

THE MESSENGER OWL



Issue: December 3, 2021



Snowy Owl

<https://animals.howstuffworks.com/birds/snowy-owl.htm>

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Quote of the Week

"Let nothing stand in your way because the hands of time are never on your side."

-Chad Kroeger

This quote shows that you should do what you are passionate about in life and not to let anything stop you because time may run out.





Principal's Message



Principal's Message:

As we conclude 2021, and get ready for winter break, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who help make OGA an amazing school. We are a community with many gifts and talents, which we share daily with one another. I am grateful to our wonderful, talented, creative, inquisitive, optimistic, resourceful, and resilient students. You make us laugh, sometimes you make us cry, but you always make us think. Most of all, you make us better. In the spirit of this holiday season, it is my wish that each of you receives good tidings that make these days truly special. It is also during this time that I am reminded of my own good fortune to serve as the proud principal of OGA. From the bottom of my heart, please have a safe and joyous holiday season.

Mrs. Despenza



There are so many holidays from so many world cultures between November and January. How many can you identify from the pictures in the Principal's Message?



Congrats!

MS. HURLEY'S HOMEROOM

142 Canned Goods Collected for the Second Harvest Food Bank!!



**NJHS
BOMB POP SALE
\$1.00**

**Wednesdays - Car Loop
Fridays - Car Line**

COMMUNITY

SLIP KNOT

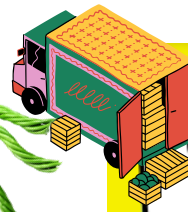


Learn how to tie a slip knot with this step-by-step instruction from netknots.com

Slip Knot Tying Instructions

1. Make a loop by doubling line back onto itself.
2. Run tag end back toward loop and lay over the doubled lines.
3. Make one or two turns with the tag end around doubled lines and through new loop created.

Slip knot. (n.d.). Trusted Knots by NetKnots | How to tie the right knots | Animated Knots for Fishing, Scouting, Boating, Climbing, Survival.
https://www.netknots.com/rope_knots/slip-knot



OGA ODYSSEY OF THE MIND
NEEDS YOU!

We are in need of large boxes
and insulation foam board,
crafting supplies, spray paints,
fabrics, packing materials, and
all of your other odds and ends.
Please drop off at the front
office in care of Mrs. Olowu.

You may also donate through
SchoolPay or
tinyurl.com/OOTM2122



AFTER-SCHOOL



50% OFF REGISTRATION



8th Graders! Don't forget to look at your high school options.

<https://tinyurl.com/sp2zm2wd>



Magnet
School
Applications
Now Available



Orlando Gifted Academy's
National Junior Honor Society
TOYS FOR TOTS ★
GRADE-LEVEL WARS
December 6th- December 10th
NJHS is collecting new, unwrapped toys to benefit the
USMC's Toys for Tots program. The winning grade level
wins a pizza party!!



SAVE THE DATE



DECEMBER 13TH THRU DECEMBER 17TH ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY

•HOLIDAYS•

MONDAY: BE AN ELF
DRESS LIKE AN ELF

TUESDAY: HOLIDAY COLORS
2ND, 3RD, & 4TH GRADE - RED
5TH, 6TH, & 7TH GRADE - GREEN
8TH-WHITE
TEACHERS/STAFF - BLUE

WEDNESDAY: RED NOSE DAY
WEAR A RED NOSE

THURSDAY: DECK THE HALLS!
HOLIDAY HEADWEAR AND SOCKS

FRIDAY: TACKY, UGLY, OR FESTIVE?
HOLIDAY SWEATERS WITH HOLIDAY ACCESSORIES

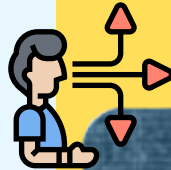


Family Art Night!

We hope you can join us for Elementary Family Art Night on December 9th from 5:30-6:30 in the cafeteria. Students will be using their artistic skills to create handmade birthday cards for foster children in Central Florida and other communities. If you would like to participate from home, please e-mail Mrs. Faubel at Jennine.Faubel@ocps.net for more information.

