

THE MESSENGER OWL



Issue: 9/3/21



Great Horned Owl

"Bird of The Week: Great Horned Owl." Kern Audubon Society, www.kernaudubonsociety.org/bird-of-the-week-great-horned-owl/.

Quote of the Week

"If you find someone you love in your life, then hang on to that love."

- Princess Diana

September is National Self-Care Month

and it is important to hang on to the things that make you happy in this rough time.



Works Cited
"The Best Love Quotes for Him and Her." Goalcast. 28 Apr. 2021. www.goalcast.com/2019/02/14/love-quotes/.

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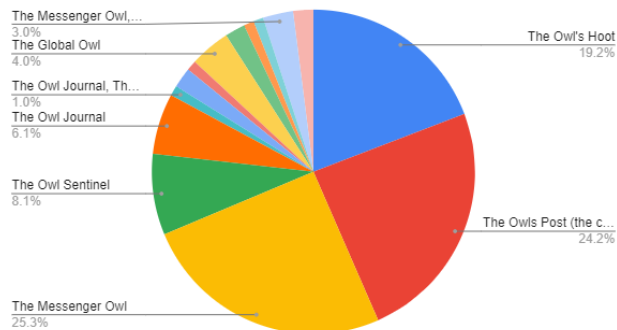
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You voted and here are the results!



Name Our News Results

Principal's Message

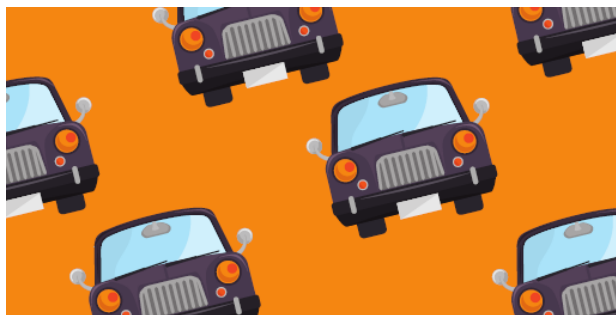
Principal's Message:

OGA Boys and Girls, welcome back to school! September is here and soon enough it will be the beginning of Fall. I encourage everyone to read over this newspaper as it contains important information about what's happening in and around OGA as well as fun articles and important information from your peers!



Welcome back, Owlberts!

SAVE THE DATE



FLL Robotics Car Wash!

DONATIONS ONLY!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH
9-11AM
FRONT OF SCHOOL

ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY



NJHS' HYGIENE PRODUCTS DRIVE

September 13-17th

Collecting:

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Socks
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Shaving Cream
- Deodorant
- Brushes



Donations benefit:

Central Florida's Coalition for the Homeless

Homeroom class with the most items wins a donut party!!



Upcoming Events & What's for Lunch?

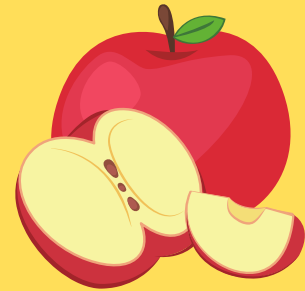
By: Anna R.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6. Unavailable	7. ENTREES Mini Maple Pancakes Breakfast Box FRUITS Apple Juice Orange Juice Fruit Juice <u>Fresh Apple Slices</u> MILK 1% White Milk	8. ENTREES Strawberry parfait BREADS/GRAINS Cinnamon Bun FRUITS Apple Juice Orange Juice Fruit Juice Peach Cup MILK 1% White Milk	9. ENTREES Chicken and Waffles BREADS/GRAINS Mini Bagels FRUITS Apple Juice Orange Juice Fruit Juice Apricot Cup MILK <u>1% White Milk</u>	10. ENTREES Breakfast Box BREADS/GRAINS WG Double Chocolate Muffin FRUITS Apple Juice Orange Juice Fruit Juice Orange Wedges MILK 1% White Milk
13. ENTREES Beef Maple Sausage Breakfast Sandwich BREADS/GRAINS Banana Bread Slice FRUITS Apple Juice Orange Juice Fruit Juice Applesauce Cup MILK <u>1% White Milk</u>	14. ENTREES Mini Maple Pancakes Breakfast Box FRUITS Apple Juice Orange Juice Fruit Juice Fresh Apple Slices MILK <u>1% White Milk</u>	15. ENTREES Strawberry parfait BREADS/GRAINS Cinnamon Bun FRUITS Apple Juice Orange Juice Fruit Juice Peach Cup MILK 1% White Milk	16. ENTREES Chicken and Waffles BREADS/GRAINS Mini Bagels FRUITS Apple Juice Orange Juice Fruit Juice Apricot Cup MILK <u>1% White Milk</u>	17. ENTREES Breakfast Box BREADS/GRAINS WG Double Chocolate Muffin FRUITS Apple Juice Orange Juice Fruit Juice Orange Wedges MILK 1% White Milk

