OVERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
SOARING HIGH
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SOARING HIGH

Principal: Anna Born Published by Student Council

First School Spirit Day - Crazy Hair

WE'VE GOT THE SPIRIT

By Rebecca H.-F., 4th Grade

We kicked off Overland's School Spirit Days with Crazy Hair Day! Everything on top was C-R-A-Z-Y! Usually you get in trouble when your hair looks crazy but on this School Spirit Day, we encouraged it! Students had blue hair to red, rainbow Afros to letters. What did you do?

What is School Spirit Day? It's a fun way to express your love for Overland, like Crazy Hair Day! Another one is Mismatched Clothes Day.

School spirit is one of Overland's best qualities, so why not show it more? School Spirit Day was the answer to that question!

WELCOME

Hi! This is Sierra M., your Student Body President! I would like to welcome you to our first edition of *Soaring High*, the official newspaper of Overland Elementary School for Advanced Studies. This newspaper is entirely written by students at our awesome school, who submitted articles to our editor and coordinator Ms. Edwards. Several students (myself included) even helped put this newspaper together along with Ms. Edwards, Mr. Bitzer, and a few wonderful parent volunteers, Debra Hochman, Risa Okin and Cindy Sison. We present this newspaper, with a special thanks to Principal Born, to (again) Ms. Edwards, to our Student Council, to all the students who contributed articles, comics, stories, etc., and to you, for reading this Overland masterpiece that took lots of work and time to create. Thank you!

EDITORIAL: MISSING MATH

By Sophia T., 4th Grade

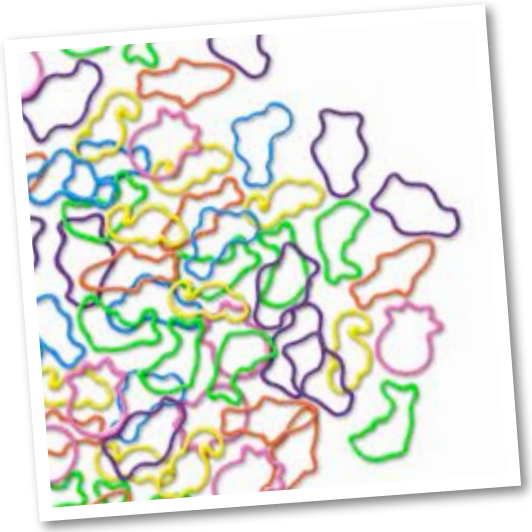
In my opinion we should have more math time. We only have one hour now and it's a very important subject. An hour is not enough to learn all the different things we need to know like fractions, division, multiplication, money math, etc.

Math is important because without it, we wouldn't know how to count, do taxes, buy stuff and to budget our money. What a mess that would be! Everything relates to math.

Lastly, math is really fun. Kids like fun.

SILLY BANZ *SHOULD* BE ALLOWED IN SCHOOL

By Mariana P., 3rd Grade



I like Silly Banz because there are many different shapes and animals like pigs, cows, dolphins and more. I also like them because you can collect them. My favorites are the word
L-O-V-E and the glow-in-the-dark vampire teeth. I think Silly Banz are a good idea as long as students don't play with them in class.

A lot of people I know collect Silly Banz and it's fun because you get to trade them with your friends and talk about them together.

REASONS TO BAN SILLY BANZ IN SCHOOL

By Ethan B., 3rd Grade

Like many fads, Silly Banz became very popular with school children. This caused many schools to ban Silly Banz. Although Silly Banz are harmless, there are several reasons why they should be banned.

Silly Banz can be a distraction in class. They become a problem for the teacher if kids play with them during class. The teacher will take them from their owners if students are caught playing with them in class.

Some parents won't let their kids bring Silly Banz to school. This becomes unfair because other kids are allowed to bring them.

BOOK REVIEW OF
NO PASSENGERS BEYOND THIS POINT

By Morgan M., 5th Grade

Imagine your dream house. What would it look like? What color would it be? Would it have twenty bathrooms equipped with all the makeup you could possibly ever need? Or would it have a huge indoor basketball court? Or, as a third option, would it have a huge tree in the middle of the house, perfect for climbing, and a nice, warm, comfy hammock hanging from two of the highest branches? Of course, you would have a perfect mom or dad there too – one all your friends would be jealous about. They would be there whenever you needed them, and when you wanted to be alone, they wouldn't pester you.

Finn, Mouse, and India are supposed to stay at their Uncle Red's house, but their plane mysteriously lands in a place called Falling Bird, and as they drive into it in a bright pink taxi, everything around them says, *Welcome, Finn; Welcome, Mouse; Welcome, India!* Then, they are each shown to their own special house, which has everything that each of them could ever want.

