



OTTER'S DEN STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Issue 2

2018

Goodbye, Mrs. Richardson!

by: Keegan T. & Zander B.

The principal that has run our school for longer than any of us can remember (June 2014) will be leaving this month, and will leave knowing that she changed the school forever. Mrs. Richardson is going to start at a new school with new students and teachers. But, we will not forget her after she leaves. "I didn't decide to go..." She said, "Mr. Forson,

the Superintendent of St. Johns county schools, asked me to be the principal for the new school. I couldn't say no to my boss – so I said yes. I expect the new school to be hard work, but fun."

The New School will be across from Davis Park in Nocatee. It will be 30 acres and 190,000 square feet. We wish her the best of luck!



Above: Mrs. Richardson

Welcome, Ms. Cantwell!

By Isabel Y, Anderson H and Santana H.

Mrs. Cantwell the new principal has many favorite things and many hobbies. She is from southwest Florida and she grew up in a small town called Bonita Springs. Mrs. Cantwell traveled all over the US playing competitive fast-pitch softball growing up; she also played softball in collage and coached a travel time in Julington Creek for several years.

She attended St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida where she graduated with a Bachelor's degree and Elementary Education in 3 years .

She moved to Jacksonville and started substituting in St Johns County until she was hired at Cunningham Creek Elementary School. She attended the University of North Florida (UNF) and earned her Master degree in Educational Leadership. Mrs. Cantwell worked with a variety of students and grade levels over the years. This will be the beginning of her 18th year working in St. Johns County.

Ms. Cantwell's Favorite foods includes all desserts and seafood. As a child, she refused to eat meatloaf, peas, and baked beans and still refuses to eat these foods as an adult.

As a child she would be described a tenacious leader. Ms. Cantwell was always the student on the playground organizing the other kids to play games.

It was Important to her that everybody was treated fairly. She was and still very competitive.

She believes anything can be attended if one is dedicated, determined, and disciplined in his or her efforts to achieve it.

For fun, Ms. Cantwell likes to travel, cook, and train her three German shepherds. She trains her dogs in the following languages: Spanish, German, Czech, and English. Her husband and she are training one of their dogs to be a search and rescue K9.

Ms. Cantwell is looking forward to getting to know all of the students at OPE and celebrating their accomplishments as well as we are about her! A big hearted otter welcome goes out to Ms. Cantwell. Welcome to Ocean Palms Elementary!



Ms. Cantwell gets in the spirit of celebrating Dr. Suess's birthday with Thing 1 & Thing 2.



Wizard of Oz

The Wizard of Oz was a fantastic play by Mr. Mac and Ms. Vershaws 5th grade classes!

The Wizard of Oz is not just your ordinary copy and paste play, "Why it's a twister!"

Although we are limited to only 30+ cast members, we topped it off with extra scenes

and more dances! Almost all of the students that saw this masterpiece absolutely loved it! Lets see what the rest of the news team has to say:

-Santana:

I thought the whole musical was real cool but my favorite part was when the munchkins came in and started singing at the beginning.

Ashton:

I thought all the characters did a great job, the play was amazing, I really liked it.

-Dimirti:

It was fun and exciting! I really loved the songs and dances! Especially the scene that my brother was in!

The Wizard of Oz was a fantastic piece we have worked many hard hours and days on! I strongly hope everyone who has witnessed this play has enjoyed it!

Spelling Bee

by: Ashton F.

The school Spelling Bee was on December 19 in the school cafeteria, there were 20 contestants, they all competed to move on to the district spelling bee and the winner was Shannon F. from Mrs. Nichol's class. She won on the word "Grandiose." There were many challenging words the contestants had to spell. Congratulations to and all the other contestants, and good luck Shannon!

A Student from Florida...in New York

When Alex Gates, 4th grade, told me he would be going to Carnegie Hall, I thought he was lying. Carnegie Hall is a stage in New York, but stage does not really describe it. It is huge. It can hold 3,671 people and is 201 feet high! It was built in April 1891 and when it opened, it held 281 people.

Alex said: "I played the alto saxophone to Somewhere over the Rainbow in early December 2017. I was there for 5 days. Before that, I practiced 25 minutes a day."

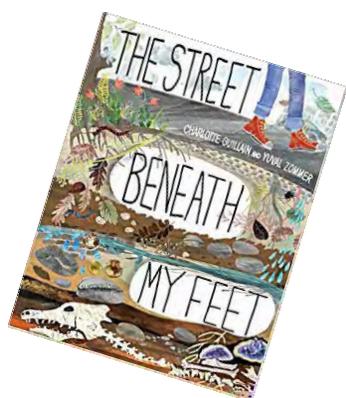


View of Carnegie Hall from the stage.

