



The Paw Print

Oxford Middle School
Oxford, MI

February 2020

YOU ARE
GOOD
ENOUGH

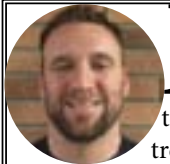
SPEAK UP PEOPLE CARE ABOUT YOU

YOU ARE
GOOD
ENOUGH

By: Grace Morgan & Brooke Mery



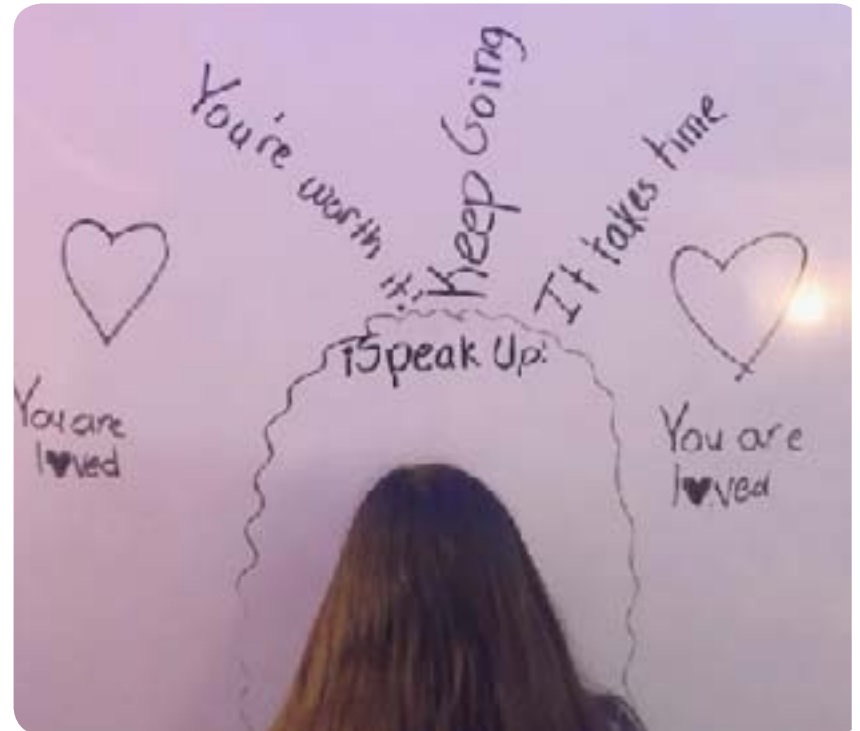
Mr. McDonald has known people in his family who have struggled with mental health. He thinks there is not a lot of support in Michigan for people with mental health. Mr. McDonald says, "If you are struggling with a mental illness, ask for help. Look for the signs. If you notice someone who doesn't seem like they are happy with life, be that person who says I'm here to help you." He doesn't think a lot of people know where to get help, but Okay to Say is a good program to go to. Mr. McDonald says, "The most common stereotype is that there is something wrong with their personality because they may always be nervous or anxious and they are worried about being judged." This needs to change.



Mr. Keenist had anxiety issues 5 years ago. "At the time they were pretty tough, but looking back they were a blessing in disguise because I can use that experience to help the kids I teach now," explains Mr. Keenist. He got some treatment and is a lot better now. Mr. Keenist says, "Get help and don't be ashamed because it is very common." Mr. Keenist doesn't think a lot of people know where to go or who to talk about problems they have. Mr. Keenist says, "The most common stereotype is that people are weak if they have a mental issue because people can think you can get over it on your own, but it's not something you can get over on your own, it's like a sickness." And there should be no shame in getting help.



Mr. Smokey has known family and friends who have had mental health issues where they had to see professional help. Mr. Smokey says, "Don't be afraid to talk to somebody and don't be afraid to get help. Find a professional and just talk to them and be open to have some conversations." Mr. Smokey thinks people don't know where to go to get help and we need to make it more available. He says, "The most common stereotype is that it can't be managed, but it can be treated if it's done properly by professionals."



Saying nice things to people isn't just something nice, it can help people get out of being trapped in their thoughts thinking the complete opposite of what you are saying. About 40% of kids and teens in our state are not getting the help they need (Michigan Radio). "I have struggled with an illness I dealt with self-harm, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, and more. Because I told someone, I am happy and enjoying life today," said an anonymous student here at OMS.

If you are seeking help, you can go to the counseling office at school or visit WillowsEdge Counseling & Healing Arts Center located in Oxford and the number is (248) 834-0614.



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SPEAK UP

PEOPLE CARE ABOUT YOU

By Grace Morgan and Brooke Mery

More people than you know suffer from mental illnesses. Many people choose to cover it up and don't show how they are feeling. That choice to not show what they are feeling, can hurt them a lot. Almost every professional's #1 advice they give, is to express how you are feeling to an adult. Trust them to take the proper course of action. It may seem scary, but in the long run, it saves you from doing things that impact your future, or even end it. Everyone has different experiences with mental illnesses. It is important to respect and support everyone.



Being a friend is extremely important to people with mental health illnesses, in the photo two students are embracing each other after one had a rough day. It is common for people to have rough days and need a shoulder to cry on. In fact, 450 million people worldwide suffer from a mental illness according to the World Health Organization. "More people should say what they're going through to somebody because if they don't it could turn into a mental illness, which could turn into suicide. Nobody wants that." says 8th grader Isabella Spezia.

- Pro tips
- Notice! (WebMD)
 - Contact a professional, get help or get them help (WebMD)
 - Get help from a licensed mental health professional when and if you need it. (BBRF)
 - Talk about your feelings (MHF)
 - Keep Active (MHF)
 - Eat well (MHF)
 - Ask for help (MHF)
 - Take a break (MHF)



7th grader Isabella Kjoller states that other than health class, she has no experiences with mental health. However, she still offers her advice for people struggling with it. "From what I do know is talking to people for the most part helps." When asked if she thinks that people who struggle with mental illnesses know where to get help, she responds, "I would assume not."



8th grader Rebekah Schuler states that she has some family members who deal with mental illness so she has experience with it. She states "a word of wisdom I would say is don't be afraid to ask for help." She also feels we should have a longer period of time to talk about mental health. She also feels like people mostly do know where to go to get help, but are afraid to because people treat it as a bad thing. When prompted with the topic of common stereotypes she recognises the fact that most people act like only women have it. She feels it falls unrecognized in men, but it needs to be recognized.

Why We Mix-It-Up

By: Holden Jones

MIX-IT-UP lunch is an annual event in Oxford Middle School and at countless other schools across the world. Its purpose is to push students out of their comfort zone and encourage interactions between students who would normally never spend any time with each other on the off chance that a friendship might begin to form. However, there is a negative view of Mix-It-Up lunch that has been formed over the past few years. Many students complain about being separated from their friends during Mix-It-Up lunch and call the interactions during it “awkward” and “uncomfortable. There are reasons, however, that we as a school partake in Mix-It-Up every year.

Other People Matter:

“Other People Matter” has become somewhat of a motto for our school that has been repeated several times in an effort to help it resonate with students in our school. The saying explains itself. It means that through kindness and respect towards others, we can show those around us that they matter and are important. Our hope is that during Mix-It-Up all students will be kind and interact with those around them for 30 minutes. Through Mix-It-Up, every student has the opportunity to make sure that those around them know that they matter too.

Preventing Separation:

Most students consistently sit with the same people every day at lunch. Many students have a specific friend group that they surround themselves in 24/7, without much interaction with others. While it is good to have a close friend group that you can trust in and rely on, the creation of “friend groups” can create separation in a school. This can also lead to friend groups receiving labels based on what they like, their personalities, and their appearance, which leads to more division between the students in a school. A main priority of Teaching Tolerance, the creators of Mix-It-Up Lunch, is to prevent students from being divided and separated in schools. Mix-It-Up helps break down the separation between the friend groups for one day and creates new lunch tables at which students can meet new people and talk with those that they normally wouldn't. Mix-It-Up is a huge part of making sure that our school is a place where every student can be comfortable and not be limited in their friends.

6th grader Evan Jergler claimed that, before Mix-It-Up, he was excited because he wanted “to see how [he would] react with [new] people.”



8th grader Niko Hatzigeorgiou said, “I had a positive experience at Mix-It-Up...[because my] table had people from many different groups, so there were many different views on the topics we talked about.”



Preparing and setting up Mix-It-Up is a difficult and complicated task reserved for the OMS Student Council. They spend around 2 and a half months creating and writing down new ideas and games on this chalkboard for that year's Mix-It-Up so that it is always better and more fun than the one before. After preparing for and running his very first Mix-It-Up Lunch, 7th grader Jack Bracci said, “[Running Mix-It-Up] was stressful because there was a lot to do... and a lot of different parts. [We] were put into teams, though, so we were able to focus on just one thing, which made it easier.”



