

# WILDCAT TALES

2017 Winter Edition: OLGc Snow Globe

Editor: Kit S., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Co-Editors: Sammie M., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade & Margaret M., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Jr. Editors: Maddie P., 7<sup>th</sup> Grade & Rebecca H., 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Editor In Training: Mallory V.



## About the Artist

Chris A., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

I am very excited to interview this edition's cover artist: my sister, Riya A.. Riya is in 5th grade. This cover art took her about half an hour to create, which she completed while listening to classic Christmas music. Because of the high spirits and good vibes in people's minds during this season, the Christmas season is her favorite season of the year. Riya's first thoughts about the "OLGC Snow Globe" theme included thoughts of enthusiasm and excitement, and she was interested in the concept of expressing everything about Christmas in one small sphere. Now let's move on to the details. Riya included Santa Claus with a Christmas tree because those two are stereotypical images that are often thought of by young children when thinking of Christmas. As you scan the cover art, you may notice the paw prints that fill up some of the image. According to Riya, the paw prints were included in order to express school spirit and to show OLGc's presence in Christmas. Overall, I believe that Riya's artwork is a well done masterpiece. Thank you, Riya, for your contribution to the Wildcat Tales!

## A Message from our Student Council President

Nadia G., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Hello, my fellow Wildcats! On behalf of the entire Student Council, we would like to give you, the students, a recap of the events that have taken place during the first half of the year.

We started the year strong by raising over \$500 for the "Go Pink Day" fundraiser to support Breast Cancer Awareness. In November, the Student Council hosted a fun OLGc Turkey Shoot with our prayer partners, who were very enthusiastic and supportive. Congratulations to all the students who made it to the Championship, specifically Brady D., who demonstrated his amazing shooting skills by winning the entire contest. Alongside the Turkey Shoot competition, families within our community volunteered to donate meals for the OLGc Thanksgiving Food Drive. I am very proud to say that we have donated over 600 food items for families who were unable to provide a meal for themselves on Thanksgiving.

Recently, the eighth grade students achieved a significant milestone by completing the High School Placement Test, moving one step closer towards finishing the high school application process. As we enter Advent, this month's intention is "Joyful Preparation" as we reflect on the birth of Christ. It's a time of giving and serving our families and neighbors. Have a blessed and wonderful Christmas! Remember, Wildcats: learn, love, serve, and live Jesus!

## WINTER WILDCATS

### Holiday Service

Sammie M., Co-Editor, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

The Our Lady of Good Counsel community is very generous, especially around the holidays. Here are some things that OLGc does during the holiday season.

One service project OLGc recently undertook was providing food for families in need at Clearview Elementary School. This is our third year of supplying food to less fortunate families. OLGc families brought boxes of food to the school, which were then taken to Clearview Elementary. These food boxes contained nonperishable foods, family recipes, and a \$25 gift card to Walmart. Our goal this year was to feed 100 families, and that goal was met! We also supplied families with winter coats, courtesy of the Paquette family coat drive, and fleece scarves, which were made by OLGc's Girls Scouts.

Another service project OLGc runs is Adopt-a-Family. Adopt-a-Family is a program of resettling families in the U.S. The families are adopted through Catholic Charities: Migration and Refugee Services (MRS). Our Adopt-a-Family program supports refugees by providing basic needs for them such as bedding; kitchen supplies; backpacks and other school supplies; and toiletries.

Lastly, the OLGc school and parish has a giving tree each Christmas. An abundance of toys have been placed under the school's giving tree in front of the library. These toys will be donated to poor children in order to bring some cheer into their Christmas. The church's giving tree, located in the church, has gift tags placed upon it. An item is written on each of these tags. If someone wishes to donate an item, he or she can take a tag from the tree and attach it to his or her donation. All gifts must be donated by December 17<sup>th</sup> to ensure their distribution in time for Christmas.

As you can see, OLGc is a very generous community, especially around Christmastime. Thank you for contributing to all of the community's fundraisers and projects!

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## WINTER WILDCATS continued

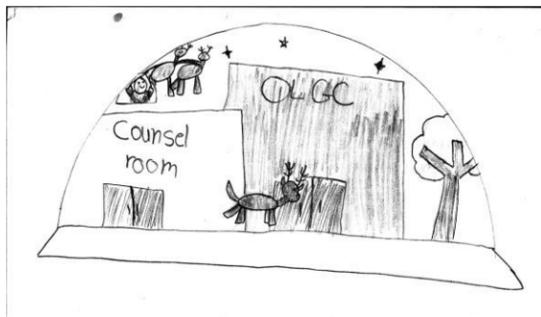
### Places to Visit During Winter Holidays

Mikayla D., 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

As the Holidays are fast approaching, I have rounded up some fun places to visit for the entire family. These places promise festive and memorable getaways that everyone will surely enjoy.

1. Christmastown in Busch Garden at Williamsburg, VA – This year, they have “Sesame Street Forest of Fun” and “Rudolph’s Winter Wonderland” attractions. Families will be amazed with millions of lights at Polar Pathway. While you are there, don’t forget to stop by the North Pole to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus!
2. Ice at Gaylord National Resort at National Harbor – It features Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. It includes stunning ice sculpture scene of the Nativity. Bundle up as the temperature is usually maintained around 9°F! Brrr...
3. Polar Express Train Ride at B&O Railroad Museum – All Aboard! Prepare your golden ticket as you board. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Each child receives the first gift from Santa: Silver Sleigh Bell!
4. Holiday Light Show – Meadowlark’s Winter Walk of Lights. The garden has animated walk of lights. You will be able to roast marshmallows and sip hot drinks by the fire. Love, love, love the s’mores!
5. The Nutcracker – Take the whole family to watch Clara’s Christmas fantasy as the wooden toy soldier comes alive! The Washington Ballet has always put on a fantastic show.
6. Ice Skating – Lace up your skates and bring the whole family for hours of gliding on the rink, or maybe a Waltz Jump or a Bunny Hop. We have Kettler’s Iceplex, Tyson’s Corner Ice Rink, and Pentagon Row Outdoor Ice Rink to name a few of popular ice rinks in the area.

These are just very few among the wonderful places to visit during the winter holidays. Lists could go on and on. But, whatever your family decides to do, being together with your loved ones will be the best experience ever. Let us not forget the real reason for the season! Have a happy and safe holiday!



Artist: **Maddie H.**  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade

### The Meaning of Christmas

Riya Alex, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

On Christmas, most families come home from church and then open their presents. When some people think about Christmas, they think about all the huge sales and gifts that they are going to get, but that is not what Christmas is about. Christmas is about good will to others. This means to give to charity and help people who are less fortunate than us. Sometimes, on Christmas, we get mad because we didn’t get what we wanted for Christmas, but have we ever thought about all the people who wish for a bite of the leftovers you throw out every day? Instead of spending all the money we have on gifts, we should set aside a portion of our money to donate to the poor and people who don’t have anyone to get them gifts. On Christmas, usually we are having a fun time with our family and friends, and when there is snow, we go out and play. Then we come inside and drink some hot chocolate or get warm. Even though we play out in the cold snow, when we get cold, we have a home to go into to get warm. Many people in the world don’t have that advantage. They must stay outside no matter what weather it is. Some kids don’t even have parents to celebrate this wonderful holiday with. We should always be thankful for everything we have. Everything we have right now is a blessing. For example, we go to a private/Catholic school. That is a real blessing. Some countries don’t even have the freedom of religion. We should always be very thankful for all that we have because if we take our blessings for granted, you never know when that blessing or privilege can be taken away. Also remember that we would not have any of these blessings without God. On Christmas, God sent Jesus to come into our world and save us from our own sins, so we should be thankful for that too.



Artist: **Fausto A.**  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade

### Wildcat Snow Globe Poem

Ella H., 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Snow globe

Snowy, white

Snowing, shaking, falling

Snowman, snow angel, cat, tail

Running, jumping, playing

Furry, wild

Wildcat



### Things I Do Not Like About Christmas

Matthew R., 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

When I think of Christmas, I think of joyful songs and decorating a Christmas tree. However, there is one Christmas song that I do not like. In fact, every time I hear that song, it gives me the shivers. The song starts off like this: “You’d better watch out,” and it already sounds creepy after the first few words. Who wants to be watched? I know that I don’t.

