

The Spotlight

March 2022

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Happy St. Paddy's Day!

By Samantha Poore

Check out our March Song Of The Month!

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March 17 is the feast day of St. Patrick—the Patron Saint of Ireland. Surprisingly, St. Patrick was not Irish; he grew up in Britain while it was under control of the Roman Empire. However, he is largely credited for introducing Christianity to various parts of Ireland as a missionary. Therefore, St. Patrick's Day is dedicated to celebrating Catholicism and Irish culture/descent, which tend to go hand in hand. However, this day has been embraced and celebrated by numerous peoples from a variety of cultural and/or religious backgrounds. Before the celebration begins, learn a thing or two about a few of the symbols and sayings associated with St. Patrick's Day:

Shamrock Shenanigans

What's the difference between a shamrock and a four leaf clover? A shamrock is a type of clover that only has three leaves. The shamrock (or three leaf clover) represents the Holy Trinity, which is essential to Catholicism - hence the connection to St. Patrick's Day. On the other hand, four leaf clovers are a result of a rare genetic mutation to three leaf clovers; therefore, a four leaf clover is actually more rare than a shamrock. Regardless, both shamrocks and four leaf clovers are considered to be lucky finds!

Paddy or Patty?

There is a lot of controversy over the proper nickname for St. Patrick - is it St. Patty or St. Paddy? USA Today alongside other sources state that Patrick is the English translation of the Irish Gaelic name Pádraig. Therefore, most argue that St. Paddy is the proper nickname. Many see Patty as short for Patricia, or in reference to a burger patty.

Rainbows, Leprechauns, and Gold, Oh My!

Folklore are stories passed down

through generations within a community. That being said, leprechauns are products of Irish folklore much like Paul Bunyan is of American folklore. Known as members of the fairy family, tales of leprechauns are believed to have originated from the 8th century according to worldhistory.org. Known to be tricksters and lovers of gold, they spend their days making shoes, collecting gold, and traveling to the ends of rainbows (rainbows have no end). Early depictions of leprechauns were strictly tiny, old men who wore red, not green. If you ever happen to catch a leprechaun, make sure he grants you three wishes!

“Kiss me I'm Irish!”

Ever heard of the Blarney stone? The Blarney stone is located in Ireland at Blarney Castle. The origin of the Blarney stone is not exactly known, but it resides in an exterior wall of the castle. Nevertheless, kissing the Blarney stone has been a tradition for centuries and is said to bring eloquence to those courageous enough to kiss it. However, it's not that easy. To kiss the Blarney stone, you have to lie on your back and lean backwards, hanging slightly over the castle! Obviously, there have been rods and other safety measures put into place to prevent injury, but it's still nerve-wracking. If you aren't able to travel to Ireland and kiss the Blarney stone yourself, kissing someone of Irish descent is considered the next best thing!



March Mammal Madness

By Nora Barnard

Every March, the college basketball fanatics come together to create a bracket for which team they think will win March Madness. If you aren't into basketball but still want to participate in the fun, do March Mammal Madness!

Each week of March, flocks of mammal lovers come together on twitter to vote for their favorite animal to win. The coveted winner for last year was the Red Kangaroo with the runner up being the Harpy Eagle. The bracket and the whole contest is run by a professor at Arizona State University. Voting is held on the official March Mammal Madness twitter page; this is also where the bracket can be found. The updated bracket will be hanging outside Mrs. Betts' and Mr. Crnobrnja's rooms for anyone participating.

The student with the most accurate bracket filled out before the start of the contest will win a \$5 gift card to the place of their choosing.

To explain a little more about March Mammal Madness, Mrs. Betts says, "It's a simulated set of encounters among animals to answer the question 'who would win' in a battle. The winners are determined by scientists who look at attributes of the animal and a little bit of random chance. The battles all go down in 'real time' on twitter (@2022mmmletsgo). I'll be printing and hanging a large bracket to update on the outside of my classroom door. If anyone wants brackets, they can come get one from me or they can get it from the link attached to this article."

To be able to compete please fill out this Google form <https://forms.gle/EU6NUvAQsfpyZLbS9> by 3/13/22.

Newly Sanctioned Sports

By Ellie Phillips

Boys volleyball and girls wrestling are not widely-known sports. Both sports, however, have been largely increasing in popularity in recent years. In order to help that growth, boys volleyball and girls wrestling have become OHSAA-sanctioned varsity sports. However, not many people actually know what that means. The OHSAA is the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and their mission is to enrich sports opportunities for teens. The OHSAA also divides schools into divisions based on how many students each school has. They protect the privilege to play sports in high school and advocate for the students.