78% said Mix-It-Up did help students feel more comfortable when interacting with new people

83% said that Mix-It-Up Lunch did help form new friendships



95% said that Mix-It-Up was successful in encouraging students to interact with one another

97% said that the interactions between students were positive

Survey was conducted by Quality Education Data, 2008.



Best Birthday Seasons



By: Lea Rauh

One day a year is a special day to celebrate each person. On a birthday there are many different ways to celebrate. You could pick going out to eat, going to a movie, having cake, having a party, hanging out with family, plus many more endless possibilities. There are also different things people do depending on what season it is for their birthday. For example, a summer birthday might involve swimming whereas a winter birthday might involve sledding. No matter what you do on your birthday, the most important part is who is there. As long as you have the people that mean the most to you, then that is all that matters.



To blow out her candles, 8th grader Lily Nouman is celebrating her summer birthday with a fun party with her friends. According to 973thedog.com, chocolate cake is the number one most eaten cake on birthdays. "I love having a summer birthday because I can go swimming and hang out outside on my birthday," says Lily.

8th grade teacher Mr. Clark has a spring birthday. His birthday is May 9th and he likes to go out to dinner on his birthday with his wife and daughter and eat good steak. If he could have his birthday in a different season, he would still pick spring because then it is starting to get nice out and he can go to a restaurant and eat outside.



7th grader Grace Lee has a fall birthday. Her birthday is November 10th and she likes to spend her birthday with her friends just hanging out and having fun. If she could have her birthday in a different season, she would choose for her birthday to be in summer because then she doesn't have school and could swim.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

8th grader Kayla Kipp has a late winter birthday. Her birthday is March 17th and she likes to spend her birthday with her parents. Her birthday is St. Patrick's Day, so on her birthday she has to wear green or else she gets pinched. She likes to get to choose where to go out to eat and her favorite place to choose is Red Knapps. If her birthday could be in a different season, she would choose for her birthday to be in either spring or summer because then the weather would be warmer and she could do more things outside.



6th grader Justin Buckley likes his summer birthday because there isn't as much mud, rain, and other bad weather like there is in some of the other seasons, so he can do more outside with his friends. He also likes having a summer birthday because he doesn't have to go to school on his birthday. His birthday is June 11th and he likes to spend his birthday with his friends and family. On his birthday, he likes to do the things that he has the most fun doing like playing games and hanging out with his friends. If he could have his birthday in a different season he would choose winter because he could go outside and play in the snow and come back inside and drink hot cocoa.



TikTok: Boys Vs. Girls



Paige Rushlow and Ava Bailey

The social media platform TikTok is the next big app for young teens' entertainment. From singing, dancing, and lip syncing, it is a way for people to express themselves safely by posting quick 15 second videos. Most creators strive to get their content seen and liked by other users. All in all, TikTok provides teenagers with the freedom to be who they are.



6th grader Jonathon Cocran makes comedy TikToks and loves to see others relate. "I really like to make them because I feel good making other people laugh."



6th grader Katie Pill believes that TikTok is the best app she has ever downloaded. "The app makes me happy, especially when I get to create dancing videos to see my friends' reactions."



7th grader Andrew Menti expresses himself differently on this app. "Making TikToks is something I really enjoy and I like to embarrass myself for laughs."



7th grader Anna Terenzi says TikTok is something she does on the daily. "Keeping up with the trends and creating dances to music is something I love to do almost everyday."



8th grader Will Witlatch uses the platform to expand his dancing skills. "Being able to learn dances to various songs helps me improve my dancing skills."



8th grader Stella Trush thinks that TikTok lets her express her creativity. "Making stand up comedy videos that entertain others is something that I like to do."



Posing for their TikTok, Aidan London, Josh Laura, and Ashton Dwyer all strike a move for the camera to entertain their viewers. Usually, it takes the 6th graders 10 attempts to finally get the right shot. Laura noted, "I like this genre of posing in TikToks because it's fun to do with friend sand others enjoy when I do it."



Dancing to the beat of Lottery, a TikTok sound, 6th graders Gabby Green and Kenzie Malinich perfect their dance before class. The 15 second dance took the two days to master. Malinich says, "I love doing Tiktok dances because it helps me memorize dances for my dance competitions."

New or Used?

Buying retail or second hand

By: Courtney Unruh



Retail shopping has always been the #1 choice for shoppers, but recently buying second hand clothing has become more and more popular with Youtube videos and Instagram posts popping up everywhere. It's initially cheaper than buying from the original store. There are many positives and negatives to both sides of shopping.

Second hand or thrifting has its benefits, but also its negatives. For example, sizing is limited. If a shirt size is a medium, there is usually that one size. But there is also an up-sized-to-going thrifting. Many people donate higher end clothes such as Tommy Hilfler, Ralph Lauren, and Marc Jacobs. Consequently, being slightly used brings the price of the items way down. Going to a thrift store, you can find what you're looking for that you can't find anywhere else. Buying second hand is not just clothing. You find stuffed animals, dishware, and furniture that is sold for hundreds or even thousands of dollars on Ebay, just for a couple of bucks.



6th grader Tyler Williams stated, "I would rather go to the mall because it has a bunch of different stores I can shop at with a bunch of different variety."

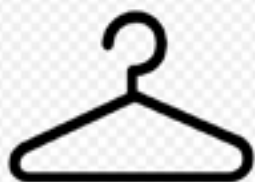


7th grader Lucia Heine-mann stated, "I like shopping second hand better because the clothes are really cheap and I never know what I will find."

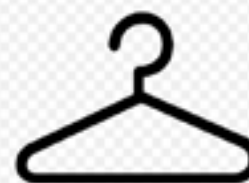


8th grader Isabella Rushlow stated, "I shop second hand more because I enjoy seeing what they have and it's cool to find weird and different clothing."

Retail shopping is a great place to find what you need, but depending on the stores you shop, the price tags will add up at checkout. In addition, the sizes vary from XS to XL, so no matter what size you are, the store will most likely have your size. Also, most retail stores such as American Eagle, Vans, Underarmour, and Pacsun have a return policy compared to Goodwill or Salvation Army that do not have a return policy. Many people can find exactly what they are looking for compared to thrifting.



Wearing thrifted jackets while walking on the Polly Ann Trail, both 8th graders Madison Mauser and Ava Bailey got the two jackets at Goodwill. They both go around 3 times a month. Madison Mauser stated, "I love going to second hand shops. I never know what I will find."



STAFF VERSUS STUDENTS

Sami Yocum

Staff versus students is an activity our school does to interact with students and staff to find out who dominates the court. We do a number of competitions including basketball, volleyball, robotics, and occasionally kickball. This activity brings the whole oxford middle school together for a fun time.



“ The only way to prove your a good sport is to lose”



6th grader Dianna Wright said she's open to playing in any activities. “I like the staff versus student game because the teacher like, bond with the students”. If she could add any games to the pile they would be, dodgeball and soccer.

7th grader Drew Cady would really like to play in the next basketball game he said he would like to because, “I'm on the team and pretty decent at it”. When asked why he likes to watch staff versus student games because “ I like to watch Mr. Forster [play] and it's fun to watch everyone support”

8th grader Joey Bieniasz has participated in a staff versus student game, he [played in a basketball game. He said he likes to watch and play in them because it's “ so fun”. He also said that if he could, he would add football to the games because it would be funny to watch and compete in.

7th grade history teacher Mr. Forester loves participating in staff versus students. He has played kickball, basketball, floor hockey, relay race and more. “ I enjoy staff versus students because the students encourage us,” Mr Forester stated.



In this photo we see 8th grader Maggie Casper and 8th grader Avery Felix, they are practicing for their volleyball game, volleyball being one of the most common staff versus students people tend to know the rules of the game meaning when the staff play it gets a little crazy and fun for everyone around.

How Difficult Are Your Classes?

By Lucinda Haselton

Various classes are offered here at OMS — some required, some not. Since each subject is taught by different teachers, with different methods, with different material, students are bound to find some easier or harder than others. Whether it be math, Chinese, or ELA, we asked students their opinions on their classes.

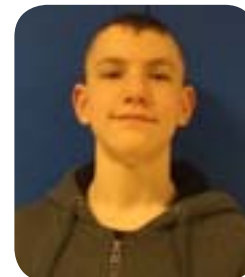


Near spring, students are given a sheet with the list of classes available to them for next year. There are 19 different classes offered, though you can only take 7 or 8 of them at a time. “I feel like they should give us more time to choose the classes,” said 8th grader Hayley-Kate Nelms.

