



# The Paw Print

Oxford Middle School  
Oxford, MI

Nov/ Dec 2018

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## I DECLARE A PENNY WAR

By Leilah DeGasperis

Our school does something very kind for our community. We have a chance to pick a charity and have a week long game to raise money for them. This is known as penny wars. There are 3 main jobs that students can take part in during advisory. One job is the bomber. There are usually 1-2 people doing this and they go around giving other advisories "silver" coins. Another job is the bucket holder, who holds the bucket for their advisory, anxiously hoping that they won't get bombed while the music is going for the bombers to go as fast as they can to get to their targeted advisory. The last job is the money counters. After the bombing is done, there are students that count and tally the money to see how many negative points they got and most importantly how much money their class raised.



6th grader Rebecca Bennett, from Wilson's advisory, said she is happy with the charity our school chose. She is most excited about "people getting involved with it," Bennett says



7th grader Ella Fllrea, from Brown's advisory, her favorite job is to be the money counter because she loves counting. "I'm most looking forward to the competition," Fllrea says.



This year the charity our school chose was The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Forty-three percent of our advisories voted for this charity. "I am happy that our school chose AFSP because it can help people," 8th grade Rachael Albrecht says.



8th grader Rachael Albrecht, from Clark's advisory, says she is excited to spend time with her friends. "I want to be a bucket holder because I like to see all the people run by and dropping coins in the buckets."

### THE WINNING CHARITY IS...



**American  
Foundation  
for Suicide  
Prevention**



The American Foundation for Suicide prevention's goal is to try to find better ways to prevent suicide and help by funding for reasearch. Also, AFSP is trying to teach our culture more about mental health because "too many people at risk for suicide do not seek help". Finally, they are trying to bring hope to people that are being affected by suicide from family or friends.



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# A Day of Thanks

By Aiden Bowyer

According to history.com, Thanksgiving is a holiday that is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. They also report that this holiday is based on the colonial Pilgrims' 1621 harvest meal. The holiday continues to be a day for Americans to gather for a day of feasting, and family. Thanksgiving is a day that we give thanks. A day to be grateful for all that we have.



6th grader Bailey Ganey likes Thanksgiving because there is a lot of good food. Bailey celebrates Thanksgiving with her whole family at Frankenmuth. Thanksgiving is important to Bailey because family is important. She is grateful for her family because they take care of her.

students

7th grader Matthew Barkman celebrates Thanksgiving because it is fun and there is really good food. Matthew goes over to his cousin's house and celebrates with his whole family. Matthew thinks Thanksgiving is important because it's a good day to be thankful. He is thankful for his family because they take care of him.



8th grader Josiah Ashman celebrates Thanksgiving because it is an important holiday. He stays home and celebrates with family and friends. He thinks it is important to celebrate Thanksgiving because it brings family together. Josiah is thankful for his family, friends, and dog because they are always there for him.



"As a Thanksgiving tradition my family and I always go back to my home state, Pennsylvania," says 8th grader Gracie Chraska. Thanksgiving is a popular holiday celebrated by people who come together to celebrate loved ones. The most popular Thanksgiving dish is turkey. According to cnn.com, there were approximately 49 million turkeys consumed in 2012.

## A Day of Thanks

By Hailey May



6th grade teacher Mrs. Solinski she says loves to celebrate Thanksgiving because she gets to see family she doesn't get to see all the time. In addition, she either goes to her husband's or her family's house to celebrate. She does this because she loves to see both sides of her family and watch the Lions game together. Thanksgiving is important to her because it is important to be thankful for what you have. Mrs. Solinski is thankful for Mrs. Flanagan, her co-workers, students, husband, family, and good health.

staff

8th grade teacher Mrs. Werner says she loves to celebrate Thanksgiving because of the food, the tradition, and it is also her favorite holiday. In addition, for Thanksgiving she goes to her mom's house to have a big meal before they go to her husband's mom's house. She does this to see the family that her mom invites to celebrate with them. Mrs. Werner is thankful for her husband, son, sister, parents, and the rest of her family.



7th grade teacher Mr. Thaler love to celebrate Thanksgiving because he gets to be with family, eat lots of food, and see family he doesn't see all the time. For Thanksgiving his cousin rents a property on Lake Michigan because it is the only time all his family can get together, He is thankful for his friends and family.



Transitioning from summer to fall causes the leaves to change color and Thanksgiving to be right around the corner. OMS staff and students at OMS get 3 days off from Wednesday to Friday to be thankful for what they have. "Being thankful is good because it makes you happy," said 6th grade PLTW teacher Mrs. Daversa.

# HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By: Olivia Clark

Many people spend the holidays with their family. During holidays like Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa there are many traditions that people celebrate with their family and friends. According to Oxford Living Dictionaries, a tradition is the transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation. Some traditions include, attending church on Christmas, baking cookies, lighting a menorah, building snowmen, singing carols, and much more. There are a lot of holidays that have many other traditions. For example, during both Kwanzaa and Hanukkah, candles are lit as part of their tradition. New Years is another holiday that has a common practice, watching the ball drop in New York. Undeniably, just about every holiday has a tradition that's fun to celebrate.



6th grader Layla Tyler loves Christmas. Layla enjoys spending time with her family during the holidays. Each year her family has a huge feast. "My favorite part is the Mac and Cheese." Yum!



7th grader Jonathan Mitzel says his family's Christmas tradition is burning their Christmas tree the day after Christmas. "I think it's a pretty cool tradition," exclaims Jonathan.



8th grader Kendra Keller says her family always makes and eats omelets the day after Christmas. Though she doesn't know why her family does this, she still thinks it's fun. "It's fun hanging out with the family," says Kendra.



Deck the Halls!. Decorating a Christmas tree is a custom that many families will be looking forward to. Some families decorate a real tree or an artificial one. According to treetopia.com 64.9% of US households display an artificial tree. Whereas 18.2% present a real one and 21.8% displaying no tree. When asked what her favorite part of decorating her Christmas tree was, Sarah Wojek answered, "I like looking through the old ornaments."



Hanging up ornaments on a pine tree is a common tradition associated with Christmas. As stated in the website Christmas Lights Etc, the recommended amount of ornaments for the average seven foot tree is 300! "This is one of my favorite parts of Christmas each year," exclaims 5th grader Ryan Clark.

# REAL TREES VS FAKE

Paige Comito

The most memorable part about Christmas is hunting in a field for that perfect tree- at least for some people. Others prefer to look online or in stores for the object that truly makes Christmas. In 2002, 48 percent of American households had artificial trees, 21 percent had real trees, and 32 had no tree, according to University of Illinois Extension. Both types have their pros and cons, but there are lots of people who prefer one over the other. But no matter what, they give off a similar effect that has a festive, peaceful feeling. "Glittering tinsel, lights, glass balls, and candy canes dangle from pine trees." - Richelle E. Goodrich.



8th grader Oliva Guy prefers fake trees for Christmas. She likes fake trees because it does not hurt the environment by cutting down real.



7th grade Victoria Smith uses fake trees for Christmas. This is because real tree's pine needles get everywhere. When asked which is better she replied, "Both have their goods and bads, real trees are better for the environment and fake are easier to keep in a house."

## Which Tree?



8th grade Ariel Musgrav likes to use real evergreen trees. She thinks real is better than fake because it "gives off a Christmas vibe and smells good." She also says that fake trees shed more. Ariel adds on saying that it would be odd using a fake tree because it is not tradition.

