

The Scroll

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Oakland Mills High School

March 31, 2023

Beneath The Headlines



Upcoming Movies

Page 2



Welcome Home

Page 5



Prom
Page 6

Index
News: 1
Features: 2-3
Editorials: 4-5
Prom: 6
Sports: 7
Activities: 8

All things Spring Break

Six Activities To Do Over Spring Break

Victoria Williams

Editorials Editor

Spring break is finally upon us; now, we have more time to do fun activities. Don't have anything planned? Don't worry; I've got six ideas for how you can spend your spring break.

Spa night

We all need some downtime after a stressful month of school, so schedule a night (or two) to treat yourself. Put on a face mask, take a bath or a shower, pick up a new book, and unwind. Sophomore, Chloe Vines, says, "my favorite things to do during a self-care night are painting my nails, doing my hair, and buying food."

Beach trip

Now that winter is over and summer is just around the corner, it is the perfect time for a beach trip for you and your friends or family. So whether you plan to go for a day or a week, enjoy the beautiful waves, boardwalk fries, and the sun's warmth. But remember your sunscreen! And if you need some beach recommendations, sophomore Leah Williams told me, "one of my favorite beach trips was to a private beach in Virginia where the sand was so soft and white, and the beach was so nice," so definitely visit the beaches in Virginia for a fun time!

Board night

A fun activity with your friends, "bring your board" night is a fantastic way to spice up a traditional charcuterie board. Create a fruit board, taco board, dessert board, pizza board, candy board, etc., and enjoy a feast with all your friends. a fun time!

Cherry blossom festival

Washington, DC, will host several activities from March 20 to April 16, 2023, including the Opening Ceremony, the Blossom Kite Festival,



the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade, and Petalpalooza. Traditionally, the peak time to see the cherry blossoms is the first week of April, so make sure to check them out sometime over break.

Continued on page 4

Russia's Spring Offensive in Ukraine

A Renewed Russian Offensive

Carter Keenan

Staff Writer

For a full year, the war in Ukraine has been raging and extreme in the breakaway republics of Donetsk and Luhansk. The two republics have been fighting Ukraine since 2014, following the Euromaidan protests. These "republics" have been the main focus of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The main goal of the invasion is to liberate these two breakaway states from Ukraine; about half of the area in Donetsk has been taken by Russian and separatist forces. The key city of Bakhmut has been the subject of relentless fighting, having been destroyed and seeing its pre-war population of nearly 71,000 reduced to only 2,000-5,000 inhabitants.

While the harsh Ukrainian winter and Rasputitsa (the time between winter and spring) have limited the ability of both sides to launch an offensive, as the weather warms and the ground dries, Russia is mainly using their Wagner PMC mercenaries to capture surrounding villages, seemingly to encircle and starve the city in order to avoid urban warfare that caused heavy Russian losses in cities like Mariupol, Bucha, and Kharkiv. While these advances have been minor, Wagner PMC mercenaries have captured highway M-03 and the Soledar salt mines. The capture of highway M-03 is major because prime assets like tanks, artillery, and MLRs are hard to evacuate without major roads, and if Russian forces are to cap-

ture highway H-32, they would have effectively encircled the city.

As winter set in, Russia was stretched thin with very few trained troops. But the winter allowed Russia to train and mobilize 300,000 soldiers. This meant that for the first time, Ukraine might be contested in manpower and fighting capability. As of now, Russia has continuously thrown its own men into a metaphorical meat grinder through endless waves of unsuccessful attacks, essentially wasting the equipment and training they had spent months on. On the other hand, the Wagner PMCs seem to be getting the most attention, making up the bulk of each Russian success. In the Donetsk region, Wagner PMCs have been leading

the bulk of the offensive, and with each settlement taken, the people living there risk brutality as Wagner PMCs are notoriously brutal.

With Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu retaking command of offensive actions in the war, his earlier strategies will work with a rearmed Russian army. Washington has been a determinant though, stating that if Ukraine falls, the rest of Europe will. The U.S. has taken many steps to stop this by recently sending Ukraine M1A2 Abrams to be used on the Donetsk front along with Germany sending Leopard 2s. If this offensive ends up capturing Bakhmut and western aid, there may be new concerns raised about aid to Ukraine.

Features

March 31, 2023

Page 2

Upcoming Movies

The Next Big and Upcoming Spring Releases

Aidan Humphrey
Staff Writer

Lately, it seems new movies have not quite been living up to the hype or people's expectations; however, new movies due to be released this spring, seem promising. Some of the biggest block-busters coming soon include *The Super Mario Bros*, *The Little Mermaid*, *John Wick: Chapter 4* (out now), *Transformers: Rise Of the Beasts*, *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3*, and *The Flash*. These movies will star actors such as Chris Pratt, Keanu Reeves, Jack Black, Vin Diesel, Sylvester Stallone, Grant Gustin, Ben Affleck, Ezra Miller, and plenty

more familiar faces. *The Super Mario Bros* is being released on April 7, 2023, with lots of anticipation from many, but also some uncertainty with the casting decisions. Many people on the internet have responded to the trailer with disappointment because of Chris Pratt's voice-acting performance as Mario. More specifically, many believed the accent he was trying to put on did not

sound anything like the nostalgic Mario accent that we know and love. Although he may not have the perfect Mario accent, that does not take away the fact that this movie still has lots of potential to be great. Another movie that plenty of people are excited about is *Transformers: Rise Of the Beasts*. This Transformers series has been going on for many years, and it has been seven years since

the last movie was released. This Transformers movie was a surprise to many because of the time span from the last movie to now which has built up lots of anticipation for the release on June 9, 2023. This movie brings back many familiar faces from previous movies such as Optimus Prime and Bumblebee, some of the most well-known Transformers, while also showing new heroes and villains to keep the film fresh.

With all these highly anticipated movies coming out, be sure to keep track of release dates so you can buy your tickets to see these as soon as possible.



HBO: Removed Shows are Back?



Vic Burch
News Editor

In the past several months, upwards of 80 shows and movies have been quietly removed from the streaming platform HBO Max. Announcements of removals have been scarce with even show-runners not receiving prior notice for the removal of their shows. Attention was first drawn to this after the notorious cancellation of the mostly completed movie *Batgirl*, in the summer of 2022.

Originally speculated to be released sometime in the winter of 2022, the

cancellation of *Batgirl* was announced in August 2022, after test screenings had already begun. With recent box office letdowns that were, like *Batgirl*, part of the DC Extended Universe, the reason behind *Batgirl*'s cancellation seems to be an attempt to potentially gain more money from tax returns by counting the unreleased movie as a loss than from its prospective box office sales and streaming viewership.

The mass upheaval of shows and movies can likely be attributed to the early 2022 finalization of the

merger between Discovery and WarnerMedia, WarnerMedia being the company that owned HBO. The movement may have been in preparation for potential rebranding when HBO Max and Discovery+ also merge to become one streaming platform sometime this summer. However, many of the HBO owned movies and TV shows that were removed from HBO Max in 2022 had received no physical releases, effectively rendering many of them lost media at the time.

Currently, many of the shows and movies removed from HBO

Max in 2022 have been accessible on Tubi since February of this year, with additional plans to move most of the rest to Roku sometime this spring. A select few can now be found on other platforms like Peacock, Hulu, and Apple TV. Still, even though the removed shows and movies were only temporarily inaccessible, this situation has raised valid questions and concerns for means of legal media preservation efforts as physical releases of shows and movies become more uncommon.

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Features

March 31, 2023

Page 3

How to Protect Yourself From Spring Allergies: *Three Simple Steps*

Jordyn Gittens
Staff Writer

Spring is finally here. I'm sure you all are enjoying the spring showers, beautiful flowers, and comfortable weather. But are you prepared for the allergies that follow alongside those? Here are a few things that you can do to protect yourself from those pesky allergies.

