

THE MESSENGER OWL



Issue: January 13th!

ATTENTION

We will be taking a break from the newspaper during February to focus on the yearbook.



Types of owls: All owl species in the United States. (2020, January 22). American Bird Conservancy. <https://abcbirds.org/blog20/owl-species-united-states/>

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"New year—new verse, a new chapter, or just the same old story? Ultimately we write it.

The choice is ours."

-Alex Morrith



Happy
New
Year



Principal's Message



Happy New Year, Owlberts! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break! I hope you were able to get some well-needed rest, catch up on your favorite shows, read some good books, and just take some really deep breaths. As we enter 2022, my goal is to continue creating and building a culture that fosters greatness within our staff and students. Each and every one of you has something to offer our school community and I urge you to share it. I urge you to be a beacon of light for everyone. I urge you to leave the negativity and humdrum existence in 2021. I urge you to step out of your comfort zone and connect with your teachers and peers. We have to push past the negatives and focus on the positives. I like to say...we need to look in the mirror. When looking in the mirror, I am able to see myself. I can then ask myself, how am I contributing? How am I making a difference? How am I a part of the solution? What attitude am I bringing with me daily? What can I do to make OGA Owlsome? If you have any suggestions as to how to continue and accelerate our path to positivity and success, please feel free to stop by and share. As you know, our doors are always open and your voice is important.

"Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success."

-Henry Ford

Thank you for being OWLsome!

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

NJHS BOMB POP SALE
\$1.00

Wednesdays - Car Loop
Fridays - Car Line



SAVE THE DATE



The inaugural School Spirit Run, powered by Delta Dental, will take place Saturday, February 5, 2022, at SeaWorld Orlando! Come together with friends and family (or fellow alumni!) and run, skip, jog or stroll through SeaWorld's picturesque pathways and right through the iconic Sesame Street neighborhood. There's even a FREE Kids Fun Run for ages 7 and under following the School Spirit Run!

All paid participants (\$35 for adults, \$20 for kids 12 and under) receive a custom t-shirt and themed finisher medal. Race day parking is FREE.

Awards will go to the top 3 overall Male and Female finishers, age-leveled awards for most school spirit, best mascot costume, best rivalry challenge, school with the largest number of registrants, and more! Visit <https://bit.ly/schoolspiritrun22> for more information and to register, and call the Foundation at 407-317-3261 with questions.

8th Graders! Don't forget to look at your high school options.
<https://tinyurl.com/sp2zm2wd>

**Magnet
Application**



Our Winter Book Fair is 1/21-1/28! We are cashless so bring a card or sign up for an eWallet:
<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/orlandogiftedacademy1>



Fun Spot: Food For Thought

By: Julian A.

Which friends should you always take out to dinner?

Your taste buds.

What's the best food to eat before a workout?

Mussels.

What do food and archers have in common?

They both hit the spot.

How do you truly savor a hot dog?

With relish.

What happened after an explosion at a French cheese factory?

All that was left was de brie.



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- "16 Hilarious Food Jokes That Your Dad Would Definitely Tell." Taste of Home, 3 July 2018, www.tasteofhome.com/article/food-jokes/.

Upcoming Events & What's for Lunch?

By: Jhon M.

Upcoming Events

- 1/17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (School Closed)
- 1/19 - College Spirit Day
- 1/20 - Picture Day - Makeup and Groups
- 1/20 - Middle School Mental Health Course
- 1/21 - OGA Spirit Day
- 1/26 - College Spirit Day



What's for Lunch?

