her students all of the important ingredients that go into creating thoughtful, avid readers and writers. In her classroom science and social studies instruction is integrated with reading and writing. She emphasizes higher level thinking skills and her classroom is well managed. Mrs. Borrci uses a variety of formats to provide instruction. In addition, to providing whole-class, small group, and individual instruction. She enlists her children in a variety of ways and will change grouping from day to day depending on what format she determine will best achieve her instructional goals. Mrs. Borrci currently serves as the grade level chairperson of the first grade team, and a member of Pepper’s School Improvement Team.
Oak Park Schools is seeking elected officials, business owners, city officials, retired educators, alumni, and others to participate in reading month activities at our elementary schools.

Interested individuals should contact Lorna Wilson at: 248.336.7705

OAK PARK SCHOOLS WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Albert A. Smith III is former U.S. Navy specializing in system operations, telecommunications, network operations, technology support, connected vehicle/telematics, technical project management, continuous process improvement, change management, recruiting/sourcing, technical training, customer relations, and synergistic developments. Al Smith has had the privilege of providing “high-turnaround, value added” outputs relative to business initiatives which has allowed him to add value to organizations by demonstrating skills in current and new technology venues.

Mr. Smith has been a part of the Oak Park Schools family in many different capacities, as a member of the Pepper Fatherhood Network. The PFN is a local community chapter of men whose children attend the Oak Park Public School System. The objective is to promote activities and initiatives that require men from all walks of life to participate in value added activities that support the growth, health, welfare, and safety of our children.

Albert also served on the OPS Facilities Committee as a volunteer. Responsibilities include auditing of technology, security, and facilities proposals by various vendors and contractors. Also assisting the school district in acquiring and maintaining monetary proposals referencing mileages and school funding initiatives.

OAK PARK SCHOOLS
PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN
OPEN HOUSE

Come explore Oak Park Schools’ high-quality pre-school and kindergarten programs, as you tour each school, meet the principals, experience the classroom setting, and familiarize yourself with the goals of the program and High Scope curriculum that is used.

For more information contact:
Einstein Elementary
2300 Jerome, Oak Park, MI
248.336.7640

Key Elementary
14001 Northend, Oak Park, MI
248.336.7610

Pepper Elementary
24301 Church, Oak Park, MI
248.336.7680

THURSDAY MARCH 9
10 AM - 6 PM
THURSDAY APRIL 13
10 AM - 6 PM

ADMISSION: $5 IN ADVANCE
$10 AT THE DOOR

PRESENTED BY:
OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING LEGION

FEATURING:
Dance Teams and Drumlines from Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan

2ND ANNUAL DRUMLINE & DANCE COMPETITION
SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017
DOORS OPEN: 1:30 PM SHOWTIME: 2:00 PM
OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL GYM
13701 OAK PARK BLVD. | OAK PARK, MI
The purpose of G.A.T.H. is to provide scholars with an advanced series of academic courses, experiences, and programming to create a direct pathway to college post high school graduation. GATH consists of a cohort of scholars, academic coaches (teachers, mentors, and parents), a counselor, and an administrator who works collaboratively to create a direct pathway to college for individuals that desire higher education. Rigorous instruction, college prep coursework, relevant materials and resources, along with logical, caring, and positive, behavior support to foster healthy relationships distinguishes this format from a traditional setting. These principles, along with the collaborative efforts of the cohort, cultivate a climate for academic excellence to flourish. The "Portfolio of a Scholar" simulated an apprenticeship interview where our student scholars gave a three minute presentation to community guests and professionals to obtain feedback on their current skill-sets and portfolio. Scholar portfolios included: resume', grades, test scores, transcripts, citizenship/behavior record, attendance, community service hours, extra-curricular activities, letters of recommendation, clubs, work experience, character letters, letters of recommendation, and writing samples. GATH scholars improve their skills and adequately prepare for their future endeavors.

Oak Park Elementary 4th Annual “Go Red” Cheer Competition

Saturday, February 25, 2017
Oak Park High School Gym
13701 Oak Park Blvd.
Oak Park, MI 48237

Doors Open: 9:00am
Event Begins: 10:00am

Competition is open to Elementary School Teams Only

For More info please contact Cheryl Austin at:
313-333-4486 or lashaune04@hotmail.com

6th ANNUAL OAK PARK SCHOOLS

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

MARCHING BANDS FROM MICHIGAN, OHIO, ILLINOIS, INDIANA & TENNESSEE

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2017
COMPETITION STARTS AT 2 PM
Oak Park High - 13701 Oak Park Blvd., Oak Park, MI 48237

$10 ADMISSION
FOR MORE INFO CALL: 248.336.7740