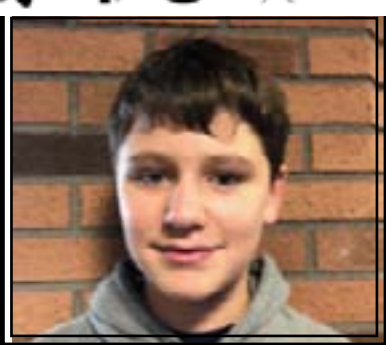
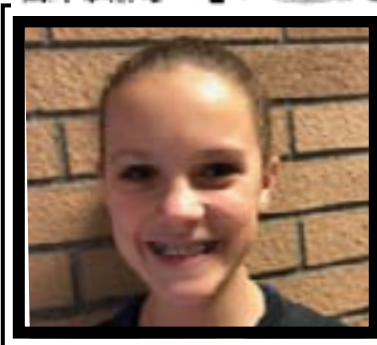


6th grader Madelin Page stated she uses real trees for Christmas. Madelin explains that she prefers real trees because they look better and smell good.

# CHRISTMAS TO MY EARS

By: Riley Spurlock

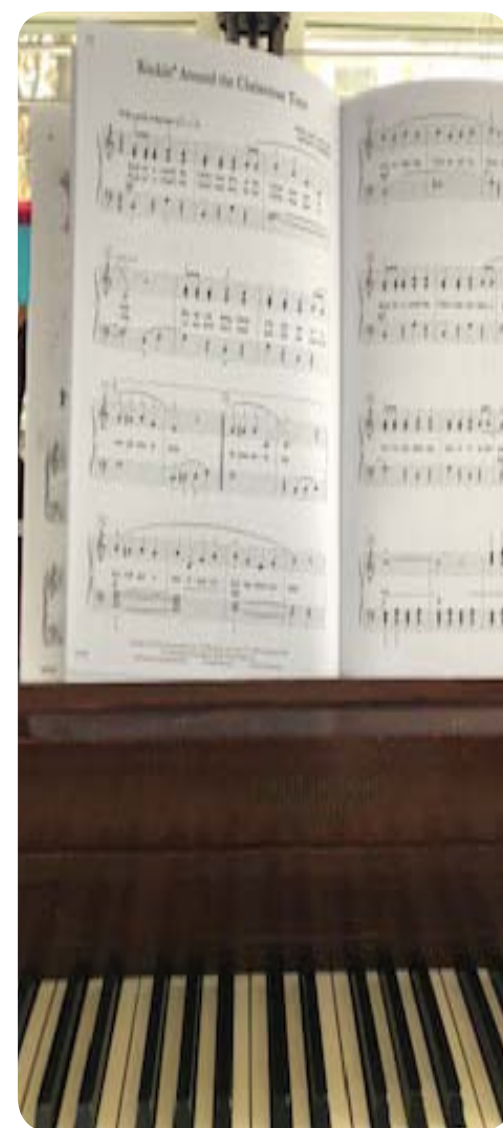
It's that time of year where Christmas is coming before we know it! Christmas music brings joy and happiness into many people's lives and puts a smile on many people's faces across the world. It also gets people in the spirit for Christmas and makes people excited. There's many different genres such as classical, rock and more. The top three Christmas songs that are played the most during Christmas time is 1. "All I Want for Christmas Is You," by Mariah Carey; 2. "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," by Brenda Lee; lastly 3. "Jingle Bell Rock," by Bobby Helms.



**6**th grader Patience Lambert claims that she listens to Christmas music every day during the winter time, even when it's not Christmas time or cold out. She claims that Christmas music is her favorite genre. She also says that as soon as she gets into her car or if she is just chilling at home that is what she will listen to.

**7**th grader Keegan McDonough says that he never goes Christmas caroling with his family, but he says that sometimes when his family comes over for family gatherings they will play Christmas music and all sing together to it, and he finds that very fun! But he also claims that he doesn't really hear about Christmas caroling anymore, or quite as often.

**8**th grader Reina St. Juliana says that her top three favorite Christmas songs are "All I Want For Christmas Is You," "Carol Of The Bells," and "Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire." Reina says when she listens to Christmas music it puts her in the spirit for Christmas and makes her in a good mood.



Playing Christmas carols on a piano is a great way to get the season started and bring joy into people's lives. "Jingle Bells" is a very old and classical piece written in 1850, according to a website on Christmas song history. Also according to 8th grader Savannah Feltrin, piano music is very pretty and gets her into the spirit to dance and get excited for Christmas day!



6th Grader Zoe Cogswell says the favorite thing she got for Christmas was her guitar from her mom because she loves to play and learn new songs.



7th grader Brody Moore says that he likes when he gets money because he can use it to buy anything he wants.



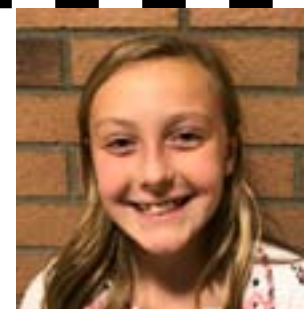
8th grader Kate Steffens says that she got her phone from Santa and it has always been her favorite gift because she can use it to talk to her friends.

## FAVORITE GIFTS OF XMAS PAST

By: Cece Nicholson



Towering over the shoppers at the mall is a Christmas tree that reminds shoppers of all the gifts they've recieved and given. Accoriding to ABC News, the average American will spend 700 dollars on christmas gifts each year. Making the entire country's total 465 billion dollars. "Christmas is my favorite time of year because I love to buy my friends and family cute gifts to show how much I love and appreciate them," says 8th grader Elizabeth Horne.



6th grader Charly Nicholson says, "The best gift i ever got for Christmas was my desk because it's where I do my homework and keep a lot of my stuff."



7th grader Bailee Egbert says "My favorite gift was my phone because I use it a lot and it has fun things to do on it."

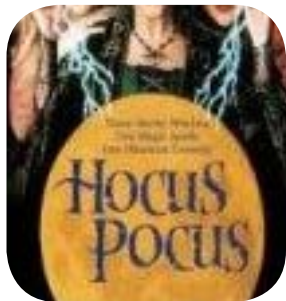


8th Grader Imani Tenorio-Pindter says, "I got a new phone for Christmas after I broke my old one. That was probably my favorite gift, and I'm very thankful that my mom got me a new one."

# Festive Films For A Holiday

By: Tessa Saussele

One of the best parts about every holiday is the movies. Either action packed, love, comedy. Watching a classic or a new movie out in theater, it's the best thing to do to get the family together during the holidays. Movies are the greatest way to share the time spent with each other especially during the holiday, so go out and so get yourself a holiday movie.



At home during the holidays watching a holiday movie at home to help get students and families get into the holiday spirit. Students at Oxford Middle School watch up to 10 movies during the holidays to get in the holiday spirit. "spending time with my family during the holidays makes me happy and very excited."

6th grader Saylor Russo says she likes Halloween best. Russo says her favorite movie is Casper the Ghost because, "it's really fun to watch and it is interesting to watch." During Halloween, she watches spooky movies to get in the spirit of Halloween with her family.

7th grader Aiden Finney says his favorite holiday is Christmas. He says, "My favorite Christmas movie is The Grinch Who Stole Christmas because me and my family watch it every year during Christmas."

8th grader Imani Tenorio-Pindter says her favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. She says, "My favorite Thanksgiving movie is Clifford the Big Red Dog Thanksgiving Special because interesting and funny to watch. Also, Clifford the Dog is really cute."



## Survey

In Mr. C' American History class asking 29 students what their favorite holiday movies are.

75% said Christmas movies and 25% said Halloween Movies. Then Mr. C's class said 0% for Easter, Valentines, and Thanksgiving.



## Florida meets Michael

By Keaton Linn

The summer and a little part of fall is hurricane season. When it hit Florida, Georgia, and the Carolina's, Hurricane Michael, reaches a category 4 with 155 MPH wind speed, the same as a category 3 tornado. According to actoinformy.com, 6 hurricanes are formed in the Atlantic Ocean.

