



The Owl Post

May 24, 2021

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"I will not lose, for even in defeat, there's a valuable lesson learned, so it evens up for me"

-Jay-Z

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE 5/24/21

Greetings Orlando Gifted Academy Families, Staff, and Students,

It is hard to believe the end of the year is already upon us! This is the last principal's message for the 2020-2021 school year! While it has been a very interesting year, it is sure to be one that we will never forget. I have to admit, in August I was apprehensive and a little scared about what the year would entail. You may not have noticed, but the Connect Orange about our first COVID case was nerve-wracking. After the third similar Connect Orange, a parent shared I sounded very confident in the delivery of the message. J

When our students arrived wearing their masks on the first day of school, I could tell they were ready to begin a fun year! As the year progressed, we welcomed more students who were just as eager to be at OGA for Face-to-Face instruction. It was extremely gratifying to see our students walking the halls with their excitement permeating throughout the school. Even though we had many kinks to work out, teachers tried their best to include our LaunchED students in various school and classroom activities. Students were able to join their classes virtually and participate in many activities such as field trips, the 5th grade wax museum, and much more.

I would like to thank each of you for your ongoing support and the encouragement you provided to myself and OGA teachers and staff throughout the 2020-2021 school year. We could not have made it through without your kind and thoughtful words and emails.

I also want to thank OGA's amazing teachers and staff who rose to the task of teaching during a pandemic. There is no course work or professional development that could have prepared them to teach during this pandemic or how to teach Face-to-Face students and LaunchED students simultaneously! Great Job!

Ms. Sharpe has created the hashtag that we have embraced...#ontothentext! We are excited about the 2021-2022 school year. We have started planning for all the great things that will be implemented and have a restored sense of normalcy.

~ Mrs. Despenza

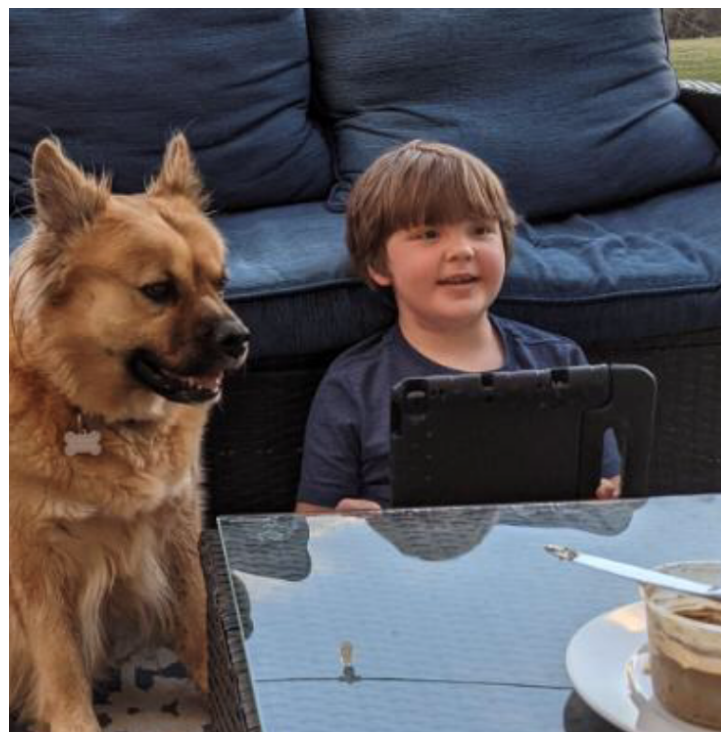
HAPPENING AT OGA

Upcoming Events

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

2ND GRADE OWL OF THE WEEK!

Hello OGA , our 2nd grade awesome OWL of the week is Teigan Brassil. He is six years old, friendly and silly, loves salmon, edamame, pretzel crust pizza, and PB&J. He loves to dance to his favorite group Imagine Dragons. He loves roller coasters and his favorite is Rock 'n' Roller Coaster. He always requests the front seat. He is learning to play hockey, likes to go to Kennedy Space Center, and look at the moon through his telescope. He is also a Green belt in Karate. He loves Science and wants to be a scientist. He also loves math and reading. His favorite hobbies are playing with his dog Kaiah, playing video games, reading classic comedy books, and building things with his Dad, watching Harry Potter movies, telling jokes, and pranking his family.



Teigan your 2nd grade teachers are so proud of you. Continue to be an awesome OWL!

THIS WEEK'S TOP STORIES

The Best Fireworks For Celebrating This Summer

By: Sarah Thompson



This summer there are plenty of reasons to celebrate. Memorial Day, Fourth of July and so on. What better way to celebrate than light off some fireworks?(With a permit if need be, don't want to go to jail this summer do we?) The question that often springs to mind when considering buying fireworks is, what are the best ones to buy?