Don’t you hate when you cannot sleep on Christmas Eve? I know that I do. Every year I just cannot go to sleep on Christmas Eve because I am so excited about seeing what Santa brought me. Sometimes I stay up until midnight, but I still cannot fall asleep. What really makes me mad is when I wake up and see all of the presents I got, but then I realize it’s only three o’clock in the morning! My older brother and I usually wait until six o’clock to wake up our parents. In the meantime, we look in our stockings and try to figure out what we got in the presents under the tree.

I hope that everyone has a Merry Christmas.

### OLGC Christmas Mass Schedule

Rebecca H., 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### December 24 - Christmas Eve

3:30pm 5:00pm 6:30pm 8:00pm Midnight

#### December 25 - Christmas Day

8:00am\_10:00am\_Noon (Spanish)

The 3:30pm, 5:00pm, and the 6:30pm Masses are ticketed Masses. They are open to the whole parish, but because of the large demand to attend these Masses, tickets will be required. There will be no overflow Masses. The process for obtaining tickets will be through the Parish Website. Every parish family will receive an email in the early part of December with instructions on how to get tickets to the Mass they wish to attend. There will be 1000 tickets per Mass available. All tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis.

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## WINTER WILDCATS continued

### My Christmas Traditions

*Andreas M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade*

Our Christmas traditions start the day after Thanksgiving. We start by decorating outside with a winter wonderland of white lights, our 6 ft. tall snowman that waves to passers by, and an enormous wreath on our front door. Every year it's always a surprise what my mother will pull out of the garage. As soon as we finish putting all that up, we hear her say, "...and now we need to hang this; you can never have enough Christmas decorations." Where does she store all this STUFF?! *More* lights? With a jolly old laugh, she starts playing the Christmas music even louder. Our neighbors are aware of the routine, so they come around to see what else we are doing. We talk, laugh, and even start a friendly competition of Christmas lights. I think she just says that so they will put up some lights to make our neighborhood festive.

Next is the Christmas tree. Bins and bins come up from the storage in the basement. Hot apple cider and music in the background make it so fun to decorate. I'm in charge of putting up my Christmas train set that goes around the bottom of the Christmas tree. Every room has lights, trinkets, and Christmas cheer as we wait for Santa's arrival. Throughout the month, I make cookies, build a gingerbread house, wrap presents, and drive around to see all the Christmas lights in the area, always looking for the most festive house.

On Christmas Eve, we have a big turkey dinner with sweet potato, stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy, corn muffins, and an awesome marshmallow salad that is my favorite! My grandparents, aunt, uncle, and cousins come over, and we stay up very late as we have so much fun watching a comedic Christmas movie and playing games. The night doesn't end without having my mom's famous apple pie with ice cream. YUMMM, yummm, yummm.

I finally get to bed to wake up to see if Santa made a stop at my house. The tree is overflowing with gifts for everyone, even some on the couch! My grandparents come over for breakfast very early in the morning to eat pancakes, eggs, and bacon, and then we open gifts. Opening presents is fun because you do not know what is in them, and I am always surprised. How does Santa know what I wish for? Then I do a guitar show, playing Christmas carols, and that finishes our Christmas traditions.

Merry Christmas to all HO! HO! HO!



## WILDCAT UPDATES

### OLGC Care for Our Common Home Program

*Kit S., Editor, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

Have you heard of the OLGC Green Initiative Program? This year the program has changed its name to "Care for Our Common Home", from Pope Francis's Laudato Si, a document on caring for the environment. It endeavors to guide our community in recognizing the importance of how our actions affect the environment. God gave us the earth and entrusted us with the responsibility of taking care of it and fortifying it. This includes being more mindful of our actions and their consequences upon our environment.

OLGC's Care for Our Common Home Program is entering its second year at our school and Church community. The program is guided by a group of OLGC staff members, teachers, parents, and students. Father Dolan, who is the Director of Outreach for the parish, is an active member of the program. He explained, "I think the most important message or goal of program is that students and parishioners take what they've learned here in our community, and bring it back to their houses and start using these new techniques every day."

The Care for Our Common Home Program has already made such a positive impact on both our school and church in the past year. From using recyclable plates at lunch and special cloths for cleaning the lunch tables to a parish shred event, the Care for Our Common Home Program has made a significant difference for all of us and the OLGC community.

Some of you may have noticed that over the summer, new lights have been installed in the gym. These lights are called LED lights. They last longer and use less energy than the previous lights. "Even though it costs a little more to do things like this, in the long run it is much more beneficial for the environment, as it does not use as much energy," explains Father Dolan, "Here in the United States, we are fortunate to have these resources, but in other parts of the world people do not have access to things like clean drinking water or electricity throughout the day. When we preserve what we have, it is beneficial in the long run for all of us."

Looking ahead, OLGC's Care for Our Common Home Program has begun investigating new types of soaps that are more environmentally friendly and deter the use of harsh chemicals. The program will continue to encourage others to do the same in their own homes. Their overall goal is that students and parishioners take what they have learned about caring for the environment and apply their new knowledge in their own homes, proliferating their impact on their immediate environment.

### OLGC Care for Our Common Home Program continued

"We are called on as Christians to be responsible and mindful of the gift of creation that God has given us to use. We need to make sure that we use it in a way that allows the next generations to be able to use it too," says Father Dolan.

These are just a few of the many positive impacts the Care for Our Common Home Program has brought to Our Lady of Good Counsel, with many more to come. On behalf of the OLGC community, we are all very grateful to the many staff members, teachers, parents, students, and other community members who have contributed to this important program. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication! We look forward to and welcome the Care for Our Common Home Program's efforts in guiding us to help take care of our environment.



Artist: *Dina J.*  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade

### The New Vienna Community Center *CC J., 7<sup>th</sup> Grade*

The hidden gem of Vienna is just a couple minutes away from OLGC and is open 7 days a week. In 2017, the town of Vienna decided to update their facility, since the last time it was updated was in the 1990s because of indoor plumbing and putting in elevators so people who are in wheelchairs can access it.

In the year 1966, the town of Vienna built a Community Center just on Park Street, Vienna. The people of Vienna saved up all their money that the people made and built it with their own hands. Then, in 1987, the auditorium was built connected to the main building.

There are also different classes you can take if you're interested. For example, there is free youth drop-in basketball on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 3:15 to 4:45 P.M. There are also some special events being hosted by the town of Vienna in December. For example, on Monday, November 27, 2018 there is a Church Street Stroll. There is also a play happening by the Vienna Theatre called an Evening of One Acts. Opening night is on January 19<sup>th</sup> and it runs until February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. In conclusion, the Community Center is a great place for kids to hang out and have a good time.

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## WILDCAT ADVENTURES

### Papal Audience Experience

Emma L., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### When I “Almost” Met Pope Francis

If you go to Italy, the Vatican is a must see and on most Wednesdays, His Holy Father holds an audience for the tens of thousands of faithful who journey to Rome for the chance to see him. With some planning and luck on August 9 of this year, my family and I had the opportunity to be there, listen to his inspirational words, and come within inches of touching his hand as he passed the excited crowd who reached out for him like a movie star. The event was special and life-changing for me.

This incredible experience all started on a hot and humid 98-degree day while we waited in line with a sea of people to clear security and work our way through St. Peter’s Square and into the hall where the ceremony would take place. There were people from all over the world: young and old, healthy and sick, and tons of newlyweds, as we learned that if you showed up in your wedding gown, Pope Francis would meet you personally and bless the marriage.

Once we got in, we maneuvered and found the best seats to see the Pope. When Pope Francis came out, the entire building erupted screaming “Papa Francesco!” Many were waving banners, and some were even crying. Everyone was so ecstatic to see the Pope. One of the best parts about attending the papal audience is seeing and hearing Pope Francis in person. He talked about the importance of forgiving others and having a life marked by love. Near the end of the service, he had people hold up items they wanted to be blessed and I held up my rosary and a couple gifts we had bought. After the service was over, the pope blessed the married couples and greeted each one of them.

We waited patiently for him to finish and when he was done, he came up the middle aisle to bless as many people as he could. That is when he was about an inch away from my dad and I but we had the unfortunate situation to be competing for his Holy Father’s attention with a group of nuns who were on the other side of us. We certainly couldn’t blame the Pope for choosing them over us! One nun was so excited she was climbing over the other nuns and almost fell into the center aisle! But we were so close we could look into his eyes, and what we saw was amazing kindness and an incredible heart. Once he passed, we said a prayer, left the Vatican forever grateful for the experience, and then went to find some Italian gelato and talk about the incredible event we had just witnessed.

