

THE MESSENGER OWL



Issue: May 16th!



Long-Eared Owl

<https://www.hawkmountain.org/raptors/long-eared-owl>

The Goodbye Issue!

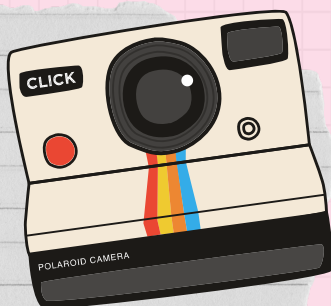
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Quote Of The Week

"The days, months, and years eventually reveal, like a Polaroid, a clear picture of how significant events and decisions ultimately shape our lives." - Hoda Kotb

April is Arab American Heritage Month.





Principal's Message

Owlberts,

We made it to the end of the year "We Dared to Be Different." In a year that started in ambiguity, we found our way together and ended this school year as a community! I am so proud of how we came together and made it through as one Owl family. Hoot Hoot!

To the 5th graders moving up, middle school will present new changes and challenges that your elementary teachers have ensured you are well-prepared for. We are excited to see what positive choices and strides you make for the upcoming school year.

To the 8th graders, who are now moving on to high school, continue to be knowledge-seekers, continue to be positive risk-takers, and continue to be leaders. Continue to Dare to Be Different!

Thank you to the students, staff, faculty, families, PTA, SAC, and community partners that helped make this year extremely successful. To all of you, I extend my deepest THANKS! Hoot Hoot!

Mrs. Despenza



8th Grade Hands of Fame

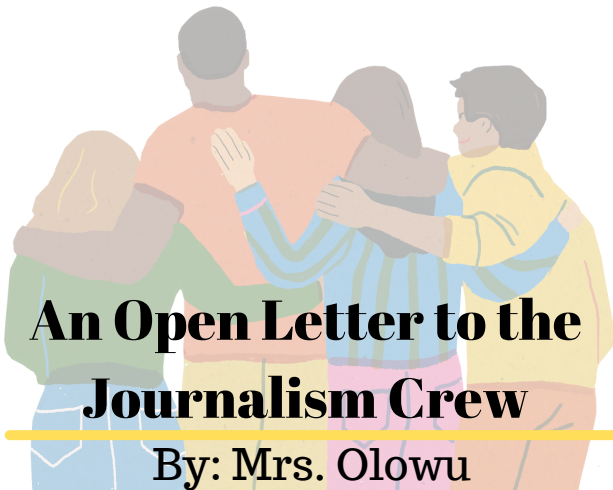
Check out the Hands of Fame wall in our outdoor classroom. Congrats to our inaugural 8th graders who laid the first prints.



ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY
ODYSSEY OF THE MIND
NEEDS YOU!

We are in need of large boxes and cardboard, insulation foam board, plywood, building tools, crafting supplies, acrylic/spray paint, fabrics, packing materials, and all of your other odds and ends. Please drop off at 1121 N Fern Creek Ave. in care of Mrs. O.

You may also donatee
tinyurl.com/OOTM2122



An Open Letter to the Journalism Crew

By: Mrs. Olowu

To the Journalism Crew,

Thanks so much for your hard work this year. It has been a great year of learning new skills, collaborating on assignments, taking on leadership and support roles, being open-minded, and compromising when we disagreed. Coming into this course, which I'd never taught before and was more afraid than I would have admitted initially, you all made the experience seem effortless.

For my 8th graders, thank you for truly embodying the spirit of leadership, taking over the newspaper and yearbook, and running with it. Your hard work is appreciated and I will miss you all.

