

# The Scroll



VISIT ONLINE:  
OMSCROLL.COM

VOLUME XLIV ISSUE I

OAKLAND MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 16, 2018

BENEATH THE  
HEADLINES...



TRADE SCHOOL  
PAGE 2



AMERICA'S LEGAL  
SYSTEM  
PAGE 3



THE FATE OF  
HALLOWEEN  
PAGE 4

*The Scroll*

INDEX  
NEWS: 1-2  
FEATURES: 3  
EDITORIALS: 4-5,  
8-9  
HOMECOMING:  
6-7  
SPORTS: 10  
NEW STAFF: 11-12

## Brett Kavanaugh's Nomination

### *Recapping the controversial series of events*



Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

**Genesis Houston**  
*Staff Writer*

Since Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to become a Supreme Court Justice, it has been a nerve-racking three months for him and his family. In addition, the Senate Judiciary Committee and the public have done a lot of assessment on Kavanaugh, which added to the stress of the event.

On Monday, July 9, 2018, President Donald Trump announced Brett Kavanaugh as his Supreme Court Justice nominee to replace Anthony Kennedy.

Brett Kavanaugh had all of his first three public hearings and witness statements before the Senate Judiciary Committee between September 4 and 7, 2018. Sometime between Kavanaugh's nomination and his first hearing, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford sent a letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein stating that Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her during their time in high school. On September 12, the public found out Senator Feinstein had Dr. Ford's letter in her possession, but the senator refused to release the letter, according to Dr. Ford's wishes.

The New Yorker magazine

released an anonymous statement on September 14 which accused Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct. Kavanaugh then denied the statement. Two days from then, it was discovered that Christine Blasey Ford was the anonymous woman from The New Yorker magazine's post. She did an interview with The Washington Post, releasing details on the event and her name for the first time. Kavanaugh, again, denied Dr. Ford's accusation. She followed up by stating she was open to an FBI investigation towards her claims. On September 23, a woman named Deborah

Ramirez came forward claiming that during a college party, Brett Kavanaugh exposed himself to her. This was the second sexual misconduct accusation against Kavanaugh.

Fox News released an interview with Brett Kavanaugh and his wife, Ashley Kavanaugh, on the 24th of September. The interview was about his nomination and the allegations against his "good behavior." He denies the claim that he has sexually assaulted women, Kavanaugh saying, "I've never sexually assaulted

**Kavanaugh continued**  
*on page 2*

## Ms. McQueeney

### *One of the many new faces at OM*



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

**Lloyanne Hamilton**  
*Staff Writer*

Look out Oakland Mills High School! We now have a rebel up front, ready to inspire every student here at Oakland Mills. Her name is Ms. Jennifer McQueeney, and she is OM's newest teacher's secretary.

Mrs. McQueeney is a compassionate, uplifting woman, and she is no different from the students here at OM. She spent most of her life in New Castle, Delaware, where she had a really rough childhood and didn't have the best grades in high school. "It was a broken family when I was 13, it was very Jerry Springer, my life; it's a hot mess," she said humor-

ously. Many times, Ms. McQueeney had to lean on her high school best friend's parents for support and motivation. Her life has been filled with many glorious times as well as a lot of challenging moments.

But this never stopped Mrs. McQueeney from getting to where she wanted to be. She simply calls herself a "self made person," as

she explained "...it took me seven years to graduate college...But I did it, paid for it, I have no bills, and I'm proud of that."

When asked about the impact she plans on making here at OM, she believes that through her life experiences there's a lot she can

**McQueeney continued**  
*on page 3*



# A Presidential Misunderstanding

## Details on the Presidential Alert issued on October 3

Tamar Connelly  
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, October 3rd, an alert went out to all US citizens with a smartphone device, testing the “National Wireless Emergency Alert System”. The system used to send out the alert is the same one used for state emergencies. The alert itself was nothing more than a test, but what made it escalate was the public outcry and reaction to it. Labeled the “Presidential Alert”, many people were misinformed and assumed that this alert would allow President Trump to directly message every American in the country. Naturally, this was not taken well on social media and has been heavily criticized, even inspiring a Saturday Night Live parody.

A sense of paranoia transpired among some individuals, who



Photo Credit: Flickr

tried to resist the alert by turning off their phones. However, what many people didn’t know is that this was not Trump’s personal tweet machine. Rather, this is the next form of the National Emergency Alert System that has been around since 1997, which replaced the Emergency

Broadcast System that was in action from 1967-1997. As FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) describes it, “the test will assess the operational readiness of the infrastructure for distribution of a national message and determine whether improvements are needed.” In other words, the test is designed

to test how ready the system is in case of a national emergency, to reach an effective amount of the population in the shortest amount of time. However, this did not stop the criticism as people still wondered why processes, such as voting, could not be done in a similar manner.

This allows the president to communicate with people during a national crisis with rules and systems that have been put in place in order for no one person to be able to abuse this system. The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015 ensures that if the president were to use this alert system for anything other than alerting people of a nationwide crisis and how to stay safe, it would be considered breaking the law. This act, as well as the system, was integrated during Barack Obama’s second term, which also led to a lot of misconstrued info about Trump “creating” the presidential alert for his own personal use.

Kavanaugh continued  
from page 1

anyone. Not in high school. Not ever. I’ve always treated women with dignity and respect.” Julie Swetnick sent a third sexual misconduct claim against Kavanaugh to the Senate Judiciary Committee on September 26, 2018. The letter stated that she and other females were drugged and raped by a group of boys at a party, Kavanaugh in attendance. However, Swetnick’s claim against Kavanaugh was indirect. Dr. Ford and Brett Kavanaugh both provided opening statements and answered questions presented to them by the Senate Judiciary Committee and the hired prosecutor, Rachel Mitchell, on September 27, 2018. Dr. Ford was emotional while communicating her recollection of that night, in which she claimed she was sexually assaulted by Kavanaugh.