6th grader Alyssa Dissmore says her hardest class is Language Arts. “It’s just a hard subject for me.” Math, on the other hand, is easy for her. “I feel like math is easier for me because ... I always have been pretty good at it.” At the beginning of the year, Alyssa didn’t consider herself good with geography, “but now [she’s] pretty good at it because [she] know[s] where everything is.”



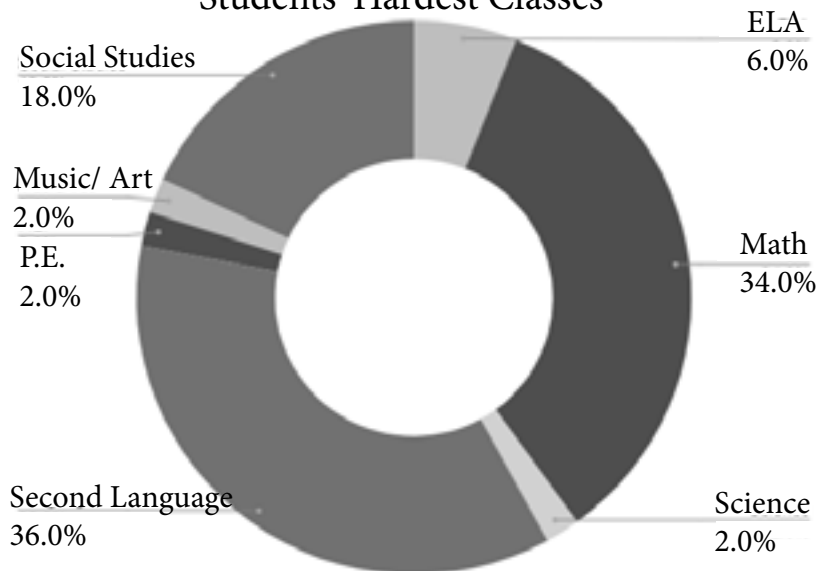
7th grader Logan Maciejewski thinks that the arts are easy for him, while ELA is harder. “[In ELA] it’s not exactly clear ... what you’re questioned on. Things only seem to get difficult for me when it’s not clear what you’re meant to do.” Since 6th grade, Logan has improved with his math class.



8th grader Quinlan Johnson believes his toughest subject is math. “Math itself [is hard for me]. I have a good teacher.” He also enjoys science class and gets good grades in it. “I used to find [history] hard but now it’s pretty easy.”



Students’ Hardest Classes



*50 students polled



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

By: Maya Derey



Sometimes the future is cool to think about. It is kinda cool to imagine what you want your future job to be. Its even interesting to think about what college you want to go to and the requirements to go to that college of the future jobs you want. For example, some jobs have extra requirments like doctors have to go to medical school and nurses have to go to nursing school, dentists have to go to school after college to practice before they can actually be a dentist. Many jobs have different standards.



7th grader Ava Tarach said, "I want to be an Engineer when I'm older because it would be a very fun and interesting job. Engineers require lots of school like college and all sorts of stuff. I'm not sure what college I want to go to, but I want to be an engineer because I love creating new inventions and it's really fun to do."

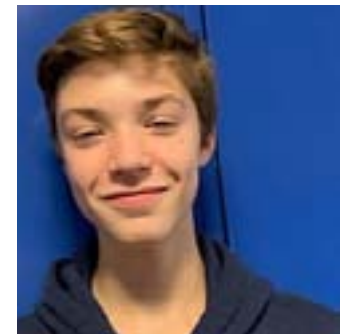


6th grader Isaac Hughes said, "I want to be a musician when I'm older because I love music and I love band and I think it would be really cool to be a musician. I want to go to Macomb-Community College because I heard the music program is really good there and the campus is nice. Musicians require lots of skill and patience and they require many years of school."



Every job requires tools and supplies. Like paper, pencils, and calculators. According to Heather Hulswit, a history teacher at Ather-ton High School, "goes through 700 pencils and pens every year." 8th grader John Hulswit feels frustrated because he goes through 50 pencils a year because he

8th grader Brady Cinato said, "I want to be an engineer when I am older because I think it would be cool and you get a lot of money from that job. The requirments are college, engineering classes, and all sorts of things. I want to go to U of M because I'm a big fan of Michigan and I think it would be really cool to go there."



always loses his pencils or he lets other students borrow them, but he never gets his pencils back and he never really uses pens because he likes being able to erase his writing in case he makes a mistake.



THINKING IVY



By: Ellie Gieselman



Many students apply for college every year in hopes of a higher education. But is the normal college experience enough? According to Ivycoach, only 10% of people that apply to an Ivy League college, which include Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Yale, Dartmouth, Cornell, Columbia and Brown, are accepted. This means that the Ivy track is significantly harder than a normal college. Is all the extra work just to get accepted into an Ivy League school beneficial for a student's future?



Feriously working to meet the deadline, the newspaper staff at OMS knows that journalism classes look great to Ivy League school admission offices. The average high school student receives a 3.300 GPA, but an Ivy League student in high school usually earns a 3.900-4.200. "I want to go to an Ivy League school because it will open up the doors for better career paths," said Ivy League aspiring 8th grade student student Madison Mauser.

"Experience is a great teacher."

UPenn Alumnist, John Legend

Many students believe that the Ivy track would be very beneficial for their college education. Also after earning a diploma from an Ivy League university it is way easier for young adults to get the job of their dreams. On the other hand, it is made clear that going to an Ivy League college is not right for everyone. After all, it does take a lot of hard work, commitment, money, and especially good grades to just make it. In conclusion, it all depends on the individual and whether or not they are ready to put in all the work to make it into an Ivy League school.



6th grader Maggie Cordes said, "I never thought about going to an Ivy League school, but if I went to one I would want to go to Harvard because when I think of Harvard I think of a school that I could learn a lot from."

7th grader Ella Bailey said, "I would never go to an Ivy League school because it's really hard to get into, but if I went to one I would go to Cornell because when I am older I want to be an engineer."



8th grader, Samantha O'Heran said "It would be cool to go to an Ivy League school and if I went I would want to go to Yale because it would help me get into a job that pays a lot."



By, Sarah Spearing

Starting from the beginning of the school year, 8th grade choir students were given the opportunity to try out for the Michigan State Honors Choir. Those who wanted to audition, including myself, learned two songs before submitting our audition video, one of them being the song that we had to sing for the audition. About a week later, the students that auditioned traveled to their first rehearsal, followed by finding out which of the students made it into the choir, and three more day-long rehearsals in various places before the final performance in January at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids. The students worked hard on their music to give an outstanding performance, along with listening to the other choirs that were there, and the experience impacted many students and their journey in music.



8th grader Heidi Allen said that she thinks honors choir impacted her by helping her grow by learning from different teachers.



8th grader Keelin Fletcher said that she really enjoyed honors choir, even if it was a lot of hard work and commitment, she would do it again.



8th grader Ella Flores said that her favorite thing about honors choir was being with other students who were also passionate about singing.



Hardworking students were trained by Sarah Stockton, far right, at these rehearsals, along with practicing at home for their performance of six songs, one being sung in Armenian. OMS students were joined by 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from all over Michigan, along with two separate choirs, adding up to over 300 students. 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choir teacher, Mrs. Flynn said, "I loved several things about the honors choir performance. The number one was that the kids were passionate about their music. I could understand every word, and it was extremely creatively done."



Behind the Lens

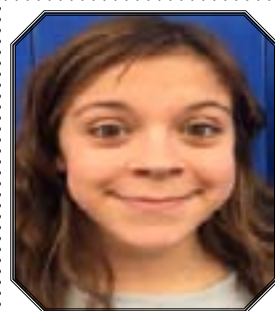


Most people will read the newspaper or their school yearbook and smile as they look back at what has happened during the school year. But what they don't think about is who made it and the group that put their time and effort to making it. Some students of Oxford, not just read the news, but also make it. This is greatly overlooked by the student body, who don't understand the time and consideration put into the applications. From what to write about, proper grammar, picture angles, eye catching headlines and deadlines.

By: Gabi Wait



Being in the newspaper or yearbook, look to the 8th grade students of Oxford middle school, create the layout, topics and what's going on at that time of year. Yearbook and Newspaper classes have been open to students for around 10 years now, and there have been 600 students that have gone through the program. So far this year the newspaper team has released three articles for the school year. They are talking about their most previous article. 8th grader Ava Bailey is in Newspaper and says, "We are always improving our articles and have a monthly discussion about what we want to improve on or what we like about other's articles." She adds, "It's an amazing class full of great experiences and making friends for life!"



8th grader Skylar Laney's a student in yearbook, says, "My favorite thing about yearbook is people working together for a common goal." Laney adds, "It's a really fun class teaching you teamwork and patience." "The hardest thing would have to be taking pictures because of the so many different camera angles."



