

The Scroll



VISIT ONLINE:
OMSCROLL.COM

VOLUME XLIII ISSUE III

OAKLAND MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

APRIL 09, 2018

BENEATH THE
HEADLINES...



COLLEGE
EDUCATION
PAGE 2



SNOW
DAYS
PAGE 3



MONSTERS IN
MEDIA
PAGE 4

The Scroll

INDEX
NEWS: 1-2
EDITORIALS: 3-4
SPORTS: 5
TEACHER OF
THE YEAR: 6
AD: 7
EXTRAS: 8

Coed or Single-Sex Education?

The differences and benefits



Leah Gaskins
Staff Writer

Oakland Mills High School (OMHS) is home of the Scorpions and known for its diversity. Those belonging to a large variety of ethnicities, backgrounds, and cultures can be found in this school. But before any of this, among many other ways to define others, one can first be defined by their sex. Many have been in academic environments where

their peer group consisted of both sexes, male and female, and have performed well. So what are the advantages and disadvantages of both co-ed and single-sex education?

Before one can understand the differences between co-ed and single-sex educative environments, one must first define them. According to Study.com, Co-Ed, or co-educational learning, is defined as schools where both male and females are taught together. On the other end of schooling

spectrum is single-sex education and is defined as the teaching of boys and girls in separate classrooms or school, according to Kristin Stan, a writer and editor who specializes in parenting, education, and consumer health and wellness issues. Many possess strong opinions regarding co-ed schools, whether it be for or against them.

Study.com explores the positive effects of this single-sex environments. The article states, "Students who are comfortable

working in environments with people whose gender is different from their own may be able to adjust better in environments that include both sexes" (Study.com). Such a point holds great relevance in the environment one will inevitably encounter in life, as we all live in a co-ed world, containing both sexes. Additionally, it also explains that co-ed schooling includes the comfort in expressing oneself in the pres-

Education continued
on page 2

OM Girls Basketball

A recap on a remarkable 2017-2018 campaign



Maya Vereen
Staff Writer

The Oakland Mills girls varsity basketball team enjoyed success all throughout their season. Their 14-win regular season earned them a first-round bye in the MPSSAA 2A playoffs. In their first playoff game, the Lady Scorpions beat River Hill 36-33 in a close defensive game, advancing them to the semifinals. In the

semifinals, they played Glenelg and were able to pull out a win in another close game, with a score of 47-45. With that game, the Lady Scorpions advanced to the 2A south regional title game against Westlake. In the regional game, the Lady Scorpions came out hot with a 21-9 lead with three minutes before halftime. They were able to hold their lead throughout the second half, coming out on top as the 2A south regional champs with a 60-44 win. This

game was led by powerful scorers Marley Grenway, Aislynn Riggs, and Jazmine Washington, as together they scored a combined 57 points. The defense was key to leading them to this win: they were able to stop the other team from scoring and Riggs had nine blocks that game. The Lady Scorpions were set to play Queen Anne's in the SECU arena at Towson University. The Lady Scorpions would play another tough and close game, and going into

Photo taken by staff writer Chan Brown
halftime, it was a close score of 20-16. They continued to play a strong game, but the Lady Scorpions weren't able to pull the win out, losing 57-47. Even though it's not how the Scorpions wanted to end their season, it was still a great run winning the 2A south regional champs and making it the 2A semifinals. The Lady Scorpions did all of this with only one senior on the team; having the whole team returning next year will be an advantage.

2018 MLB Season

Slated for fireworks

Tanner Malinowski
Sports Editor

The 2018 Major League Baseball is set to begin on Thursday, March 29 and will feature all 30 teams playing on Opening Day. Despite an offseason that featured an unusually low amount of action, it was highlighted by a blockbuster trade that sent National League MVP Giancarlo Stanton (59 home runs in 2017) from the Miami Marlins to the New York Yankees. In addition, the San Francisco Giants acquired star center fielder Andrew McCutchen from the Pittsburgh Pirates. Meanwhile, the Boston Red Sox signed their own power-hitting right fielder in J.D. Martinez (45 home runs in 2017) to counter the Yankees’ acquisition of Stanton. The Chicago Cubs and Los Angeles Angels each signed a Japanese star; Chicago signed pitcher Yu Darvish while the Angels signed Shohei Ohtani, who previously played overseas in Japan for the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters, gaining notoriety for being a standout two-way player (one who pitches and bats regularly). The defending World Series champion Houston Astros traded for a pitcher of their own by acquiring Gerrit Cole from the Pirates.

