

ODYSSEY NEWSLETTER

April 2019

We learn for life.

FROM ADMINISTRATION

Happy Spring Gryphon Families!

The month of March has brought a range of beautiful Pacific Northwest weather - from cancelled school due to snow, to 60 degree sunshine. Here's looking forward to April!

Although there are almost three more months to this school year, we are beginning to plan for next year as we work through high school forecasting for our current 8th graders and plan to welcome a new group of 6th graders in September.

We have several exciting upcoming events we'd like to share:

We will be celebrating the dedicated work of our classified staff the week of April 22nd - this includes paraeducators, custodians, secretaries, and health room assistants. The Skyridge production of The Lion King musical is showing on April 26 and 27 - be sure to grab a seat! Camas School District is sponsoring an all 8th grade party on May 10th at Discovery High School! Toward the end of May, students will be taking the state Smarter Balanced tests.

Read on for photos, stories, and info! Go Gryphons!

Aaron J. Smith
Principal



Nicole O'Rourke
Associate Principal



Inside the Issue

GRADE LEVEL UPDATES

Glance back and look ahead with overviews of March and April grade level course projects. p. 02

ELECTIVE FOCUS

by Jen Linthwaite

This month's Elective Focus is on Design and Engineering. Find out how our students fared at the solar car competition. p. 03

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

School counselor Jeff Causey provides information on Major Clarity and the High School and Beyond Plan. p. 04

GRYPHON YEARBOOK

A look inside Odyssey's
first annual yearbook...

Advisor Sarah Hunt and her team of yearbook associates have been working hard to gather student photos and write engaging articles for the inaugural Odyssey Middle School yearbook. Pre-sales begin April 15th and books are priced at \$25. For a peek inside our first yearbook and commentary from the staff, click [HERE](#)



Screen shot of yearbook layout software in use!

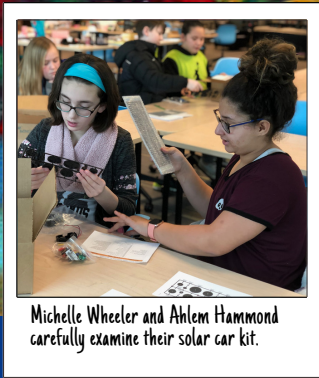


Yearbook Club meets at lunch to design Odyssey's first annual!

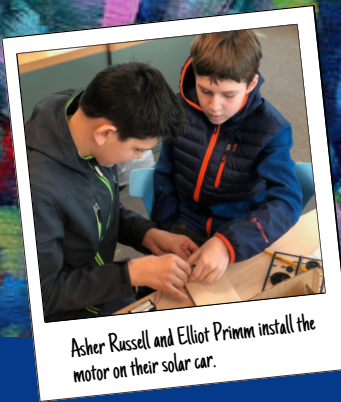
6TH GRADE



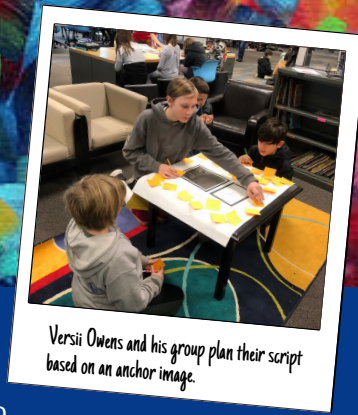
Jaden Jones inspects his solar car motor.



Michelle Wheeler and Ahlem Hammond carefully examine their solar car kit.



Asher Russell and Elliot Primm install the motor on their solar car.

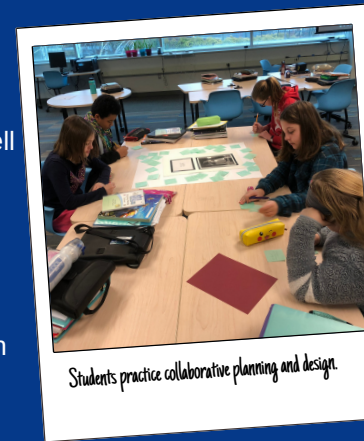


Versii Owens and his group plan their script based on an anchor image.

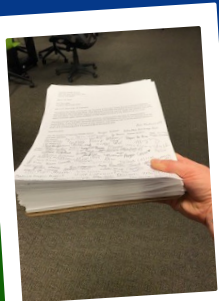
March has been an exciting month for the 6th grade Gryphons! All students worked in pairs to design a solar car to race for best time. Although all students received the same solar car kit, there were countless ways to modify and specialize their vehicles. Building the solar car involved assembling wheels, determining motor placement, and applying knowledge of gear ratios. On March 9th, eleven teams brought their solar cars to the Clark Public Utilities Solar Car Challenge at Hudson's Bay High School. We are proud of how these knowledgeable, well spoken, and hard working engineers represented Odyssey to the community.

