



Oak Grove Student Council | February 2022 Newsletter



Jumping to new heights

Annual Jump Rope for Heart raises a record \$14,707

By Eleanor Huang

When one first steps inside the Oak Grove Elementary School gym, you are hit with loud noises of chattering kids, lively music, and a range of activities. No, it isn't a party. Rather, it is the annual Jump Rope for Heart fund-raiser.



Held annually around Valentine's Day, the event, coordinated by PE teacher Mrs. Turpin-Orgetas, is designed to raise money for the American Heart Association and

raise awareness about taking care of your heart. This year's event is especially memorable as a record \$14,707 has been raised. The previous mark was \$10,432 set during 2006-07.

"I think with the help of the Student Council and Peer Mediators creating a video with (principal) Mrs. Rooney and their classmates, it helped raise lots of money," Mrs. Turpin-O says.

The buzz of activity immediately pumps up students, as they start wondering which activity they'd like to do, exercising, having a great time, and socializing with friends.

A variety of stations ensures students will be able to make the most of their time. This includes solo jump roping, partner jump roping, "Don't Let The Bean Bag Get You," long jump roping, Pogo Stick jumping, and breaking records.

Students understand the importance of the event.

"It's good for us to participate in Jump Rope for Heart," says Aanya, a sixth grader. "It encourages us to donate money to the American Heart Association."

"It's about helping people. We get involved and raise money," adds her classmate Antonio.

Mrs. Turpin-O notes that the extra thank-you gifts students earned will be delivered within the next couple of weeks. She also thanks all teachers, staff, and students who helped break the donations record.



Students participated in a variety of activities during Jump Rope for Heart.

FACTS ABOUT THE HEART

- Your heart beats over 100,000 times per day.
- There are 60,000 miles of blood vessels in your body, which help your heart pump about 1.5 gallons of blood every minute.

The heart has four chambers:

- The right atrium receives blood from the veins and pumps it to the right ventricle.
- The right ventricle receives blood from the right atrium and pumps it to the lungs, where it is loaded with oxygen.
- The left ventricle (the strongest chamber) pumps oxygen-rich blood to the rest of the body.
- Without the correct medications or doctors, you wouldn't be able to survive without your heart!

– Amaya Siddique



Q&A with Mrs. Turpin-O: Jump Rope for Heart

1. How long have we done this event?

We have done this event for 28 years. Before we received banners each time we did it, we received plaques.

2. How much money has it raised in total?

So far we have raised \$202,829 in all.

3. What kinds of prizes did you have before?

We used to have prizes like ducks, dogs, tattoos, hearts, characters . . . stuff like that.

4. Why is it important to raise money?

To help kids who have heart problems. The money goes to the American Heart Association.

5. What created this organization and partnership?

To make kids aware; jump roping can be fun and exercise is important. If they exercise 60 minutes a day and eat healthy, then they won't need money for their heart. It is important to know that.

– Eleanor Huang

**\$500 earmarked
for new equipment**

Oak Grove has earned \$500 to help with the purchase of new recess equipment. Please let Mrs. Turpin-O know if you have any requests for this equipment.

Oak Grove featured in local news report

A crew from Spectrum News visited Oak Grove on March 2 to do a report about the first day of school following the lifting of the face-covering mandate in New York State. You can read and watch the story at [Spectrum News](#). (Some browsers may have trouble viewing the video.)



INTERVIEW WITH ...

Mr. Marrinan

AIS Teacher



1. Why did you become a teacher?

When I was a kid, I was diagnosed with dyslexia. When I went to college and learned how to work harder and accept it, I realized that I wanted to help children that were like me.

2. What is your favorite subject to teach? Why?

My favorite subject to teach is reading because it is satisfying to see kids grow and become better and better.

3. What was your favorite subject in school? Why?

My favorite subject was science because it was interesting and fun.

4. How do you motivate your students?

Try to be as funny as Mr. Lander, and try to make the classroom as comparable as possible.

5. What is your hidden talent?

Acting, singing, and theater. I was in a barbershop quartet. I haven't done it in a while, but I can ride the unicycle and juggle.

Interview by Karly Cservak

INTERVIEW WITH ...

Mrs. Vilardi

Kindergarten Teacher



1. Why did you become a teacher?

When I first started college, I wanted to be a marine biologist, and then I volunteered in a kindergarten classroom. The first day of visiting that classroom I went home and told my parents that is what I wanted to do! I loved working with the little kiddos and seeing their excitement as we did new things each day.

