



HIGHLANDER HIGHWAY

The official newsletter of the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation Volume X, Issue I
January 2017

The Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation will enhance the achievement, heritage and educational opportunities for Oak Hills students and staff by providing alumni and community resources to promote unity and pride, and build a legacy for a stronger community.



Welcome to the new year! On May 21 another 600+ students will join our ranks of alumni as the 57th graduating class. With the new year we all begin with great intentions to do and be better! Our Oak Hills new year has started strong with the naming of our new superintendent, Jeff Brandt. Mr. Brandt is no stranger to the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation. We have successfully worked with him in his past position and look forward to again partnering with him on future projects. We share his vision to do what it takes to keep the Oak Hills Local School District "excellent!" Congratulations, Jeff!

The high school is now enjoying a newly renovated auditorium. Generous donors helped to make this happen by purchasing seats and naming rights to the box office, tech booth, stage and orchestra pit. The auditorium is now a contemporary, technologically advanced center for theatrical productions. Oak Hills graduates have purchased many seats in the new facility. Fortunately for you, there are still some waiting to be adopted. An attractive name plate of the adopting donor is placed on the seat arm. For those classes planning reunions, this makes a lasting class gift. Classes from 1966, 1971, 1986, 1993, 1994, 1995, 2015 and 2016 have already claimed theirs. It's only \$300 to adopt a seat with your class or family name on it. Visit oakhillsauditorium.com to reserve yours today!

The results are in! This year's year-end drive was very successful! In fact, the best yet! Successful, not only in net proceeds, but also in the number of new donors added to our supporter list. It was also gratifying to see that many of you increased your support. These results prove that we are doing something right and that the good works being done by the Foundation are being recognized by your new or continued support. The educational grants we provide reach all schools in the district. They offer financial support for the programs created by superb staff to enhance district learning experiences. This year the Foundation awarded 27 grants to teachers. These grants covered curriculum in science, art, music, technology and community service not paid by tax dollars. Throughout the year we will bring you updates on these grants as they occur. Watch our Facebook page and our website to enjoy seeing your donor dollars at work.

Rejoice Highlanders! It appears our football future is bright! The sixth grade silver Oak Hills Youth Athletics football team were National Champions at the Battle in Rocky Top after a perfect 14-0 season. The opportunity to instill the winning Highlander attitude is something all of us alums can help accomplish. Express what it means to be a Highlander! Share what being a part of the "plaid tradition" means to you. Help to develop in our elementary and middle school students the feeling that they belong to something great ~ the Oak Hills Local School District. Our alumni are our best ambassadors to keep us "Highlander Strong."



There are class reunions being planned for this year from classes of '67, '97 and 2012. Reunions are a great chance to share camaraderie. Where else can you enter a room and know you share 'something' in common with everyone? To these folks you are bonded. Many of you were together for 12 years of your life! To forget your years at Oak Hills is like erasing part of your life's journal. Social media has been a blessing for many to reunite. I wish all of these reunions much success, and hope that you'll consider what your class can do to pay-it-forward for future Highlanders.

The Foundation is here to assist all alumni in the opportunity to guarantee the success of future Highlander graduates. The Oak Hills development office can answer or refer your questions about establishing scholarships and trusts, estate planning or general donations. Your help is needed, your contribution, appreciated. Call us at 513-574-3200. Let your new year's resolution be to renew your support for the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation.

Yours in red and black,

Cheryl Ann Sieve '67, Chairman, Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation

Congratulations, Booster car raffle winner



Drum roll please....Mindy Shay was the grand prize winner of the 2016 Chevy Camaro that the Oak Hills Athletic Boosters raffled off in December. Daniel Neuhaus won the \$500 second place prize and the \$100 third place prize went to Angela

Roth. Congratulations to all of our winners and thanks to all who supported our fundraiser.

Oak Hills Band Association Spring Craft Fair

Join us for the annual OHBA Spring Craft Fair on March 4! More than 300 crafters will be selling their handmade items. The event will be held at Oak Hills High School from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To reserve a booth visit www.oakhillsbandassociation.org.



OHHS PTA Ladies Night Out and Fashion Show

OHHS PTA presents, *Jeans and Jewelry!* Join the fundraiser in your favorite jeans with your best bling.

The event, emceed by Bob Herzog '92, is Friday, March 3 from 6:30 - 11:00 p.m. at Receptions West. Tickets are available at www.ohhspta.org/fashion-show. Your \$40 donation includes dinner, drinks, dancing, fashion auction, live music, games and gift baskets. Contact Mindy Murphy with questions at 513-519-3753.