**8th Graders! Don't forget to look at
your high school options.**

<https://tinyurl.com/sp2zm2wd>



Magnet Application

OGA'S ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAM PRESENTS

SNOWFLAKE SOIREE 2021

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021

2PM- 3PM

OGA CAFETERIA
MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY

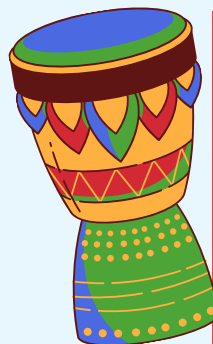
Add to your dance playlist at
<https://tinyurl.com/OGASoiree21>



SCAN ME

Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be available - cash only.

All proceeds support the OGA Odyssey of the Mind team.



OGA'S MUSIC DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS TO YOU

Holiday Spectacular

Featuring 4th grade, Chorus Club and World Music
Drumming

December 15th
5:00pm - 6:00pm



Fun Spot

By: Julian A.

Work cited
 • "Method Actor." *The Funny Times*, 9 Sept. 2013, funnytimes.com/38642/(The comic)
 • "Acting Jokes." *Puns And One Liners*, 12 May 2021, punsandoneliners.com/randomness/acting-jokes/.
 • Parade. "LOL! 200+ Funny (and Clean) Jokes Guaranteed to Make Kids Laugh." *Parade: Entertainment, Recipes, Health, Life, Holidays*, 3 June 2021, parade.com/968634/parade/jokes-for-kids/.

Why do we tell actors to "break a leg?" Because every play has a cast.

Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards? He was just going through a stage.

What does an actor eat for breakfast? Prop tarts.

What is Arnold Schwarzenegger now that he's not an actor? An exterminator

What do actors do when they make a mistake? They react.

If the Rock became a washed-up actor, what would he go by? The Sediment

I just met the guy in all those pain reliever commercials on TV. It turns out that he's an aspiring actor.

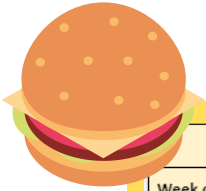
What's the worst advice ever given to an actor? "Be yourself."

A friend wants to give up being a postman to go on stage as an actor, but his delivery is awful.



Upcoming Events & What's for Lunch?

By: Terrence M.
 What's for Lunch?



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week of 12/6/21	Entrees Breaded Mozzarella Sticks Soybuter Sandwich Box Vegetables Marinara Dipping Sauce Cup Green Beans Fruits Orange Juice Fruit Juice Apple Juice Fresh Red Grapes	Entrees Nachos w/ Cheese Yogurt & Cheese Cool Pack Vegetables Lettuce & Tomato Cup Salsa Dipping Cup Fruits Peach Cup Fresh Apple Slices	Entrees Breaded Drumsticks Turkey & American Croissant Soybuter Sandwich Box Breads/Grains White Rice Vegetables Island Beans Seasoned Black Beans Coleslaw Fruits Mix Fruit/Applesauce Cup	Entrees Chicken Nuggets Turkey Breast Rollups w/ Chips Turkey & American Flatbread Breads/Grains Goldfish Pretzels Vegetables Corn on the Cob Peas & Carrots Fruits Fresh Satsuma Orange Orange Juice/Apple Juice	Entrees Vegetarian Penne Pasta Chef Salad w/ Turkey Chef Salad w/ Turkey & Egg PBJ Sandwich Box Breads/Grains Goldfish Pretzels Vegetables Garlic Spinach Cucumber Salad Fruits Diced Peach Cup or Banana
Week of 12/13/21	Entrees Mac and Cheese Turkey Sticks w/ Chips or Yogurt and Granola Pack Vegetables Italian Blend Vegetables Steamed Carrots Fruits Mixed Berry Fruit Cup Fresh Apple Slices	Entrees Chicken Tenders No Nut Butter Box Breads/Grains Brazilian Sweet Bun Vegetables Steamed Broccoli/Broccoli Dippers w/ Ranch Dressing Vegetarian Baked Beans Fruits Diced Peach Cup Fresh Tangerine	Entrees Hamburger/Cheeseburger BBQ Chix Salad Wrap Yogurt & Cheese Cool Pack Vegetables Sweet Waffle Potato Lettuce & Tomato Cup Fruits Fresh Satsuma Orange Apple Juice Orange Juice	Entrees Holiday Turkey Slices PBJ Sandwich Mozzarella Cheese Stick Breads/Grains WG Dinner Roll Vegetables Mashed Potatoes Green Beans & Fresh Corn Fruits Banana Diced Pear Cup	Entrees Twisted Garlic French Bread Pepperoni Pizza Turkey & American Sub Vegetables Lettuce & Tomato Cup Italian Blend Vegetables Fruits Applesauce Cup Fruit Pearls

