



# THE ACORN

February 2023

## Our New Floor Rules!



(Oh, yes, it does!) We are excited to use our beautiful new gym floor! Here are the rules that we all must follow to protect it:

- Only white or neutral soled shoes may be worn to play on the floor
- No boots or shoes that leave black scuff marks
- Extra sneakers may be left in student lockers or Mr. Kibbe's office
- Everyone must wipe their feet before entering the gym
- Water is the only drink allowed in the gym

## School-Wide Fundraiser

By Ms. Michalski

White Oak will hold a school-wide fundraising event in March. To prepare, we are asking families to donate one gift card towards our gift card calendar raffle. The gift card can be to any store or restaurant, in any amount. If you'd like to donate, gift cards can be left in the front office with Ms. Rymasz or Ms. Michalski. Thank you in advance! Please be on the lookout for more information!

## Mark Your Calendar!



White Oak School will host our second annual Craft and Car Show on May 20th from 10 AM to 3 PM. We are currently looking for vendors. If you know someone who has an artistic talent and are looking to sell goods, this is the event for them! To register as a vendor or with questions please email

[craftshow@whiteoakschool.org](mailto:craftshow@whiteoakschool.org)

We are also inviting car enthusiasts to show off their rides. To register your car for the car show or with questions please email [carshow@whiteoakschool.org](mailto:carshow@whiteoakschool.org) Watch for more details about this event.



## Getting to Know Mr. McDowell

By Stefanie Policki



This month I interviewed Mr. McDowell. This is his first year teaching at White Oak. He was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He taught at the School of Science in Springfield before White Oak. What he likes best about being a teacher is when his students receive what he is trying to convey. He loves to read and he loves spending time with his family during his free time. He loves sports, especially the NBA. His favorite team is the NY Knicks. He thinks the Eagles will win the Super Bowl. His favorite kinds of movies to watch are science fiction, comedy, horror, and drama. His favorite movie is Aliens. Mr. McDowell loves working at White Oak because of a few things. One, all of his peers are wonderful. Two, all of the students here at White Oak are great. And finally, the administration is excellent. White Oak is lucky to have Mr. McDowell as a teacher!

## Welcome, Mr. Gumina!

Mr. Gumina, a Westfield State University student, has joined us full-time this semester to complete his Community and Civic Engagement requirement. Mr. Gumina completed his teaching practicum here last semester. He is kind, caring, and has made great connections with our students already. We are always open to student teachers learning in our community, and we have student teachers complete practicum observation hours throughout the year under the tutelage of our teachers. Our connection with the WSU Education Department is vital for showing the next generation of teachers how rewarding working in the world of Special Education can be!



The White Oak Student Council will host a Bingo fundraiser on **February 15th** from 4:30 - 6:30 PM. Students may stay after school and have an hour of homework time while the Student Council sets up. They will need a ride home before 6:30 PM. Families and friends may come and join at 4:30. Students may also go home and come back at 4:30. The first Bingo card is \$10 and each additional is \$5. Snacks will be sold as well!

# White Oak Club & Activity News

## Adventure Club

Adventure Club, led by Ms. Cochran, offers White Oak students the opportunity to participate in active outdoor (and sometimes indoor) adventures. Adventure Club has a few trips in the works. Ms. Cochran is working on putting together a trip to Round One to go bowling and play arcade games during the cold weather. A Tubing trip to Mt. Butternut is in the works for late February and in the Spring we are hoping to explore caves in Upstate New York! For more information, contact Ms. Cochran:

[scochran@whiteoakschool.org](mailto:scochran@whiteoakschool.org)

## Chorus

The White Oak School chorus is a group of talented and enthusiastic student vocalists led by Mrs. Seyler. The Chorus is pleased to announce that they have 5 'gigs' on the horizon. These include field trips to entertain senior citizens both next door at the Armbrook Village Senior Living Facility and at The Gray Catbird Pottery and Gift Shop in Montgomery (operated by retired White Oak teacher, Ms. Rogers). In early June, the Chorus will perform at the White Oak graduation as well as the annual White Oak Talent Show on the the last day of school!



The Chorus is also hoping to run spring fundraiser to raise money for chorus equipment and matching shirts. This event might include an evening of fun and music for the whole school community that you won't want to miss! And more good news: the chorus has a newly designated practice area! Ms. Michalski has cleaned and organized a new practice space for the Chorus in Building B. The Chorus is looking for a 5x7 area rug to finish it off this new space, if anyone would like to donate one! For more information, please contact Mrs. Seyler:

[aseyler@whiteoakschool.org](mailto:aseyler@whiteoakschool.org)

## Drama Club

Ms. Cochran, Mrs. Henderson, and the dedicated students in Drama Club have been hard at work preparing for a dinner theater performance of 'Death by Dessert!'



Be sure to come and see them portray the interesting characters behind some suspicious events at two feuding Italian restaurants in New York City in the 1980s. There will be an Italian dinner provided with your purchase of a ticket to the show! 'Death by Dessert!' will be performed at White Oak on April 28th! For more information, contact Ms. Cochran:

[scochran@whiteoakschool.org](mailto:scochran@whiteoakschool.org)

## D&D Club

The White Oak Dungeons and Dragons Club, also known as D&D, meets once each week after school with Mr. G as Dungeon Master. All interested students are encouraged to check it out! D&D is a tabletop role playing game based in a fantasy world. Members are currently playing in a campaign where they are rolling dice and defeating foes. White Oak D&D is currently a small club with 5 members but they are growing. New members can get into the campaign right away or they can watch a session or two if they are not confident in playing. If you have an interest or questions about D&D, please contact Mr. Girard:

[jgirard@whiteoakschool.org](mailto:jgirard@whiteoakschool.org)

## Helping Hands Club

Over the years, White Oak Helping Hands Club projects have included: Warming the Community One Coat At a Time (donating used coats to people in need), sending care packages to U.S. soldiers serving our country overseas, local veterans, and the American Red Cross.

Helping Hands has also raised money and collected donations for local shelters and food pantries. Unfortunately, natural disasters are a part of our daily lives, and the White Oak Community has been very supportive over the years in reaching out to those in need. In addition, we have participated in the MSPCA walk to support the local animal shelters in their efforts to help homeless animals. Also, we have participated in various walks and events such as The Relay for Life and Rays of Hope to support cancer research, and the Jingle Bell Run to support our local Special Olympics. This school year we had a very successful non-perishable food and clothing drive for the Samaritan Inn Homeless Shelter in Westfield:



We made Veteran's Day cards for local veterans and sent holiday cards to our U.S. troops. Finally, we always encourage students to brainstorm together and decide upon other helpful ways that we can support those who need our help in the community. Ms. Rossi and Mrs. Saloio are the club's advisors. So, please come see us with ideas, and let's make this a successful year of giving back! For more information, contact Ms. Rossi:

[drossi@whiteoakschool.org](mailto:drossi@whiteoakschool.org)

## Paranormal Club

At the start of this school year, many of our students showed a great interest in learning about the paranormal activity found in our area. The Paranormal Club, led by Mr. Schindel and Ms. Daley, meets occasionally to discuss the paranormal. In October, the club went on a guided ghost tour at The Mount, Edith Wharton's house, which was a huge success.

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Next, the Paranormal Club will investigate our own campus to see if there is any activity here. In the Spring, we hope to find additional locations to investigate! If anyone is interested in joining our club, please contact Ms. Daley or Mr. Schindel:

*sdaley@whiteoakschool.org*  
*aschindel@whiteoakschool.org*

### Tea n' Spoons Group

The Women's Leadership Group (Tea n' Spoons) 'Bathroom Bedazzle' community service project has been a great success!



Be sure to let Derryn M., Lauren B., Lucia G., and Helayna J. know what you think of their great work! They put a ton of heart and effort into it. They've purchased some great supplies with their own budget, but if anyone has any spare products hanging around in their homes that they would be interested in donating, please let Mrs. Armstrong or Ms. Michalki know! We are looking for stuff that is hygienic for sharing, unscented or very light natural scent, and safe for pre-teens and teens to have access to. Examples: pads and tampons, oil-blotting sheets, hair elastics, hand lotion, tissues. For more information, contact Mrs. Armstrong:

*tarmstrong@whiteoakschool.org*

### Yearbook Club

Capture the year with Yearbook Club! Students who join the club are asked to go around and take pictures of other clubs, sports events, field trips, and other special occasions on campus. Their photography will be featured in this year's yearbook! We meet once a month during Milk Break. Please contact Ms. Jouli Gobrial for more information:

*jjobrial@whiteoakschool.org*

## BINGO NIGHT!!!

Wednesday, February 15th

4:30 - 6:00 No Ticket Required

First Bingo Card Is \$10

Additional Bingo Cards Are \$5

Will Be Held In The Cafeteria

Food and Drinks Will Be For Sale

Funds Will Benefit A School Dance This Year!



## OETV!

Late last month, our community gathered in the cafeteria for a special production: an OETV show!



OETV, (Oral Expression Television) is a media production lab developed by Ms. Daley for her Media Production classes. After a few years away, this year's Media Production class manned their "station" again! The students gained experience with script writing, interviewing, camera work, and video editing in a news anchor-led format. We thank you all for your hard work, and for your entertaining and informative show!

*Review:*  
**Obi-Wan Kenobi**  
*By Charlie Rizas*



Obi-Wan Kenobi is one of the best shows I have seen this year. It is the sort of TV show that everyone should see.