Whether you prefer fireworks that fly up into the sky or the ones that light up the ground, there are plenty of options to choose from. The prices are not always the greatest depending on where they are purchased from or what type of firework it is, however sometimes it is absolutely worth it. Even if lighting off fireworks is not your forte or an option for you, hopefully this list of the five best fireworks will still be helpful.

1. The Fiery Frogs Fountain

This firework just happens to be one of the best sellers from Phantom Fireworks, well all of these are, but I can speak from personal experience when I say that this may just be the best one. This particular firework sells for \$25 and has a pretty cool effect. What you do is put this firework on the ground, light the fuse, step away, and once that is done, it pops into colorful sparks that fall all over the surrounding ground. It is quite mesmerizing if I do say so myself.

2. Red, White, and Boom!, 16 Shot

As previously stated, this firework is also a best seller from Phantom Fireworks. I have no experience with this one in particular, however, it still seems to be pretty cool based off of the little bit that I have seen. This firework is a little bit cheaper, selling for \$18, but in my opinion, that is a wonderful deal for what it does. Red, White and Boom is one of those fireworks that flies into the sky from the box it is in once the fuse is lit. Once this happens, the sky is lit up with a trio of colors consisting of red, blue, and silver. It can go up as high as 125 feet and as you can see in the name, has a total of 16 shots.

3. Emerald City, 16 Shot

As I'm sure you've guessed, Emerald City is also a Phantom Fireworks best seller. This firework is somewhat similar to Red, White and Boom for a couple reasons. They both fly into the air, they both have a total of 16 shots as stated in their name and they both sell for \$18. There are some differences though. Emerald City lights up green and gold as opposed to red, blue, and silver. Emerald City does also have some cool effects. When it is up in the sky, it takes the shape of rings and has a very powerful glitter effect as well.

4. Peacock Tail Fountain

The Peacock Tail Fountain is another non-aerial firework similar to Fiery Frogs Fountain. Peacock Tail Fountain is a little more expensive, selling for \$40, but it seems to be worth it. How this one works is you put it on the ground, light the fuse, and step a safe distance away. What happens is it erupts into red, blue, green, and white stars and flowers that fly far and high into the distance. This goes on for a good minute until as a grand finale, it erupts into white sparks with a loud crackle.

5. Fierce Tiger Soaring Rockets

This final firework is for those of us either on a budget or who just want something a little more low-key that won't get the neighbors to hate them. The Fierce Tiger Soaring Rockets is an aerial firework that comes with 12 rockets and sells for \$10. How they work is the person lighting them off puts the stick into the ground, lights the fuse, and steps away. Once they do this, it will fly into the air with an orange comet tail and a color burst as the ending.

Hopefully this list was helpful in your journey of searching for the proper fireworks for the summertime celebrations. If you want more information, you can click on the link below or go to Phantom Fireworks' website to see the full list of best sellers. Be safe this summer and if you choose to light off fireworks, make sure you are doing it properly, but of course, as always, have fun.

Summer Activities

By: Urshita Goel

Summer might not be the same this year due to the pandemic, however there are still quite a few Summer activities that can be safely enjoyed. The key is to take the recommended steps to increase the safety of you and those around you. Make sure to wash your hands thoroughly and often, wear a mask, and stay a safe distance away from others (preferably six feet).

One of the best ways to stay safe while having fun is to engage in outdoor activities. This way, the air that you breathe out is getting circulated so that there is less chance of those around you breathing it in. A few outdoor activities could be to go on a hike, go camping, or even just to visit a local trail. You could even try going for a safe swim as the CDC says that there is no evidence stating that COVID-19 can be spread through water. Just try not to invite too many people as then it may be hard to maintain social distancing.

Florida just wouldn't be the same without the Everglades. The Everglades may be known for its alligators, however, there are many other species that dwell in the Everglades. The Everglades is home to many rare, and endangered species such as the Florida panther, the last subspecies of Puma still found in the eastern United States. Nearly extinct, with only a dozen adults estimated in the wild, the Everglades National Park is one of the few places you can see the now recovering population. One of the best ways to tour the Everglades is to go on an airboat tour. Click [this link](#) to view the nine best airboat tours identified through traveler sentiment and expert opinion.

Whatever activity you choose, or wherever you may choose to go, just remember to listen to the three Ws and avoid the three Cs.

Three Ws: Wear (protective gear such as a mask), Wait (six feet apart), and Wash (your hands)
Three Cs: Crowded places, Close-contact Settings, and Confined and enclosed spaces.