### Snow Tubing at Boulder Ridge Returns!

Rebecca H., 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Join OLGC Friends for a day of snow tubing on Friday, January 12, 2018 from 2pm to 4pm at Liberty Mountain, Carroll Valley, PA. OLGC has a half day that day. Sign up early as tubes go fast! Check the OLGC WEB site for more information.



Artist: Giavana G.  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Going to Pandora

Sophie C., 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

My family and I are going to Walt Disney World for the first time. I am excited to see Disney’s newest land: the Animal Kingdom. It is called Pandora World of Avatar. Pandora opened May 27, 2017. I am excited because there are lots of pretty things to see and cool things to do. Pandora has floating mountains. There are bioluminescent, or glow-in-the-dark, rainforests, too. Pandora has plenty of flora, pouring waterfalls, and flowing streams.

Did you know there is Pandora candy? Pandora candy is really tasty. It looks very similar to rock candy. There are also two rides in Pandora: Avatar Flight of Passage and Na’vi River Journey. Avatar Flight of Passage lets you fly over Pandora. The Na’vi River Journey takes you through caves on a reed boat. Lines can get really long because the rides are so popular. While you are waiting to ride, you can see some very interesting things. The plants aren’t the only bioluminescent things in Pandora. There are bioluminescent objects all around you throughout Pandora. I will look for them everywhere.

Pandora will definitely be a magical place to visit. I can’t wait to visit Walt Disney World!



Artist: Ella A.  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## WILDCAT REVIEWS

### Wonder Movie Review

Sofia R., 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

*Wonder* is about a boy named August Pullman. He's an ordinary 10-year-old kid, except for one thing. Auggie has a facial syndrome called man-dib-u-lo facial dysostosis, which has prevented him from going to mainstream school for the past ten years. Now, he is starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep and he is positively terrified!

As you can expect, Auggie was bullied upon entering 5th grade. Julian Albans (the bully) is a wealthy boy who slips mean notes in August's locker, spreads rumors and gossip, and calls him names. But with the help of his teachers, principal, friends, and family, Auggie gets through his 5th grade year successfully and wins a kindness award at the end.

*Wonder* is a stupendous movie and you should totally see it in the movie theater. The movie/book also tells the story from his friends', sister's, and his sister's friend's points of view to help you get better perspective into the story.

### Book Review of *The Forgetting* by Sharon Cameron

Catie B., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

*The Forgetting*, by Sharon Cameron, is about a girl named Nadia who lives in a city called Canaan. The entire city is surrounded by walls, and it is a self-sufficient environment with all the residents not knowing what lies beyond their safe homes. Every seven years, everybody forgets everything that has ever happened to them on a day called “The Forgetting”. Therefore, the citizens carry around a book that contains their whole life within it. However, Nadia hasn’t forgotten anything that has happened to her and knows who wrote lies in their books. As she and her friend Gray slowly uncover the truth about *The Forgetting* and what is beyond Canaan, they learn the value of memories and the truth that is found within in them.

I enjoyed *The Forgetting* because of its insightful look into the importance of your memories and how they define you. It was an exciting book filled with many twists and turns while uncovering the mystery of *The Forgetting*. I also enjoyed it because of the surprising ending, which I would have never expected. A part that I didn’t like was how the romance between Nadia and Gray felt forced and unnecessary. With young adult books, it seems that authors feel obligated to include a relationship when it is truly not needed.

Overall, the book was an interesting read, but in the end, was rather generic, with the only thing that kept me reading was the interesting plot. In addition, the characters were too overdone for me to enjoy them. I would give *The Forgetting* 3.5 out of 5 stars.

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## WILDCAT REVIEWS continued

### Middle School Field Trip to Paul VI High School

Lily J., 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### A Round of Applause for Paul VI

Recently, the middle school students went to see *Anastasia*, a historical fiction based on a book by Terrence McNally. This play was performed at Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax, VA. The setting of this play is in Germany, and it is about a Russian family of royalty who was murdered, including their young daughter, Anastasia. Three Russian men found an orphan on the street that had a great resemblance to the young princess, so they started teaching her to act more like the princess and convince the queen of Russia that she was Anastasia.

The technological components of this play were impeccable. The colored lights flickering on and off made the play even more interesting. There wasn't any music incorporated into the play, but it had outstanding actors. They were so impressive because they had many lines to memorize, and they didn't have time backstage to practice them! The costumes were beautiful, and it was inspiring to know that the high school students made some of them!

On the other hand, the script had a few parts that made many of the students lose interest at times. Most likely those parts would interest adults, especially those who like history-based stories. A lot of the students said that this play had many boring aspects to it, but I disagree. Even though there were a few parts that weren't as interesting, the overall concept of the play was excellent. The play seemed to have a message that they wanted the audience to grasp. I think that message is that everything is not always what it seems.

In conclusion, this play was an overall success for the actors and light crew. They definitely worked hard on this play, and it showed. A round of applause for the actors who put so much time and effort into acting and line memorization!



Artist: Daniela E.  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade

## WILDCAT CLUB

### Lego Robotics Club

Sean L., 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

OLGC is starting a new Lego Robotics Team. It will be a fun new experience for the students. Mr. Tom Flanigan will be the coach of the team. He says he likes to share his knowledge in engineering and science. Mr. Flanigan built Legos and robots as a kid. Mr. Jeff Zures and Mrs. Briody will help Mr. Flanigan manage the team.

At club meetings, the students build Lego robots from kits. The robots are built based on challenges Mr. Flanigan gives to the team. The students race their robots against other students' robots. The team will build special robots and have special challenges for Christmas. The OLGC team may also have competitions at other schools. The final competition will be at the OLGC Science Night on April 19th.

## WILDCAT SCOUTS

### Girl Scout Troop Participates in #usherchallenge

Victoria D., 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Girl Scout Troop 1673 is dancing for a cure for Usher Syndrome and we hope you will too.

Usher Syndrome is a rare genetic disorder that results in hearing loss and vision loss. Currently there is no cure for Usher Syndrome, and many people with Usher Syndrome become deaf and blind. There are about 400,000 people in the world who have Usher Syndrome. One of them is Girl Scout Troop 1673 Leader Peggy Borst.

As part of our "It's Your Story" Brownie program, troop parents encouraged Mrs. Borst to share her story. At our November troop meeting, Mrs. Borst told us about her experiences growing up with a disability, and we did activities that showed us how challenging life can be with limited vision and hearing. We wore sunglasses that had been colored on with a Sharpie so it was hard to see, and we wore ear plugs in our ears so it was hard to hear. We tried to pass a pen around, but it was hard to see, and, when one girl dropped the pen, it was very hard to find. We played the "telephone" game, but the message at the end was completely different than the one at the beginning. The activities made us laugh, but the lesson made us cry.

"As Girl Scouts is about Sisterhood, being helpful, strong and courageous, sharing my story with the girls was a beautiful experience," said Mrs. Borst. "We discussed that while my fate is uncertain and definitely scary, there is always hope and faith in God."

We then participated in the Usher Challenge (#usherchallenge). We watched a music video from olden days (the '80s) called "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," and we did

### Girl Scout Troop Participates in #usherchallenge continued

some of the funny dance moves that are in the music video. We posted a video of us dancing on [www.usherchallenge.com](http://www.usherchallenge.com).

The goal of the Usher Challenge is to raise awareness of Usher Syndrome. If you are challenged by a person who has participated in the Usher Challenge, you have two options: (1) you can share a video of yourself dancing or (2) you can donate money to fund research at the Wynn Institute for Vision Research at the University of Iowa. Sharing a #usherchallenge dance video raises awareness, awareness helps fund research, and research will lead to a cure.

Our troop plans to continue raising awareness — and to continue dancing — in February to earn our "Change a Story" and "Tell a Story" Brownie patches. We are planning a presentation about Usher Syndrome. We will invite other OLGC Girl Scouts to come, and we will share with them what we learned about Usher Syndrome. We will then make another #usherchallenge video of us all dancing together.

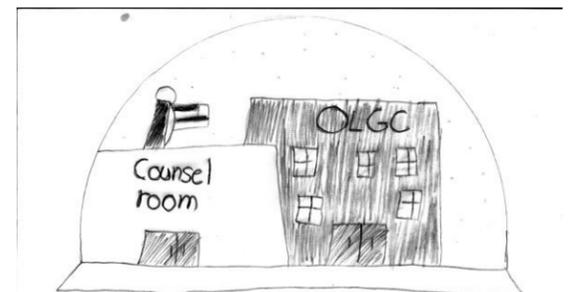
The February video will be Maria Borst's fourth #usherchallenge video. In addition to the "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" video, Maria performed in a "It's My Life" video with her mother and sister, and, on her ninth birthday, Maria posted a "Shake It Off" video and challenged Taylor Swift to participate in #usherchallenge.

