

No. 3

the OWL'S PERCH

the student newsletter of Frederick Law Olmsted #156





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On This Island, Jr. Coming Soon!

If you are interested in submitting artwork, photos, or stories to the Owl's Perch, please contact us!

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Special thanks to

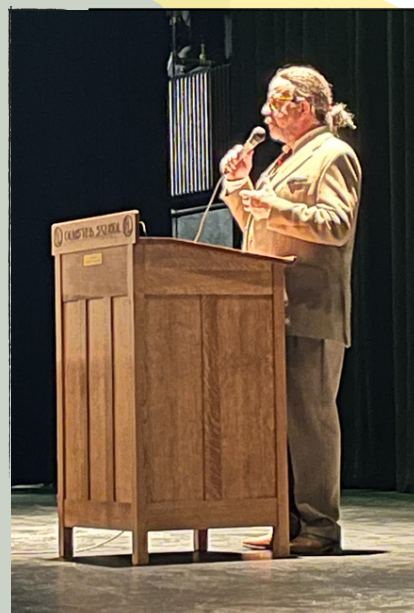
*Mrs. Henrikson, Mrs. Kopty, Mrs. Jenkins,
My Brother's Keeper, and Ms. Varallo*

ECHOES OF HISTORY:

A LIVING CONNECTION TO
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Dr. Reed Taylor, a luminary in human rights advocacy, visited our school on December 1st, leaving an indelible mark on students and faculty alike. With a storied history of service, Dr. Taylor's journey includes pivotal moments such as supporting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s family, aiding the injured on Bloody Sunday, and serving in the Peace Corps.

A distinguished American Literature teacher, he earned the title of NYS Regional Teacher of the Year in 1987. Dr. Taylor's recent engagement as a tutor for refugee children reflects his ongoing commitment to education and human rights, making his visit a poignant and inspirational experience for all.



Thanks to Mr. John
McTigue for making this
all possible.



WATCH NOW ▶

video by Adnan Hossain



CLRI Service Day '23

On December 6th, the Olmsted Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Initiatives (CLRI) Team spent the morning volunteering at **Leveling the Playing Field**. This organization tackles the growing "pay to play" barrier, providing equipment to under-resourced kids and youth programs. Sorting mountains of donated balls, bats, and pads, we felt the impact of each item: a game-changer for a disadvantaged child. Beyond equipment, Leveling the Playing Field builds community, connecting donors, programs, and most importantly, kids.



[click to
LEARN MORE](#)



SPEND A DAY WITH...

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

AT THE NFL HALL OF FAME

On Thursday December 7th, the MBK students when to the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. While we were there, we saw jerseys, visited the Lombardi Trophy, played football on the field, toured the stadium, visited the museum, saw the wall of signatures, and checked out the busts of all the NFL's greatest players and coaches.

We learned about the different jobs you could have in the NFL such as coaches, players, water staff, referees, and managers. They also had a HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) Football Hall of Fame.

The NFL Hall of Fame in Canton had not one but two holograms: an interactive movie and holographic Superbowl rings. This was a great experience for all the MBK brothers. who did a great job representing the greater MBK community.



Twenty ^{or so} Questions



What do you like about Olmsted? I like the diversity here at Olmsted, and I love that we are grades 5-12. It's neat to see students grow up.

Do you have kids? No

Do you have pets? Yes, I have two dogs, a French bulldog and a yellow lab- Theo & Berry

What's your favorite color? Orange

How long have you been teaching? 19 years

Do you like candy? Yes

What is your favorite holiday? Thanksgiving

What is the weirdest Halloween costume you have ever worn? A bag of jelly beans

What is your favorite book? To Kill a Mockingbird.

What is one of your hidden talents? Playing sports

How do you spend your summer breaks? Relaxing

What song do you know all the lyrics to? "American Pie"

If you could grow up in any decade, which would you choose? The 1970's

In which Hogwarts house would you be sorted? Hmm. I'm not into Harry Potter.

What are your must-have smartphone apps? Google Maps, Safari, Weather, and Fitness

Describe yourself in 3 words- Intuitive, fun, loving, and adventurous.

What is your dream vacation? Hawaii or Australia or New Zealand.

If you won the lottery and decided to give up teaching, what would you do instead? I would move somewhere tropical.

