

Introducing OHS' Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Alan Khaykin, Valedictorian of the Oceanside High School Class of 2015, wants to develop innovations that make people's lives better. As a Siemens Semifinalist for his research on two-drug combinations for cancer, he is well on his way. In addition to Siemens, he has won many other awards at research competitions throughout his high school career.

Alan completed OHS with a weighted GPA of 105 and an arm's-length list of impressive accomplishments and activities, including World Interest Club where he took home several Outstanding and Best Delegate awards over the years. He is a National AP Scholar and a National Merit Commended Student.

In addition to WIC, Alan held leadership roles in several clubs. He cofounded the phenomenally successful Cancer Awareness Club which hosted this year's first annual O-Thon that raised \$23,000. As he rattles off a list of favorite activities, including those he does to relax, like pick-up basketball games with friends, it's clear that Alan is blessed with high energy and enthusiasm. Asked which teachers made the greatest impression on him, he soon has a list of at least ten.

"I don't know about teachers at other schools, but at Oceanside High School the teachers really want the students to succeed and they go the extra mile to help them," he said.

Alan plans to study biomedical engineering in college and hopes one day to start his own company.

Abigail Buckley, Salutatorian, is a Renaissance woman. She excels in biology and physics, enjoys stargazing and astronomy, and plans to minor in Spanish in college. Abigail is also a member of the theater honor society, Thespians, has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and belongs to both the Swing and Jazz Choirs. She has studied piano and was a member of Natural Helpers, an organization for students who tend to be confidants for their peers, from grades 8 through 11. *Whew!*



Alan Khaykin and Abigail Buckley, above, are Class of 2015 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

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A happy, healthy summer to our students, staff and families

Valedictorian and Salutatorian *continued from page 1*

In addition, Abigail is Vice President of the LGBT Club and has participated in Model Congress.

“Time management is key,” she said. “If you really want something, you’ll devote yourself to it.”

Among her favorite courses were biology and Spanish literature. “I also really enjoyed all of the plays and those are such great memories,” Abigail said.

Abigail is grateful to her mom for telling her to “go to sleep” when she was trying to do too much, while also motivating her to pursue what she loves, including Girl Scouts (her mom served as her troop’s Girl Scout Leader).

Before heading off to Dartmouth University, Abigail hopes to find time to complete her Girl Scout Gold Award.

School #9E Principal Retiring



Dr. Karen Siris is retiring after 19 years as Principal of Boardman Elementary School #9E. Prior to coming to Oceanside, she was an Assistant Principal in the Uniondale Schools. She began her career teaching elementary school and reading.

“Deciding to retire has been the hardest decision I’ve had to make in my life,” she said. “I will miss the entire Oceanside Schools community, especially the families and staff at Boardman...from the bus drivers, nurses, aides, monitors, to my fantastic staff and caring, devoted teachers and our parents, who are unsurpassed. The partnership we have here at Boardman between parents and the school is what makes our school such a great place to be.”

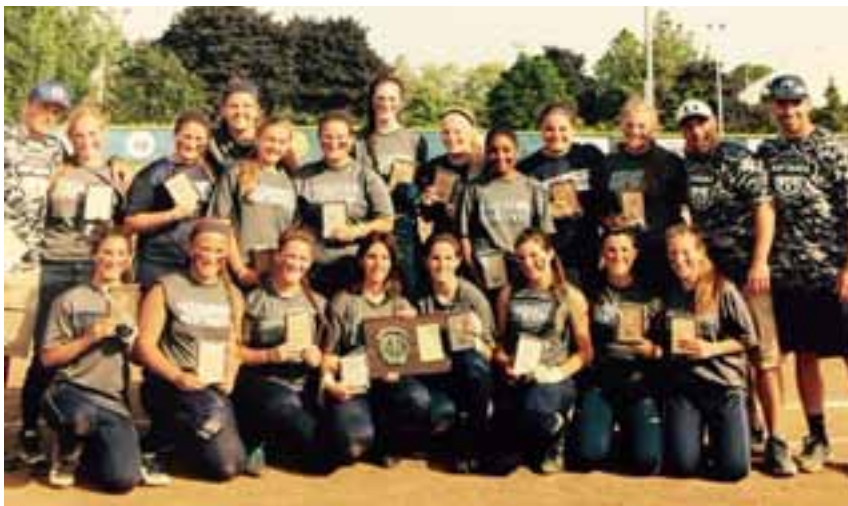
Dr. Siris is an outspoken advocate of the “upstanding” approach to bullying. She researched bullying for her award-winning doctoral thesis, and is the coauthor with Lisa Roth MD and illustrator Marsha Levitin of a children’s book entitled *Stand Up!* She also is a member of the state’s Task