Nominate a distinguished Highlander today!

The Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation presents yearly awards for distinguished Oak Hills alumni and staff. This recognition honors individuals who have outstanding career, vocational and/or volunteer achievements, and have performed meritorious service in the classroom, school, community or nationally. The awards are the highest honor bestowed upon a graduate and district staff member and will be presented at the annual Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation Dinner on May 3 at Receptions West.



Visit our website to download the nomination form today at www.oakhillsalumniassociation.com and click on the 'awards' tab. All applications are due back by February 24. Contact Julia Lierman with questions at lierman_j@ohlsd.org. Thank you!

Dick Roche, a legend lost



The Oak Hills community lost a beloved teacher, friend and colleague on December 7, 2016 when Mr. Dick Roche passed away suddenly.

"The Oak Hills Community is deeply saddened by this tragic loss," superintendent Jeff Brandt shared. "Dick touched the lives of so many young people in his role as a teacher and coach. He was a man of few words, but the words he did speak had a profound impact on all of

those whose lives he affected. He will be greatly missed and his legacy will forever be remembered."

Roche taught physical education and health at Oak Hills from 1974 - 2010 and coached wrestling from 1974 - 2000. He has been working as a hall monitor at the high school since his retirement in 2010.

Roche was married and had three children: Cara, a current senior at Oak Hills, Matthew, class of '97 and Amanda (Roche) Biser, class of '97 who currently teaches English at Oak Hills High School.

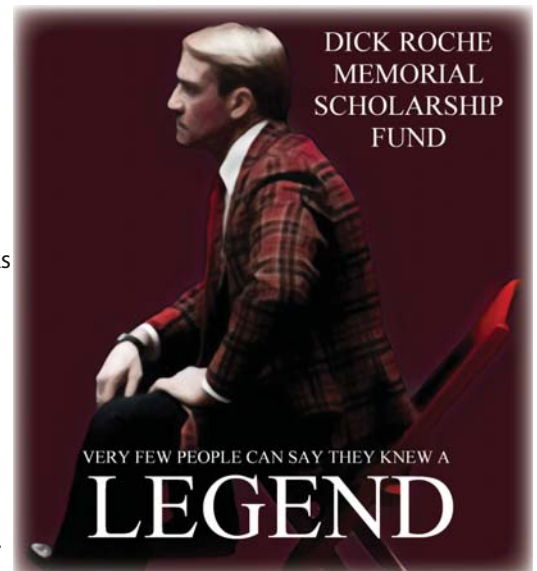
"Mr. Roche was my dad's old wrestling coach and my dad had a lot of respect for him," sophomore Ryan Johnston said. "I don't think that there is anything bad people can say about him because he was always very nice and willing to help."

"He was a great man because I remember I would get in trouble and he would tell me I'm better than that," sophomore Kayden King added. "He would try to get me out of as much as he could, so I could get on the right path."

Roche will be missed by the Oak Hills community.

Dick Roche Memorial Scholarship

A scholarship has been set up in Coach Roche's memory. You can contribute online at <https://www.spsezipay.com/OakHills/login.aspx> or mail checks made payable to Oak Hills Local School District to the attention of: Katie Hunter/ Dick Roche Memorial Scholarship 3200 Ebenezer Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45248



Jeff Brandt named superintendent

On January 2, 2017, the Oak Hills School Board called a special meeting to approve Jeff Brandt as superintendent of the Oak Hills Local School District.

"The School Board is excited to appoint such a talented leader to this important position," Board president Scott Bischoff said. "Jeff's professional and personal experiences within the Oak Hills School District have prepared him well to lead us into the future."

Brandt has served in various leadership positions during his 19-year career with the district including assistant principal at Rapid Run Middle School, principal at Delhi Middle School, principal at Oak Hills High School and director of Human Resources. In July of 2016, Brandt was named interim superintendent.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the students, staff, parents and Oak Hills community as interim superintendent through the first semester and look forward to continuing that work to serve all students and families," Brandt said. "Our talented and dedicated team of administrators, teachers and support staff will continue to provide challenging opportunities to assist students in reaching their maximum potential."

"We look forward to working alongside Jeff to map out and execute a strategic plan that will set a focused course for the school district," Bischoff added.