Brett Kavanaugh also provided emotional opening remarks. It was clear that he was burdened and angry. Within his opening remarks, he said, “I’m not questioning that Dr. Ford may have been sexually assaulted by some person in some place at some time. But I have never done this to her or to anyone. That’s not who I am, it is not who I was. I am innocent of this charge. I intend no ill will to Dr. Ford and her family.” Both Dr. Ford and Judge Kavanaugh’s families have been impacted by the controversy of this incident. Repeatedly, Kavanaugh mentioned that the controversy and the involvement of his family could have been avoided if the Committee had performed an immediate, private investigation of Dr. Ford’s claims. During her hearing, Dr. Ford answered questions whose answers would provide the Committee with a better understanding of the timeline of her sexual assault and the events leading up to and

following the assault. When asked how certain she was that Kavanaugh was her attacker, Dr. Ford answered, “One-hundred percent.” Judge Brett Kavanaugh was questioned on his provided yearbook and calendar of the year of the assault, his previous alcoholic-drinking activity, the consideration of an FBI investigation on the people Dr. Ford mentioned in her accusation, and his lifestyle during college.

The following day, protesters confronted Senators who showed their support for Kavanaugh and belief in his testimony. In addition, the Committee requested the President call for an FBI investigation. President Trump agreed and calls for a limited, one week FBI investigation. Mark Judge, accused of being in the room and laughing when Dr. Ford was sexually assaulted, was the first to be interviewed by the FBI. His interviewing ended on the 2nd of October.

The FBI finish and turn over their finding in the investigation to the White House. There was no evidence or findings that supported Dr. Ford’s claim. On October 5th, the Senate took a vote on whether or not to continue with Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s Supreme Court Justice nomination. The voting concluded with a 51-49 voting count. The following day, the Senate took their final vote on whether or not to approve Kavanaugh’s nomination. That voting concluded with a 50-48 voting count (two members excluded for personal reasons). In result, Judge Brett Kavanaugh was confirmed as a member of the Supreme Court.

# Has Planet X Been Found?

## Scientists make a stellar discovery



Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

Molly McCardell  
Staff Writer

In their pursuit of discovering Planet X, scientists might have just encountered a major breakthrough. The scientists found a dwarf planet when they were looking for Planet X, which is supposedly a bigger version of Earth, according to astronomers. Planet X will be a major discovery for scientists and astronomers.

Astronomers have been looking for Planet X since 2014. The Goblin is a dwarf planet farther from the Sun than Pluto. Planet X is an undiscovered planet that scientists are looking for but they know that it’s farther than Neptune. Planet X may have the same mass as Neptune or Uranus and is ten times bigger than

Earth. The orbit of this dwarf planet is 40,000 years around the Sun, unlike other planets who have more of a circular orbit. The Goblin goes around the Sun in an ellipse shape. The orbit that The Goblin has falls into the category of “The Inner Oort Cloud” which is spherical shape of icy objects that surround our sun.

The Inner Oort Cloud is thought of as, and is, the realm of comets. The Inner Oort Cloud is far beyond the orbits of Pluto and it has less distance to the Kuiper Belt Objects, which are a section of the universe that’s beyond the orbit of Neptune. It’s believed by scientists that it contains comets, asteroids, and other small objects that are made of

ice. The Goblin is so far away from earth that Astronomers have only been able to see it as a speck of light. The planet was first being observed from on top of the Mauna Kea volcano in Hawaii.

The astronomers think that dwarf planets like The Goblin could lead to other planets like Planet X, which they continue to look for. The Goblin’s long orbit still gives hope to scientists that Planet X still might be out there in space. The astronomers have confirmed that they will continue looking for Planet X in November, with the hope that it still exists. These findings might lead to more discoveries in the future of our solar system.



# College Isn’t for Everyone

## *The Growing Appeal in Trade Schools*

Leah Gaskins  
Features Editor

It isn’t unusual for children or even teenagers to be asked what they want to be when they grow up, and it isn’t strange for them to respond with something along the lines of science, first responders, or maybe even astronomy. Meanwhile, some might respond with an interest in working in retail, working in the family business, or maybe not respond at all simply because they don’t have an answer to give. Overall, many of these careers require a degree of higher education from a place that can provide it: college. It is a milestone to some, and an obstacle to others, and surprisingly, an option to many.

One of the alternatives to college institutions is trade schools: “a specialized institution that focuses on a single skill-based vocation...” as *Learn.org* puts it and might be the ideal alternative to students seeking a higher education beyond high school but also want to avoid the drawbacks of attending a college.

One of the more appealing advantages to vocational schools are the career paths they offer compared to college institutions. According to Trent Hamm, founder of *The Simple Dollar*, the differences in a vocational school



Photo Credit: commons.wikimedia.org

graduate’s salary to a four-year degree isn’t so great as one would assume, writing that “Simply-Hired.com estimates that a trade school graduate will make about \$42,000 per year. Over the course of thirty years, the difference between that trade school graduate and the four-year college graduate is only \$90,000.” Additionally, Hamm mentioned that the average vocational school degree would cost roughly \$33,000, which is contrary to a \$127,000 bachelor’s degree you’d acquire at colleges, which would mean saving \$94,000.

While the numbers would be appealing to any person who needs an alternative, there are other reasons to why vocational schools are so appealing: it’s high

demand. According to Rockford Career College, programs in vocational schools offer are in high demand in the workforce and will prepare students with the skills they need to join once graduating. Not only this, but while a bachelor’s degree typically takes a single student four or more years to acquire, earning a degree at a trade school could take two or

less depending on which programs one chooses to go into.