"Ever since I was little, I've known that my mother has had Usher Syndrome, and I've wanted to help her with her vision and hearing," Maria explains before she starts dancing in the video. "Sometimes in life when God gives you challenges you just have to pick yourself up and shake it off."

Go to [www.usherchallenge.com](http://www.usherchallenge.com) and watch our videos. Then start dancing and share your own #usherchallenge video. Hopefully someday there will be a cure to Usher Syndrome.



Artist: Jinglian N.  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade



Artist: Maddy H.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

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## WILDCAT SCOUTS continued

### Sweets in the Counsel Room: Cub Scout Bake Off

Tony I., 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

The Pack 976 Cub Scout Bake Off on Dec. 1 drew dozens of scouts and their families to the OLGC Counsel Room to compete for several different awards and to have some fun.

In the Cub Scout Bake Off, scouts make a cake, cookie, pie, or a miscellaneous baked good to enter. Then, the entries are put on a table for the judges. The scout dens do skits while the judges taste all of the food. Following the skits, the awards begin.

Some of the award categories are Most Creative, Most Patriotic, and STEM themed. The overall best-tasting winner was first grader Alec Berg, who made cookies.

One of the scouts who won an award was fifth grader Joey M. in the cake category. He made a cake because "the piecrust was hard to make. My favorite was the M&M cake," he said. Once all the awards have been handed out, scouts and families get to eat all of the cakes, cookies, pies, and other treats.

The next major event for Cub Scouts in Pack 976 is the Pinewood Derby.

### **Girl Scouts**

Jillian S., 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

The Girl Scouts was started 105 years ago by Juliette Gordon Low. Since her nickname was Daisy, Girl Scouts in kindergarten and first grade are called Daisies. Second and third graders are called Brownies. Fourth and fifth graders are Juniors. Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders are called Cadettes.

I like being a Girl Scout because you get to work together with other people in your troop and you can make new friends. My troop leader told us that we should treat our troop members like Girl Scout sisters. I also like being a Girl Scout because it's fun and you get to do different activities.

Some stuff that we have done in my troop: craft and activities at each meeting; toured the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department; sang Christmas carols to elderly people; learned about first aid, fairness, kindness, caring for others and yourself; donated cookies to our local fire department and Ft. Belvoir USO Warrior & Family Center; and sold Girl Scout cookies during the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of cookie selling.

OLGC has many Girl Scout troops. If you want to become a Girl Scout, then ask other girls in your class if your grade has a troop that you can join! Also, you can look at this website: [girlscouts.org](http://girlscouts.org).

## WILDCAT BITES

### Christmas Ice Cream

Natalia R., 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

#### Ingredients:

3 Cups of Heavy Cream

1 Can (11 ounces) of Condensed Milk

1 Teaspoon of Vanilla Extract

Food Coloring

Candy Canes of Peppermint Sprinkles

#### Recipe:

1. In a bowl, mix heavy cream until peaks form.

2. With a spatula, fold condensed milk and vanilla extract into mixture.

3. Divide mixture into 3 bowls.

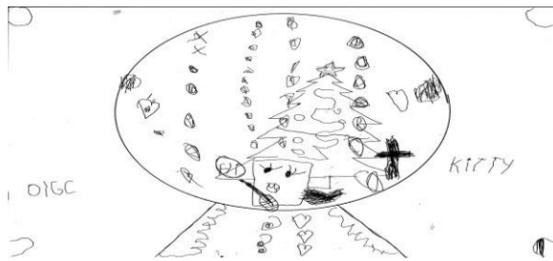
4. Add a few drops of the red food coloring into one bowl and mix until it is red. Add a few drops of the green food coloring into another bowl and mix until it is green. Leave one bowl white.

5. Combine red, green, and white mixtures into large Tupperware.

6. Crush candy cane into little pieces and sprinkle over mixture. Or, if using sprinkles, sprinkle them over mixture.

7. Put top on Tupperware and put in freezer for 5 hours.

8. Serve ice cream with cookies. MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Artist: **Gabrilie Delacourt**  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade

## WILDCAT SURVEYS

### Celebrity Rankings

Margaret M., Co-Editor, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

This Wildcat Tales edition, I decided to do something different than the regular report on the yearly happenings at OLGC. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade voted on their favorite celebrities. The most popular category out of musicians, actors, and athletes was musicians. Then came the actors, and then the athletes. The most popular votes were Liam Hemsworth and Adam Levine. Other popular people were Finn Wolfhard, John Wall, Ed Sheeran, and Beyoncé. I sure learned a lot about the 8<sup>th</sup> grade's opinions, and I hope you did too! See you next time on "Celebrity Rankings."

## WILDCAT SURVEYS continued

### Some 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Traditions

Sweetie E., 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

I asked some of my classmates what their family traditions were. Here are their answers:

Jaqueline: My mom's side of the family sings "The 12 Days of Christmas" together.

Hunter: I bake Christmas cookies with my mom.

Abby: We always make Christmas cookies and deliver them to friends.

Matthew: I bake peanut butter Hershey kiss cookies at my aunt's house.

Emilia: We open all presents from family on Christmas Eve.

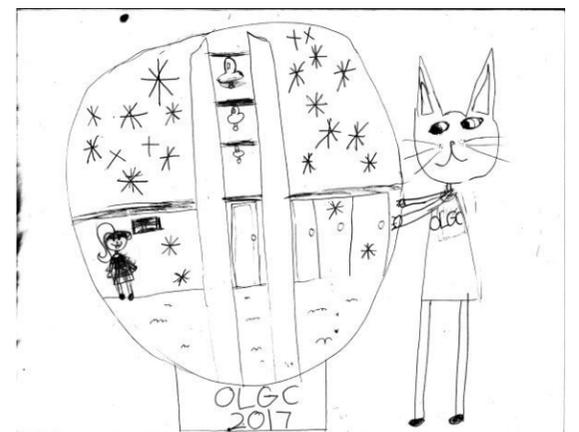
Gavin: My brother, sister, and I wake up early and wait on the stairs. We wait for our parents to come down, and then we have hot cocoa.

Mary: We go to Pennsylvania and open presents at my grandmother's house.

Raymond: We spend time with my mom's side on Christmas Eve and my dad's side on Christmas Day.

Caroline: My family gives everyone gifts and we decorate the tree together.

Matthew: Every Christmas I go to my dad's parent's house.



Artist: **Jillian S.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade



Artist: **Max H.**  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade

# WILDCAT TALES

2017 Winter Edition: OLGC Snow Globe

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Editor In Training: Mallory V.

## WILDCAT BYTES

### The New OLGC Website

Chris A., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

If you are the kind of person who checks online for homework and/or school events, then it is more than likely that you have noticed the new OLGC School website. There are mixed opinions about the format and the style of the web pages, and I will be sharing facts and opinions about our school's new central hub.

The purpose of the new website is to be more compatible with mobile devices. The web pages are designed to act more like a mobile app rather than a traditional website. On the old website, there used to be columns along the sides of the website that held most of the links for the different web pages. On the updated version of the website, most of the links are summarized in a single row along the top of the screen. Also, a large number of text and images have been updated.

Moving on to personal reflections, we have mixed opinions. A large quantity of students have differing standpoints about the new website. A certain number of students are saying that it is difficult to navigate through the web pages. They also disagree with the "improvement" in the school calendar. There is too much information displayed before the actual calendar. A party that really likes the new website design is the parents. Since most of them usually use mobile devices over desktops and PCs, it is more comfortable and versatile on cell phones.

There are many pros and cons for the new website, and it can go for good or for bad. Either way, with a little of practice, I think that we can all get used to our new central hub.



Artist: Ashley A.  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade

## WILDCAT SPORTS

### Middle School Intramural Sports

Anthony G., 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

With intramural basketball starting, let's look back on the soccer games. After a mix up in the middle of the season, teams really started showing off their talent. Teams like the Avocados from Mexico, the Lavar BallStars, and the Big Ballers started to rack up some wins. The all-girls teams like Chelsea also started to get big wins. With an average of 2-4 goals a game for each team, games were really exciting, and I for one look forward to basketball this winter.