The Astros will begin their quest for a repeat against their in-state rival, the Texas Rangers. Meanwhile, the World Series runners-up, the Los Angeles Dodgers, will open 2018 at home against their own in-state rival as they will host McCutchen and the San Francisco Giants. The Baltimore Orioles, who missed the



Photo Credit: flickr.com

postseason in 2017, will open the 2018 campaign against the Minnesota Twins at Camden Yards. In the National League, the prime frontrunners for playoff spots include the 2017 National Champion Los Angeles Dodgers, the Washington Nationals, and the Chicago Cubs, all of whom made the postseason in 2017. The Dodgers boast a stellar infield which includes 2017 NL Rookie of the Year Cody Bellinger (39 home runs in 2017). The Nationals will be guided in 2018 by a new manager, as Dusty Baker was replaced by former Cubs bench coach Dave Martinez. Washington is also loaded with dominant starting pitchers, headed by Max Scherzer and Stephen Strasburg. The Cubs will be led by Darvish and star corner infielders Anthony Rizzo (32 home runs in 2017) and Kris Bryant (162 hits in 2017). Houston is the team to beat in the American League, as Cole joins a starting pitching staff

consisting of Dallas Keuchel (14 wins in 2017) and Justin Verlander (4 postseason wins in 2017). The Astros are equipped with star hitters Jose Altuve (AL-best .346 batting average in 2017) and center fielder George Springer (34 home runs in 2017). The clear favorite in the AL Central division are the Cleveland Indians, winners of 102 games in 2017, including an American-League record 22-game winning streak. Cleveland will depend on starting pitcher Corey Kluber and shortstop Francisco Lindor to make their third-consecutive trip to the playoffs.

In the American League East, two bitter rivals will fight tooth and nail to capture the division title in 2018. Martinez, Mookie Betts, Andrew Benintendi, and the Boston Red Sox will battle Stanton, Aaron Judge, Gary Sanchez and the New York Yankees from April to October for the right to return to the postseason, as both teams qualified in 2017.

Did You Know?

by Kelli Andrade

Did you know that someone famous attended Oakland Mills High School? This person was out of this world (literally!) His name is Terry Virts. He was born in 1967 in Baltimore, Maryland. Though he was born in Baltimore, he claimed Columbia, Maryland as his hometown. He graduated from Oakland Mills High School in 1985, where he joined the US Air Force Academy. Virts flew over 3,000 hours and 40 different aircrafts during his time in the US Air Force Academy. He was the lead astronaut for the NASA T-38 program.

This is far out!



Education continued from page 1

ence of the other sex. The article continues stating that “Another reason people prefer Co-Ed schools is so individuals can grow up comfortable expressing themselves when they are in the company of the other sex” (CITE). This further reaffirms the aforementioned relevance to the reality of our environments. The article makes a final point in regards to the benefits of co-ed schooling. “Being in an environment which includes both males and females also helps individuals to appreciate differing opinions or views. Most people would agree that males and females process information differently,” it concludes. Being in a co-ed school provides these benefits that could still apply when outside of this academic environment.

In the article “Single-sex education: the pros and cons,” Stan explores the positives of single-sex education and how it may benefit students in such a learning environment. “Some parents don’t want their children to be in mixed-gender classrooms

because, especially at certain ages, students of the opposite sex can be a distraction.” Stanberry explains. Additionally, Stanberry also explains that the separation of boys and girls is beneficial to work against gender stereotypes. “Some research and reports from educators suggest that single-sex education can broaden the educational prospects for both girls and boys. Advocates claim co-ed schools tend to reinforce gender stereotypes, while single-sex schools can break down gender stereotypes.” Stanberry continues. An article by Niche further validates this case in “Pros and Cons of Single-Sex Education,” explaining that single-sex education could be beneficial with teachers that could “employ instruction techniques geared toward specific genders.” In the same article, it is also emphasized that “girls mature faster, so potentially boys won’t hold them back.”