According to CNN, almost 23 thousand people stayed and still, there are people missing. The death toll keeps rising as they keep finding people who are missing.

However, through the damage and destruction, there is still hope. The red cross has been donating to people in Mexico Beach, Florida and any place affected by Michael. Also, an air force base near Mexico Beach is donating water and food to people in need. On top of that, there has been a curfew of 7 pm to 7 am because they have no electricity so driving or walking at night could be dangerous.

Nothing but bumpers! Everybody is evacuating for hurricane Michael to make landfall last October. According to CNN, the winds reached 153 miles per hour and a category 5 is 155 mph winds. Remember though the holiday season, have your thought and prayers to the people who stayed and are affected by Hurricane Michael.



Aubery Miller in 6th grade said she has been to Florida for a vacation. She thinks they will come back because they always do.



Halena Knight in 7th grade said she use to live in Florida before Oxford. She thinks they will come back and has hopes and prayers for everyone affected in Florida.



Imani Tenorio- Pindter in 8th grade said that her mom donated 25 dollars to help with the recovery in Florida, Georgia, and Carolinas.

“They say that 50 years ago there was a hurricane of the same magnitude as Michael.” Donald Trump

**HAND OFF THE WHEEL!**

By: Dale Schmalenberg

In this world of traffic jams and accidents, it makes perfect sense that companies such as Google and Uber are working on self-driving cars. Google's self-driving car, WAYMO, drives 25,000 miles every day, and Uber's self-driving cars are coming back after a deadly crash, caused the company to close their testing. According to Google, it is estimated that by the year 2030, 95% of all cars on the road, will be autonomous. The picture of a world full of self-driving cars, it may into be an ideal world for everyone, many people would rather control their car, rather than let an autonomous program take them everywhere. Even though autonomous cars might take some of the joy out of driving, it would make for a safer, and more convenient driving experience.

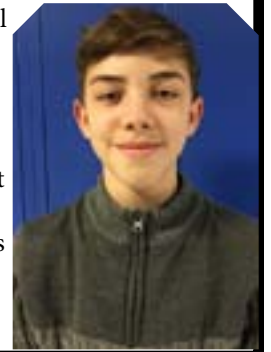
6th grader Aidan Hauburker Hhe thinks that self-driving cars would be better than driving a normal car because instead of having to steer it it would just drive on its own. If he had to pick between a manual car and a self-driving car, he would rather drive in a self driving car. he thinks that self driving cars will become dominant over manual cars. He thinks that the best thing about self driving cars is that it can just self drive instead of you having to drive it and he thinks that the worst part abot self driving cars is that you wouldnt be able to drive it.



*"If you get up in the morning and think the future is going to be better, it is a bright day."*

**-Elon Musk**

7th grader Shane Starkney thinks that self-driving cars are a good idea and will help to cause less accidents. Shane would rather be in a self-driving cars because it would be safer for himself and the people around him. He thinks that self-driving cars will be most useful in cities, and he thinks that the best thing about them is they will prevent accidents, and that the worst thing about them is it may start a new buisness that might close down some other buisnesses.



To drive this Chrysler 200, manual input would be required. By the year 2040, it is predicted that most civilian cars such as this one will be completely automated. 8th grader Michael Duong says, "Self-Driving cars are pretty cool, but I tihnk that people shouldnt be lazy and drive thier own cars, and I don't think that they are that safe because they can't avoid crashes."

8th grader Parker Cabaniss thinks that self-driving cars are convenient, but expensive. He thinks they are cool because they cause less crashes and you dont have to drive and kids can get around more because they don't need a liscense. He would rather dirve a manual car because he can be in control in case of a malfunction. He thinks that self driving cars would be most efficient in places with lots of traffic. He thinks that they will eventually dominatec over manual cars. He thinks that the best part about them is that they are convenient, and safe.

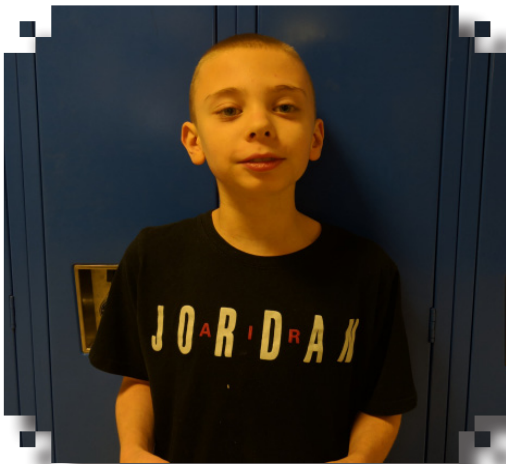


## Student Life

By Cameron  
Bukoski

# PS4 VS. XBOX

There has been a constant debate on which console is better, the PlayStation 4 or the Xbox 1. The 2 companies have been constantly competing to be the superior console. Many students at OMS disagree on what console is better. Each console has strengths and weaknesses. For example, the Xbox 1 supports backwards compatibility which allows you to play games from past Xbox consoles, while the PlayStation can't do that. On the other hand, the PlayStation has better exclusive games which are games that you can only play on the PlayStation. Many students at OMS have an opinion on which console is better.



6th grader Asa Geliske thinks that the Ps4 is better "because it has better graphics."



7th grader Ben Wineer prefers the PlayStation 4 over the Xbox 1 because "It has better controls, which makes it easier to move around."



8th grader Jackson Brandt likes PS4 better because "It has better exclusive games also you can get free skins in fortnite."



During the cold winter in Michigan, a lot of people stay inside to play video games. Consoles like the Xbox 1s is a gaming console that provides many to games to play on winter days where you have nothing else to do besides to play video games. The sleek design of the Xbox attracts a lot of players to play it. The Xbox is also a very powerful console that can handle a variety of games.

# The Dangers of Social Media

By: Ava Gordon

Phones. Most students today own a phone and many social media accounts. Everything revolves around technology these days. Social media is a popular entertainment for people. Popular sites such as Snapchat, Instagram or even Facebook are not recommended for teens at least thirteen years old. Cyberbullying can be lurking around any site, and here are some tips and tricks to stay safe and happy.

**How to stay safe.** According to [www.carleton.ca](http://www.carleton.ca), there are a few ways to stay extra safe.

- 1) With friend request, be careful and selective. If you don't know them in real life and are not a relative, ask a parent or other adult and trust your gut.
- 2) Use a long password. The longer, the better. Use different passwords for each Social media app. Don't forget to set up a security question. On many social media apps, this option is available.
- 3) Do not click links that are sent to you unless you know it. They may be a virus or inappropriate. If you do not know, be sure to ask an adult and use common sense.
- 4) Be careful about what you share. Do not give out personal information such as your phone number, address, or even your name. Be smart and careful.
- 5) Familiarize with privacy policies on the app so you can understand what you can do to protect yourself.
- 6) Don't forget to log out of your account when you are done. It may not be as fast, but it's safer.



On Instagram, 7th grader Joesph Bieniasz waits. He currently has 1 account. He likes being on his phone because "It gives him something to do everyday." Bieniasz likes social media and typically is on his phone every day.

**"Be careful- people are mean." -Izzy Agan, 8th grader**



Eight-grader Izzy Agan is involved in social media. She has Skype, Instagram, Google Hangouts and Facebook. Agan thinks social media is not for everyone, because people may abuse it or be too shy. She states "There are lots of cyberbullying and people can find other people's locations pretty easily." Agan agrees that teens should be at least 13 years old. She likes social media because "she can know about what's happening, rather than watching TV." She thinks people use social media to spread news, and they commonly use hashtags and pictures.

