

THE MESSENGER OWL

OCTOBER 19, 2022

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Quote of the Week

"Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it."

-Charles R. Swindoll

Principal's Message

Hello Owlberts,

Fall has arrived and the 2nd grading quarter began on Monday, October 10th. I encourage you to check our website for school updates as well as Skyward for up-to-date grade information. Look below for some exciting events happening at OGA in October. Have a wonderful month!

Mr. Maguire



- Book Fair - 10/17 - 10/21
- Book Fair Family Night - 10/17 @ 4:30
- NJHS Boo Grams Sale - 10/17 - 10/21
- Wear It Pink Day - 10/21
- Red Ribbon Week - 10/24 - 10/28

GARAGE SALE
Saturday, October 15
8am-1pm

All proceeds benefit the middle school Odyssey of the Mind class at Orlando Gifted Academy.

Orlando Gifted Academy, 1121 N Fern Creek Ave.
Garage sale donations can be dropped off at the school between 7:30a-3:30p thru 10/14

Elementary Creative Art Club

Elementary students of all skill levels are welcome to join. We will be painting, sketching and creating sculptures using recycled materials.

Art club will be hosted in Room 14 by Ms. Sunderman.

We will meet on Thursdays from 3:15 pm-4:00 pm.

Our first meeting will be September 22nd

It is recommended that students have their own sketchbooks.

Please note that we are limited to 12 students.

Scan the QR code below to complete the google form sign up sheet. If you have any questions please email me at Hanna.Sunderman@ocps.net

<https://forms.gle/o4p6JvmUT5ksBMKD6>

NJHS
BOMB POP SALE
\$1.00

Wednesdays - Car Loop
Fridays - Car Line

NJHS & Robotics

BOO GRAMS

SEND YOUR FRIENDS A BOO GRAM THIS HALLOWEEN!

BOO GRAMS INCLUDE CARD AND LOLLIPOP

Sold at Lunch
October 17- October 21

COST IS \$1.00!

BACK to 80'S

Middle School Dance
Monday, October 31 - CAFETERIA

Costume Contest
Photo Booth
Line Dancing
Candy & Drinks for Sale

\$1 POPSICLE POP-UP

Wednesday and Friday
afternoons
outside the Auditorium

All proceeds support
NJHS
&
MS Odyssey of the Mind

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

COSMIC KIDS YOGA

Open to 2nd and 3rd grade students

Wednesdays (8:00-8:35)
Room: 7

Club begins on
9/22/22

Must bring your own yoga
and comfortable clothes

There are only 8 spots available.
Sign up using this link:
<https://forms.gle/yjf3n4JDN7RRReKHu8>

Any questions? feel free to contact Mrs. Cortes at yohana.cortescgarcia@ocps.net

Teacher Spotlight

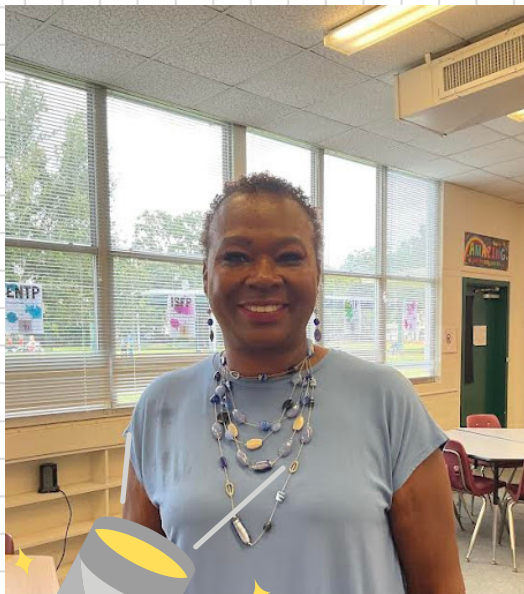
By Ellie S.

Mrs. Ortiz is a very bubbly and tenacious person, who loves to express herself with unique clothes and accessories. She's been teaching and helping with science for 4 years, which she extremely enjoys and is incredibly passionate about; and her favorite topics under the science umbrella are ecosystems and chemistry. Her favorite part about teaching is the lightbulb moment students get when they understand something new, and she finds that it never gets old! In college, she was a great science student and began tutoring others on the subject. For a while, she worked on a community farm, and this was actually how her official teaching career began. They asked her to teach science in their after-school program, and she fell in love with it. In her late 20s, she did research in Canada, Africa, and all throughout Florida on the effects of climate change, and interactions between ecosystems. Ms. Ortiz is an incredibly interesting teacher who's followed her love of science throughout her life and adds a great member of OGA's collection of teachers.