Now that the differences and benefits of single-sex and co-ed schooling has been brought to light, which experience would you prefer?

The Sides of Gun Control

Rachel Spione
Staff Writer

There are two sides to the gun control debate—the left and right. For and against. There are hundreds of arguments to support gun control laws and hundreds of arguments to oppose the same laws. The gun control debate in America has been going on for years, sparked by the terrible events like the Columbine High School shooting in 1999. Nineteen years later and tragedies like Sandy Hook and the shootings in Alabama and Florida are happening more and more every year. So, what are some of the arguments made for and against gun control laws?

The Second Amendment is one of the biggest things used to argue against gun control. Gun ownership has been a part of the “American Way” for centuries, which is why the founding fathers wrote the Second Amendment. The amendment states: “A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a

free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

The argument here is that more gun control laws would infringe on the right to bear arms. The statement—that was a result of the District of Columbia V. Heller case—was that “the second amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home.”

The left could also use the Second Amendment in their favor to support gun control. Gun control has been around since colonial America. During colonial times, it was a crime to sell/give a firearm to Catholics, slaves, servants and Native Americans. The logic and reasoning may not fit America today, but this proves the point that there were rules against certain people having firearms. The Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that “the right of the gen-

eral public to carry a concealed firearm is not, and never has been, protected by the second amendment” with a 7-4 vote.

Currently, there are gun controls in place. Certain people with certain kinds of crimes on their records, mental illness, or drug addicts, immigrants, veterans who left service due to dishonorable discharge, etc. cannot get a gun. Even though we already have some regulations in place, there are holes in the system. One of the biggest challenges for gun control laws is small buyers like the people that sell at gun-shows. As of now, New York, California, New Jersey, Maryland, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Illinois, and Massachusetts are stricter on gun control than other states, like in the sense of having background checks.

As a result of the recent tragedies happening all over the country at schools and malls, companies like Walmart and Dick’s Sporting Goods are withdrawing from the gun business.

Snow Days and Academics

Do they correlate?



Jasmine Harrison
Staff Writer

Students who miss 10% of school, or about 18 days throughout the year, negatively affects a student’s academic performance. Whether the absence is excused or unexcused, absence has an impact on student performance in school. Snow days are not necessarily affecting how students perform; there are students who do not show up even when there is little to no snow on the ground when school is open. These absences can make a difference to students because they perform poorly on tests and quizzes since they were not here during the days they missed. This also affects teachers because they have

Photo Credit: commons.wikimedia.org
up days when they are supposed to be on Spring Break. These days are going to have an impact on students because preparation for tests like PARCC, HSA, and AP exams are coming up. The more days students miss, the less time they have to prepare. When deciding on declaring a snow day, the powers that be have to consider the fact that some kids are going to miss some school on snow days because of transportation or parental discretion. Absences are having a strong impact on how well students do on academic assessments. Even though the superintendent decided to add days to the end of the school year to make up for the lost snow days, it does not help students who needed the extra school days when they are required to take the standardized tests between April and May. Often, students will make-up the work they missed, but they lost their opportunity to actually engage and interact with the lesson and participate in the conversations.

In Maryland, the law states that schools must have 180 days in the school year between the day after Labor Day and June 15. Since schools have missed so many days due to snow this year, Spring Break has been cut in half. To make up those days, a school day has been added on April 4, 5, 6, and a half day on May 18. Since Spring Break was cut in half, not many students are going to show up to school on the make-

up days when they are supposed to be on Spring Break. These days are going to have an impact on students because preparation for tests like PARCC, HSA, and AP exams are coming up.

The more days students miss, the less time they have to prepare. When deciding on declaring a snow day, the powers that be have to consider the fact that some kids are going to miss some school on snow days because of transportation or parental discretion. Absences are having a strong impact on how well students do on academic assessments. Even though the superintendent decided to add days to the end of the school year to make up for the lost snow days, it does not help students who needed the extra school days when they are required to take the standardized tests between April and May. Often, students will make-up the work they missed, but they lost their opportunity to actually engage and interact with the lesson and participate in the conversations.