According to [www.spyzie.com](http://www.spyzie.com), there are many dangers.

## Dangers of social media.

- 1) Cyberbullying is one of the main dangers. Bullying is a common thing. If you are bullying or even Cyberbullying, please stop. If you are a victim, please seek help with a parent, teacher, counselor or other trusted adult.
- 2) Online Predators is another danger. If you do not know them in real life, don't meet them or send any picture. If you decide you post a picture of yourself, make sure that it is PG.
- 3) Theft of personal information is another danger. Although it is not very common, it is still a danger. Make sure to have a password on your account, and don't tell anyone (unless it is your parents or trusted adult).

# Get Ready For Reading



By: Sarah Mojek

Books are amazing they can change people's life or just give someone something to do. Many people like reading and a lot of people have favorite books.

These books can vary. some one may like fantasy and another may like non-fiction. Nevertheless, students at OMS have some suggestions.

6th grader Brady Horad, says, "My favorite book is *When the Soldiers Came Back* because it had a lot of detail like when the soldiers came back a bunch of stuff happened to their family and they could not get back together. I think the age group is probably 7 or 8 because I was seven years old when I read it and it was really good. My favorite quote from the book is 'Don't give up.' I like to read on Sunday because it is quiet and peaceful. I like to read by the fireplace because it's warm and I like to read because it is fun and educational."

7th grader Lucas Ames says, "My favorite book is probably *The Watson's Go to Birmingham* because it covers a lot of social issues and it is a good book because it is really well written. I don't know who the author is but I have read one of their other books. I think the age group would be pre-teens because it covers a lot of what we go through. My favorite part is when this kid is sitting behind a couch and his brother walks up and says, 'You know you can't sit back here your whole life because you have to actually do things in life.' I like to read at school because I like when there are other people reading around me. I like to read because a lot of books are a lot of fun."

8th grader Sierra Flynn says, "My favorite book is *The Deathly Hallows*. It's my favorite book because it has the most action in it. The author is J.K. Rowling and she wrote the first six books [of the series] and *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. I think the age group would be 13 and anybody older than that who likes action. My favorite part is when you find out Snape is a good guy. That is my favorite part because they finally chose a side for Snape because he went from good guy to bad guy to good guy to bad guy to good guy. I like to read on my own time, like before I go to bed and at the library and quiet places. I like reading because it triggers so many different points in your imagination and it inspires you to create different places and worlds."



Readers everywhere! Students at OMS love reading for so many different reasons and there are different kinds of book for everyone in our library shelves. According to [www.publisher-sweeekly.com](http://www.publisher-sweeekly.com), there were 687.2 million books sold in 2017. 8th grader Ava Kopitzki says, "I like books, some can be interesting, some can be informational, and others can be fun to read."

"I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a book." -JK Rowling

Librarian, Mrs. Vickery says, "My favorite book is *Wanted* because it is a mystery and I like how scary they are. The author is Caroline Cooney. I have not read any of her other books, but I plan to. This is age 10-13 because it is scary, interesting, and you really want to get to the end to find out who did it. My favorite part is just when you think you have it figured out the plot changes so it is hard to figure out and that is what makes it fun. I read at home in a recliner because there is a tall light with no TV on. I like to read because it is a great pastime to sit, relax and get involved in a good story."



# LOCKER SPACE

By: Gracie Chraska



Every student here at OMS has their own locker space, with its own private combination. Students keep everything that they need to be successful at school in them. It is up to the students to take care of it and keep it at least in a usable state. Although, some students let it get messy, while others take pride in how neat it is. How one's locker is kept is really all based on what the student wants it to be. Some students here like to keep buckets or bins to keep loose items in while others just chuck stuff in on the way to their next class. Everyone has their own system but does it really work to make them successful in school? The ability to change and adjust their system if needed is an important life skill. This means that students learn even from something as basic as their locker.

6<sup>th</sup> grade Evelyn Earhart's locker is located in the 6<sup>th</sup> gold hallway. She has buckets and bins to store stuff in, while also having a few personal things on the locker door. At the bottom of her locker she has a big binder to keep all of her folders and notebooks in for certain classes. Here at OMS every student has their own locker which means there are over 1150 lockers here. "I think my locker is kind of cleaner than some of my friends, but it's for sure not the cleanest," says Evelyn.



"A clean locker helps because as you're rushing to your classes, you can just grab your stuff and go." -Evelyn Earhart



7<sup>th</sup> grader Christain Frears says his locker is very messy. "I really dislike to clean my locker. It is just so much easier to pull out your papers and folders and then just shove them back in when you're done with them. And plus, if I cleaned my locker it would just get messy again." says Christain.



## 6 tips to have a clean locker

- \*Have a system
- \*Use bins
- \*Clean it often
- \*Have clean folders
- \*Use a white board
- \*Have shelves



8<sup>th</sup> grader Shyanne Hoyt says that in her opinion her locker is clean and organized. "I take care of my locker because I find it really easy to keep it that way. It's also a lot easier to find things when you're trying to get to your class because everything is right where it is supposed to be because everything has its own spot." Shyanne states.



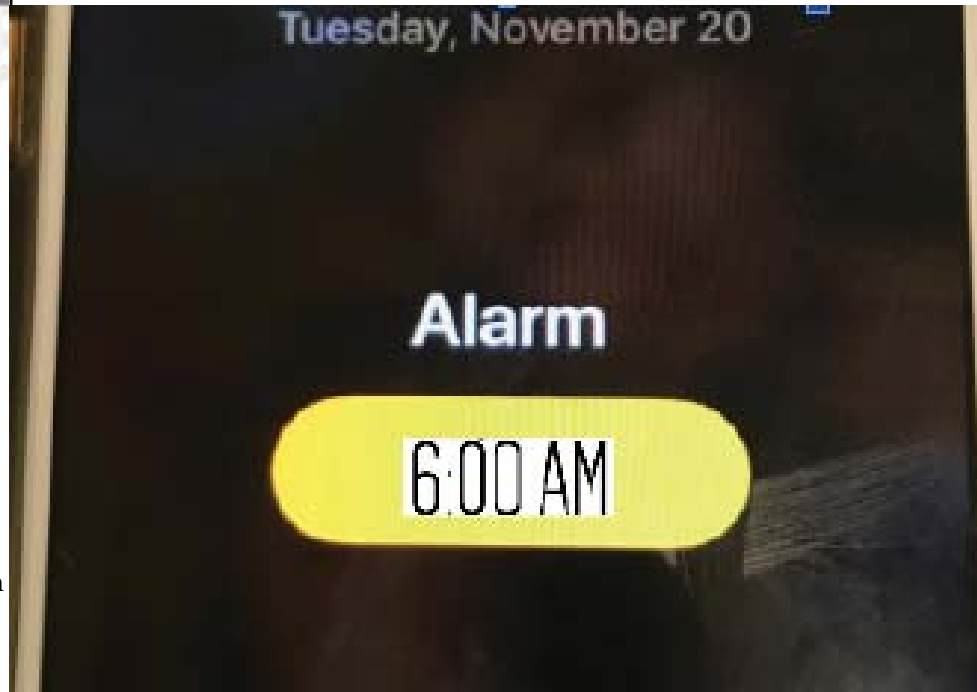
# Are the School Starting times too Early?

Elizabeth Rice



To wake up in the morning and hear that awful sound of your alarm clock is not the best way to wake up. This is the morning alarm of 6th grader Dean Rice, Dean wakes up every-morning at 6:00 to make sure he gets on the bus on time. Every night Dean takes a shower, does his homework, watches a tv show with his family, then sets his morning alarm and goes to bed. Dean was asked if he likes his night time routine and waking up at 6:00, he said "I don't really care about my night time routine, but I wish we could start school a little later."