### The Best Men's Basketball Team in the NCAA

Peter F., 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Duke University's men's basketball team is number one this year. The team started the season 10-0 and is going to win a lot more games. They check every box a good team needs: powerful drives, a strong point guard, shooting accuracy, and big men at the rim. This is because of their great starting lineup. First, at point guard, the Blue Devils have Trevon Duval. Duval is a 6'3", 186-lb freshman from New Castle, Delaware. He is going to help the team because he is a real point guard, which Duke lacked in the 2017-18 season. He had thirty assists in his first three games, and showed that he can pass the ball very well. He can also score and get the rebounds down low. He also dives all over the floor to steal the ball and start fast breaks.

Next, playing shooting guard for the Blue Devils, is Gary Trent, Jr. He is a 6'6", 209-lb freshman from Columbus, Ohio. He can shoot the ball very well (he had 117 points in his first ten games), and also find passes to his teammates. He is also a good foul shooter (92% after his tenth game) and his midrange shots are very accurate. Also playing shooting guard for Duke is the only senior, the 6'5", 205-lb Grayson Allen from Jacksonville, Florida. Allen makes a lot of three pointers, he can drive very well, and he can shoot the midrange jumper well. He is also a very good foul shooter. He is Duke's leader because he has played well in all kinds of games when the pressure was on, especially the 2015 NCAA championship game.

Playing forward for the Blue Devils is Wendell Carter, Jr., a 6'10", 259-lb freshman from Atlanta, Georgia. He is an important player because, unlike other big men, he always catches the ball with two hands, which prevents easy steals. He is very strong, so it is hard to knock him down on the defensive side. He can go to the rim to grab rebounds. He had 89 rebounds in his first ten games. He also blocks a lot of shots - 21 after ten games.

With all those players in place, Duke would have been very good. However, because of a late reclassification, they will be even better. The team had a last-minute addition in Marvin Bagley, III, a 6'11", 234-lb forward from Phoenix, Arizona. Bagley was supposed to be a high school senior this season. He was ESPN's number one player for next year's college freshman class and was supposed to start college in the 2018-19 season. However, in August 2017, right before classes began, Duke announced that Bagley had graduated from high school early and committed to play at Duke this year. Because Bagley is so good, when he reclassified, he was immediately named ESPN's number one player for *this* season. He is living up to his reputation, with 220 points and 112 rebounds in the first ten games.

### The Best Men's Basketball Team in the NCAA continued

Because of all of this, Duke is going to be very good. They are taller than a typical Duke team, they have a natural point guard, a strong senior leader, and a lot of talent. They are the team to beat this year, but I hope no one does.



Artist: Andreas M.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

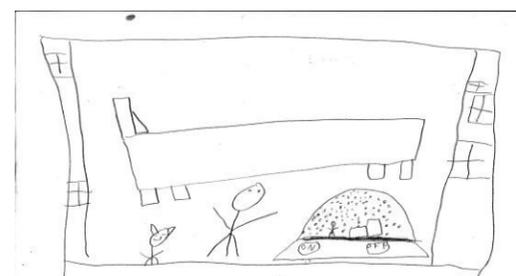
### Hockey - It's a Great Game to Watch

Landon M., 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

It's been an exciting NHL season so far, through the end of November, with most teams having played 25 games. The Pittsburgh Penguins, the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions, are off to a solid start, with a 13-10-3 record, but they are still in 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Eastern Conference. But, the Tampa Bay Lightning have the best record in the league. Led by Right Wing Nikita Kucherov, who has 17 goals and 19 assists, the Lightning are off to one of their best starts in years. Meanwhile, the St. Louis Blues are just one point behind the Lightning and have the best record in the Western Conference.

One of the most exciting teams is the expansion Las Vegas Golden Knights. In their first year of existence, they are currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the West. They won 8 of their first 9 games, including a 5-game winning streak. Alex Ovechkin, of the hometown Washington Capitals, is leading the league in goals with 18 (through 26 games). In an exciting start to the season, Ovechkin scored 9 goals in the first 4 games including two hat tricks. Sergei Bobrovsky, of the Columbus Blue Jackets, has been the hottest goalie all season. He leads the league in all major goal-tending statistics: Goals against Average, Save Percentage, Wins and Shutouts.

As we head into the heart of the season, there is a lot of excitement left. Can the Penguins make it three Stanley Cups in a row? Will this finally be the Capitals' season to win it all? And will this be Ovechkin's 8<sup>th</sup> 50-goal season in his hall-of-fame career?



Artist: Brayden P.  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade

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Editor In Training: Mallory V.

## WILDCAT HOW TOS

### How to Make a Snow Globe

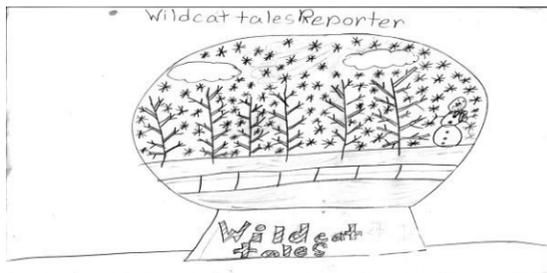
Peter F., 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### Materials:

1. A small glass jar.
2. A plastic figurine.
3. Water.
4. 2 teaspoons glitter.

#### Instructions:

1. Decide what you would like to put in your snow globe (a small Christmas tree or Santa Claus maybe.)
2. Glue, place, and stick your plastic figurine to the inside of the jar lid.
3. Fill your jar with water and add glitter.
4. Screw the lid on the jar.
5. Tip it upside down to make it snow.
6. Enjoy!



Artist: Sophie C.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

### How to Make the Best Butter Slime!

Mallory V., 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### Butter Slime Ingredients:

- 1 cup of Elmer's school glue
- 1 cup of hot water
- 1 tsp of borax (substitute with contact solution or laundry detergent)
- ½ of shaving cream
- ¼ cup of foaming hand soap
- lotion
- 1 tsp of baby oil (optional)
- coloring or glitter (optional)
- Most importantly Model magic or diaso soft clay (not Play-Doh)

#### Butter Slime Instructions:

1. Measure 1 tsp of borax
2. Add it to one cup of warm water
3. Mix until dissolve
4. Put away for later use
5. Measure one cup of Elmer's school glue
6. Add your ½ cup of shaving cream (don't add to much or it will deflate)
7. Add your ¼ of foaming hand soap
8. Add 3 pumps of lotion
9. Add your extra ingredients like baby oil, coloring, glitter, etc.
10. Mix thoroughly
11. Add your solution tsp by tsp until it's no longer sticky
12. Play with it until it's no longer stringy
13. Add lotion your clay (model magic or diaso soft clay)
14. Add clay to slime
15. Store in an airtight container
16. Enjoy

### How to Make the Best Cloud Slime!

Mallory V., 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### Cloud Slime Ingredients:

- 1 cup of Elmer's school glue
- 1 cup of hot water
- 1 tsp of borax (substitute with contact solution or laundry detergent)
- ½ of shaving cream
- ¼ cup of foaming hand soap
- lotion
- 1 tsp of baby oil (optional)
- coloring or glitter (optional)
- Instant snow

#### Cloud Slime Instructions:

1. Measure 1 tsp of borax
2. Add it to one cup of warm water
3. Mix until dissolve
4. Put away for later use
5. Put a tsp of Instant snow in a bowl
6. Add water until it's white and fluffy
7. Put away for later use
8. Measure one cup of Elmer's school glue
9. Add your ½ cup of shaving cream (don't add to much or it will deflate)
10. Add your ¼ of foaming hand soap
11. Add 3 pumps of lotion
12. Add your extra ingredients like baby oil, coloring, glitter, etc.
13. Mix thoroughly
14. Add your solution tsp by tsp until it's no longer sticky
15. Don't make too stretchy because the snow will water it down and make it more stretchy
16. Take out your bowl of pre made instant snow and add it slowly
17. It may take a few tries but then it will fall smoothly
18. Enjoy

## WILDCAT INTERVIEW

### Interview with Mr. Jones

Ian M., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Mr. Jones is a faithful, hardworking PE teacher. He was guided by God to become a PE teacher and has never lost faith in Him. Today he works as a PE teacher at OLGC, alongside Mrs. Sudduth. When I interviewed Mr. Jones, I discovered many amazing things about his career, the importance of physical education, and his favorite sports and activities:

#### Why did you want to become a PE teacher?

I didn't. I wanted to be a science guy. I was slated to train dolphins and was studying Oceanography. There were only six people in the program at the time, so they cancelled my major. So, staying in science, I was studying pre-med, playing baseball, swimming and diving, and was an assistant coach of the women's volleyball team. That's when God clearly set me in the direction of coaching, so I switched majors to Physical Education. I actually have a double major and a double minor: PE and health administration major, and an English and science minor.