Getting the sports sanctioned means that the school can have more opportunities for student athletes. Most people who play either sport have to go far away to play their sport. With getting

the sports sanctioned, it means we can have our own school team and compete for our school. When asked how he felt about possibly getting a boys volleyball team here, Jack Phillips said, "I'm excited about the possibility to have my sport finally be available here!" Jack has been playing boys volleyball for many years, even traveling very far distances for practices. Girls wrestling is not as known, even at our own school. However, when asked what she thought about the possibility, Megan Dougher says, "I think it would be very inclusive if we had both a boys team and a girls team."

Having girls and boys teams for both these sports would open many opportunities for people who haven't been able to find their "thing" yet. Who knows, these sports could bring out some new star athletes in our school.

Interview With Mr. Tim

By Abby Guthrie

For my March newspaper article, I decided to interview Mr. Tim, one of the custodians at our school. He is an amazing person and I am glad I got the opportunity to learn more about him. Most people would describe him as fun, energetic, passionate about his career, funny, cool, and so much more. He is definitely an awesome person to be around and loves what he does. Keep reading to learn about his hobbies, what he likes about working at our school, and more!

QUESTION: How long have you been working at Olmsted Falls High School?

ANSWER: "I've been here now for 38 years."

QUESTION: How do you stay motivated when cleaning different places in our school over and over again?

ANSWER: "It's my job to make the high school healthy and safe for the students, and that's what drives me to do my best."

QUESTION: What is your favorite activity outside of school?

ANSWER: "Obviously my favorite is golfing but I have two favorite activities: gardening and golfing both bring me joy."

QUESTION: Do you have a favorite golfing memory?

ANSWER: "All memories are special to me. The first time I got a hole in one was the best. I've been golfing for 30 years."

QUESTION: What is your favorite cleaning product?

ANSWER: "The good disinfectants we have here, especially because of Covid. They're very good products."

QUESTION: What is your favorite part about working in this school?

ANSWER: "Working with you guys, the kids. It's uplifting to me, and while I've been disappointed in a few kids, you guys are really awesome."

QUESTION: What is your favorite thing in this school that, if it breaks, you enjoy fixing it?

ANSWER: "The thing I really get a kick out of fixing is the HVAC system and the lights. Gotta have your heat and air conditioning."

QUESTION: What's one word that you think staff and students would use to describe you?

ANSWER: "Pretty cool, and positive. You guys make it easy for me to be positive. I love when you guys say hi or good morning to me; it's cool."

Testing Target's Vegetarian Food Options

By Audrey Helms

For my article, I decided to go to Target and buy some vegetarian frozen meals. I bought two meals from the brand Tattooed Chef including the Plant Based Burrito Bowl and the Enchilada Bowl. Both meals were priced at \$4.29.

Plant Based Burrito Bowl

This consisted of cilantro rice mixed with cauliflower, plant-based beef, roasted corn, and black beans in a jalapeno crema. This meal is vegan and gluten free, and it consists of 15 grams of protein. The plant-based beef is made of pea protein.

This bowl was pretty good and the pea plant beef was really good. I thought if anything, this bowl

lacked some flavor. Although a jalapeno crema was mixed throughout, if you are looking for something spicy, this is not the meal for you. I did enjoy the rice and cauliflower mixture. Overall, the bowl was a really good size and the pea plant beef was really good!

Enchilada Bowl

The enchilada bowl consisted of a corn tortilla layered in between riced cauliflower, black beans, and veggies, topped with enchilada sauce and cheddar cheese. This meal is vegetarian and gluten free, and it consists of 1 cup of veggies and 15 grams of protein.

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This frozen meal was definitely a favorite. It consisted of a lot of veggies, and the enchilada sauce was really good but it didn't have much spice to it. The riced cauliflower was definitely a favorite and everything was the right consistency and went really well together. Unlike other frozen meals, after cooking, the corn tortilla was not soggy or chewy; it was perfect. I also added some of my own additional cheese on top to make it even better! Overall, this bowl was really good and I would definitely purchase it again.



Hello, Holly!-Interviewing the Lead of the Spring Musical

By Sam Gaba

This year's musical at OFHS is Hello, Dolly! It tells the story of a matchmaker named Dolly Levi (played by senior Holly Robinson) who tries to set herself up with the love of her life - a man we know from the beginning of the musical - Horace Vandergelder (played by senior Ben Cutarelli). Vandergelder, however, is with another woman, which was setup by Dolly herself. Trying to win his affection and end his relationship, Dolly trances through New York, making friends along the way to her soulmate's heart as she attempts to use her matchmaking craft on herself.