What makes a 'good day' at school? Successful learning with no behavior problems.

If you could pass on any wisdom to your students, what would you share? "Seize the day."

What kind of driver were you when you first got your license? Attentive and careful.

What advice would you give us kids growing up? "Be yourself. Do your best. Find the silver lining in unfavorable situations."



Ms. Varallo
by Nafisa Islam



Incentive Cart Gets Rolling

by Nabila Ghayas, Raziah Nelson, and Nora Nowakowski

The kindness tickets are a nice way to get recognized when you do a good deed. It feels very rewarding when you get prizes for being nice to each other.

The incentive cart allows kids to get prizes and snacks with their tickets. The kindness ticket program is a great way to empower our school community.

We would love any suggestions you have to make this cart better. Share your ideas with us or Mr. Russell.



Bia's Top Ten Holiday Films!

BY BIA GREEN

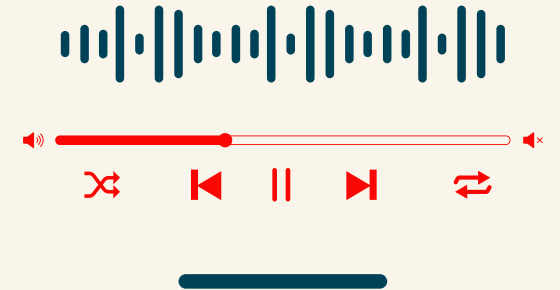

1. ***It's A Wonderful Life*** (1946) Dir. Frank Capra. One of my favorite movies in the entire world! A story about a man's life living during the Great Depression and how he affected the lives of others through kindness.
2. ***Elf*** (2003) Dir. Jon Favreau. A hilarious blockbuster film about a boy who grew up with elves and moves to New York City to find his birth father. Fun Fact: I hated this film as a child because I didn't see the kiss scene and broke my pinky finger while watching.
3. ***A Charlie Brown Christmas*** (1965) Dir. Bill Melendez. In my family, every Christmas, we watch this, and it's become our tradition. I grew up watching Peanuts and the Charlie Brown Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Specials.
4. ***A Muppet Christmas Carol*** (1992) Dir. Brian Henson. I am both a forever Muppets fan and a huge fan of Charles Dickens' writing, so you can see why I love this film.
5. ***White Christmas*** (1954) Dir. Michael Curtiz. A pretty well directed film directed by one of the greats! (Michael Curtiz: *Casablanca*, *The Adventures of Robin Hood*). My friend Noa's favorite Christmas movie (we make the media club's Spotify playlist together).
6. ***Home Alone*** (1990) Dir. Chris Columbus. An incredibly fun film written by the great John Hughes (*Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *The Breakfast Club*). This film tells a story about a boy left home alone while his family goes on vacation. While home alone, he lives a rich and prosperous life while two burglars try to break in and ruin his time.
7. ***How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*** (1966) Dir. Chuck Jones & Ben Washam. A beautifully animated film. Every Christmas, my parents and I watch this film. It's like *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.
8. ***Serendipity*** (2001) Dir. Peter Chelsom. Although some people just think this a normal romantic comedy, it's a Christmas movie! I have not seen the film, but it's on my watchlist and my mom likes it a lot. I think I would like it too because I like John Cusack.
9. ***The Polar Express*** (2004) Dir. Robert Zemeckis. A pretty well animated film. The scenery in this film is beautiful and the dance in the hot chocolate scene is super cool! It's a story of a boy who takes an extraordinary ride on a train that shows him the wonders of life.
10. ***8-Bit Christmas*** (2021) Dir. Michael Dowse. This film starring one of my favorite actors, Winslow Fegley, is about a boy trying to find any way he can be gifted a Nintendo for Christmas .



Limited
Edition

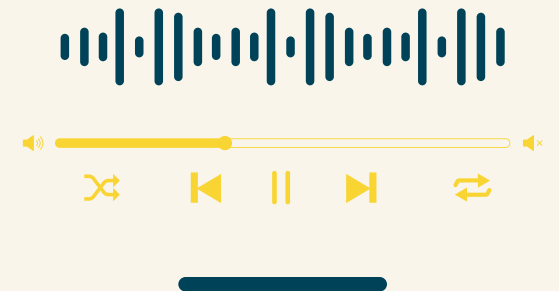



THE OLMSTED MEDIA CLUB PLAYLIST



Noa and Bia's "Christmas" Playlist

Every issue, our staff will put out a new Spotify playlist. Check out the "Christmas" playlist by **Noa Mitchell and Bia Green**. Scan the QR Code or click the images to go to the playlist.