A note from the Mr. Brandt

As the school year progresses and we begin planning for next school year, I'm excited to work with our alumni in my new role. Our committed staff, families, business partners and graduates continue to support the district in our efforts to provide innovative and relevant opportunities for all of our students. I'm eager to work with all stakeholders on moving the district forward and developing a strategic plan for the future of Oak Hills. Your involvement and participation in assisting us will be critical in providing educational experiences that prepare our students for life beyond high school and future success.

The Oak Hills School District is proud of our alumni and is very fortunate to have such giving and dedicated Highlanders. Many continue to live in this great district and support our numerous initiatives. I thank each of you for your continued support and Highlander pride. I look forward to expanding our relationship into the next phase of the rich tradition in the Oak Hills Local School District.

Class Reunion Review

Is your class hosting a class reunion? Do you need guidance to organize and plan your event? Contact Emily C. Buckley in the Oak Hills Alumni Office at [513-598-2682](tel:513-598-2682) or buckley_e@ohlsd.org for a reunion planning checklist, or find it on our website. Your event will be added to the alumni website as well as the official Alumni Foundation Facebook page and we'll tweet about it! Reunion information will also be included in future issues of the *Highlander Highway* and the electronic newsletter, *The Tartan Times*, so be sure to keep the alumni office updated on your reunion plans and details.

Below are the listings of upcoming reunions. Additional details can be found on our website, www.oakhillsalumniassociation.com.

2017

Class of 1997: August 5, 7 p.m.-12 a.m., Leapin Lizard Lounge in Covington.

Class of 2012: June 10, 8 - 11 p.m. at The Chapter in Mt. Adams. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at ohs2012reunion.myevent.com by May 10, 2017. Email questions to ohs2012reunion@gmail.com.

2018

Class of 1978: September 2, 2018 (Sunday of Labor Day weekend ~ fireworks!) at Paul Brown Stadium in the Club East Lounge. Please visit the class website <http://www.oakhills78.com/> and be sure to update your contact information to stay informed.

Past reunion groups ~ thanks for sharing your photos with us!

1981



1991



1996



Oak Hills substitute levy ~ no additional taxes



On January 23, the Oak Hills Board of Education unanimously approved a superintendent recommendation to place a substitute levy on the May 2, 2017 election ballot. The district's current five-year emergency levy expires in 2018.

The substitute levy will provide a seamless transition when the emergency levy expires, as collection will be on a continuous basis with first collection beginning in 2019. The resources generated from the substitute levy will be earmarked specifically for operations in the Oak Hills Local School District.

Funds from this levy cannot be used on infrastructure needs or other capital projects in the district. Eighty five percent of school districts in Hamilton County assess higher taxes than Oak Hills and the substitute levy will not increase taxes to district stakeholders.

"Our District is truly grateful for your continued support," Steven R. Bain, Oak Hills Local School District treasurer said. Contact him with questions at 513-574-3200.

Remembering David Upchurch



It is with a heavy heart that we share the sad news that interim human resources director and former district administrator David Upchurch passed away peacefully on January 11, surrounded by family.

David served many students, staff and families during his tenure in the Oak Hills Local School District. Prior to retiring

in 2005, he began his career at Delhi Junior High as a World History teacher. He moved on to be an assistant principal and principal at Bridgetown Junior High, followed by being named principal at Rapid Run Middle School when it opened in 1999. David returned to the district in July of 2016 as interim director of human resources.

According to superintendent Jeff Brandt, David was a tremendous asset to the Oak Hills administrative team prior to retirement and continued to provide invaluable experience and knowledge in his role as director of human resources.

"He had a profound impact on students, staff and the Oak Hills community," Brandt said. "Although his return to the district was short, his unique skill set and personality were contagious and he quickly connected with all who came in contact with him. David will forever be remembered for his positive influence within the Oak Hills community."

Please keep David and the Upchurch family in your thoughts.

Upcoming Foundation events

Oak Hills Foundation Recognition Dinner ~ May 3



Distinguished alumni and staff will be recognized at our annual recognition dinner on Wednesday, May 3 at Receptions West. Tickets will be available once the honorees are announced in March. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate their success, feature student performers and share Foundation updates and news. Stay tuned!

Oak Hills Alumni & Community Golf Outing ~ June 23



We are pleased to announce that Jonathan Sweet '90 will serve as this year's golf outing chairman. Are you interested in helping with the planning of our event? We're always looking for volunteers. Contact us at OHHSalumni@ohlsd.org. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for dates and times of planning meetings.

We hope you'll play in the annual Oak Hills alumni and community golf outing at the Aston Oaks Golf Course. Reserve your spot for 18 holes of golf with cart, light lunch, beverages on the course, dinner and drinks.