Some students have an issue with the school starting times, 7:29-2:33, and others don't. Some students at Oxford Middle School do not like waking up super early to get to school and learn, some say they are falling asleep throughout the day. Most kids don't have a problem getting up early and are not struggling to stay awake. Research ([www.educationnest.org](http://www.educationnest.org)) shows that 80% of middle school students start school at 8:30 or later and 20% of middle schools start school 7:45 or later. There was a poll taken in Mrs. Werner's

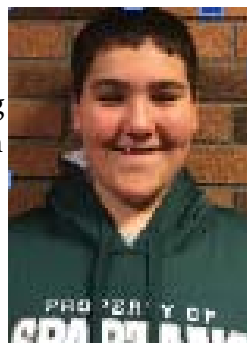


6th hour class and 21 kids said they were ok with school starting times and 6 said they were not. Three kids were highlighted and asked a few questions on their options were on this topic.

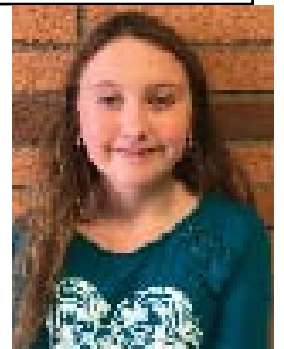
8th grader Cate McArthur was asked if she was ok with not having late start if school started at 9:30 everyday, She said, "No because school would go late in the day and I need my sleep."



7th grader John Huls-wit was asked if he liked our school starting times and he said, "Yeah it's nice that we get out earlier in the day so we will have more time to do homework when we get home."



6th grader Larissa Myhrs was asked what time she thinks we should start school and she said "8:00 AM because we get up so early and that causes us to be sleepy throughout the day."



# WINTER GETAWAY



Everyone enjoys holidays-especially Christmas! Mostly because students get to take a break off from school and enjoy their time with their family and friends. It's a time to get away, no school or school work, sleeping in, playing out in the snow, traveling and overall fun.

By: Anna Rinke



6th grader Nick Tocco says that over winter break he likes to sit at home and play Fortnite. Over break he usually leaves the house multiple times to go to an indoor-waterpark or do other activities outside like sledding. He enjoys the holiday break because, "I get to spend time with my friends and family."



7th grader Joey Mucciacciaro enjoys Christmas break because he likes to go sledding and play football outside even that it's cold. He often travels a lot over break to spend time in Virginia to spend time with family and enjoys spending time with both his friends and family here in Michigan. Joey stated, "I like winter break because it's fun and I get to go sledding, receive gifts and eat



8th grader Jackson Brandt likes sleep and hanging out with his friends and family over winter break. He said he usually goes out twice a week and spends most of his time with his friends and family hanging out. Jackson says he likes winter break because, "There is no school and I can sleep."



During Christmas break Ethan Felax enjoys hanging Christmas ornaments to get in the Christmas spirit. Ethan enjoys winter and is always happy around this time of year. Every year Ethan always looks forward to Christ-





# D.C. Bound *By: Wyatt Ash*

*We the people of the 8th grade in order to fulfill a tradition of learning outside of the classroom. 250 of the adventurous students in Oxford Middle School 8th grade are going on an adventure to Washington D.C. The first stop on the great journey was Gettysburg. The second stop was the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The third stop was the United States capital and the Library of Congress. There were many more stops and the one said above are just the first stops. The Washington D.C. trip was full of adventure and fun. The 8th graders did a lot in D.C. so much there is not enough room to write about all of them. Washington D.C. is a very historical place that shows us where we started as a nation and how much we have accomplished, but also shows how much work there still is. This was a great opportunity and was an action-packed trip.*



**H**igh up on Little Round Top hill in Gettysburg the 8th graders look down at the battlefield of Gettysburg, the site of the bloodiest battle in the civil war. Although the groups had an entire day there they could not make it to all of the 1,328 monuments (Data from nps.gov). “May we all, as a nation of believers, fight for the achievement of America; may we make sacrifices worthy of those proud men and women who fought for us, labored for us, bled soil from the beaches of Normandy to the fields of Gettysburg for us.” - Cory Booker.



**D**ominating the skyline is the enormous Washington Monument in Washington D.C. on November 8th during the 8th grade D.C. trip. According to thedistrict.com there are over 800,000 people visit the memorial in one year. The memorial dominates the skyline at 555 feet. “My attitude is, a monument, a statue, ought to signify unity instead of division.” -Bill Nelson  
Fun fact the Washington D.C. has an ordinance against building that buildings that are taller than 110 feet so the Washington Monument is always the tallest.



**L**ooking over water is the Martin Luther King memorial on the 8th of November. This monument is 30 feet tall and is purposely not finish to show that his work in social justice was not done. On the side of this gigantic rock is a quote that says “Out of the Mountain of Despair, a Stone of Hope” . This means that out off all of the despair martin luther king was a hope that one day every one would be created equal “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” -Martin Luther King

# D.C. Bound Continued



The images to the left and right are of the Arlington cemetery. The image to the left is some of the tens of thousands of graves that are at Arlington cemetery. To the right is an image of the memorial for John F. Kennedy. The flame in the background has been burning continuously for years. At this memorial, you are asked to remain silent and not talk to honor our past president and some others. Arlington is a very large place with hundreds of acres of land. All the graves there are people how have served for our country. Oxford Middle School was very honored to lay a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldiers. Four people in the 8th grade made an essay on why they should be picked to lay the wreath. This was a very big honor for the four students selected.



Joseph Abdou did go to Washington D.C. Joseph said that he had a great time in Washington D.C. He was on the second of the five buses. He said the Aero-Space museum was very cool and that it was a lot of fun. He thought that the D.C. trip was a lot of fun. Joseph said that he liked the mall the most.



Gaven Dell went to D.C. and said that he had a great time. Gaven got the extraordinary experience of laying the ref at the tomb of the unknown soldiers. He said that he had only one regret with at the ref laying ceremony that was he was not in the front. He said that it was a great experience and that he would do it again.



Gabe Losee did go to D.C. and he also said he had a lot of fun and that it was a great time. In his interview, he said that the memorials were his favorite and that the Vietnam memorial was his favorite. He said that the memorial was his favorite because it helps people remember the lives lost in the war.



Above is a picture of the White House, all of the 8th grader got to see this marvelous site at night. This was amazing to see, and to think that one of the most powerful person in the government lives there and in side that building some of the most influential people lived here. This was one of the best photo opportunity on the whole trip.

# Honors Choir 2018

By:  
Brianna  
Penzien

8th grade choir students had the amazing opportunity to try out for the state of Michigan honors choir. This audition included an online video of the students singing a complicated piece called Pergolesi Suite and a trip to Lyon Michigan for a rehearsal with the states southern schools. 8th grade Gold students Brianna Penzien, Haily May, Savannah Feltrin, Imani Tenorio-Pinter, and Morgan Mcguire, Jordyn Gill, Mackayla Mcnamara As well as 8th grade blue students Layni Chaisson, Serena Poynter,, and Sophia Ziegler have made the huge accomplishment of representing OMS in this advanced choir. These students were selected by amazing musicians out of the 400+ duets that tried out. They will be performing 6 different pieces in Grand Rapids Michigan. OMS is very proud to have these 10 students going to the states honors choir and representing our school.