I really enjoyed the book because you really had to think to understand what was happening. The twisting and turning plot makes you all the more curious as to what is going on, and the characters are just as confused as you are! The author, Gennifer Choldenko, gives you just the right amount of information, so you're not totally lost, and you can still hang on by a thread.

The very last chapter makes the book even more puzzling – it shows you what someone on the outside thinks. The last chapter makes you wonder what really happened to these three kids, and the strange town of Falling Bird gets even stranger.

One of the funniest characters in the book is Chuck, who drives a pink feather taxi, taking passengers from the airport into the bizarre town of Falling Bird. The best part about him is that he's only twelve! But, as he says to Mouse, "Things are different here."

Mouse, who is only six, is amazing. Finn, her older brother, said, "Mouse is like Einstein on a sugar high. If Emily Dickinson and Galileo had a kid, that would be Mouse." It's a very good description of Mouse. She has the brain of a college professor, but the personality of, well, a little girl. And her imaginary friend, Bing, knows almost everything she doesn't know, so, in Mouse's world, there are no problems.

Since I enjoyed this book, I checked out two of Ms. Choldenko's other books from the library: *Al Capone Does My Shirts*, and *If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period*, both of which I liked almost as much as *No Passengers Beyond This Point*. Another one of her books, *Notes from a Liar and Her Dog*, I had previously read and I also liked.

I think that Gennifer Choldenko is an amazing author, and I encourage her to keep writing. I also encourage you to read her books, especially *No Passengers Beyond This Point.*

Author Gennifer Choldenko will be coming to Overland on ***Feb. 16th at 1:15pm*** *for an author signing and book talk in the auditorium. Our fourth and fifth grade students will attend.*

Photo by Kamran A., 3rd Grade

Congratulations to Apryl Krakovsky who officially became a Teacher for Overland in Motion.

WHY KIDS NEED PETS

By Gio V., 3rd Grade

Do you have a pet and does the pet help you in life?

In my opinion, having a pet makes a childhood more interesting and fun. I think kids should have pets for many reasons. The most important one is that having an animal at home helps take away stress, which causes the whole family not to be stressed.

If you don't have a pet, your childhood can be very sad. This is what happened after my dog died. I cried the whole day. I waited for a year until I got a new dog. My life was miserable when I didn't have a dog. I had nobody to play with in the special way you play with a dog.

You can wrestle a dog, throw the ball for it or play chase. But beware. A dog can chew everything in sight. Human friends won't do this!

By Joe H., 3rd Grade

INTERVIEW WITH MR. BRIMBLE

By Sierra M. & Morgan M., 5th Grade

If you happened to walk past Room 6, you might see Mr. Brimble correcting worksheets and tests, or talking with one of his students. If you ever stopped one of his students and asked about Mr. Brimble, they would say a long list of compliments about him. Mr. Brimble is a teacher that teaches his students in fun, easy, and creative ways. He encourages everyone to use their imagination, and can make boring assignments into fun art projects. Mr. Brimble can always make someone laugh, and his enthusiasm for projects and games make him the ideal teacher for many students. Simply put, he is one of the very few teachers that can keep students from groaning when he assigns their homework. No one can imagine fifth grade without him. So, we decided to interview Mr. Brimble for our newspaper.

1. When did you decide to become a teacher, and what influenced your decision? I decided to become a teacher in 1993. I had stopped being a lawyer, and was working at another job, which I liked, but after visiting a number of classrooms and talking to other teachers, I decided to enroll at UCLA in 1994 to get my Masters degree in education and a teaching credential. After my son started school, I became really interested in the way he learned, as well as the way he was taught.

2. What was the first day/year of your teaching career like? The first day was here at Overland. I had a combination class of about 15 fourth graders and 15 third graders. I had done student teaching and felt pretty comfortable in front of a class, but doing it all on my own was a little scary. I was lucky to have a great group of students and a wonderful and understanding group of parents! Mrs. Nancy Hunter was my mentor teacher.

3. What do you like best about teaching? I think that the job of teachers is to find ways to help students learn both a required set of information, and also the kind of stuff that fascinates our brains. I read a lot about ways to teach, and I think about what it means to learn, and why we want to learn things.

4. What makes you feel as if you have succeeded? Students are the measure of success. A student who doesn't get something is someone who hasn't gotten it yet, and my job is to help. I can see growth and development of students in all sorts of ways--intellectually, socially, imaginatively, and physically. There's more to it than a multiple choice test.

5. If you were stranded on a deserted island, what book would you bring? The collected works of Shakespeare or Thucydides.

6. What did you imagine your job would be when you were in elementary school? I actually did think about teaching. But I also thought about being a cowboy, an astronaut, a fireman, etc.

