

# Oquenock

## News

A PUBLICATION OF THE OQUENOCK PTA

*Protecting our children. Empowering our parents.  
Working with our teachers.*

## A Message From Our President

I would like to take this time to congratulate all the children who performed in the Variety Show. They did a fantastic job performing to a large audience. The children put a lot of time and effort into this event and it showed. Congratulations to all who participated. We hope everyone who attended enjoyed the show as much as we did.

The end of the year is approaching quickly and we only have a few more events to look forward to. May will bring about another Book Fair, Staff Appreciation Week and our Mother's Day Sale. A big thank you to Jen Delaney and Veronica Castellino for stepping up to run the Mother's Day Sale.

Our community, especially Oquenock, has encountered some very difficult times throughout this past year. I would just like to thank everyone who has offered their support to these families in various ways. It is very comforting to see people come together when they are needed most.

Sincerely,  
Genia Radigan  
*President*

## Principal's Note



Dear Parents,

Spring has Sprung at Oquenock! It's time to say goodbye to freezing temperatures and indoor recess...and hello to tulip bulbs and outdoor fun!

The new student "drop-off" system in the morning is helping to ease congestion in the parking lot area. Thank you to all of the parents who have been extremely cooperative in keeping the flow of traffic moving by stopping...dropping...and continuing on! A friendly reminder to any parent that would like to walk their student(s) to the door...please park your car in a designated parking spot first! Students should not be dropped off by car in the handicapped parking area or in the front of the building (between 8:35 a.m. and 8:50 a.m.).

Walking For Webkinz is well underway. The Webkinz, generously donated by the Ganz Corporation, are being housed in the display case near the gym. All students should be encouraged to get out and get walking as part of a healthy lifestyle and to qualify for entry into the raffle to win a Webkinz in May!

As the warm weather approaches, Oquenock looks forward to musical concerts, a drama production, and various educational assemblies and in-school field trips that are sure to be memorable experiences for all students.

Best wishes for a wonderful Spring!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Morrison  
*Principal*

**National**  
**PTA**  
*everychild.one voice.®*

# Upcoming Programs and Events

Date	Event/Program	PTA Contact
<b>April 16</b>	NYS Science Performance Exam Gr. 4 BOE Planning Session 7:30 PM District Office	
<b>April 18</b>	Report Cards Distributed Rocket Readers Deadline (20 books due)	Rosa Meyer ☎ 968-8271
<b>April 20</b>	Passover	
<b>April 21-25</b>	Schools Closed for Passover Recess	
<b>April 22</b>	Earth Day	
<b>May 5</b>	SEPTA Meeting 7:00 PM Udall	Jeannie Rocchio ☎ 893-2818
<b>May 5-6</b>	Book Fair	Ellen Conner ☎ 422-9359 Christina Fucci
<b>May 5-9</b>	Staff Appreciation Week	Claire Weber ☎ 376-0568 Liz Magliaro ☎ 665-4704
<b>May 8</b>	PTA Meeting 9:15 AM	Genia Radigan ☎ 422-0817
<b>May 9</b>	Mother's Day Plant Sale	Jen Delaney ☎ 539-6252 Veronica Castellino
<b>May 12-13</b>	<i>101 Dalmatians</i> Performance	Miss Eidenback/Mrs. Cahill
<b>May 13</b>	Public Budget Hearing 7:30 PM Beach Street Auditorium	
<b>May 15</b>	Curriculum Fair BOE Meeting @ Oquenock	
<b>May 19</b>	Spring Concert 7:00 PM	

April/May  
2008

## Spanish Enrichment

Oquenock's Spanish Enrichment Class has come to an end for the 2007-2008 school year!

Mrs. D'Amour, former principal of Oquenock and current Director of Language for West Islip, began the Spanish Enrichment Class a few years ago. Not wanting to see the program vanish with her retirement, it was taken over by Miss Eidenback.

The response was overwhelming! 50 students between the third and fifth grades signed up for the after-school Spanish program! The class covered

Spanish vocabulary, grammar, food, and culture. We even learned how to say the Pledge of Allegiance in Spanish, and a chosen group of students are scheduled to recite it in Spanish as part of morning announcements.

I hope to provide the Spanish Enrichment Class for many years to come!