Force on the Dignity for All Students Act and teaches the certification course on preventing bullying that is required of anyone working in a school or with students.

At School #9E, Dr. Siris developed the *Caring Majority*, a whole school organization in which every student pledges to be an upstander ~ a person who speaks out against bullying ~ rather than a bystander. By banding together as upstanders, students can have a positive impact on their peers. Caring Majority Ambassadors are sixth graders who work closely with Dr. Siris and teach their younger peers about being upstanders. The Caring Majority program has since been instituted in all district elementary schools.

“Dr. Siris has brought excellent leadership to our district and she will be greatly missed,” said Dr. Phyllis S. Harrington, Superintendent of Schools.

Congratulations to Girls' Softball Team, County Champs!



In addition to being the Nassau County IAA Softball champs, several members of the Girls' Softball Team were recognized for their contributions. Claire and Megan McNamara were named All County players along with Taylor Eisel and Grace Bandini.

Sabrina Seeger was named All County Honorable Mention. Brittany Teman and Elizabeth Campo received recognition as All Conference players. The girls' coach is Joseph Supple.

OMS Once Again Named A *School to Watch*

Last month, Oceanside Middle School students played Quidditch, the sport made famous in *Harry Potter* novels, in gym. Teachers Marianna Winchester and Jamie LaRocca made the equipment because it doesn't exist in catalogs.

Meanwhile, Brian Weinstein's social studies students were trying to oust Zeus after a millenia-long reign.

This kind of creative teaching, encouraged and supported by a flexible organizational structure, has once again garnered Oceanside Middle School recognition as an *Essential Elements School to Watch*."

OMS is recognized for such innovations as block scheduling that allows teachers to collaborate together and change the schedule for more in-depth instruction on some topics. Some classrooms in the newer section of the building have movable walls to allow teachers and their students to team up. This has worked well to allow Social Studies and English Language Arts classes to learn about political campaigning and run their own mock campaigns and debates, for example.

The school also uses a teaming approach so that every student is matched with an adult who

knows his or her strengths and challenges and can guide students' academic and interpersonal growth. Looping keeps students and core subject area teachers together for two years.

The "*Schools to Watch*" designation is awarded as part of a national "Schools to Watch" program focused on improving middle level education. In May, Assemblyman Todd Kaminsky attended the middle school's re-designation ceremony and presented the school with a proclamation noting its achievement.



School #3 Teacher is A Social Studies Primary Source for Her Students

The third grade New York State social studies curriculum calls for the study of several countries, their cultures, geography and economies. In addition to the United States, the countries include China, Brazil and, if time permits, Kenya. At School #3, third grade teacher Dawn Sharpe makes sure that time permits because her students have a unique opportunity to learn about culture from a living primary source who just happens to be their teacher. Ms. Sharpe was born in Kenya and still has family there.

The students spent the spring immersed in Kenyan culture. They were organized into tribes, using real tribal names, and they lived tribal culture, customs and rules each day, including carrying water on their heads if an elder found them to be rude or uncooperative.

In addition to the stories that Ms. Sharpe shared with them, the children Skyped with members of her extended family in Kenya.

During this time, the children created life-size drawings of typical Kenyan tribes people and made large relief sculptures of native animals. Part of each day was set aside to bead necklaces and craft wallets, mats and bookmarks, using decorative duct tape. The crafts were sold to raise funds for charity.

