

Hornet Happenings



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Music Department

Practically Sixteen

Oxford Area High School proudly presents the world premiere performance of Adriana Trigiani's play "Practically Sixteen." The play centers on 15 ½ year old Arielle Bastille (Samantha Murray) as she goes through the angst, drama and self-reflection of being a teenager. While her principal (Maria Lombardi), guidance counselor (Sarah Robinson), English teacher (Angelia Rodriguez) and especially her mother (Emily O'Connor) try to understand her woes and help her through this unsettling time, it is only guest speaker Bill, the Curator (Aaron Harvey) from the museum, who is trusted with her inner-most thoughts. Even her family doctor (Liam Duffy) and therapist (Vikki Peters) are unable to convince her to be serious about her depressions and interests.

One of Ms. Trigiani's best sellers, *Big Stone Gap*, is currently being made into a movie starring Ashley Judd and Whoopie Goldberg. Members of the cast were fortunate enough to meet Ms. Trigiani at a book reading and signing in West Chester on February 5th. The sarcastic sense of humor and observations about life are as evident in Trigiani's books and personality as they are in "Practically Sixteen."

Rehearsals are going well in spite of the snow and ice cancellations. This year's stage crew promises to be one of the most efficient in the past decade. Mrs. Caudell's art students have created yet another original set with only their imaginations for inspiration. Keep an eye open for Mrs. Moran's blue and green posters as you travel about town.

Performances will be held in the OAHS auditorium on the evenings of March 12th, 13th and 14th. Ticket prices are \$5.00 for Thursday night and \$8.00 for Friday and Saturday nights. Tickets are available at the door or by contacting the director, Miss Bender, at jbender@oxford.k12.pa.us.

Business Department

Personal Computer Applications II students at Oxford Area High School completed the first round of official Microsoft Office Specialist testing this year. Senior Maricruz Tapia Ayllon and juniors Gregory Franjesh, Robert Mullen, and Katherine Vachon earned certificates for Microsoft Word. Already having passed Word and PowerPoint, senior **Jacob Kane** added Excel to his collection.

Students prepare for the assessment by first completing courseware designed to meet the benchmarks, and then practicing with software that simulates the testing arrangements. Finally, by performing Microsoft Office tasks in a live application environment, exam takers earn an authentic evaluation of desktop computing knowledge, skills and abilities.

With globally recognized Microsoft Office certification, students can provide official documentation to verify their software skills. Several local colleges grant enrolling students credit for Word Processing, Spreadsheet Analysis, Presentation, and Database courses when provided with this evidence of achievement. Additionally,

research* demonstrates that certified employees yield improved hiring opportunities, increase salaries, and promotion advantages in the workplace.

OAHS principal, Mr. Madden, remains committed to funding this career-enhancing educational opportunity. The Business Department chair, Ms. Webber, coordinated the articulation agreements with local institutions, including Delaware County Community College, Cecil Community College, and Goldey Beacom College. “When I see the Microsoft Office Specialist logo on an envelope in my mailbox, I look forward to delivering it to the student that day. Students appreciate the validation from an outside source that is recognized around the world,” reports Mrs. Rita, who teaches a variety of business computing courses at OAHS.

*source: <http://www.certipoint.com/Portal/Common/imagelibrary/mosresearchreport.pdf>

Mathematics Department

Mathematics students continue to improve district assessment scores. From the Fall District Assessment to the Winter District Assessment, the general trend of scores was in an upward direction. This may be a good sign for Oxford High School when going into the PSSA this spring. However, this is no time to let up. We must continue to emphasize the importance of the PSSA to the students. Some colleges are now asking for students’ PSSA scores on college applications.

The PSSAs are coming. Juniors should expect a review of topics tested on the PSSA. During the coming weeks leading up to the administration of the PSSA (starting March 17) juniors will be periodically reviewing all of the mathematics topics covered on the PSSA with a review packet and/or Study Island. Teachers will be using these resources in class and students may be given assignments to complete at home. We have found that many students know the topics on the PSSA but it may have been a year or two since they have used them. Therefore, a good review of the topics may be very useful.

Math teachers offer after school help to students. Every math teacher at Oxford Area High School has at least one day a week that they regularly stay after school to help students in need. Students should see their teacher to find out which day they are available after school.

Now is the time to start thinking about registration for courses next year. If you have any questions about courses that your child should take or what is available to them, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s math teacher.

Social Studies Department

The Social Studies department is busily engaged in helping Oxford’s students understand the past, comprehend the present, and anticipate the future. Our courses are aligned with state standards and our teaching methods are influenced by current awareness of how students learn best. In our vibrant classrooms students are exposed to the most modern educational technology, and we also encourage the development of traditional skills and study habits.

In commemoration of Black History Month, our Grade 9 American history classes have been emphasizing the contributions of African-Americans and other minorities to our country’s growth. Students have completed comprehensive Data Sheets which illustrate the achievements of key individuals, and they have also created Black History posters presenting that information in pictorial form. Most noteworthy is a fabulous showcase display on the election of President Barack Obama, which was assembled by several students with guidance from Mrs. JoAnn Brady.

With Vladimir Putin’s Russia emerging as a major power once again, it is appropriate that our sophomores in World History classes are examining that nation at this time. The students have completed a study of Russia’s geography which emphasized the connections among its landforms, history, and culture. As they seek to learn

why the Russian Revolution occurred in 1918, the classes are identifying similarities between that time and the present. The emergence of Soviet-style Communism is also highlighted.

This year continues to be an exciting one for our eleventh grade Modern Civics and Economics classes. They have explored the ceremonial aspects of a presidential inauguration and watched the peaceful transfer of executive power from one party to another. The passage of the recent Stimulus Bill showed students how laws are made in the U. S. Like all Americans, the students are concerned about current economic problems and are watching with interest as various proposals to deal with the situation emerge.

Mr. Dennis Baumgardner reports that his student teacher, Mr. Dan Jurasits, of West Chester University, is successfully implementing some of the Learning Focused strategies in the Criminal Justice classes. Psychology students continue to delve into the mysteries of the human mind, and the European history classes have just seen Napoleon meet his Waterloo. The Social Studies department is pleased with the work of our students so far this year and is looking forward to a Spring that will be productive and fulfilling.

World Language Department

March is World Language month and the World Language Department will be celebrating with the 6th Annual Cultural Kaleidoscope where students will display their talents with a number of projects. The event will be held in the High School cafeteria on March 26th from 5 to 7 p.m. Everybody is invited to come and enjoy international cuisine, see performances and student-made videos, meet costumed characters and view a wide range of displays. We hope to see you there!

Donate Your Books to the High School Used Book Sale!

Donations of gently used books, CDs and DVDs (including audio books, videos and music) for all ages are now being accepted to support the first annual Oxford Area High School Used Book Sale on April 24 and 25!

Co-sponsored by the OAHS Library and Literary Magazine, the sale will feature books and other materials at bargain prices ranging from .50 to \$5. Donations may be dropped off at the high school main office, marked "used book sale" until April 17.

OAHS Used Book Sale

Friday, April 24, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. & Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

High School Cafeteria

Prices from .50 to \$5

Fill a grocery bag for \$5 on Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m.

**School district employees admitted ½ hour early to preview selection!*

Dates to Remember

March 12-14	School Play "Practically Sixteen"
March 17-20	PSSA Testing – 12:30 dismissal
April 10-13	Spring Break
April 16	Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30 to 8:00 p.m.
May 25	Memorial Day Holiday