Upcoming Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dec 6, 2021	Dec 7, 2021 School Board Work Session	Dec 8, 2021 Dealing with Challenges and Community Resources School-wide Spelling Bee	Dec 9, 2021 Elementary Family Art Night	Dec 10, 2021
Dec 13, 2021	Dec 14, 2021	Dec 15, 2021 Chorus & World Music Drumming Winter Performance/Showcase	Dec 16, 2021 OGA's Odyssey of the Mind Presents Snowflake Soiree	Dec 17, 2021 End of Second Marking Period



Teacher Spotlight & Student Spotlight

Alex M.



Q: What classes do you teach?

A: Pre-Algebra, Honors Geometry, and Robotics.

Q: When did you start teaching

A: I started teaching in 1999.

Q: What did you teach when you first started teaching?

A: I taught Life science, Physical Science, and Math.

Q: What is your favorite class that you have taught?

A: Out of all of the classes I have taught Geometry has been my favorite, especially this year.

Q: Why did you choose to start teaching?

A: I started teaching because I wanted to make a difference in society by being a teacher.

Q: What has been your most fun experience in teaching?

A: My most fun experience in teaching is going on field trips with the students.

Q: What has been your favorite field trip so far?

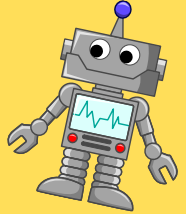
A: Gradventure was my favorite field trip that takes place at the end of the year at Universal Studios.

Q: What is your favorite thing to teach in Geometry?

A: All of the different hands-on activities that come with Geometry.

Q: Why did you decide to teach Science and Math when you first started teaching?

A: Those are topics I enjoy and I know that I will be passionate about and I like teaching subjects that I am passionate about.



Q: What do you do for our OGA news crew?

A: I am the weatherman and I just do the weather and I can tell a lot of people appreciate me while I am walking down the hallway and I enjoy my job on the News Crew very much.

Q: What is your favorite part of getting to work on the daily weather?

A: I just like the part where I kind of act like myself and let the school see me as who I am and not like someone else

Q: Are there any other things you work on other than the weather?

A: I also help edit, That helps get the news done quicker so that we can release it to the entire school.

Q: What is the process on how do you normally create the news?

A: So we usually film the day before for our newscast, and then we edit our videos and fill in the green screen and make it to where people might laugh or think it's cool or interesting and just make the news pop out a little.

Q: Is there a specific way you like to share the weather?

A: I do Kung-Fu so I like to show off some of my moves like kicks or skills that I'm really good at.

Q: Are there any other things you would like to work on in the news in the future?

A: I sure like doing my weatherman job but I'm always open for new opportunities so I would sure maybe try something else.

Q: Are there any other things you would like to share?

A: I would like to say that I really like being the weatherman.



Student Spotlight:
Alic the Weatherman



Teacher & Staff Spotlight

Teacher Spotlight:

Ms. Buyo

For this week's teacher spotlight, it is Ms. Buyo. She teaches a variety of classes such as U.S. History, World History, Speech and Debate, and 2d Art 1. This is her third year being a teacher and when asked why she wanted to be one she responded with, "I always enjoyed education because I think the world is a really interesting and complicated place. I think it's important that humans have the tools to try and make sense of it. In all, I don't only teach because I like kids, but because I'm teaching future citizens of the world." That was a very thoughtful response. When asked what her favorite part of teaching is, she says, "Seeing kids ask questions, especially really interesting ones." She also says she loves seeing her students embracing the fact that history doesn't have a lot of easy answers, and challenging themselves. Moving on, the reason she chose to become a teacher is that she says, "I have loved history my whole life. I started my career working in museums and studying historical objects and art. I then started teaching people about those objects and realized that I love the process of helping people look at the past." This explains her love for history and why she is such an amazing teacher. To end it off, when asked how she would like to be remembered by her students she responded with, "I would like my students to remember me as a teacher that encouraged them to think independently, and one that helped them enjoy learning." Thank you so much to Ms. Buyo for being able to be interviewed, and make sure to congratulate her if you see her on campus.