#### Why is PE important in schools?

Physical education does so much for the human body. Number one is that it helps to relieve stress. With all the stress of high academics, it is important to be active. One just cannot sit all day doing academics without getting up and relieving that stress. Exercise helps the blood move and stimulates proprioceptors. It also helps develop social skills.

### Interview with Mr. Jones continued

#### What is the most fun activity that you teach during the school year?

That is just too hard to say. Everything I do here is so important in one way or another. I believe it would have to be the chance to get to model how an athlete and Christian should act and be. To do well at the higher levels and to stay in the game, one has to keep God in the forefront of all he/she does. Knowing that is fun. It clears you up to actually play outside of yourself. That's when miraculous things happen.

#### Did you teach anywhere else besides OLGC?

I taught 15 years of elementary school in the Mount Vernon District while coaching at Mount Vernon High School. Then, I transferred to Lee High School and started teaching personal fitness and training athletes. I have also taught at Langley High School, West Springfield High School, and Marshall High School.

#### What makes OLGC special to you?

Being able to share my faith openly. I used to have to come up with some great ways to get my students to ask me about my faith. Then, I could answer all their questions without crossing school policies. I was a group leader for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and I would invite my students to invite me to where they went to church. It would help stimulate open conversations in school. Praying at all times as we are taught is easier to do here. When we would say the Pledge of Allegiance and have a moment of silence, I would kneel at my desk, and that would freak people out at first.

#### What sports did you play when growing up or as an adult? What sports teams were you on?

Everything except lacrosse. It just wasn't a big thing in this area when I was a kid. In college, I was a letterman in swimming, springboard diving, and baseball. I played baseball even after my college career.

#### What is your favorite sport and why? All time, favorite sport team?

Although I played baseball and it was my favorite when I came on the coaching scene, baseball coaches would coach for one team forever. Coaches didn't move. We used to say coaches would coach the same team until they would die. So there weren't any open baseball jobs around here, so I switched to football and ended up coaching all levels in my 46-year career.

#### What Olympic sport are you most interested in for the 2018 Winter Olympics?

I love the skiing. I love to downhill myself. I could force myself to stay in my tuck and drive the strength in my legs to stay tight in my turns. Now that I'm old, I've gotten into curling. It's a technique and finesse sport. A lot of mind games.

#### What countries are you rooting for the 2018 Winter Olympics?

USA all the way!

#### What football team are you rooting for to make it to the 2018 Super Bowl?

Patriots

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## Interview with Mr. Jones continued

### What do you enjoy doing the most at home?

I like to fly fish. I live on a lake. I also like to collect rare books about George Washington. I have 275 bookplates just on George Washington. My oldest book was written in 1800, the year after Washington died and two years before his wife Martha died. I have a nice library.

I also study the desert fathers. They are the first century disciples of Christ. I study ancient writings and teachings about Christ. I have a desire to read what was written by people who were closest to the event. For example, I want to read about Washington by reading somebody that knew him, rather than a writer from the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I also want to study about the disciples and the first century Christians and what Christ trained them to continue to do. I believe He taught them how to live on Holy Ground. It was about His Heart, then about His Words, then about His Actions. He had the ability to come from His true self. He and they lived a life of examine, discernment and contemplation. They embodied living God's own deeper love. I desire this life of living God's will.



Artist: Sean L.  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade



Artist: Sabrina Z.  
Kindergarten



Artist: Peter G.  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade



Artist: Ronald N.  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade

## WILDCAT TEACHERS

### OLGC Teacher's Poll

Megan B., 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### OLGC Teachers' Favorite Christmas Movies

- Miss Boyce "White Christmas. I have always been a fan of Danny Kaye because of the movie Hans Christian Anderson. It is also kind of neat that Rosemary Clooney is from my hometown. The cartoon version of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* is also a big favorite."
- Mrs. Miller "Christmas is my absolute favorite holiday, so I have A LOT of favorite movies!!! If I had to pick one, it would be *White Christmas*. My sister and I used to sing the song 'Sisters' from that movie when we were little and whenever I watch it, it brings back such sweet memories from childhood."
- Mrs. Holden "Although I have several Christmas movies that I love, my favorite is *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. I have watched it every year since I was a child! Like the characters in the movie, we tend to get wrapped up in all the other things associated with Christmas. In the end, Linus reminds us that Christmas really is about the birth of Jesus. I like listening to the soundtrack, too!"
- Mrs. Sudduth "National Lampoons' *Christmas Vacation* because the family is very much like my own family: full of adventure and comedy. We have a tradition to watch it every Friday before Christmas."
- Mrs. Kehoe "My favorite Christmas movie is *Christmas Vacation*, because it just makes me laugh so much!"
- Miss O "*Home Alone* and *Home Alone 2* because even though I've seen both of these hundreds of times... they still make me laugh uncontrollably."
- Ms. Jones "My favorite favorite Christmas movie is *It's a Wonderful Life*. I love how George Bailey, after becoming hopeless about having nothing and seeming to have no luck, comes to appreciate all of the gifts that he has in his life. Every year when I watch, it makes me cry!"

## WILDCAT FUN

### Weird but True Fun Facts!

Aidan S., 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Did you know that our library at OLGC has a lot of *Weird but True* books? It would be a great idea for you to take one out your next library day. They are a lot of fun! Each book has a ton of pictures and fun facts. Some facts are really hard to believe! Here are some:

1. "Pope Leo X buried his pet elephant under the Vatican!"
2. "If you ate only one variety of apple per day, it would take you more than 20 years to try all the different kinds [of apples]."
3. "An artist once re-created the Mona Lisa using only pieces of toast!"
4. "During his 1905 U.S. Presidential Inauguration, Teddy Roosevelt wore a ring containing a lock of Abraham Lincoln's hair."
5. "There are more than 40,000 types of rice."
6. "America's first roller coaster hauled coal in the morning and people in the afternoon!"
7. "Early rugby balls were made from inflated pigs' bladders."
8. "A man named Santa Clause once ran for city council in North Pole, Alaska, U.S.A.!"

There are so many more fun facts in the *Weird but True* books in the school library. You will really enjoy them! Happy reading!

### Jillian's Jokes

Jillian S., 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

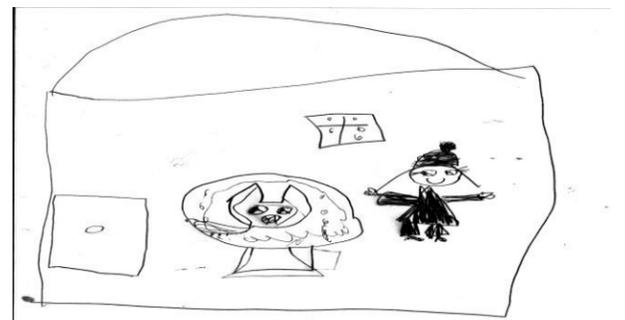
What music does the rain listen to?  
*Whatever is on the RAIN-dio!*

What do napkins eat for lunch?  
*Nap-Kin-Cheese!*

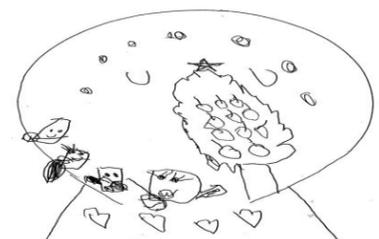
What do cameras wear to stay hidden?  
*Cameraflage!*

Where do witches live?  
*In Witchconsin!*

Why was the leaf crying?  
*Its friends were leaving!*



Artist: Winnie C.  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade



Artist: Gabrielle D.  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade

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Editor In Training: Mallory V.

## WILDCAT FUN continued

### Winter Trivia

Dave M., 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Q1. How warm can the ground temperature be and it still snow?

A1. It can be 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Q2. How big was the biggest recorded snowflake?

A2. It was 15 inches by 8 inches (120 square inches).

Q3. How many sides does a snowflake have?

A3. It has 6 sides.

Q4. When and where was Christmas first celebrated in the US?

A4. 1836, in Alabama.

Q5. What percentage of dog owners claim they buy gifts for their dogs?

A5. 70%

Q6. When is Hanukkah?

A6. Hanukkah can happen anywhere from mid-November to January. It always begins four days before the new moon.

Q7. What is the most it has snowed in the United States in 24 hours and where?

A7. 6 feet and 4 inches in Silver Lake, Colorado.