There are many reasons to choose a college over a vocational school, but there is an endless possibility in trade schools as well. Getting the experience to do most things, one might find that trade schools are the best option for them.

# The Path to Peace in Korea

## *A difficult road to navigate*



Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

David Land  
Staff Writer

Beginning in 1950, the conflict between North Korea and South Korea erupted and the Korean peninsula was engulfed in a bloody war. In the north, the Chinese supported the communist government, and in the south, the UN (United Nations) supported the democratic government. Despite the armistice signed in 1953 that ended the fighting, the tension between the two nations has nearly led to multiple nuclear conflicts.

After the fighting had stopped, the United Nations and the Chinese quickly constructed a roughly two hundred and fifty kilometer long and four kilometers wide DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) to prevent any further invasions

from either party. Ever since then, the border has had thousands of mines, machine guns, guard towers, and soldiers placed along it and has become a hotbed of tension with multiple attempts to cross the border from both civilians and military personnel. For example, in 2012, a North Korean soldier stationed to guard the border killed his commanders then fled across into the south. Or for instance, in 2017, a North Korean soldier was shot in the back several times when trying run across the border, but miraculously survived. This pattern of defections and nuclear threats has greatly heightened the strain on the current peace between the North and South, but as of recently due to the efforts of United States President Donald Trump and Moon Jae-in, President of South Korea, talks

between the warring states has become possible.

The leaders of the United States (U.S.), South Korea, and the former director of the C.I.A, Mike Pompeo, have all met independently with the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, multiple times in order to discuss trade, treaties, and an end of hostilities. In a show of unification, both Koreas over several weeks from late September into October have begun entering the DMZ and clearing minefields. While such an action is just one step towards full peace in the region, it does indicate that progress has begun and has a chance to continue.

McQueeney *continued*  
*from page 1*

teach her students. Ms. McQueeney states that, “I hope that I am able, especially for young women, to help them realize that they don’t have to be perfect; whatever you think perfect is, you’re wrong. Even as adult women, if we would stop putting pressure on each other and instead see what we could do together to complement each other.”

When it comes to the female community, Ms. McQueeney believes they must uplift, support, and encourage one another instead of comparing themselves. She acknowledges the social struggles of being a female, “There are a lot of moms out there doing it by themselves or with a partner, but it still hard, it’s hard being a girl.” Ms.McQueeney is very motherly; her family will always come first in her life. “Being a mom is more important to me than a career.” Mrs. McQueeney did not always know that she would be where she is today. She went to school to become a police officer and was planning to enlist into the Marines after high school.

Although Ms.McQueeney is very walks in every morning with a smile on her face and a kind word, she also has a complete converse side to her. Not only did she first go to school to become a police officer, but you could also find her racing cars on a track. “I used to race cars; I’ve driven

NASCAR twice, and I used to race cars where I wasn’t supposed to race cars; the fastest I’ve driven on the street with a car that I owned was 136 miles per hour.”

When it comes to what Mrs. McQueeney hopes to do for the students at OM, she says, “I would hope that I inspired someone and I made them think differently and gave them the confidence to believe that they could do something, or freed their spirit to just be themselves, or gave them the courage to know that they’re in charge of themselves and the decisions that they make and the choices that they have, no matter what situation that they’re in. I would hope that someone would think that I impacted their life,” she stated. “I want them to know that they should feel comfortable to find their person in this school, it doesn’t have to be me, if it is me, I’m blessed, I’m honored, but they should find their person that they can connect with because you need your person.”



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 XLIV Issue I

Staff Writers:

David Afforo  
Ayat Chapman  
Tamar Connelly  
Joa Gahan  
Lloyanne Hamilton  
Genesis Houston  
Sjean-Israel Howard  
David Land  
Molly McCardell  
Justin Parks  
Roshnee Roberts  
Malick Stafford

Editor-in-Chief  
Tanner Malinowski

News Editor  
Rachel Spione

Editorials Editor  
Hareem Qureshi

Features Editor  
Leah Gaskins

Sports Editor  
Maya Vereen

Photos Editor  
Madison Gustafson

Online Editor  
Tanner Malinowski

Podcasts Editor  
Samy Bebee

Faculty Advisor  
Katlyn Moore

Technical Advisors  
Katherine Florida  
Randi Trzesinski

Ty Lawson

Principal  
Dr. Jeffrey Fink

# America’s Prison System

*Diving into the controversy*



Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

Hareem Qureshi  
Staff Writer

Out of every 100,000 people in the United States of America, 693 are in prison. We incarcerate five times more than Britain, six times more than Canada, and fifteen times more than Japan. How? The Urban Institute has pointed to one main issue with mass incarceration in America: unnecessarily long prison sentences. I remember listening to a podcast once where one of the hosts briefly mentioned a friend getting out of jail after being in prison since the early 2000s. The host had to (unsuccessfully) teach his friend how to use smart phones. . This was a lighthearted story, but long prison sentences can have a devastating effect on people. The movie *Shawshank Redemption* discusses this with the subplot involving a character named Brooks, who was released from jail after fifty years. Unable to adjust to the outside world, that character commits suicide. It may be a work of fiction, but it’s making a very real point: Keeping

people locked away for decades over nonviolent offenses is a cruel punishment. Imagine being in jail for ten years, and coming out to find the world completely different. In the past, when studies were conducted on how much time people were serving in jail, they would look at everyone who was released at the end of the year, and take the average amount of time they served. The problem with that was it excluded too many people, so someone serving twenty years who was arrested in 2018 wouldn’t even be counted until 2038. The Urban Institute decided to look at everyone still in jail at the end of the year and get the average amount of time they had to serve. This gave a more clear image of what sentences people were getting. Mark Godsey is a former New York prosecutor who co-founded the *Ohio Innocence Project* (a program to free wrongly convicted prisoners) and wrote the book *Blind Injustice*, which according to Godsey was meant to expose “...problems in the system that I, as a prosecutor should have seen, but about which I had simply

