

# The OGA Times

## October 12, 2023

Editor: Genevieve A  
Co-Editor: Amelia L.



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Evil has only the power  
that we give it.” — Ray Bradbury,

# Clubs And Posters



OGA girls participated in the Orlando Math Circle - Girls Math Competition and our girls did an amazing job! The competition was divided into two parts: individual and team with 3rd&4th and 5th&6th grade competing in their own categories. The questions revolved around problem-solving, logic and reasoning, and mathematical number sense.

Please congratulate: Molly G, Arene A, Vel S, Sonya R, Sabrina C, Lynn G, Anaya S, and Hanna



Congratulations to Hannah Herrera in 4th grade for doing amazing in the Florida's Southern Regional Chorus performance tonight!



Editor: Genevieve A.

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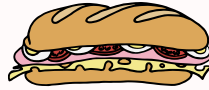
# Tobly McSmith

Amaya A.

Tobly McSmith is a scriptwriter, actor, and author. His works include: Act Cool, Stay Gold, Friends: The Musical Parody, Singfeld! A Musical about Nothing!, Love Actually?, The Unauthorized Musical Parody, Katdashians, National Lampoon's Full House the Musical! A Tanner Family Parody!, Showgirls! The Musical! Rachel Bloom: Death, Let Me Do My Show, Pay The Writer, The Office: A Musical Parody. He was born in Texas but now lives in New York with his two cats, BamBam, and Banana's McSmith. He said the famous quote, "We just have to love louder and harder than they can hate." in his book, Stay Gold.



## Subway: Super or sorry?



Amaya A.

Subway is a thing you have heard about a lot. But is it good? Or are their food absolutely trash? Well, I'm here to take a deep dive into the good and bad of Subway and its food. I went to Subway at 8:30 pm and they were still open but didn't have any bread. I ate their cookies and they were very soft and chewy. They were unusually salty but were fine. Their soda machine was broken down and they had water but it was murky. The fire alarm went off two minutes after we were there and we had to evacuate. It was a false alarm and the fire alarm was five months expired! Overall, their service was horrible and I do not recommend their food if you want to sit and enjoy a sandwich.

## An Apple A Day Keeps The Doctor Away?

Sloane H.

I'm sure everyone has heard the famous phrase, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away" but have you ever wondered if it's true? Apples - the healthy fruit that also fills your stomach. These fruits are 85% water so they are a low-calorie, filling snack. They are also easy to take on the go, so they are great for a hike, jog, or bike ride. Apples also contain a good amount of potassium and can help prevent cholesterol from building up.

Studies have shown that eating an apple a day may not keep the doctor away but participants who have eaten an apple every day have been to the doctor fewer times than an average person. So NO, eating an apple a day is not guaranteed to keep you away from the doctor, but it is a healthy snack that is also delicious and can prevent you from going to the doctor.

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# Book Recommendation

By Lexi G.

For those of you who don't know what to read this is the article for you this will include comics, chapter books, children's books, and a little bit about the book.

For Middle schoolers:

- Harry Potter Series. These books are about a wizard boy and his adventures in the wizarding world. There are 7 books in this Series and there are also movie adaptations for the books.
- Percy Jackson Series,. About the adventures of the children of the Greek gods. The Main Character is a boy named Percy Jackson and is mainly focused on him and his friends as they go on extraordinary adventures.
- Artemis Fowl Series. The criminal mastermind Artemis Fowl discovers the world of supernatural creatures.
- Naruto (Manga). About an aspiring ninja and follows him on his journey to become the next leader of the village, the Hokage.
- Big Nate Series (Comics). The hilarious adventures of sixth-grader, Nate, and his two best friends.

For younger kids:

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Follow Greg Heffley's adventures in middle school and these books show how he experienced things through his eyes.
- Captain Underpants Series. George Beard and Harold Hutchins are best friends who play pranks and draw comics then one of their comic book superheroes comes to life.
- Dog Man Series. A half-dog half-man cop has many adventures, read along as he faces off against his enemy Petey, who just happens to be a cat.
- The Babysitters Club Series. Kristy and her friends form the babysitters club, read as they babysit kids, and deal with life in middle school.

## You can also find more books at the websites below

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Makenzie L

## Braces... Fun?

What if braces aren't really as painful as people convey? Brace yourself, braces can actually be enjoyable and even appealing! When they are applied to your teeth, they don't immediately hurt. However, they may ache over the course of a few days to weeks. On the more positive side, getting braces can actually be fun!