Virtual hugs to you all,

Mrs. Olowu

SEL CORNER

SUMMER SELF-CARE CHALLENGE

Day 1 Make a list of goals for the month	Day 2 Sit in the sun and meditate	Day 3 Make lemon water or lemonade	Day 4 Go on a hike or nature walk
Day 5 Enjoy the pool or sprinklers	Day 6 Waterguns, Bubbles, Side-walk Chalk	Day 7 Picnic or eat lunch outside	Day 8 Unplug from technology
Day 9 Drink all the water today	Day 10 Make a fruit salad	Day 11 Relax to the sound of nature	Day 12 Go out for ice cream
Day 13 Dress up and feel pretty	Day 14 Make a summer playlist	Day 15 What do you need today?!	Day 16 Watch the sunrise or sunset
Day 17 Make your own popsicles	Day 18 Eat a watermelon	Day 19 Take a mid-day nap	Day 20 Visit a Farmer's Market
Day 21 Make s'mores or grill	Day 22 Try watergun painting	Day 23 Take a ton of pictures	Day 24 Do a yoga routine in the sunlight
Day 25 Walk away from unhappiness	Day 26 Re-organize your sacred space	Day 27 Write something beautiful	Day 28 Go star-gazing + count stars 

More on BlessingManifesting.com

How Heavy are the Clouds in the Sky?

By: Kai M.

Clouds are everywhere. Look up and you just might spot them if conditions are right. Clouds hold water vapor until the water gets so heavy it has to fall down, in a process called precipitation, or rain. The thing is, How heavy is the water vapor?

Clouds may seem like weightless cotton balls, but the truth is the average cumulus cloud is 1.1million (500,000 kg) pounds! If clouds are so heavy, then why do they still stay floating in the atmosphere? The answer to that question is that since the weight is spread over millions and millions of water droplets, the weight doesn't really affect the cloud's ability to float. Each droplet holds a tiny amount of mass which helps even out the weight so it can keep floating.

Of course, this is just the average estimate for a cloud and to find the exact measurement of a cloud's weight you would need to consider an abundance of different factors such as volume and that 1/2 of a gram of water is in one square inch of cloud.

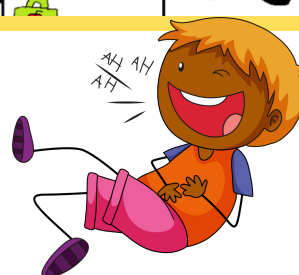
Next time you see a fluffy cloud, think of how heavy it must be and why. It was truly shocking to explore this topic and find out that clouds aren't weightless and in fact, are tremendously heavy. What do you think?

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This Weeks Comic

By: Raleigh H., Kai M., Nico, and Hope



Liquid Death Mountain Water

By: Sarah T.

Hello good people, it's your favorite writer on the OGA newsletter staff. I'm sure you have seen me around with a can of something saying "Liquid Death" on the side. Many people often have misconceptions about exactly what it is I am drinking, so I am here to clear it up.

Liquid Death is not alcohol or an energy drink, it's simply WATER. I know it must be very shocking, but it is indeed just water. The white can contains flat water, the black can has sparkling water in it, and any other color is a certain flavor of sparkling water. For example, the gold can is mango-flavored sparkling water, otherwise known as "Mango Chainsaw."

You may be wondering why exactly something as simple as water has the name that it does, here is a quote directly from the website. "We're just a funny water company who hates corporate marketing as much as you do. Our evil mission is to make people laugh and get more of them to drink more water more often, all while helping to kill plastic pollution." As you can see, no harm, no foul, just some awesome marketing and creativity.

So, if from now on you see me or anyone else drinking Liquid Death, just know that there is no harm intended and it is all for a good cause.

Jokes Full of Puns

- "A man just threw milk, cream, and butter at me. How dairy"
- "I'm a big fan of white-boards, I find them re-markable"
- "I just burned 2000 calories, thats the last time I leave brownies in the oven while I nap"
- "Thanks for explaining the word many to me, it means a lot"
- "I'm glad I know sign language. It's pretty handy"
- "E-bay is so useless. I tried to look up lighters and it gave me 32480 matches."
- "Trying to write with a broken pencil is so useless"
- "I can't believe I got fired from the calendar factory all I did was take a day off"
- "You're not harry but you've got style"
- "Wanna hear a joke about paper? Nevermind its tearable"
- "I was going to share a vegetable joke but it's corny"

WHY CAN'T THE BICYCLE
STAND UP BY ITSELF?



IT'S TWO TIRED

HOW DO MONSTERS
LIKE THEIR EGGS?



"Blanche Neige"



Congratulations to the French Club who performed the play "Blanche Neige" on May 12th. They did a fantastic job from learning their lines in French, to designing costumes and props. Tres bien!