been in denial.” The book details how prosecutors continuously deny DNA tests or other things that could help free an inmate. Mr. Godsey claims that prosecutors look at defendants like their opponents, which leads to an unfair bias and a desire to put said defendants in jail-- even if they deserve it or not. Personal prejudice in prosecutors has unfairly impacted countless defendants in America, and one horrifying example of this is the Chicago ‘two ton contest’ in the 1970s, in which prosecutors competed to see who would be the first to indict someone who weighed 400 lbs. This led to hundreds of cases that had to be reevaluated. I’m not saying the prison system is entirely flawed or that there is a clear wrong and right answer to this problem. I simply think we should pay more attention to the system and be a bit more critical. In certain aspects the prison system is becoming better, private prisons have started putting more money towards making rehabilitation centers instead.

## Is Halloween Dying?

*Less interest in trick-or-treating*

Joa Gahan  
Staff Writer

As a high schooler, I have not been trick or treating for many years, but I know for a fact that the general Halloween spirit has gone down over the years. I pass out candy every year to children who are less than enthusiastic to say “Trick or treat.” It’s disheartening to see even my little sister show no interest in getting free candy. When I was younger, Halloween was very anticipated; virtually

the whole neighborhood went all out in house decorating. Now, there are fewer homes decorated, maybe a whole street, if you’re lucky enough to find one. I admit that even my house is usually bare now, too. As sort of an experiment, I decided this year that I am going to drag my little sister trick or treating, since she had not been in years. She’s twelve years old and, like many of the middle schoolers in her grade, she does not care for dressing up or going out to get free candy. Even the high schoolers here at OM show more Halloween spirit. I know many friends going out,

whether they are trick or treating or going to Halloween parties. I found many costume ideas for my younger sister, but she still refuses to choose, even though I presented to her Peppa Pig, an inflatable emoji suit, and even a wonderful, offbrand Pikachu. She insists on choosing her own costume, yet makes no effort to actually find a costume. Maybe Halloween is dying, maybe we are all just getting old. Either way, it’s a part of my life that I miss, and something I am trying to not let my little sister miss out on.

2018-2019  
YEARBOOK

ON SALE NOW!

NOW IS THE TIME TO ORDER YOUR 2018-2019 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





# The Risks of Making a Villain Relatable

## *Spotlighting the latest Grinch movie*

Ayat Chapman  
Staff Writer

*Illumination Studios* is in charge of a new retelling of another classic Dr. Seuss story. On November 9, *The Grinch* will once again be bringing his heart two sizes too small back into theaters with the fantasy musical simply titled “*The Grinch*.” Whether you love or hate *Illumination Studios*, their willingness to make “*The Grinch*” a box office hit is not something to scoff at. Benedict Cumberbatch plays *The Grinch*, and Tyler, The Creator got involved in the production by recording new songs for the movie. However, there is one thing that makes the new *Grinch* movie stand out more than its predecessors: the movie has given the *Grinch* more relatability to the audience, therefore giving relatability to the villain of the story.

The dynamic of a general story involves a hero and a villain. Normally, a storyteller would want the hero to be more relatable than the villain in order for the audience to cheer the hero rather than the villain. When a storyteller gives villains qualities that can make them connect more to the audience, this can be positive or negative depending on the narrative trying to be told. There is evidently more risk involved in making a villain relatable than making a hero relatable, mainly because the villain is someone you are designated to love to hate and hate to love.

This isn’t to say that you should never make a villain relatable. 2018’s version of *The Grinch* is a special case. This year’s edition of the story gives *The Grinch* a sympathetic backstory as to why he hates Christmas. According to one of the trailers, as a kid, it can be perceived that the *Grinch* was an orphan who never got to enjoy the experience of Christmas with anyone. This makes the *Grinch* connect more to young children that may have also never experienced the true joy of Christmas. In a way, this decision is smart because the *Grinch* is the main figure of the movie. For all intensive purposes, even though his methods and plot are antagonistic, *The Grinch* is the protagonist. The movie is named solely after him; nothing about stealing Christmas is listed. The risks involved with this decision mainly come from the fact that *The Grinch* in the original story



Photo Credit: deviantart.com

was never given a direct reason for hating Christmas. Dr. Seuss kept this reason up for interpretation. Changing it in the movie may provide more relatability, but it could also ruin the nostalgia for the older half of the audience (because let’s face it, everyone’s going to relive their childhoods once in a while).

“*The Grinch*” is not the first time that a Dr. Seuss story has been retold to fit newer audiences nor the first time *Illumination* spearheaded a production of said caliber. In 2012, *Illumination*’s “*The Lorax*” hit theaters, and the changes given to the *Grinch* this year look like child’s play if you can take into account what happened to *The Once-ler*. In the original story from the TV Special, *The Once-ler* was your stereotypical, greedy industrialist

that had made a market out of the Truffula Forest with his garment, the Thneed. As the narrator and the main antagonist, he had served the purpose of being the problem and the solution in the story. Many subtle things such as never being able to see his face protected his ambiguity and his symbolism as a representative of big business and all industrialists rather than an individual. It was clear that the audience was never supposed to relate to the *Once-ler* until the ending of the story which saw *The Once-ler* realize the errors of his ways and give the young child the last truffula seed to grow. The 2012 retelling kept the basics of the *Once-ler* character, but it also did a multitude of things that made him less mysterious. There was more emphasis on his family life, more emphasis