For example, in the dentist's office, you have a fascinating atmosphere, considerate staff, colorful sunglasses to prevent the glare of the light, games, or snacks as a reward, and even free wifi! A creative way to make braces fun is by trying out different flavors of smoothies that relax the teeth and encourage customization of colors for braces. For example, for the colors of your brackets, you can use a theme of the holiday coming up, show off your school colors, or even do multiple of your favorite colors! As a result, braces are shown as geeky wires and brackets that make you look like a nerd. This is entirely false because braces can be more interesting than you may believe. So, if you ever doubt getting orthodontic treatment of any kind, don't, since in the end, it is worth it!

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## Add All About Hurricanes

Isaiah B.

Have you ever wondered how hurricanes formed or how they affect people? Hurricanes have affected people in many different ways, some people have had their homes destroyed. Some people got their hopes low because of a strong hurricane. The hurricane season is between June 1st - November 30th. The way hurricanes form is like a Tornado. First, they need warm ocean waters (80F or higher). Then, winds come together forcing air upwards. Next, winds flow out of the storm, letting the air below rise. Then, the humid air of the hurricane creates the clouds of the storm. Lastly, light winds from outside the hurricane let it spin and grow.

Fun fact! Hurricanes have an eyewall, the eye of the storm, which is the strongest part of the storm. Strong winds and super heavy rain are inside the eye.

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a subheading



Deadly plants are everywhere on earth. I wouldn't be surprised if you didn't potentially have a poisonous plant outside your front door! Here are some of the dangerous, the pretty, and the annoying.

Speaking of annoying, most drama teachers in your elementary years have taught you about the dangers of eating *Poinsettia* in your winter school plays, but if not, these flowers can cause mouth rashes and sour stomach aches if ingested by a child or a pet. It's fairly easy to recognise this plant with its huge red petals. Some plants even outright tell you they are deadly, like the *Deadly Nightshade* (hence the name). Ingesting any part of this plant can cause blurred vision, a rash, headaches, slurred speech, hallucinations, convulsions and eventually death. This plant can be recognised by its purple-white petals and the pitch black berries connecting a small stem to the actual stem.

One of my favourite deadly plants is *Digitalis purpurea*, commonly known as *Foxglove*. There are two ways that Foxglove can kill you; through just eating it or drinking it through tea. Eating and/or drinking Foxglove (tea) can result in fatal arrhythmias where initially the heartbeat becomes irregular and if the dose is enough may cause cardiac arrest. This plant can be recognised by its beautiful, downwards-facing flowers. A very pretty and seemingly innocent flower called the *Mountain Laurel* is by far one of the most dangerous of the bunch listed here. This flower can cause pain, cold sweats, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, numbness, dizziness, headache, fever, loss of vision, muscle weakness, serious heart and lung problems, death, and other severe side effects. Mountain Laurel can be recognized by the fused petals of mountain laurel's florets are shaped like an inverted parasol.

The most deadly flower in the United States by far is the *Water Hemlock*, a flower commonly mistaken for beautiful Queen Anne's Lace. This highly potent flower can cause drooling, nausea, vomiting, wheezing, sweating, dizziness, stomach pain, flushing, weakness/tiredness (lethargy), delirium, and uncontrollable bowel movements, only in the first stages of its poisoning, followed by more serious symptoms including trouble breathing, convulsions, heart problems, kidney failure, coma, and death. All plant parts are poisonous and can cause death in as little as 15 minutes. To recognise this plant, you must look for small, white flowers that grow in umbrella-like clusters. Side veins of the leaves lead to notches, not to tips at the outer margin. The thick rootstalk of water hemlock contains several small chambers. And lastly, to our deadly facade of flowers, we have what might be the prettiest of them all. The *Lily of the Valley*, or *Convallaria majalis*, is a small flower commonly said to relate to love concepts. This flower is very, very deadly to the touch and for indigestion. Consuming this flower can lead to severe illness, cardiac distress, and even death. Lily of the Valley is very recognisable with their downward-facing petals/buds with a stem that hangs into a hook shape. All of these flowers are at least relatively deadly, and all of them are relatively common in the world. I hope that this brochure helped so that when you're out hiking or just lost in a forest, you won't shove these flowers in your mouth thinking that they're good food.