Teacher Spotlight 2.0

By Yoyo C.



This is Miss Rollins and she is an interventionist here at OGA. In her own words, being an interventionist means "I work with a small group of students, grades 2-5, in areas they need extra assistance with. This way they can get through the year with ease. She chose this as her profession because she enjoys working with students to help empower them through their academic learning. Miss Rollins doesn't think there was a particular moment when she decided to be an interventionist; "Actually, I think it's something that just happened. I've been in the school system for 38 months, and I've realized this is just something that I enjoy doing the most," was how she put it. The talent of the gifted student brought her to OGA because working with gifted students inspires her. Be sure to say hello to Miss Rollins if you see her around campus!

Student Spotlight

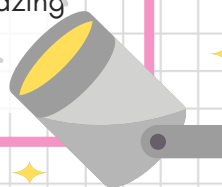
By: Yoyo C.

This is Veronica from 6th grade and her favourite colour is salmon. She's been attending OGA since 5th grade, so almost for two years! Things she likes to do around the school are making dark humour jokes, discussing the problems of life with "her wife", and drawing dragons. When asked about her favourite thing at OGA, she responded, "Well, I like the teachers. The teachers are pretty cool, such as Mr. Dennis and Mr. Miller." On the opposite end of things, her least favourite thing about this school is some of the kids. She explained that a certain half of the students are lame and mean to others. In the future, Veronica hopes that people here will stop stating their opinions as facts, and stop using Tik Tok slang around the school. Make sure to say hi if you see her lurking around the hallways!



Staff Spotlight

Mrs. Datus is one of the most recent staff members to join OGA. She is a social worker, which really means many things; she's a school counselor like Ms. White, so she can talk to any student that needs it. But her job also includes helping students' families with resources if they're low on clothes, food, etc. She can connect them with organizations and people that can help, which is truly one incredible job. Her favorite things about her career are meeting new students, and getting to see the smiles on their faces. She's been working as a school social worker for 3 years, and before that was a coordinator for a high school program. In college, she got her bachelor's degree in Sociology - but she felt she wanted to take action, and not just study it. So, she later received her master's degree in social work. Five words she says would describe herself are colorful, creative, calm, caring, and charismatic - (And yes, the alliteration was an accident). Overall, Ms. Datus has dedicated so much time to helping people with her career; and she is an amazing new addition to the staff members at our school.



Sugar Skulls

By: Kristina K.



Citation

Day of the Dead Sugar Skulls - Mexican Folk Art Tradition." Akumal Rentals & Luxury Riviera Maya Vacation Villas, Condos & Hotels | Loco Gringo, www.locogringo.com/blog/culture/day-dead-sugar-skulls-mexican-folk-art-tradition.
Christopher Gibson. "Día de Los Muertos Sugar Skulls." Día De Los Muertos, online.nationalhispaniccenter.org/assets/files/DDM_lesson%20plans_sugarskulls%20F.pdf.

Sugar skulls are a part of Mexican culture, made to symbolize life and rebirth. They are made for the Day of the Dead (also known as "El Día de Los Muertos"). It was made somewhere around the 18th century. The afterlife is more significant in this culture, compared to some other cultures. This "celebration" came from the Aztecs, called "Miccai Huit". These sugar skulls are a present to a person's passed, loved one. The person usually makes the skull by themselves or buys it from somewhere special, so that they can add special things to the skull. The person put things on the skull that has something to do with the passed person they are giving it to. "Wants, desires, and likes" are what people put on the skull. Anything could be put on the skull to design it to fit the person. These are not to be consumed but to be offered by the person who passed.

If you want to make one, here are some tips. You always need a sugar skull mold to start. I won't be able to list all the ingredients, so you have to figure out what you need. Don't make it on a rainy day, because the text states that it won't be able to dry properly. It may take a while, about 1-2 hours long, so come motivated. If you make the icing a day before then that will greatly help you with time. If you want the recipe then you should check the citations below.

Why Pineapple is the Only Answer

By: Ellie S.



Pineapple belonging on pizza has been an ongoing argument for decades, as a controversial topic to almost every person. BBC even named it, "The topping that divides the world," which couldn't be more true. Another article provided that, "For some, pineapple on pizza is the greatest thing to ever happen to mankind; and for others, the greatest tragedy." Whoever you meet will most likely have a strong opinion on whether or not they go together - and within this debate, there was never an in-between.