on him at being an optimistic, young adult who had let success get to his head, and overall more normality. You can even list some of the things *The Once-ler* likes based on his actions such as when he eats marshmallows and plays the guitar. This *Once-ler* has the carefully crafted, Hollywood manufactured identity of a more emphasized human being. This may have been the case because *Illumination* wanted to drive home the message that this could happen to anyone, and if that is the case, this makes *The Once-ler* more relatable to the audience as a character. The downside to this is that this makes *The Once-ler* an antagonist by chance. This new *Once-ler* does not represent the industrialist symbolism seen in the original story which makes the story and message of the 2012 *Lorax* production not as memorable or special. He is not a true villain in this narrative, but rather an antagonist by accident. Deviating from the norm for a narrative is not wrong. If done right, it can even give more intrigue to the world that is being set up. What a storyteller should keep in mind is that deviating too far from the norm could possibly bring more harm than good. At the end of the day, the villain is the final obstacle. The villain is the hero’s last stand against their goal. The villain is the ultimate contrast towards the hero. Whether relatable to the audience or not, at least have someone that can clearly give the story conflict, because a story with a conflict is better than a story without one.

# A Look Back at Cringe History

## *Graffiti Bridge*

David Afforo  
Staff Writer

“*Graffiti Bridge*” was released twenty-eight years ago. As the de-facto sequel to *Purple Rain*, it was the final film to star Prince before his untimely death in 2016. While its soundtrack did well, the film itself was not as successful. It has a 4.1 rating on IMDb.com and fared well with only 19% of film critics according to *Rotten Tomatoes*. With that said, let’s take a look at the film.

Before I begin, I will warn you that there will be points where I’ll spoil the film, so if you want to experience the film yourself, don’t read any further. If you’re fine with spoilers, however, then here’s a synopsis. In a ‘tale of two cities’-esque storyline, Prince’s character, The Kid, and Morris (played by Morris Day), fight over who has the best nightclub on the block when a lady named Aura comes into the two men’s lives.

She’s a bit surreal; she even likes writing in journal with a feather pen, and when Morris meets her, she becomes the damsel in distress character. So if you want see a bad movie about Prince with his own nightclub, interacting with many other famous musicians and a mysterious lady, this is your cup of tea.

At first, it was alright, but the writing could use some love, as it felt a bit rushed in my opinion. For example, Aura, at the tail end, gets ran over by a car, but other than the last scene where we see her walk into nowhere, we don’t really know what happens to her. Is she ok? Is she still fighting for her life? According to *Wikipedia*, Aura is supposed to be an angel, but I’m not sure if I can believe that, since angels are oblivious to death.

My initial reaction to the film was “Hey, is this West Side Story meets Prince?” Another thought I had was that it reminded me of a Pixar short where a boy meets two buskers and the boy can’t

decide on who to pay. The funny thing about the film is how overly-exaggerated some of the scenes are, and I felt some of the scenes were inspired by early sound short subjects. This one scene for example, had Morris take Aura to his house when the lights went out. Morris and another person in the house, Jerome, try to figure out what’s going on. Amidst the confusion, The Kid steals Aura under their noses, and following a moment of black screen and the talking of Morris and Jerome, the light come back on, and we see the two with light switches. After a while, Morris runs off to puke, while Jerome faints.

The funny thing about this scene is not just because of how fake Jerome’s fainting is, but there is no explanation regarding what this scene is supposed to mean. Any earlier version of the *Graffiti Bridge* transcript does have this to say about it: “The notion of the two of them together ‘that way’ is too much for them to bear.” (Prince) Speaking of which, be-

cause the script was earlier draft, I was able to point out some differences between the script and what I saw on the film, like for example, the scene where Aura got ran over was supposed to happen before Melody Cool’s number. And her son, Tevin, seemed a bit out of place. I liked his number, but outside of that, he didn’t really add much value to the film. Sure, he’s just a kid, but Prince could have gave Tevin a larger role in the film.

Another surreal part of the film is that, after Aura gets run over, there’s this montage of various clips. The montage was one thing, but the clips were another. For example, one clip had the Kid throw blue paint on the wall of his nightclub, and other than this one scene where during a part where the Kid’s club gets destroyed, we see someone paint the aforementioned wall red, It could’ve used more context (and to make it weirder, it was filmed in slow motion). Bottom line, if that montage was supposed to have a message,

then I didn’t get it. Oh, and if you like films with truces, this is your film, as the Kid and Morris shake hands at the end, putting aside their differences.

All critique aside, if you want to check out the film, go ahead. As I said, it those so bad it’s good films. If its writing hadn’t been rushed, though, it could had enjoyed the same success Prince’s past films had enjoyed. But still, check it out, and tell me what you think. Thank you, and as Prince’s films always closes out, “May U Live 2 See The Dawn.”



# School Calendar

- 11/15/18 ~ Winter Sports Begin!
- 11/19/18 and 11/20/18 ~ Schools Close 3 Hours Early  
(Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- 11/20/18 ~ Alpha Achievers Thanksgiving Dinner
- 11/21/18-11/23/18 ~ Schools Closed for Students  
(Thanksgiving Break)
- 11/29/18 ~ Food Pantry
- 12/1/18 ~WBAL Concert for Kids
- 12/4/18-12/5/18 ~ Senior Portraits
- 12/5/18 ~ Picture day makeups for underclassmen
- 12/6/18 ~ OMHS Piano Recital
- 12/15/18 ~ OMHS Dance Concert
- 12/18/18 ~ OMHS Winter Concert #1
- 12/19/18 ~ Interim Progress Report Cards Issued
- 12/19/18 ~ OMHS Winter Concert #2
- 12/20/18 ~ Food Pantry
- 12/24/18-01/01/19 ~ Schools Closed for All Students  
(Winter Break)

# Stress Column

What are some good tips on managing time and coping with stress?