8th grader Holden Jones works on the school newspaper. He says, "I really like the freedom to work on whatever you want. It's laid back and lets you be creative." Holden was a 7th grader accepted from last year to be in newspaper, because of his writing skills and work ethic. Jones added, "The hard part would be remembering all the skills used on InDesign, it is the software used for writing the newspaper."



8th grader Sophia Samborski is a student in yearbook loves writing and being apart of making the yearbook. She says, "Some things that I love is getting to know the people and kinda almost having a job." She then adds, "It's really fun. Instead of sitting in class listening to a teacher talking about a subject, it's more doing your own thing and just going to the teacher asking for advice."

IF I WAS IN NEWSPAPER...

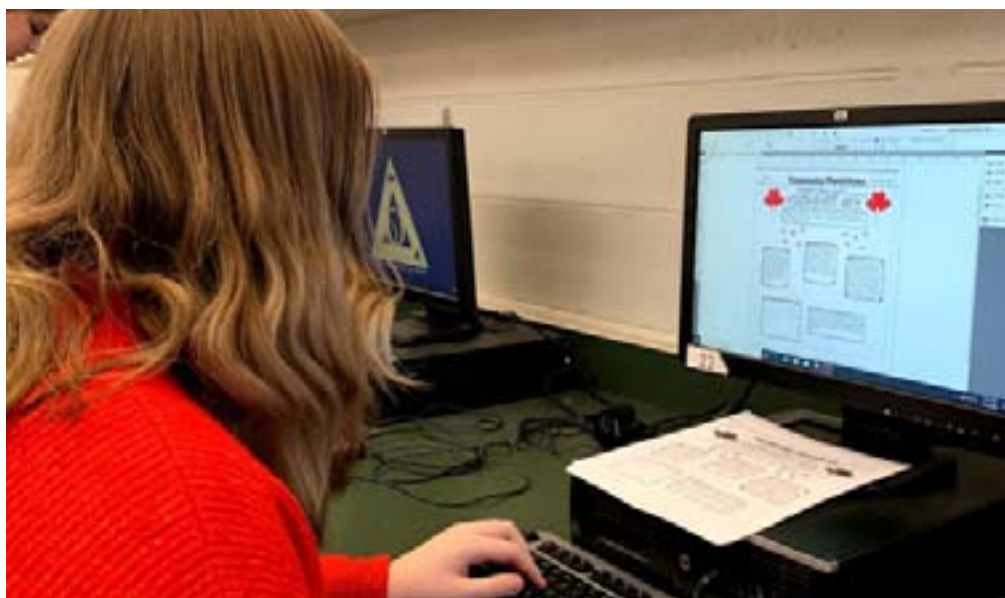
By: Delaney Payne

In newspaper class we go through a long and hard process of writing an article, many people think it's easy writing an article for a newspaper, which for the most part it is, but there's a specific process of writing an article. First, we have to have an idea and pitch it to be approved. After that is a paper about what the articles will look like and be about. Then comes the fun part, interviewing. After interviewing, you get to write and design your page. You turn it in, but that's not all. Mrs. Gibson reads your article to give you notes. Finally, after all that work you get to turn in your final article to see in print and online.

6th grade student Chase Cardona said that if he ever got the chance to write an article for the newspaper he would write about school activities. The reason he would write about school activities is because "it's a way to keep students updated on what's going on at school."

7th grader Anna Terenzi claimed that if she ever got the chance she'd love to be in newspaper. Also, she stated, "If I ever got the chance to write an article for the school newspaper, I'd write about sports. I think that's what I'd write about sports because I play sports and it's really fun."

8th grader Olivia Camera said, "I was going to apply for newspaper but I forgot about it. I would love to be in newspaper one day. When asked what she'd write, she said about "Sports because I really likes playing sports and it's something others can relate to."



When asking 7th grade student Hazel Robertson what she thought of the school newspaper she said, "I really like the school newspaper, but think it is really underated. Like only 25% of the school reads the newspaper." She ended saying that the school newspaper is really fun to read because you stay updated.



Cheer is a very fun and exciting activity. During the season, cheerleaders often become closer with their friends and teammates. You do lots of different things in cheer including stunting, tumbling, and cheering. According to Varsity.com Cheer goes all the way back to November 2, 1898. Cheer has been around for a very long time, which is probably why it is so interesting and fun to watch. Many teams have perfected the sport over the years and it has developed from 1898 to now. There are even shows to show the amazing sport, for example, the documentary "Cheer."

Breanne Schneider



8th grader Breanne Schneider, has been doing cheer for 5 years, and she said she loves the sport. "I like cheer because it's fun to be part of a team and I like working with other people." Breanne loves stunting with her teammates because it's fun working with other people and it's fun to accomplish one goal. Breanne's favorite part for stunting is being a base because it's exciting for her and the rest of the group. Because you get to help by lifting each other up

Loud and exciting cheer is a great sport to get football fans excited for the upcoming game or even at cheer competitions, it is a fun and enjoyable sport. A stunting group consists of 4 people flyer, two bases, and a backspot. "I think cheer is really fun because we get to compete against other schools," states, 8th grader, Kaylee Lang.

Addison Koss



7th grader Addison Koss has done cheer for 4 years. The reason she has done cheer is because she has had a passion for a while and she believes it's just fun. Addison's favorite part of cheer is tumbling, but she also likes basing because it's fun and she likes lifting up her teammates.

Olivia Mihailovich



8th grader Olivia Mihailovich loves cheer and has been doing the sport for 5 years. Out of both sideline and competition, Olivia prefers sideline. "I like them both, but I prefer sideline because... when we cheer they get excited," says Mihailovich. Olivia loves stunting, and her favorite part of it is being able to be a flyer, when one gets thrown into the air and can do things like twists.



Sabrina Legendre



7th grader Sabrina Legendre loves cheer because it has many aspects of dance and gymnastics, both sports that she loves. Sabrina loves doing stunts because there's a lot of different to learn and it's always just exciting. Sabrina has been doing cheer for 6 years and she has always loved doing the sport and wants to continue.

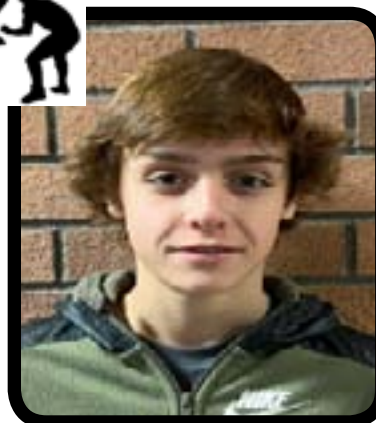
WRESTLING INSIDE SCOOP

By Anika Erskine

Oxford Middle School is heading into their winter sports season. One of the more common sports that is played is wrestling. OMS's wrestling season has been known for a very strong team. The wrestlers work hard everyday to get better for their upcoming meets. Our OMS coach Beall has a group full of excited players that can't wait to get on the mat.



8th grader Brayden Travis is one of the wrestlers on the team. He talked about how wrestling builds his endurance and strength. Brayden said, "Its not just a team sport, it is more of an individual sport where you can play the way you want to and not have to rely on other teammates to get in your way." He thinks that the season will be a better year for him and has achieved a lot.



7th grader Anthony Ascitto, is one of the wrestlers on the team and he said that "I get to run and build up my endurance and just condition after a long day of school and be productive instead of sitting at home and doing nothing." He hopes to improve with his moves like, for this upcoming season.



6th grader Cheyenne Frank is the only girl wrestler on the team. She says, "I think the work our is one of the most challenging things and not to mention being the only girl gets hard because nobody wants to be your partner for activities." Cheyenne believes that 2020 will have a good turn out for the season.

At Oxford Middle School, Micah Ropper is stretching his arms before his match. Last year the team had only lost one match the whole season. Wrestling Coach Beall, stated, "I think it's a great sport for character building. It really teaches the value of hard work, discipline, and sacrifice. It is definitely not an easy sport and it is not for everyone. We push the kids hard to get the best benefit from it. And if they are still around at the end they tried really hard and pushed themselves to do their best."



Lacrosse At OMS?

O MS is a place with many sports from volleyball to football, but should there be another sport added to the list? Students at OMS were asked a series of questions about adding lacrosse to the school sports offered here at OMS. According to www.armyandnavyacademy.org, “Lacrosse is now the number one choice of student sports.” Lacrosse is rapidly growing and has become very popular among students. So, the big question is, should OMS have a lacrosse team?