One of the most important precautions to take into consideration is to **WASH YOUR HANDS!** Germs are everywhere and can get into your eyes, nose and even your

mouth. Spray or wipe down surfaces in your house with disinfectant to kill bacteria and germs, and try to keep them from touching your face.

If there are high amounts of pollen in your area, stay inside unless necessary, especially if you have allergies. If you find yourself outside or driving, wear a mask and keep the windows closed. Try to prevent from using the air conditioning as well since the pollen could make its way in through the vents.

Dust your house frequently. It will remove the pathogens that

trigger your symptoms. This could also come in handy if you have a pet that sheds a lot. It is also important that you keep probiotics with

you at all times. Those who suffer from spring allergies, please take

the proper precautions to keep yourselves safe, and I hope you all have a fun and safe break!



welcome
April ❤

April Holidays *Spring into Action this April*

Tay Washington
Staff Writer

April is a month of holidays and celebrations. From Easter to Earth Day, there are many opportunities to take a break from your day to enjoy the beauty of the season. April is a great time to go outside, spend time with family and friends, and celebrate the start of spring.

Since the weather is finally starting to get nicer, many people take advantage of the warmer weather and longer days to enjoy the outdoors and nature.

People often go on hikes, bike rides, and even picnics. April is also a great time to start a garden and watch the flowers bloom throughout the season.

Easter is one of the most widely celebrated holidays in April. It is traditionally a Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. During Easter Sunday, which is on April 9th this year, many people attend church services and celebrate with family and friends. Easter is also a time for egg hunts, Easter baskets, and other fun activities.

Passover is another important holiday in April. It is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. During Passover, the Jewish community celebrates with a special meal called a Seder. This meal includes traditional foods such as matzo, bitter herbs, and charoset.

Earth Day will fall on Saturday, April 22nd this year. Originating in 1970, Earth Day will celebrate its 53rd year this month. According to the official Earth Day website,

this year's theme is "Invest in Our Planet." So, if you're feeling motivated to help out this April, try planting a tree or even just picking up some trash near your home to help keep our planet clean.

Finally, April is a great time to celebrate getting closer to the end of the school year. Many students look forward to the end of the year and the start of summer vacation. April is a great time to plan any summer activities and trips since break will be here before we know it!

Have a Wonderful and Safe Spring Break!

We here at *The Scroll* know that all students deserve this break. Take the time to relax, rejuvenate, and rest. We hope your Spring Break is memorable and fun!

See you on April 11!

From,
Your Friends at *The Scroll*

Check Us Out on
Instagram

@ **omscroll**



Editorials

March 31, 2023

Page 4

Here Comes Quarter 4! *The last quarter of the school year*

Nicholas Garcia
Solis
Staff Writer

Quarter three is ending, which means quarter four is right around the corner. Our final quarter of the year has a ton in store for us, such as final grades, prom, final exams, and getting ready for a new school year.

With any new quarter, the first thing that usually comes to everyone's mind is grades. Grades are very important when it comes to the last quarter especially since it's the last opportunity to raise the overall final grade for a course. Quarter four also means finals, which can also be a factor in overall grades. Making sure to study and putting extra effort into your work can

make or break your final grade.

Freshmen are finishing up their first year in high school. This is a great time for freshmen to talk to their teachers about what to improve on for their sophomore year. This also is a great time for freshmen to explore new sports and activities for next year. Get involved!

Sophomores have a big year ahead of them! It is good to talk to teachers about how to prepare for taking AP classes and the start of the college search. There are many resources available for preparation for those things available at OM.