Time management and stress are a common issues among high school students. Dealing with sports, class loads, and other individual activities can be difficult to balance sometimes. If you are active and participate in extracurricular activities outside of school, you can probably find yourself lost and overwhelmed as time goes on. Here are some quick tips to help find that balance in your social and academic life.

First, a good thing to do is to write down and organize everything you have to do that day- maybe you have practice right after school and then Driver’s Ed right after practice. Before you can efficiently manage your time, you need to figure out everything you are doing that day. The most important thing with time management is to prioritize the most urgent task at the top of your to-do list. You should get your math homework done before you go shopping for your best friend’s birthday. Even though this is important as well, getting the important things out of the way first will help reduce stress. A good way to learn efficient time management is to not overwhelm yourself with activities. Someone participating in the play, a sport, and taking four or five AP courses is going to be under a lot of stress. During the weekend, you should map out your afternoon schedule. If you go home after school and have good time management, you would prioritize doing your homework before playing video games or hanging out with friends. Getting school work out of the way can help reduce stress because you don’t have to worry about it later and you won’t have to stay up, losing sleep. Lastly, when trying to manage stress, take multiple breaks during studying or doing homework, either to get some food and drinks in your system, or even lay down and take a nap. Stepping away from things for a few minutes can calm you down, and when you are ready to start back up on your task, you will be more refreshed and ready to work. The more things you have on your plate, the more stress you could have. Always make sure you don’t have overlapping activities, and always make sure to take breaks to replenish your energy.

Love,  
M.



# Colorism in Media

## *Why is it significant?*



Photo Credit: Flickr

**Sjean-Isreal Howard**  
*Staff Writer*

For generations, there has been a divide between the lighter and darker skin complexions, dating back to slavery. Darker-skinned individuals were considered to be ugly and of the lowest class (typically in the fields), while the lighter skinned individuals were partial to the slave owners and were generally in the house working, as opposed to the fields. In America, black people who were of a lighter complexion typically would get more job applications, explaining why wealthier black families tended to be lighter skinned.

Lighter skin is often seen as superior in America as well as other countries, explaining why skin lightening creams continue to sell exceptionally well all

over the world. Over the years in television and the film industry, white people have gotten the most screen time and rational roles whereas black people have always portrayed a stereotype or some sort of servant or lesser companion. Most of the time, when black people have gotten roles in major films, the person was light-skinned as opposed to dark-skinned because that’s generally seen as the prettier image for media.

In 2017, Marvel released a film called “Black Panther”,focusing on Marvel’s own dark-skinned superhero, Black Panther. The film featured a predominantly black cast, showing off dark-skinned individuals in a light they haven’t been portrayed in very often: smart, efficient and sophisticated, thus explaining it’s appeal. The reason Black Panther meant so much to most black people is

because they were finally being portrayed in a positive light that hasn’t been a very popular thing to do in Hollywood.

“Black Panther” started a conversation to enlighten people on the ignorance and degradation upon dark-skinned people as opposed to lighter-skinned people. By doing this, black people are enforcing white supremacist principles in our own community, and the idea that a lighter-skinned individual is superior simply because of their skin tone being lighter. As a community of minorities, people of color must stand together, because other races just see them all as black people! Black people can’t afford to divide and separate when that was the goal in the first place!

# Venom Movie Review

## *A recap of yet another Marvel film*



Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

**Samy Bebee**  
*Podcasts Editor*

The plot of this story is about the *Marvel* villain Venom. In the comics, Venom’s backstory heavily involves Spider-Man, but in this story, the writers chose to remove Spider-Man from the backstory to focus more on Venom. This led to there being a completely different backstory. In this version, Eddie Brock, played by Tom Hardy, is still a journalist and is trying to investigate a

company called the *Life Foundation*. While he is investigating, Eddie stumbles across a lab where the company conducts tests involving an alien sentient being. The alien attaches itself to Eddie throughout the movie and turns him into Venom. Some of the positives about this movie include the CGI, which was very well done, specifically when Eddie turns into Venom. I also thought the fight scenes were really well done and entertaining, however I think *Marvel* would have been better if the movie had an R rating instead of being PG-13. What I didn’t like

about the movie was how some of the characters didn’t really add to the movie’s tone; from what I saw, the movie was trying to set a dark tone, but with some of the lines being unintentionally goofy, it ruined some of the scenes that were supposed to be serious. The movie like just another *Marvel* movie in my opinion, which is not a bad thing; if you enjoy Marvel movies, then this is a great movie and I would recommend seeing it. However, if you’re like me, and superhero movies just aren’t your thing, don’t stress if you don’t find time to see it.

# Holiday Playlist

*Created by Lloyanne Hamilton*

Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas!

Are you excited for Christmas season? Because I can’t wait! Who doesn’t love Christmas? It’s the best time of the year, grandma

Betty makes your favorite pastries, Aunt Judy puts too much rum in the eggnog, and

Uncle Jim dresses up as Santa Claus and gives out presents to your little cousins. It’s the one time of month we’re no matter what

everyone is going through you’re able to come together and be happy with the people that you love. So, gather around the fireplace with Barney and Ben, Janice and Jen, while drinking hot cocoa and enjoy these Christmas tunes with me!