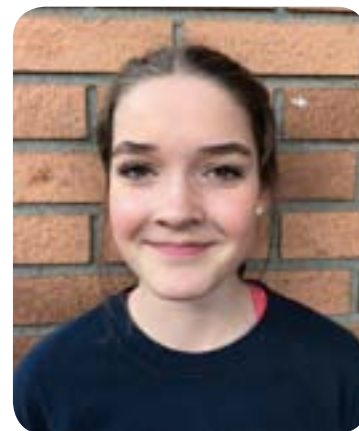


La la la! The Latin peice selected to be preformed as a duet is named Pergolesi Suite. The students had a few weeks to learn profect and record. This song consist of 2 movements, the students only had to learn the first movement. This is a 2 part song meaning it is sung by olny 1 alto and 1 soprano.This song will always hold a special place in our heart as it is the piece we used to get into the state honors choir.



When asked why she decided to try out for honors choir, 8th grade blue student Serena Poynter stated, "I decided to try out because I thought I was a good singer and I really love singing as well as music." This student is one of those ten students that got into honers choir. It is clear to see she is really passonate about music and has accomplished this major accomplishmen.

Another 8th grade student named Savannah Feltrin was asked, did you think you where going to get in to honers choir and how did you feel when you got in, she stated, "I did not think I was going to get in but when I did I was very excited." Savannah is an alto singer. She and her partner Serena Poynter both got in. It looks like all those days of hardwork and practice really paid of for this duet.



"Oxford has been participating in honors choir for 15 years. They are given the amazing oppourtinty to sing under the directorship of an accomplished conductor..." stated Mrs.Flynn. Mrs.Flynn is the OMS choir director. You can see she is very fortunate to be able to give students this oppertunity.

**ART AND THEATRE**By: **Dominic Croceni**

Many of us have a choice between art and theatre. Art, according to Dictionary.com, is the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power and Theatre is a play or other activity or presentation considered in terms of its dramatic quality. Art and Theatre have many similarities, one being you use your imagination and creativity to create drawing and plays. some differences are that in Theatre you move around more than in Art but in Art, you become more creative with the drawing and coloring.



8th grader Ethan Felax who is currently enrolled in Art replies, "I like to express my creativity and I love making my own designs and artwork to see how they turn out."



7th grader Lucas Ames currently has theatre and Ames claims, "I like theatre because we get to play a lot of games and is fun to play with my friends and Mr. Gray is an great teacher to have for theatre."



6th grader Anthony Barmant who is enrolled in Theatre, states "I love theatre more because its more interactive and we get to create our own plays and do very fun games with my friends."



The classroom above is Room 138, the theatre room, where Mr. Gray teaches the students enrolled in theatre room how to work stage lights, conduct plays, write plays and present them to their classmates. Room 236 is the art room where Mrs. Wilson teaches and also is where is where students and their creativity go wild! Pencils and paint also come to life creating wonderful art that the current students can take home for friends and family to admire.

## Christmas In Classrooms

By Ian Alexander

The holiday season is always a favorite part of the year, whether it be the presents, time with family or just the time off school, but do holidays breaks help in classrooms? Holidays breaks from classrooms are a lot of distractions leading up to the break and make it very hard to concentrate. Even if the holidays themselves don't distract you, other students will. There isn't anything you can change to make this better so it's just a good lesson for distractions in life.

8th grader Brooke Fox says, "I and other students in my classes get more distracted during the holiday season. Other students, as well as the holidays distract me during that time of year. My classes don't ever do anything extra with the holidays, but people still get more distracted."



7th Grade Teacher Mrs. Watson says, "On average, six or seven students in my classes get more easily distracted. The students being distracted doesn't make it much harder to teach. When my students get distracted they distract my other students but I can keep them controlled."



6th grader Carlie Lhota says, "I get more distracted during the holidays as well as my classmates. I get distracted by the music during the holidays. I don't believe that teachers can make students less distracted."

A survey of the entire 7th grade shows that 70% get more easily distracted.



Distracting has been a specialty of Christmas ever since the first break. The 130 million students enrolled in school have to deal with the distractions of holiday break. Dale Smaelenberg says, "The break around Christmas is well needed after nearly a semester of work."



# Teacher's Favorite Memories

All students have their favorite memories from school, and so do the teachers here. A lot of teachers have fond memories of interacting with students and working with colleagues. Some teachers have been working here for many years, where some may be in their first year. Teachers have multiple opportunities to interact with their students, and this lets them form relationships with them, and great memories come from it.

By: William Owen



6th grade teacher Mrs. Flanagan has been teaching for 28 years in Oxford, half at OMS and half at Clear Lake Elementary. She started teaching because she has a very strong passion for learning. When she was in fifth grade, she would even tutor other kids in the class. "Some of my favorite memories are tied with the relationships I make with my students." One of her favorite memories of working here was when she was working with a homebound student. She had a student that went to the homebound student to help them. The relationship that she formed with them made her so happy.



Mr. Grayb has been teaching here for 18 years. He started teaching because he always liked the middle school age group, and he likes how middle schoolers can be to work with. Also, it was the first job he got out of college, so he liked it very much. His favorite moment of working here was setting up a prank for Mrs. Gibson. One of his students took a mannequin head in his classroom and put it in his hood, then sat in the back of Mrs. Gibson's classroom. When Ms. Gibson noticed the student, Mr. Gray was very happy with the prank.



8th grade PLTW teacher Mr. Cady has been teaching here for 16 years. He started teaching because he had some teachers when he was younger that had a very big effect on him. Another reason he wanted to start teaching was because he likes like coaching for the football team. While he couldn't list a single favorite memory, he did say that he loved knowing that he could potentially be helping someone in our school, and also knowing he hopefully didn't mess anyone up either.



It makes working here much more interesting," Ms. Gibson says, "This head is so creepy." This is the mannequin head that Mr. Gray scared Ms. Gibson with. According to Mrs. Gibson, teachers pull pranks on each other around once a school year Mrs. Gibson says that the head looks really creepy and scared her a lot. She did get him back though, by placing a skeleton figure in one of Mr. Gray's closets and playing a heartbeat noise from her phone which was on the top of the cupboard.





# FUTURES IN FOOTBALL

By: Katherine Lewis

One of the most popular sports in America is football. A total of 1.23 million youth played tackle football, according to data from the Sports & Fitness Industry Association, which commissions an annual survey of participation rates in United States households across a range of sports. Many young athletes enjoy playing this sport because it is fast-paced, fun, and a great time spent with friends and coaches.



Here on the Oxford Middle School football field, 8th graders are scoring wins, and losses are being learned from. Football players gather together to work as a team to win the game they practiced for.



8th grader Wyatt Geibel says that he really enjoys playing football. "I get to tackle people and work on different athletic skills." Many athletes want to continue with their sports in the future. "I hope that I can receive a scholarship for football so I can get into a good college," says Geibel. Teamwork is an important aspect during a game, "My team and I work together by cheering each other on to score touchdowns during our game."



8th grader Cameron Jarrett says, "I enjoy playing football because it gives me something to do and look forward to." Getting motivation throughout the game is very important if you want to do well. "My coaches and teammates cheer me on during our games, we get each other hyped up to score touchdowns," says Jarrett. "I hope that, through football, I will be able to earn a scholarship for college."



8th grader Ethan O'Dowd says one of the most memorable moments was when the Oxford team beat Clarkston. "It was a really good game and my team did really well," says O'Dowd, "I think getting a scholarship for football is really important so I hope I can earn one for college." Many young athletes have motivators on, and off the field. "My dad motivates me throughout my games so I can do better." O'Dowd says.

## CHECK-MATE

By: Michael Duong



In the library at OMS after school, Sean Marshall on the left and Chace Strause on the right are practicing chess and trying to outsmart the other. Sean has been playing for one year and Chace has been playing for one year. "Chess is a compelling game that everyone should learn," said Dale Schmalenberg.