Summer Travel

By: Max C.

This year has been a crazy ride for me and all of you alike. For my first year in middle school I had a great time, and for the ones leaving I hope you enjoyed your last, but summer is not a time to be sad, summer is a time to enjoy yourself and go places, so here are a couple of places that you could enjoy some time at.

First of all, mi pais, Colombia. From the huge mountains in the west to the stunningly beautiful coastal cities of Cartagena and Barranquilla in the north. Colombia has everything you need and more. The city of Medellin located in the midwest is a city that is "built on hills" as travelandleisure.com likes to say it, the summer is the perfect time to visit Colombia for that is the time the culture really pops out. The people in Colombia are friendly as they care about each other and Colombia is a big attraction for tourists too.

Second, if you don't want to go out of the country, then the United States' national parks are nothing less than amazing. From the colossal Yellowstone national park to the beautiful mountains of the Yosemite park, each national park is equally beautiful but all unique in its own way. Some of the national parks are high in the mountains or located in the valleys, vast across the plains or even underwater, but each national park has its own things to be discovered by you.

Third, although it may be one of the most common, it will always be a favorite, which is the cruise. I mean, you're only traveling across seas in the most luxurious ships with activities to do all over them, included with food and fun, and not to forget at a fairly reasonable price. Cruise ships are an icon of fun all around the world, from the Caribbean sea to the Italian Riviera.

In conclusion, summer is a time to go places and see things, and there are countless possibilities of fun during your break, so most importantly, enjoy it.

- 20 classic summer vacations everyone should take at least once. (2018, June 14). Travel + Leisure. <https://www.travelandleisure.com/trip-ideas/summer-vacations/summer-vacation-ideas>

Thanks for helping us with our Megablast fundraiser!



MEGA BLAST!



Fun Summer Activities

By: Sarah T.

We are probably all ready for the school year to end and to have some summer fun. The only problem is, sometimes it can be difficult to figure out what exactly to do. Fear not because below are some suggestions for what to do if you have some free time.

- Go swimming
- Go to an amusement park
- Attend a concert (better if it's outdoors)
- Go to a parade
- Have a picnic
- This one's perfect for Florida- go to the beach
- Tie dye t-shirts
- Have a water balloon fight
- Perform a random act of kindness

All of these are great ideas, but there is one more thing to do that is far more important. Spend some time with your friends and family. You don't even have to be doing anything in particular, just being with them is all that matters.

Memorable Memories

By: Raleigh H.

Saying goodbye can be difficult, but as long as you remember those that you're moving on from, it's not the worst thing in the world. Remembering others is hard, we have lots of classmates, and we can't purely rely on our memory. Fear not! There are many ways to remember people, ways such as grabbing a posterboard which you can get from the dollar store, and having all those friends and teachers that you'll miss write messages on it. It could be a goodbye, something funny, or just a little "remember me by.." note. You then hang this up in your room, and there they are! Right alongside you, for your future adventures! The next way to keep these loved ones close would be (if you or someone you know owns one of course...) Polaroid photos! They are great to put on a string and hang around your room and you can see them anytime you'd like. The last, and easiest of these would be to have your friends sign your yearbook, which you can order anytime at TreeRing.com!

It's Not Too Late to Purchase the
Orlando Gifted Academy
Yearbook



Customize Your 2 Free Pages

- Add photos from your computer, Facebook, Instagram, Google Drive & more.
- Answer fun Memory Questions to help remember the year.
- The 2 Custom Pages are FREE and are printed ONLY in your book. Want more pages? Each additional 2 pages is just \$0.99.