College

Pros and Cons



Samy Bebee
Staff Writer

Photo Credit: flickr.com
Is a college education really worth it? After high school a lot of people look at getting a college degree to help them pursue their dream career, but with the rising cost of getting a college education, many people wonder if it is really worth the money.

There have been many articles stating that most college students don’t think college is worth the

cost, but in a national survey by Pew Research Center 65% percent of people who graduated between 2006 and 2015 agreed that their education was worth the price they paid. The survey also found that people who took out a \$50,000 loan or more were more likely to disagree that their education was worth what they paid.

People with college degrees also have access to more jobs since most employers require a higher education of some sort. There is also a wage gap when it comes to people with degrees and people without degrees. High school graduates earn 62% of what those with a four year degree earn, according to a Pew Research Center study.

College is very expensive and is not worth being in large amounts of debt, but it does offer a lot benefits if you are able to pay the right price. A college education should definitely be considered by every student when choosing a path for the future .

Should College Education be Free?

A look into pressure from education

Lloyanne Hamilton
Staff Writer

Not a lot of families are fortunate enough to send their child to college and pay it off. In order to be truly successful in life you are told that you need a college education, which is what most high school students plan on getting after they graduate, unless they’re lucky enough to blow up overnight by making an inessential rap video, or creating a cliché youtube page with their significant other. Neither of those are easy, making college the best option after high school in order to have the successful lifestyle that everyone desires.

A college education is very important to have in order to reach future goals, as in career choices or just simple life goals. But college is extremely expensive, college tuition usually puts a lot of young adults in debt after they graduate and college tuition is not the total cost. When you go to college you have to also pay for your food, laundry, housing, textbooks, and more.

According to HowStuffWorks the total cost of college education is skyrocketing out of the reach of the average American family, meaning that the total amount to go to college is basically becoming impractical. This leaves people to argue the question, should college education be free? There are pros and cons.

College Raptor states that one of the benefits of free college is that lower-income students would last until graduation. There are students that drop out and don’t get a chance to finish college



Photo Credit: flickr.com
because they’re unable to pay tuition for all 4 years. College being free would solve that problem, and increase graduation rates.

Most students that graduate are in debt afterwards, however if college tuition was free, students wouldn’t leave college in debt. The average amount of debt a student graduates with is \$37,000. To graduate with just \$10,000 in debt is considered to be lucky.

Students would be able to choose the major they’re interested in, and enjoy. Families choose “practical” majors that have a more profitable post-graduation income, knowing that you have

to pay loans back as quickly as you can. Students would feel more comfortable studying what they actually enjoy, rather than what they know pays a large amount.

Teenagers in high school are already deciding not to go to college because it is “too expensive.” By neutralizing the vast amount of college education, more teenagers will leave high school with the intention to go to college. Seeing that the substantial price wouldn’t be a factor anymore.

These advantages of free college education can also be seen a bad way. College Raptor states that a drawback of free college would be the fact that the money has to come from somewhere, and also if

more students decide to attend college, there would be a major increase in taxes.

Another fault would be that young adults wouldn’t be able to learn how to budget their finances. Personally, I don’t agree with this at all, simply because there plenty other methods or opportunities to teach young adults how to budget. Students being in debt for most of their life due to college tuition is not the only resort.

Another disadvantage that College Raptor argues is that college might not seem that important. Although this could be true, I disagree with this also. Students are going to have their

opinion on college no matter what because the content that college provides isn’t going to change. If students believe college isn’t important, that most likely what they’re still going to believe, regardless of the price.

Although revoking college tuition would lead to an increase in taxes, it still is influential to consider it. Modifying the price of college education will benefit a lot of people. It will allow a new group of students into college. More students will graduate college. Young adults won’t have to worry about debt from college tuition, which would take away one of the key cause of stress for young adults.