Title	Artist	Album
Gee Whiz	Carla Thomas	Gee Whiz (Look at His Eyes)
All I Want for Christmas is You	Mariah Carey	Merry Christmas
Let it Snow	Boyz II Men	Christmas Interpretations
Jingle Bells	Michael Buble	Christmas
8 Days of Christmas	Destiny’s Child	8 Days of Christmas
Sleigh Ride	Carpenters	Christmas Portrait
Baby It’s Cold Outside	Johnny Mercer and Margaret Whiting	I Never Heard You Say
I Saw My Mommy Kissing Santa Claus	The Jackson 5	Jackson 5 Christmas Album
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas	Michael Buble	Christmas
It’s Beginning to Look Alot Like Christmas	Johnny Mathis	Christmas Eve with Johnny Mathis
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer	Gene Autry	Gene Autry Sings “Santa Claus is Coming to Town”
The Christmas Song	Nat King Cole	The Magic of Christmas
Somewhere in My Memory	John Williams	Home Alone Christmas Album
Santa Baby (Single)	Eartha Kitt	N/A
It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year	Andy Williams	It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year



# Homecoming



One of many highlights of the school year is Homecoming week. From the pep assembly to the dance, this year's homecoming week commenced on October 1st with the annual Homecoming game.

Oakland Mills opened up spirit-week with a variety of events. Students were allowed to choose to dress in a manner that corresponded to the theme. This year, this was meme day, where students masqueraded as their favorite celebrities. Other events included dynamic duo day, wacky-tack day, and more.

Aside from the Homecoming dance, the week also featured a variety of sports events, which each respective class competed against. The Junior boys represented their class in volleyball, while the girls however, beat the underclassmen in football. The week concluded with the Homecoming dance on October 20th, bringing an end to Oakland Mills' Homecoming week.





# ning 2018



Homecoming. Much like last year, from spirit was characterized by a variety of festivities. 12th and was concluded on October 20th with a homecoming dance.

With Flashback Friday, a day in which students dress with a decade of their choosing. Following a day of class color, followed by a day of class color, and finally class color day.

There were two Junior versus Senior games in which the juniors bested the seniors. A select group of juniors, besting the seniors after three sets. Senior volleyball 27-7.

A football game against Atholton, in which the home team won the next day. Both occurred on the 19th and 20th of October, the first two days of Land Mills' 2018 spirit week.

*Written by Malick Stafford*





# LeBron to the Lakers

## James joins Ball, Kuzma in LA



Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

Roshnee Roberts  
Staff Writer

LeBron James was the first overall pick in the National Basketball Association (NBA) draft in 2003 by the Cleveland Cavaliers. In the first seven seasons of his career, LeBron James played with the Cleveland Cavaliers. After those seasons with the Cavs, he signed with the Miami Heat and played alongside Dwayne

Wade for four seasons, in which he won two championships with the team. After playing with the Heat, he then returned back to the Cavaliers for another four seasons. Those fifteen seasons in the NBA were very eventful for James, which included nine Finals appearances, and multiple MVP awards. This past summer, LeBron James made the executive decision to take his talents to the Los Angeles Lakers. This decision was announced after James' incredible performance

with the Cavaliers during the 2018 NBA Finals. The impact of James' decision is already sending shockwaves throughout the NBA community.

This decision to go to LA was prompted by the fact that James' family and home are there. Though many aren't happy with his decision, others are looking forward to watching James throughout his debut season with the Lakers, to see what he'll do and how he'll play. As the 2018-2019 NBA season begins, LeBron James has gotten some time on the court during the preseason with the Lakers. Starting with their first game against the Denver Nuggets, LeBron scored nine points with only fifteen minutes of playing time. In their first game against the Warriors, LeBron was very dominant on the floor, scoring fifteen points, ten rebounds, and five assist in just eighteen minutes of being on the court. In that same game, James was able to show off his three-point skills when it was nearing the buzzer of the first half, in which he made a thirty-four foot three pointer. These are only some of James' stats as the preseason comes to an end and the regular season begins. James showed that he is willing to, and will continue to adapt and work with his new team in order to prosper in the season ahead. Along with the individual effort that LeBron is putting into his game, as a team, the LA Lakers have been proving to their coaches and fans that they are all willing to sacrifice and work together to build their chemistry in order to do well this season.

# OM Wrestling Preview

## Scorps expect success in 2018-19



Justin Parks  
Staff Writer

The past few wrestling seasons at OM have been filled with success, and this season appears to be no exception, as the wrestling team is expecting yet another strong campaign this year. It

was stressed among all members interviewed that the team has a good mix of senior leadership and young talent to make them a contender for a state championship this year. Some of the squad's top wrestlers this year are seniors Ernie Smith, Dylan Watt, Anthony Morales, Quantonio Dunscomb, and Chase Williams. The Scorpions will also be led by

juniors Jalen Cornelius and Isaiah Williams, as well as sophomore Steven Harrell. Ernie Smith, one of the team captains, said he expects big things from the team this season.

Furthermore, he looks forward to wrestling against top-tier teams like Glenelg, Mount Hebron, and Hammond. Smith believes that with the talent they have, they will be strong contenders in the pursuit of a state title.

The highly-anticipated season opener is scheduled for December 6, in which the Scorpions will open the season with a match against the visiting Mustangs of Marriotts Ridge. The regular season will conclude on January 31, when Oakland Mills will travel to take on North Hagerstown at 6:00 pm. Other key meets include home matchups against Atholton (January 15) and Hammond (January 29), as well as a multiteam events at Long Reach (December 11), Mount Hebron (December 18).