Juniors are nearing their last year as high schoolers. This is a great time

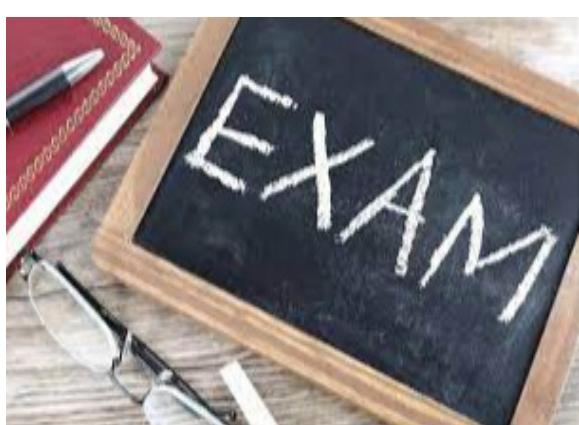
to talk to teachers about college recommendation letters and begin to think about what your post-graduation plans are.

Seniors are almost done! With about one month left, it is time to finish strong and get yourself organized for college and other post-graduate plans. A very exciting time for all!

The start of each new quarter is an opportunity for everyone to start fresh. Try to make a habit this quarter of turning assignments in on

time, or keeping better organization through the use of a planner or even the calendar on your phone. It is easy to feel tired and unmotivated in the final quarter of the year, but it is important to push through and finish strong.

Outside of academics, there are many activities to look forward to in the fourth quarter. Prom, senior events, and graduation are all exciting events that will be here before we know it.



Spring Break

Continued From Page 1

Day trip to a nearby city

With only a little over a week off of school, you may not have had time to plan an elaborate trip. Luckily, the DMV has fantastic tourist attractions, historic places, and local-hidden gems. So, if you do not have any trips planned, create one and head over to Annapolis, DC, or any nearby city you may have been overlooking and explore!

Boardwalk Bar & Arcade

Located at 715 Wharf St SW Washington, DC 20024, the Boardwalk Bar & Arcade has activities for everyone in the family. The Wharf offers terrific games, creative frozen drinks, and a beachy menu that makes for a great family outing. Learn more at www.boardwalkwharf.com.

Jet Ski ride

For a day of fun out on the water, try jet skiing! All around the DMV, there are locations where you can rent a jet ski, such as the Chesapeake Bay, where you can ride for miles and miles. And if you need to learn how to ride a jet ski, every session will begin with a quick safety session about controls of the skis and how to handle them. There are other options such as paddle boards and kayaks too!

Boat ride

Annapolis, DC, and Baltimore have many boat and cruise rides that you can go on for a relaxing outing. A common one is Annapolis's water taxi rides that travel from Downtown to Eastport for only four to ten dollars on average. It could also serve as part of your itinerary during your day trip, and if you need to know what you want to explore, you can always ask the captain, who can help point you in the right direction whatever you want

APRIL EVENTS

Friday, April 7th

Schools closed

Tuesday, April 18th

Report cards issued

Friday, April 21st

Schools closed

Tuesday, April 25th

Spring Music Concert

Wednesday, April 26th

Spring Music Concert

OMHS Food Pantry open

MAY EVENTS

Wednesday, May 5th

Spring Concert

Thursday, May 6th

Spring Concert

SAT Testing

Wednesday, May 10th

Spring Showcase

Wednesday, May 17th

Music Banquet

Editorials

March 31, 2023

Page 5

There's No Place Like Welcome HOMe

My experience at Welcome hOMe



Juel Collins
Staff Writer

If there is one thing Oakland Mills is determined to have people understand, is that there is a true devotion to having a strong community. This goes even further with a little gathering called "Welcome hOMe."

Created and run by a few of our own Oakland Mills' staff members, such as Mrs. Fick, Mrs. Florida, Mrs. Hewitt, Mr. Ringgold, and Mr. Berry, Welcome hOMe is offered to the whole student body. It was created not just for students to talk and get to know each other while enjoying a slice of pizza, but, more importantly, to provide a

safe space for students to connect. Welcome hOMe breaks down the boundary between students and staff, giving students a voice. It allows a student to talk about what in Oakland Mills they think could be better and what they feel is working. It also gives space for students to vent about personal issues with plenty of people there to listen without judgment.