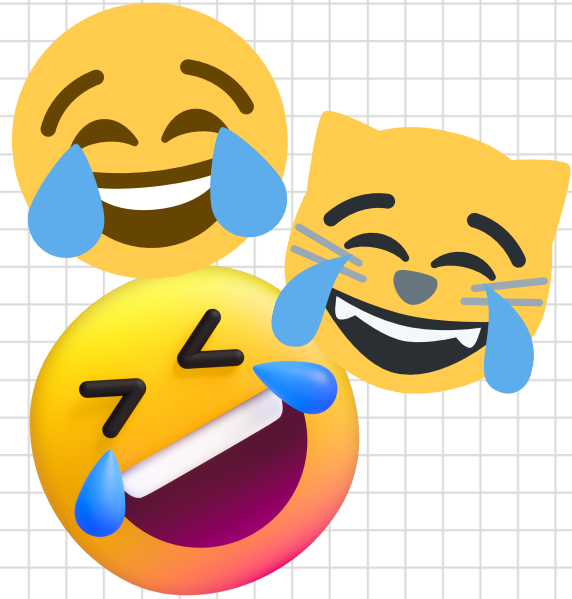
Sweet and savory foods are undoubtedly two different things; but in society, opposites have been known to attract. It's been proven scientifically that savory things cut through the sweetness of foods in the "sweet" umbrella, like pineapple; and that sweet foods add a new and balancing taste to savory meals. After all, that's why we have dinner and dessert, right? The problem that creates the argument, though, is that some don't enjoy the sweet and savory mix, while others do. But it is still indisputable that science agrees with the pro-pineapple stance.

Other than the scientific side of things, pineapple is something that we all love. It's only that some find it damaging to pizza, while others find it elevating. There's no doubt in my mind that this argument will be buzzing around the world for as long as we live. All I can hope is that, someday, pineapple will emerge victorious, and fulfill the destiny it's always had.

Works Cited

Gillis, Michaela. "Ending the Debate: Pineapple on Pizza." Spoon University, 11 Jan. 2018, spoonuniversity.com/lifestyle/ending-the-debate-why-pineapple-belongs-on-pizza.
"Why Pineapple Belongs on Pizza - Domino's Newsroom." Domino's Newsroom, newsroom.dominos.com.au/blog/2020/1/22/why-pineapple-belongs-on-pizza.

Jokes and a Puzzle



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p6voCFOAAAAAdAAAAABAM](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dailycartoonist.com%2Findex.php%2F2022%2F02%2F20%2F2fsunday-comic-strip-panels-missing-in-action%2F&psig=AOvVawIUDBcO2rZ4uIXNi_ES76-&ust=1666201192388000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAMQBIqFwoTCLCg96-p6voCFOAAAAAdAAAAABAM)

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Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By: Lily S.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, it starts on October first and ends on October 31. It was made in 1985 to promote the screening and prevention of breast cancer. Although there's breast cancer awareness month there is also a Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day. The day for breast cancer is on October 13. There is also a day called pink out day on October 21 which was made so you can show people that are going through breast cancer and people who have been through breast cancer your support by wearing pink that day. Why are pink ribbons associated with breast cancer you might ask, well it's because in 1990 the Susan G. Komen breast cancer foundation started giving out pink visors to women who participated in the race for the cure races. And in the fall of 1991 ribbons were successfully raising awareness for military support and the struggle against AIDS, so that the foundation started handing out pink ribbons during the races. Some ways that you can help are by donating to a foundation, wearing pink, and if you know someone who has or has had breast cancer show them your support. Don't forget to wear pink on the 21st!



Ghirardelli is Better Than Hershey's

By: Kristina K

Ghirardelli is a better chocolate by far, considering Hershey's chocolate. Hershey's "chocolate" usually isn't even chocolate. The FDA has stated that for something to be considered "chocolate" it has to be at least 10% cocoa. Saying this, some Hershey's products are considered to be chocolate. When Hershey's candy isn't chocolate, they usually write chocolate-flavored candy or something of the sort.

A medical website has also stated that a standard Hershey's chocolate bar (43g) is a type of chocolate that will lead to classic health problems, like diabetes. Although you could say somewhat the same for some Ghirardelli chocolates, some have more of a concentration of cacao, making it more healthy than Hershey's.