**6th** grader, Collin Johanson has been playing chess since he was six. Collin's learned how to play chess from his parents. Collin "always wanted to play [chess] so [he] asked and they taught [him] how to play." Collin also says that he wanted to play chess because people said that chess is one of the most important games. Although Collin doesn't play regularly, he still likes to play and plays at home with his parents for fun. Collin's favorite part about chess is that "it's a very calm, focused game." However, the part that he dislikes is "that it takes a while" and the hardest part is that "you have to really focus."



**7th** grader, Brayden Travis, has been playing chess for about a year. Brayden learned how to play chess from his grandparents. Brayden wanted to learn how to play chess "because it's a fun game." Brayden plays chess regularly every Friday after school. Brayden is able to play chess regularly because he goes to the OMS chess club. When Brayden was asked why he likes chess club, he said, "It's pretty fun because I have a lot of friends in it." Brayden likes chess because in chess, you have to learn strategy. On the other hand, the hardest part about chess for Brayden is winning since he only learned last year.



**8th** grader, Owen Schihl, has been playing chess since he was in 5th grade. Owen learned how to play from one of his friends during an indoor recess. Even though Owen isn't in the chess club, he still plays chess "every now and then when [he has] open time in class [he'll] play on Cool Math Games with somebody." Although Owen hasn't been to a chess tournament before, he thinks that it would be fun to go so that he could see people who are better playing. Owen wanted to learn chess because he wanted to be able to play with his friends. In Owen's opinion, the hardest part about chess is "trying to predict what the opponent may do next." On the other hand, Owen likes chess because "it's a complicated game, it's a lot of fun, and it requires a lot of strategy and skill."



**C**hess is a very fun and fairly complicated game that involves a lot of strategies and thinking ahead. In chess, you take turns with your opponent moving one of your pieces. There are six different kinds of chess pieces: one king, one queen, two bishops, two knights, two rooks, and eight pawns. Each piece has its own way of moving on the chess board. If your opponent's piece is in your piece's path, then you capture that piece, removing it from the board. To win in a chess match, you must trap your opponent's king, to call a check-mate. When your opponent is in check, they have to move their king out of check, block, or capture the piece that is putting your king in check. You put your opponent in check when one of your pieces path's goes to your opponents king. You check-mate your opponent when your opponent is in check and can't move their king.







## PLAY PREP



By: Lauren Schmidt

Preparing for a play is not an easy task. There is always something to do. Actors have to memorize their lines, find a voice for their character, and of course practice very often. Crew has to design and build a set, manage all of the props, come up with the costumes, plan and do the makeup, and manage the actors. Not to mention, Mr. Gray has to control it all and coordinate many things to help the members of the play succeed. Whether crew or actor everybody has a part in making the play happen. In the end it is all worth it when the drama club can show their audience what they have created.

Why are Valley Girls so odd? ... because they can't event!



Totally Tubular! This year the OMS drama club presents the play, "That's Not How I Remember It," by Don Zolidis. It is based around two parents telling their kid how they met in the 1980s. Mom remembers it one way and Dad remembers it another. Mom remembers a sappy romantic love story of how they fell in love, while Dad remembers an epic karate battle with all the girls swooning over him. Join the actors and actresses in our school as they retell the story of how Mom and Dad met. The play will be at the Oxford High School, January 17th and 18th at 7:01 pm.



**42** Cast Members

**31** Crew Members

**6**th grader Olivia Thomason is a crew member in the play. "I take theatre and we had to do these smaller plays and I really liked having to bring out the stuff and acting," she said of why she did the play. The crew is the glue that holds the whole play together.

**7**th grader Troy Hufnagel plays a part in the play by being an understudy for every male character. "It's really hard memorizing *all* the lines. Because I'm an understudy I have to know *everybody's* lines just in case something happens."

**8**th grader Aubrey Greenfield is the Stage Manager of the entire play. This entails lots of hardwork and planning, really good organization skills, and so much more. "I'd say the most challenging thing is time management," she says of the stressful job.

To help the crew and actors succeed throughout the play, Mr. Gray spends the months of October, November, December, and January working with them on the play. With 42 actors and 31 crew members, it is quite the group to handle. "But with all the hard work, it is really rewarding to see a production that we all made happen on stage," says stage manager Aubrey Greenfield.



In the 80s, who would answer the phone when you dialed 8675309? ... Jenny!

# EXTRA OPTIONS AT OMS

By: Tanner F. DeMarco

Many students at OMS don't have things to do after school. Most of these students have the opportunity to get involved in clubs, which provide an activity after school and the chance to make new friends or spark new interests. While we do have a good selection of clubs at OMS, the high school has many more, such as the Improv Club or the Debate Club. Adding these clubs to OMS could expand the horizons of the students here and get more people interested in these things earlier than freshman year.



Smiling widely, Elijah Zelenock recites his lines, trying not to break character at the OMS Drama Club rehearsal, which is practicing for their winter play, "That's Not How I Remember It". The Drama Club has been rehearsing for an hour every day after school. "Drama Club is really fun. Having clubs like this is important, I think." Says lead role Elijah Zelenock.

"With more clubs, I feel like certain students would feel more involved and excited for school!" -Ava Gordon, 8th grader



8th grade Spanish teacher Mr. Hannah was very enthusiastic about an Improv Club at OMS. When asked if he would like to see one, he responded, "Yeah! I think that students' presentation and speaking skills are so important and the critical thinking and creativity that goes into that sort of thing is really important to practice. Also, it's really fun!"



7th grader Lucas Ames was content with OMS' selection of extracurriculars. "Not really," said Ames when asked if he would like to see new clubs at OMS. "I probably wouldn't be involved. I think we have more than enough clubs here." There are 19 clubs at OMS, most of these clubs being related to academics.



6th grader Lani Kollenberg was very warm towards the idea of an Improv Club. "Yeah, I do theater and I really like acting without a script." Improv is a popular activity at OMS, with up to 100 kids participating in Drama Club and, subsequently, improv, although Drama Club is not focused on improv.



What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?  
A: Frostbite.

Q: Why does Santa Claus like to go down the chimney?  
A: Because it soots him!

Q: What do Santa's elves do after school?  
A: Their gnomework!

Q: What do snowmen like to eat for breakfast?  
A: Frosted Flakes!

Q: What is a parent's favorite Christmas carol?  
A: Silent Night.

Q: What is the fear of Santa Claus called?  
A: Claustrophobia

Q: What does Tarzan sing and Christmas?  
A: Jungle Bells!

Q: Why did the dog hand up his stocking at Christmas?  
A: He was waiting for Santa Paws.

Q: Why is it cold on Christmas?  
A: Because it's in Decembrrrrrrrrr!

How did they send the turkey through the mail?  
A: Bird class!

Q: What happened when the turkey got into a fight?  
A: He got the stuffing knocked out of him!

Q: Who isn't hungry on Thanksgiving?  
A: The turkey, because he's already stuffed!

Q: Who was the drummer in the Thanksgiving band?  
A: The turkey, because he had the drumsticks!

Q: What type of key is not good for opening doors?  
A: A Tur-key!

Q: What kind of car did the Pilgrim drive?  
A: A Plymouth

Q: Why should you never set the turkey next to the desert?  
A: Because he will gobble, gobble it up!

Q: Why do students always do so poorly after Thanksgiving?  
A: Because everything gets marked down after the holidays!

Q: What always comes at the end of Thanksgiving?  
A: The G



## What the Holidays Mean to Us...



Aiden Bowyer!



Colorful lights line the streets as people spend their day decorating for Christmas. Possibly being the most popular holiday, Christmas has been celebrated since 336, during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine ([www.whychristamas.com](http://www.whychristamas.com)). "I celebrate Christmas because of religious purposes for the birth of Christ," says 7th grade teacher Mrs. Gibson.