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Carter .J

## Why Florida is sinking, and fast.

We all know what Global Warming is, how the world's use of things like fossil fuels has warmed the planet up enough to melt whole glaciers. Well, as you know, glaciers are made of ice, which are made of water, the ocean is made of water, and Florida is surrounded by the ocean on 3 sides. This is where our problem lies. Florida is considered a peninsula because it's surrounded by ocean on 3 sides. You may ask, "Florida's fine right now. How could it possibly just sink?". Remember how earlier I had mentioned Global Warming melted glaciers? Well, all of the water in those glaciers goes straight to the ocean and directly onto beaches and shores. Those glaciers aren't the only problem though, the Gulf Stream and the quick current of the Atlantic cause problems only with the melting. Now, exactly how much will the sea levels rise in the next 100 years? Well, scientists presume that by 2100 Florida will have sunk between 3.5 to 7 feet! This being considered, It is presumed that by then, the entire lower third of Florida will be underwater. The main question is, should we be worried? Yes, but don't fret too much. By then, people will have already moved and set up elsewhere. While there is no way to stop this disaster, there sure is a way to fight it. Consider yourself warned.

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Reagan.C

## Halloween origins and traditions.



Do you know why Halloween was originally created? Halloween can be traced down to the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain. On November 1st it was believed that the spirits and souls that once lived in that house would come back and visit. So the people in that house would dress up in costumes to scare off the spirits and souls. The troops of Halloween were now associated with Halloween because they were considered scary creatures. In the 7th century, Boniface created All Saints Day and it was celebrated on May 13th. A century later Gregory III moved the date to November 1st likely as a substitute for the Pagan festival of Samhain, and was named All Hallows Eve or Halloween. The first American colonists in Britain were forbidden to celebrate the holiday for religious reasons. The tradition of trick or treating came from the "Old war" tradition of "guising". Now in the present day, Halloween is thought of as a holiday for kids to get candy and candy companies to make money, but that is not the true meaning of Halloween. The tradition of carving pumpkins and jack o'lanterns comes from an old Irish tradition except there are a few differences. First of all, they used turnips instead of pumpkins and were based on a legend from a man named Stingy Jack. The legend stated that Jack would repeatedly trap the devil and let him go if he promised to never have Jack go to Hell. But when Jack died he learned that heaven was not the right place for him and heaven did not want his soul. So Jack was forced to roam the earth as a ghost. So the devil gave Jack a large lump of coal carved into a turnip to light his way. Over time the people of that town started carving turnips into scary faces and putting them out to scare away evil spirits.

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# Tax Evasion Corruption

By: Kristina K



Taxes, most people hate them, and sometimes with good reason. The system revolves around taxing the less fortunate, while often dismissing the rich. Many of the rich people you can name have done tax evasion, including Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk, and Warren Buffett. Even Joe Biden's son has done tax evasion. Rich people do not usually suffer consequences, it is very rare for them even to get a slap on the wrist. Consequences are different for the Middle class and lower though, with the average punishment of 3-5 years of prison time. This is a broken system, which rich people fund. Even though America is for the "people", it seems like only the top 1% of people matter. Rich people evade around 163 billion dollars a year, a quite costly amount. America often puts on a facade, as America calls itself "free", but America repeatedly contradicts that statement with its actions and history. The government has implemented many other things to collect as much money as they possibly can. The whole ordeal with the government not telling citizens how much money they owe in taxes is another way of taking as much money as possible. Companies are built to count people's taxes for them, like H&R Block. These companies use a tactic called lobbying, which is "influencing" a politician/action, very commonly with money. Many argue this is a form of legal bribing. If a person does not pay a company like this and count their taxes, they risk miscounting their taxes and they land in jail. Around 80% of people (30 million) made a mistake in 2019 that could land them in jail. This benefits the government as the companies pay them and anyone who lands in jail contributes to the prison monopoly. This system is not efficient and it is corrupt, although it doesn't seem like this is going to change anytime soon.