By Jenna Christoff



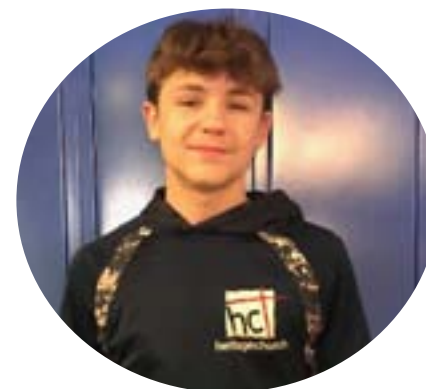
Lacrosse sticks are in mind as the season for the sport is approaching. 8th grader Lily Nouman practices with her lacrosse stick this, excited for this new season. According to laxallstars.com, “an increase of 9.6% of people play lacrosse, and over half of those people under age 15.” Lily commented, “I feel like lacrosse is both a fun sport to watch, and to play and I can’t wait for the season to start.”



6th grader Payton Scott thinks that OMS should include a lacrosse team because it would be fun to have as a sport. He thinks that lacrosse should be open to all grades so everyone can try to play, and that people should try out for lacrosse so that students should get the chance to see if they could handle the sport and if they like it. When asked if he would participate in lacrosse, he responded by saying, “I would participate because it would be fun to communicate with the team and play the sport.”



7th grader Skye Nahas supports the idea that OMS should have a lacrosse team because a lot of OMS students enjoy lacrosse. She thinks that lacrosse should be open to all grades and everyone should be able to try out because there may not be enough kids to play on a team. When asked if she would participate in lacrosse she responded by saying, “I would participate if I wasn’t so busy after school.”



8th grader Jacob Chouinard thinks that OMS should have a lacrosse team. He thinks that lacrosse should be open to all grades, so everyone can play, but people should have to try out to get an idea of the team’s skill level. When asked if he would participate on the team, he responded by saying “I would because I think it would be fun and a good experience.”



PRESIDENTS' DAY



By Hayley-Kate Nelms

Every third Monday in the month of February, people enjoy a day off of work or school. Most importantly, they take some time to remember and honor U.S. presidents--past and present. But how much do you really know about this holiday known as Presidents' Day?

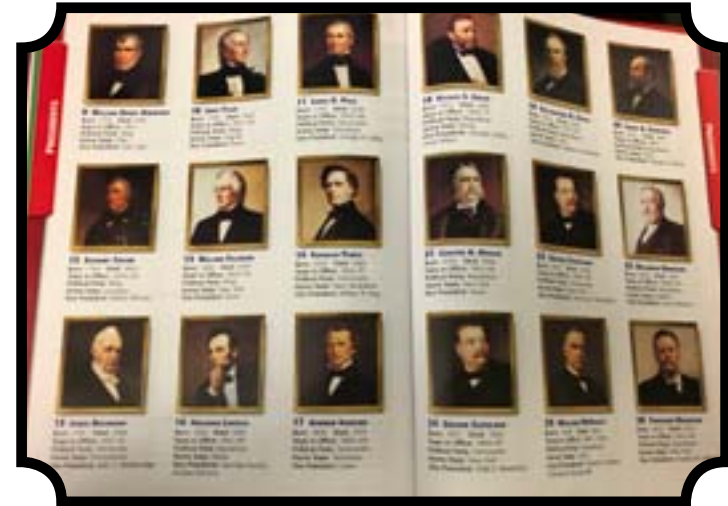
Though it wasn't declared a national holiday until 1879, Presidents' Day originated in the year 1800. A year after George Washington's death, his birthday, February 22, became an unofficial day of remembrance. Finally, in the 1870s, Washington's Birthday became an official holiday. Originally, it had only been observed in the District of Columbia, but in 1885, it was opened to the entire United States.

The transition from Washington's Birthday to Presidents' Day started in the 1960s following the Uniform Monday Act. This measure proposed to shift many holidays to pre-established Mondays. Along with other things, the Uniform Monday Act combined Abraham Lincoln's birthday with Washington's to create one holiday. Illinois Senator Robert McClory, the person behind the Uniform Monday Act, proposed that the holiday be named Presidents' Day. However, representatives from Washington's home state, Virginia, were opposed to the idea, and it was dropped.

Because the day honoring Washington's Birthday was moved, people were led to believe that the holiday was meant to celebrate both Lincoln and Washington. In the 1980s, the holiday was known all over the nation as Presidents' Day. By the early 2000s, a majority of the states had Presidents' Day printed on their calendars. However, on official calendars, the day is still marked as Washington's Birthday.

Though it was originally intended to honor Washington and Lincoln, today Presidents' Day celebrates all presidents and their service to this nation. This holiday has changed remarkably throughout history, but nothing will ever change the meaning behind it: our presidents have given up so much for this country, and we should never forget that. The president has a very important job. He has to control the army and enforce laws that Congress makes, ensuring that they will benefit the nation. So this Presidents' Day, make an effort to remember all that our amazing presidents have done to keep you safe and free.

Reference: <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/presidents-day>



Every four years in November, a new United States President is elected. There have been 45 presidents in US History- each of them building on the nation's foundation, enriching and strengthening it. "I like Abraham Lincoln because I know a lot about him," said 6th grader Eva Rayner.

6th grader Eva Rayner stated, "I think [Presidents' Day] can be about celebrating [presidents]. [The hardest part about being president would be [trying to get all the work done when everybody is trying to get pictures of you.]"

7th grader Baylie Stevens said, "I think Presidents' Day would be when we think about all the presidents we've had and what they do for us. [The hardest part about being president would be] making all the rules and [if] people would like them or not."

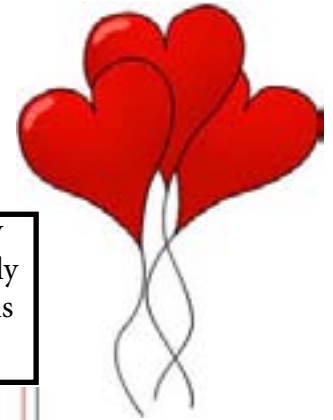
8th grader Chace Strouse stated, "[President's Day is] when we celebrate what past presidents have done for our country. [I think the hardest part about being president would be] keeping this country controlled because of the stupid stuff we do."

By: Morgan Haynes

Valentines Day!!!!



celebrating love on valentine's day



Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14. It is a festival of romantic love and many people give cards, letters, flowers or presents to their spouse or partner and with family and friends. They may also arrange a romantic meal in a restaurant. Common symbols of Valentine's Day are hearts, red roses and a Cupid.

STAFF

Mrs. Flynn says that Valentine's Day is a good idea and should be a holiday, that it should be a special day that you are honoring a day with that special someone. "My favorite part of Valentine's Day is spending time with my husband and other family"

Mr Banks stated that Valentine's Day is a special day, "My ideal Valentine's Day isn't where we have chocolates or how much money we spend on something-it's about spending time with family and friends and with that special someone."

8th grade teacher Mrs. McDonough declared that she doesn't think that Valentine's Day is a special day because there shouldn't be one day where you buy gifts and teddy bears for someone or when you take them out somewhere special it should be all the time. " But my favorite part of Valentine's Day is where you share your thoughts on that one."



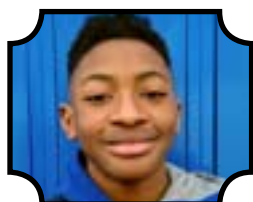
Valentines Days isnt always about giving someone a box of chocolates .its about telling that one person how you feel or even telling a friend that you are greatfull for having them . These two students are giving each other a Valentines Day card saying how much they mean to each other.

By Lily Nouman

*Celebrating Love on Valentine's Day
Boys vs. Girls*

By Evelyn Sawdon

From loving the holiday to hating it, people can have very different perspectives on Valentine's Day and how they feel about it. Valentine's Day is a holiday that is for appreciating your loved ones but only about 51% of people in America celebrate the holiday according to <https://www.statista.com>. One popular way to celebrate the holiday is by giving candy, cards or flowers to friends and family. With Valentine's Day approaching soon this year, girls and boys at OMS were asked what the day really means to them.



8th grader Miles Kimmons told us that he thinks Valentine's Day has great meaning because it can sometimes show how much you care for someone. Miles says, "I would probably give flowers or chocolate to my parents because they do a lot for me."



7th grader Dominik Shafer believes that Valentine's Day is a time to be passionate towards one another, and just being a good person to other people. Dominik stated, "I'd probably give one to my mom because she works hard and does a lot for me."



6th grader Josh Parisot thinks that Valentine's Day is a day where you can spread love to other people. While we were speaking to Josh, he mentioned, "I'd probably give the Valentine to my mom because she is nice."



Conversation hearts, licorise, Chocolates OH MY! "I really love boxes of chocolates, Valentine's chocolates just taste better." says Lea Rauh. Many people think that chocolate is the best Valentine's gift because they taste good, and it is always nice to get a little treat from someone who loves you.



8th grader Maya Bunton commented that her favorite Valentine's candy is the red heart sucker candies because she loves suckers. She also said that to her, Valentine's Day means a day full of love.



