



Oak Grove Student Council | January 2022 Newsletter



Teaching on familiar ground

3 teachers spent time
as Oak Grove students

By Eleanor Huang, Grace Shrestha, and
Eliana Haimowitz

Students here at Oak Grove Elementary School are all familiar with walking down the halls, eating lunch in the cafeteria, having class parties, and learning in their classrooms. Did you know that three of our teachers had the same experiences when they were students? That's right. We have three teachers who spent all or part of their elementary school years at Oak Grove: Ms. McCabe (6th grade), Mrs. Roe (6th grade), and Miss Marino (4th grade). They share their experiences here with us.



Mrs. Roe, left, and Miss Marino
attended Oak Grove as students.

Ms. McCabe

I went to Oak Grove for 5th and 6th grades. Before that, I went to Kinry Road for 3rd and 4th, and Vasser Elementary for 1st and 2nd. I was a student of the "rezoning years."

School work was difficult. I was a special education student, and I had Mr. Heusinger for 5th grade and Mr. Corrigan for 6th grade. I loved the teachers. Mr. Corrigan let me keep a Snoopy pen stuck to my desk to use as a microphone for talking to the class. I was also the "Queen of Kickball." I liked recess and group projects in Mr.

Corrigan's class. We had a country project where we turned the entire class into a world. Each group became a country, and my group picked Ireland.

Everything was and still is cool here. Oak Grove physically – the way it looks – has stayed the same: the building, the rooms, the gym, the cafeteria, the playgrounds. Emotionally, it has stayed the same in the sense that the principal, teachers, and staff want to create a nurturing environment where they empower and challenge students in order for them to grow as individuals. One difference is there are actually fewer students at Oak Grove today than there were 25 years ago.

Mrs. Roe

I was here for seven years – from kindergarten to 6th grade. I just remember that kindergarten was lots of playtime. My favorite was my second-grade teacher. However, my third-grade teacher said I talked too much in class, which was weird because in first grade my report card noted that I was too quiet. So just in those few years I went from being too quiet to being too loud.

In fourth grade I started to love math. My math room was room 29 - the room I teach in now! Mr. Frey was my teacher, and I was put in the advanced math class. In 6th grade, I remember we did lots of projects. We did huge caves, pyramids, and towers that filled the room. I was in band and played the clarinet. I met my best friends here; they are still my best friends. I also loved how much the teachers challenged us.

Unfortunately, when I was in 4th grade, we were required to play kickball at recess every day. The teacher would choose two captains for the teams. I was never chosen to be captain and I was always chosen last. I just didn't like how we had to play kickball and weren't able to play something else. We only had to do this in 4th grade though. In gym class we also had to run four or five times around the field in the back.

Now there are a lot more activities for kids to do before and after school. I think it was a big change. There was no drama club, no student council, no peer mediation; we had no before- and after-school activities. I think that having the activities with Mr. Lander and Mrs. Turpin-O is very important. I just think there are more opportunities for kids to get involved with programs, so that's good. But otherwise, I don't think Oak Grove has changed that much. We have laptops now, which is good. We used to have a computer lab. The playground has more equipment than before, which is nice.

Miss Marino

I ended up changing schools before I started 5th grade. I went to St. Martin de Porres in Poughkeepsie before coming here. At that time, Oak Grove was only a K-5 school. I remember that when you move to a new school, it can be scary and daunting, but the teachers and kids here were very friendly and welcoming. I don't think there is anything I didn't like about Oak Grove.

I was in an after-school club called Lego League, and we got to make cool Lego creations, and it was just so fun. There was only fun things to do. At that time there was

no sixth grade classes here. I definitely was disappointed to leave after just one year. Having sixth graders now is a good change. The younger kids look up to them, and it is really nice. It is definitely a step forward.

I feel like the good parts about Oak Grove back then have stayed the same: it is welcoming and friendly. I love to work here. I started teaching here last year because Ms. Manee was on maternity leave. So it was my first “own” classroom, and I loved it.

Snow days don't always have to be boring

Stuck inside on a snow day? You don't have to be. With every snowstorm comes a new opportunity to do something fun. Perhaps the most popular activity is building a snowman. It is a very simple and fun project that can be done alone or with family and friends. Did you know that it takes 10,000 snowflakes to make a snowman?

Another snow day activity is sledding or snow tubing. You can't say sliding down a hill really fast isn't fun. Having a friendly snowball fight with your friends can be fun. You can also make a snow fort. The satisfaction of seeing the fort all done is magnificent.

If you are looking for something to do indoors, coloring is a great idea. Other snow day options include: listening to music; snuggling up with some hot cocoa and a good book; binge-watching your favorite series; and playing board games like Monopoly or Trouble.

(Reprinted and adapted from its original publication in March 2021 by Emily Belfiore.)



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INTERVIEW WITH ...