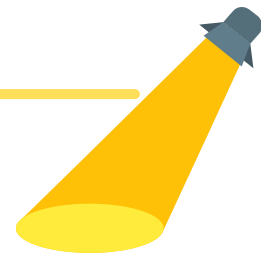
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
N/A	ENTREES Teriyaki Chicken Banana Bread with Cheese Sticks BREADS/GRAINS Vegetable Fried Brown Rice-1/2c. VEGETABLES Green Beans Baby Carrots with Ranch Dressing FRUITS Diced Pear Cup Apple Juice Orange Juice Fruit Juice MILK 1% White Milk	ENTREES Cheese Pizza Rippers Turkey & Cheese Pinwheel Box Soybutter Sandwich Box VEGETABLES Steamed Corn Garlic Spinach FRUITS Mix Fruit Cup Orange Wedges MILK Allergy Free Milk Substitute 1% White Milk	ENTREES Breaded Drumsticks Chicken Tender Salad PBJ Sandwich Box BREADS/GRAINS Mini Loaf- Blueberry, WG VEGETABLES Vegetarian Baked Beans Coleslaw Coleslaw FRUITS Diced Peach Cup Strawberry Cup Applesauce Cup Apple Juice Orange Juice Fruit Juice MILK Allergy Free Milk Substitute 1% White Milk	ENTREES Meatball Pizza Sub PBJ Sandwich Box Yogurt & Cheese Cool Pack VEGETABLES Marinara Dipping Sauce Marinara Dipping Sauce Cup Cucumber & Carrot Dipper with Ranch Dressing CK-Cucumber & Carrot Dipper with Ranch Dressing FRUITS Diced Peach Cup Strawberry Cup MILK Allergy Free Milk Substitute 1% White Milk
ENTREES PizzaBoli No Nut Butter Box No Nut Butter Box CK VEGETABLES Italian Blend Vegetables Roasted Glazed Carrots FRUITS Fresh Apple Slices Orange Juice Fruit Juice Apple Juice MILK Allergy Free Milk Substitute 1% White Milk	ENTREES Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Wedges Beef Nachos with Cheese Sauce Turkey & American Sub Yogurt & Cheese Cool Pack VEGETABLES Lettuce & Tomato Cup Salsa Dipping Cup Sweet Plantain Slices FRUITS Orange Juice Fruit Juice Apple Juice Strawberry Cup MILK Allergy Free Milk Substitute 1% White Milk	ENTREES Italian Deli - Gluten Free (No Cheese)CK Rotini Pasta with Meat Sauce Italian Deli Wrap PBJ Sandwich Box BREADS/GRAINS Garlic Bread Stick VEGETABLES Fresh Steamed Broccoli Tomato & Cucumber Salad FRUITS Mix Fruit Cup Applesauce Cup MILK Allergy Free Milk Substitute 1% White Milk	ENTREES Breaded Chicken Sandwich Egg, Yogurt, Carrots, and Flatbread Box PBJ Sandwich Box VEGETABLES Vegetarian Baked Beans Emoji Fries FRUITS Fresh Tangerine Fresh Apple Slices Applesauce Cup MILK Allergy Free Milk Substitute 1% White Milk	ENTREES Chicken Fajita Wrap Four Cheese Pizza Wedge Chicken Fajita Wrap Yogurt & Cheese Cool Pack VEGETABLES Salsa Dipping Cup Garden Side Salad Garden Side Salad FRUITS Mix Fruit Cup Apple Juice Orange Juice Fruit Juice MILK Allergy Free Milk Substitute 1% White Milk

Student & Class Spotlight

Kai M.



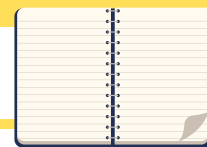
Mrs. Stoute & Mrs. Cybulski



The class spotlight today is...Ms. Stoute and Ms. Cybulski's Second-grade class! The students who volunteered to be interviewed were: Grey, Zoey, Aubrey, Leo, Liam, Ella, and Helena. When asked if they liked their class they answered, "It's fun, amazing, good, the best class ever, and that it has the best and nicest teachers ever." They all enjoy going to OGA and get along with each other most of the time. The most fun things they did in this class so far are making slime and making energy islands. They are being taught Math, ELA, Science, and Social studies. Right now they are learning about Martin Luther King Jr. Day and measurements in Math. They like the game Prodigy, Dogs, Minecraft, Pokemon, their classmate Lennon, and leopard geckos. On the topic of geckos and lizards, they also have a lizard in their classroom which they named Joeshmoe. Their teacher also hired fairies called Cubby Fairy and Pencil Fairy. When their cubbies and desks are clean the fairies reward them with candy, toys, and bookmarks. The things they were most proud of this year were, "Happy to be with my brother at this school together, how fun this class is, their grades, feeling like I can be myself, being happy, and having lots of friends."



