

# Oquenock's Roaring Times

A Publication of the PTA



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Dawn Morrison, Principal  
Mary Louise Cairo, President PTA  
Gloria Monaco Editor

## Dates to

### Remember

**06/25** – ½ day of School

**06/26** – School in session for 1 hour

**06/27** - Senior Graduation at 9:00am



### How to Contact Our PTA

Phone: 631-893-3360

#### Web Site:

[www.geocities.com/oquenockpta](http://www.geocities.com/oquenockpta)

#### Email:

[OquenockPTA@yahoo.com](mailto:OquenockPTA@yahoo.com)

**Yahoo! Groups:** Join Oquenock PTA on Yahoo! Groups for the latest information and email reminders.

### A Letter from the President

The PTA did a lot in the months of April, May and June. Which in return assisted the children of Oquenock Elementary School experience many events and activities.

We started off April doing the Jelly Bean contest chaired by Lesley Keane. The children had to use their estimation skills to figure out how many jellybeans filled the jar. The next event was the Yankee Candle fundraiser chaired by Kristina Delaney. Indeed, it was a tremendous success. **(Continue on page 3)**

### Principal's Note

Dear Parents, Teachers, Staff and Students,

Congratulations on a successful, rewarding and memorable school year! Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the students at Oquenock throughout the past ten months. The 2008-2009 school year proved to be a busy one for students as they were immersed in the district's balanced literacy program by their classroom teachers, attended educationally sound assembly programs on a variety of topics, ventured beyond the school building with their classmates on curriculum-based Field Trips, and interacted with families and classmates at numerous PTA sponsored events. We are extremely fortunate to have a wonderful learning community where everyone works together to build a strong academic foundation that will ensure the future success of our students.

Congratulations and good luck to our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families who are moving on to middle school in the fall. Continue to strive for the best, and make Oquenock proud!

Best wishes for a safe and relaxing summer. See you in September!

Mrs. Morrison  
Principal

## Why Travel is Important for Children

Raising a well rounded, confident child is difficult if they don't experience different places and people! The importance of exploring the world cannot be underestimated when it comes to giving your child a full range of life experience. Years ago a young person's education was not considered complete without at least a year abroad. Today, travel is just as important but sadly is often neglected.

Seeing new things, trying new foods, meeting new people - all of these things can only help your child grow in appreciation for other cultures and languages! Children who travel are exposed to so many different mindsets and cultural differences, and this alone can help nurture tolerance and love for people with differing beliefs or cultural systems.

The self-confidence that exposure to new places and people builds is what will allow your child to feel comfortable in future situations. They will be able to enter into and feel at home with different gatherings of people with ease and grace. Other people will feel comfortable and enjoy your child's company because of their easy acceptance of the differences between them!

An appreciation for the variety of culture and people around the world can also be instilled through frequent travel, and you can nurture a love of the new and fresh at every turn. Cultivate this natural passion for the unknown, and expose your child to as many experiences as possible.

Language is easiest to learn as a child, so if you are in a situation that requires traveling to or living in a different country, even for just a short time, encourage your child to learn all they can. Once a couple of languages are learned, others often follow, and this can stand your child in good stead in years to come!

If your situation doesn't permit for frequent travel, look for other ways your child can explore the world! Books, magazines, the Internet; you can take virtual tours together, watch documentaries on faraway lands and look into an exchange student program! There are inexpensive and easy ways to make it happen.

If your job requires frequent travel or even relocation, make sure you present this to your child as an opportunity, not a forced exile! Let them know that the unknown is nothing to fear, but rather the chance of a lifetime! If you keep this attitude to the forefront, your child will be eager and willing to go to new places and make new friends.

Terri Khonsari is the bestselling author of *Raising A Superstar: Simple Strategies to Bring Out the Brilliance in Every Child*. To learn more about Terri's work visit <http://www.raisingasuperstar.com/>.



## A Letter from the President

(Continued from page 1)

The PTA also hosted three “Getting to know Oquenock Elementary School” for incoming kindergarteners. It was well received by the children and their parents.

We started off May with Staff Appreciation chaired by Clare Weber. Our dedicated and appreciated faculty and support staff members enjoyed a week filled with many surprises, which ranged from edible sweet treats to notes. The week ended with our Mother’s Day plant sale chaired by Jennifer Delaney and Veronica Castellino. Our children selected beautiful plants with care and love.

We held our Book Fair chaired by Anna Vaughn and Helene Ferguson. It was our *buy one book and get one free*. Since it was well received by the children, we were able to get some books for next year.