Mrs. Cutarelli, Mrs. Kiedrowski, Ms. Byndas, Mr. LaFlamme, and Mrs. Budd are working very hard to get this musical together. Mrs. Cutarelli directs the musical, giving acting advice and helping the actors portray their roles as best as they can. Mrs. K teaches vocals, guiding the actors in their song singing. Choreography is by Ms. Byndas, lights and sound by Mr. LaFlamme, and pit orchestra conducted by Mrs. Budd.

Masquers students are coming together to make this musical the best one yet. For now, we asked the lead, senior Holly Robinson, some questions.

Q: What went through your head when you found out you got the lead?

A: I was super excited. I had watched the movie beforehand to get acquainted with the show, and I was super excited that I had gotten the lead role. I was on

my couch watching Worst Cooks of America with my mom, and I got a text from Greg [Smith] saying, "Holly <3," and I just assumed the cast list came out.

Q: Is there an aspect of the musical that you are excited for the audience to experience?

A: Not only do I want people to take away from the comedy and romance of the show, I want the musical to show that we worked hard everyday on this, and how we prove it in our performance.

Q: What sets this musical apart from all the others?

A: The music is a march and waltz style, which is very different from musicals I've seen. The balance of romance and comedy is very good, and it's not too overloaded with romance even though Dolly makes a living out of being a matchmaker. The romance doesn't take away from the comedy.

Q: If you could leave a message for the rest of your castmates, what would it be?

A: I am super excited for the show, and we're all going to do an amazing job.

Don't miss Hello, Dolly! on Friday, April 8th at 7:30pm and Saturday, April 9th at 2pm and 7:30pm. Student tickets are only \$8 and will be on sale during lunches the week before the show!

OFHS Marching Band Goes To Disney

By Claire Wiggernhorn

Did you wonder why 300 people were suddenly missing from your classes? Or maybe why 300 kids randomly appeared tan and sunburn? Well, the Marching Band drove down to Disney World in Orlando Florida. To get to 'the most magical place on Earth,' the band drove 22 hours throughout the night. Once they arrived, the band headed over to Disney Springs for a night full of shopping and dining. Students went to stores like the Coke-a-Cola store, Star Wars, and Marvel Stores. Students left with many bags in tow.

On the first official day, the marchers made their journey to Animal Kingdom and Epcot parks. Starting the day in Animal Kingdom, kids waited in line for rides like the Kilimanjaro Safari and Pandora. The first official park of the trip immersed the students in a multi-continental trip with animals from the plains of Africa to the summit of Mount Everest. After the morning of rides and shows, OFMB made their way over to Epcot. The giant Epcot ball welcomed the band in late afternoon. Trying foods from all the different countries like Morocco, Germany, Norway, and many other countries, these kids felt the culture from all over the world. While the Marching Band was there, the "Epcot International Festival of the Arts" brought local artists together. Showing off their talents from chalk art on the sidewalk to handmade wooden carvings, the best of Orlando was on display. Concluding the night with "Harmonious," the water and light show left everyone in awe. Songs from all of Disney's most popular movies like Brave, The Lion King, and The Little Mermaid were sung in languages from all over the globe. The band then made their way back to their hotel to get ready for the next day at Magic Kingdom.

Starting off the magical day, students quickly flooded the lobby of the hotel eager to get in a good breakfast. When the marchers arrived at Magic Kingdom, buses split apart to board the ferry to take them to the castle. Everyone then waited for Mrs. Budd's call to get ready to walk backstage for the big moment. Moving as a group of 300 is a bit shocking, especially for a coordinator who usually works with smaller groups. Then the big moment arrived. The Bulldog Marching Band paraded through Magic Kingdom past the castle for 25 minutes. Playing 'Fantasmic' and 'Disney Parade Sequence,' our Marching Band performed for thousands of people at Walt Disney World. After the marchers circled the park, they made their way backstage. Everyone was ecstatic with the thought of marching past Cinderella's castle. The band was then able to enjoy the rest of the day at Magic Kingdom.

Throughout the trip, the kids were tasked with completing a scavenger hunt. Ever have to ask a random man if you can take a photo of his tattoo? Well, Claire Wiggernhorn and Alanna Tighe wanted to make sure they secured the 'photo with a liberty bell' quest. After the long day of rides, snacks, and street performances, our band ended the day by watching the fireworks show over the castle.