Now with all that in mind, I did not enter Welcome hOMe with a comfortable feeling. The thought of having to share my experiences with people I barely knew made me nervous, and on top of that, we were assigned to a specific group, which did not help at all. However,

my fears were unnecessary since it was not bad at all. For one, since we were all pretty uncomfortable with each other at the start, the teacher who was assigned to us was more than happy to share some of his personal experiences and ask plenty of follow-up questions when we spoke. This really eased things along the way, so thank you so much, Mr. Hayman. Then, let's not forget about the plenty of activities like "You've Got Mail," "Diversity Line," and "Entourage" which all played a part in creating a fun and open atmosphere. We even got to see other sides of some of the staff in OM which expands on our concept of community. Welcome

hOMe was truly a refreshing experience that you do not receive in most schools.

Welcome hOMe might not be the most comfortable place to speak about certain topics initially, but it definitely becomes a safe place. There are plenty of happy and laughable moments, even some sad ones, but in the end, it is something you can definitely look back on with a smile on your face. So, like Mrs. Florida said, "Let us leave here with an understanding of different people's experiences, and allow them to feel welcomed."

CAPTURE YOUR YEAR!

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Jostens

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jostensyearbooks.com

YEARBOOK CONTEST

About:

Create and submit a drawing or digital drawing that expresses this year's Yearbook theme: "A Hero's Journey." **FIVE** drawings will be selected for the YB!

Criteria:

- Drawing **OR** digital submission (must be jpeg) should be 8.5" x 11" to fit the page size of the Yearbook.
- Interpret the theme as it makes sense to you :
 - *Considerations: Different moments of the "Hero's Journey."
- Must sign your art piece.

Information:

- Paper submissions should go to Ms. Veltre; Room 304
- Digital submissions should be emailed to Ms. Veltre (mauriana_veltre@hcpss.org)

DEADLINE:

April 12th, 2023

Prom

March 31, 2023

Page 6

Prom Fashion Comes To You

Dress to impress this prom season!

Nancy Barrozo

Staff Writer

Oakland Mills has always had exciting proms with stunning and unique outfits. Girls usually wear glittery dresses while the guys show off their tuxedos. If you do not know what to wear for prom this year, keep reading!

There are many cute and cheap dresses for girls online and in stores such as Windsor, Shein, Fashion Nova, and dress boutiques. Windsor is well known for its high-quality dresses with a lot of glitter and sequins. Shein and Fashion Nova are known for their affordability and options.

This year, many girls are going for the long gown and sparkly look. Cara Baus, a senior at Oakland Mills, plans to wear an emerald green, sparkly gown.

Many boys match their tuxedos or shirts to their date, so be sure to check out color options at places such as Express Men, Men's Wearhouse, or even Macy's. These stores will have everything you need, or you can order your outfits or get them customized by a designer. There are also small businesses online where you can order your customized bow, tie, or tuxedo.

If you are struggling to find a cute dress for your prom, you can come visit the journalism team, and they will help you find the perfect dress! We had hundreds of dresses donated, and some are even brand new with tags. All dresses will be only \$10. The journalism team is down in room 211; come speak to Ms. Moore for more information.



Prom Is Here!

Keep reading for this years prom details

Janiyah O'Brien

Staff Writer

Lights! Cameras! Dance! Prom is right around the corner! It is time for upperclassmen to enjoy themselves after a very stressful year and for the seniors to prepare for their final days at Oakland Mills High School. All of the details for prom have been released, so here they are!

On April 29th at 8 p.m., the prom doors will open at M&T Bank Stadium to a beautiful starry night theme that is sure to have you in awe. Prom will be held at the Ravens football stadium on the club level, a beautiful ballroom area that looks out to the field. Tickets to this year's prom cost \$70 each and will be available for purchase until April 21st. The purchase of a ticket will include admis-

sion to the Oakland Mills High School 2023 Prom, delicious food, and a fun dance for everyone to enjoy! Tickets can only be purchased by upperclassmen online or from Ms. Bouvier before or after school in room 310. QR codes have been posted around the school for juniors and seniors to scan and purchase their prom tickets.