# NFL

## Schedule

### Baltimore Ravens

November 18: vs Bengals ~ 1:00 pm

November 25: vs Raiders ~ 1:00 pm

December 2: @ Falcons ~ 1:00 pm

December 9: @ Chiefs ~ 1:00 pm

December 16: vs Buccaneers ~ 1:00 pm

December 22: @ Chargers ~ 8:20 pm

December 30: vs Browns ~ 1:00 pm

### Washington Redskins

November 18: vs Texans ~ 1:00 pm

November 22: @ Cowboys ~ 4:30 pm

December 3: @ Eagles ~ 8:15 pm

December 9: vs Giants ~ 1:00 pm

December 16: @ Jaguars ~ 1:00 pm

December 22: @ Titans ~ 4:30 pm

December 30: vs Eagles ~ 1:00 pm

Standings as of November 13:

Ravens: 4-5 (Third in AFC North)

Redskins: 6-3 (First in NFC East)



## Dr. Jeffrey Fink

*A new face at the helm of Oakland Mills*



*Photo Credit: Dr. Jeffrey Fink*

As a new school year begins, new faces are accompanied by familiar ones, eager to make the next nine months enjoyable and memorable. This not only goes for students, but teachers as well. 2018 has brought forth nineteen new staff members to Oakland Mills High, most notably Dr. Jeffrey Fink, OM's newest principal.

After cycling through numerous principals within the past few years, including the sudden departure of Dr. Kathy Orlando in early 2018, Fink attempts to provide some sustainability at the position for the foreseeable future.

In addition to being a science teacher at Oakland Mills High School from 2003-2010 and coaching JV Girls Soccer during that time as well, Dr. Fink also has some experience working in a lab, as he briefly conducted cancer research before he decided it simply wasn't for him.

"I couldn't work in a lab...I needed interaction..." Fink explained, as he revealed he's always had a passion for working with children and interacting with them on a daily basis. So after Dr. Orlando's departure and following Mrs. Elaine Reid's tenure as interim principal, Dr. Fink requested to return to Oakland Mills and serve as the Scorpions' next principal. His request was granted.

When it comes to the culture at OM and how it compares with nearby schools in Howard County, it simply doesn't, according to Dr. Fink. While other schools have to ensure and declare that they are the centers of their respective communities, this notion goes without saying in Oakland Mills, as the "tight-knit, accepting community" had a big influence in Dr. Fink's request. In addition, a sense of community is something that Dr. Fink prioritizes, as he believes a sense of belonging is what drives students and teachers alike towards success. More specifically, one-on-one interaction is crucial in emphasizing and sustaining a feeling of community and acceptance, as a strong, personal connection to all students is what Dr. Fink believes makes students truly feel they belong and gives them a sense of pride in being a Scorpion.

Open-mindedness is important to Dr. Fink as well, as a trait with so much power and importance should be possessed by anyone who steps foot into the Oakland Mills community. Open-mindedness further emphasizes the feeling of acceptance and belonging among students, as it generates the sense that nobody's perfect and it's okay to make mistakes. Like everyone else, Dr. Fink has struggled in school at some point, and stressed that no matter how much you're struggling in school, there is always a way out, but it's up to you to find it. When he was in middle school, Dr. Fink struggled mightily with academics. "My grades were awful...teachers told me that I'd never amount to anything..." Dr. Fink stated, and that instead of listening to the negative things his teachers believed about him, he simply put his head down and began to work towards what he believed in, and eventually clawed his way to becoming Oakland Mills' newest principal. "It's okay to fail..." Dr. Fink reassures; everybody is going to fail at some point in their life, and the key to recover from failure is to seek out a trusted person to guide you towards success.

If you want to work towards something, the most important thing to possess is drive. The motivation to succeed will carry you farther than you might have imagined. Take chances. Don't be afraid to fail. People will still support you even if you're struggling. And if someone doesn't believe that, Dr. Fink will always be someone you can turn to, as his open-door policy is in place to further emphasize the sense of community and belonging that is, was, and always will be Oakland Mills.

*Written by Tanner Malinowski*



# New Teachers

November 16, 2018

Page 12

## Get to Know Some of OM's Newest Teachers!



MR. KOLASINSKI  
ENGLISH



MS. BRINKLEY  
ART



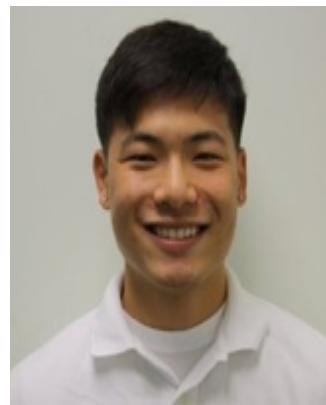
MS. BROWN-FORDHAM  
ENGLISH



MS. REID  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



MR. MILLER  
SOCIAL STUDIES



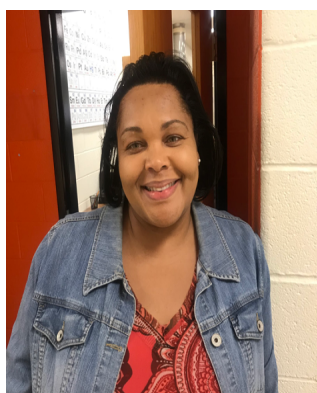
MR. PARK  
MATH



DR. SOLOMON  
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST



MS. MCQUEENEY  
TEACHER'S SECRETARY



MS. DEMERY  
SCIENCE



MR. FLEMING  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



MR. FOWLKES  
PUPIL PERSONNEL WORKER



MS. VANCE  
ENGLISH



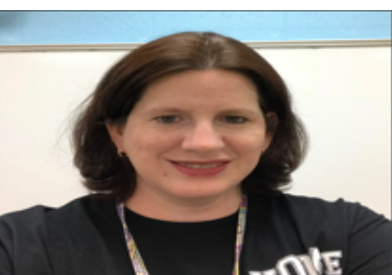
MRS. BROOKS  
ENGLISH



MS. MONK  
SCIENCE



MS. DVORNICKY  
SPECIAL EDUCATION



MS. MAGRIN  
SPANISH



MS. DOODICAN  
SCIENCE



SRA. PRINS  
SPANISH

*\*Please check out [thescroll.om.com](http://thescroll.om.com) for articles on all of our new teachers!\**