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## California's Minimum Wage Increase

By Jacob A



California is the most expensive state to live in, with the poverty line being around 37,000 dollars for a family of four, and 30,000 dollars is the national average for a family of four. Working a minimum wage job isn't enough to afford basic necessities in California since the minimum wage is \$11 an hour. However, California increased the minimum wage to \$15.50 an hour, or \$16 an hour if the employer has over 25 employees. People who are working minimum wage jobs now have more funds to purchase all the expensive necessities they require like oil, rent, and even putting food and water on their table. The new minimum wage increase will be starting on January 1st, 2024, and when the law goes into effect thousands if not, millions of Americans a raise when they start the new year.

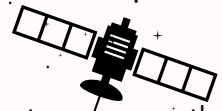
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McKenzie L

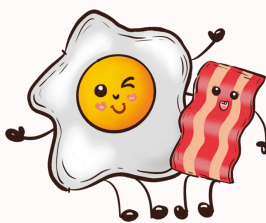
# The Satellite Race



Amazon is trying to join a race against SpaceX to build colossal constellations that can cover the Earth in internet connectivity. This move will put Amazon in direct competition with SpaceX and its wondrous Starlink system. If this mission succeeds, Amazon will have the ability to add more than hundreds beyond thousands of satellites into orbit, which will display astronomical data. On the other hand, the SpaceX constellation has been growing in a flash since 2019. Already, SpaceX consists of more than 4,500 active satellites in orbit currently. Unfortunately, the downside is the large distance between the satellites, which causes extreme lag. So now, Amazon, OneWeb, and SpaceX are trying to bring things closer together to resolve this issue. However, even before these big companies began to show, there were several attempts in the 1990s to create a space-based internet. Sadly, that ended in two ways, bankruptcy or forcing the corporate owners to shift their plans. You may be wondering, who is winning this so-called race so far? SpaceX is way ahead of the competition, in terms of growing its service of course. Also, its efforts have occasionally put the company in the direction of geographical controversy. As a result, internet satellites can be a preference, they can be excellent because they make it easier to access the internet in the countryside. However, they are known to slow the internet speeds or increase the lag time for a browser or game. In the end, this race might impact the world positively or negatively... Only time will tell.

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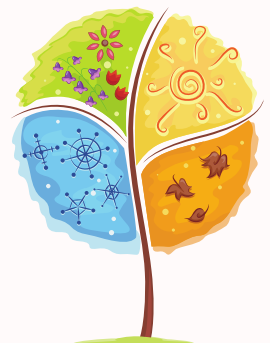
# Reagan's Ultimate List of Halloween Group Costumes

by Reagan C



Cops and Donuts  
The Clue characters  
Bacon and Eggs  
The Flintstones  
Ariel and Flounder.

Thing 1 and 2  
Wreck it Ralph and Vanellope  
The 4 Seasons



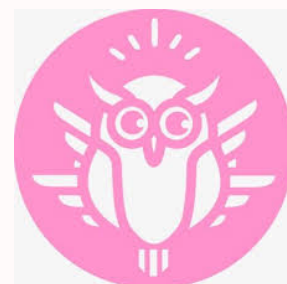
# Recent Influx Of Bakeries in Orlando That You Should Visit

By Carter J

Recently there have been a lot of bakeries opening up in Orlando and blowing up in popularity. These bakeries specialize in one specific thing. Cookies. I'd like to bring attention to some of these and possibly bring them more customers. The first one I'd like to recommend is Insomnia Cookies. Out of the two, I'm recommending, this one is known for many things but there is one specific thing you'll hear about all the time. The cookies are huge! This place has cookies that some people have quoted as big as an adult-sized head. You might ask, what else do they have in store? Well, their cookies are hot and always soft. Whether you're biting into chocolate or even peanut butter, you can expect your mouth to explode with flavor.



My second and final recommendation is Night Owl Cookies. This place is new to Orlando but actually originates in Miami. This place is better known for having a wide range of cookies to try. Including things like Ave Maria, Dirty Diana, and even Brookie which is a mix of a cookie and a brownie. This place has cookies that are incredibly chocolatey. The cookies are very soft and moist as well. Overall, both of these places have their specialties and are both great places to visit. If I had to rate them easy 9/10. Visit if you can.



By: Natalie B.