Q8. When is Kwanzaa?

A8. December 26 to New Years Day.

Q9. What state grows the most Christmas trees?

A9. Oregon.

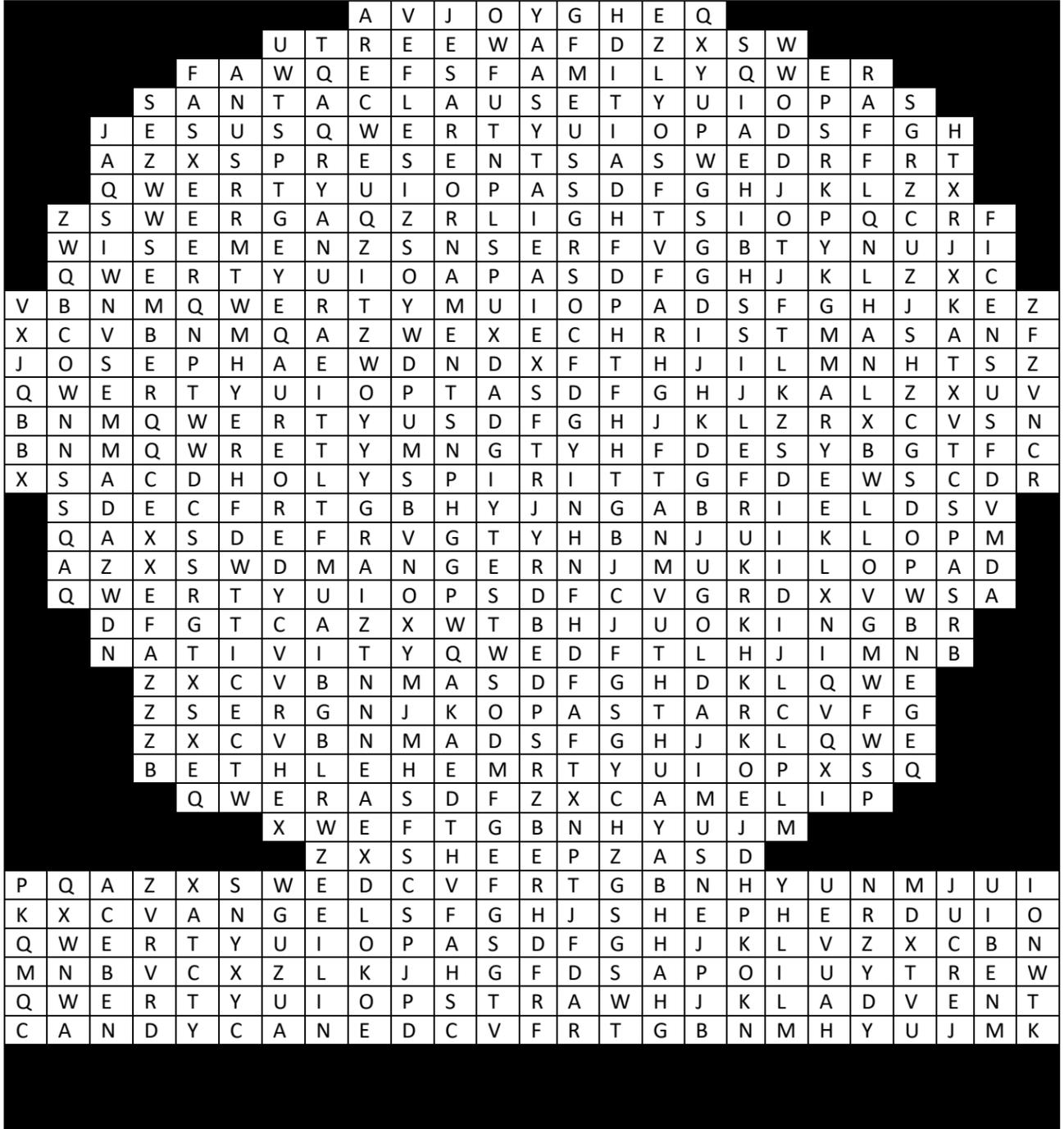
Q10. How many Christmas cards does the United States Post Office process every year?

A10. About three billion cards!

Site:  
[http://kids.lovetoknow.com/wiki/Winter\\_Trivia\\_for\\_Kids](http://kids.lovetoknow.com/wiki/Winter_Trivia_for_Kids)

### Word Search

Matthew D., 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade



|             |          |           |             |
|-------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| JESUS       | MARY     | JOSEPH    | WISEMEN     |
| FAMILY      | TREE     | ORNAMENTS | CHRISTMAS   |
| JOY         | PRESENTS | LIGHTS    | NATIVITY    |
| STRAW       | CAMEL    | SHEEP     | GOLD        |
| GABRIEL     | SHEPHERD | BETHLEHEM | CANDYCANE   |
| SANTA CLAUS | KING     | MANGER    | ADVENT      |
| ANGELS      | STAR     | CENSUS    | HOLY SPIRIT |

### Crack the Code

Kit S., Editor, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

|    |   |    |    |   |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
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| 1  | 2 | 3  | 4  | 5 | 6 | 7  | 8 | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |  |
|    |   |    |    |   |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| 19 | 1 | 14 | 20 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 1 | 21 | 19 | 9  | 19 | 3  | 15 | 13 | 9  | 14 | 7  | 20 | 15 | 20 | 15 | 23 | 14 | !  |    |  |
|    |   |    |    |   |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| 8  | 1 | 22 | 5  | 1 | 7 | 18 | 5 | 1  | 20 | 2  | 18 | 5  | 1  | 11 | !  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |

### Fan Favorite YouTubers

Maddie P., 7<sup>th</sup> Grade & Rebecca H., 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

YouTube is a website that millions of people use to watch videos, listen to music, and watch TV and movies. On YouTube, there are many different channels that you can subscribe to and get notifications when a new video is up. We asked fellow students through an online poll who their favorite YouTuber is when given two names from different categories. The first category is the favorite set of male YouTuber twins. They had the options of The Dolan Twins and The Martinez Twins. The Dolan Twins won with 80 percent of the people voting for them. When given the choice between one of the Dolan Twins, Grayson won with 54 percent of the voters and Ethan with 44 percent of the voters. The second category is the favorite female set of twins. The choices were Brooklyn and Bailey and Niki and Gabi. Brooklyn and Bailey won with 64 percent of the voters and Niki and Gabi got 36 percent of the voters. When given the choice Brooklyn vs. Bailey, Brooklyn won 65 percent to 35 percent. The third category is family friendly vlog channel. The choices were Bratayley and The McKnight Family Vlog. Bratayley won with 61 percent of the voters and the McKnight Family Vlog got 39 percent of the voters. When given the choice of one of The Bratayley sisters, Annie won 74 percent of the voters giving Haley 26 percent.

# WILDCAT TALES

2017 Winter Edition: OLGC Snow Globe

Editor: Kit S., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Co-Editors: Sammie M., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade & Margaret M., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Jr. Editors: Maddie P., 7<sup>th</sup> Grade & Rebecca H. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Editor In Training: Mallory V.

## WILDCAT FUN

### continued

#### Liam Hemsworth: 15 Fun Facts

Margaret M., Co-Editor, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

1. Liam Hemsworth has starred in movies likes *The Last Song* and *The Hunger Games*.
2. He is 27 years old and is turning 28 on January 13. (He was born in 1990 on a Saturday)
3. Liam has two brothers, Chris (Thor) and Luke.
4. He was born in Melbourne, Australia, and grew up on Phillip Island, Australia.
5. Liam now lives in Los Angeles but has been shooting a movie in Savannah, Georgia recently.
6. Liam is currently dating Miley Cyrus.
7. He is 6'3.
8. One of his best friends is Jennifer Lawrence, his costar in *The Hunger Games*, and her nickname for him is "Bear".
9. His parents' names are Leonie and Craig, and his mom taught him English at his high school.
10. Liam has brown hair and blue eyes, and his hair used to be curly but now it is straight.
11. One of Liam's passions besides acting is surfing.
12. His middle name is Keith.
13. One of his dog's is named Dora.
14. Liam's favorite animal is a squirrel because they don't have them in Australia and he says that they look like they're always up to something.
15. His new movie is coming out on Valentine's Day, 2019! It is called *Isn't It Romantic?*

#### Christmas Comic

Daniel R., 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

What's his name?  
by Danny Rice

Everyone forgets my name

Hello, my name is Jeffrey Jefferson Jr.