Student of the Week



For our student spotlight this week we have Craig W. From Ms. Stoute and Ms. Cybulski's class! Craig is currently in second grade and likes pokemon, playing games on the computer, Harry Potter, and Prodigy. He likes to play soccer and basketball. Next year Craig wants to make it to the International Spelling Bee. His three best friends are Vincent, Grey, and Theo. His favorite thing to play on the computers is Doodle Champion Island. He likes this school and both of his teachers. He said that his favorite color was blue.

He likes to read when he is bored and when asked what his favorite book was he replied, "My favorite book is Dog Man". He wants to improve in Math and ELA, get more Pokemon cards, and get better at chess. Craig is good at the piano, and school subjects. If you see him in the hallway, be sure to congratulate him on being in the student spotlight this week!

Teacher & Staff Spotlight

Anna R.

Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Cortes!

This week for the teacher spotlight, it is Mrs. Cortes! Mrs. Cortes is a new teacher at OGA and teaches interventions for all grade levels. She has been teaching for a total of 5 years and even taught English to students in China. When she was asked what made her want to become an interventions teacher, she responded with, "I like working with struggling students and having that extra time to help them do better." A very kind response. Moving on, the reason she wanted to become a teacher, in general, was because she really enjoys the school setting and working with students. She states, "I think education breaks through a lot of barriers and I want to help with that." The best experience she has had while being a teacher is when she was teaching English in China. She says, "It was nice to see the students learn a new language from scratch and get comfortable in the classroom over time." That's very fascinating. Moreover, when asked for something interesting about herself she states, "I really enjoy traveling and I have done a lot of it. I first started traveling when I was 18 and it became my passion. Whenever I have the chance I try to find a new place." Traveling to different places can produce new and unique experiences, which is something she loves. To end things off, she says she would love her students to remember her as someone who cared about them. Thank you so much to Mrs. Cortes for allowing an interview, and next time you see her in the hallways, make sure to give her a warm welcome to OGA!



Staff Spotlight: Ms. Lineberry

For this issues staff spotlight, it is Ms. Lineberry! Ms. Lineberry is the Media Clerk here at OGA and has been for the past 3 years. She loves reading and working with students, which is what made her want her current position. When asked what her favorite part of her job is, she says, "My favorite part of my job is getting to talk about books all day!" That sounds very exciting! Continuing on, the best experience she has had as a Media Clerk is when students discover new books and series and can't wait to talk to her about them. As a matter of fact, her favorite books series is Harry Potter. I bet many can relate to her, it is a very magical series. In all, when she was asked how she wanted to be remembered by her students, she said, "I want to be remembered as someone who was caring and excited about reading." Thank you so much to Ms. Linberry for allowing the interview and make sure to pay her a visit in the library!





Baking at different altitudes

By Kai M.



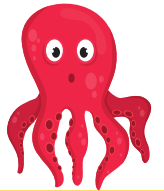
Baking is a useful skill to have at any time. What you might not know is that at different altitudes, things bake differently! From my experience, there was a cupcake recipe that tasted great at high elevations but when it was baked again at sea level it was not as good. Why and how does this affect baking? According to Science Of Cooking, "As elevation rises, air pressure falls, which means that bakers living at 3,000 feet (1,000 meters) will see different results than lowland bakers." So some recipes when baked at high altitudes will yield a different result. At low air pressures, the dough rises more easily and loses moisture quicker. At high elevations, liquids evaporate faster, water boils faster, and gases expand more. Things cook better or worse depending on elevation, but why? The main reason is air pressure. At high altitudes, as explained before, water boils faster and the baked goods lose moisture faster than usual. All in all, these are the main changes and reasons why food cooks differently in different altitudes. So next time you want to cook something on a mountain, remember these facts!