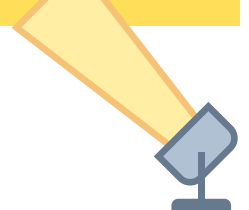


Staff Spotlight:

Ms. Scheid



This week for staff spotlight, Mrs. Shied was chosen. She is the behavior specialist here at OGA and has been working in this position for 3 years. When asked why she chose this position, she responded with, "I like teaching kids new skills to help them be successful now and later on in life." Which is a very thoughtful and caring answer from her. Her favorite part of her job is seeing how students realize they have met their goals and being proud of themselves. It makes her feel very accomplished. When asked what the best experience she has had in her position, she said, "When students I check in with every day learn to regulate their behavior. For example, over time I only have to check in with them once a week, then randomly. It's a good feeling." To end things off, when asked how she would like to be remembered by her students, she said, "Someone who connects with students and helps them reach their full potential so they can go on to be successful in high school, college, and beyond." She will definitely be remembered for that. Thank you so much to Mrs. Shield for allowing the interview, and if you see her in the halls make sure to congratulate her.



What does lightning do to trees?

By: Kai M.



The severity of the strike can range from barely hurting it or exploding it. Lightning is extremely hot, so immediately when it hits the tree, it boils the water in its cells, turning it to steam. The steam may explode, causing the bark to crack or take it off! If the lightning strikes deep into the tree, more harm will happen to the tree. Whether or not it will be catastrophic depends on how much water was in the place it hit, and where it's located.

Trees can recover from these incidents depending on how severe the lightning strike is, while some can kill the tree or make it burst into flames.

Sources:

- Climbers, A. (2021, April 16). *What happens when lightning hits a tree?* | American climbers tree service, Hopkinton, MA. American Climbers. <https://americanclimbers.com/when-lightning-hits-a-tree/>
- *What happens when lightning strikes a tree?* (n.d.). Where the Wonders of Learning Never Cease | Wonderopolis. <https://wonderopolis.org/wonder/what-happens-when-lightning-strikes-a-tree>
- <https://www.dallasnews.com/arts-entertainment/2018/01/11/this-is-what-happens-to-trees-when-they-re-struck-by-lightning/>

Intro to Quantum Mechanics

By: Max C.



Have you ever had someone walk up to you acting smart wanting to talk about Quantum Mechanics but you have no background knowledge about Quantum Mechanics? If not, then listen and learn so you don't look like a fool.

As stated by LiveScience.com "Quantum mechanics is a branch of physics relating to the very small" This refers to atoms, protons and electrons, and so on, but the thing with Quantum Mechanics is that, unlike Classical Mechanics where the theory states that an object will appear in a specific place at a specific place in time such as an atom being inside of a brick block or being inside a glass of water, Quantum Mechanics states that this atom might not be in either an could be in something that isn't in a state of matter at two different times.

Sources:

- Coolman, R. (2014, September 26). *What is quantum mechanics?* livescience.com. <https://www.livescience.com/33816-quantum-mechanics-explanation.html>
- *Quantum physics.* (2020). New Scientist. <https://www.newscientist.com/definition/quantum-physics/>

To understand Quantum Mechanics you have to understand Classical Mechanics first, At this point where the atoms are in a state of matter, you can explain what is happening with the atom, for example, it's all packed with the other atoms in a solid or free-roaming in a gas. Contrary to Classical Mechanics, Quantum Mechanics allows for the question of what if, for example, what if the particle is at point B instead of being at point A first or the particle could be in both places at the same time. This messes with the theory of Classical Mechanics because it portrays a form of physics where things don't happen in order and don't have set rules to abide by. So, in conclusion, Quantum Mechanics are a form of physics that challenges the continuous behavior of physics in Classical Mechanics and gives a new approach by the question of what if and showing how physics could be very different from how we know them now. Now when that kid walks up to you, knock 'em out (With your knowledge).