To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook

Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

- 1 Go to www.treering.com/validate
- 2 Enter your school's passcode:
1015471484454363

Regular Price: \$19.82

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TreeRing

Obesity, The Biggest Health Issue in America

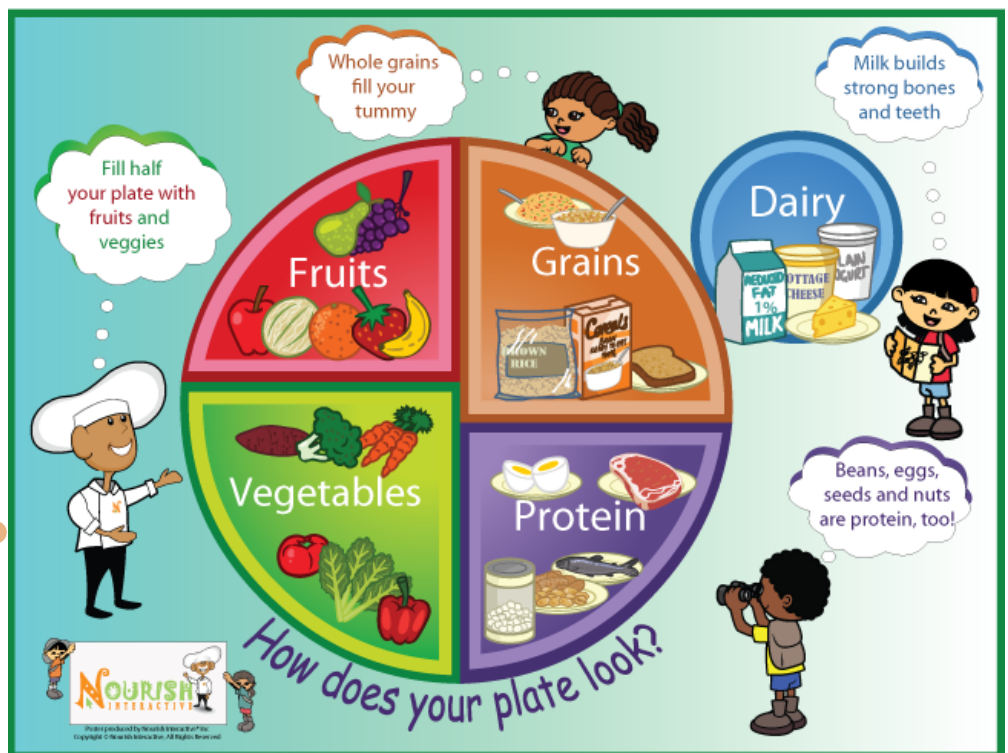
By: Max C.

Tell me, when you go out with people, what do you see? Shops, cars, and people, Lots of people, but guess what? Out of every 3 people you see, 1 of them is obese. The United States is one of the biggest global superpowers, we have one of the biggest armies, we are more technologically advanced than most of the countries in the world, we have the best education system in the world, but we are the country with the biggest sickness, obesity.

The United States' obesity problem is the most well-known in the world, and still, we continue to get fatter and fatter. The population of the United States is 329.5 million people, As shown by cdc.gov, from 1999 to 2018, the obesity percentage of American citizens went from 30.5% to 42.2%, which means that currently, 139,049,000 of all American Citizens are obese, also means 39,210,500 people became obese in just 19 years, that is around the entire population of Afghanistan in just 19 years. As said on ncbi.gov "Americans eat more calories than they burn, and the excess energy is stored as fat". You've heard it all before, McDonald's, Burger King, bread, meat, people eat too much unhealthy food, and people don't work out enough to burn those calories, but studies have shown that even if you work out like a bodybuilder, healthy food is still needed for good weight loss.

The main reason that obesity is increasing in the US is because of an increase in caloric intake, and a decrease in physical activity, so solutions? Work out more and eat healthier food. Nowadays, everybody has cars, and it's uncommon to see somebody on a bike unless it's in a metropolitan area, and that also contributes to physical inactivity. Transportation has become based solely on stepping on a pedal and steering the wheel to drive, and since we no longer include physical activity as one of the most important aspects of our lives, this also contributes to obesity in the US

Obesity is rising in the US because we eat more than we need, and we no longer include physical activities in the daily aspects of our lives. Only you can change this problem, one step at a time.





Why April Sucks!

By: Julian A.

