

The Scroll



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OAKLAND MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

JANUARY 12, 2018

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HEADLINES...



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Net Neutrality

The decision that will affect everyone



Photo Credit: flickr.com

Jared Nguyen
Staff Writer

Net neutrality is a principle that is focused on Title II of the Communications Act of 1934 and section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996— which essentially states that every American should have fast, effective, nationwide communication with

adequate facilities and reasonable charges (transition.fcc.gov). These rules give the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) the power to ensure that a big internet Service Provider such as Verizon, AT&T or Comcast cannot block, throttle, or interfere with web traffic and keep the Internet free. This allows consumers to share and access information freely, according to savetheinternet.com. On December 14th of 2017, the FCC

officially gutted net neutrality in a 3-2 vote. The future of the internet is now potentially in jeopardy. internet service providers could start offering internet packages similar to cable packages. This means that people could have to pay for certain websites, social media platforms, and internet speeds like they currently do in Portugal, a country without net neutrality (The Verge). What can be done to stop this is a “resolu-

tion of disapproval” by Congress, which states that “Congress may disapprove a broad range of regulatory rules issued by federal agencies by enacting a joint resolution of disapproval,” (Congressional Research Service). Only with the help of the American people contacting their local members of Congress to express their feelings about the reversal of net neutrality can this resolution be enacted.

HCPSS Redistricting

No big changes anytime soon



Photo Credit: hcpss.org

Kyle Heflinger
Photos Editor

The Howard County Board of Education has decided to cease action on high school redistricting in preparation for Howard County’s thirteenth high school,

set to be completed in the next five to six years. The board also decided to significantly decrease the effectiveness of redistricting for elementary and middle schools.

This decision came after nine months of the Board discussing

strategies—while facing backlash from members of various communities within the county. In early October, HCPSS Interim Superintendent Michael Martirano recommended that high schools be excluded from redistricting for the 2018-2019 school year, and

the focus should shift to elementary schools. The final decision is similar to Martirano’s suggestions, only differing in the details of where students of Waverly Woods Elementary should be

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The Oakland Mills Pause

An editorial view on the recent events at OM

Maggie Attridge
News Editor

That pause always gets to you. Every single student who has attended Oakland Mills knows the disparaging feeling when you have just told someone where you go to school and their breath catches, as all the stereotypes and preconceived views rush into their head, before the words, “well how do YOU like it” comes out. We have all tried to correct that predetermined view of Oakland Mills that has formed in people’s minds for years, trying to brag about how great the boys soccer team is, or explain how amazing WBAL is going to be in the coming year.

Most likely this person has never set foot on the campus or been to one of our football or basketball games. Parents might even have moved away from the area when their child was old enough, just to avoid the possibility of their offspring experiencing new and different cultures.

Recent events have only perpetuated this existing Oakland Mills stereotype, and many are calling for reform, not just at the school, but across Howard County. Activists across the county have tried to change certain reforms for how schools react to violent and nonviolent incidents, though none have proved successful. Last



Photo Credit: commons.wikipedia.org

year, Oakland Mills students organized a walkout in protest of how the school reacted to racist social media posts. They were highlighting Policy 9200, which “does not require students and staff to be informed of any ‘direct or implied threat’ made by another student,” explains the Baltimore Sun.

HCPSS Policy 9200 highlights student discipline and the strategies to control student altercations that occur in schools across the county. “{Policy 2900}... expands the tools that teachers and principles have in regards to dealing with issues, to give them more than what is

commonly accepted as punishment for infractions or rule breaking.” says Thomas McNeal, Director of Security for Howard County Public Schools. “It is not as simple as suspensions.” The policy also highlights what teachers should do when a fight breaks out, stating that, “A principal, teacher, school security guard, or other school system staff member may use the degree of force that is reasonably necessary to prevent violence, order, protect himself/herself, the students involved in the fight or struggle, and other persons in the vicinity of the confrontation.” However, it is common knowledge throughout the school system that teachers

are not allowed to intervene in fights, unless they are trained. “Short answer is no one should do anything that they don’t feel they are prepared to do, or comfortable doing. If they feel it is necessary to intervene in a situation to protect someone or themselves from violence, they should also have that ability,” argues McNeal. “But you also take a risk there whenever you intervene of doing so improperly and could cause more harm and damage.”

Oakland Mills is no stranger to disagreements among students, though we are not the only school that suffers from

these incidents. In the United States in 2014, there were about 486,400 nonfatal violent victimizations at school among students 12 to 18 years of age, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). That number has slightly decreased since then due to heightened school intervention programs across the country and an increased focus on the mental health of students. “There are a number of things that are systemic issues, among them the amount of fights are occurring, students being bullied, and students that feel less accepted or that they are not part of the individual school culture,” explains McNeal. “If I could change anything immediately it would be to address the issues of violence, bullying, and inclusion.”

Oakland Mills High School is unique in the Howard County Public School System, but not for the reasons one may think. We have the best school spirit and our sense of community cannot be beat. When we walk outside people know that we are proud to go to Oakland Mills because of the day-glo orange that covers us. As students, staff, and alumni we should take the “Oakland Mills pause” not as a setback, but as a challenge to prove to the world that we should be celebrated and recognized for our school achievements and spirit, as well as our diversity.