Call 513-598-2682 to guarantee your spot or make your reservation on our website www.oakhillsalumniassociation.com today!

Make checks payable to the OHAEF and mail to:
6325 Rapid Run Road, Cincinnati, OH 45233
Attention: Golf Outing Committee

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Will you or your company sponsor a hole this year? Contact Jonathan for more information.



Oak Hills Athletic Boosters Sports Stag success!

The Oak Hills Athletic Boosters held their annual Sports Stag on January 16, 2017 at the Woodlands. The event featured the iconic Eric Davis, a former Cincinnati Reds center fielder. Eric the Red, created a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere as he welcomed attendees, shook hands with alumni, signed autographs and posed for pictures during the VIP reception.

Following the meet and greet with Eric, guests had the opportunity to win raffle baskets, purchase sports memorabilia from the silent auction and bid on live auction items like Diamond Club seats, a juke box and electronic dart board and signed Joey Votto jersey. Rosie Red, Gapper and Mr. Highlander snapped selfies with fans and pumped up the crowd before Eric took the stag. The evening wrapped up with a spirited speech and question and answer session with Eric sharing stories about his time in the major leagues.

Thanks to all of the sponsors, volunteers and attendees who helped make this year's Sports Stag a terrific success. Congratulations to Booster president, Sherry Gregor '89 on a great night! Several of our Foundation board members were also in attendance and volunteered their time to help. We value your support of Oak Hills' student athletes and athletic programs. #highlanderstrong



Visit www.facebook.com/OakHillsLocalSchoolDistrict to see more event photos.

Thank you, Schoenberger family!



Ed Schoenberger, a member of Oak Hills Class of 1985, died during his sophomore year of congenital heart disease. He was a talented, fun loving, and gifted young man. He especially loved music and received awards in classical piano. He enjoyed reading, playing chess, and other strategic board games. Ed was well respected, liked school and accomplished many things. In remembrance of his talent and love for music, his family dedicated the Oak Hills

stage in the newly renovated auditorium in his name. Ed is lovingly remembered by family and friends, and is greatly missed.

Shall we save you a seat?

You still have a chance to purchase a seat in the new facility with your name on it! Visit www.oakhillsauditorium.com to make your tax-deductible gift today and leave your legacy at the high school.





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If you have received this publication in error, please call the Alumni Office at 513-574-3200 or email OHHSAlumni@ohlsd.org to remove your address.

Calendar of events and activities

- 2/11: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., OHHS spirit shop open house
- 2/16 - 2/19: *Crazy for You* performed at OHHS 7 p.m. with 2 p.m. Sunday matinee
- 2/22: 7 p.m., OHHS auditorium, winter band concert
- 3/3: 6:30 p.m., OHHS PTA Ladies Night Out, Receptions West
- 3/4: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., OHHS spirit shop open house
- 3/4: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Oak Hills Band Association Craft Fair
- 3/7: 7 p.m. OHHS large gym, district strings festival
- 3/11: 1 - 4 p.m., OHHS district creative arts festival
- 3/14: 7 p.m., OHHS large gym, district band festival
- 4/25: 7 p.m., OHHS auditorium, spring band concert
- 4/29: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., OHHS spirit shop open house



5/3: 5:30 p.m., Annual Foundation recognition dinner, Receptions West
 6/23: 1:30 p.m., Alumni & community golf outing, Aston Oaks

Connect your Kroger Plus card to the Foundation

Visit the Kroger website to link your Cincinnati Kroger Plus card to the Oak Hills Alumni & Educational Foundation today! We are #29526. Shop as you normally do and the Foundation benefits! Thank you for shopping at Kroger and putting money back into our schools.



Connect with us!



"Find us" on the web

<http://oakhillsalumniassociation.com/>

Please visit us to find class reunion dates, grant project summaries and updates, and event information



Please update your contact information

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/OHAlumniupdate> to update your contact information so that we may stay in better contact with you.



"Watch" us on vimeo

<https://vimeo.com/ohalumniupdate>

Recognition dinner videos will be posted this spring!



"Follow" us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/OHAlumniAssoc>

Follow us to receive instant updates on events, reunions and district news!



"Like" us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/OHHSAlumni>

Thank you for "liking" us and spreading the word. Share your news so we can celebrate you!



"Network" with us on LinkedIn

Search group: Official group of Oak Hills High School Alumni

Network with other alumni professionals to connect and share your events, job postings and more.