7. What do you think is better about being a teacher than any other job? For me, the job is best because I like doing it every day. It's not better than any other job that a person finds rewarding and fulfilling. I'm lucky to have a job that is meaningful to me.

CREATIVELY

By Rebecca H.-F., 4th Grade

Usually, Maddie was full of great ideas, but today she was blank.

"Uh. Uh." She could feel her cheeks burning and knew they were turning red.

"Maddie, dear would you like to sit down?" Ms. Cyler, the teacher, asked.

"No," Maddie replied quickly. If she said yes the other kids would make fun of her. She was sure of it. Maddie had long brown hair and green eyes. And today she was wearing her hair in a ponytail; she was trying this for the first time.

Maybe it's the ponytail that's giving me bad luck, Maddie thought. When she took out the ponytail, a thought came to her. "I will do my book on a girl who discovers she is magic, and has the power to think and create," she announced to the class proudly. Her rival, A.J., got two boys giggling at her idea, but the rest of the class applauded and left A.J. in the dust.

"A.J., I will see you in detention. Maddie, good idea," Ms. Cyler said. Outside of class, Maddie was greeted by her best friends, Stacy and Melanie.

"Way to put the Jr. High pressure out of the way," Melanie shouted, drawing attention to them. But everyone who looked just applauded at Maddie's idea. Melanie had dark skin, blue eyes, and blackish-brown hair. Stacy had tanned skin, blond hair and blue eyes.

"My girl came up with the best idea," Melanie paused for effect, and then continued, "in the class!"

"Don't try to steal her spotlight," Stacy defended. Then Brad, who had brownish-yellow hair, an award-winning smile, and good taste in clothes, walked by. "I'm the best friend of the awesome idea girl," Stacy yelled to him. Brad did the *call me* sign to her, and Stacy almost collapsed until Maddie caught her.

"Thanks for defending me," Maddie said to Stacy in a sarcastic voice.

"Well, he *is* Brad," Stacy replied embarrassedly.

"Sometimes I don't know about you," Maddie said as she disappeared into the library where her class was meeting. Library was Maddie's favorite time of the week. Stacy hated it. She mostly liked texting and admiring boys, but Maddie was still her best friend. She had been since kindergarten. Melanie they just met this year and they easily befriended her because of her wild personality. Melanie wasn't as crazy about the library as Maddie was. But she liked it--mostly because of the joke books, though.

The library had everything Maddie could dream of. She loved seeing books lining the walls, from biographies to autobiographies, from folktales to fantasies, from myths to mysteries.

"Do you have any new autobiographies?" Maddie asked the new lady at the desk. The lady had frizzy brown hair, dark beady eyes, and was wearing all blue.

"Yes, we do, for your type," she replied and handed Maddie a black book.

"What do you—" But when Maddie looked up, the lady was replaced with the librarian she knew. And the book, the only trace of her, was titled, "For Those Who Are Related To Thee."

To Be Continued…

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A 4TH GRADER AT OVERLAND ?

By Daphne M., 4th Grade

I interviewed 3 of my 4th grade friends: Colin S., Allison O., and Eliana O. Here are the 5 questions I asked and what they answered.

1. What have you found hardest about 4th grade so far?

C. and E. answered: Homework!

A. answered: Geometry!

2. What do you think is most boring about 4th grade so far?

All students answered: Math!

3. What is the most fun thing about 4th grade so far?

All students answered: Language Arts!

4. What is the easiest thing about 4th grade so far?

All students answered: Language Arts!

By Isabella S., 3rd Grade

WOW – FOURTH GRADER MAKES COOL TECH ACCESSORY

By Oliver C., 4th Grade

Recently a fourth grade student named Zoe S. created a very interesting business. Her business is covers that stick onto your iPads, iPods and iPod Touches. Following is my interview with this thoughtful inventor.

Oliver C: How did you get the idea for your business?
ZS: I got the idea from iPod Touches and iPads.. They always fall off so my covers stick on.
OC: How many covers have you sold?
ZS: I have sold five.
OC: Do you think your business will get better in the future?
ZS: I'm not sure. But hopefully our business will get better.
OC: Are you going to make new covers?
ZS: Probably, we will. We might make iPad covers.

GAMES

By Sophia T., 4th Grade

Unscramble the words.

1. ovel _____
2. ecpae _____
3. nheaspips _____
4. vorealdn _____

Quiz!

1. What is the school mascot?
   Turtle___ eagle___ fox___
2. About how many kids are there at school?
   100____ 200____ 400____
3. How much is the cafeteria lunch?
   $2.00___ $1.00___$3.00___

Answers in Next Issue