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Stereotyping The Criminals Of The Sea

By Max C.



When I say the word pirate, what do you think of, pirate ships, maybe a Galleon, or a famous pirate like Blackbeard, or a place, like the West Indies. Well, you are correct. But the real character of Caribbean pirates that once sailed the seas of the Caribbean is far from the ship plundering, wooden-legged, swashbucklers stereotypes that you think of today.

Many people associate pirates with pirate ships and pirate ships with pirate flags and those flags typically have a skull with the bones crossed as an emblem, The Golden Age of Piracy lasted from 1650-1730 and during this time thousands of different pirates sailed the seas of the Caribbean which meant that each ship had its unique flag. Even out of the most famous pirates the only one who had a flag that resembled a skull with two bones crossed was Henry Avery.

You know how dogs will bury a bone to find it later? Apparently, we think pirates do the same thing, but in reality, pirates aren't entirely stupid. As stated by mentalfloss.com "When these criminals came into possession of some loot, they did what most criminals do: spend it immediately. Burying treasure together would have been a risky, inconvenient trust exercise to say the least." The only recorded instance of a pirate burying treasure was the case of William Kidd, who had buried his treasure before heading to Boston to settle some accusations of his piracy and then was arrested.

A good pirate ship needs a bunch of cannons to loot a ship right? No, not necessarily. If a pirate wants to take the gold and riches from a ship, then why would they continuously shoot at a ship if they knew that ship was going to take damage, surprisingly the pirates were smart, and wouldn't. The two alternatives to shooting their cannons would be to take some rowboats and climb up onto the ship and attack, or to take grappling ropes and throw them onto the other ship and then attack. Don't get me wrong, a pirate ship would definitely need cannons for defense from other ships, but not for plundering and looting them.

In conclusion, modern culture gives pirates many exaggerating stereotypes that overshadow the smart criminals they used to be.

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Lucid Dreaming Could Treat PTSD

Terrance M.

A lucid dream is when you are fast asleep, yet you can control the dream that you are in. It is said that these exact dreams could treat Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

PTSD is a very serious disorder that many suffer from. Post-traumatic stress disorder is caused when someone experiences a terrifying event in their past. You may have nightmares or “unwanted memories of the trauma”. A good way to show this is as a military soldier. Not all, but some veterans may suffer from PTSD from a battle they may have encountered. This disorder usually occurs when you go to a certain place that resembles the place where the flashbacks usually occur. Fortunately, lucid dreaming could help. When lucid dreaming, not only do you control your dream, but studies show that “People who lucid dream gain memories of what happened earlier in the dream, the ability to manipulate their environment, control their own actions, and marvel at how strange their dream worlds are.”. It is also said that since lucid dreams (LD) provide self-awareness and control, and PTSD causes nightmares for whoever bears its suffering, lucid dreaming could be a possible treatment.

Experiencing nightmares could be a very overwhelming feeling for anyone, but for people with PTSD, nightmares might make them “relive” the moments they are most afraid of. Yet, when you have a dream, it is scientifically proven that your brain goes through a state of fluctuating changes – making you feel happy and joyful. Now imagine having this warm feeling, and being able to warp everything around you to what you want it to be. Healthline.com states that “Mota-Rolim hopes that lucid dreaming might be able to help. He explained, ‘Psychotherapies based on inducing LD could be an effective way of treating recurrent nightmares of PTSD patients because they—being lucid during the nightmare—would be able to: one, naturally lose their fear by realizing the absence of real threats, i.e. the lack of reality of the perceptual experience; two, simply try to wake up during the nightmare; and, three, change dream context, in a way of transforming the nightmare into a neutral or even a pleasant dream.’. This could prove to get rid of someone’s disorder for good if used correctly. So, even the simplest of things, like having a certain dream or eating your ice cream this way or that, could possibly be the cure to something you had no idea of.