7th grader Isabella Chiuchiarelli said that Valentine's Day to her means a time to celebrate and appreciate her loved ones and her favorite Valentine's candy is the Lindor chocolates.



6th grader Emma Lijana stated that the person she would give a card to would be her great uncle because he's very important to her family and that her favorite candy is the candy hearts.

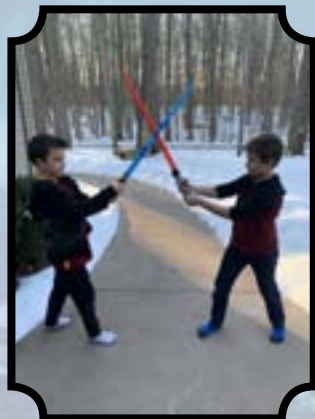


Out of 51 kids, only 3 kids like flowers!!



Amazing scents of flowers fill the air on Valentine's Day as it's a popular gift to give. According to Gourmetgiftbaskets.com, over 224 million flowers are sold on Valentine's Day. 8th grader Jenna Christoff commented, "I feel like flowers would be such a great gift to receive on Valentine's Day!"

Fans all over the globe are racing to see the latest Star Wars movie. Many fans have mixed opinions and feelings on *The Rise of Skywalker*. Some think that it is the best of the entire saga, while others think that it is not as good as the originals. According to Roger Cheng from New York on the CNET website, "The Rise of Skywalker clicks into place a lot of the pieces set up in *The Force Awakens*." With many cameos and references to previous movies, *The Rise of Skywalker* has it all. From its characters from *The Force Awakens* and *The Last Jedi*, to its new characters and old, *The Rise of Skywalker* fits it all into the final movie that ends the saga.



Holding their lightsabers, Nathan Redhage, 4th grader, and Andrew Redhage, 3rd grader, prepare to duel. They have had three toy lightsabers, and Star Wars has always been a big part of their lives. "I like Star Wars because all of the action and space, and the force is super cool," says Nathan.



STAR THE RISE OF SKYWALKER WARS

By: Ashlynn Redhage



8th grader Samantha O'Heron is a big Star Wars fan. Her favorite movie from *The Skywalker Saga* was *A New Hope* because it was one of the originals. "I like *The Rise of Skywalker* because it's cool how Rey kills her ancestors and becomes a better person." One of the things Samantha dislikes about *The Rise of Skywalker* is that Ben dies. She saw it at the Oxford 7. She thinks that it was totally worth seeing, and it was a good way to end the saga. Also, she thinks that the best way to watch the movies is in chronological order. She would recommend the *Rise of Skywalker* to others because it has a good story about how the force is always with us.

7th grader Jesse Lemon has seen all of the star wars movies, and he doesn't have a favorite. "I like the *Rise of Skywalker* because it's cool to see the sith come out of nowhere," Jesse dislikes the new movie because he finds it cheesy. He saw *The Rise of Skywalker* a week after it came out, and he saw it at Lapeer cinemas. He also believes that it was worth seeing because it was cool seeing the emperor come back. Even though in the saga, the movies one, two, and three came out after *A New Hope*, Jesse thinks that watching them in number order is the right way to watch it.

6th grader Luke Krawczyk has watched all of the Star Wars movies, and his favorite one is *The Rise of Skywalker* because it was really emotional. "The *Rise of Skywalker* is cool because to see all the characters from the other movies together." His least favorite part of the *Rise of Skywalker* was when Kylo Ren died because he was finally coming back to the light side. Luke saw the *Rise of Skywalker* the day after Christmas, and went to Oxford 7 to see it. He thinks that it is worth seeing because it was the sequel to all of the Star Wars movies, and he also thinks the correct order to watch them is to start at one because that is the timeline to the movies. He would also recommend the movie to others because it was the end of the saga.

The Oscar Goes To...

By: Madison Mauser



The Oscars honor the achievements made in the film industry during the past year. This year the show took place at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, California on February 9th. Winners were chosen from 24 different categories including best picture, actor, actress, supporting actor, supporting actress, director and more. Leading with most nominations this year is Joker with 11, but Once Upon a Time in Hollywood and 1917 are very close behind-both with a total of 10 nominations. To finish off “Parasite” was the big winner at the Oscars this year with a total of 4 wins.



Stunning outfits and beautiful acceptance speeches are common at the Academy awards where the biggest actors and actresses gather for an exciting night. This year is the 92nd Academy Awards. “The Oscars is a brilliant show that recognizes all of actors and actress’ hard work,” says 8th grader Ellie Gieselman.



6th grader Carter Unruh says, “ Yes, I am going to watch the Academy Awards and I am hoping that Brad Pitt wins.” Brad Pitt won best supporting actor at the Oscars as Carter had hoped.



7th grader Ella Bailey says “ I am going to watch the Oscars and I hope that “Little Woman” wins.” “Little Woman” won for best costume design , making Ella Bailey’s dream come true.



8th grader Owen Murphy says, “I usually watch the Oscars with my mom and I hope that Leonardo Dicaprio wins best actor this year.” Sadly, Leonardo Dicaprio did not win this year.

ROAD TRIP TIME

By: Isabella Spezia

Route 66 is one of the most famous highways in the country. Route 66 starts in Chicago and ends in Santa Monica, California. The route is 2,448 miles long and has many things to see while on the route. Some famous stops are the Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, Texas, the Wigwam Village Motel in Holbrook, Arizona and the 66 Drive-In in Carthage, Missouri. The road was built on November 11th, 1926. Overall, the two-week trip can be a really good family road trip to experience everything and have fun.



8th grader Aaron Schiller has been on Route 66. He started the journey in Arizona and his favorite part was the desert because it was so cool and barren. It was so much different from what he has ever seen before. He stopped at least a couple times and would go again because Aaron likes Arizona and the landscape is cool down there. He ended the journey with a nice meal at a burger place.



Aaron Schiller

Famous Route 66 stretches across 8 states with a barren landscape that attracts many people. There are a total of 18 attractions on Route 66 which can take up to 3 weeks to go to all and drive the whole thing. American author John Weiss once said, "Route 66 was recently ranked the best road trip in the world."



Tommy Bremer

7th grader Tommy Bremer has also been on Route 66 before. He and his family started his journey in Arizona and his favorite part was seeing it because he has heard about it and never been on it until he went. He stopped twice and he would go again because it was really cool around there-it was just like the desert. His last stop of the journey was in a hotel in Arizona to get a good night's sleep for more journey to go back home.



7th grade teacher Mrs. Stitzel has never been on Route 66 but wants to go in the fall because she thinks it would be the prettiest time to go. Plus, people would be at school so it would not be as busy compared to in the summer. She would want to go with Mr. Salkiewicz because he is her travel buddy and they go everywhere together. Mrs. Stitzel thinks she would go for two to three weeks so she could drive and see everything there is to see.



Mrs. Stitzel



THE BLUE AND GOLD NEED TO THINK

After years of pollution and carbon emissions, the climate is starting to show the effects. Humanity needs change, and we need it fast. According to bbc.com, scientists have predicted that we only have 1 year left to change our pollution rates and stop climate change before there is nothing we can do. Climate change is caused by carbon dioxide and other pollutants that are released into the air by many things like burning coal, fossil fuel usage, engine emissions from cars, and factory emissions. When these pollutants are released into the air, they get trapped in the atmosphere. This is called the greenhouse effect, where gases emitted are trapped under a layer in the atmosphere causing heating within the planet. Because of the many emissions humans have caused, the earth has warmed by about 2 degrees since 1880. Two degrees does not seem like much, but because of this temperature increase, certain glaciers like the ice caps have melted by 30% according to Nationalgeographic.com. Some ways to reduce your personal carbon emissions include using more public transportation, using less single use plastics, reducing meat intake (particularly red meat), and not supporting large corporations that cause a lot of carbon waste. Another thing you could do is write letters to your local representative to vote for bills that support reduced carbon emissions.

More Green

By: John Hulswit



Each year, millions of tons of single use plastics are dumped into our oceans. This causes animals to digest plastics their bodies can't process. Oxford Middle School currently has only 1 main recycling bin that is in the cafeteria. The new club called the Save The Earth Club is currently working on ways to reduce the amount of waste Oxford Middle School produces by getting more recycling bins, promoting re-usable products, and raising awareness about this global threat. 8th grader Maya Derey feels that climate change is serious and dangerous. "It needs to end now," says Derey.



6th grader Andi Lessner explains the bad impact of carbon emissions on the environment. She also talks about how the school could reduce our garbage waste and we could recycle more. She said she believes she does enough by recycling as much as possible and turning off the heat when it is not needed.



7th grader Owen Kelly explains how climate change is bad, he explains how it can have a negative impact on the environment and how it is very bad. He explains that he thinks that the school is doing things to reduce their carbon footprint but could be doing more. He further explains that he does think he needs to recycle more in order to help reduce his waste output.