Students also practiced narrative skills and critical thinking in writing scripts and performing their original work for the 7th grade class. Groups of students were given a Harris Burdick image that was mysterious in nature and included a title and a quote. The task was to collaborate, practice writing dialogue, and demonstrate understanding of narrative structure in creating an original tale inspired by the mysterious image. For more information about Harris Burdick, click

[HERE](#)



Students practice collaborative planning and design.



Student letters sent to Army Corp of Engineers.



Claire McBride shares her watershed art with a visiting student.



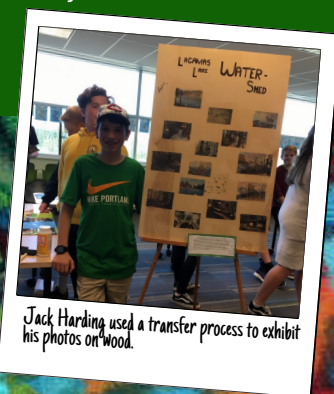
Parter Mach and Amani Shah created a collection of watershed poetry.



Water drop ecology art.

The 7th graders have been very civically engaged in March! At the culmination of extensive research about the pros and cons of dams on our Columbia River, the students converted their research findings into professional letters that were mailed to the local chapter of Army Corp. of Engineers to assist their assessment of the Columbia Dams. On March 20th the 7th Grade showcased their Watershed Reflections Art Contest submissions. This has been a great extension for the 7th graders to apply what they've learned about watersheds in our state through 1 of the 4 categories in the contest: recycled art, written word, traditional media, or photography. We delivered all their art to the Stream Team at Clark County Public Utilities, and needless to say, they were pleasantly overwhelmed by the creative submissions! Salmon has been a major focus as well as students have recreated and performed Salmon Recovery Stories along with embracing 'multiple ways of knowing' about salmon through stories in Native American culture and the science that corroborates the Native truth.. Continuing civic engagement mathematically, our 'Solvers' have been learning and practicing proportional reasoning and how it applies in the real world, including how to calculate unit rates and percentages for discounts, tax and tips. We will be wrapping up the month with Energy Rock Bands where students write parodies of known songs with lyrics that showcase what they've learned about alternative energy sources.

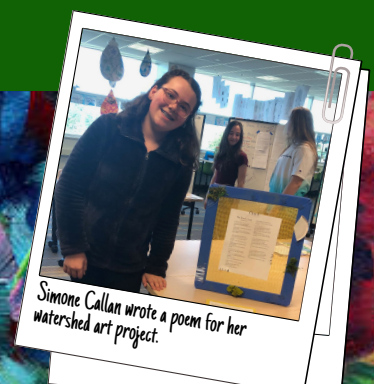
7TH GRADE



Jack Harding used a transfer process to exhibit his photos on wood.



Abby VonDeuring's flatware garden art!



Simone Callan wrote a poem for her watershed art project.

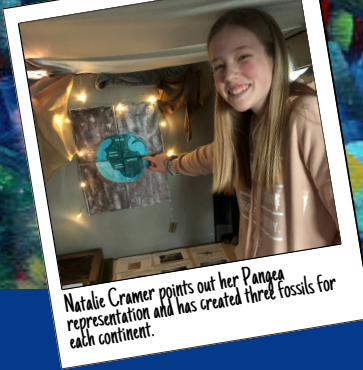
8TH GRADE



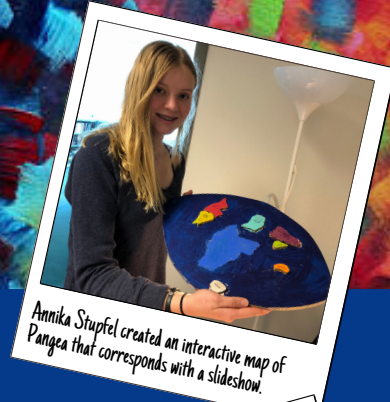
Matthew Houlding's phylogenetic tree shows how an organism evolves over time.



Austin Heil displays a collection of fossils in "amber," which is really homemade soap.



Natalie Cramer points out her Pangea representation and has created three fossils for each continent.



Annika Stupfel created an interactive map of Pangea that corresponds with a slideshow.

This month in 8th grade we've been studying genetics, natural selection, and fossils. We read articles, conducted research, wrote argument essays as well as narratives. Our studies culminated in a fossil museum where students applied craftsmanship skills, knowledge of proportionality, and understanding of the natural sciences to create fossil replicates.

In math, Algebra and Math 8 focused on graphing and solving linear systems. The students were able to collaborate on problems, and apply the concept to contextual questions. Ask your kiddo about the three types of solutions that are possible when solving a linear system. Also, did you know that Mr. Mach has a YouTube page with videos showing how to solve linear systems?! Click here for a link to the linear systems playlist.