The Wonders of Wintertime

Raleigh H.

Christmas tree oh Christmas tree! Oh how I love you, Christmas tree! This is the well-known song called O Christmas tree, by Ernst Anschütz, About the well-known, and loved holiday, Christmas. Christmas is the one time of year, we get to bundle up, drink cocoa, eat candy canes, open presents, and enjoy each other's presence. This is the season! Christmas is when Jesus was born, People celebrate the holiday with festivities such as exchanging presents, decorating the tree, baking cookies, eating meals with your loved ones, likely cooked by your loved ones, there are many many ways to celebrate, and no matter what you choose, just remember holiday is about being together, with your family, friends, and loved ones.



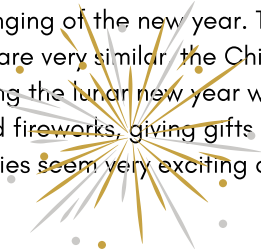
"I have a little dreidel, I made it out of clay! And when it's dry and ready, oh dreidel I shall play!" This is the popular Dreidel song, written by the Barenaked Ladies. This song is very special to the children who celebrate Hanukkah, along with Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah. These fun fast-paced songs bring much joy to the little ones during this holiday, but that's not the only thing bringing the little one's joy, there are treats, dreidels, music, and more that people cherish. Looking at this photo of a dreidel, you most likely notice that there are symbols on them, well according to ABC News, this means "The Hebrew letters inscribed on a dreidel are a Nun, Gimel, Hey or Chai, and Shin. The letters form an acronym for the Hebrew saying Nes Gadol Hayah Sham, which can be translated to "a great miracle happened there," referring to the miracle which Hanukkah is centered around."



Kwanzaa! The holiday is celebrated by and for African Americans, but has spread worldwide! It's beautiful. This holiday is very similar to Thanksgiving, with family coming together, having a nice meal, and spending time together. The food they eat consists of Catfish, collards, mac, and cheese, jerk chicken, gumbo accras, feijoada, and more. According to foodnetwork.com, "Kwanzaa food, at its simplest, is any food people bring to celebrate Kwanzaa." This holiday is beautiful, seeing how close family and friends get, bonding over amazing, home-cooked food, and spending time together!



New Years! The well-known celebration to honor the bringing of the new year. This holiday is filled with the writing of resolutions, family gatherings, and fireworks! While the celebrations are very similar the Chinese have a similar holiday of the Lunar New Year. This year on February 12th, the Chinese will be celebrating the lunar new year with festivities such as putting up decorations, eating dinner with the family on new years eve, firecrackers and fireworks, giving gifts and red envelopes with money inside to symbolize luck, and watching lion and dragon dances! Both festivities seem very exciting and fun!



Next, up on the list, we've got drumroll please, Soyal! Soyal is the winter solstice celebration of the Zuni and the Hopi peoples held on December 21st, the shortest day of the year. The people who celebrate, ceremonially bring the sun back from its "slumber" and mark the beginning of another cycle on the wheel of the year.



All right not-quite-last-but-almost-there, give it up for Three Kings day! *Insert clapping sound effect* Three kings day is the celebration of when three kings brought baby Jesus gold, frankincense, and mir. This celebration starts on January 6th, lasts 12 days, and ends on January 18th. During this holiday, little children leave their shoes out overnight, and when they wake up, they see that the three kings have left them gifts in their shoes!



While we are on the topic of the three kings, there is another holiday that celebrates them. This holiday is called Las Posadas, and it starts on December 16th and ends on December 24th. During these days, people go door-to-door and ask for lodging as Joseph and Mary did, the host is supposed to refuse, usually offering refreshments and small snacks. The people going door-to-door sing Christmas carols as well.



Last but not least, we have Diwali. Diwali is November 4th and celebrates the win of light over darkness. The holiday is celebrated by Hindu people, and it lasts 5 days! It is one of the most popular events in India, Thursday is the most important day, seeing as it is the main day of the festivities, and people pray to the Hindu goddess of wealth.