Another reason is that Ghirardelli also has seasonal flavors, which is cool already in itself. Ghirardelli is also working on having a sustainable company. They are part of a program called "Lindt & Sprüngli farming program." This program ensures they are working on the most sustainable solutions. They also support small farmers by buying from them, making sure that the farmers have money to support their families.

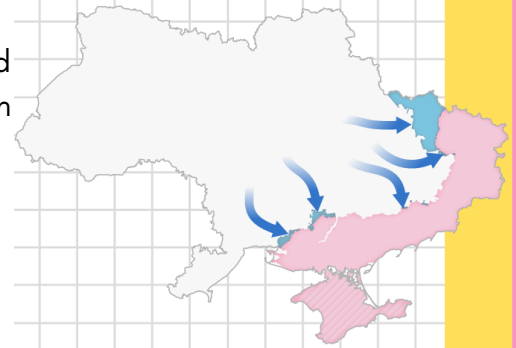
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"Is Hershey's Real Chocolate? Why & Why Not [Explained]," BakingHow, 19 July 2022, bakinghow.com/is-hersheys-real-chocolate.
, Undefined, "Chocolate: is It Really Good for Our Health?" Medical and Health Information, www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/295615 #Are-we-succumbing-to-the-medias-hype.

News: War In Ukraine Intensifies

By: Dmitriy K.

As we are all aware, there is an invasion happening in Ukraine by Russian forces that started earlier this year following Russian threats. This war for Ukraine's sovereignty has been a massive back and forth throughout the duration of it with Ukraine pushing back Russia and Russia pushing forward. Recently amid international tensions, an extremely important bridge for Russia that connects the Crimean peninsula to Russia has been bombed. After this Russia escalated and started increasing bombings on Ukrainian cities with the civilian death toll rising.

That however is not the only escalation that Russia has caused. Recently Vladimir Putin has threatened to drop nuclear bombs on Ukraine and countries that would assist Ukraine's efforts for defense. In response, NATO countries have started to threaten Russia back threatening to drop nuclear bombs on Russia if Russia were to drop any. Sadly, tensions do not seem to be lowering and the nuclear threat is once again a fear since the times of the cold War



Bubalo, M. (2022, October 12). Ukraine war round-up: Inside Putin's head and Crimea bridge arrests. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-63230338>
Robert Greenall & Robert Plummer. (2022, October 12). Crimea bridge attack arrests as market in Donetsk region attacked. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-63225947>

Garfield The Movie Review! By: Isaiah A.

As I've heard from people at this school, many people here like Garfield. Did you know that there is a Garfield movie? Garfield: The Movie is a good movie to watch if you love Garfield.

The movie begins with Garfield waking up from his small bed with his owner, Jon. They both get their breakfast. Garfield talks to other animals outside. Garfield gets the lasagna and Jon takes him to the vet. Jon has been in love with one of the veterinarians. She tells him about a dog and Jon decides to adopt it. The dog's name is Odie. Garfield is upset about the dog. Odie keeps getting in the way of Garfield. This does not make Garfield happy.

Jon lets Odie sleep in his bed, this makes Garfield mad at Odie because Garfield never gets to sleep on his bed. Garfield and Odie don't get along. Garfield accidentally ends up knocking down a bookshelf and ruining Jon's desk area. This gets Garfield locked outside for the night, but then Odie goes outside. Garfield then locks Odie outside. Odie runs off into the city. This makes Jon look for Odie but can't find him. He places missing dog posters everywhere. This makes a person called Happy Chap, A pet company man, wants to take Odie for his commercial, A woman found Odie and keeps him until Happy Chap goes to her house and pretends odie is his dog, This leads to Garfield going to find Odie, and goes on a long journey to get him back home.

Overall, I think this movie is entertaining. If you like Garfield as much as many of us at OGA do, I'd suggest watching the full movie.



A Little Critter

By: Yoyo C.

It was a normal afterschool evening. My grandmother, not all that fond of most animals, walked up to me as I was petting Scarlett, my calico cat. She looked at me, then the cat, then me, and Scarlett again.

"She's pregnant, you know. Not just obese," confused, I looked at my grandmother, then Scarlett, then my grandmother, and the cat again. I put a hand on Scarlett's stomach and, surprise! Surely enough, there was movement!