Okay, so if a reader is reading this about to think that I'm bitter for writing an article on why April is a horrible month, first understand that I am born on April 20th, so if anyone is licensed to talk about how bad April is, it's me. Anyways, with that out of the way, let me air my dirty laundry. First off, it has among the worst representation out of all of the month. When you think February, you think pink, or love. When you think March, you think green, or a four-leaf clover. But when someone thinks of April, it's just rain. It's the only constant in April, literally just rain. This is true, especially in Florida, where it has the potential to rain so much harder and so much longer than in most other states. There is even a gosh-darn saying about it; April showers bring May flowers. May is like the neighbors who live in the expensive, two-story, three-bathroom, and four-bedroom house that lives across from April's worn-down, barely cleaned trailer. The worst part is somebody reading this thinks that "Oh, well, the rain isn't all that bad," and you know what, it isn't. Rains fine once or twice and as long as it's not raining hard, it's good for the plants and good to listen to when I'm inside doing something else. It's a problem when all in April, it's hot outside, then it rains cats and freaking cows, then it's all moist and humid outside, and don't even get me started on the mosquito that pops up. There is only one month that comes close to knocking the worse month crown off of April, and that is September. I don't like it for similar reasons to April; a lack of student holidays and horrible representation. But the thing is, April has zero holidays, while September at least has Labor day. Also, when people think of September, they each think of brown or yellow, and the middle of fall. Which, although boring, doesn't represent just rain pouring outside and not allowing you to leave outside (which I don't like to do anyway, but that is beside the point.) Lastly, April is the time when all of the testing and testing and expectations are at their highest, which I should have to explain why that sucks a lot. In September, it's still the first quarter, things are still new and fresh and no one expects you to talk with everyone or know what you are doing all of the time.

In all, April is a terrible month, but I don't really mind being born on that month. It gives me some incentive to look forwards to that month, it gives me something to do that month, and It shaped me into the person I am today. I don't mean that last part in an astrology way, I see it more as like a person drinking poison and building up an immunity to it. I managed to weather April's badness at least a little bit. I guess you have to take the good with the bad in life (mostly the bad in April.)

They're Runners, They're Track Stars!

Congratulations to our Running Club!!! They completed the Track Shack Run for the Trees 5k! They saw peacocks and ran along the tree-canopied road of Genius Drive. Great job Xinai, Alic, Ms Panther, & Ms Scheid!



The Library of Congress

By: Julian A.

The purpose of a library is to hold and share knowledge on topics and hold history in its pages. Now, imagine that, but it has enough knowledge to fill 10 terabytes of data. What is being described is the Library of Congress and, it's true, it really has over 10 terabytes in books alone. The computer being used to write this on only has 147 GB in total, so that's enough information to fill this computer about 68 times. Notice how it said 10 terabytes of books because there are more than just books in this library. Besides the books, there are also recordings, photographs, newspapers, maps, and manuscripts, not to mention the 15 million, plus digital objects online that equate to over 7 petabytes. It's safe to say that this library is so valuable and important to us, and one of the best additions to the U.S.A.

The Library of Congress was built on 1800, April 24, founded by John Adams, the 2nd president of the United States. It was in service for 12 years but was burnt in the Burning of Washington during the War of 1812, which destroyed most of the original collection of items. After that, they have been trying to restore the library to its former glory, and in that pursuit, Congress bought Thomas Jefferson's entire personal collection of 6,487 books. As the library continued to increase its collection, a fire started in a nearby building and spread until it broke out in the library. Who would've thought that books are actually very flammable? Unsurprisingly, it destroyed a large amount of the collection, including many of Jefferson's books. After the American Civil War, the importance of the Library of Congress increased with its growth, and there was a campaign to purchase replacement copies for volumes that had been burned. The library received the right to put all copyrighted works to deposit two copies of books, maps, illustrations, and diagrams printed in the United States. Its development culminated between 1888 and 1894 with the construction of its own separate, large library building across the street from the Capitol. Two additional buildings have been constructed nearby to hold collections and provide services, one in the 1930s and one in the 1970s.

Nowadays, the Library of Congress's purpose is to research inquiries made by members of Congress, which are carried out through the Congressional Research Service. It also houses and oversees the United States Copyright Office. All the Library of Congress' buildings can be entered free of charge. The best visitor experience can be found inside the Library of Congress' Thomas Jefferson Building. Gilded Age architecture makes it's interior a visual masterpiece, a work of art worthy of housing the immense amount of knowledge that it holds. This library is full of invaluable information and history it holds walls, and deserves its name as the 'halls of infinite knowledge.'



