

## **Peekskill CSD PTO Committee/Building Report Form**

Submission Date: June 10, 2016

Month & Year: June 2016

Committee/Building: Oakside Elementary School

### **Items Requiring a Vote:**

N/A

### **Items Requiring Discussion:**

N/A

### **Items for Information Only:**

- Oakside S.W.A.T. Team (Students Working to Advance Technology) combined their technology skills with science. We experimented with some technology science projects. Such projects included a solar powered rover, a salt-water powered robot, a water bottle rocket and a weather observation station. We expanded on those projects individually with home-to-school projects. Then, we got to host the FIRST EVER Oakside Science Fair. It was a great day! Every class got a chance to come and walk through our fair, ask questions and witness some pretty amazing, live experiments. It was a great day for all Oakside students.
- The Portable Earth came to Oakside from Boces! It was an exciting opportunity for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students to experience the earth from the inside. They were able to see where the continents and oceans are in relation to each other. It really brought to reality the last Social Studies unit which focuses on geography.
- The students put on fantastic Spring Concerts in May! Animals were EVERYWHERE! The Grade 2 students sang songs about animals, played instruments and even created a little drama about a donkey for one of the songs! The Grade 3 students not only sang songs about animals, they also played songs using their first woodwind instrument, the recorder. Grade 3 students in the new Oakside String Program made their orchestra debut at the concert. 31 violin students played “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”, “Open String Samba” and an American fiddle tune in 3 parts called “Bile ‘Em Cabbage Down”!
- The Oakside Strings students are also performing for the entire school at a series of assemblies that show all the students the options they have to study band and orchestra instruments in the Peekskill City School District. Orchestra begins in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade at Oakside, while Band begins in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade at Hillcrest. These assemblies will give the students the chance to hear each instrument played. In the next few weeks, students who want to audition for the Strings program will be trying out violin, viola and cello. Students who are interested in the Band program will be trying out instruments in the fall.
- Have you ever had a tadpole up close or picked up a crayfish? Oakside students have through the springtime experience of Pond Study at Depew Park with Peekskill’s

naturalist Dave Klotzle. Working in small groups, students sift through the leaves that were caught in the net to see what animals they might find. The students usually find a variety of pond animals that belong to various animal groups. Some animals they have found are...snails, tadpoles, crayfish, sunfish, dragonflies, and leeches. On occasion, they have even found frogs! Once found, these animals are carried to two different water-filled tubs where they remain until the end of class. Finally, Mr. Klotzle calls the students back together to show and tell them about their animals finds. The animals are ultimately returned to their natural habitat, the pond.

- **FIELD DAY AT OAKSIDE:** The students participated in 6 different stations: Battle Royale, Numbers Tag, Rainbow Run, Games Station, Boat Racing (Sponsored by the Boy Scouts), and Bingo. Classes were paired up to make a team with each team having their "color". They moved to each station throughout the day and we were very pleased at their level of participation and sportsmanship! Our PTO donated ice pops for every student it was a wonderful treat on these warm days. Thanks PTO!
- This year has been an invigorating year as we formed a team at Oakside that began a partnership with the CUNY Bilingual Emergent Team. We participated in professional development and created goals for Oakside that would allow us to maximize our ENLs' academic and social emotional success. We began by creating an environment that is welcoming to families of all cultures. We worked diligently to expand our school library by purchasing more bilingual and multicultural texts. As educators with a growth mindset, we implemented new strategies in the classroom that are research proven to support our ENLs. The fact that students benefit from using their home language to scaffold the acquisition of the new language was instrumental in our implementation of translanguaging strategies. We strive to embrace all cultures and provide a risk free, environment where students can exceed our expectations.
- The end of the year celebration for the Super Readers will be the first ever "Oakside Carnival". Classes will design carnival games, create an expository piece explaining the objectives, rules, and how to play their game as well as a diagram. This will take place on June 20<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of June 21<sup>st</sup>. The PTO has been gracious enough to fund our efforts in making it really feel like a carnival. Specifically, we will have decorations, games, and a popcorn machine! What a wonderful way to end the school year and celebrate the readers of Oakside reaching their goal of reading 8,000 books. Go Super Readers!
- Board of Education member, Richard Sullivan came to Oakside to give our students the gift of reading aloud. He volunteered his time to visit many 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms to read some of his favorite books with a wonderful book discussion around the power of reading. Thank you Mr. Sullivan!

Submitted by: Staci Woodley, Principal