Additionally, to bring a guest that does not go to Oakland Mills, a guest approval form will have to be filled out. Guest forms can be found in the front office and are due for submission no later than April 12th. The form will then have to be signed by an administrator from their school and one from OMHS. All students attending prom must complete their Family File form on Synergy.

It has been a busy busy year for seniors

with college applications, buying caps and gowns, taking senior pictures, and playing their last seasons of sports in high school. This dance will be an amazing event they will never forget. So buy your tickets, get your prom attire, and be ready for a fun-filled prom night!



Photo Credit: K.Moore



Sports

March 31, 2023

Page 7

Awaiting the 2023 MLB Season

The Return of Baseball

Malcolm Brooks

Sports Editor

As the 2023 Major League Baseball (MLB) season approaches, fans are eagerly awaiting the return of America's favorite pastime. With a plethora of storylines, new rules and superstars this season, opening day cannot come soon enough for fans.

The MLB's 119th season started on March 30th; however, this season may differ slightly from previous ones. For starters, MLB owners decided to increase the base sizes by 20%. This will allow players to have more room to operate and will result in fewer collisions on the basepaths. In order to increase batter performance at the plate, the infamous shift—where infielders would shift to different portions of the infield and/or outfield based on the hitter's hitting tendencies—has been outlawed. In addition, a pitcher now has a restricted number of pick-offs during a game and must pitch the ball inside a set amount of time due to the new pitch clock/



timer. These actions are intended to shorten the dead ball times during MLB games, which are times when the ball is not in play.

This season there will be plenty of familiar faces, with some of the most recognizable being in new threads. Players like Trea Turner, Justin Verlander, Dansby Swanson, Jacob DeGrom, Carlos Rodon, and many other former cornerstone players of their franchise will be playing for a new ball club this year. These new faces will allow for new organizations

to be in contention for the playoffs this year. Look for these teams to make a leap from last year-- the Texas Rangers, the Chicago Cubs, and the New York Mets. On the contrary, teams like the Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago White Sox, and the Cleveland Guardians may be due to regress in comparison to their 2022 season, due to the loss of notable players this prior offseason.

Baseball fans are at the edge of their seats waiting for what has potential to be the most exciting

MLB season ever, including many of our own Scorpions. We take a look at some hot takes and bold predictions for this upcoming season from the Oakland Mills community:

Cara Baus (12th): The Phillies have the best mascot in the MLB.

Frankie Moore (11th): Fernando Tatis will hit 30 home runs this season.

Luke Maloy (11th): Jorge Mateo & Cedric Mullins will lead the American League in stolen bases, respectively.

Logan Mahajan (10th): The Dodgers will miss the playoffs without their stars.

Mr. Fenicle (Teacher): The pitch clock will make the game more exciting and more fun to watch.



Photo Credit: James Wheelock

Good Luck to the OM Spring Sports Teams! Go Scorpions!