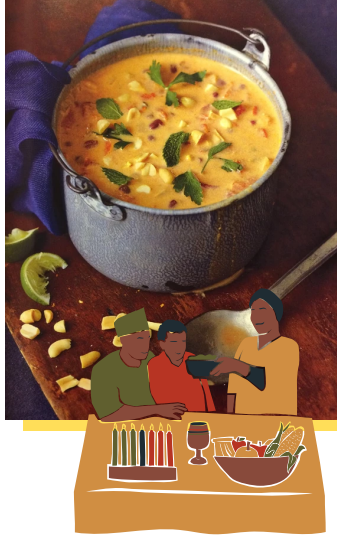
Sources:

- Work cited: Foodnetwork.com, ABCnews.com, History.com, Africa.upenn.com, chinahighlights.com, NPR.org

Happy Holidays!

Kwanzaa Recipe

Groundnut (Peanut) Stew



Works Cited
Website610. "Groundnut Stew." Carla Hall, 17 July 2020, www.carlahall.com/single-post/2016/05/18/groundnut-stew-1.

From celebrity chef, Carla Hall at CarlaHall.com

"From West Africa to the American South, this satisfying dish is a mainstay in the Black community. That's one of the reasons I did it for one of my Top Chef challenges; the other is that it's so yummy. My version of this classic peanut-based dish is silky smooth, not thick and cloying, and it has a rich, spicy undertone. Enjoy it just as it is or serve it over rice for a hearty main dish."

- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 large red bell pepper, stemmed, seeded, and chopped
- 1 jalapeño chile, stemmed, seeded, and finely diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 1/2 teaspoons grated peeled fresh ginger
- 1 14.5-ounce can diced fire-roasted tomatoes
- 1 quart chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 fresh or dried bay leaf
- 1/4 habanero chile, stemmed, seeded, and minced, plus more if you like
- 1 large sweet potato, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 1 15-ounce can small red beans, rinsed and drained
- 3 tablespoons creamy natural peanut butter
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup roasted, salted peanuts, chopped
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint leaves
- 1 lime, cut into wedges



1. Heat a large, deep skillet over medium heat. Add the oil and swirl to coat the bottom of the pan. Add the onion, cumin, and 1 teaspoon salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the onion has lightly browned and caramelized a little, about 3 minutes. Add the bell pepper, jalapeño, garlic, and ginger. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Don't let the mix burn!
2. Add the tomatoes, stock, bay leaf, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and the habanero. Bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce the heat to low and simmer for 30 minutes.
3. Stir in the sweet potato and raise the heat to medium. Cook until tender, about 15 minutes, then stir in the beans. Transfer 1/2 cup liquid from the pan to a small bowl. Stir in the peanut butter until smooth, then add the peanut butter mixture back into the pan. Resist the urge to just throw the peanut butter straight into the soup; it doesn't work!
4. Stir in the pepper and 1/2 teaspoon salt or more to taste. At this point, the soup can be refrigerated for up to 3 days; otherwise, return the soup to a simmer, then remove and discard the bay leaf. When ready to serve, garnish with the peanuts, parsley, and mint. Serve with the lime wedges.

K92.3 Tower Of Toys

Quinn G.

Every year the local radio station K92.3's Michael "Slater" Wheaton is perched on the winter garden village clock tower until they reach a certain amount of toys donated. This year Slater plans to go big or go home, since 2018 the station has collected over 50,000 toys, so this year's goal is 50,000 toys.

On December 3rd Slater will once again make the climb and stay at the top of the tower until the goal of 50,000 toys is reached. The proceeds will go to the Ronald McDonald's House Charities of Central Florida, and Nathaniel's Hope. "Stop by **K92.3's Tower of Toys** to drop off your donation and finish your holiday shopping all in one trip! With more than 80 retailers and restaurants, Winter Garden Village has something for everyone." says the station. Please try to donate not only children's toys to K92.3 but also donate items for teenagers at a local group home, foster care center, or to the Tower of Toys.



References

- Help us collect 50,000 toys. (2021, November 19). K92.3. <https://www.k923orlando.com/fp/help-us-collect-50000-toys/>



What Do Your Dreams Mean?

By: Anna R.