“I could walk out of the classroom and they would still be busy,” said Ms. Sharpe, noting how focused students were on their activities.

Their words tumbling out rapidly, students demonstrated their knowledge of tribal life in Kenya.

“Tribe leaders are elders and they are very respected,” said Melina Heidt. In their tribe, Noah Rowe was the elder and Melina was his assistant tribe leader. Noah proudly showed off the soccer ball he had created from newspaper and string. “It’s really hard,” he said, explaining that Kenyan children make most of their own toys and games. Noah was teaching the rest of his class how to do it.

Kenyan children are “very good at painting, drawing and making crafts,” Natalie Paul shared. They also help build their own homes out of mud and straw. They are hard-working and learn to do many difficult tasks at a young age, added Phillip Morelli.

Ms. Sharpe and her students concluded their studies of Kenya by hosting a village marketplace for the students to display and sell their crafts.

Students display the drawings and sculptures they created during a unit on Kenya



OHS Teachers Excel in Collaboration



The New York State English Council recognized four Oceanside High School teachers for their work in the high school's 9th grade integrated program which combines instruction in English and Social Studies. The teachers are Todd Nussen, Kathleen Holden, Jason Manning and Yornell Aguiar, pictured at left.

Mr. Nussen and Mr. Manning are Social Studies teachers and Ms. Holden and Ms. Aguiar teach English. Taught as a block, the Integrated Program includes a conference period during which students and teachers can meet one-on-one for feedback on students' work and opportunities for revising written assignments. The course brings a broader perspective to students' studies of both subject areas while strengthening their writing skills.

Recapping the school year in the integrated program, the *Integrated Times* is a publication of the English and

Social Studies departments. Go to oceansideschools.org to read about students' activities throughout the year.

OHS Students Heading to Military Academies

Brian Guerrero of Oceanside High School has been accepted to the United States Air Force Academy and Matthew Pino is headed for the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point after graduation. Both students excel in academics and have shown leadership in their extracurricular activities. Brian has taken rigorous courses and was involved in sports, including football and track, computer science, and the district's science research program. He is active in the Civil Defense Patrol's Airforce Junior Initiative.

Matthew is a strong student-athlete who excels in foreign language and is a member of the Foreign Language Honor Society. He has played football and basketball on the JV and Varsity level. In grade 10, he served as captain of the JV basketball team. Matthew loves basketball and brings that enthusiasm to his community service efforts as a CIT for the Hard to Guard summer camp and as an instructor for Oceanside High School's basketball clinic.

Brian (third from right) and Matthew are pictured with their Guidance Counselors, Kevin Carbonetti (second from left) and Carla Stillwell (second from right), as well as Geraldine DeCarlo, OHS Principal (far left) and Joelle Mazun, Associate Principal.





Kiwanis Fishing Trip

The "Captain Pete" out of Freeport

Trip goes rain or shine

Tues. July 21, 8 am to 1:15 pm

Boys & Girls, 4th Gr. & UP!

FEE: \$25 (includes transportation and equipment)



- There will be a licensed crew aboard
- Boat sails at 9 am and returns at 1 pm
- Bus leaves School #6 at 8 am, returns approx. 1:15 pm
- Registration forms/permission slips are available at DOCA office, School #6, 125 Merle Ave.
- PERMISSION SLIPS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND!!
- Space is LIMITED so sign up ASAP

Oceanside Summer Evening Activities

Registration began June 9 * Based on grade students will attend in September

Spirit Sky Drum - Grades 2-6 - 5 Mondays

6:30-7:30 pm - School #6 - Room W23- Fee \$80

Children are shown how to use the drum to find their own unique natural rhythm. This fun activity can help kids connect with others, reduce stress, focus on the present moment and foster positivity. Helps concentration and listening skills.