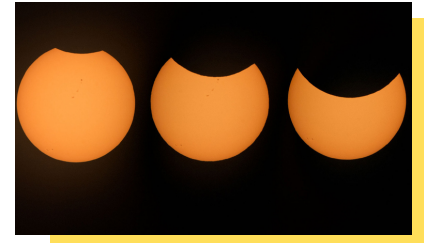
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What's Going Down in South America Right Now?

By: Sarah T.

Since we are here in the United States, we don't hear a lot about things that happen in other countries, and much less other continents. Because of this, today brings something new. Below are a few interesting things currently happening below us in South America.



A rare partial eclipse makes an appearance and takes a "bite" out of the sun. On April 30, a partial eclipse graced the sky. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the Earth and the sun. This event is known as a partial eclipse because only a part of the moon obscured the sun, resulting in this unusual sighting. This occurrence was seen in countries including Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia, and Peru.

"Stingless" bees are becoming recognized as a huge benefit to the Amazon. Most of the world gets its honey from European bees, but indigenous tribes in Peru's portion of the Amazon are getting their honey from stingless bees. Not only do these bees provide honey that tastes sweet, their honey can be used for medicinal purposes, and provide income for the bee handlers. As this stingless bee industry grows, a lot more is learned about these particular bees. For example, because they pollinate with hundreds of native plants, these bees have quite a few ways in which they can cure medical issues. According to the native tribes, the honey can be used to treat anything from skin cuts to upper respiratory illnesses, it is even being evaluated for its anti-cancer properties.

Something slightly less significant, but still worth mentioning is that Metallica is currently touring in South America. For those who are not aware, Metallica is a rock band from the 1980's and they are currently on their 2022 world tour and have made quite an appearance in South America. They have been to Argentina, Chile, and are currently in Brazil. Not as impressive as the eclipse or the bees, but still pretty awesome.

Even though we do not live in South America, news from there and from around the globe can still be very interesting. I bet before reading this you had no idea about any of the things above, did you?

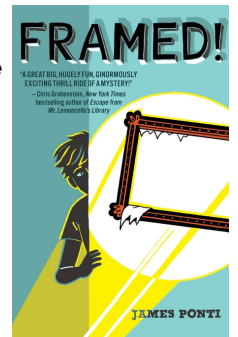
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FRAMED! Book Report

By: Julian A.

The book reviewed today is FRAMED! It was written by James Ponti as a mystery book and was a part of the 'Sunshine State' books in 2016-2017. The plot starts as a cunning kid foils big-time thieves in the nation's capital—and joins the FBI. Utilizing a blueprint he invented titled the Theory of All Small Things, seventh-grader Florian Bates solves mysteries by piecing together apparently insignificant clues in this engaging, humorous, but not consistently sensible caper. When Florian comfortably assists the FBI to recover three masterpieces stolen from the National Gallery of Art, the dazzled feds provide him with an alias and direct him to Quantico. Collaborating with his African-American best friend, super-bright, athletic Margaret, Florian finds that even with TOAST, sleuthing becomes dangerous when the pair, working undercover, come over here up against a European crime syndicate—and a second spectacular art heist in the appearance of a forgery substituted for an iconic Monet. Entertaining adventures ensue, and clues build up until the culprit is disclosed and the portrait is located. This book is recommended for 4-6 graders and people who enjoy mystery and adventure. In short, this is a very good book that is nice to read as a one of book and as the first book in the FRAMED! Series.



Summer Flowers

By: Anna R

Summer is the brightest time of the year! Students are all out of school, it's hot and sunny, the air is fresh, what could be better? With all this new warm weather, it makes it the perfect time to work in the garden and plant some fun plants!

For starters, nothing can ever go wrong with sunflowers. They are the staple of summer flowers. There are many kinds of them as well, so you can find the one that's the best fit for you. Their growing season is from mid-March to July and they grow best in direct sunlight. They aren't too picky though and will grow in most conditions.

Next up, are the colorful Zinnias. They are very beautiful and full-looking flowers. Zinnias also have many different colorful petals. They can be planted during spring and last till the first frost in fall. They are very easy to grow and bloom very heavily which makes them the perfect flower for beginners.

