

The John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science is a diverse and supportive community of learners that engages in a rigorous and comprehensive Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Program integrated with Humanities. Our college-preparatory exam school enables our students to reach their full potential and become leaders who will shape the direction of society.

O'Bryant Tiger

A Publication of the O'Bryant Leadership Team

Steve Sullivan, Headmaster

~O'Bryant PRIDE~

Perseverance Respect Integrity Discipline Excellence

John D. O'Bryant School
of Mathematics & Science

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"Less hugs, more homework"

- Assistant Headmaster,
Mr. MacLeod

OB Student Team Wins Big Read Competition

O'Bryant's schoolwide participation in the national Big Read came to a climax last Friday when a team of ten seniors finished first in the Big Read academic competition held at UMass Boston.

Teams from Boston and surrounding communities were tested on their knowledge of Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, the sci-fi novel published in 1953

during the McCarthy Era. The book addresses the issues of censorship and conformity during the early years of the Cold War when the rights to think freely and express opinions were openly challenged by the American government.

Over 1100 O'Bryant students in grades 7-12 participated in the nationwide reading of *Fahrenheit*.

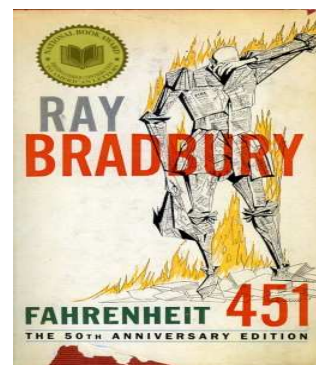
In addition to reading the novel, students wrote essays

related to the issue of censorship, wrote Found Poems based on themes from the novel and participated in Socratic Seminars.

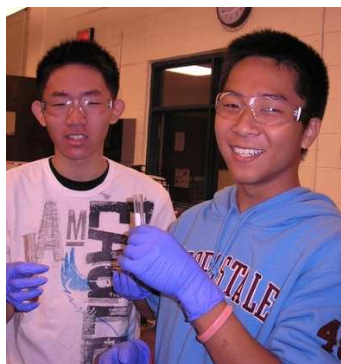
ELA teacher and soccer coach Mr. Doreian commented on the conversations between soccer team members. "It was refreshing to hear younger team members talking about the novel with older players."

The Big Read was an oppor-

tunity to build community, and it did.



Junior Represents O'Bryant in International Science Fair



OB Chemistry students Tony Li and Herman Li at the Chemistry Summer Bridge Program

O'Bryant junior Herman Li has been representing the State of Massachusetts and the O'Bryant School this week at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in San Jose, Calif.

Herman presented his project "The Optimization of the Quality and Yield of RNA by FastPrep—24" to students from over 50 countries, regions and territories from around the world.

The International Science and Engineering Fair is the world's largest pre-college science competition and the premier global science competition for students in grades 9-12. Students showcase their individual science research and compete for over \$4 million in awards and prizes. Herman did his research at the Forsyth Institute in the Fenway. He spent eight weeks last

summer working on his research and in the fall he prepared his work for the Boston Regional Science Fair.

Herman's AP Chemistry teacher Ms. Drurey called him "the most motivated student that I have had. He goes far beyond what is expected and is the first OB or BPS student to make the national qualifying exam in the American Chemical Society Olympiad."

O'Bryant Committee Report Corner

- **Instructional Leadership Team (ILT):** The ILT held its biweekly meeting last Tuesday and continued its work on the WSIP and plans for schoolwide PD. The WSIP will be presented to the school community later this spring.
- **School Parent Council (SPC):** The SPC met this past Monday. In addition to working on the WSIP, the group reviewed the Headmaster selection process.
- **School Site Council:** The School Site Council will hold its next meeting on June X in the library. All members of the school community are welcome to attend.

Upcoming OB Events

- MCAS, Grade 10 Math, May 17 & 18
- School Parent Council: May 19
- MCAS, Grade 8 Science, May 20
- Asian Night, May 21
- ILT, May 21
- Senior Prom: May 28
- Memorial Day, May 31



AP Exams Administered

All of the hard work and studying came to a climax the past two weeks with the administration of 14 Advanced Placement exams to over 250 O'Bryant students.

AP Government was the first exam administered and AP Microeconomics the last. In between, OB students were tested in math, science, English, Spanish and history.