Upcoming Events:

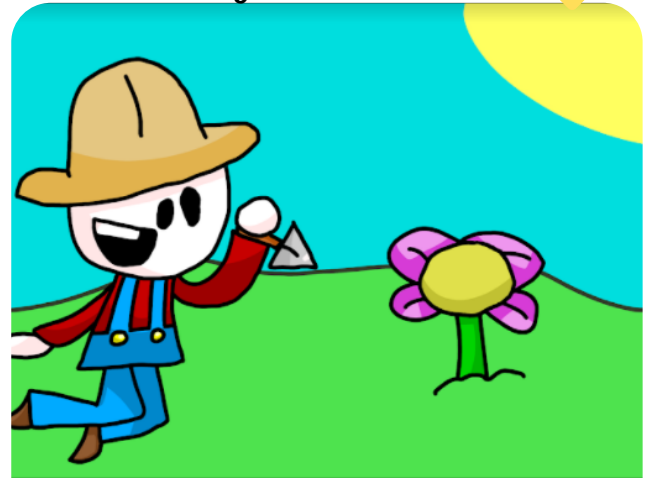
- Wednesdays - College Colors Days
- Fridays - OGA Pride Days
- Wed/Fri 8-8:20 am - Smencil Sales

Got an interesting story idea?
email Mrs. Olowu at
falisha.olowu@ocps.net



Fun Spot

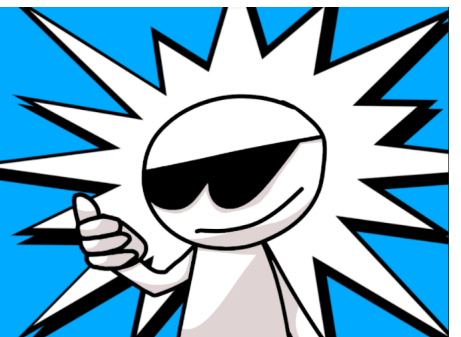
By: John M



After years of practice, he had finally done the impossible

Fun Fact

September, October, November, and December were all originally going to be the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th months of the year respectively, but were pushed two months back to add July and August.



SUPPORT OUR OGA ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAM

IT'S SMENCIL TIME!

OUTSIDE THE AUDITORIUM
WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS
8:00 AM-8:20 AM

PRICE LIST
SMENCILS \$1
CROC CHARMS \$2
STICKER PACK \$1 SMALL/\$2 LARGE
PENCILS W/TOPPERS \$2

Staff Member & Teacher of the Week

By: Raleigh H.

Teacher of the Week Mrs. Dunn

Our very first teacher of the week is Mrs. Dunn! Everyone knows that warm smile when they see it, she is kind and accepts everyone with open arms. She is so generous and teaches Gifted Studies in room 25. She helps students create amazing products, and I would know. I had her as my teacher and she taught in such a fun way, it was like magic. 6 & 7th graders, you guys should look forward to seeing her!

How do you feel about getting elected teacher of the week?

Ms. Dunn: "Oh! I feel it's a privilege, I love building relationships with students and helping them, empowering them, through their gifts and talents!"

Anything you wish to tell the readers about your class?

Ms. Dunn: "Advanced academics, should if done correctly, be every student's favorite class because they are working on their individual passions."

How long have you been teaching here at OGA?

Ms. Dunn: "This is my 4th year here at OGA, but I have been teaching for 19 years total. Before this, I was a stay-at-home mom, I also worked in sales, I managed a company."

And have you enjoyed it?

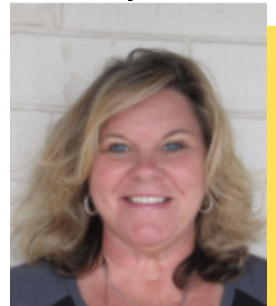
Ms. Dunn: "Yes! I was an instructional coach here for 2 years, and last year and this year I have been coaching kids through their advanced academics projects."

What was your favorite year?