One day, you may wake up and take a peek in your cat's hiding spot to find none other than little rats. Or, what presumably seems so at first. Yep, that's a kitten. In this stage, they are fresh out of the womb with their eyes closed and their fur slicked against their skin. You may have heard that a mother will "reject" a baby if you have physical contact with it, but that is not always true. It's still important to not touch kittens at this age as they are fragile, and it may cause stress not only to the mother, but to the little ones too. All the care you will need to provide is looking out for birth defects to get checked out, health issues, and making sure the mom can supply milk.

After the worry stage has passed, the fun can begin. Kittens will now play with each other and annoy their mother. Some people describe this as the "prime stage" of a cat's life, the time they are most aware and playful. I have kittens of my own at this stage right now (Scarlett's children) and they are four to five weeks old as of now. They are in the earliest portion of the "prime stage", but these kittens seem to have progressed rather quickly. In this stage of life you will introduce the kittens to wet food mixed with dry, the litter box, and any other lessons you want them to carry on into cat adulthood. If you do not apply these trainings now, it won't stick with them as much.

At the end of the day, kittens will always be one of the cutest little creatures on earth, but also one of the most fragile. With the fun of it comes great responsibility even though it's mainly the mother cat taking care of them. A lesson to take with you in the future, though, is to never forget the mother cat. Give her just as much attention as you would the kittens, because truly, she wouldn't like to be forgotten



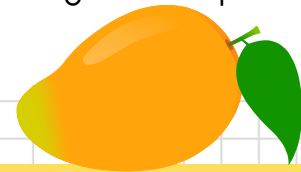
How Are Urushiol, Mangos & Poison Ivy Related?

by Emi

Many food families can be surprising. Especially with allergies. Similarly, Mangos and poison ivy are related. In poison ivy, there is a chemical called urushiol which is an oil. It causes skin irritation upon contact. It makes poison ivy so deadly. This is also present in mangos, pistachios, and cashews. However, in the nuts, it's only in the shell. When the nuts come in the shell they are boiled beforehand. In mangos, it's different. In mangos, it's present in the skin.

Eating mango skin will cause a mild rash if you have an allergy. However, it is significantly worse if you have had contact with poison ivy beforehand. The reason being is that your body recognizes the chemical and tries to fight it off the same way, the same way a vaccine works. You have the same, or worse, reaction to it. This is called urushiol-induced contact dermatitis. Make sure to scrub your mangos under warm soapy water before eating and then peeling them to prevent any allergic reactions.

The chemistry of mangoes: What do they have in common with poison ivy? (n.d.). SciTech Connect. <https://scitechconnect.elsevier.com/chemistry-of-mangoes-common-with-poison-ivy/#:~:text=Mangoes%20are%2C%20as%20it%20happens,the%20skin%20of%20the%20mango>



Dream

By: Tayla L.

I was awoken by the sound of a faint whisper.

"Oh, Lily" murmured a voice. Someone had said my name? I opened my eyes and looked around. What had just happened? Who said my name? As I looked around my bed rocked a little- wait what? As I looked around, there was water, a LOT of water. I stared at my glimmering reflection warily, what was going on? I shut my eyes and tried to make myself think this was a dream.

"It's just a dream, it's just a dream" I kept on saying. I knew it was a dream but it felt so real. As I opened my eyes again, I was sitting in a jungle with birds chirping around me. So it is a dream, I thought. As I slowly got up, I heard hissing. I froze, I knew what it was - a snake. As the hissing got louder, I shut my eyes and braced myself. As silence fell on me, I opened my eyes again, hoping the snake was gone. As I turned around, I bumped into a green blur of scales. As I looked up slowly, I saw a huge snake. Oh NO I thought looking at its huge fangs. It hissed and lowered its head to meet mine.

"Uh, hi?" I said nervously. The snake stared at me for a few seconds and then turned away. What just happened I thought while watching the snake leave. As I closed my eyes, I sat down. That was crazy I thought when I was opening my eyes again. I looked around carefully and grinned- I was back in my bed.

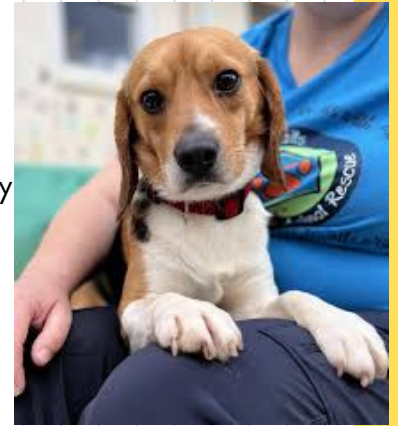
Beagles

By: Isaiah A.