The opinions that appear in this section do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of The Scroll or the staff and administration of Oakland Mills High School, but are merely an expression of views of a segment of the student populace. If you want your views to appear in The Scroll and be heard by the students, parents, and faculty, send letters to Ms. Katlyn Moore, advisor, or email to thescroll.om@gmail.com. The Scroll is your newspaper and you ought to have a say in what goes into it. However, The Scroll reserves the right to edit any submitted letters to remove objectionable or offensive content and language. Due to space limitations, letters may not be printed for publication or they may appear in later issues.



*Oakland Mills High School
9410 Kilimanjaro Road
Columbia, MD 21045
Volume XLIII Issue III*

Staff Writers:

Bryan Adu
Kelli Andrade
Blen Asres
Danielle Diguiseppe
Nick Fairbanks
Leah Gaskins
Lloyanne Hamilton
Jasmine Harrison
Melissa Johnson
Jalen Knight
Sofeeyah Lloyd
Nancy Miranda Menendez
Jared Nguyen
Hareem Qureshi
Maria Ramsey
Natalie Romero
Brynn Rhodes
Rachel Spione
Maya Vereen

Editor-in-Chief

Tanner Malinowski

News Editor

Maggie Attridge

Editorials Editor

Kiya Kirkland

Features Editor

Tommy Zhang

Sports Editors

*Cameron Vereen
Tanner Malinowski*

Photos Editor

Kyle Heflinger

Online Editor

Devonne Turre

Faculty Advisor

Katlyn Moore

Technical Advisors

*Katherine Florida
Randi Trzesinski*

Ty Lawson

Principal

Katherine Orlando

Monsters in Media

How society's fears are represented



Photo Credit: flickr.com

Hareem Quershi

Staff Writer

Recently, Guillermo Del Toro's *The Shape of Water*, a film set in the sixties about a mute woman who falls in love with a 'fish-man' being experimented on by the government, won Best Picture and Best Director at the Oscar Awards. It's one of those rare movies where the monster is the good guy; it's definitely very different from the monster movies of the fifties and sixties that we are so accustomed to. Monsters have always been a staple in media and folklore, the 'bad guys' in stories that strike fear in the audience. Del Toro's film stands out by making it's monster the romantic lead. Because of this, I decided to look at various folklore and media and try to find out how we've reached this point.

First, it's important to remember that media is a reflection of our society. Art is a vessel for one's opinion, and when an issue reaches the public, conscience art will respond. Maria Tatar, an academic who analyzes folklore and its significance in the real world, talks about early European fairy tales like *Beauty and the Beast*. According to Tatar, "Beaumont's take attempted to steady the fears of young women, to reconcile them to the custom of marriages, and to brace them for an alliance that required prefacing their own desires and submitting to the will of a 'monster.'" In other words, *Beauty and the Beast* and similar fairytales were addressing young women's fear of marriage, telling them that if they were good wives then their 'beast' would eventually become a prince. Or rather, their husbands would warm up to them.

Fast forward to 1818, where we have the classic of all monster stories, *Frankenstein* written by Mary Shelley. Shelley's friends

were discussing rumors that there were scientists trying to learn how to bring someone back to life. So when she and her friends held a contest to see who could write the best horror story, Shelley wrote *Frankenstein*. It was written at a time where people were very concerned that science might have been overstepping its boundaries by trying to push Christianity out of the way. The story of *Frankenstein* expressed that. Yes, *Frankenstein's* monster has pathos and is sympathetic, but at the end of the day the monster is an abomination that has to be put down. The moral of *Frankenstein* is that you shouldn't try to play God, and that's why before Dr *Frankenstein* dies he tells Captain Walton to "avoid ambition."

Now that we've covered two famous books, we can get to Hollywood. Early hollywood was practically overflowing with monster movies. A prominent example we can look at is *King Kong*. In the movie, a ship goes on an expedition in the Amazon, comes across a monster that kidnaps the female lead, and then the male lead has to come in and save the day. *King Kong* falls into the 'lost world' genre of storytelling which revolved around people discovering hidden ancient civilizations, creatures, etc. According to Youtuber Lindsay Ellis, the director of the film, Merian C. Cooper, used to go on a lot of safaris in Africa which may have inspired the movie. The film was also made after the Empire State Building was just completed and was being hyped up as this big, new, modern landmark. This entire background is reflected in the movie; a theme of the uncivilized vs. the civilized.