Sincerely,  
Miss Eidenback

# Class Chatter

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Second grade is welcoming spring as we study habitats and life cycles. Our new science textbook provides us with a lot of interesting information about various habitats and the animals who live there. We are especially interested in penguins. We worked in teams to research information about various penguins. We are utilizing that information to create a comparison chart in Word, and a brochure about a specific penguin using Publisher. They look fantastic!

In addition, our mealworms have arrived! We've named them and are studying their body parts, habitat, and life cycle. We can't wait to watch them transform into beetles! (Parents are usually very excited by this as well, because the beetles can come home to live with you!) Some families opt to leave their beetles with us, which is just fine.

We will finish up our habitat unit with a visit to the high school planetarium to view a movie about the coral reef. By the end of April, second graders will be experts on habitats!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Third graders have been spending time in the MST Lab learning about Systems. The children have learned that a system is a group of objects that interact. They have had an opportunity to work with mixtures and solutions and create mechanical systems such as paddle boats.

In addition, third graders are looking forward to our next science kit on life cycles. They will observe the life cycle of a butterfly. The caterpillars will arrive at the end of April and we will watch the caterpillar become a pupa and later a fully grown butterfly!

**Important:** By now, all third graders should know their multiplication facts. Keep practicing!

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Spring is here and the fourth graders are busy learning about plants. They recently completed diagrams in which they identified the parts and functions of a flower. This led to a discussion in which we wondered, "Do April showers really bring May flowers?" To help us answer this question we researched the monthly rainfall on Long Island and completed bar graphs in the computer lab.

As a follow up to our study of simple machines, The Long Island Science Center visited us and the boys and girls successfully created wheels and axles, levers, inclined planes, etc. using Legos. It was a wonderful program, compliments of the P.T.A.

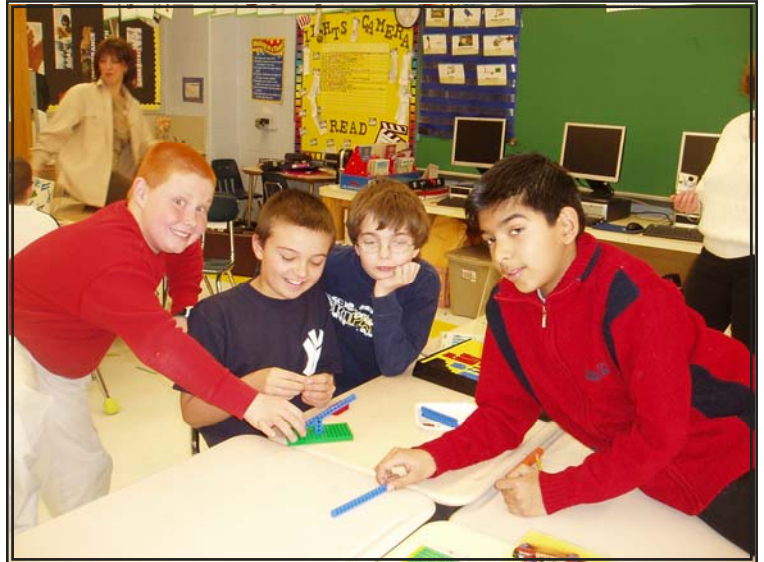
On a final note, the children have completed their lighthouses! Thanks to Mrs. Cahill for her artistic guidance in helping the classes design the actual structure and to Mrs. Lo Presti in the MST Lab for her help with the circuits. The lighthouses will be displayed at this year's curriculum fair.

We are having fun learning as we design, create, research and build!!!!

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

The fifth graders would like to thank the PTA for providing them with the opportunity to participate in the PETRA PUPPETS assembly. It was fabulous and a great culmination to our unit on the human body. Our next science unit will lead the fifth graders on a journey into the MST lab to investigate rocks and minerals. The students will have an opportunity to identify rocks and minerals by performing tests on them that will enable them to describe and observe the appearance, texture, and layers of rocks and minerals. It is an exciting unit and one the students should enjoy. Here's to Oquenock's future geologists.

# Fourth Graders During LI Science Center



## Oquenock Drama Club

Oquenock's Drama club is currently working on their production of *101 Dalmatians*. There are 120 students in the show and the rehearsals are going great!! We are continuously impressed with the amount of talented students at Oquenock! The show is scheduled for **May 12 and 13** and tickets will go on sale April 28. Look for a notice regarding ticket sales the week of April 14.