Santa what's my name?  
I forgot

## DEAR WILDCAT

DEAR WILDCAT QUESTION FOR YOU:

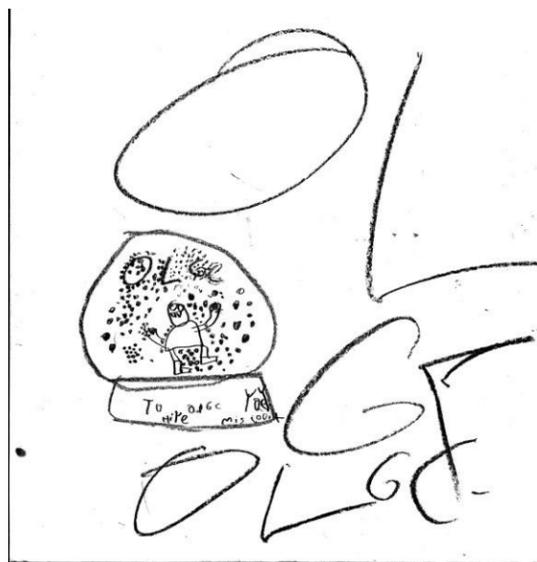
Dear OLGC Family,

*This Wise Wildcat needs your help! A few days ago my friend told me she was having trouble with another friend picking on her and she made me promise not to tell or do anything about it. She is very sad and I feel like I need to do something. If I do, it might make her mad and not trust me anymore with her problems. How can I help my friend without losing her friendship? What should I do?*

Please send your answers to the Wildcat Tales Mailbox in the school office and we will publish the top 3 answers.



Artist: Victoria D.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade



Artist: Matthew W.  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade

Dear Wildcat,

*I like this boy in my class and want to get him a gift for Christmas. He does not know I like him.*

*Should I get him one? If so, what should I get him?*

*Gift or No Gift*

Dear Gift or No Gift:

If you really want to give this person a gift, you should do it. And if embarrassment is holding you back, like maybe you think your friends will tease you for it, do it somewhere other than school. To answer what you should get him, that is up to you. Think about what he seems to like. Sports? What is his favorite candy? Candy is always a nice gift that makes most people happy. It lets people know you are thinking about them without being too serious. In the end, do whatever you are most comfortable with!

Wise Wildcat

Dear Wildcat,

*Most people in my class are looking at different high schools, taking tests, filling out applications, and shadowing. I don't need to do either because I plan on going to a public school.*

*Should I be looking at private schools even if I already know I'm going to a public school?*

*Left Out Again*

Dear Left Out Again,

You don't have to feel left out. You are probably not the only one going to a public high school next year. And if you are, it doesn't matter. The public high schools around our area are great! If you know you are already going to a public high school, I don't think you need to look at private schools. Your real friends will stay your friends wherever you go, and you will have the opportunity to meet tons of new friends. Don't put yourself down over it. You'll have a great time wherever you are!

Wise Wildcat

Dear Wildcat,

*My friends always make me get in trouble by our teacher every day. They always blame me for something I didn't do.*

*They say my name out loud and pretend I am doing something wrong. What should I do?*

*Always in Trouble*

Dear Always in Trouble:

First of all, if your friends treat you like that, then maybe they aren't your true friends. A true friend would stick up for you and say you didn't do it, or they just wouldn't put the blame on you in the first place. Maybe, you should talk to your teacher. Tell him/her what is happening. If you keep going along with it, the teacher will just think that it is you. But, if you just talk to the teacher and tell what is going on, maybe it will stop happening. Don't be afraid to stick up for yourself!

Wise Wildcat

Letters to "Dear Wildcat" can be dropped off anonymously to the school office.

# WILDCAT TALES

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Editor In Training: Mallory V.

## EDITORIALS

### U.S. Men's National Soccer Team Ostracized from the 2018 FIFA World Cup

Kit S., Editor, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

This past October, the U.S. Men's National Soccer Team (USMNT) was the topic of news programs and conversations all across the country. Unfortunately, this was not the publicity U.S. Soccer had hoped for. After suffering repeated losses in the 2018 FIFA World Cup Qualifying rounds, the USMNT did not qualify for the upcoming World Cup in Russia this summer. This was the first time such a thing has happened to the USMNT since 1986 – 31 years ago! Some people blame the coaching, and others blame the players, but what we do know for certain is that no one is taking this loss lightly. The U.S. Soccer's federation has certainly been sullied by this unfortunate outcome.

Many are saying that the USMNT's failure to qualify for the World Cup this summer in Russia is a disaster for U.S. soccer; others are saying that it is a huge embarrassment not to be condoned. Just based on population size alone, the U.S. should have had an advantage. The U.S. has a population of 327 million, but lost to Trinidad and Tobago with a population of 1.2 million. The USMNT's shocking loss in the World Cup qualifying rounds served as a wake-up call to all of us here in the United States. It chastens those that oversee and guide U.S. soccer that a different path in training the country's soccer talent must be established in order for the U.S. to catch up to other countries and compensate for its short comings.

One problem that underscores the challenges the United States faces that most international countries do not share is that soccer is one of many, many professional sports that its athletes compete in. Where in other countries, soccer is the primary sport that young athletes aspire to, here in the United States many of our most talented athletes are also playing football, basketball, and baseball. For example, two-time NBA MVP Steve Nash played soccer until joining a basketball team in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Perhaps the vast number of sport options is part of the problem for U.S. soccer?

"It is critical that we don't fall behind those countries...that have put structures in place to identify the best players and develop them in professional environments. We must continue to raise the level of the game in the U.S., so we can continue to win World Cups and Olympic gold medals, and that means we must not only develop the players, but also the coaches and get them ready for the demands the international game places on them," explains Mirriam Hickey, one of the Academy Directors of U.S. Soccer's Development Academy.

The USMNT will have another chance to earn their right to compete in the next FIFA World Cup in 2022. They now have everything to prove and that might be the best motivator of all.

### College Football Playoffs

Sammie M., Co-Editor, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

The New Year is fast approaching, and with it the college football playoffs. The playoffs will kick off at 5:00 p.m. on New Year's Day with number three Georgia playing number two Oklahoma at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, and number four Alabama playing number one Clemson at the Sugar Bowl in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans at 8:45 p.m. You can watch both of these games on ESPN.

The first semifinal game features two storied programs that have not reached the top of college football for some time. The game is a contrast of strengths: Oklahoma's offense versus Georgia's defense. Oklahoma features a high-powered offense, led by Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Baker Mayfield. Georgia has a brick wall for a defense, led by Butkus Award winning linebacker Roquan Smith. Georgia should win this game because, as the old saying goes, "offense wins games, but defense wins championships."

The second semifinal game is the third game in a trilogy, as Clemson and Alabama have faced off in the championship the past two years, with each winning one. Whoever wins this tiebreaker will have bragging rights as the best team in college football over the past three years. Clemson, the defending champions, has their strongest defense in years, but they won't be able to defeat Alabama after losing their MVP quarterback, Deshaun Watson.

The national championship game should be and all-SCC affair, with Georgia and Alabama facing off at 8:00 p.m. at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta on January 8. The championship, which was watched by 26 million last year, can be seen on ESPN.

### 8th Grade T-Shirts!

Kit S., Editor, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

One of the many OLGC traditions every year involves the 8th graders and the t-shirts that they will wear during the 8th grade vs. Teacher volleyball game. Each year, a competition is held for those who want to submit a design. Every 8th grader then votes on his/her favorite design, and the winning t-shirt is then worn by the entire grade for the volleyball game.

This year's winner of the 8th grade t-shirt design contest is Ella Martin! Her winning design is below. "I have always enjoyed art and the t-shirts are a memorable tradition for us 8th graders. I thought it would be fun to enter the contest!" explained Ella. Congratulations Ella! We look forward to seeing your design around OLGC!



### Kwame Alexander

Margaret M., Co-Editor, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Kwame Alexander, the author of *Crossover* and *Booked*, visited Our Lady of Good Counsel's middle school on December 13. He was great! His rhythmically-energetic personality livened up his storytelling. His partner, Randy, played background music as Kwame read from his book and told his story to the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. Kwame's new, creative take on presenting his story and his books to students opened many of our eyes to the fact that writing isn't all quiet and boring, but something that you can make your own. He even brought the audience members into his performance, having Mrs. Holden help him with a rap about librarians, including the students in "Crossover Jeopardy", and opening up to questions from everyone attending his truly inspirational presentation.



Artist: Reece A.  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade



Artist: Elise M.  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade