



Word of Mouth

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Quarter 2

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WOM

Trivia Contest

The first three current OHA students to correctly respond via email (mhaas@oak-hill.net) will receive 10 Monster Cookies (Triple Chip, Iced Confetti, or Snickerdoodle) from Ms. Haas.

Question—What are the four core beliefs of Oak Hill Academy?

Campus Clubs

By Ramsey Riddles

Oak Hill Academy embraced a new clubs initiative this year. Teachers started the year by ‘advertising’ their clubs during homeroom. After a week of introductions, students selected clubs in which to participate throughout the year.

Art Club

The Oak Hill Academy Art cCub is a great way to make art projects like Fall Leaf Bowls, Toilet Paper Roll Snowflakes, Yarn Snowflakes, and Barn Wood Owls. Ms. Haas, the club sponsor, loved art in high school and college and is interested in spending time creating fun pieces with student artists. Campbell

Hunroe '21 reflected on her club experience, “Art Club is a really fun way for me to express myself in ways I don't usually do. We've made bowls, owls out of wood and utensils, and so many other things. I think everyone could benefit from coming to Art Club sometime, it's something I look forward to!” If you are interested in DIY art projects, this is the club for you.



Mountain Biking Club

This fall saw the launch of the new Mountain Biking Club. Mr. Paul Fisher, a



mountain biking enthusiast, helped plan and construct a two-mile course on campus. Mr. Fisher has enjoyed biking since he was very young. He even competed in mountain bike races. Although Mr. Paul Fisher did not win any of his races, Mr. Griffin Fisher competed and won some races. Both Mr. Fishers find mountain biking a fun way to explore the area. Mr. Paul Fisher commented, “This sport makes me feel free, and I want others to have the same experience.” The club cycles both on and off campus, even checking out the newly constructed mountain bike trail in Wytheville

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More Campus Clubs

By AJ Burrows

Astronomy Club

Mr. Duranko sponsors the Astronomy Club at OHA. His



love of astronomy is evident during his passionate morning devotions and work with the club. Mr. Duranko stated, “I love astronomy because you work with amazing facts, can do real research if you have a telescope, and understand about our universe.” The club regularly hosts skywatches at the OHA Observatory, which overlooks Lake Samuella. Skywatches are open to all students who would enjoy the opportunity to gaze at the night sky’s distant wonders. The Astronomy Club participates in a local league and works with many of the local amateur astronomy clubs in the surrounding area. When reflecting upon his time in Astronomy Club over the past two years, Tyler Levine ’20 stated, “We have already learned so much about our universe, but nobody is anywhere close to knowing everything.” The club



participates in observation projects as well as analyzes data from the Pulsar Search Collaboratory. This year the club hopes to build a solar system walk.

Broadcasting Club

Mr. Griffin Fisher sponsors the Broadcasting Club. Mr. Fisher is excited to work with this group as his undergrad degree was in Film & Digital Media. Mr. Fisher stated, “I’ve enjoyed video production since it was just my hobby. I really enjoy sharing that experience with the students in the club as well as the Broadcasting class. The club scripts, records, and produces a weekly show called “Weekly Warrior Outlook.” The show includes games highlights, the upcoming events for the week, and even interviews with coaches. The show is entirely student driven with students in front of and behind the camera. Students even edit the footage splicing together the show. In



addition to the “Weekly Warrior Outlook,” the club also livestreams the Red and Gold Team home basketball games. Club members set up and take down all of the equipment needed to livestream the game. During the game, students are behind the camera and on the air calling ‘color’ and ‘play-by-play’ depending on the game. George Page ’21 stated, “I really enjoy working with Mo, Rigby, and both Mr. Fishers. I am learning a lot about commentating from Shawn Haas ’14, who periodically returns to campus to call games. This experience is making me interested in a commentating career.” Another club member, Tyler Getzelmann ’23 shared, “I like Broadcasting Club because I’ve never done it before and I get to form friendships with other students.”



Grub Club

A new club offered this year is the Grub Club. Mr.

Bunn sponsors this club in which students learn some basic cooking skills. Mr. Bunn stated, “I have always enjoyed

More Campus Clubs cont.

cooking since I first learned how in the Boy Scouts. Cooking is the most vital skill to be self-sufficient.” Mr. Bunn is hopeful that students attending the club will be ready to cook for themselves in college and in life. There was a great deal of student



GRUB CLUB

interest in this club, requiring a rotation schedule. Each club meeting concludes

with the students eating the fruits of their labor. Students also have an opportunity to be creative in what they cook. Be sure to check out this delicious club.

Outdoor Club

The Outdoor Club at Oak Hill Academy is run by Mrs. Dacons. This club is for those who love the outdoors, jogging, hiking, walking, or just



enjoying nature. Mrs. Dacons sponsors the club because, “We feel better and are in better spirits when we exercise outside.” Students may participate in the club throughout the year.