Ms. Dunn: "Last year when I got back in the classroom (2020-2021)"

That should be all. Anything else you wish to tell the readers?

Ms. Dunn: "Hmm...I love it here at OGA, it's exciting to see the kids and the projects that they create."



*Isn't that just the nicest response ever? Those of you that have her on your schedule are very lucky!
Don't forget to congratulate her!*

Our staff of the week is Ms. Brown. She is such a great guidance counselor and she helps so many students, along with me! I did a private meeting with Ms. Brown and here were her heartwarming responses.

How are you today?

Ms. Brown: "I'm wonderful"

You won staff member of the week! How do you feel about that?

Ms. Brown: "That's a pleasant surprise! I didn't know I was considered"

How long have you been a guidance counselor?

Ms. Brown: "This is my 4th year"

What were you before this?

Ms. Brown: "I was a mental health counselor, a school biased for aspiring health partners."

Is there any other job that you wish you could do?

Ms. Brown: "It has always been my dream to be a counselor in a college counselor center."

What's your favorite year working here at OGA?

Ms. Brown: "I think it was my first year"

Well I believe that's all! Any final words?

Ms. Brown: "That's all, just that I'm here for the students if they need anything, or to talk at all. There is always a safer choice."

Staff of the Week Ms. Brown



Ivory-Billed Woodpecker

By: Alexander M

The Ivory-Billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus Principalis*) is a critically endangered species of woodpecker mainly found in the great states of Arkansas, Georgia, and Florida. The woodpeckers experienced a large-scale population decline in the late 1800s. The last documented photo of the woodpecker was taken by James Tanner in 1938, however, it has been spotted sporadically (from time to time). The Ivory-Billed Woodpecker is one of the largest woodpeckers in the world at 20 inches long with a wingspan of around 30 inches. Some efforts have led to sightings of this bird but not many have produced pictures of the woodpecker. If you happen to be one extremely lucky individual and happen to find any sort of lead to a feeding location, nest, or roost and you report to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology you will be given a reward of \$50,000, but the chances of you even finding a single feather are extremely low. This is one of many cases of human construction overcoming animal habitats and endangering or even driving animals to extinction.



Audubon, J. J. (2005) Illustration



Hand Colored Picture Jerry A. Payne in 1935

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- Ivory-billed woodpecker. (n.d.). National Geographic. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/facts/ivory-billed-woodpecker>
- Science searches for the ivory-billed woodpecker. (2014, February 15). Visionlearning Blog. <https://www.visionlearning.com/blog/2014/02/15/science-searches-ivory-billed-woodpecker/>

Student Spotlight - Quinn G

By: Max C

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Buttermilk Chicken Tenders

Q: What is your rating of OGA in general?

A: Eight out of ten

Q: Who is your favorite teacher at OGA?

A: Mrs. Cross

Q: What is your favorite school subject?

A: History

Q: When did you come to OGA?

A: I came to OGA in 2018



All About The Zodiacs

By: Raleigh H

I'm really into astrology, and I can make you interested in it as well! There are quite a few signs out there that most people really like! I have a few favorites and a few least favorites. In this article, I will be giving my personal opinion about them, and the opinion of a few others! This is the best way to stay safe when choosing friends/lovers. Keep in mind, none of this is official, this is just from my experience, and from others' experiences. All of my info comes from my experience, and allure.com.

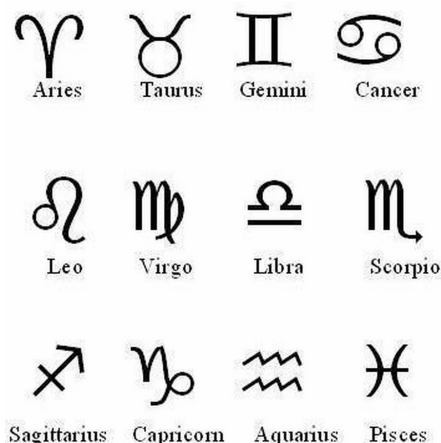
First off, we have the earth signs! These are Virgo, Taurus, and Capricorn. I personally am a Virgo, and according to my personal experience, we are decently calm, but never for long. We're very loyal, and nice to most people, it takes quite a bit to set us off. Taurus. I have had bad experiences with a Taurus, but I will not be biased. Taurus's are very loving, honest and quiet. So, so, quiet. They have a tendency to be needy. Capricorn! I had a super bad experience with one, and a super good experience with one! But the qualities of both are they are smart, helpful, and shy. They don't talk very much at all.