The indigenous people of Skull Island are portrayed as a primitive tribe that practices human sacrifice. When the chief of the tribe sees Anne, he even offers to trade six of the tribe's women for her.

They are a part of the unknown, uncivilized world that *King Kong* is captured from before being sent to New York as a tourist trap. When he escapes, he is shot down from the Empire State Building. At the end of the whole affair, one of the characters even remarks, "It was beauty who killed the beast." Ellis also critiques the deeper meaning of *King Kong* saying, "King Kong's death is treated like an inevitability, but a tragic one. When he's captured into modernity, disaster occurs, and he is destroyed. There is a fear of the primitive and unknown embodied in the monster, but don't worry. Modernity will eventually mow it down in the end."

Finally, we get to *The Shape of Water*. Guillermo Del Toro said that he was inspired to write *The Shape of Water* after feeling bad for the Gillman whenever he watched "The Creature from the Black Lagoon." According to KUTV out of Salt Lake City, Del Toro said, "I feel it as an immigrant has been received by this country, but I still feel there is sort of the demonization of 'the other' very present. I needed to talk about the beauty of the other. It's about celebrating imperfection... It's not so much tolerance as it is love." Del Toro uses his experience as an immigrant, as well as the fears of marginalized groups in America, to tell a story about a monster being abused by the government and is saved a disabled woman. It speaks to what society currently fears most. The good news is that through movies such as *The Shape of Water*, we can learn from the stories and face those fears which just may change society for the better.

2017-2018
YEARBOOK

ON SALE NOW!

THERE IS STILL TIME TO ORDER YOUR 2017-2018 YEARBOOK! THE PRICE IS \$75 (WHICH INCLUDES SALES TAX.) SEE MR. CUTLER IN ROOM 403 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

The Scroll is online!

Check us out on our website: omscroll.com!

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram: OMSCROLL



School Calender

- 3/30 ~ 4/4 - Spring Break!
- 4/12 - Talent Show
- 4/13 - 3rd Quarter Ends (Half Day)
- 4/18 - Senior Class Night (7:00)
- 4/23 - Report Cards Issued
- 4/26 - Food Pantry (3:00)
- 4/26 - King of the Mill (7:00)
- 5/01 - Band Concert
- 5/02 - Choir & Orchestra (7:00 PM)
- 5/03 - Senior Breakfast & Picture (7:30 AM)
- 5/05 - Prom

Crossword and school calender complied by Brynn Rhodes.

Varsity Baseball Schedule

- Apr. 5 at 4:15 - 6:15 pm
Oakland Mills at Wilde Lake
- Apr 7. at TBD
Multiteam Event at River Hill
- Apr. 9 at 4:15 pm
Atholton at Oakland Mills
- Apr. 11 at 4:15 pm
Oakland Mills at Long Reach
- Apr. 13 at 4:15 pm
Oakland Mills at Centennial
- Apr. 16 at 4:15 pm
Hammond at Oakland Mills
- Apr. 18 at 4:15 pm
Marriotts Ridge at Oakland Mills
- Apr. 19 at 4:15 pm
Oakland Mills at Howard
- Apr. 23 at 4:15 pm
Wilde Lake at Oakland Mills

Varsity Lacrosse Schedule

Boys:

- Apr. 10 at 5:30 pm
Glen Burnie at Oakland Mills
- Apr. 13 at 7:00 pm
Oakland Mills at Atholton
- Apr. 16 at 5:30 pm
Catonsville at Oakland Mills
- Apr. 17 at 5:30 pm
North County at Oakland Mills
- Apr. 19 at 5:30 pm
Oakland Mills at Long Reach
- Apr. 23 at 5:30 pm
Glenelg at Oakland Mills
- Apr. 27 at 7:00 pm
Wilde Lake at Oakland Mills
- Apr. 30 at 6:30 pm
Oakland Mills at Perry Hall
- May 2 at 4:00 pm
Oakland Mills at Lansdowne