8th grade science teacher Ms. Werner talks about being vegan and why. "I really like it. I feel better, I feel a lot healthier and I feel like I'm making a better impact on the environment. I am vegan mainly for animal rights reasons, but that goes hand and hand with climate reasons. I think I need to reduce my single use plastic usage by a lot. I use a lot of plastic iced tea bottles. I also use a lot of those plastic fruit bags at the grocery store."

Save the Earth Club meets every other Monday from 2:30-3:30 in Ms. Learning's room!

Community/World News

FORD VS CHEVY

By: Landen Henery and Matthew Barkman

For decades there has been an ongoing battle between Chevy trucks and Ford trucks. The Chevy Silverado has been around since 1930, and Fords F Series has been around since 1948. Both of the companies claim that their truck is better than the other one. by saying it can tow more than the other one can, and it looks better than the other one.



Revealing the new 2020 Ford F-250, a great pickup truck for almost any need. The heavy-duty truck has a 13,300-pound towing capacity, which is helpful for travel. On top of that, the F-250 has six trims: XL, XLT, Lariat, King Ranch, Platinum, and Limited. The truck also has three different options for cabs. The options for the cabs are regular, extended or crew cab, with your choice of a 6.8 or 8.2-foot bed. The truck starts at \$33,000. "The F-250 is a great truck and you can use it for lots of stuff," 8th grade student Vincent Clark expresses.



Out of 25 students in a class,
18 students preferred
Chevrolet vehicles

7 students preferred Ford
vehicles

Creating another great vehicle, the 2020 Chevy Silverado 2500 is an all-around truck that can be used for almost anything. The Silverado has 5 different trims to choose from Work Truck, Custom, LT, LTZ, and High Country. The 2020 Silverado 2500 has very powerful towing and hauling capabilities for any job. With the diesel V8 and fifth-wheel/gooseneck gear, this truck can tow up to 18,510 pounds. Starting at \$34,000 the Silverado is a great all-around truck. Dan Bowyer, a retired GM engineer, stated that Chevy is the best truck because it is built on a stronger frame.



FORD VS CHEVY

By: Landen Henery and Matthew Barkman



6th grader Cayden Canham likes Ford better than Chevy. He likes that Ford had earlier cars and the cars today are of high quality. He also believes Ford is better because Ford has multiple different branches of cars. His favorite branch under the Ford name is the Mustang branch.

6th grader Hailey LeFeuvre prefers Ford cars because she was introduced to the cars by her grandpa, who taught her how the Fords work. She believes they have been the best since early models, which were advanced at the time but relatively cheap.



7th grader Aidan Ray prefers Chevy vehicles because of connections with the company. His dad works for GM, so his family owns Chevy vehicles. He hasn't had experience with Fords, which furthers his preference.

7th grader Peter White leans to the side of Ford. He prefers their cars because he has family that works for Ford. He also has knowledge about Ford vehicles, which puts him further onto the side of Ford.



8th grade Shawn Berger says that he likes Chevy better than Ford because he thinks that Chevy has parts that don't break down as often as they would on Fords.

8th grader Julian Mayin stated that he prefers Ford over Chevy for newer models because they are more reliable than Chevys. However, he likes the looks of the older Chevys.

Australia Ablaze

By: Taylor Derey

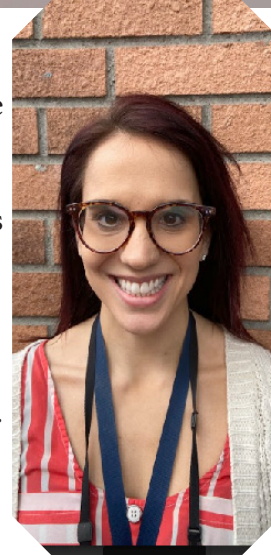
A burning sensation. Hurtful, global, and disastrous. This is the sad reality of the global phenomenon of the Australia wildfires. Forests and habitats are set ablaze at this very moment with little to stop them. The fires are spreading rapidly as life becomes too unbearable for some Australians to handle. Adding on, this harmful event is going so far as to spread to other countries such as New Zealand. Smoke and debris cloud the atmosphere, with effects of the toxic air to be in equivalent of smoking a pack of cigarettes, leading to the damaging of lungs and other parts of the body. As expected, wildlife in Australia is demonstrating burn marks on the fur and even to kill animals left in their natural habitats. According to an article by CNN, states, "Life here is unbearable my home is gone! I have no idea what to do. My life was just shattered into pieces because people can't abide by the law."



"I have a couple of family [friends] who live in Australia and they had to come back to Michigan because they have lost their home," 7th grader Allison Wedlake said when asked if she knew anyone affected by the dreadful fires that have destroyed a huge amount of wildlife and daily life in Australia.



"An idea to fix the fires and maybe limit them could be to have more PSA about the environment to the people of all countries not just Australia," 8th grader Piper Garcia said when she was asked how she would try to fix the wildfires.



"In a certain way, I feel like the wildfires are getting blown out of proportion. All the focus is on the environmental aspect, but the human impact should be more talked about as well. In perspective, I honestly just wished it was more talked about on the news," 8th grade science teacher Mrs. Werner responded when asked about her perspective on the issue.

To start a fire all it may take is a single match to set ablaze an entire forest. The carelessness of the people of Australia cause more than 800,000 hectares. For instance, an 8th grade gold student, Nevaeh Latvis, reported, "The more the fire, the more the loss. A total disaster can start from just one person. That's why it's very crucial to listen to weather advisers. Especially, when there is a drought like the one in Australia."



What Love Means to Us...

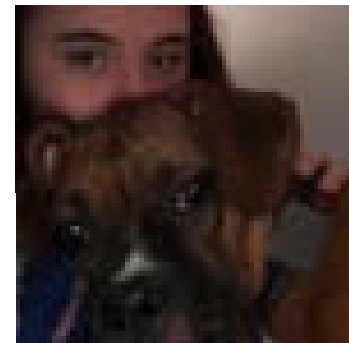
Landen Henery!



To remember a very much loved longtime teacher and coach who recently passed away, Oxford Middle School puts up the name of Mrs. Tucker in the media center. Her name is placed on a heart inside of a heart made of hearts to symbolize how much she was loved. "She was a great person to be around. I loved her as a person, a colleague, and a teacher," 6th grade teacher Mr. Keenist expresses.



Grace Morgan!!



To spending time with that special other, or special pet, and the feelings of love and joy that you feel with them. In fact, couples spend only about two and a half hours a day together according to fairy-godboss. "Whether it is spending time with my pets, or spending time with my close friends, they both bring me joy and compassion for them," states 7th grader Laura Morgan.

Lucinda Haselton!!!



To show affection on valentine's day, iconic gifts from dates and significant others tend to be stuffed animals, flowers, jewelry, and chocolate. According to Statista, 44% of people give candy, making it the most popular gift and being followed by greeting cards and flowers. "Some gifts are cute, but ice-cream soothes the soul," reported David Haselton, who gets his wife a cup of her favorite ice-cream each year.



What Love Means to Us...

Ava Bailey



To celebrate the couple's love on Valentine's Day, Jason Bailey gifts his wife a bouquet of brilliant flowers. To him, the 10 roses represent how much she truly means to him and displays his deep affection. "She is a remarkable and loving individual who deserves this special gift," noted Bailey.

Jenna Christoff



To hearts to colors, there are so many ways to celebrate Valentine's Day! 8th grader Ashlynn poses for Valentine's Day, which is on February 14th. "I always look forward to Valentine's Day because it is just a fun holiday and you get to do fun things for friends and family, like getting candy."

AnikaErskine



To the thought of hearts and love, Valentine's Day is full with people spending their time with their loved ones. On average, the total amount of money spent on Valentine's Day is about 19.6 billion dollars. Joey Bieniasz had stated, "Valentines is a time to spend with people who you love and care about even if your not in a relationship with them." <https://tinyurl.com/>

Ellie Gieselman



To succeed, outside Ava Bailey expresses love for herself by embracing her flaws. Once a day Ava cherishes and accepts who she is as a person to live a prosperous life. "I think self-love should be something that you practice every day. By doing that regularly I have boosted my self-confidence tremendously", said Bailey.

Isabella Spezia



The eye is the soul to the heart as some people say. According to Nrf.com the average person will spend \$161.96 this year. "Valentines day is ok, but it is good if I have a date" said Bella Rushlow.

Matthew Barkman



To hearts to chocolate, Valentine's day is filled with excitement and joy. When most people think of Valentine's Day, they think of

chocolate. According to ABC news every year 58 million pounds of chocolate is consumed On Valentine's Day every year. OMS secretary Becky Barkman stated that her favorite kind of Valentine's Day candy is milk chocolate.