Sincerely,  
Miss Eidenback and Mrs. Cahill  
*Drama Directors 2008*



# Study Skills That Improve Performance

Proper and effective study habits and skills for learning will serve your child in the present and the future. This is especially true for older students as they prepare for high school or college. Help your child process and apply information more effectively with these steps to better studying from **StudyTips.org**, a group dedicated to furthering educational opportunities for youth:

- Help your kids keep a bigger picture in mind. Don't allow them to become distracted by friends and other pursuits.
- Help your child discover how he or she learns best. Is it by memorizing, reading, speaking, summarizing or other methods? Under what conditions do they study best? On what kinds of tests do they perform well? Understanding these learning processes is the first step to becoming a successful student. As parents, you can help them by observing how they study and learn.

- Help them prioritize their tasks. Generally, the most difficult task should be done first when concentration is highest. Subsequent tasks will not seem as hard.
- Help break assignments down into smaller steps so kids can accomplish them one step at a time. The successful completion of tasks will motivate students to keep going.
- There is no best way to take notes. Students should take notes in a way best suited to them. But you can tell them some things to listen for that would prompt note-taking: definitions, examples of definitions, lists, cause-and-effect statements, when superlatives such as "best," "largest," or "greatest" are used.
- To manage time better, note how long it takes for your child to read one chapter of a textbook. This should provide a benchmark for study plans.

*Reprinted from National PTA website, [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).*



## PTA Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ eMail: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please cut out and send in to school in an envelope marked: PTA Membership.  
Membership is \$6. Please make check payable to Oquenock PTA.*

**238 Members  
Strong**

OQUENOCK PTA  
NOW HAS 238 MEMBERS.  
HELP US MEET OUR GOAL OF 100% PARENTAL PARTICIPATION BY SIGNING UP TODAY!

# Managing Public Speaking Anxiety

If your child is nervous about giving a speech or presentation, tell him or her to try to act relaxed. They should not mention they are nervous to the audience or the audience will begin to feel it. As a rule, people have empathy for a public speaker and want them to succeed. They generally don't know how nervous a speaker may be.

For more study tips, go to [studytips.org](http://studytips.org).



## Walking Club

To date, students in the Walking Club have walked more than 300 miles as a group. That is further than the distance between West Islip and Washington D.C.

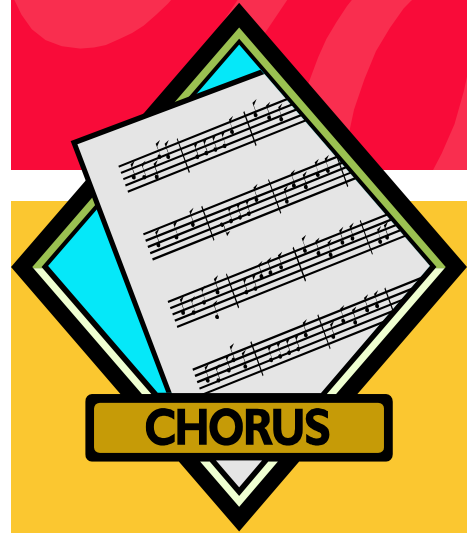
Mrs. Bergquist and Mr. Pekurney meet with the group every Monday after school until 3:50 PM.

## 2007-2008 Officers

President	Genia Radigan	422-0817
Vice President	Demitria Gildard	968-2491
Recording Secretary	Kathleen Gagliardi	669-7327
Corresponding Secretary	Michelle Martinez	587-5393
Treasurer	Diane Schlosser	587-1014
Historian	Rosa Meyer	968-8271
Council Delegate	Mary Louise Cairo	422-9044
Advisor	Mrs. Dawn Morrison	893-3360
Teacher Liaisons	Mrs. Greene Mrs. Dragelin	893-3360 893-3360

## CHORUS NOTES

Mrs. Cirasole



Congratulations to the following students for being selected to participate in the SCMEA Level 1 (Grade 5 and 6) All county Festival. Gregory Florio (chorus), Edward Matin (band), and Allyson Paduano (orchestra) spent many hours learning their SCMEA music and performed at the SCMEA concert on March 8 at East Islip High School along with other West Islip musicians from the district. Kudos on your fine performance, commitment and dedication!

Please be sure to mark the date for our spring concert which will be held on Monday, **May 19 at 7:00 PM**. The band, orchestra and choral groups will be performing under the direction of Mrs. Peskanov, Miss Grasso and Mrs. Cirasole. Come cheer on your fellow classmates at this evening of entertainment you won't want to miss!