Girls:

- Apr. 10 at 5:30 pm
Oakland Mills at Glen Burnie
- Apr. 12 at 5:30 pm
Oakland Mills at Parkville
- Apr. 13 at 7:00 pm
Atholton at Oakland Mills
- Apr. 17 at 5:30 pm
Oakland Mills at North County
- Apr. 24 at 5:30 pm
Oakland Mills at Pikesville
- Apr. 26 at 5:30 pm
Oakland Mills at Wilde Lake
- Apr. 30 at 5:30 pm
To be determined
- May 2 at 5:30 pm
Oakland Mills at Lansdowne
- May 4 at 7:00 pm
Oakland Mills at Hammond

Ms. Amy Connor

A Teacher of the Year Special Feature



When you walk past Room 804, you might spot a red-haired, freckled face woman dancing around her classroom. She may be typing up a presentation or planning a lab for one of her many classes. She may even remind you of Ms. Frizzle from *The Magic School Bus*. But, what you may not know is that she is a nature loving, ex-rebel kid, third year teacher who just wants to improve the lives of her students. The resident of 804 is Ms. Amy Connor and her story may be a little more interesting than you might think.

Before she realized her potential as a high school science teacher, Ms. Connor was a seasoned artist—specifically a painter—who taught little kids how to express themselves through arts and crafts. Ten years after that experience and managing an art gallery, Ms. Connor developed a sickness to which no one could quite figure out what was going on, including her mother, who was a nurse. Many fainting spells occurred, the last one of which made her fall on the floor and break her jaw and teeth. When she went to the hospital, the doctors, again, could not figure out what was going on until the well-researched Ms. Connor told them to check her PTH (parathyroid hormone) levels. This led them to finding a parathyroid adenoma in her body. Parathyroid adenomas are benign tumors that occupy your parathyroid glands, which can be located near or at the back of your thyroid gland. Ms. Connor went from professional artist, to case study at the National Institute of Health, to being tumor free with no medical bills. “After my surgery I started a new lease on life,” she said.

“I started reading about science all the time, I wanted to do something that really mattered,” Ms. Connor explained. She left her decade long career as an artist and pursued a degree in biochemistry. “I wanted to study biochemistry because that is what makes life work, the nuts and bolts.” She also choose not to obtain a PhD. “I needed not to be a student anymore, I wanted people to be able to advocate for themselves, and ask the right questions. Being a science teacher is the most important subject I can teach.”

