

# ACCESS OAKTON

OAKTON HIGH SCHOOL PTSA | VIENNA VA | [www.oaktonhsptsa.org](http://www.oaktonhsptsa.org)

## Vision Statement

Living, Learning, Leading  
Oakton High School will prepare all students for productive and ethical living, life-long learning, and innovative and responsible leadership.

## Mission Statement

Through a culture of collaboration, continuous improvement, accountability, and community involvement, Oakton High School will provide rigorous, relevant, and well-rounded education for all students.

## Special Thank You

The PTSA would like to thank Carly Stonehouse and Erin Preaskorn for all their hard work publishing the Access Oakton Online Newsletter. They added a fresh new look to the newsletter this year and without their commitment and dedication this newsletter would not be possible.

Newsletter designed by  
Carly Stonehouse, Oakton  
Outlook Editor-in-Chief and  
Erin Preaskorn, Oakton  
Outlook Copy Editor

## Letter from the President

As your outgoing president, I first need to say a special thanks to the incredibly dedicated volunteers of your OHS PTSA who do so much for so many. Brooks Moran, serving both as VP and Chair of the Directory, has constantly kept vigil to protect our families' private information and directory information. Thank you, Brooks. Cheri Turner, aside from her role as dedicated secretary, propped up every other activity and undertaking including handling the beginning of the year tasks of Cougar Kick-Off and welcoming the teachers back to school. Pam Burke, Melissa Weber, Liane Carlstrom MacDowell and Suzanne Brandt handle their significant undertakings of the Academic Booster Club Chair, PTSA Treasurer, All Night Grad Chairmanship and Membership Chair, respectively, graciously and professionally. Thank you, too, to Brian Evans, Nancy Evans, Marcia Pickett, Helen Petrakes, and Sue Weaver for your time, talent and dedication to your chairmanships. It is a wonderful thing to have most everyone returning to their roles next year. We always are in need of additional help and so please contact me at if you are interested in being a part of this great group.

Thank you to all of the other volunteers who have helped the PTSA to support Oakton High School in its efforts to support our school community and to educate and prepare our children for their next steps in life.

Once again this year, your PTSA has supported our school community's many activities and programs because of your membership funds and generous donations. I would especially like to express my appreciation to Sangeeta Prasad whose

family foundation provided the seed funding for the 17 successful Capstone projects that were accomplished with and through the dedicated efforts of 28 advisories. The students in these advisories accomplished some truly great things for our community---both local and global. Thank you to those advisory teachers who kept the projects alive throughout the year: Stacey August, Stephanie Lin, Ximena Losada, Beth Blankenship, Steve Glick, Eliot Waxman, Emily Fugate-Brunino, Betty Schelhorn, Cara Burke, Don Clark, Sidney Dillon, Anita Hartley, Craig Griffith, Erich Heckel, Matt Kroetch, Phillip Kroft, Joe Neuman, Roberta Olson, Inge Pisano, Susan Silva, Angie Taggart, Kelly Tatian, Everett Flowers, Katherine Hovanec and Bill Tiller. Beth Blankenship, Eliot Waxman and Colleen Eddy were the primary driving forces behind this endeavor with the support of the administration. Special thanks are deserved to Lou Nugent, Krista Jay and Nancy Sommer for their significant contributions to Capstone. We hope to continue to grow the broad spirit of volunteerism in the coming years thanks to the successes of these undertakings.

The PTSA's Academic Boosters also helped to support the success and expanded reach of the Oakton Writing Center, which is a great asset to our student population. Thank you to Beth Blankenship for her dedication and vision around this endeavor.

I also offer congratulations to our graduating seniors and their parents. I look forward to sharing in a wonderful graduation event with you and your children. Seniors, please consider participating in the wonderful Baccalaureate celebration which will be held at: Floris United

Methodist Church on Sunday, June 15 at 7 pm. This non-denominational event honors all our graduates regardless of faith background and includes student speeches and performances as well as inspirational speeches from our teacher of the year and other community members. We are still welcoming students interested in speaking. If you would like to participate in either a speaking or music role, please contact Nancy Evans at: [baccalaureate@oaktonhspts.org](mailto:baccalaureate@oaktonhspts.org). It is truly a memorable event to kick off the graduation week.