Now onto the air signs! Air signs are pretty easy to get along with they are: Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius. They are all super fun. All except for Gemini. Specifically Gemini women, they are the worst, I'm sorry if you are one, but they are toxic, mean, and awful to most around them. Now i'm not gonna say that there aren't good gemini women out there, some of them are great! But, most are not. Not at all. Gemini men, on the other hand, are amazing all the time. Loyal, Attractive, And kind. The next air sign is Aquarius! Aquarius is clever, bright, and loyal. Very very loyal. And super kind! The last air sign is Libra. Libra's are very extroverted, cozy, and fun people. They are the best people you will ever meet. Just a tad bit childish.

The water signs are: Pisces, Scorpio, and Cancer! First, we have Pisces, the most emotional person you will ever meet. They can be very fun and "Go-with-the-flow-ish" but boy are they emotional! Next we have Scorpio. They are controlling, obsessive, Vengeful, and loyal. They also can be passionate, and persistent. Last but not least for the water signs, we have cancer. I've never met a Cancer, but they seem very fun! They are hyper, emotional, and spiteful. They really love revenge! This doesn't mean they are "Evil" or anything, it just means they heavily follow the "Do unto others as you wish unto you" rule. Now we have the fire signs! These are some of the most hot-headed friends you will ever meet...

First off we have Aires! This one, even just judging by the name, (The greek god of war) they are not one you want to get on your bad side! They are hot-headed, temperamental, and show little emotions to others. Who's awful to others, the worst sign next to gemini, shows no respect, and their only half-decent trait is that they know how to be funny? None other than sagittarius! Now for our last sign, Leo! Leo's are loyal, serious, and know what they want and how to get it. Never underestimate these guys!

Want to know your sign?
Find out at
<https://whatismysign.net/>



References:

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- Zodiac sign (Zodiac). (n.d.). Alternative History. [https://althistory.fandom.com/wiki/Zodiac_sign_\(Zodiac\)](https://althistory.fandom.com/wiki/Zodiac_sign_(Zodiac))

Earthquake Rocks Haiti Big Time!

By: Terrence M

Tons of things have been happening across the world, Haiti included. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like they're getting any better either. Some of the things that are happening include earthquakes, major storms, and other natural disasters. Many of the locals in Haiti are currently under the pressure of having enough food to survive, Finding a safe place to rest and eat, and to make it alive out of all of the disasters going on. Many people and organizations are helping send food, sleeping bags, and money to assist the people affected by the disasters.



Building destroyed by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake, August 14, 2021, Ralph Tedy Erol

Aug 14, 2021, the date southern Haiti was attacked by an earthquake at 8:30 a.m. local time. This caused about 130,000 homes destroyed and damaged. Obviously, other buildings would get demolished as well. For example, businesses, churches, schools, grocery stores, gas stations, etc.. This was all happening approximately 8 miles away from the town Saint-Louis du Sud and the capital Port-au-Prince. The port city of Les Cayes had the hardest hit. In all, 2,207 deaths, 12,000 injuries, and 344 missing reports.

Haiti is susceptible to many earthquakes, all of which are devastating. According to National Public Radio (NPR), "Haiti sits on a fault line between huge tectonic plates, big pieces of the Earth's crust that slide past each other over time. These two plates are the North American plate and the Caribbean plate", which proves that this fault can be blamed for past and present earthquakes, although it isn't proven. Even though earthquakes are clearly more common, Haitians have built hurricane-resistant homes and buildings.

The earthquake not only destroyed hundreds of homes, but also crushed people as well. This puts tons of lives at risk. Fortunately, some people were able to live through all of the brick, cement, and debris crushing and squeezing them. Others, on the other hand, didn't quite make it. They were crushed in the rubble. Due to this, people went and scavenged through the rubble to find their families. It was a tragic event. The medics are still looking through the rock to find any bodies or possible survivors.

Many things happened post-quake. This includes survival and item possession. Some people dug to try and find their belongings. Because of thousands of homes being destroyed, citizens then resorted to crashing with family and friends, or became homeless for a while. People searched for fresh, clean water, they looked for nutritious and rejuvenating food. Although, one question still remains. Why did the Haitian people build hurricane resilient shelters instead of earthquake ones? And even then, why not make a backup shelter in case of a natural disaster; like an earthquake for example.