## The Wild West Era

The Old West, more popularly known as the Wild West, was an era mostly occurring in the U.S. that lasted from the early-mid 19th century to the early 20th century. The streets, towns, and the wilderness were all filled with outlaws and gunslingers, lawmen and bounty hunters, and all other sorts of misfits. Many popular names from the era are Billy the Kid, Jesse James, and Butch Cassidy, all of which are, or rather, notorious outlaws. Throughout the era, many problems existed: Outlaws and their crimes, oil and territorial disputes with the Natives, and illnesses including tuberculosis, cholera, smallpox, and typhus. Horses and, in turn, stagecoaches, were the main forms of transportation besides trains; Morgans, Kentucky saddlers, and Tennessee walkers were common riding horses among American cowboys, while Mexican cowboys (vaqueros) often rode Andalusians and Arabians. Draft horses such as shire horses, Belgians (horse breed not the human ethnicity), Suffolk Punch, and Ardennes pulled stagecoaches and wagons. Many places, mainly in the U.S., still have cowboys, or people that live like cowboys, at least. Texas and other Southern states are probably your first guess, but plenty of Northern states have cowboys, too; Most notably Utah, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. Many people with the cowboy lifestyle own and live on ranches with farms, barns, and open land. Cowboys don't need to be Southern or have Southern accents, necessarily, and there's a wide variety of cowboy styles/categories and subcategories depending on where they're from. The cowboy clothing style also has many variations, but the most popular and well-known style/outfit is the hat, vest, jeans/work pants, and boots with spurs. Some cowboys add personality to their outfits by wearing chaps, adding decorations to their hats, or having personal belt buckles or spurs.



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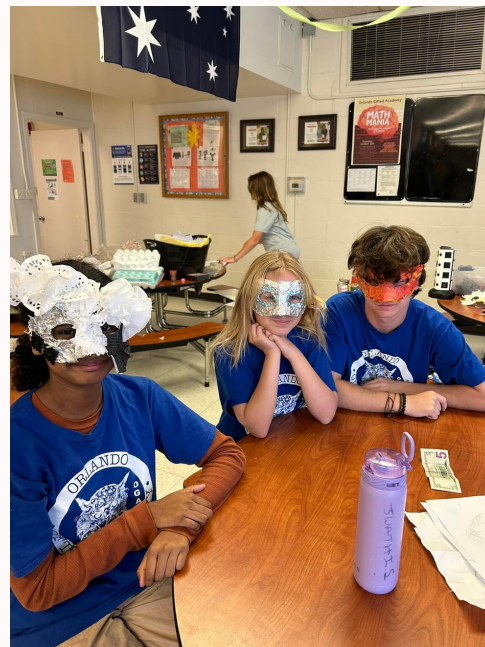




### Can you guess the Owl?

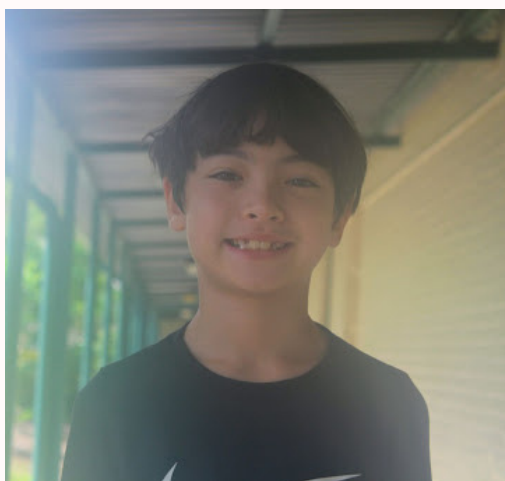
On October 14th OGA hosted the first Odyssey of the Mind Skills & Spontaneous Workshop of the 2023-2024 competition season. Owls learned to create masks from unconventional materials.

Way to go Owls!



## Student Interview

### Kristina K



Luna Goodman is a 3rd grade student with a bright future ahead. She was born in 2015 in China and moved here to America when she was one. Her favorite subject is math; she already knows her 12x12 multiplication table and is learning percentages! She loves playing baseball, going to Hollywood studios, collecting Pokemon cards, and aspires to be a game designer. Luna would love to own a lizard someday. She is very confident and a wonderful person to talk to. Luna is excited for when she is able to go to 5th grade. If you see her around, make sure to say hello!

## OGA journalist interview

### By Lexi G.

Meet OGA journalist Sloane Halstead. She mostly writes articles but also helps out with other jobs. Sloane's life is very busy with her sports and her younger brother's sports. After school, Sloane does cheerleading, running, and silks. In her free time, she enjoys bracelet making, drawing, and playing and when she gets bored she bakes, plays Roblox, or watches TikTok. She likes tacos, pizza, and McDonald's, and her favorite classes are Civics and Science Olympiad.



# Video Game Economies

By Jacob A.

When you think of economies, you typically think of a country. However, there are some video games with economies, some examples of video games with well-developed economies are Team Fortress 2, Counter-Strike: Global Offensive, Roblox, and Runescape. All these games have goods and services, a currency, supply and demand, and other basic necessities required for an economy to function. Team Fortress 2's currency system is similar to the currency system in the real world, with an item called "Keys" acting similar to the dollar bills of our economy, and "Metal" being similar to the coins of our economy. There are many different items someone can purchase with keys and metal, ranging from tools in the game to hats in the game you can use to dress your avatar. Some of these items can be below a cent in value, to over \$1,000,000 USD in value. There are even robots that artificialate trade and slash profit margins for human traders, but these robots are beneficial for consumers due to faster and cheaper service. Many video games have economies with dedicated people spending hundreds, if not thousands of hours playing games buying low, selling high, and going from rags to riches playing their favorite video game.

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*One of the most famous hats in the game;  
Worth around ~ \$11,200*



## Why Hot Weather is Better Than Cold Weather

By Jacob A.

December is coming closer, and December brings cold temperatures. To my shock, I discovered that some people dislike hot weather, and prefer cold temperatures, yet live in Florida. Personally, I would favor bugs and some sweat rather than never being able to feel your hands and having a runny nose anytime you go outside. When you are hot, you may go into a room with air conditioning and that feeling of getting cooler is instant, if you enter a room with a heater in cold weather, you will be feeling frigid for much longer, nowhere near as fast as hot temperatures. Not only that, but temperatures always drop at night time, which is favorable for high temperatures where it would drop to manageable territory, but in cold weather, temperatures can make it impossible to rest, even with 4, 5 or 6+ blankets and wearing long sleeve clothes. Also, with hot temperatures, summer vacation will arrive. Summer vacation is better than winter vacation, without question. More, longer days will always beat colder, sadder, shorter days. Maybe, I just don't understand why people like becoming ice cubes, but I do believe that warmer temperatures will always be superior to cold weather.



# The Heated Discussion On This Year's Game Of The Year.

Carter J.

Every year, Geoff Keighley hosts a famous award show known as, The Game Awards. Every year this event sparks debates and unites gamers everywhere. The most important award, "The Game of The Year" always sparks debates over which is better. Every year there are two or more games that are just incredible and always critically acclaimed. This year is no different. This year the two games that are up for competition are Insomniac's Spider-Man 2, Bethesda's Starfield, and Legend of Zelda: Tears Of The Kingdom. Let us take a look at these three.

1. Bethesda's Starfield, released in September, is the first original work of there's in over 25 years. The game is a fictional space adventure with one of the largest and most diverse worlds ever seen. You find yourself always exploring new destinations. Yet the game is hollow with an empty story. This game is still in the competition but just barely.
2. Ah, Tears Of The Kingdom. Released in May of this year, what can I say that hasn't been said before? It takes place after the events of the previous game in the series. Expanding and innovating on the survival and exploration concepts that thrived before. This game's world and story are truly a spectacle to be had. There are next to zero complaints about this game. The only complaint to be had is the questionable frame rate. The game ran very slowly and had issues running smoothly. Despite that, this game is still amazing.
3. Finally, we reach, Insomniac's Spider-Man 2. The only one that has yet to be released as of writing this. The game has truly gathered quite a lot of hype. I can say from experience that this game broke the PlayStation website when the game was released for pre-order. This game is personally the most anticipated for me. This game has lots of expectations from people and is looking to shatter them. Overall the strongest contender of the three listed.

In the end, all these games deserve awards and praise. Guess we'll just have to wait for the awards to find out, right?

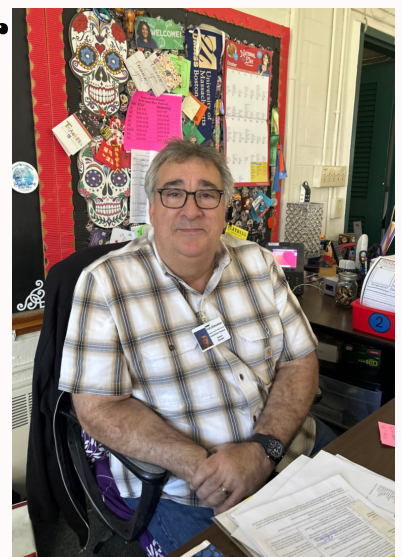
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## A Day in the Life of a Substitute Teacher

Sloane H.