Olivia Clark!



Every year Kristy Clark and her family go to the Michigan Ballet Theatre to watch the nutcracker ballet show. The whole show lasts for around two hours, and is an amazing treat to the eye. When asked what her favorite part of the play was, Kristy happily answered, "I like when the sugar plum fairies come out!"



Riley Spurlock!



Sparkling lights, green pine needles as sharp as a knife and the sweet smell of pine that fills the air. This is my Christmas tree and it is filled with many memories some ornaments from when I was born. One tradition that me and my family do is that we always go to Bronners every year to see Santa and get a ornament with the year and our name on it! Another tradition we do is we go skiing with our family and family friends each year up north in Glen Arbor and it is always very much fun and a unforgettable time.



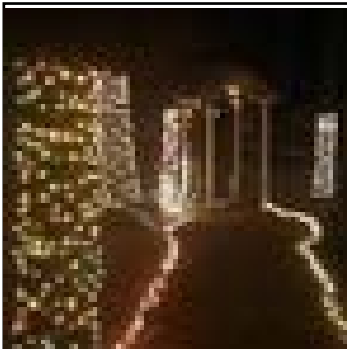
Wyatt Ashley



Lauren Schmidt



Michael Duong



Bright and shining trees sitting out on a cold winter day in Oxford Michigan the 5th of December. According to ABC news 465 billion dollars are spent for

Christmas. This is time of season can be very stressful especially to people that are financially not stable. Some people are plummeting into debt because of this holiday.



Cold snow and Christmas spirit makes the students at OMS more and more excited for the Christmas break in late December. In the United States, 9 in 10 people celebrate Christmas as a holiday, even if they are not Christian. OMS student Tessa Saussele says, "I love the snow because it means that Christmas break is almost here."

Tessa Saussele



Green, bright, and colorful, Christmas time brings family together for a season of gift giving and happiness. Today, Christmas is celebrated by over 2 million people in 160 countries. "My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others." Bob Hope

Cameron Bukoski



Let it snow! During december in Oxford, putting up Christmas ornaments on the tree is a great way to spend time with the

family. The photo shown is one of the Christmas ornaments placed on the tree given to my mom as a gift from my grandma. According to the Christmas Tree Association, 78 percent of americans display a christmas tree every year.



Cozy and quiet home with christmas decorations up, on Christmas day. Taking an entire day just to decorate, I'm so happy to celebrate christmas with my family on this special day.

Dale Schmalenberg



Tall and green, a Christmas tree marks its home in the Schmalenberg residence. A 1000 year tradition in homes all across the world. Peg Bracken says, "Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas," about Christmas.

Elizabeth Rice



As a scented candle sits at the Rices house every Christmas season, the candles gets everyone in the mood and feels for Christmas. Each year the Rice family has 4 Christmas candles around their house, two in the kitchen, one in the dining room and one in the living room. Elizabeth Rice was asked how they feel about this tradition they do each year and she says, "I like it a lot because it puts everyone in the mood for Christmas, also when I see my mom putting them out I know Christmas is just around the corner."

Keaton Linn



Yummy! On November 22, Thanksgiving is being celebrated in our house and we are getting everything ready for the big lunch. According to the University of Illinois, 46 million turkeys are consumed on Thanksgiving. I hope everybody had a very great Thanksgiving and is looking forward to Christmas.

Ava Gordon



Happily beaming at our work, Elaina McMullin, Ava's cousin, finally completes the family coloring page. Every reunion, her family always colors together

in between laughing and eating. it has been a tradition for her for about five years. "The things I like best about my family is we are all so close and happy!" Elaina said with a smile. "When we get back together, it's as if nothing else happened. We pick up exactly where we left off."

Sarah Mojek



Perfect! Every year people search for perfect gifts to give their friends and family during the holiday season to show their appreciation. According to [www.investopedia.com](http://www.investopedia.com) americans spend an average of \$885 on christmas presents every year. Renee Mojek said "My favorite thing

about christmas presents is the joy they give someone when you give them the perfect gift."

Anna Coronado-Rinke



Bright and colorful strands of lights and decorations are hung to get into the holiday spirit. Christmas is celebrated by nearly 2 billion

people and about 43% of people are already decorating before and after the Thanksgiving holiday. "Christmas is a day of meaning and traditions, a special day spent in the warm circle of family and friends." -Margaret Thatcher

Williom Owen



Burnt logs and old ash sit in the fireplace in Christina Maxlow's home. Every night she has a fire in the living room of her house. She uses about 200 logs around Christmas season, to have a fire many nights, as well as having a fire going when guests come over. "Sometimes it gets very cold in the house," Christina says, "and having a fire and a blanket always makes it much better."

Cecelia Nicholson



Prancing through the halls of Salvation Army is Ellie Horne. Every year she goes to inexpensive stores to buy gifts for all her friends and family without spending too much money. Last year she bought a bluetooth speaker for her dad for only 10 dollars! "I love shopping for gifts for my friends and family to know how much I appreciate them," says 8th grader Ellie Horne.

Hailey May



Christmas is a day to celebrate the day Jesus was born and to be together as a family. While adults go to Christmas parties and children go to bed early to awake to presents under the Christmas tree the next morning. But on Christmas Eve children are saying goodbye to their elf on a shelf for when the family goes to sleep they will travel to the North Pole. According to [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org), over 2 billion people celebrate Christmas every year. I believe that Christmas is a day to be with your family and cherish every moment with them because it is the age our savior was born.



## CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



O P R I N L I G G Q Q R G L U N H Z E F  
 C H Z Q E J A O R E I N D E E R I R L Q  
 M B M O L S Z T V W U P O B N D T T V V  
 N H N J O L L Y N U Y E N M I H C C E U  
 X P M N P P S F I A G K A C L Y V H S Z  
 D L A E H X C E L B S F P G C E T Q E G  
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 X L W O N H T A E R W V I I L E H A Y E  
 W L R D G Z G Y L D J C G N X E C M B O  
 M Y A D I L O H L S U H J A W N Z A M J  
 I X P D B T V H S K M W S E L D N A C U

BELLS  
 CANDLES  
 CANDYCANE  
 CARDS  
 CELEBRATE  
 CHIMNEY  
 CHRISTMAS

RUDOLPH  
 SANTA  
 SEASON  
 SLEIGH  
 STOCKING  
 TREE  
 WREATH

ELVES  
 FROSTY  
 GIFT  
 GIVING  
 GREETINGS  
 HOLIDAY  
 JOLLY

JOY  
 MERRY  
 MISTLETOE  
 NOEL  
 NORTHPOLE  
 REINDEER



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 |   |   | 2 |   |   |   | 4 |   |
|   | 2 |   |   |   | 3 | 9 |   |   |
| 9 |   | 7 |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |
|   |   | 4 |   |   |   |   | 5 | 7 |
|   |   |   | 5 | 4 | 1 |   |   |   |
| 3 | 5 |   |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |
|   |   | 3 |   |   |   | 7 |   | 9 |
|   |   | 1 | 4 |   |   |   | 8 |   |
|   | 9 |   |   |   | 2 |   |   | 6 |



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 |   |   | 7 |   |   |   |   |
| 6 |   |   | 1 | 9 | 5 |   |   |   |
|   | 9 | 8 |   |   |   |   | 6 |   |
| 8 |   |   |   | 6 |   |   |   | 3 |
| 4 |   |   | 8 |   | 3 |   |   | 1 |
| 7 |   |   |   | 2 |   |   |   | 6 |
|   | 6 |   |   |   |   | 2 | 8 |   |
|   |   |   | 4 | 1 | 9 |   |   | 5 |
|   |   |   |   | 8 |   |   | 7 | 9 |