#MeToo

The start of a modern movement



Photo Credit: commons.wikimedia.org

Blen Asres
Staff Writer

#MeToo.
As the holiday season started in late October and November, a cultural movement began as well. Women from all over world came out to share their stories of sexual assault and sexual harassment. Women expressed that for much too long men in positions of power had been using their authority to coerce women into compromising situations. These stories reached

every media platform, from Twitter to the cover of Time magazine. Women had finally decided enough was enough.
The movement catapulted from the allegations brought forth against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein in a New York Times article released early October. The piece recounted the countless, vastly inappropriate advances various women from actress Ashley Judd to assistants were subject to under Weinstein. Judd described being asked to take a business conference in

Weinstein’s hotel room. However, instead of having a professional meeting, Weinstein asked Judd if she could give him a massage or “watch him shower.” These stories of being called into a hotel room—but actually being subject to Weinstein’s other interests—were echoed by numerous women. These stories prompted Weinstein to issue an apology stating, “I appreciate the way I’ve behaved with colleagues in the past has caused a lot of pain,

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Redistricting continued from page 1

redistricted.

In addition, a small portion of students currently at Harpers Choice and Lime Kiln Middle will be relocated to Wilde Lake and Clarksville Middle, respectively. “We have figured out a way to keep everybody in their quadrant, relieve the egregious overcrowding and allow for growth that we expect in those areas,” Board of Education Chairman Cynthia Vaillancourt commented. “It will provide some breathing room.”

In regards to high schools, the Board is hoping to draw students away from Long Reach, Centennial, and Howard High—all of which are currently overcrowded. One method is to utilize Oakland Mills’ and River Hill’s early college programs by offering them to students with trailing siblings districted for one of the overcrowded schools. The Board may also consider offering open enrollment for

these programs at Oakland Mills and River Hill, allowing students throughout the county to attend one of the schools, regardless of their district. Some students within the Long Reach, Centennial, and Howard district maybe offered open enrollment to Wilde Lake, Glenelg, or Marriotts Ridge. “In any event, high schools will be better, crowding-wise, next year,” Vaillancourt said. “It may not be cured, but it will be better.” The county will continue their planning of middle and high school redistricting to accommodate Howard County’s newest high school—referred to simply as “High School 13”—set to open in 2022. The board is currently in the process of determining the school’s location, hoping to further alleviate the crowding from Long Reach and Howard High. The primary sites under consideration are Mission Road in Jessup or a section of Rockburn Park in Elkridge. The Board’s decision on High School 13’s location is expected to be made this month.

For more information regarding redistricting, make sure to check hcpss.org for any concurring updates.

Social Media & College

Should you watch what you post?

Natalie Romero
Staff Writer

Colleges are looking at your social media—Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Should that scare you? A little bit. A 2013 study by Kaplan Test Prep suggests that out of 381 college admissions officers who answered their questionnaire, 31% said that they have, in fact, visited an applicant’s Facebook or other social network. 30% of the admissions officers discovered information online that has negatively impacted an applicant’s prospects. To some, this isn’t new information, but it presents a question not many seem to ask: are they allowed to do this?

Most colleges don’t have policies for checking an applicant’s social media. Bradley S. Shear, a lawyer specialized in social media law, thinks it is a huge problem. “Often, false and misleading content online is taken as fact,” Shear said in an interview for the New York Times. Deans of Admissions will often look at social media



Photo Credit: flickr.com

just to get a sense of what kind of person an applicant is, and if they would make a positive contribution to their community.

This is becoming common enough that high school guidance counselors are teaching their students to clean up their social media and digital footprints for the application process. There are even articles online suggesting how you should use your social media to prevent colleges from

getting the wrong idea about you. Social media is a platform for all to freely express themselves, but it’s important to keep in mind that people will see your posts and judge you from behind their screen, and there isn’t really anything you can do about it.

To all the applicants out there: make your pages private, befriend the block button, or just post conservatively.

Holiday Netflix Shows

Series that are coming and going



Photo Credit: flickr.com

Tommy Zhang
Features Editor

Netflix is a service that many teenagers and adults use to binge watch shows over a long weekend. As many Netflix subscribers know, Netflix has limited amount of space to keep a vast amount of television shows, movies, and documentaries. The selections are often oldies or outdated shows that many people do not watch often.

In December, older options such as The Crucible, America’s Funniest Videos, and Super Size Me, were moved from the Netflix database. It seems like most of the early 2000s films/shows were removed, such as the Disney

favorite Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. While there were numerous titles that met the same fate, there are more hits being added in January and throughout 2018 such as Gilmore Girls, Full House, and other nostalgic shows.

In November of last year, many members may have noticed a price increase for the subscriptions for Netflix. Based on the user’s subscription package, reported on Mashable.com, the middle tier plan moved from \$9.99 to \$10.99. The top tier plan has prices ranging from \$11.99 to \$13.99. Luckily, the basic plan is still \$7.99.

To get an understanding about the changes in price plans for Net-

flix, Micah Lee, a senior at Oakland Mills High School, shares his perspective on the issue.

“I am against paying more than what it is,” he said in regards to the price changes. “However, since my mom pays the basic plan, then it is fine.”

He also gave some insight about the shows that he likes to watch during his free time.

“I watch Friends because it is very funny. I used to watch Bob’s Burgers, but they [Netflix] took it down, it made me sad.”

Even though prices have gone up, it is still a good time to catch up on those missed shows over the weekends, or possibly to celebrate after midterms.