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My Rock N Roll Playlist

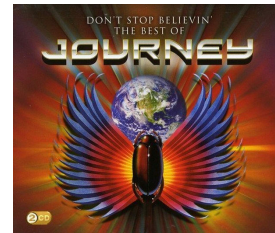
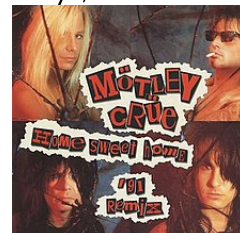
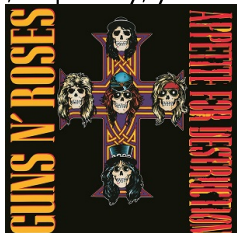
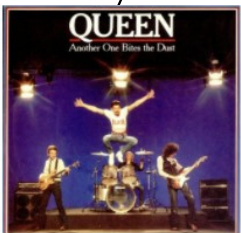


By Sarah T.

Hello, good people. whether you know this or not, I am a huge fan of music, rock and roll in particular. Below are 10 of the songs in my playlist and why they are there.

1. Sweet Child O' Mine by Guns N' Roses - Not only is this song a great classic from the 80's, it has some of the greatest guitar riffs and solos I have ever heard myself. Not to mention, the message in the song itself is a pretty nice one, but if you wish to know it, you have to listen yourself.
2. For Whom The Bell Tolls by Metallica - Similar to the last one, this song has really excellent elements of guitar in it and while the intro can seem a bit long, it is 100% worth it and this song would be absolutely perfect to play while having a water balloon fight, if you don't believe me, try it yourself.
3. Being Evil Has A Price by Heavy Young Heathens - While it may not sound the greatest from the name, this work of art is pretty great to listen to if you're into rock music. It has a great guitar solo in it and can give you an interesting sense of empowerment if you put yourself in the right state of mind, it works for me every time.
4. You Give Love a Bad Name by Bon Jovi - I would like to preface this by saying that Bon Jovi was one of the greatest bands of the '80s and everyone should at least know one song by them, if not, here is your suggestion. I don't have much to say about the actual meaning behind the song, all I can really say is that it's a real banger and I would definitely recommend it.
5. Another One Bites The Dust by Queen - Much like the last song, this one is a wonderful classic that everyone should know by now, if not, here you are. I personally love this song for reasons I don't have the time to explain, but it is perfect for singing loudly in the car while everyone in the surrounding cars around you looks at you like you are crazy.
6. Here I Go Again by Whitesnake - There are several reasons why this song is on my playlist, the first being how perfect it is to listen to while on a walk or bike ride. It has a great beat and an even greater guitar riff. The meaning behind this song can be interpreted in several ways, but it is a good one no matter what and is rather enjoyable to listen to.
7. Don't Stop Believin' by Journey - This song is in my playlist for a simple reason- everyone likes Journey. It is another perfect song to jam out to in the car and anyone who does not agree with that deserves to have the filling in their Oreos swapped out with toothpaste.
8. Savin' Me by Nickelback - I know what you are thinking, "no one likes Nickelback", well I am one of few people who do and it is for that reason that this song resides in the depths of my playlist. While it is a little bit of a deeper cut song with not as many rock and roll aspects in it, it is still a great one and has an awesome guitar solo in it too.
9. Eye Of The Tiger by Survivor - Chances are if you have ever seen an action movie or any type of TV entertainment with a scene in it where someone walks away from an exploding car and looks all cool (do not attempt, you are not a Hollywood stunt double), then you have heard this song and for that reason, it lives in my playlist. It's a super great song that can be very uplifting if you let it be.
10. Home Sweet Home by Motley Crue - Saving the best for last, this song is one of my favorites of all time. I have been listening to it for as long as I can remember and I don't have a single bad thing to say about it. The message is beautiful, the guitar solo is unbelievable and the piano riff at the beginning and end is super iconic. You definitely won't regret listening.

Whether you take it or not, hopefully, you enjoyed my musical advice. As always, have fun and rock on.



Opinion On Greek Philosophy

Max C.



Ancient Greek Philosophy was principally the oldest philosophical idea and was the foundation of the Western Philosophy that we use to rationalize and logically create an understanding of the world and the things in life we come in contact with every day. In my humble opinion, I feel that without the rationality that we use to explain things every day the western world wouldn't be as straightforward as it is today.

Today you can wake up knowing that things work because of this and that this works like that because of The Ancient Greek Philosophy which is the foundation of our understanding today. Ancient Greek Philosophy was developed by the many Greek Philosophers that we still cite and recognize today such as Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato.

When I say that Ancient Greek Philosophy is the basis for the Western Philosophy that we use today, I mean that our principles in how we think and the studies that Philosophers have conducted carried on for thousands of years until they came overseas and landed here hundreds of years ago. As stated by Britannica.com "the earliest Greek philosophers focused their attention upon the origin and nature of the physical world, they are often called cosmologists, or naturalists." Though not scientists, they used the power of the mind to rationalize and conclude how things started and how they work, which in my humble opinion, is extremely hard.

Even though they were not scientists, Ancient Greek Philosophers came up with an idea of a fundamental particle that makes up all of life, yes, the atom, two-thousand years before any scientist discovered something even close.

In conclusion, Ancient Greek Philosophers thought of principles that make up our world thousands of years before they were even proven and started the act of questioning what and why.



All in all, this list isn't something that you HAVE to follow, it can be used as inspiration, you could get ideas from it, and do the things that make you happy, because that in itself is fun, and the things that make you happy are always changing, so the possibilities are endless!!

Why are there no mountains in Florida?

Sarah T.

Since everyone reading this lives in the good old sunshine state, it may be helpful to know just why our state has no mountains and is almost entirely flat terrain. The reason behind our flat state is rather simple- Florida has none of the geological phenomena that cause the formation of mountains. Mountains are formed when tectonic boundaries push together or on top of one another or when volcanoes eventually form into mountains. Instead of any of these happenings, Florida is actually where the glacial sand went when it washed down from the East Coast.

Another question one may have related to this one is, why is Florida so flat? Well, as glaciers expanded and melted from the North, the Florida peninsula emerged and submerged. When the sea level was at its lowest, the land of Florida was much larger than it is now. Before, the sea level was as much as 100 feet lower than what it is now, resulting in the wide and flat formation.



Pink Dolphins

By Anna R.

Everyone has seen a dolphin before, whether in person or not, they are fascinating sea creatures. Unknown to many though, there are actually such things as pink dolphins! This species of dolphin is called the Amazon River Dolphin, or 'botos'. They are freshwater mammals and can be found in rivers, lakes, and submerged grasslands throughout the Amazon and specifically the Orinoco and Araguaia Rivers. This species of dolphin are also only found in six countries. These include Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

These colorful creatures are usually found swimming alone or in groups no bigger than 3 or 4. Their diet consists of all types of fish, crabs, shrimp, and turtles. Adding onto that, the Pink Amazon River dolphin is the only dolphin that has teeth similar to human molar teeth. They grow up to 8 feet and can weigh around 450 pounds. Additionally, the male dolphins are pinker than the females, and as a matter of fact, when botos are first born they aren't even pink at all! Over time as they age, they start to gain their pink color. The more mature a dolphin is, the pinker they are. They also are the largest dolphin out of the 5 freshwater species, and can live up to 30 years!

Sadly though, due to fishing and pollution, the Amazon River dolphin is endangered. Their numbers sit in the low thousands and haven't been progressing. But, with efforts from animal conservation groups, the population can grow. In all, what are your thoughts on the Amazon River Dolphin?

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Does Taking The Vaccine Permit You To Take Off Your Mask?

By Terrance M.

Since Dec. 11, 2020, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine has been available under EUA in individuals 16 years of age and older, and the authorization was expanded to include those 12 through 15 years of age on May 10, 2021.", says FDA.gov. People have been taking the vaccine, incredibly often now since it has now been available for all ages, but think they are "immune" to the virus. Think of the vaccine like the flu shot. The flu shot doesn't make you immune to the flu, just like the vaccine doesn't make you immune to the virus. It just protects you as much as it can. But by wearing a mask, you could slow the spread. Wearing a mask doesn't just protect you, it protects everyone around you. Imagine if someone was in front of you hacking up a storm, but they can confirm and prove that they have had the vaccine. Wouldn't you still prefer if they were wearing a mask? Wouldn't that make you feel safer? EAMC hospitalist Micheal Roberts, M.D. says "If I wear my face covering to protect you from me, and you wear your face covering to protect me from you, then we can all dramatically decrease our risk of transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19. This, in conjunction with social distancing and frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer, will be important in limiting the spread of COVID-19 as we return to our usual activities.". It is completely understandable that you would like to go back to how it was before this global pandemic, and I haven't met anyone who doesn't, but for that to happen, we need to try our best and last as long as we can to survive this essential crisis.

There isn't just the mask situation, but that there are children here that are at high-risk to this deadly sickness. For example, children that are diagnosed with asthma. Lung problems could lead to having lung cancer symptoms. Now imagine having the sickness on top of that. As a community, we need to come together and slow the spread of COVID completely. Together.

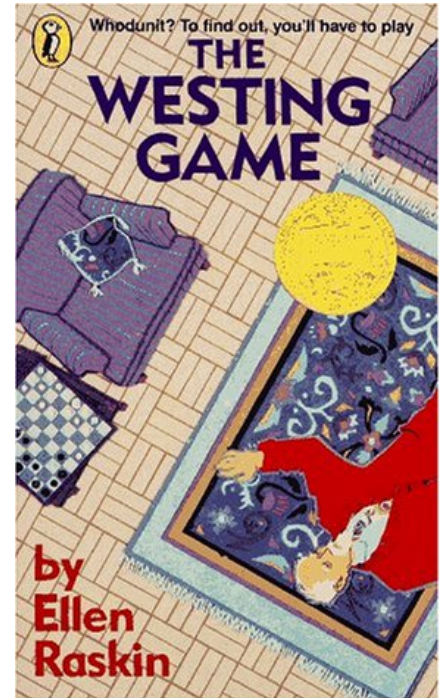
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Book Review - The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

Alexander M.

When you enter *The Westing Game* the reader is introduced to 16 different characters who are invited by a salesman to rent luxury apartments on Lake Michigan. And consequently, Samuel Westing has recently been murdered recently after the residents have moved into their new homes. They then scramble to attend the reading of Sam Westing's will; they end up in a sort of game where they are required to solve clues and catch the murderer and claim a grand prize of \$200,000,000 along with the rest of the Westing Estate. As you follow along with the characters who have been placed in groups of two, each with their own individual clues they must work hard to uncover all of the clues and win the Westing game. They all are determined to solve the mystery but further into the story you find out that someone has been trying to sabotage the game and take home all of the winnings but when some are injured and unable to continue the remaining contestants are in a race to find the killer using some of the most dubious of tactics to discover who killed Samuel Westing and will they strike again. I personally thought that the book was a little underdeveloped overall but the story still comes out with a few unexpected moments. It is a rather short book with chapters around four pages long at the lowest. My personal Favorite Chapter is chapter 11 "The Meeting". Overall this was a good book and I do recommend it.



Maha Shivaratri



Julian A.

For March, if someone asks someone else about what holidays they will celebrate, they would probably get a response like Saint Patrick, or maybe the start of daylight savings, but if you ask enough people, one may say the Maha Shivaratri. Perhaps someone may be asking what that is, and that is what this article is trying to clear up.