Beagles are a very good pet to have. These dogs are very good companions for the whole family, while also being very intelligent and friendly. They can be either small or medium-sized dogs, which makes them really good to have as family dogs. Here are some things to know about these dogs.

They are very curious and intelligent dogs, they are also cute in most people's opinion. I have a beagle myself, and from personal experience, they are very loving dogs that like attention. My dog Mollie follows us around often or lays by us, that is if she isn't losing her mind because she saw an animal outside. On that topic, beagles like to hunt. Beagles originated in England and were used primarily for hunting. My dog regularly goes after squirrels, frogs, and lizards outside. It gets annoying sometimes so that is a downside to beagles. But overall, they are quite funny pets to have, they are playful dogs but not too playful, and they are very loving.

Having a beagle is definitely a good idea if you want a dog, but just be cautious of their silliness, but they also are very sweet dogs to have. If you are looking for a dog, try looking into getting a beagle.



<https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/beagle/>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beagle>
<https://www.petplan.co.uk/pet-information/dog/breed/beagle/>

Lego Batman is the Best Superhero Movie!

by dmitriy

Batman is one of the most popular superheroes of all time and the only reason DC is still in business. The movies starring batman have been wildly successful, especially the Christopher Nolan trilogy and the newest movie, The Batman. However, one not too long ago didn't do as well at the box office as its fellow films, only grossing 312 million compared to the other films that would gross between 300 million and over 500 million despite its obvious superior qualities. Upon re-watching it, I have found zero flaws and there are many nuanced undertones such as Batman and Joker's relationship which is like a Stockholm syndrome toxic relationship where they hate each other but can't get away because they cannot live without the other. Not only this but the ending of the movie and subsequently Joker and Batman's arc which ended their relationship and brought closure to the movie with all loose ends tied and a satisfying ending.



How to Make a Broccoli-Cheese Casserole

By: Lily S.

Ingredients:

- 1 c. mayonnaise
- 1 can cream of celery soup, undiluted
- 2 eggs, beaten, at room temperature
- 2 pkgs (10oz each) frozen chopped broccoli, drained
- ¼ c. minced onion
- 1 c. grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 ½ tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 ½ tsp. kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup herb-seasoned stuffing mix
- 2 tablespoons butter



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Cooking:

Grease a 2-quart glass or pyrex casserole dish and set aside. In a large bowl, combine the mayonnaise and soup, mixing well. Stir in the eggs and broccoli. Add the onion, cheese, Worcestershire sauce, salt, and pepper. Place in the prepared casserole dish and top with the stuffing mix. Dot with butter. Bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes.

Serves 8-10 people

Clean Songs for Your Playlist

By Tayla L.

Today I will be going over some songs for your playlist. These songs mean a lot to me, and I hope they will to you too

1. "The Rare Occasions" - Notion

This song by Notion talks about how happy we were when we were younger. This song may not be underhanded by some kids but as you grow up, it will mean a lot to you.

2. "Seafret" - Atlantis

Atlantis means a lot to me because it relates. The beat for this song is sweet as well.

3. "prom dress" - mxmtoon

Prom Dress has a great singer and the beat is bouncy. This can talk about how you feel sometimes.

4. "weak" - AJR

This song has a delightful meaning. It's about accepting who you are, which is why I love it.

5. "More" - Halsey

This song is on my playlist because of how hopeful the music sounds. The actual lyrics to the song means a lot.

6. "BUTTERCUP" - Jack Stauber

Buttercup is a lovely song that will get you going! This song has sweet beats to help you feel positive.

7. "Fire on Fire" - Sam Smith

I chose this song because it talks about how your life can be hard and how you can get through it. This song is significant.

8. "Dancin" - Aaron Smith

This song is very energetic and positive plus it gives you good vibes. This is why I chose this song!

9. "Rosa Linn" - SNAP

This song talks about how people can still be in your heart and you miss them. I chose this song because it relates to me about many things.

10. "Harry Styles" - As it was

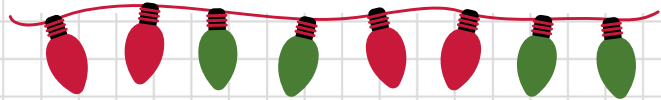
This song talks about how your life isn't the same as it used to be. Anyways, this concludes my playlist, bye!



Announcements



Please join us in congratulating the following students who have artwork on display in the Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibit at the RBELC. Congratulations Ada A, Abigail C, Avery M, and Charleigh G. Great job Owls! **#ocpsArts**



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