Brynn’s Bops:

Holiday Edition



New Year’s Day has passed, and nothing is more exciting than waking up to a world covered with glossy, white winter snow on a school day. You can find sanctuary in your blankets from the colder weather, listen to a winter hymnal, stay warm with some hot chocolate and even trudge through the fresh snow. Don’t forget to take a step outside and listen to how silent the world can be. Consider this your personal mixtape for when you want to watch the snow amid a city of stars, and for when the only thing you find besides the silence of snow is music.

Title	Artist	Album
New Year’s Day	U2	War
Snow (Hey Oh)	Red Hot Chili Peppers	Stadium Arcadium
White Winter Hymnal	Fleet Foxes	Fleet Foxes
Wait	M83	Hurry Up, We’re Dreaming
Christmas in Hollis	Run D.M.C.	Tougher Than Leather
Sound of Silence	Simon & Garfunkel	Sound of Silence
Winter	The Cure	Three Imaginary Boys
Step	Vampire Weekend	Modern Vampires of the City
Flightless Bird, American Mouth	Iron & Wine	The Shepherd’s Dog
Poems	Hippo Campus	Landmark
Fake Plastic Trees	Radiohead	The Bends
Colder Weather	Zac Brown Band	You Get What You Give

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Online Education

Is it better or worse for us?



Photo Credit: flickr.com

Leah Gaskins

Staff Writer

Human civilization as we know it is roughly only about six thousand years old, according to Universe Today. However, as time passes and our species develops new technology, lifestyles, economies and much more, our education systems grow and change as well.

For many centuries, our method of education has been face to face between an instructor and student. With incorporating more technology into our schools and lessons in recent years, it is only expected that modern education offers more online experiences, opportunities and options. So, what is eLearning, or online learning, and what does it do better than face to face learning?

Though there is no academic science or technology that provides an official definition to online learning, Tony Bates' "Online Learning for Beginners" defines it as "any form of learning conducted partly or wholly over the internet." North Carolina State University expands upon this in their 2015 article on the pros and cons of online education. They explain that an online method of education can be an effective alternative method of education for students and learners who can be self-disciplined, motivated, well-organized and have a high degree of time management skills. North Carolina State University says an online education's benefits include convenience, being less expensive, more accessible with other additional benefits. There is no commuting, learning pace constraints or travel and housing costs to classrooms. One has opportunities to work with peers not only all over the United States but around the world. Additionally, Top Education Degrees says that online learning provides a flex-

ible schedule, access to courses
twenty-four-seven and availability
to programs.

There are some disadvantages to online education, according to North Carolina State University and Jason Gaya of eLearning Industry and Top Education Degrees. Both say that learners with low motivation or unhealthy study habits may fall behind as well as students feeling more isolated from the instructor and classmates. Furthermore, there is limited social interaction, technology expenses, and may become problematic for instructors as they must constantly adapt at the speed in which technology is advancing. Other disadvantages may include the management of PC (personal computer) files, frustration with dealing with slow web connections or older computers as they may become problematic to accessing course materials, and the effectiveness of taking assessments through online courses.

Gaya also provides brief insight on what traditional learning, has to bring to the table against an online education. The advantages that come with traditional, classroom learning include face-to-face instruction, being ready to raise queries within the moment, face-to-face interaction with peers, and networking less complicated. There are also disadvantages to traditional learning. Students have to figure at the speed of the category and the category begins at a selected time. Neil Kokemuller of Classroom expands upon this by saying that traditional, classroom learning is inflexible, brings many social distractions, and demands a lot of participation from students who find this challenging.

Which is better for us, online learning or face-to-face learning? Sterling Academy faculty member Dr. James Croasmun writes about this in a 2014 article. Several studies have been conducted to

examine the effectiveness of online learning versus traditional learning, according to Croasmun. One of these studies was conducted by Karen Swan stated: "...it is clear that when compared using gross measures of learning effectiveness, students learn as much if not more from online courses as they do in traditional higher education courses." Some of her findings include that a blind review process comparing students' performances when enrolled in an online graduate course with that of the same version of the course taught face-to-face showed no significant differences and a study comparing midterm scores between students enrolled online and students at Stevens Institute of Technology found little to no differences in student outcomes. Other studies taken by Swan also showed an equivalent or increased performance of nurses in the field who graduated from online courses and programs. Thomas L. Russell in year 1999 also compared student outcomes in online and face-to-face by examining 350 studies the result that show no significant differences in student outcomes.

In summary, there are advantages and disadvantages to both eLearning and face-to-face learning that compliment some students more than others, but neither actually doing better than the other. In academic environments besides a college or university, students aren't given many opportunities to customize their education and pick between eLearning or traditional education and must adapt to face-to-face learning for the moment. However, with graduation approaching day by day, it becomes important to know how one wants to be educated and what kind of education works best for them and what they have in store for the future.

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Stress Affecting Grades

A look into pressure from education

Jalen Knight
Staff Writer

From the age of about four until the age of eighteen, school makes up a majority of a child’s life. Learning Common Core subjects such as English, math, science, history and a multitude of electives, the difficulty of each subject increases as students schooling progresses. Often with strenuous classes comes extra curricular activities, which intensifies the stress many students face. According to MedicineNet stress is defined as a state of mental or emotional strain or tension resulting from unfavorable or very demanding circumstances.

Stress is one of the things that affects the learning experience for students. When students are attempting to learn various difficult subjects in the same day, it causes an overload for the student if they aren’t able to obtain all of the knowledge from these classes. The Washington Post stated that pressure at home, at school, or in the classroom can affect the way children can perform.