Throughout the months of April and May, we were preparing for our Annual Variety Show being held this year at Udall Middle School. Tina Budriss and Lesley Keane chaired it. There were 29 amazing acts displaying many incredible talents. It was a wonderful evening to all who attended.

In June we had Field Day. It was another successful event chaired by Rich Hujik. I know the children, as well as the parents, enjoyed this occasion. The Field Day t-shirts were also a big hit. Much appreciation is extended to the Environment Committee chaired by Jennifer Delaney and Kristina Delaney, to those of you who participated in the raffles and super raffle at the May PTA meeting, Variety Show and Field Day, since your support helped to pay for the Field Day t-shirts.

The End of the Year dinner chaired by Suzanne Farrell and Kristina Delaney was an awesome way to conclude an eventful year. The beach theme really got all the members looking forward to the summer. The next activity to follow was the Father’s Day sale chaired by Kristina Delaney. The purchases from this event will help to create bigger and brighter smiles on all of our Oquenock Dads.

The PTA is ending this school year with the Farewell Breakfast offered to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders chaired by Renee Marino and Jeannie Rocchio. At this event the 5<sup>th</sup> graders will receive their yearbooks. The Moving Up Celebration chaired by Maureen Schneider will have refreshments for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their guest after the ceremony. The PTA would like to extend a **HUGE CONGRATULATIONS** to our 5th graders moving up to Udall Middle School. We are wishing you much continued success and good times.

I would also like to thank all of our Committee Chairs, Executive Board and Executive Committee members for all of their help this year. For without you, our PTA would not have been able to present to the children of Oquenock a year filled with activities, assemblies, and other academic supportive items. It was a pleasure to work with you.

Wishing everyone a restful, safe and wonderful summer,  
Mary Louise Cairo  
President



## Interactive kid friendly sites!

- <http://www.aaamath.com/>
- <http://www.starfall.com/>
- <http://www.funbrain.com/>
- <http://www.gamequarium.com/>
- <http://www.brainpop.com/>



## Celebrating Learning and New Experiences



### Our Kindergarten Journey

It is hard to believe that our kindergarten journey is coming to a close. Spring has been such a blast! Our curriculum fair was hard work, but a lot of fun! The children enjoyed planting seeds and watching them grow.

We dressed our best as the letters Q and U took their wedding vows at our Q and U wedding. The children ate platefuls of treats and danced the morning away at the reception.

The kindergarteners were PUMPED to participate in their first field day ever!

It amazes us to see how much progress the k kids have made since they first came to us in September. Their maturity really showed as they gave our incoming kindergartners a classroom tour. Watching them interact was so nice; they look so big next to them! :-)

It has been our pleasure to watch these wonderful children learn and mature. We wish them health and success in all the years to come!

Mrs. Lutz  
Mrs. Hudson  
Mrs. Howard

### First Grade Accomplishments

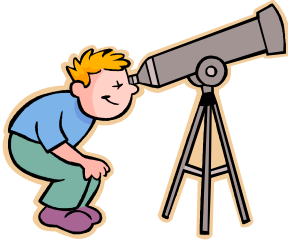
The year has gone by so quickly. The students have done a fantastic job in first grade. It has been a great year and the students have flourished in all areas of learning. The first grade teachers are very proud of all of them.

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## First Grade Accomplishments

(Continued from page 4)

We have been very busy in first grade. In the last few months, we have learned about many new and exciting things! The first graders worked hard preparing for the Curriculum Fair. We learned about the sun, moon, stars, and Earth. We



completed some wonderful projects and activities. The students learned how to write a creative piece about themselves as astronauts.

Throughout the school year, the students have been writing and publishing their monthly stories. We are very excited to create our First Grade Memory Book. This memory book highlights and displays all of the growth and development that each child has shown throughout the school year. The progress that each child has made is truly amazing.

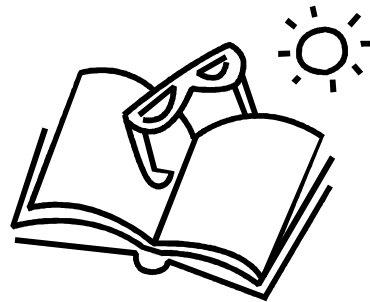
The students have also enjoyed all of the lessons, projects, field trips, and assemblies throughout the school year. It has been a wonderful journey and we are sad to see it end. The first grade teachers know that the students are prepared and excited for second grade. We hope that you have a wonderful summer and we look forward to another successful school year!

## **Second Grade News**

To All of Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Students,

This has been a year of academic and social growth. We are very proud of all that each of you has accomplished! Please continue to read and practice your addition and subtraction facts. We wish you a happy and healthy summer. Enjoy 3<sup>rd</sup> grade!