On the last day of the trip, Hollywood Studios was on these kids' minds. A lot of students (and directors) bolted to the new Star Wars ride 'Galaxy's Edge.' Those who didn't spend their day in the three hour line explored Toy Story Land, The Tower of Terror, and Rockin' Rollercoaster. Lines were extremely long during the entire visit, but Monday being Presidents Day brought all the locals out. On the final day everyone got their last bit of shopping in and last Mickey-shaped soft pretzel. With their final goodbyes, students gathered at the front of the park ready to board the bus again for another 22 hour ride home. Students who stayed for an extended vacation with their families waved goodbye and got their belongings from the buses. Then the band embarked on their journey home. This time, driving through the mountains in the day, the ride went much more smoothly than the way to Disney. The ride home was filled with sleeping kids and school work everyone somehow forgot about. Arriving back at school at 8pm, everyone was ready to get home and have a good night of sleep.

The band's trip to Disney World is a memory that will be in everyone's hearts forever. Thank you once again to Mrs. Budd, Mr. LaFlamme and all chaperones for an amazing trip to Florida!



The Awful Leprechaun Trap Epidemic

By Katie Cleary and Hadley Allen

Does anyone else remember the glory days of sitting in primary school and celebrating absolutely anything that we could celebrate? One of the main holidays we remember pretty fondly is St. Patrick's Day, spending all of the class working on one of those really homemade-looking leprechaun traps. Unfortunately, I don't recall anyone ever actually catching a leprechaun, but the reason as to why is simple...the traps were horrible. We've decided to do some research on the most popular methods of catching leprechauns, and maybe with these critiques, you will find inspiration to create a better one.

The first element that is present in most traps is the obligatory "free gold" sign. Lore states that leprechauns can live up to 300 years...I don't think you're fooling any of them. Do you know where you can get free gold? In the ground. I think they're plenty aware that there is no gold in the hole of that bright green tissue paper box with the colored rainbow on it. I think they know a scam when they see one. Could they even read it? Since they are from old Ireland, they most definitely speak Gaelic.

The colored rainbow is another very odd choice of decoration. Usually, these rainbows are accompanied by some cotton ball clouds. If you want to catch a leprechaun, might we suggest a trap similar to that of a bear trap? Obviously, a bear trap would not be the go as leprechauns are far too small. I suppose the spikes are also another reason to not use a bear trap, but whatever. This would be more like a discrete mouse trap. The flashy, poorly colored rainbow isn't going to fool a leprechaun. Most of the time when there is a rainbow in the sky, it is so faint. It's definitely not the colors of bright red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple Crayola markers. A 300-year-old leprechaun will know a real rainbow from a fake one.

Another kind of pointless decorative item is fake gold. Gold is a metallic, shiny substance. It is

definitely not perfectly circular plastic-looking coins with the shamrock printed on it. We must reiterate that puppies are 300-YEARS-OLD. They have seen all the gold, and your plastic coins are not a move. Sometimes, the paint coating is even coming off and you can see it's actually silver underneath. You can definitely tell that these came in a mesh bag of like 50 gold coins from the dollar store. If you're going this route and there is a leprechaun that is dumb enough to fall for it, at least use the chocolate ones.

This one is more of a method of a trap: the shoe box held up by the coffee stirring stick. Hopefully, this 2-inch tall leprechaun will somehow run into that incredibly obvious wooden pole. The whole idea of the style is that the leppy will hit the pole, thus sending the shoe box flying downwards, entrapping them until you remember to check the trap. The biggest flaw with this design is the whole design. Maybe make the stick camo. Everyone knows even 300-year-old beings can't see through the masterful pattern that is a camo.

Why do most leprechaun traps include some sort of ladder that they have to climb? These are mostly made of straws, pipe cleaners, or popsicle sticks. What leprechaun is going to look at this clearly handmade ladder and not suspect that something is afoot? Where in nature will you find a natural ladder that conveniently leads to a bunch of gold under the brightest rainbow that smells like Sharpie or wax?

Another interesting point to mention is the fact that there is very conveniently placed gold in every single classroom, a building with like 30 traps that all say "free gold" in a language they can't even understand. I think they're catching onto the antics.

Now you may be wondering, then how, pray tell, can I make a good leprechaun trap? We'll tell you how. This article should only be read by the most serious leprechaun enthusiasts. As stated above, you need to be very discrete. The main issue lies in the placement of the trap. We don't get a lot of leprechauns in Ohio. They're pretty rare here, but if you were to go to Ireland, maybe you'd have better luck. If you want to make a leprechaun trap, use a prism or something to make an actual rainbow with some actual gold. If your trap is good enough, you won't be losing any. Until you up your game, you'll just have to settle for these absolutely fake golden traps.

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