Regardless of the type of schooling a student receives, stress is still a big factor in their lives. With students experiencing a demanding level of competition due to the need to get into college, teachers and parents push them, sometimes more than they should,



Photo Credit: pixabay.com

to achieve that goal. Students then look for ways to cope with all of the pressure,sometimes in ways that aren’t always healthy. theatlantic.com poses the question, “how can administrators and parents start to change the culture of stress while still pushing kids to reach their full potential?”

According to Mary Alvord, Maryland based teen psychologist, “A little stress and in moderation can be helpful to high schoolers in so many ways. It motivates them to study, to do better. It helps push them.” When stress gets too great, it’s unhealthy to the student and to the environment in one’s classroom or school.

The workload given to students can be a lot, taking into consideration the jobs or other extra curricular activities that many students may have. Homework can take students anywhere from thirty minutes to two and a half hours depending on the day. Adults are pushing children harder everyday, and being told

that they won’t be kids forever it can put a fear in them which is straining. Homework consists of working and studying for various assignments. It can stress them out more so from being exhausted from a day that is over-working a child, and that can cause a child to not care ask much about school because it is too much for to handle. This stress can result in lower grades which isn’t good for students in the long run.

There’s an easy solution to the stress problem. Teachers are told by the county to change their teaching styles and lessen the assignments given to students, which can in turn make students more attentive in class since they can have a good night’s rest from a lighter workload. It’s common knowledge that teachers and parents want their children to be successful, but that can be achieved through motivation rather than pressure, which can in turn ease the student’s mind and the amount of stress in their lives.

#MeToo *continued from page 2*

and I sincerely apologize for it. Though I’m trying to do better, I know I have a long way to go.” This statement did not stop the allegations of harassment along with sexual assault from continuing to roll in against Weinstein. As a matter of fact, what had started off as a handful of brave women making allegations turned into a worldwide movement.

As this conversation prevailed, the issue of sexual harassment began to get some light in Congress. According to Vox, it was reported that the adamant pro-life advocate and Pennsylvania representative Tim Murphy had “pressured” his mistress to get an abortion after finding that she was pregnant. This revelation brought forth allegations of the “toxic” work environment employees of Murphy were subject to. These accusations led to Murphy releasing a statement that he would not run for reelection in the upcoming Congressional elections. This was just the beginning of a look into a dark side of Capitol Hill. About a month later, The Washington Post released a shocking article against Republican and Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore. It reported allegations from four women claiming Moore had sexually harassed them in their teens. The youngest was just fourteen at the time of the alleged incident. With this, Republican

majority leader Paul Ryan came out and denounced Moore’s action and said that he should bow out. Moore released a statement saying that the “allegations [were] completely false.” Though these allegations were continuously denied by Moore’s team, he lost the contested Alabama Senate race to democrat Doug Jones.

These allegations though are just the tip of the iceberg. Countless more men in Hollywood, TV, and Capitol Hill have been accused of sexual harassment. Some of these men include actor Kevin Spacey, actor Ben Affleck, E! News anchor Ken Baker, CBS anchor Charlie Rose, comedian Louis C.K, actor Steven Seagal, and most recently, “The Today Show” host Matt Lauer. In Congress, Al Franken and John Conyer have been accused, and notably, President Donald Trump was accused of sexual misconduct by 16 women during the 2016 Presidential campaign according to The Washington Post. This movement would not have been possible without the countless voices that stood up against institutions trying to stifle their voice. Especially those that weren’t seen in the spotlight. As TIME so eloquently put it, these individuals were the “Silence Breakers,” and as a result were named TIME’s “Person of the Year.”

Does High School Prepare Students For Life?

A look at the age-old question

Lloyanne Hamilton
Staff Writer

High school is intended to be the years when you develop into an adult. Once you graduate high school, continued schooling is an option. As graduation rolls around, students are under the impression that their life’s course should be to attend college, get a job, move out of their parents house, buy their own car, or other life-changing choices.

Unfortunately, high school does not always prepare or teach us how to do some of those things. Many teenagers, regardless of how active they were in high school, leave their graduation ceremony perplexed or disoriented about what they’ll do for the rest of their lives.

Life skills, like budgeting money, are a major problem that young adults face. Yet, these skills aren’t a mandatory lesson taught in high school. Numerous high schools do include classes intended to help teach them these life lessons, but they’re offered as an extracurricular class instead of a core class.

According to Slate, only eight percent of recent graduates have taken a “foundational set of courses they’d need to be both

college- and career-ready.” Many important classes that prepare teenagers for adult life are not mandatory, are no longer available, or simply never existed at all. Classes that teach what you need to know before signing a lease, budgeting for home costs and property taxes, home safety and health, resources for those with low income, navigating the divorce process, how to prepare for pregnancy, handling money and banking with a partner, retirement income planning, homeowners and renters insurance, and voting are not taught during the most important four years of our lives.

High school also doesn’t teach us simple life skills that would help prevent depression, stress-trauma, anxiety, and more. Time magazine states that “The common source of stress involved money, with 69% of participants citing financial problems and conflicts as the primary cause of their anxiety, while 65% [cited] work, 61% noted the economy and 56% pointed to relationship angst.”

They also stated that “The most concerning trend emerging from the data, however, is the fact that most Americans don’t feel they are managing their stress well and that the health care system isn’t there to help



Photo Credit: science.dodlive.mil

them cope.” If there are concerns that the health care system is not helping young adults cope with their stress, high school curriculum writers should make it their responsibility to also help teach teenagers how to cope with the stress that they might experience once they graduate and start adult life.

Students are forced to spend innumerable hours learning how rocks are formed, why a smell travels outwards, or why a leaf is green. These hours could be going to something actually useful for life, classes that would help maintain a healthy stress-free life without financial crisis. Students should also be able to start taking

classes based off their future career choices, rather than something they have no interest in. Teenagers in high school should not be forced to have their time wasted with classes that are not preparing them for their future college and career goals.

Winter Holidays at Oak

Traditional Holiday Foods

Yummy treats from across the world



Photo Credit: flickr.com

Nancy Miranda Menendez
Staff Writer

All around the world there are different traditions as to what type of dishes people make for the holidays; every location has its own uniqueness and specialties. If you happened to have left the comfort of your home for the holidays, here are some foods from different parts of the world you may have encountered.

Tamales, which are available in many Latin countries including Guatemala and Honduras, are made of masa or dough, which is steamed in a corn husk. Making tamales typically involves the whole family, by assigning each family member a specific element of the tamale to make. At the end, all of these elements are combined and wrapped in a cornhusk, ready to be steamed for the big meal.

Pepparkakor, also known as piparkakut or piparkökas, are mainly eaten in North European countries such as Denmark and Sweden. These cookies are only as thick as a nickel and can be cut in every shape imaginable. Traditional forms take on silhouettes of sheep, pigs, and people.

Latkes, primarily found in Israel, are made for Hanukkah (also referred to as the Festival of Lights). It is a dish made of potatoes that are fried in oil, sometimes served with applesauce or a similar sweet topping.

Fish is available in Southern Italy and Rome. For the inhabitants of this area, Christmas is usually referred to as the feast of the seven fishes. Seafood is served at the end of the day on Christmas Eve. It is usually fried or cooked in oil rather than in butter. The fish is often combined with tomatoes and other local ingredients to make delicious wonders.

Bûche de Noël is a French dish that is popular during the holidays. It is a rich cake filled and rolled to resemble a log, often decorated with tyne meringue (cookies). It is traditionally served after Christmas Eve dinner as a dessert.

Buñuelo, which are known throughout Colombia, are small balls made of cheese. Though they are commonly eaten throughout the year, buñuelo surge in popularity around Christmas, when they are offered as part of buffets and served with a custard-like pudding called natilla.

Tangyuan is made up of

glutinous rice flour and is mostly known and popular in China, Japan, Korea, and other Asian countries. Depending on the location, they can be filled with sesame paste, crushed nuts mixed with coconut, or served in a sweet or savory broth. Tangyuan represents the strength of family ties in many Asian cultures.

One of the many holiday dishes that can be found in Singapore is Devil Curry. Served on December 26, or Boxing Day, it incorporates many Christmas leftovers, including: chicken, cocktail sauce, cabbage, and cucumbers. These ingredients are then stewed in a spicy rempah gravy.

Last but not least of the traditional holiday dishes is roast pig, which is commonly eaten around the holidays throughout the Philippines. A whole roasted pig is often the centerpiece of a fantastically elaborate Christmas meal.

These are only a few holiday favorites from around the world. If you ever get a chance to try one of these dishes, it is never too late to experience new things. To get out of the same old routine, to explore new places and their foods, and to interact with different cultures and traditions could expand your world view.

Holiday Column

What kind of gifts are appropriate for me to give a significant other in high school for Valentine's Day?

New Years

A new year is always a good time to think about. There are so many things that you can do to become a better person, such as exercising, reading, or saving money. If you are having a hard time deciding what to do, you don't need a New Year's Resolution, here are some ideas:



“...TO QUALIFY FOR NATIONALS AND EXCEL IN MY WORK.”
-SEUN SULE, ‘19

“...TO BE HAPPIER AND A POSITIVE PERSON.”
-KRISTEE SHMIDT, ‘18



“...TO GET FIT.”
-BAWI SANG, ‘20



“...TO GET MONEY.”
-THOMAS KATO, ‘19



“...TO ACTUALLY GET A JOB, SO I CAN MAKE MY OWN MONEY.”
-JERREL CARMICHAEL, ‘18

“...TO BE MORE ORGANIZED, GET STRAIGHT A'S, AND HAVE FUN.”
-MING NELSON, ‘20

Oakland Mills High School

School Events

Oakland Mills' holiday endeavors

Samy Bebee
Staff Writer

Oakland Mills High School has many groups that are doing various activities to help the community. On November 21, Alpha Achievers hosted a Thanksgiving dinner, from 12pm to 7pm. The dinner was free and open for everyone in the community and it fed over 250 people.

Oakland Mills also held its annual WBAL concert on December 2. The annual Concert for Kids to benefit the WBAL Radio Kids Campaign is a holiday concert which supports our community by raising funds and awareness. The concert included Oakland Mills orchestra, choir, and dance. It was run by Mr. Hale the orchestra teacher at OMHS.

Stock the Socks is another program at Oakland Mills to help the community. Stock the Socks is run by the Student Government Association (SGA) to collect new socks for people who need them. The Black Student Union (BSU) helped with Project Linus this year. Project Linus is a nation-



Photo Credit: flickr.com

wide non-profit organization that collects handmade blankets for children who need them. Students in BSU put together collection boxes and placed them around school. The collection boxes were there for anyone who would like to donate a blanket.

The National Honor Society (NHS) has started collecting food for their food pantry where they collect food throughout the year. On the last Thursday of each

month, the food collected is given away to anyone who needs it. The food pantry is open to families in Oakland Mills but it is also open to anyone who wants to come. Signs are set up outside the school to advertise the food pantry.

These are just some examples of how Oakland Mills students are helping our community in many different ways.

Dear Cupid,

(don't believe the hype).

This question is one that many high schoolers think about in too much depth. Getting a gift for your significant other when you're teenager shouldn't be too hard, after all we are all practically broke. I imagine the person you are with is understanding, loving and caring with an open mind. Therefore, any gift you get that person should be accepted and loved by them.

You don't need to be super extra about it but, flowers, chocolate and a nice dinner out will do. Most teenagers get into relationships around the holidays to participate in "Cuffing Season"

Yet, if you and this person have been together for a long time and/or you truly do love them, then I would go for something sentimental or symbolic.

Think of their favorite things in life and transform it into something dainty, delicate and cute that they can hold dear to their hearts. A necklace, bracelet, cassette tape, or something hand-made will do. People just want something that shows that you listen and care, because in reality that's all love is.

Sincerely, L (:

Resolutions

Blurb written by Chan Brown. Photos and quotes complied by Natalie Romero.

your life and make changes in your lifestyle. Come a better you, which may include working a hard time thinking about resolutions or think e some suggestions from students at The Mill...



"...TO KEEP A PART TIME JOB AT UPS."

-KYLE GISRIEL, '19



"...TO RUN A MILE UNDER 7 MINUTES."

-KESHAWN EPPS, '21



"...TO DO WELL IN SPORTS."

-KIYON & KEVIN, '21



"...TO EXECUTE MY ACADEMICS FLAWLESSLY."

-AMARI JANGHA, '19

"...TO WORK HARDER."

-JAHAN KEATON, '18

"...TO IMPROVE MY MAKEUP SKILLS, AND HOPEFULLY BECOME AN ENTREPRENEUR FOR MAKEUP."

-ANIYA ECCLESTON, '19

Varsity Basketball Schedule

Boys:

Jan. 12 at 7:00pm
Atholton at Oakland Mills

Jan. 17 at 5:30pm
Mt. Hebron at Oakland Mills

Jan. 19 at 7:00pm
Oakland Mills at Centennial

Jan. 26 at 7:00pm
Oakland Mills at Reservoir

Jan. 29 at 5:30pm
Eastern Technical at Oakland Mills

Jan. 31 at 5:30pm
Long Reach at Oakland Mills

Feb. 2 at 7:00pm
Hammond at Oakland Mills

Feb. 6 at 5:30pm
Oakland Mills at Glenelg

Feb. 9 at 5:15pm
Wilde Lake at Oakland Mills

Feb. 13 at 5:30pm
River Hill at Oakland Mills

Feb. 15 at 5:30pm
Marriotts Ridge at Oakland Mills

Girls:

Jan. 12 at 7:00pm
Oakland Mills at Atholton

Jan. 17 at 5:30pm
Oakland Mills at Mt. Hebron

Jan. 19 at 7:00pm
Centennial at Oakland Mills

Jan. 26 at 7:00pm
Reservoir at Oakland Mills

Jan. 29 at 5:30pm
Oakland Mills at Eastern Technical

Jan. 31 at 5:30pm
Oakland Mills at Long Reach

Feb. 2 at 7:00pm
Oakland Mills at Hammond

Feb. 6 at 5:30pm
Glenelg at Oakland Mills

Feb. 9 at 7:00pm
Wilde Lake at Oakland Mills

Feb. 13 at 5:30pm
Oakland Mills at River Hill

Feb. 15 at 5:30pm
Marriotts Ridge at Oakland Mills

OM Varsity Basketball Going strong

Maya Vereen
Staff Writer

The Oakland Mills basketball season has arrived and the OM community is looking forward to seeing what the Boys & Girls Varsity Teams are capable of achieving this season. The Boys Varsity Basketball team is led by Seniors Sean Chance, Chan Brown, Ke’von Simpson, Robert Burgess, Harrison Greggs, Mister Hairston, and Kendall McFadden, and Juniors Frederick Eiland II, Daeshawn Eaton, Ryan Looper, Justin Parks, Martin Miller, Jaelen Gaymon, and Adam Fairbanks. They are coached by Jon Browne, Jeff Tittle, Fred Eiland, and Ty Lawson.

The girls team opened their season at home against Hammond on December 7. The Girls Varsity team is led by juniors Lillyann Eldridge, Marley Grenway, Brianna Brown, Micha

Brown, Ash Miranda, and Aislynn Riggs. There’s also a combination of sophomores and freshmen including Ty’ Asia McDuffie, Jazmine Washington, Amel Lightfoot, Iyanna McDuffie and Ikera Paul. The Lady Scorps are coached by Walt Hagins and Aresenio Copeland.

The Boys Varsity basketball team had their debut game against Catonsville and started off well with a 50-40 victory led by junior Daeshawn Easton.

The Scorpions were off to a struggling 18-4 start against Catonsville, but with the leadership of Daeshawn Easton and Robert Burgess, the Scorpions were able to come back and make it a 26-21 game at halftime. Their dominance didn’t stop there as they went on a 12-0 run, taking the lead and never looking back as they went on to get their first win on the season.

The Girls Varsity basketball team put on an exciting show in their first game against rival Hammond. Junior guard Marley Genway led the team with multiple three point-

ers throughout the game. The game came down to free throw shots with .4 seconds remaining in the final quarter of the game. It was close all throughout the game, as neither team would back down.

The game went into halftime tied 22-22. At the end of the third quarter, it was a 35-33 game with the Scorpions up. With the close game tied 46-46 and less than three seconds left, Jazmine Washington threw a full court pass to Ty’ Asia McDuffie, who went up for a shot and got fouled with .4 seconds left. In a tie game with less than a second left and two foul shots coming from Ty’ Asia: all she had to do was make one shot and the game would be over. With the help of the OM community who was completely quiet for Ty’ Asia so she could focus, Ty’ Asia made the shot giving the scorpions a 47-46 lead win. The crowd went crazy as they rushed the court, celebrating the win.

Rose Bowl Bulldogs Rally to Stun Mayfield, Sooners



Photo Credit: wikipedia.org

Tanner Malinowski
Sports Editor

Georgia senior running back Sony Michel sent his team to the College Football Playoff (CFP) championship game after a 27-yard touchdown run in the game’s second overtime to cap Georgia’s 17-point comeback over the Big 12 Champion Oklahoma Sooners.

Trailing the Sooners 31-14 late in the first half, the Bulldogs scored the next 24 points to grab a 38-31 lead in the third quarter. After Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Baker Mayfield caught a 2-yard touchdown pass from Oklahoma receiver CeeDee Lamb with six seconds left in the second quarter, Georgia took advantage of a short kickoff and turned it into points, as sophomore kicker Rodrigo

Blankenship nailed a 55-yard field goal as the half expired to cut the deficit to 14.

The Bulldogs continued their comeback in the third quarter, as senior running back Nick Chubb broke free on the first play of the drive and scored on a 50-yard run to trim the Oklahoma lead to 7. After the Bulldogs defense forced the high-powered Sooners offense to punt for the third consecutive drive, Georgia evened the score when Michel took a handoff and raced 38 yards down the right sideline to even the score at 31.

Things got even worse for the Sooners on the ensuing drive, as Mayfield was intercepted by Georgia safety Dominick Sanders, who returned the interception to the Oklahoma 4-yard line. Two plays later, Georgia grabbed their first lead of the game courtesy of a Javon Wims touchdown reception from freshman quarterback Jake

Fromm. With 10:30 remaining in the fourth quarter, the Sooners were in desperate need of a touchdown. Mayfield proceeded to engineer a six-play, 88 yard drive that ended with an 11-yard pass to Dimitri Flowers in the back of the end zone to even the score at 38. The Sooners retook the lead on the following drive as Michel fumbled, where the loose ball was scooped up by senior defensive back Steven Parker and run in 46 yards to put Oklahoma ahead 45-38 with just under six minutes to play. After the two teams traded punts, it was Georgia’s turn to engineer a much-needed touchdown drive.

Fromm and the Georgia offense took over with 3:15 remaining in the quarter, 59 yards away from the end zone. The Bulldogs marched right down the field, with Fromm completing three passes for 48 yards, none bigger than a 16-yard hookup with Terry Godwin on third and ten from the Oklahoma 23-yard line. Chubb then capped the drive with a two-yard run off of a direct snap, his second touchdown of the game. The game went to overtime with the teams deadlocked at 45.

In the first overtime, the two teams traded field goals to send the Rose Bowl into a second overtime. Oklahoma had the ball first, and for the second consecutive overtime drive they were unable to score a touchdown. Junior kicker Austin Seibert was called on to kick a 27-yard field goal, but his attempt was blocked by Georgia’s Lorenzo Carter. Two plays later, Michel broke loose around the left end and scored from 27 yards out, sending Georgia to the championship game.

Midseason NBA Report

Bryan Adjel-Adu
Staff Writer

The NBA season has come a long way since the featured opening night game was between the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Boston Celtics. The matchup was incredibly intriguing for NBA fans, as the two teams had completed a blockbuster trade that sent former Cavs point guard Kyrie Irving to Boston in exchange for Isaiah Thomas and Jae Crowder. The game was just getting started in the first quarter when newly-acquired Celtics superstar Gordon Hayward suffered a gruesome leg injury, ending his season just a few minutes into his first regular-season game with his new team.

The Celtics lost the game 102-99 as well as the following game to the Milwaukee Bucks, but shook off those two defeats as well as the loss of Gordon Hayward and went on to win their next sixteen games to soar atop the Eastern Conference standings early on.

In other news, the Detroit Pistons have shocked the NBA as well, as they have gotten off



Photo Credit: wikipedia.org

to a great start to the season with an impressive record of thirteen wins and six losses. The rest of the Eastern Conference standings deals with the Boston Celtics still leading the East with a record of eighteen wins and four losses. The bottom of the East is currently occupied by the Chicago Bulls with a record of three wins and

sixteen losses. Meanwhile, Chris Paul finally made his debut for the Houston Rockets since suffering an injury in the opening game.

His presence has guided the Rockets to the top spot in the the Western Conference with a record of sixteen wins and four losses. James Harden is a strong contender in the the MVP race right now;

Harden averages 31.1 points, 9.8 assists and 4.9 rebounds per game. Not far behind him is Kyrie Irving from the Boston Celtics, who averages 22.5 points, 5.2 assists, and 2.1 rebounds per game. (NBA.com)

A big game was scheduled on December 18, 2017, where the Golden State Warriors took on

the Los Angeles Lakers. NBA Superstar Stephen Curry had been out due to injuries but has made his way back into the starting line up. The Lakers scheduled that game to be Kobe Bryant's jersey retirement night, where they would hang up both number eight and twenty-four high above the Staples Center into the rafters. The game went into overtime where the Warriors won the hard fought game 116-114. Durant had a high score count of twenty-nine points. Above Durant was Steph Curry with twenty-eight points. The Lakers leading scorer was Brandon Ingram with thirty-two points.

With All Star Weekend rolling around, we're in the middle of the NBA Season, known as the "dog days," where teams begin to slow down and show weakness from the tiring NBA Season. Teams use this time to push themselves and continue on the path that they've been working on, which is to take every game one step at a time. Stay tuned to see who rocks and rolls throughout the coming months, and stay tuned to see which teams dominates the second half of the season.

Tiger Woods *Off to a promising start*



Photo Credit: commons.wikipedia.org

Nick Fairbanks
Staff Writer

Ever since his first injury in 2002, Tiger Woods has been making serious comebacks that seem to impress the golf world. His most impressive comeback was in 2008, when he returned to the tour to win the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines golf course. His most recent comeback was attempted in 2016 after he experienced multiple back injuries. He withdrew from the tour for sixteen months and returned to finish at the bottom in multiple tour events. Although his scores were not great, he appeared to have improved his mobility, swing path, and caught quite a bit of distance with his driver.

At Woods' most recent tournament, the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas, Tiger's performance somewhat surprised the golf world. At the Hero, Tiger was competing against the top

golfers in the world. When it was all said and done, Woods finished eight under par, which tied him for ninth place. Rickie Fowler, a twenty eight year-old rookie who is ranked sixteenth in the world according to FedEx up Ranks, won the tournament finishing at a staggering eighteen under par.

Woods finished in front of many top PGA tour competitors such as Kevin Kisner, Patrick Reid, Dustin Johnson, and Brooks Koepka. This should certainly give Woods a large confidence boost because all five of these golfers have been readily competing and winning multiple PGA tour events while Tiger was absent.

As Wood's performance is assessed, there are three common trends that form Wood's general success. These include his confidence, overall health, and the fact that his playing style is very similar to how he was in his prime. Many critics expected Woods to

have a rusty first performance, but this was definitely not the case. His confidence was healthy, along with his physical performance. Not only was his short game and putting seriously strong, but he was able to drive the ball off the tee just as far as most of these top PGA tour competitors. This surprised many critics due to the recurring problems with his lower back.

Looking back at the Hero World Challenge, many can conclude that it was an overall success for Woods. What is most important about his success is the fact the he looks to be healthy and he is able to hit the ball just as well as he did when he was in his prime. There is still speculation on whether Woods can continue to improve himself on the golf course. With only a few tournaments in the near future, not much can be inferred until Woods makes another appearance in a PGA tour event.

Did You Know? *by Kelli Andrade*

Oakland Mills High School was built to accommodate the new students of Columbia, Maryland. Oakland Mills High School was built in 1973. It was one of the first schools in Columbia, Maryland. It is located between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. and it is part of the Howard County Public School System.

The building was first renovated in 1991, and again in 1998. They added a new part to the school to make it bigger. It was called the new wing of the school. It was built to make more room for students. It then held 1400 students.





**Attention
Seniors: Do you
want the chance
to speak at your
graduation?**

Graduation speech auditions will be on February 7, 2018 at 2:30pm in Room 211.



Please prepare a speech that centers around:
“OM community celebrates diversity and community connections.”

Please see Ms. Moore to sign up, or for more information about the audition process.

Midterm Tips for Freshmen

1. Set aside time from family, friends, sports, and work to study for each exam.
2. Eat a healthy breakfast before school on exam days.
3. Be sure to get plenty of sleep during exam week.
4. Look over class notes and old tests to help you prepare.
5. Take it seriously. Your midterm grades factor into your overall GPA.
6. Take advantage of study guides and help from teachers to review material.
7. Get organized!
8. Make a study schedule and stick to it.
9. Do not cram!
10. If all else fails, you can always redeem yourself in the final exams.

**School
Calender**

- 1/15 - Schools Closed for MLK Day
- 1/16 - GT Information Night (6:00pm)
- 1/17 - Choir and Orchestra Concert (7:00pm)
- 1/20 - Howard County Dance Festival @ Glenelg High School (7:00pm)
- 1/24~26 - Midterm Exams (School ends at 11:10)
- 1/26 - End of Quarter 2
- 2 /5 - Report Cards Issued
- 2/16 - No School for Students (Professional Development Day)
- 2/16 - 2/17 - County Wrestling Tournament @ Mt. Hebron
- 2/19 - No School (President’s Day)
- 3/1~3/3 - Tarzan the Musical (7:00pm)
- 3/4 - Tarzan the Musical (2:00pm)

Oakland Mills Wordsearch

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

BOXINGDAY
THECRUCIBLE
OUTDATED
TOMSAVAGE
JUSTINTUCKER
NETNEUTRALITY
VAILLANCOURT

WINTER
WONDERWOMAN
BALTIMORESUN
STRESS
MURPHY
EDUCATION