After graduation, all seniors are welcome and encouraged to have their last hurrah at Oakton High School participating in the always successful and memorable All Night Grad party held graduation night, June 19 from 10:30 pm to June 20, 5 am. Tickets are still available. The vast majority of seniors attend this event. Volunteers are still needed and this is a great event to be a part of. To help, please go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0949aca72aa20-club2> to see what needs are still unmet. Parents of students of all classes are encouraged to join in the fun!!

Of significant note, our faculty, select student groups and administration have been laying the groundwork for initiatives regarding the management of increasing student stress. Please pay attention to upcoming information about this important effort.

I'd also like to express my tremendous appreciation to the Oakton High School administration for their support of the PTSA and willingness to support all of our endeavors. Your dedication to our community is admirable. Dr. Banbury and Monica Newman, thank you for being willing to make time to address the issues that we brought to your attention.

I will miss the Oakton High School community and will always appreciate what you have done to so tremendously prepare my five children for life beyond high school. I am always impressed by not just the classroom work of our faculty, but by the enormous additional effort done to enhance our children's high school experience while also meeting the substantial administrative demands. I have also been impressed by our dedicated custodial staff and security who keep our environment healthy and our students safe. Thank you.

I thank you, the PTSA, for your friendships and dedication. You are an inspirational group to be associated with and I am humbled by all you accomplish.

Best regards,

**Kirsten Kunkler Rucker**  
**President-OHS PTSA**

## Letter from the Principal:

February 19, 2014

Dear Oakton Community,


In a few days at the Patriot Center, we will gather as a school community to honor Oakton's graduating class of 2014. Students, you have much to celebrate. Your diploma from Oakton High School represents one of the most rigorous and comprehensive education programs in the United States and you should be proud to be an Oakton Cougar. As a result of your hard work in high school, many doors will open for your future. I look forward to hearing of your various pursuits and successes in postsecondary life. As you celebrate your accomplishment, do not forget to thank those who have supported you along the way, particularly your parents and your teachers. When you walk across the stage, take a moment to absorb the love and joy in the eyes of the audience. We are so proud of you! Congratulations, class of 2014!

The class of 2014 has enjoyed unprecedented academic success with 134 honor graduates that have a 4.0 or higher after seven semesters. The class continued Oakton's winning ways athletically with (as of this writing) nine conference titles, four region titles and two state titles. Our performing arts department once again is a blue ribbon school with the band, choir and orchestra advanced ensembles all earning superior ratings at their respective district assessments. Countless other awards were won in academic competitions including Debate, Forensics, Model UN, VHSL One-Act, and the Scholastic Arts. The class of 2014 will always be remembered for its' successes, hard work and ambitions!

As we transition to summer, take a moment to review your course selections for next year and if you desire any changes, contact your school counselor this month. In addition, I encourage you to buy or borrow a copy of one of this year's all-school summer reading assignment: *Divergent* by Veronica Roth, *The Other Side of the Sky* by Farah Ahmed and *How to Be an Explorer of the World* by Keri Smith. Through the selection for Oakton High School's summer reading assignment, students will reflect on this year's theme: breaking the mold.

To all of our returning students please take some time to enjoy your summer. "Schedule" some unscheduled time and see where your free time takes you. This is a good opportunity for you to decompress from the rigors of the school year and enjoy your own agenda. We look forward to seeing you at Cougar Kick-off on Tuesday, August 26th! Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. John Banbury

# Cougar Calendar

DATE	EVENT
June 13	Graduation Rehearsal and Senior Picnic
June 15	Senior Baccalaureate Mass
June 19	Graduation
June 19	All Night Grad Party 10:30pm
June 25	Last Day of School

## News from Theatre Arts

[www.oaktondrama.org](http://www.oaktondrama.org)

What a fabulous end to our ambitious theatrical season! Thank you to everyone who came out to see PIRATES OF PENZANCE. It was our most successful musical to date and Mrs. Powell, Dr. VanValkenburg, Mr. Oppenheimer and I were so pleased with the end results. It'll be hard to top next year!