The Honor Court

By Tobi Salami

The Oak Hill Academy Honor Court is a student-driven judicial board consisting of mainly juniors and seniors. It was founded by students in 2006. The Honor Code was created in order to facilitate a safe and trusting environment that promotes meaningful interactions within the community. The Court hears cases with the Dean of Students, the principal, and the faculty advisor, Mr. Bunn. The violating student is given an opportunity to plead his

or her case; the court members then recommend consequences. A Court appearance is not meant to diminish a student’s moral standing in the community, but to help them realize the gravity of their wrongdoings and demonstrate accountability.

Honor Court members are selected by Mr. Bunn and the school administration. They are chosen for their moral courage, trustworthiness, demeanor and academic excellence. This year’s Honor Court includes

AJ Burrows, Delaney Heard, Wendy Hu, Lauren Oberman, Tobi Salami, Susheel Vishwa, Jack Zammit, Erin Bunn, and Landon Fisher. According to Erin Bunn, “The Honor Court is a chance for me to develop my leadership abilities while maintaining good relationships with my fellow Court members and peers.”

Equestrian Team

By Lauren Oberman

Mr. Tim Henry is a long time member of the Oak Hill community. When he first arrived, Mr. Henry was a Biology teacher. Now, he is the Director of Development and the Equestrian Director. Mr. Henry often travels with the Equestrian Team to horse shows. He enjoys helping the students learn how to ride. When Mr. Henry is not fundraising or at the barn, he is sponsoring the Ski Club with weekly trips to Appalachian Ski Mountain throughout the winter.

Mrs. Kimberly Manuel has a long tenure with Oak Hill which includes her time on 'The Hill' as a student. Mrs. Manuel completed apprenticeships with equestrian experts in West Virginia and Kentucky before returning to OHA. She is the Head Coach of the Oak Hill Academy Equestrian Team as well as the equestrian teacher and barn manager. Mrs. Manuel stated, "The most satisfying aspect of coaching and teaching is watching my students improve their riding skills." She has personally



been riding and showing horses for 30 years. Mrs. Manuel is married to Brad and has three children, Clint, Laura, and Carter. She and her family reside in Rural Retreat.

Team Profiles

Lauren Oberman is a senior from Naples, Florida. She is a three year member of the Equestrian Team. Lauren has an affinity for the English saddle seat style of riding and finds it most enjoyable. Lauren finds her Honors World Religions class very stimulating, enjoying the depth of the material covered. In her free time, Lauren hangs out with friends which often involves delicious food.

Lydia Haimanot '20 is in her fourth year at Oak Hill Academy. She has been part of the team for two years and finds cantering to be the most fun. English and math are Lydia's two favorite subjects. Lydia enjoys cooking, especially Kitfo. Singing, making playlists, and spending time with friends are some of her hobbies.

Sophomore Stephanie Huntoon is in her second year with the Equestrian Team. She loves walking and trotting using the English style saddle. Stephanie enjoys making and eating sushi. After school, Stephanie is very busy with Theatre Troupe and Astronomy Club. Her favorite show is Stranger Things.



McKenzie Kapp, also a sophomore, is enjoying her first year on the Equestrian Team. She is very well versed in the skill of posting horses. Math is McKenzie's favorite subject. When she isn't at the barn riding and caring for the horses, McKenzie loves spending time with her friends, hanging out at the campus store, and eating pizza.

Haley Vestri '22 is from Austin, Texas. She decided to join the Equestrian Team to learn to ride English saddle style. Haley enjoys Asian food, especially egg rolls. As a musician, Haley loves to play her ukulele and can be heard playing all over campus as she is never without her ukulele. She likes hanging out with friends and has a fondness for baseball, not only watching but playing, too.



ESL Class Feature - Chinese New Year

By Jasper Wang

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is the one of the biggest holidays in China. It celebrates the coming new year from the sixth day of the first lunar month until the 15th day of the first lunar month. This year, Chinese New Year will be from January 24th through January 30th. This is the year of the Rat. All over China, people get a break from work. It gives everyone time to be with family.



There are many traditions to celebrate Chinese New Year. Houses are decorated with Spring Festival Couplets



hung on either side of the front door. Fu Characters are hung to ensure blessings and good fortune. Red paper lanterns, Chinese knots, and red cutouts are used to decorate.



Extended families get together for a big meal. The meal is special as each food has a meaning. Dumplings are for wealth. Fish is for surplus fortune. Rice balls are for family reunion. Noodles are for longevity. Wontons are



for treasure. Spring rolls are for a fresh start. Rice cakes are for a rise in career or increase in salary. After the meal, children get a red envelope filled with money. The red envelopes are to send away the evil spirit called Sui. Usually, the money is saved for another time.



Chinese New Year is a time to sweep away the dust and bad luck. It is a time to throw away old, useless things. It is a time to spend with family and look forward to a good future. We look forward to celebrating Chinese New Year on 'The Hill' in January.





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