Bystanders reminiscing homes and loss of loved ones, August 14, 2021, VOA News

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- VOA News. (2021). People search through rubble of what used to be the Manguier Hotel after the earthquake hit on August 14, 2021 in Les Cayes, southwest Haiti [Photograph]. Les Cayes, Haiti. (n.d.).
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Easy Ways to Organize Your Important Times

By: Kai M



All of us have forgotten there was a test, failed to turn in a paper on time, or left our project at home. In this article, I will show you how to organize yourself so you get that paper in on time. I would use reminders on the phone. For Android, swipe around to find the blue app with a white and light blue bell on it. It should say “reminder”. Open it and press write a reminder. Select “time” and “set conditions” and from there set the time you want the reminder to go off. You set the time for when something important happens. Some people set it in the morning so they can prepare my things to go to school. Another way is to do it before night so you can stuff everything in your backpack for tomorrow. If you don’t have a phone, don’t worry! You can use a physical calendar. Use a pen and write the important days on it. If you don’t have a calendar, you can print some at <https://print-a-calendar.com/>. I hope this article will help you with organization this year and have a nice week!

References:

- Dube, R. (2019, May 30). 10 best free calendar apps for Android. Online Tech Tips. <https://www.online-tech-tips.com/smartphones/10-best-free-calendar-apps-for-android/>

Video Game Review: Minecraft

By: Quinn G

Video games, we all play them - well most of us. Minecraft is one of the most popular games. There are many different versions of Minecraft, as well as many different updates to the game since it’s release in 2009 under the name cave game. Some versions include Minecraft, Minecraft Education Edition, Minecraft Dungeons, and Minecraft Story Mode.

Minecraft is a great game for learning, team-building, and just to have fun with friends. I like Minecraft because it allows me to be creative and express my style in many ways that many websites, platforms, and games cannot offer. For example, I can create a world that is completely flat and build almost anything out of almost anything.

Minecraft can be used to teach chemistry! Well, Minecraft Education Edition can, with chemistry equipment and almost every element on the periodic table, the combinations are almost endless. So next time your chemistry or science teacher asks for project ideas, or gives you a free choice project say Minecraft Education Edition!



References

- (n.d.). <https://feed-the-beast.fandom.com/wiki/Tree>
- Image 2 taken by author

3 Sports to Play This Summer

By: Quinn G

This summer many people are watching and playing sports and just doing something active. So, I will tell you about some of the most popular sports and activities this summer.

One of the most popular sports is soccer, especially in our area with Orlando city soccer. Soccer is a sport where you need strong legs and even stronger reflexes. The goal of soccer is to score more points by running the ball up the field and kicking it into the back of the goal. Soccer is a great sport to play especially in covid since it is a low to no contact sport. Soccer is great to play casually, it is great to play competitively, and most importantly, it is great to have fun.

Another great activity is swimming. It is fun, and refreshing to swim, especially in Florida where it is hot all year round. Swimming is also great for competition. You can join a swim team or just race your friends for fun. Swimming also builds muscles, you can see how swimming builds muscle because it is very difficult to propel yourself and keep yourself afloat. So, as you can see, swimming is a great activity for the summer.

One of my favorite sports is baseball. Baseball is a great sport because you can show just how smart you are as well as how athletic you are. Baseball is a highly intellectual sport because it requires brainpower to plan where you will throw the ball, or if you will steal a base. It takes athleticism because you need strong arms to throw and strong legs to run fast. So if you agree baseball is a great sport to play this summer.

Overall these are some great sports because they can build muscle and get you in shape.



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Top Three Weirdest Animals

By: Kai M

There are a LOT of weird animals in the world, but I will show you some of the strangest ones here.

The third weirdest animal is the platypus. It has a duck bill, webbed feet, a beaver tail, and the males have venom in their feet! It is closely related to the echidna that is also an egg-laying mammal!



#3 Platypus

The second strangest animal is the Okapi. Its legs have stripes like a zebra on them and it looks like a deer. Although it has zebra stripes, its closest relative is the giraffe.



#2 Okapi

The #1 weirdest animal is the blobfish! It looks like a pink "blob" with a tail. It lives on the bottom of the sea so all of its excess fat protects the fish against the pressure there. It looks different when it's in water because the pressure makes it look like a normal fish.



#1 Blobfish!



References

- The 10 weirdest animals (that actually exist!). (2021, July 23). AZ Animals. <https://a-z-animals.com/blog/the-10-weirdest-animals-that-actually-exist/>

Check out more weird animals at <https://a-z-animals.com/>



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