Congratulations to Savannah Hemmig who is the recipient of our 3rd annual \$1000 KT SMITH SCHOLARSHIP. Savannah will be heading off to USC for film school, so look for her to be directing award winning films in the near future. I am proud to honor Grace Yoder with my Theatre Arts Department Award. Grace has been our Stage Manager this year and my right hand. I'm not sure how I will function without her next year as she goes off to CNU.

Congratulations to Emilia Brennan who has been nominated for a CAPPIE for Graduating Critic. We are also very proud of Jack Goodin and Justin Pirocchi who have been nominated for a Creativity Award for the musical work on our fall production of ELEPHANT'S GRAVEYARD. The Gala is on Sunday, June 8th at the Kennedy Center. Good luck!

We are so grateful for all your support as parents and as audience members. Thank you for helping us to have such a fun and successful year. Enjoy your summer break, support local theatre in the DC area and we look forward to seeing you in September!

Vanessa Gelinas  
 vlgelinas@fcps.edu



FAIRFAX COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**OAKTON HIGH SCHOOL**

2900 Sutton Road  
Vienna, VA 22181-6199  
(703)319-2950 ext. 2917

## Jeanine Musgrove Memorial

I wanted to send an update on the progress toward making the Jeanine Musgrove Memorial Outdoor Classroom a reality. At this point, we have met with the county's civil engineer and a contractor. Our original estimate of the project costing around \$15,000 has been increased to between \$17,000 and \$20,000. As of now, we have collected just over \$13,000 in donations! My sincerest thanks go to those who have contributed to this project. The generosity of the Oakton community is overwhelming. However, we are not there yet.

If you have not yet made a contribution and would still like to, the best way is to simply send a check to the attention of the Finance Office at Oakton using the address above. Writing "Jeanine Musgrove Memorial Fund" in the memo line of the check would also be helpful. Alternately, a webpage has been created for anyone who prefers to donate using a credit card. The page can be found at the following link: [www.gofundme.com/OHSOutdoorClassroom](http://www.gofundme.com/OHSOutdoorClassroom).

I will post periodic updates, fundraiser information, and visuals of potential designs at the gofundme.com site, so check it periodically.

Please feel free to contact me personally at [ACGiordano@fcps.edu](mailto:ACGiordano@fcps.edu), if you have questions. We look forward to hearing from you and strengthening the Oakton community in honor of Jeanine.

Sincerely,

Abbey Giordano  
Oakton High School Science Department

## Parent Information Relating to Special Education

### Water Safety for Everyone

Monday, June 2, 2014 7:30-9:00 pm

MBC Tysons Community Room A 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA

RSVP requested by not required: Erin Roundtree (703) 770-2938

PEATC: Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center provides support, education, and training to families, schools and other professionals, in special education in Virginia.

When the School Says NO!

Tuesday, June 3, 2014 7:00-8: pm 100 N. Washington St Suite 234, Falls Church, VA 22046

A workshop with Hank Millward, Complaints and Family Support Coordinator, VA Dept of Ed.

Registration is required: [partners@peatc.org](mailto:partners@peatc.org) or (703) 923-0010

### Paving the Path Ahead - Preparing families and youth for adulthood

Thursday, June 5, 2014, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

At Formed Families Forward, 4031 University Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030

Training for foster, adoptive and kinship parents on how to help older youth transition to adulthood.

Register at: <http://formedfamiliesforward.org/projectlife/>

### Webinar: When to Hire an Advocate presented by Kelly Bisbano

Thursday, June 12, 2014, time TBA

Registration is required: [partners@peatc.org](mailto:partners@peatc.org) or (703) 923-0010

### CHADD: Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

The West Fairfax CHADD Parent Support Group will continue to meet on

the second and fourth **Thursday of each month (except August) at 7:30 pm (June 12 and 26)**

in Room 201 at Fairfax Church of Christ, 3901 Rugby Road, Fairfax, VA 22033 Open to all parents of a child with ADHD. Contact Sharon 703 716-4646 or [clintob@aol.com](mailto:clintob@aol.com).

### CHADD Teen Discussion Group for high school students meets on the first **Sunday of the month 3:30 - 5:00**

**pm.** Group is led by Anne S. Roberts of Brain Relief LLC, 7806 Oak Street, Falls Church, VA 22043-3122. For more information, contact Anne S. Roberts, 703.641.8940, [coach@brainrelief.org](mailto:coach@brainrelief.org).