2. What is your favorite subject to teach? Why?

I love to teach writing because I love to write. It is just a great way to share thoughts and tell stories about your life. I have always loved writing and feel like it is a release of emotions.

3. What was your favorite subject in school? Why?

My favorite subject in school was math in junior high and later chemistry in high school. I also really liked wood shop. I think these classes were my favorite because of the teachers and how they took the time to connect with me.

4. How do you motivate your students?

I like to motivate students by encouraging them to take chances, especially when answering questions or doing something new. The act of trying and giving effort is key in my classroom! At the beginning of the year, I actually give rewards for anyone who tries, not just those with the right answer.

5. What is your hidden talent?

Hmmm, this is a hard one. My hidden talent is riding and racing snowmobiles. I have won multiple snowmobile drag races, and love to ride!

Interview by Delilah Antonini

Trait of the Month

The Trait of the Month for February is **Caring/Kindness**. Being caring and showing kindness are redeeming qualities we look for in everyone. It can be a simple act such as holding the door open for someone, or a more involved one such as helping a friend study for a test. One small act of kindness can have a ripple effect where it inspires others to pay it forward.

Upcoming Events

Penny Wars is March 7-11.

St. Patrick's Day is March 17.

Movie Night is March 24.

The **NYS ELA Test** is March 29-30 for grades 3-6.

Did You Know?

In 1999, a biologist studying sun bears on the island of Borneo reported that a reticulated python had eaten a bear. This observation was a scientific first! The bear, however, was small and weak from lack of food, so "bear fare" may be rare for pythons.

– Joshua Rodriguez-Allen

Trivia Question

How many miles long is the Great Wall in China?

Answer to last month's question: Nemo in the movie "Finding Nemo" is a clownfish.

– Zachary Paredes

Must-Click Site of the Month



Need some help on that science assignment about plant cells? Want to brush up on geometry before the big math test? Check out [Scholastic's Study Jams](#) – an interactive site that features more than 200 math and science brought to you by the Study Jams crew.

Students of the Month ~ February 2022

Grade	Teacher	Students
K	Mrs. Leveque	Ariel Linley, Wolfgang Lemchak
K	Mrs. Kirsch	Coraline Ritholz, Aubrielle Engel
K	Ms. Vilardi	Jeymil Hilario Salcedo, Alice Sojos Arias
SC 1/2	Mrs. LaSalvia	Brandon Buele-Abril, Joshua Noble
1	Mrs. Greene	Arden Riley, Cara Lomas
1	Mrs. Berwick	Violet Rivera, Alexander Alston
1	Ms. Tyburski	Grayson Britton, Aneliese Gardner
2	Ms. Merritt	Savannah Walker, Dylan Campos
2	Mrs. Wilson	Michaela Varella, Luciano Picone
2	Ms. Murray	Samuel Jenson, Lilianna Granese
SC 3/4	Mrs. DiPalma	Logan Toscano, Joseph Elswick
3	Mrs. Manee	Savannah Dick, Sahib Dhaliwal
3	Mrs. Zmudosky	Aubree Rolls, Zachariah Shrestha
4	Ms. Segarra	Sofia Anemelos, Ryan Bianco
4	Ms. Marino	Skyla Orellana, Keegan McClay
4	Mrs. Walker	Jazmine Rolle, Cayden Francis
SC 5/6	Mrs. Kearney	Ella Lynch, Izelha Carrer-Orellana
5	Mrs. Dease	Juliette Wise, Morgan LaCasse
5	Ms. Hickey	Aleksander Woodward, Nurii Tisdale
5	Ms. Halliday	Aryanna Cuadrado, Jackson Luppino
6	Ms. McCabe	Jerry Lin, Samantha Kirsch
6	Mr. Lander	Julia Imm, Alexis Fermin Jr.
6	Mrs. Roe	Rianney David, Omar Alassali

Student Council Members

Delilah Antonini	Zachary Paredes
Emily Belfiore	Alex Raszkievicz
Michael Busby	Shane Riley
Karly Cservak	Joshua Rodriguez-Allen
Eliana Haimowitz	Grace Shrestha
Eleanor Huang	Amaya Siddique



Oak Grove Elementary School

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