January Book of the Month Recap

by: Dimitri K.

Charlotte Guillain and Yuval Zommer wrote the January book of the month "The Street Beneath My Feet". This book is about a child that shows you what is beneath your feet. This book walks you through everything below the surface of the Earth. As you read on in this book, it shows you everything underground and inside the Earth. This book provides a fun learning of everything below. I hope you read it in January.



January Pillar of the Month Recap

by: Dimitri K.

The January character pillar of the month is respect. Respect means that you respect everybody. The St. Johns county school district, (S.J.C.S.D.) definition for respect is, "Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule- Be tolerant and accepting of differences- Use good manners, not bad language- Be considerate of feelings of others- Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone- Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreement."

We asked a teacher what respect means to them. Second grade teacher Ms. Torrente said that respect means to her is "Being polite to everyone including elders."

Habits of the Mind

by: Ashton F.

When you are taking a test, you may get frustrated. If this happens you should remember these tips.

1. Persisting:
Persisting means to keep on going! Never give up or stop, no matter what happens.
2. Managing Impulses
Do not get frustrated in tough situations. Keep calm and keep on going.
3. Listening with Understanding and empathy.
Understand others and listen to what they say.
4. Thinking Flexibly
Do not be one-dimensional. Think differently or out of the box. There is more than one way to achieve your goal!

Kinder-Garden



Above: The Kinder-Garden

By Eva S. and Zofi H.

What is the Kinder "Garden"?

The Kinder "Garden" is a project supported by the Ponte Vedra Education Foundation [P.V.E.F.]. They grow vegetables, flowers, and more.

Lucy Kate

What is your favorite part about the garden? "I love watching and learning about the plants and how they grow." What do you learn in the garden? "I learned how to keep the plants alive and keep them healthy."

Jake W.

What do you learn in the garden?"I learn a lot of math, reading, and writing." What do you do in the garden?"We have literacy centers, we learn things on I-pads, testing, we also do things on clipboards, and whiteboards."

Mrs. Mccollum
(Kindergarten teacher.)

"The kinder garden is a foundation supported garden and has weekly volunteers come in and teach the kindergartners about nature and life. They learn math, science, writing, and social studies. 'We are very thankful to have this foundation to support our school!'"

Black History month

By: Eva S., Santana H., Keegan T. and Zander B.

Black History Month is an Annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the Central role of Blacks in U.S. History. The event was the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976 the Month of February as Black History Month. This Holiday Represented the African Americans that made changes for the world.



"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."

—Dr. Mae Jemison, first African-American female astronaut

"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."

—Martin Luther King, Jr., activist

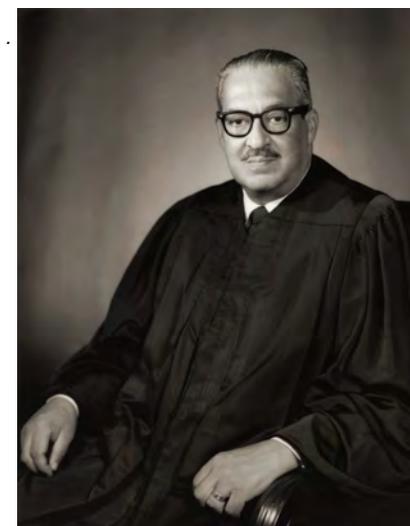


"In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute."

—Thurgood Marshall, first African American on U.S. Supreme Court

"The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression."

—W.E.B. Du Bois; American sociologist, historian, civil rights activist, Pan-Africanist, author, writer and editor



FSA Words of Encouragement

by: Zofi & Ms. Boer

As your F.S.A testing rounds are coming up, we have some thoughts and tips for you. Don't stress! **You are going to do great!** We have incredible teachers and staff members that are cheering for us and have prepared us! In case you do feel a little anxious, here are some tips to help:

1. **Don't worry!** Just take a few deep breaths. In through the nose out through the mouth.
2. Roll your neck 5 times around. Side to side then down and across the front...never behind!
3. Maybe before you take the test, do a few yoga poses for 1 minute...*if your teacher says it's okay.*
4. Fill your head with good memories of before, maybe you and your family went on a special hike or something that brings a **smile** to your face.
5. Think **POSITIVE!** Be confident in yourself and what you can do! We are all in this together as students, teachers, and staff members. Otter up! You'll do **AMAZING!**

LET'S SHOW WHAT OCEAN PALMS CAN DO!

You're **BRAVE**
& **BRILLIANT**
and **OH-SO-**
RESILIENT.