NAMI: National Alliance on Mental Illness is dedicated to building better lives for those affected by mental illness.

### Oakton Family Support Group meets on the 1st **Thursday of each month, 7:30-9:00 pm**

Rm 9 of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd.

Contact: Joanna Walker at 703 620-2633 or [Joannaw.walker@gmail.com](mailto:Joannaw.walker@gmail.com)

### Fairfax Family Support Group meets on the 3rd **Saturday of each month 10:00-11:30 am**

Contact: Gayle Jackson at 703 830-1293 or [gaylej08@gmail.com](mailto:gaylej08@gmail.com) for more information

# Find It All @ Your OHS Library

## It's Time to Resolve Library Obligations!

All student library obligations for lost and overdue books and printing fines should be resolved as soon as possible. Please ask your student to check with Ms. Cappel or Ms. Boccetti if he is unsure of his account status.

## Library Resources Available Online

Online library resources will be available to students over the summer. Required passwords are available in the @Oakton HS Library Blackboard class. Click the "Online Databases" button and follow the first link listed.

Databases are web-based collections that support curriculum and are purchased by the library. They have been filtered and evaluated by publishers, editors, and authors.

## Books Are Brain Candy

Looking for a good book? Try one of these sites to locate your next favorite book.

- ReadersLink on the Fairfax County Public Library website @ <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/reading/>
- Books & Authors database. Use the Gale password found in the library Blackboard class to access
- Reading Rants @ <http://www.readingrants.org>
- YALSA Book Awards and Booklists @ <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/bookawards/booklists> (Check Best Fiction for Young Adults, Nonfiction for Young Adults, Alex Award, Morris Award, Great Graphic Novels)
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Teen Page @ <http://www.carnegielibrary.org/teens/books/>
- Teen Reads @ <http://www.teenreads.com/>
- Indie Bestseller Lists @ <http://www.indiebound.org/indie-bestsellers>
- Books in Series @ [yseries.bettendorflibrary.com/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://yseries.bettendorflibrary.com/index.php/Main_Page)

# FALL SPORTS TRYOUTS

Fall Sports Tryouts will begin on Monday, August 4 for Golf, Field Hockey, Football, Volleyball, Cross Country and Cheerleading. All athletes must have an emergency care form for the fall sports coach AND a doctor's physical dated after May 1, 2014 on file in the Activities Office in order to do preseason conditioning and tryouts. The physical must be recorded on the official Virginia High School League Physical Form (marked "Revised March 2013"). All forms are available in the Activities Office and the athletic website, [www.oaktonathletics.org](http://www.oaktonathletics.org) under Files and Links. Physicals should be turned in to or mailed to the Activities Office. **MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.** (OHS Activities, 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna, VA 22181) If you mail in the emergency care form with the physical, write the sport(s) in the upper right hand corner so we can give it directly to the coaches. Athletes will not be permitted to condition/tryout without these forms. Again this year, all athletes and one parent must view an on-line concussion power point before tryouts. The link to view it is posted at [www.fcps.edu/sports](http://www.fcps.edu/sports).

Athletes should go to [www.oaktonathletics.org](http://www.oaktonathletics.org), click on the sport they want to try out for and email the head varsity coach to get on the team email distribution list. There is a drop-in "registration" for all fall athletes on Thursday, July 31st, 5:00-6:00 in the cafeteria to check to make sure all your paperwork is on file for the tryouts on August 4th.

## Virginia Students Take Honors in 2014 Gaithersburg Book Festival Short Story Contest

Gaithersburg, Md.- Nazrin Garibova, a sophomore at Oakton High School in Oakton, Va., took first prize in the 2014 Gaithersburg Book Festival short story contest for high school students with her humorous story, “The Pirate’s Struggle,” about a group of pirates who get stage fright whenever they’re expected to sing and dance.

Second prize went to Osbourn Park High School (Woodbridge, Va.) sophomore Carmen Pickard, and third prize went to sophomore Maggie Zeile from Oakton High School for her story, “A Feline Frenzy.” Katie Holcomb, a sophomore from Oakton High School, garnered the designation of “Fan Favorite,” which was determined based on voting on the Gaithersburg Book Festival website.