Last but not least, peonies are a lovely flower to grow in the garden. They are very beautiful, full flowers that come in a few different colors. They bloom through late spring and early summer but grow throughout the whole year. Some have been recorded to live up to 100 years! Additionally, peonies are also not very picky flowers when it comes to their growing conditions, but they do not like being moved.

In all, these were a few flowers that could be grown in your garden this summer. Their bright colors match the atmosphere of summertime perfectly! All three of them are very beautiful flowers and would beautify any place they are planted!

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What Is Nostalgia?

By: Kai M..

As we reach the end of the year, we look at all the memories we've made this semester and more. For my last article on the 2021-2022 school year, I want to focus on something more sentimental, Nostalgia.

First of all, what is nostalgia? According to Merriam Webster, "a wistful or excessively sentimental yearning for a return to or of some past period or irrecoverable condition" To put that in understandable words, a bittersweet feeling of longing for the past or something you had in the past. You can get Nostalgia from many things, such as memories, places you visited in the past, clothes, photos, etc.

Moving on, why do we get nostalgic? When people get nostalgic, they may experience a feeling of loss or sadness, but oftentimes there's more happiness in nostalgia than sad feelings. Nostalgia is usually associated with personal or important memories, such as a movie you grew up watching, a song you loved three years ago, and a memory with loved ones. ScienceFriday stated, "Those memories, in turn, inspire positive feelings of joy, high self-regard, belonging, and meaningfulness in life."

So in conclusion, nostalgia is a feeling that everyone gets some time. It's usually bittersweet and can make you look wistfully at the past. Have a great summer.

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What Are You Reading This Summer?

SSYRA Books

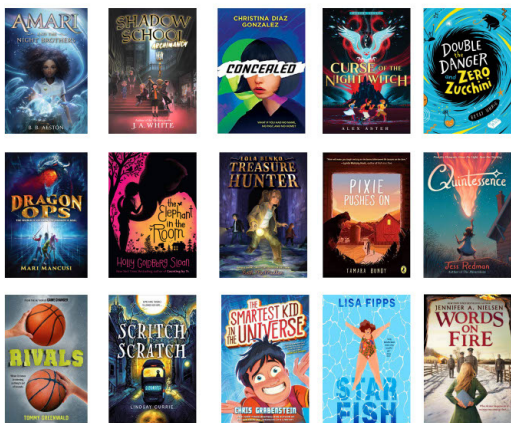
2022-2023

Grades 3-5



2022 - 2023

Grades 6 - 8



How many will you read???

Find more about next year's book lists at www.floridamediaed.org/ssyra.html



Quinn's Guide to Middle School

By: Quinn G.

As a sixth-grader I can guarantee that your schedule will be very different when you make the change from elementary to middle school. But what does that entail? I'll tell you as if it is a normal day.

Waking up

First and foremost, you will have to wake up earlier. Why, well you will have many more responsibilities, such as making sure you have your notebooks, binder, computer, etc. Also, you may have to wake up earlier so that you can make it to school-related activities, such as rehearsals, meetings, clubs, and more. To summarize, you will most likely have to wake up earlier.

1st period

When you enter your first period you will be asked to take a seat. While you may not have assigned seats it is still important to pick a good one. For example, if you are talkative you may not want to sit near other students that are talkative (I can speak from experience), although it is great to talk to friends you should be mindful that each class will only be 46-47 minutes long. With that being said, pick a seat that feels right for you.

Lunch and the end of your day

Finally, between 5th and 6th period you will have lunch. Lunch has its ups and downs, but overall it is pretty much the same process of picking a seat. If you are talkative you may not want to sit near other students that are talkative, etc. To conclude your day you will have 6th and 7th periods, they are the same as any other class, but you may feel drained. If you begin to feel drained just remember the light at the end of the tunnel.

To conclude, middle school will be very different from elementary school. However you feel about it, just remember that you can succeed even when all else is against you.



Owl Staff

Editor: Terrence M.

Co-editor: Anna R.

Staff Assistant: Kai M.

Writer(s): Raleigh H., Julian A., Max C., John M., Sarah T., Quinn G

Advisor: Mrs. Olowu