Love,  
Mrs. Cosentino  
Mrs. Greene  
Mrs. Villez



## **Third Grade Experiences**

The third grade has finished the year with much excitement. In science we studied the Life Cycle of the Butterfly. Each child watched as his or her caterpillar grew and grew in its observation cup. Then we watched it spin into its chrysalis. Finally we all marveled as we witnessed its emergence from the chrysalis as a Painted Lady Butterfly. It was spectacular to see Mother Nature at its best.



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## **Third Grade Experiences**

(Continued from page 5)

In math, we completed the year with the mastery of division. Division is a skill introduced for the first time in the third grade. Now the students can divide single digit divisors into any size dividend with or without remainders.

On Thursday, June 4th, the third grade had the opportunity to climb the rock wall. The rock wall was originally suppose to be part of Health and Wellness Week, but had to be postponed due to poor weather.

Almost all the third graders attempted the challenge which is supervised and sponsored by the Bay Shore YMCA and many of them mastered the giant wall and rang the bell at the top

Lastly, third grade will celebrate a year of learning and adventure with a Bagel Bonanza and Breakfast on June 25th before resting up over the summer and returning for their new Fourth Grade Adventure in September.

## **Fourth Grade**

The fourth grade students have been spending a lot of time in the MST Lab this spring. Students had the opportunity to work with Mrs. Hollinger as CSI agents to investigate the "Case of Polluted Long Island Waters." The students boarded a boat to investigate the waters of the Great South Bay. Students came up with creative solutions to help protect our most precious natural resource, water.

Enrichment continued with a unit on Structures in the MST Lab. Students, led by classroom teachers used mathematical analysis, science inquiry, and engineering design to pose questions, seek answers, and develop solutions. Activities included testing materials to see which made a better foundation, building a skyscraper using index cards, and building a skyscraper on a surface that is not level (with the children figuring out how to make the skyscraper level.)

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

### **Moving On**

Students, parents and teachers were very excited about the moving up field trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island on Thursday, June 11, 2009. It was a wonderful learning experience and really gave us all a deep respect for our ancestors, who at one point or another migrated to this country. To complete this wonderful day, we ate a late lunch at the very fun and exciting restaurant, Mars 2112. Thanks to the parents for all their help as chaperones.

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## **Moving On** (Continued from page 6)

Students are also looking forward to 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Udall. Guidance counselors came to Oquenock on June 9, 2009 to address questions and concerns students had about Middle School. In addition, there will be an orientation and tour of Udall Middle School on Wednesday, June 24, 2009.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation from Oquenock is taking place on Monday, June 22, 2009. Hopefully, the weather will be good so that the ceremony can be held outdoors on the front lawn. This is a very special way to say good-bye to family and friends, especially at the reception in the courtyard that follows the moving up ceremony.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have worked so hard and have accomplished so much during their years at Oquenock. They will be greatly missed. Good luck to all of them as they continue their education in Middle School!

## **News from our School Nurse, Mrs. McCarthy**

I would like to thank Mrs. Zaccaria, Mrs. Hohorst, Mrs. Rosa Meyer, Mrs. Kristina Delaney, and Mrs. Moran for bringing in clothes and underwear for my "change of clothes" drawer. They have been put to good use (more than a few times). THANK YOU! Have a wonderful summer to all!



## **From the Environment Committee**



Many thanks to our Oquenock Community! With much support, we raised over \$300.00 from our returns and over \$500.00 in raffles. This helped to purchase our Field Day T-shirts.

Next year we will continue with the bottle returns, as well as, try to implement more recycling programs. Indeed, it was a great year and we look forward to an even "greener" new year.

Have a safe and happy summer,  
Jenn Delaney – Chair  
Kristina Delaney Co-Chair

## **Great Big Thank You to Bakers Dozen**

The Bakers Dozen Committee did such a wonderful job this year making all our functions festive. Without them we would not have been able to do it. They helped with Fall Fest, Bedtime Stories, Staff Appreciation and so many more I can't even name.



For everyone who baked and or purchased a cookie or a cake, from Kindergarten Orientation to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving up, I would like to thank you all. Indeed, you deserve a round of applause.

Julie Siano  
Chair of Baker's Dozen

## **An Editor's Moment**



Our school community is rapidly approaching the 2008-2009 academic finish line. Remarkable social events, gained and strengthened knowledge and strategies, and fostering and preserving relationships have occurred within the past 10 months within our children's universe, Oquenock. Therefore, our final edition is dedicated to our young enlightened and socially, emotionally and mentally enriched learners, who accepted the challenge to perform at their very best.