Obi-Wan Kenobi is set in space. It takes place 10 years after Revenge of the Sith when Leia and Luke are young. This show is directed by Deborah Chow. It focuses on a Jedi named Obi-Wan Kenobi played by Ewan McGregor who must rescue Leia played by Vivien Lyra Blair. Leia is bait for Obi-Wan so that the empire can capture him and bring him to Darth Vader, played by James Earl Jones. Darth Vader wants revenge for what he did to him 10 years ago. The best action is when Obi-Wan and Darth Vader have a lightsaber duel. The plot is amazing because I love how Obi-Wan is able to find his Jedi powers.

Obi-Wan Kenobi is a 6 part series on Disney+. The script is well written. The soundtrack is just awesome, and the acting is excellent. I love how they made a show around Obi-Wan Kenobi.

If you like Star Wars, don't miss this show! Obi-Wan Kenobi is highly entertaining; I rate it 5 stars!



By Mr. Welch's LA Classes

**The Mind is a River**

*By Tyler Fox*

The mind, a flowing river  
Swiftly gliding to its destination  
The mind, a blooming flower  
Avoiding infestation  
The mind is a stagnant river of a bog  
Where the grounded grass grinds green  
The mind is a river  
That's clogged with broken brown branches  
The mind is a flower  
Slowly wilting

**The Loyal Steed**

*By John Ware*

You were the steed we needed the most  
The poor flat land you are used to does not stop you  
You arrived at the battle when all was almost lost  
You were the one who stopped the Reds from nearing our home  
You truly made your stand when the enemy advanced  
You fought them off in the river, the life of our home  
It was a miracle that you stopped them  
As our forces waned when the enemy were gaining on our home  
You stood til the last man  
You truly are the loyal steed

**Marie**

*By Sam Cullen*

Oh my beautiful darling Marie  
Why won't you look at me  
See all the pretty pictures of you by the sea  
Oh my beautiful darling Marie  
In this room it is just you and me  
So stop struggling and let it be  
It has to be you and me  
Oh my beautiful darling Marie

**The Last Leaf**

*By Sam Cullen*

In the lost garden stood a dying tree with only three leaves  
The young girl whose heart was forgotten knew she had to leave  
As another leaf fell from the tree  
The young girl came back again to watch the tree with only two leaves  
and said she was going to have to leave  
As she walked away once again another leaf fell from the tree  
Once more she came back to the tree;  
this time she was not going to leave  
And she picked the last leaf off the tree

# The Golden Acorn



Congratulations to Tiffany M., January's Golden Acorn winner! Tiffany has spent countless hours helping with school improvement projects, including staying after school to complete a painting project for Ms. Michalski. Tiffany's hard work was instrumental in revamping the woodshop and the newly reorganized Music/Audio/Visual/Tech classroom in B Building! Thank you Tiffany for all you do in our school community!



The Golden Acorn is part of the White Oak School kindness campaign. If a faculty or staff member sees a student going above and beyond with some act of kindness, they will reward the student with a golden ticket. These tickets will go into the "Golden Acorn," with the name of one lucky student randomly drawn to win a gold card!

## FEBRUARY 2023

Fruit & Milk are served with all meals.  
Alternate Meals: Assorted sandwiches.  
All breads and rolls served are whole grain.  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



## White Oak School Lunch Menu

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 <b>'The Daley Special'</b> Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  Veggies, Fruit, & Milk	2 <b>Hot Dogs</b> Tater Tots  Veggies, Fruit, & Milk	3 <b>Pesto Pizza</b>  Veggies, Fruit, & Milk
6 <b>Baked Potato Bar</b> Chili, Cheese Butter & Sour Cream  Veggies, Fruit, & Milk	7 <b>Chicken Quesadillas</b> Bean Salad  Veggies, Fruit, & Milk	8 <b>Macaroni &amp; Cheese</b>  Veggies, Fruit, & Milk	9 <b>Shepard's Pie</b>  Veggies, Fruit, & Milk	10 <b>Tuna Melt</b> Coleslaw  Veggies, Fruit, & Milk
13 <b>Cheeseburgers</b> Potato Salad  Veggies, Fruit, & Milk	14 <b>Pasta Alfredo</b> Garlic Bread  Veggies, Fruit, & Milk	15 <b>WACKY WEDNESDAY!</b> <b>Dahi Chicken</b> An Indian dish - a creamy, curry chicken Veggies, Fruit, & Milk	16 <b>Philly Cheesesteaks</b> French Fries  Veggies, Fruit, & Milk	17 <b>1:00 DISMISSAL</b>  <b>Cheese Pizza</b>  Veggies, Fruit, & Milk
NO SCHOOL		NO SCHOOL		NO SCHOOL
27 <b>Breakfast!</b> Pancakes Sausage Home Fries Veggies, Fruit, & Milk	28 <b>Grilled Cheese</b> Soup of the day  Veggies, Fruit, & Milk			