What Love Means to Us...

Gabriela Wait



To fall in love with another is truly special, taking photos for instagram jenna Wait smiles looking at others and what there doing on this special day. Even though she had no significant other this year she could spend it with people she loves most

to her loving family. "I love posting pictures for holidays it makes me feel like I'm participating even though I'm not dating some at the moment." Wait says.



Paige Rushlow



To stay in the warmth, Madison Mauser and Ellie Gieselman take in the beauty of their backyard while celebrating their friendship for the upcoming valentines day. With it being only 3 days away they are in spirited

moods and excited for what has to come.

Haley Kate Nelms



To show their appreciation and affection for one another, many people make

Valentine's cards around the holiday. According to softschools.com, about 1 billion Valentine's are given in the United States every year. "I like making Valentine's because it's fun doing crafts," commented Sadielyn Nelms.

Sarah Spearing



To show how much one cares about their loved ones, most people look to the holiday Valentine's Day on February 14th to go above and beyond to express their love for their friends, family, significant other, themselves, and just others in general. 8th grader Maya Bunton says, "Valentine's Day is about loving each other and being

nice to each other. Also showing gratitude to your friends and family, not just a person's romantic partner." To further explain that idea, the article Valentines Day Spending Statistics, Trends, and Fun Facts (US & UK) on the website muchneeded.com states that 11.5% of people will buy themselves something for the day, 15% of women will send themselves flowers, and 9.8% will spend the evening with their friends.

Ashlynn Redhage



To their friends on Valentines Day, Nathan and Andrew Redhage gave

their treats and candy. One of the treats of theirs is Valentine's day themed Nerds, which are a huge hit for their friends, and they help to celebrate Valentine's Day! "I like to give my friends meaningful messages that I think match our friendship," explains Andrew.

Delaney Payne



As we can see Georgia is taking a break from her daily walk. Georgia's owner Makenzie says "Georgia is getting a lot better

at walking, she goes to 'dog school' 2 times a week and she is becoming very behaved". Georgia is now a 5 month old Golden Retriever.

Lea Rauh



To delicious Valentines Day candy, Allison Lukens is looking forward to eating all of her

tasty treats from all her best friends. According to <https://bit.ly/2RV7Ygc>, Valentine's Day is the second most popular day of the year for sending cards. "I love eating a bunch of yummy candy and just hanging out with the people I love on Valentine's Day" says Allison.

Samantha Yocum



Too much love is a scary thing, but when you have friends, family and more. In this photo Taylor

derey poses with a heart held above her eye, the rest of her is blurred out because we wanted to show the eye more bright and it is the first thing you see when you look at the picture.

Morgan Haynes



VALENTINES DAY. valentine's day is a special thing to everyone and it's important to take pictures and save this memory,"I take pictures mostly

to photograph the things that i love and how special it is."



What Love Means to Us...



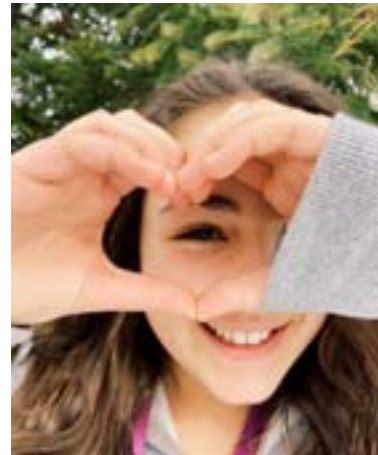
Maya Derey



To celebrate the couple's love on Valentine's Day, Jason Bailey gifts his wife a bouquet of brilliant flowers. To him, the 10 roses represent how much she truly

means to him and displays his deep affection. "She is a remarkable and loving individual who deserves this special gift," noted Bailey.

Taylor Derey



To experience a love you have to embrace it and see it in a new way. Anika Erskine has had 1 love in her life; it is her family. Erskine stated, "No doubt in my mind that family is the best love that there is to have your back."

Holden Jones



To love something means that one has a deep appreciation for a single thing, whether that may be a person, or a pet. According to finder.com, the average amount of money spent on Valentine's day presents for dogs and cats is \$17.37 and \$15.93, respectively. "I like to buy a present for my dog, since it's fun to do and she loves it every year[on Valentine's day]," said Christy Jones.

John Hulswit



To show their love for their pets, people do many things for their pets including buying toys and treats. According to iiii.org, "Sixty-seven percent of U.S. households, or about 85 million families, own a pet, according to the 2019-2020 National Pet Owners Survey conducted by the American Pet Products Association" 8th Grader Maya Derey said, "I have 3 dogs, but my favorite is my baby Shittles. He's a golden doodle, his real name is Jake but he's so sweet and I love him so much." www.valuepenguin.com claims that Americans overall spend about \$72.56 billion every year on pets. This can conclude that Americans truly love their pets.

Madison Mauser

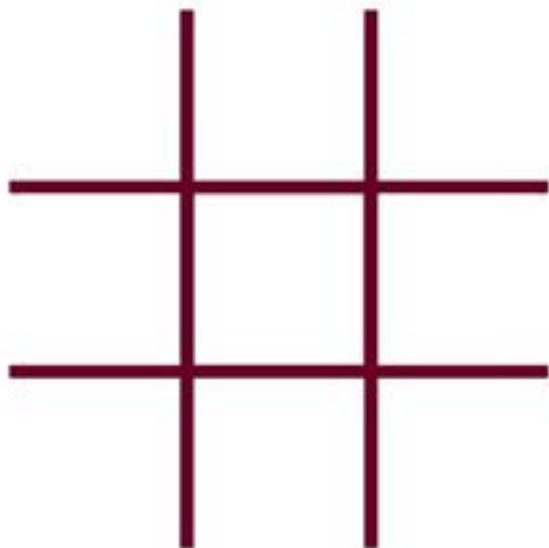
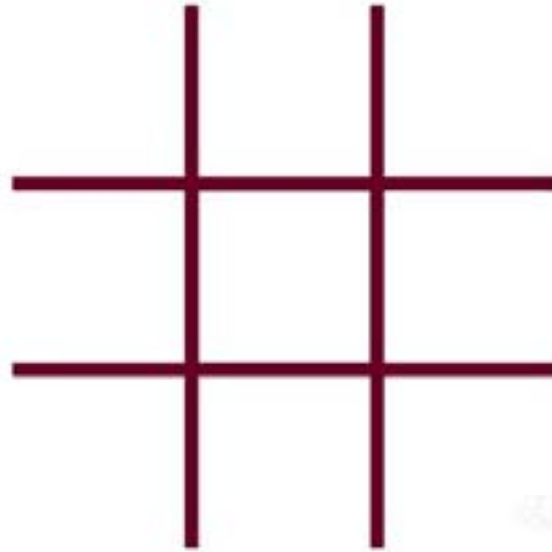
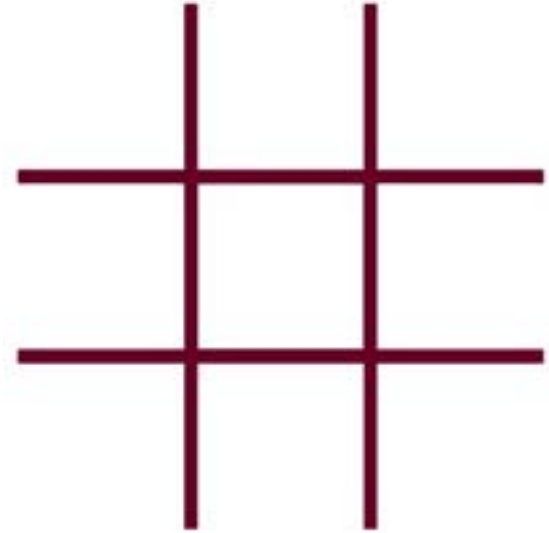


To value others friendship is what 8th graders Ava Bailey, Ellie Gieselman, and Paige Rushlow do everyday by showing the people they care about kindness and affection. The 3 girls plan to spend Valentines day with their friends and family. "Great friends is the key for having a great Valentines day" says Paige Rushlow.

Brooke Mery



To have Valentines on Valentine's Day isn't really common for teens. On the 14th of February, most people spend Valentine's Day with their Valentine, but most teens spend it hanging out with friends. Charlotte Alter, a Times Editor, explains that "over 98% teenagers don't have a lot of love for this holiday."





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CUPID
ADMIRER
SWEETHEART
CANDY
GIRLFRIEND
FEBRUARY

LOVE
FRIEND
FLOWERS
GIFT
ROSE
ROMANCE

HEART
DATE
BE MINE
PASSION
HUG

VALENTINE
BOYFRIEND
GREETING CARD
PARTY
CHOCOLATES