Contest finalists also included:

- Katherine Brown from Woodbridge High School (Prince William County, Va.)
- Elena Meyer, a homeschooled student from Virginia
- Erik Park from Oakton High School (Fairfax County, Va.)
- Allan Phillips from Oakton High School (Fairfax County, Va.)
- Morgan Smalley from Osbourn Park High School (Prince William County, Va.)
- Alex Twery from Westminster High School (Carroll County, Md.)
- Rachael Ward from Broadneck High School (Anne Arundel County, Md.)

The winners were announced May 18 at the fifth annual Gaithersburg Book Festival. They received \$100, \$50 and \$25 gift certificates courtesy of the Johns Hopkins University Montgomery County Campus.

The contest drew more than 150 entries from public, private, and homeschooled students from 11 jurisdictions throughout D.C., Maryland and Virginia. Jurisdictions included the Maryland counties of Anne Arundel, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George’s; and the Virginia counties of Albemarle, Fairfax and Prince William, and the City of Fredericksburg.

The finalists’ stories are available online at: <http://gaithersburgbookfestival.org/gbf-programs/short-story-entries/> Author Jon Methven (“This Is Your Captain Speaking”), who was a featured author at the 2013 Gaithersburg Book Festival, provided three opening lines, from which students had to choose when writing their stories. He also served as the final judge. “I was wildly impressed by the caliber of all the stories I read in this year’s contest,” Methven added. “It was quite amazing to experience the plots these young writers created from only a few dozen words of introduction. They stepped up to the challenge, I applaud their efforts and I had a lot of fun participating.”



# ESOL Global Awareness Technology Fair Winners

The annual ESOL Global Awareness Technology Fair was held at Chantilly HS on Wed. May 7. This year 66 students competed in eight categories: Change Over Time, Leadership, Literature, Math and Science, Governments, Comparing Art Form, Geographic Impact and Interdependence. Oakton enters two students in this competition each year.

Please congratulate our two winners!

**Kaidi Zhang** – “The Decline of the Silk Road” in the category of Interdependence

**Khasan Nugamanov** – “How Did Peter the Great Compare with Julius Caesar?” in the category of Leadership

School Board Chairman Ilryong Moon was especially impressed with Kaidi’s Zhang’s Silk Road project.





## Counseling Corner, June 2014

As the year comes to a close the counselors would like to thank all the parents, staff and students that have supported us this year, and recognize the accomplishments of the students at Oakton as well. We are proud to be a part of the life of such a vibrant school community. The Graduation ceremony on the 19th of June marks a milestone in the lives of our seniors as they embark on the next phase of their academic and personal journeys. We wish them all the happiness and success at this time of celebration.

Schedule requests confirmations have been sent out by mail and counselors have made adjustments to the student's courses in time to make scheduling possible. The process of matching students with class periods will continue throughout the summer.

While the counselors are off contract for July and the beginning of August the offices will be open for all of June, the second two weeks of July and the month of August as well. Counselors return August 18th, a week before teachers.

Remember:

Summer school info is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/is/summer/> including information on credit recovery, and other summer options.

The School Counseling pages of the Oakton website have information and the Senior Profile, that will help rising seniors get ready for college applications. The senior profile is required by counselors prior to letters of recommendation requests.

## From the Halls of Government

The Fourth Quarter was a busy one for all Government students as they completed their "Active Citizenship Projects." The goal of the Active Citizenship Project is to meet the civic mission of public education and prepare students for a life of responsible citizenship. Students were given many options to complete this project including the Senior Capstone Project done with their Learning Seminars, a Democracy Activities Portfolio and Face to Faith – a program supported by the Tony Blair Foundation. Students chose a topic in which they have a strong interest, learned about the issue, educated their peers and the larger community and then acted on the problem. In many cases, students worked with knowledgeable experts beyond Oakton High School. Additionally, all students were asked to complete a written reflection and participate in a Senior Exit Interview where they discussed the answer to the question, "As an Oakton High School graduate, how am I prepared to be an informed, ethical, and engaged citizen of the world?" This pilot program was the precursor to the fully implemented Capstone experience that all students will have beginning in 2014-2015.