Maha Shivaratri is a Hindu holiday and celebration for a god that some Hindus worship, Shiva. Who is Shiva? Well, Shiva is one of the main deities of Hinduism, whom Shaivites worship as the supreme god. Among his common epithets are Shambhu, Shankara, Mahesha, and Mahadeva and he is the God of Destruction, Time and Arts, The Destroyer of Evil. Being the God of Destruction may seem like a bad guy, but in the Shaivite tradition, Shiva is the Supreme Lord who creates, protects, and transforms the universe. The Maha Shivaratri is observed by remembering Lord Shiva and chanting prayers, fasting, and meditating on ethics and virtues such as honesty, non-injury. But why is Maha Shivaratri celebrated in late February and early March? That's because Shivaratri is celebrated in every month of the lunisolar calendar, in accordance with the Hindu calendar but once a year, in late winter Maha Shivaratri is celebrated to commemorate the oncoming summer.

Considering how less than 10% of people don't live in India, it would make sense that people wouldn't know about this information. But maybe someone would look further into this rabbit hole, because even if you don't believe in the religion, there is so much to read and understand about in this regard.

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Daily Astrology Horoscope

Jade K

Welcome to an introduction to astrology, for the next several weeks there will be a daily observation of astrological aspects and interpretations of how these aspects may affect daily activities.

Monday, January 17 - Full moon in Cancer, possibly causing a strong emotional day. There may start to be problems involving computers and other electronic devices, due to the fact mercury is beginning a retrograde period which will last till mid February. Think, what is not working? Miscommunication and misunderstanding abound during this period.

Tuesday, January 18 - The full moon has passed, and with it comes a release of pressure, Moon in Leo, be mindful of what you say and overly dramatic conversation. Avoid erratic behavior. Highly Creative energy, loud and dramatic. The Mercury retrograde may cause danger of transportation accidents (be especially careful when driving). Practice patience. Leo is associated with entertainment, so finish off the day with watching a good movie.

Wednesday, January 19 - Moon continues in Leo causing today to be similar to yesterday but less extreme. Positive physical energy and motivational energy, create something new, express yourself.

Thursday, January 20 - Moon in Virgo, time to get organized, productive day (get to work! And clean up your space), pay attention to details. Mercury is still in retrograde so be especially careful with transportation.

Friday, January 21 - Moon continues in Virgo, Your values will become clear. Today should be a good day to do something nice for someone else. Do something new and creative. Positive aspects of Venus and the moon should make a pleasant day.

Monday, January 24 - The moon spends the day in Libra, hopefully making this Monday less stressful. However Venus, the depositor of Libra is retrograde, creating an imbalance in judgement. Be careful with money because of the Venus retrograde. Can affect your feelings and misunderstanding

Tuesday, January 25 - Moon moves into Scorpio. Emotions run deep. Avoid stressful situations. Try to remain positive. This energy is good for researching. Read a good detective story.

Wednesday, January 26 - Moon continues in Scorpio, less intense than yesterday. Trine between the moon and neptune stimulates the imagination.

Thursday, January 27 - Moon moves into Sagittarius, positive energy abound. Sagittarius is ruled by Jupiter so Today would be a Good day for physical exercise but don't over do it. Explore foreign cultures. Be optimistic.

Friday, January 28 - Moon continues in Sagittarius. Venus is finishing the retrograde period and is now stationary direct. Any misunderstandings or confusion about what you value will soon be resolved. Misunderstandings or communication will be a critical and possibly stressful point today. Avoid saying anything you will regret later. Things will approve in the days ahead.

Guess Who?

Have you ever wondered what your teachers and staff looked like when they were your age? See if you can figure out who is who.



1. Mrs. Cross
2. Ms. Panther
3. Mrs. Scheid
4. Mrs. Hale
5. Ms. Sharpe
6. Ms. Bell
7. Mrs. Mullen
8. Mrs. Diaz
9. Mrs. Olowu
10. Ms. Revangile



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