Begins July 13, ends August 10



Arts & Crafts - Grades 2-4 - 5 Tuesdays

6:30-7:30 pm - School #6 - Room 207 - Fee \$35

Begins July 14, ends August 11

Summer Snacks Cooking Class Grades 4-6 - 5 Tuesdays

6:30-7:30 pm - School #6 - Kitchen - Fee \$35

Begins July 14, ends August 11



Open Skate - All Ages - 5 Wednesdays

6:30-8 pm - School #6 Gym - Kitchen - Fee \$21

Activity is non-instructional. No lessons provided.

Begins July 15, ends August 12

BRING YOUR OWN SKATES!!



Bricks 4 Kidz - Grades 1-6 - 5 Thursdays

6:30-7:30 pm - School #6 - Room 202 - Fee \$66

Summer fun with LEGOS. Children will be divided into sections depending on interest and ability. Simple structures, machines or advanced robotics will be explored.

Begins July 16, ends August 13

C.A.R.E.S. Program

The Oceanside School District and the Department of Community Activities have coordinated an after-school program designed to meet your child's recreational, educational and social needs in a professionally supervised, caring atmosphere. Activities include: homework time, snack, storytime, cooking (age appropriate), games/movies, indoor/outdoor activities (hockey, basketball, races, etc.), arts & crafts.

Schedule and Information

- Five days per week from dismissal to 5 pm, or dismissal to 6 pm for Grades K-6.
- Kindergarten AM C.A.R.E.S. operates from 8:30-9:15 am
- A fee of \$25 will be charged for each late pick-up. Please be aware of the pick-up schedule for which you have registered.
- Children may be signed out by their parent/guardian at any time prior to their scheduled pick-up time.
- All children must be picked up from CARES by 6 pm!
- **CALL DOCA at 594-2336** for transportation and fee information, registration forms, and more. Fall 2015 registration begins July 13; forms should **must be** returned by August 21.

What's It Like to Work At Google?

Castleton Students Visit



It's like they took someone's childhood fantasy and made it a reality," said Ryan Umansky, describing Google's New York City headquarters with its array of games, rock walls, Lego furniture and kid-approved transportation, including slides and scooters for navigating the campus.

OHS Castleton's field trip to Google, with Career Preparation Coordinator Stephanie Matina, was part of the Guidance Department's career exploration program. The students learned that Google's impressive employee perks have a strategic purpose. Free lunch and snacks, for example, save staff the time searching for places to eat. Instead, they can grab lunch in the building and eat with colleagues.

Google is big on teamwork and looks for ways to put people together within and across teams. "You can meet people you might not ordinarily meet," said Logan Neidecker about the ping pong and pool tables, Pacman video games and Sega Genesis stations that dot the Google offices. "People talk and might have ideas for each other's projects."

Students also learned that creativity (aka "Googliness") is one of the most important attributes that Google seeks in new hires. "They want people who are always learning, creative and open-minded," said Ryan Failla.

Holly Iannarelli said she'd love to work for Google but getting the job isn't easy. "There's an intensive interview process. It could take place anywhere and they might fly you to different places."

Students asked the Google tour guide if employees ever take advantage of the flexible hours and were told that it's rare. Typically, they were told, teams within the company hold their members accountable.

"It's impressive how they organize people," said Ryan Failla. "We didn't see one person who wasn't smiling....everyone looks happy."

Would they want to work for Google? Most students said that they would. Let's hope they have Googliness.

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Please call 678-7525 with any questions about our schools.

Visit our website @ oceansideschools.org

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School Calendar

Please note the following important dates for September:

First Day of School for Students:	September 1
Schools Closed for Rosh Hashanah:	September 14 & 15
Schools Closed for Yom Kippur:	September 23
Pre-K Back to School Night:	October 7
Kindergarten Back to School Night:	September 17
Elementary Back to School Night:	September 16
Middle School Back to School Night:	September 21
High School Back to School Night:	September 24
Castleton Back to School Night:	September 17

Go to oceansideschools.org for Full Calendar.

School calendars will be mailed in August. If you have a child enrolled in school, you will receive a calendar. All others may stop by the Administrative Offices to pick up a calendar or call 678-7525. The full, final calendar will be on the website prior to mailing.

School re-opens September 1. Have a safe and happy summer!!