We have all experienced a dream either one way or another, but might there be a deeper meaning than originally believed? According to a few sources, it might just be that. There are many common dream occurrences that people tend to experience. These can include falling, being chased, flying, being late, etc.

Falling:

This is one of the most common dreams that people experience. According to Dreams.co, it is said that this dream occurrence is linked to failure. It says that people who feel as though they failed at something or did not meet the standards they have for themselves can experience this. Additionally, it is also said to be linked to fear. For example, the fear of change, or different experiences.

Flying:

Flying is also another common dream among people. Depending on the person, it can be interpreted in different ways. According to VeryWellMind.com, flying can mean that someone feels free or has the urge to flee or run away. Moreover, having the inability to fly can also mean something. For example, someone who experiences this dream could feel restricted by something or unworthy.

Being Chased:

Like the previous two dream scenarios, this is also a universal dream experience. Depending on what is chasing you, it can mean different things. To further explain this, being chased by an animal can mean that you are hiding from your fears and anger. Being chased by someone of the opposite gender may mean you are scared of love. Lastly, being chased by an unknown or mysterious figure may mean you are affected by childhood experiences.

In all, these were three common dreams that people may experience and the meaning behind them. Anyone can dream of anything, and that can have its own meaning based on the person. No one's experiences or lives are the same, and that applies to dreams too. Next time, you have a dream like one of these, maybe you will know why.

Holiday Events Near You

By: John M.

As apparent to hopefully all people reading this, it is currently December as of this issue being published. With the arrival of this month and its festivities, the community of Florida is hosting many winter-themed events. Here are some events happening soon, hope to see you there!

On December 12, 2021, families can go experience "Christmas In The Park", where they will be giving away toys, help others in the community, and share a bit of Christmas cheer! The event is planned to take place in the Bill Breeze in Ocoee. Further information can be found on this [link here](#).

On December 5th, 2021, kids and grownups alike will get to experience the 2nd annual Night of a Million Lights, having visits from Santa, seeing the tall sparkling tree, taking a tram ride through a Christmas village, and witnessing a dancing lights show! Accommodations for said event will be provided. For more information, please visit [here](#).

And on the 18th of December, people are available to visit the Grinchmas Holiday Mart, at the Ivanhoe Park Brewing Co. Get ready to complete your Christmas shopping here, with lots of memorabilia fit for the whole family! For more information, see [here](#).

- Christmas in the Park. (2021, November 16). Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-in-the-park-tickets-211705164847>
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The Legality of Emulating Software



Perhaps some readers might have a game that you enjoy, but it is on older technology and isn't playable on the current generation video game. The best way for a company to get that application on said hardware the way you remember it is for them to emulate the software for it. The definition of "emulation in computing is "reproduction of the function or action of a different computer, software system, etc." This is fine and good and all, but what if the company never emulates that software? Then, if you are truly willing to play it on this software, people would emulate it from a developer who didn't get permission to use their IP (Intellectual Property.) Is this truly the right answer? Are there any repercussions to pursuing this option? And if so, what should I do? To get one thing off first, downloading and using emulators isn't illegal, as long as it doesn't contain code that the company owns. The illegal part is downloading ROMs (Read-only memory) that have the said game you want to play on the internet; that would be violating the copyright of the game.

Some readers may have noticed how it says 'download', as in playing a video game without paying any money, but what if you paid for the retail release of the game you want to play but to emulate it on your computer? If that is the case, then it might just fall under fair use. It says 'might' because fair use is a very loose standard and since this argument hasn't been used in a court of law yet, there is no definitive answer. Even so, several people are saying that this law is foolish for the reason that if people were to emulate, let's say, Atari 2600 games, Atari, inc. aren't generating money from the games anymore and aren't creating anymore, so they should not get in trouble. While it is true that they aren't getting any money from the console or the games anymore, you are still violating copyright, and if they are retro (and any good) they will probably already either be remade or emulated.

The moral of the story, do not emulate software at all, because if you do, you might face legal repercussions. Even if you already bought the game, it would be wise not to do it regardless, never know what might happen. If you absolutely must play old games, you better just either play for a version on that recent hardware or wait for it to be available on said hardware.

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