Miss DiPalma

3rd-4th Grade SC Teacher



1. Why did you become a teacher?

I have wanted to become a teacher for as long as I can remember! I have always loved school and my teachers! Once I went to college to become a teacher, I knew I made the right decision. I want to make my students love school just like my teachers did!

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

I like to teach math. I like to show my students different strategies to help make the subject a bit easier.

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

My favorite subject was Social Studies (specifically U.S. History.). I love learning all about the world we live in and its history.

4. How do you motivate your students?

I love to get to know my students and their interests. I like to incorporate their interests into my classroom and lessons. I also like to get excited about what I am teaching.

5. What is your hidden talent?

Skiing! I have been skiing for over 10 years. My favorite mountain is Mount Snow in Vermont.

Interview by Amaya Siddique

INTERVIEW WITH ...

Ms. Trosa

Art Teacher



1. Why did you become a teacher?

I became a teacher because I wanted to help students develop a love of art and learning. I also wanted to assist young people in gaining confidence in themselves.

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

My favorite subject to teach is art. More specifically, I love teaching students about Impressionism and Pop Art. Some of my favorite materials to use with students are paint and clay.

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

My favorite subject in school was art. Art was my favorite subject because I enjoy creating and I felt pride in what I created.

4. How do you motivate your students?

I motivate my students by giving them choices and by using a variety of art materials.

5. What is your hidden talent?

My hidden talent is throwing pottery on a wheel.

Interview by Michael Busby

Trait of the Month

The Trait of the Month for January is **Fairness**. Fairness is like sharing. It is following the rules. It is also listening to what others have to say. Lastly, fairness takes turns and shares with others. For example, let's say John wants to shoot baskets during recess. Jayden also wants to shoot baskets. However, there is only one basketball. So John and Jayden take turns. That's being fair.

Upcoming Events

Red Day is Feb. 4.

The annual **Jump Rope for Heart** event is Feb. 14-16.

School is closed Feb. 20 for **President's Day**.

Did You Know?

Did you know that 12 American astronauts have walked on the moon? On July 12, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon as part of the Apollo 11 mission. Commander Eugene Cernan made the final lunar walk on Dec. 12, 1972, as part of the Apollo 17 mission – the last manned mission to the moon. NASA is hoping to return to the moon in 2025.

Trivia Question

What type of fish is Nemo in the animated movie "Finding Nemo"?

Answer to last month's question: Delaware was the first state to join the union (Dec. 7, 1787). Hawaii was the last state to join the union (Aug. 21, 1959).

Must-Click Site of the Month



[Storyline Online](#) is a children's literacy site that offers streaming videos featuring celebrities such as Kristin Bell ("Frozen") and Ray Romano ("Ice Age") reading aloud children's books including "A Bad Case of Stripes" and "Catching the Moon." Books are appropriate for grades K-4.

Students of the Month ~ January 2022

Grade	Teacher	Students
K	Mrs. Leveque	Scarlett Schnorr, Ava Breusch
K	Mrs. Kirsch	Maria Alissali, Caiden Cadet
K	Ms. Vilardi	Kailynn Velazquez, Violet Borsch
SC 1/2	Mrs. LaSalvia	Michael Papaleo, Korbin Charland-Browne
1	Mrs. Greene	Nylah Addo, Nicholas Cardoso
1	Mrs. Berwick	Rylee Dellamura, Mateu Caicedo
1	Ms. Tyburski	Nadia Garcia, Savannah Wesner
2	Ms. Merritt	Emma Bianco, Kai Raszkiewicz
2	Mrs. Wilson	Elena Breusch, Parker James
2	Ms. Murray	Tyler Bianco, Madelyn Hamilton
SC 3/4	Mrs. DiPalma	Ayden Martinez, Xavier Aiello
3	Ms. Gashi	Olivia George, Emily Shuster
3	Mrs. Zmudosky	Kaylee Flynn, Eli Martello
4	Ms. Segarra	Marea DeLuccia, Jack Mahlmiester
4	Ms. Marino	Patrick Licari, Lucy O'Halloran
4	Mrs. Walker	Thomas Varella, Kaitlyn Hershman
SC 5/6	Mrs. Kearney	Joshua Quintero, William Phillips
5	Mrs. Dease	Amaya Siddique, Alyssa Venditto
5	Ms. Hickey	Christopher Cerone, Autumn Pelaccio
5	Ms. Halliday	Evan Bihn, Andrea Williams
6	Ms. McCabe	Annapia Celli, Jake Malafronte
6	Mr. Lander	Karly Cservak, Alex Raszkiewicz
6	Mrs. Roe	Carleigh Varella, Sean Lai

Student Council Members

Delilah Antonini

Emily Belfiore

Michael Busby

Karly Cservak

Eliana Haimowitz

Eleanor Huang

Zachary Paredes

Alex Raszkievicz

Shane Riley

Joshua Rodriguez-Allen

Grace Shrestha

Amaya Siddique



Oak Grove Elementary School

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