I interviewed Mr. Berger, a substitute teacher at OGA, about his career. The first question I asked was if he was always a substitute teacher. He replied that he worked in retail stores and was a teacher for 26 years before he became a substitute. When I asked about his favorite thing about being a substitute teacher I expected it to be something along the lines of, "I do it for the kids" but instead he said his favorite thing was not having to do any planning! Lastly, I asked if he substituted at any other schools or just Orlando Gifted Academy. He said he just recently started substituting at OGA but he hasn't substituted anywhere else yet.







# Are zoos good or bad?



Reagan C.

A lot of people think that zoos are not taking good enough care of their animals and that they should release them into the wild. Some specialists say that zoos are saving endangered species from going extinct. That is true because tigers probably will not be around in about 20 years. Animals in zoos are thought to suffer from boredom, stress, and confinement. Some zoos breed their animals and sometimes it creates overpopulation and they end up putting some of the animals down. Also, some experts have found that petting zoos have a lot of diseases that could harm the animals. People who support zoos claim that the endangered species breeding program helps the species and causes them to stay alive, which they do. Zoos around the world are trying to educate kids to learn about animals that are not common pets. Some zoos have conservation programs to help the animals. Seeing an animal in person is much more memorable than seeing it in a nature documentary. So after reading the information what is your opinion should animals be held in zoos or out in the wild?



## Crazy Animal Hybrids

Isaiah B.

What are some crazy things you've seen in your life? Well, Some crazy things that some people have seen are animal hybrids.

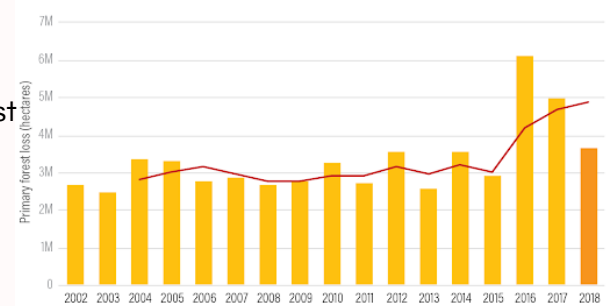
1. One crazy animal hybrid is the Dzo. A Dzo is a Hybrid between a Cattle and a Yak, Dzo's are mostly prized for meat and milk production.
2. Next, we have the Liger. The Liger is a cross between a male lion, and a female tiger these species of animal can weigh up to 420 kg. They live around Northern India, Ligers also love swimming, but Lions Don't, and Tigers Do.
3. Lastly, we have the Wholphin, part False Killer Whale, and part Bottlenose Dolphin. In Fishman lore, the Wholphin is known as the "Great Gray Beast".

## Why Should We Save The Trees

By Cadence Lagina

Trees give us the gift of life. They give us oxygen and we, in return, turn them into the paper that you may be reading this on. Trees are essential to living and should be appreciated much more than they are now. The graph to the left shows just how much of a decline in the number of trees in just the past year. The number of trees we have are at an all-time low. I believe that with a little hard work from everybody, we can bring that number back up. April 22 is Earth Day. It is a day that we care about trees and help bring that population number up. I know it is in a little bit, but you can help a tree whenever or wherever you see one in need.

Tropical Primary Forest Loss, 2002-2018



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# This Week in History

By Natalie B.