Prior to the exams there was a relaxed tension. Many of the instructors treated their students to hearty breakfasts, making sure that no one was working on an empty stomach.

Four hours later, after the exams were completed, the mood turned to excitement and relief as the teachers feted

their students and celebrated the end (almost) of another year of AP.

O'Bryant's Advanced Placement program has expanded to 22 sections in 14 different subjects. Last year 416 exams were administered and there were 184 qualifying scores.

The school has been recognized by the Superintendent, Mass Insight and US News & World Report for the growing program and high number of qualifying scores.

In addition to developing academic skills and stamina in the AP classes, many of the students earn college credit with qualifying scores

Spring Sports Roundup

Track: Two school records fell recently. Freshman Cuong Linh set a new freshman record in the 400m hurdles with a time of 1:10.9. Senior Conway King eclipsed the school record in the discus with a toss of 147'10". The boys' and girls' teams will be competing in the City Championships this Monday and Tuesday at White Stadium.

Softball: Senior Captains Rebecca Muise, Christina Pionton and Lizbeth Sanchez have led the girls' softball team to an impressive 11-1 record. The team anticipates playing in the City Championships Memorial Day weekend.

Baseball: The baseball team rebounded from a series of tough one-run losses with a 3-2 extra inning victory over Hyde Park on Wednesday. Freshman Jeff Polanco has had several strong outings. Fellow 9th grader Johnny Mejia's hard work in practice has paid off with strong defense around the bag at second. The team finishes up the season with home games against Madison Park (today) and English.

Girls' Tennis: Junior Captain Zarina Jamal has led the girls' tennis team to a series of strong performances. The young team is composed primarily of underclassmen, with a large contingent of freshmen. The team will wrap up its season next week at home (Sportsmen's Tennis Club) against Everett and Boston Latin Academy.

Boys' Tennis: The O'Bryant Boys' Tennis team defeated Catholic Memorial twice this past week. Freshman Tony Huang improved his record to 7 and 2 with victories this past week over Catholic Memorial and Medford. At first doubles, team captain Isaac Prizant also had two victories.

Boys' Volleyball: The volleyball team will wrap up its season today and Monday.

Sports Schedule

- **Softball: May 20 (A)**
- **Baseball: May 14 (H)**
- **Track: May 17 & 18**
- **Volleyball: May 14 (H)**
- **Girls Tennis May 18 (H)**
- **Boys Tennis May 17 (H)**

Go Tigers!!!

Grade 8 Students Recognized at Harvard Medical

Several students from Ms. Hall's grade 8 science classes were recognized recently by the Harvard Medical School Reflection in Action Program.

Jailene Cabrera, Suada Noor and Jennyda Dessius received second place awards for their entries in the Visual Arts, Collage and Mixed Media categories respectively.

Ernest Mejia, Tommy Suen, Timothy Chiu, Stanley Wong, Aylin Garcia, Abigail Ezedonmwen, Sandy Huang and Kit Un received Honorable Mention recognitions.

All of the students have been invited to a celebration at Harvard Medical School June 4.

Reflection in Action: Building Healthy Communities™ is a forum for Boston and Cambridge 6th, 7th, and 8th graders that links improvement in individual and community health to engagement in civic action.

The program enables students to realize that

their good health, and the health of their families and communities, is important and realizable; and that their voice, creative expression and activism can have a positive impact on our collective health. Last year over 300 students attended.

In this two-part event, students are encouraged to generate a vision for positive change in our community by learning about illnesses related to the heart, lungs, blood, and oral health, and demonstrating their knowledge through creative expression.

In the weeks leading up to the event, students submit their artistic entries in an exciting contest in which they sing, write, draw, paint, rap, step, or dance about urban health issues and their ideas for positive change. On the day of the event, 300-400 students come to Harvard Medical School's campus in Boston for a daylong celebration of health.

STEP Preparing to Hold Graduation Celebration on 25th

In celebration of its first year at the John D. O'Bryant School, the STEP organization will hold a graduation celebration at the school library on May 25 from 6:00-7:30 pm.

STEP students, family members, OB staff

and corporate partners will be in attendance.

STEP is excited about the work completed by its JOB ambassadors this year and is looking forward to congratulating the participating seniors as they prepare for college.