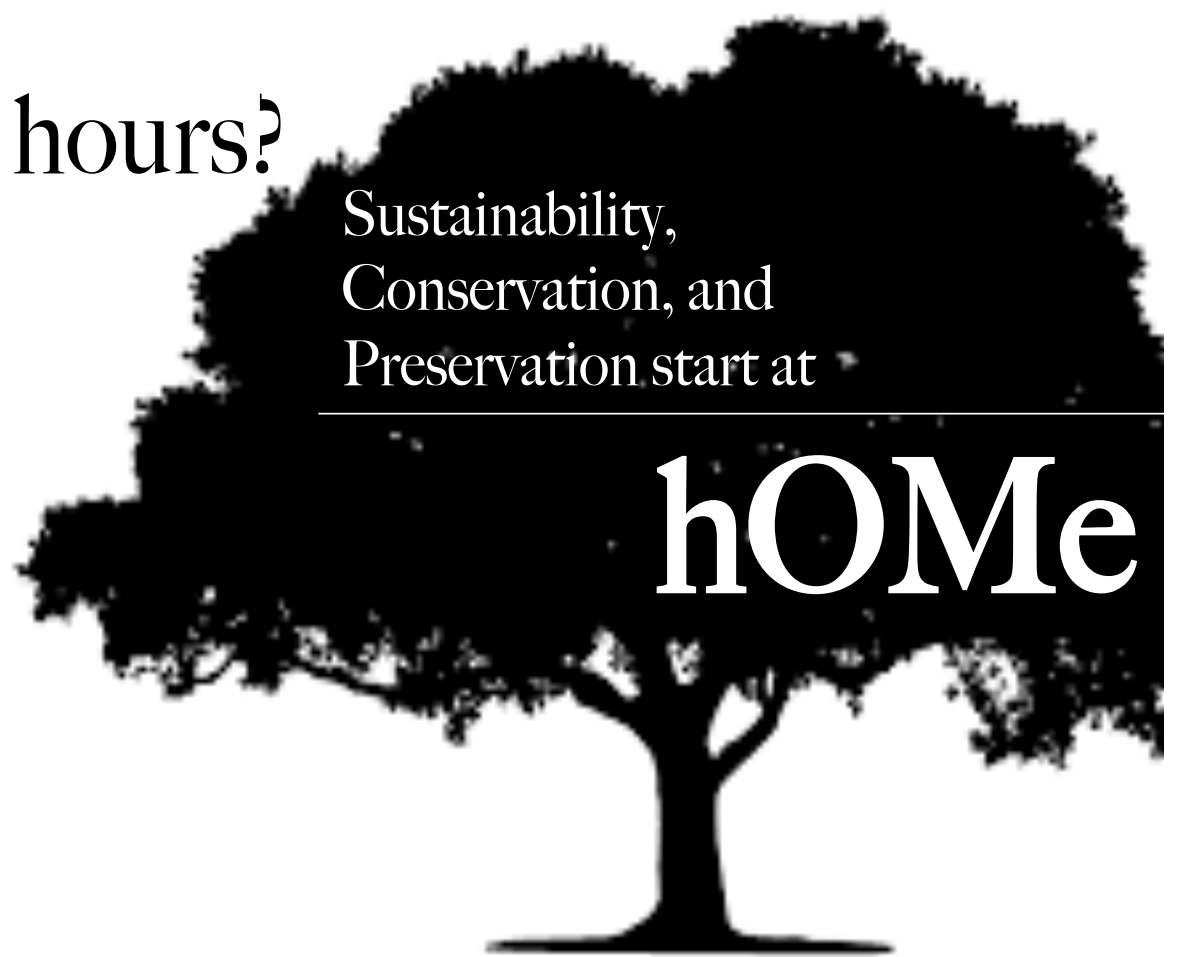
Not many people would guess Ms. Connor is in her third year of teaching. How does she do it? “I enjoy what I am doing, it gives you confidence. I am around people I like to be around and I have a good time doing what I do.” She also relates to kids who are new because she went through something similar. “When I was a kid, I moved to Florida and totally became a total mess—I was the opposite of who I am now. I wish I would have taken the time to connect with peers, teachers, or even anyone. Build your own relationships, and do not handle the stress on your own.”

She survived a move to Florida, a tumor, and decided to use her newly earned degree and knowledge to teach teenagers at seven o’clock in the morning. “My kids motivate me, I get really excited to see my students everyday, they are part of my family,” Ms. Connor explained. “I want all my students to know that everything I say about their futures is true. I fully believe every single one of my students truly has the ability to do great things. They can each contribute positively to the community and the world and accomplish amazing things.”

Written by Maggie Attridge

Want to get to know Ms. Connor more? The Environmental Club is the perfect way to do so! They dedicate their time after school to help the OM garden blossom. They plan to plant flowers and trees in the garden in the front of the school over the next few months. Check out the next page and ask Ms. Connor for more information!

In need of service hours?
Help make OM
beautiful by
working in the
Native Garden!



Oakland Mills High School

Environmental Club



Scan the QR code
to sign up for
service hours on
the Native Garden
Calendar.

Earn one hour of
service any
Thursday!!!

<https://tinyurl.com/y85h23rh>



Graduation is
officially announced for
Oakland Mills High School
for Friday, May 25th at 11:00am at the
Merriweather Post Pavilion.
More information to come soon on the
HCPSS website.



Oakland Mills Word Search

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

- SHAPEOFWATER
COLLEGE
BILINGUAL
MOOD
VARSITY
- MLB
GUNCONTROL
WEATHER
NOSCHOOL
MONSTERTROPE
- BASKETBALL
CAREER
MUSICCHOICE
SINGLESEX
APRIL