In Geometry, the students are strengthening their understanding of triangle congruency which is leading into studying polygons and eventually trigonometry! We have some work ahead of us, but the students continue to impress us with all that they knowledge they are able to apply to more difficult context problems.



Aleah Anderson designed a fossil excavation site.



D&E teacher, Jen Linthwaite and 8th graders Aran O'Day and Mason McCarty with their solar car challenge trophies.

On Saturday March 9, 2019 at Hudson's Bay High School, students from all three grades at Odyssey participated in a regional design and engineering competition - the Clark Public Utilities Solar Car Challenge! Student teams used the engineering design process to design and build solar cars, developed an engineering notebook that includes a 3D model of their car, created a trifold presentation poster about their car, and were interviewed by volunteer judges from Clark Public Utilities, WaferTech, and the community. Of the 155 teams registered for the middle school division, 20 teams were from Odyssey!

This project helped 6th graders dive deep into solar energy and allowed both 7th and 8th grade Design & Engineering students to learn how to model parts and assemblies with the AutoDesk Inventor software. All students involved continued to build their knowledge of the engineering design cycle by testing and improving their cars, and preparing to share their knowledge at the competition. Ninth grade students built a test track at Discovery to help the Odyssey students test and improve their designs. Regional competition awards were given for solar car performance, interviews about design of the car, engineering notebooks, and trifold presentation. Read the article in *The Columbian* [HERE](#)

ELECTIVE FOCUS



The Hudson's Bay Gym - venue for the Solar Car Challenge.



Sawyer Kieft readies his solar car for the race at the Hudson's Bay High School competition.



A volunteer judge inspects Ella Gonsalves' and Peter Romanov's solar car.



Sixth graders Paige McCullough and Katie Califf were one of the 11 6th grade teams.



The Discovery and Odyssey music department was awarded a \$1000 grant from IQ Credit Union.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

by Jeff Causey

Dear Parents and Caregivers-

Over the last few weeks, our 8th graders have spent time with me planning for the transition to high school. Students have started their own High School and Beyond Plan, a Washington State graduation requirement. Camas adopted a new, web-based platform called Major Clarity to help us with this process.



You can check it out by having your student login with her or his Camas login. All 8th graders have completed interest inventories, some have taken learning style inventories, and most have "test-driven" recommended career paths which are related to their primary Holland type code. John Holland was a psychologist who identified that people tend to fall into primary, secondary, and tertiary preferences for work. Preferences are related to different career clusters, career paths, and specific careers. The Holland types are: Realistic (hands-on), Investigative (curious), Artistic (creative), Social (helpers), Enterprising (self-starters), and Conventional (routines). For example, as a School Counselor, my type is Social, Enterprising, and Artistic.

We will be forecasting DHS classes for next fall* as well as mapping out a 4-year plan of classes through grade 12 in the weeks following spring break. This 4-year plan is reviewed annually and is a roadmap toward graduation, not a contract of classes selected. Your participation in this process is required, as all students must have parent/caregiver signatures on the plans. This assures us that you participated in your student's planning process. *Students transferring to CHS have already completed forecasting.

Following the 4-year planning process, students will start to explore college, university, and technical/specialty training programs that align with their career goals. We will review options to finance post-high school education and learn about an exciting program called College Bound which provides college tuition assistance for low-income students who qualify by maintaining their grades, following school rules and State/Federal laws, and committing to attend an approved school within one-year of graduation from a Washington high school. Dr. Snell expects us to have 100% return rates on College Bound scholarship applications, even if you don't think your student will qualify. We will need your help to meet his goal! Stay tuned for more information over the next month.

If you have questions about the High School and Beyond Plan, please don't hesitate to contact me at 360-833-5780 x78482 or by email at jeffrey.causey@camas.wednet.edu. Have a wonderful spring break with your family!

ON YOUR RADAR

April 1 - 5	-Spring Break
April 8	-Track practice begins -8th grade party ticket sales begin
April 15	-Yearbook pre-sales
April 26, 27	-Skyridge musical The Lion King
May 10	-All 8th grade party
May 27	-Memorial Day No School
End of May	-State testing
June 14	-8th grade field trip
June 18	-8th grade promotion ceremony @10:00am
June 20	-Last day of school

Click me!

Click me!

OUR MISSION

At Odyssey Middle School and Discovery High School, we engage with challenging, real-world problems. We interact with content through relevant and meaningful projects while developing collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking skills that launch students into dynamic futures.

CONTACT US

Please feel free to contact the staff of Odyssey in the main office Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm

Odyssey Middle School
5001 NW Nan Henriksen Way
Camas, WA 98607
360-833-5780