Photo Credit: Malcolm Brooks



Allied Softball

Game dates

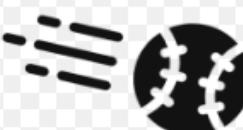
April 11th
3pm at Mt. Hebron

April 13th 3pm at hOME
OM vs Centennial

April 18th 3pm at hOME
OM vs River Hill

April 11th
3pm at Marriotts Ridge

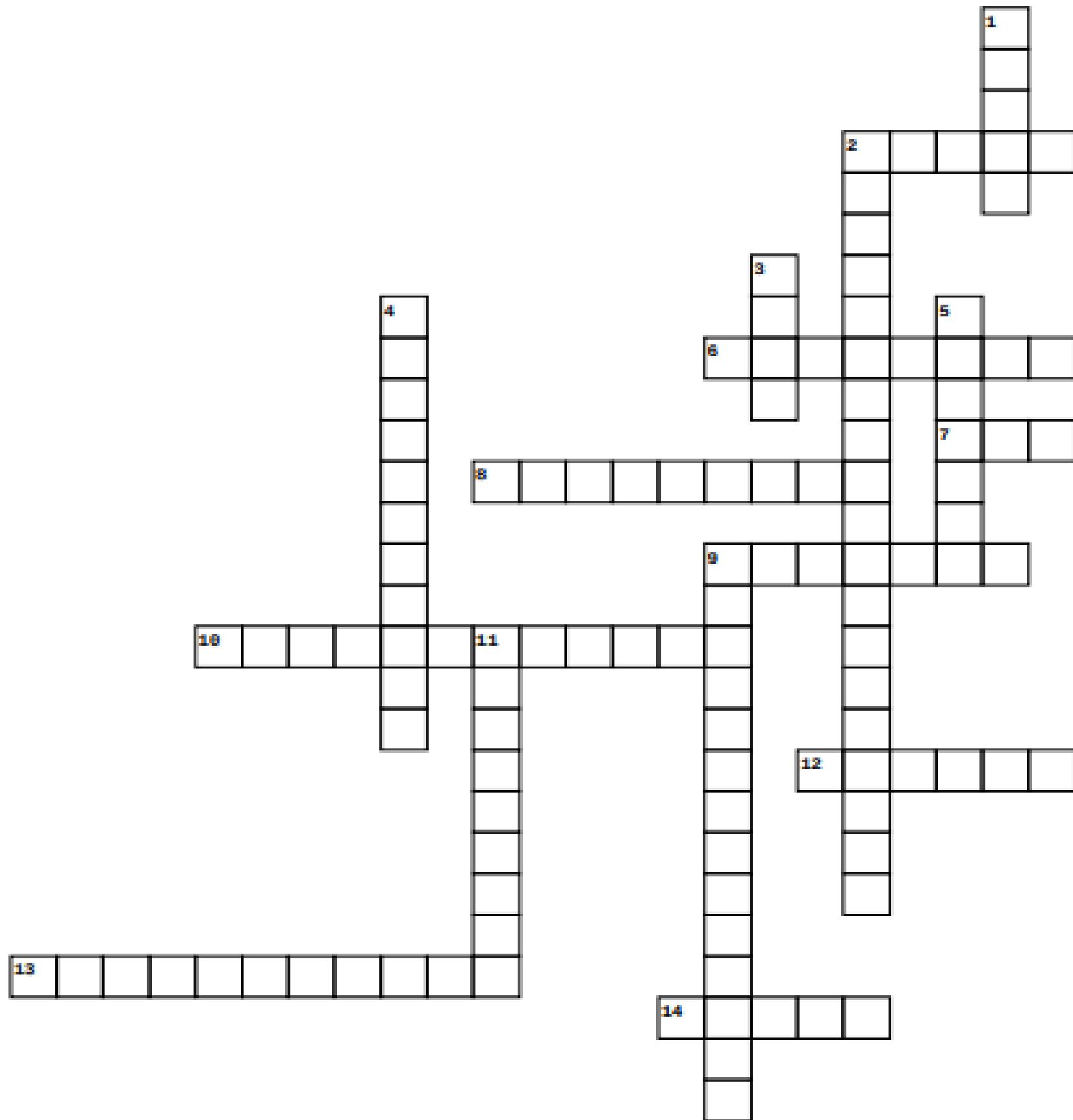
April 25th
3pm at Glenelg



Test Your Brain

March 31, 20223

Page 8



Across

2. Upcoming _____
6. An NFL quarterback who is retiring again
7. What TV platform is removing shows
8. Where you go when you’re late for class
9. She hasn’t released an album in a while
10. What Oakland Mills runs on
12. Where all grades are posted
13. Where Juel went on March 7th
14. This is a person who “Gotta Blast” to get “Lemonade”

Down

1. _____ Fools Day
2. What does MLB stand for?
3. The biggest dance in high school
4. She's an "Anti- Hero" who has "Bad Blood"
5. Nancy tell us all about prom _____ 9.
The war that hit one year in February
11. Clothing restrictions