Leon's "Winter" Playlist



Every issue, our will put out a new Apple Music playlist. Check out the "Winter" playlist by **Leon Jackson**. Scan the QR Code or click the images to go to the playlist.

Help Our Student Recognition Team Make a Change for Mental Health Awareness in January!

CHANGE FOR CHANGE

Bring in coins to your homeroom the whole month of January to raise money for NAMI mental health organization!
(info on the back)

WINNER GETS DONUTS IN HOMEROOM!!

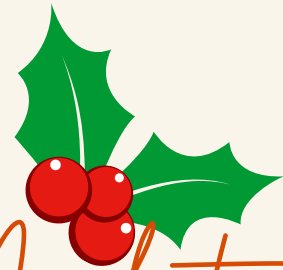


Calling all Olmsted Owls!
Get ready to
#ChangeForChange this
January with the Student
Recognition Team. Our owls
are passionate about
supporting mental health
awareness, and throughout
the month, the team is
running a fundraiser for
*NAMI, the National Alliance
on Mental Illness*. With the
help of students from 5/6,
Maggie Schmarder designed
eye-catching flyers to spread
the word. Keep an eye out for
donation boxes and ways to
get involved – let's show
NAMI some Olmsted spirit!
Remember, even small
change can make a big
difference.



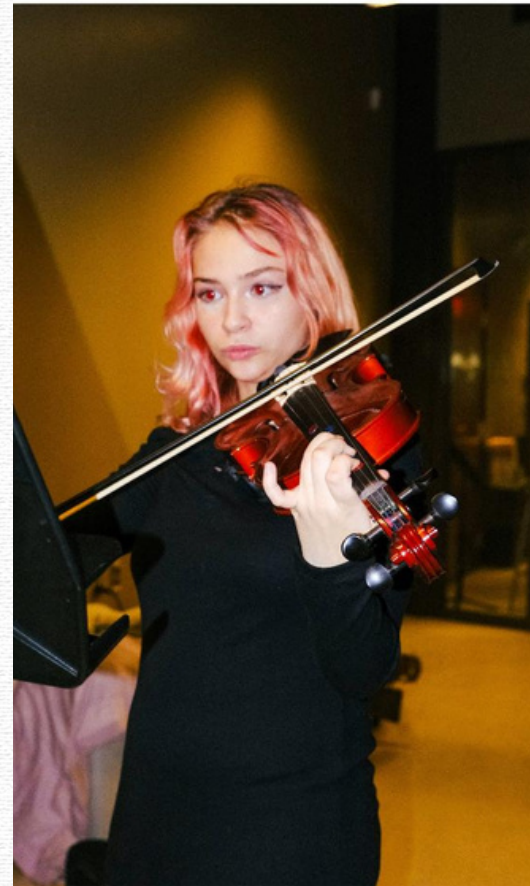
CHORUS

at the Broadway Market



...caroling away and sleighing all day!

Winter Concert 2023



visit <https://adnanmhphotography.mypixieset.com/>

Gingerbread Houses 2023

First place:

Deck the Palms

Tie for Second Place:

Santa's Cookie Crew and

Cookie Monsters

Tie for 3rd Place: The Tree

Toppers and the Jingle

Hoppers



1st



2nd



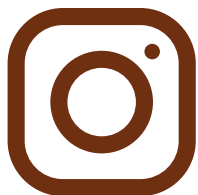
3rd



In a festive celebration of creativity and craftsmanship, Ms. Kopty and her Home and Careers 7th-grade class proudly present their annual enchanting Gingerbread Houses! These delectable creations are the result of two weeks of dedicated work by the students, who poured their hearts into every sugary detail

Spirit Week

WINTER 2023



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
@OWLNATION156

Spirit Week

TWIN DAY



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ONCE ON THIS
ISLAND R.

COMING 2024



MORE INFO