- October 16, 1964, was the first Chinese nuclear test. The 22-kiloton uranium fission device was dropped at Lop Nur, a former salt lake that has now dried up. Because of this test, China became the fifth nuclear power in the world, among the U.S., Russia, France, and the UK.
- In 1978, Karol Józef Wojtyła became the first non-Italian to win the papacy, the office or authority of the Pope, after Pope John Paul I died after only 33 days in office. Wojtyła took on the name of John Paul II as Pope. During his papacy, Wojtyła became the second-longest serving Pope, after Pope Pius IX, who was in office for over 31 years.
- On October 17, 1989, Santa Cruz County, California, was most affected by the 6.9 magnitude earthquake: Loma Prieta. Around 60 people died from landslides and/or falling buildings.
- On October 17, 1973, OPEC (The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries), led by Saudi Arabia, declared an oil embargo on any country that supported Israel during the Yom Kippur War. This embargo then gave way to a massive oil shortage and long-time economic problems for Europe and the U.S., even after the lifting of the embargo in March of 1974.
- On October 18, 1867, Alaska was purchased from Russia by the U.S. for around \$7.2 million. Many American citizens found the purchase useless or unimportant, calling the act "Seward's Folly", named after William H. Seward, Secretary of State, who was responsible for the purchase. In 1967, the Soviet Probe "Venera 4" entered Venus' atmosphere. Information, mostly of the chemical composition of Venus' upper atmosphere, was sent back to Earth 90 minutes before contact was lost.
- On October 19, 2005, Saddam Hussein's trial began. Hussein was found guilty of crimes against humanity and was given the death penalty, which came into action on December 30, 2006. In 1954, Cho Oyu, part of the Himalayan Mountains and the 6th highest mountain peak in the world, was scaled for the first time in our recorded history. Nepalese Pasang Dawa Lama, and Austrians Joseph Jöchler and Herbert Tichy were the first people and mountaineers who scaled it.
- October 20, 1973, was when the Sydney Opera House first opened. Construction of the building began in March of 1959 and cost over \$100 million, and followed the design by Jørn Oberg Utzon, a Danish architect. In 1962, an unofficially declared war broke out between India and China. No diplomatic ties were cut, nor did either country officially declare war on the other. It was a border dispute from which the conflict started when China launched a two-pronged attack on the border. By the end of the conflict, China had taken control of Aksai Chin and both countries accepted a de facto border along what is now known as Line of Control.



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# Amelia Earhart Courtney Z.

By now you've probably heard about Amelia Earhart and her infamous flight across the Atlantic and her fatal plane crash, but what happened and led up to all this? For some background information, she was born Amelia Mary Earhart on July 24, 1897. She was born to Amelia "Mary" Otis and Edward Earhart in Atchison, Kansas.

Her dream of flying awoke in 1920 when she took a 10-minute flight at a Long Beach air show. After working at various jobs, she earned enough money to take aviating lessons from pioneer aviator Anita Snook. She dedicated her life to learning to fly. She read every book about flying she could get her hands on and spent most of her time at the airfield. She had even cut her hair to look like other female aviators and slept in her leather jacket to give it a more worn-out look.

In the summer of 1921, she bought her first Kinner Airster biplane. On October 22, 1922, she flew her plane to 14,000 feet (4267.2 m), the world record for female aviators, and On May 15, 1923, she became the 16th woman to be issued a pilot's license by The Federation Aeronautique. During this period her family was living off money from her mother's estate but soon it had run out causing her to have to sell her plane. She enrolled in Columbia University in 1925 but had to drop out because of limited finances.

She slowly got back into aviation in 1927 becoming a member of the American Aeronautical Society's Boston chapter. She had invested money in the Dennison Airport becoming a sales representative for the Kinner airplanes, and becoming a local celebrity because of her articles promoting flying that were seen in the newspaper.

In April of 1928, Earhart received a phone call from Captain Hilton H. Riley asking her "Would you like to fly the Atlantic?", she obviously said yes. She flew to New York to meet with project coordinators and to be interviewed. Soon she was selected to be the first female passenger. Finally, on June 17, 1928, she took off from Trepassey Harbor, Newfoundland. She was accompanied by pilot Wilmer Stultz and co-pilot Louis E. Gordon. 20 hours and 40 minutes later they landed in Burry Point, Wales, United Kingdom. After the flight that same year she wrote and published a book called "20 Hrs., 40 Mins" detailing her transatlantic flight and aviation, with George Putman. Using her celebrity status from the book she gained notoriety and acceptance from the public. She took on a position as an associate editor for Cosmopolitan magazine. She also became a promoter for Trans World Airlines.

On May 20, 1932, Earhart became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic in a solo flight. She had set off from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland to land nearly 15 hours later in Culmore, Northern Ireland. She also, flew from Honolulu to Oakland making her the first person to fly across the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean. In the Spring of 1935, she had flown two flights from Los Angeles to Mexico City, and from Mexico City to New York, just two years before her final flight in 1937.

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