Summer Fashion

By Raleigh Hagood



Fashion can be so hard to choose, but i'm here to help! And just in time, too! This is the TOP summer fashion! There are some great styles but if your going to the beach, this stunning yellow dress would be perfect for you! Its so amazing, and yellow suits a lot of people, it's perfect for the beach, or a beach party, or anything at the beach!

There is also this stunning black dress that suits so many people, this is more for the "goth" or "emo" or "grunge" type. It has party written all over it! This is more for house parties, seeing as it may be too hot for use at the beach. Both dresses fit so many people, and the last one I am going to recommend, it doesn't suit everyone, but you shouldn't let

that stop you from having an amazing summer and look amazing doing it!



This dress is so flowey, and its perfect for the beach, a party, a road trip and just about any other summer activity! It also has vintage written all over it! If that is you aesthetic/type, then this is dress is made just for you!



But no matter what your aesthetic is, please keep the covid in mind and don't go to any gatherings with more than ten people, and keep your masks on!! It doesn't matter if its a party, a vacation, or anything like that, nothing is more important than you and your family's health!

Summer Flowers

By: Anna Russo

Flowers are what color our world, and with every season, even more sprout! Since summer is coming up many flowers are starting to sprout and begin this natural artistic process. There are hundreds of thousands of different flowers that are known, and here are a few of them.

Lavender is a beautiful smelling bright purple flower that blooms during spring and summer. Lavender is a Mediterranean plant, so similar climates are where it is best grown. Moving on, not only does Lavender have a beautiful color, but it also has many health benefits too. Lavender oil is said to help with anxiety, depression, stress, insomnia, and more. It is also associated with grace, peace, silence, purity, luxury, and royalty.



Another popular summer flower is the Sunflower. The sunflower is a large yellow flower with a big brown center. Sunflowers are grown in large fields or groups and are used for a variety of things. They can produce dye, oil, food, and fodder. Oftentimes sunflower designs can be seen on all types of products as well.



Sunflowers are associated with happiness, faith, and unconditional love. Overall, sunflowers are very cheery and happy flowers.

The last flower is called a Hibiscus. This beautiful flower blooms all throughout the summer and can bloom in many different colors. These include, white, pink, lavender, red, or burgundy.

Hibiscuses grow best in warm sunny weather, but can continue to grow in cooler weather as well. These flowers are often seen growing in peoples' yards and gardens because they are easy to care for, especially in Florida. Hibiscuses are also a symbol of glory, beauty, and a perfect wife or romantic partner.



Need a New Backpack for Next School Year?

By Gabby Powell

The 3 Caballeros backpack can be found at [Boxlunch](#), [Boxlunch.com](#), and [Amazon](#). It's based off of the 1977 movie of the same name, they also had a few cameo appearances in *Darkwing duck* and both of the *ducktales* serieses. .It may look like a simple backpack, but you will see that it's worth every penny.The backpack features the 3 main characters of the movie; Panchito Pistoles, Jose Carioca, and of course Donald Duck, with each of them sporting their own compartment on the bag. Staying on the exterior of the bag, it has a pocket on each side, and very well made straps each with 3 golden buttons.

Moving on to the inside of the bag there is a really nice print that showcases the name of the show and an object that each of the characters is known for. This bag is perfect for any collector of backpacks, or just because just for fun. It matches with any and every look, and it's colors are perfect for the summer and all of the other seasons! If you purchase this bag in store or online it will come up to \$75, but [Boxlunch](#) does pass out coupons that can take off 20% of the total purchase price. And sometimes you can find the bag on [Amazon](#) if you're lucky for a lower price.



Photos courtesy of: [Loungefly.com](#) and [Amazon.com](#)

***Fortunately, The Milk* Book Review**

by: Charleigh Gonzalez

Fortunately, the Milk By Neil Gaiman

Fortunately, the Milk is a humorous fiction book for all ages. This book is a very fun book to read multiple times and has kids and parents excited about reading.

About the book: When mom is gone on a business trip it's all on dad and the kids to keep things in order. Dad comes to the rescue when there is no milk but things take a twist. When dad is on his way home he gets abducted by aliens. Then he is on a pirate ship in the middle of the Caribbean. After being forced to walk the plank right at the last second he is rescued by Professor Steg in his time-traveling-floaty-ball-person-carrier. As they try to get dad back home they encounter cavemen and fulfill a prophecy, visit the wumpires, and ponies, and piranhas. All the while the milk was safely secured in dad's pocket. Then finally they make it back home and the kids can have breakfast and dad can have his tea.

Final thoughts: After reading this book time and time again I have to give this book a 5-star rating. It is a fun book for all ages and no matter what genre you like this is a book that you will enjoy



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