

Oakridge

Bulldog Bulletin

January/February
Volume 1, Issue 3

HAPPENING AT OAKRIDGE



6th



7th



8th

OAKRIDGE HOUSE SHIRTS



STRAIGHT A BREAKFAST

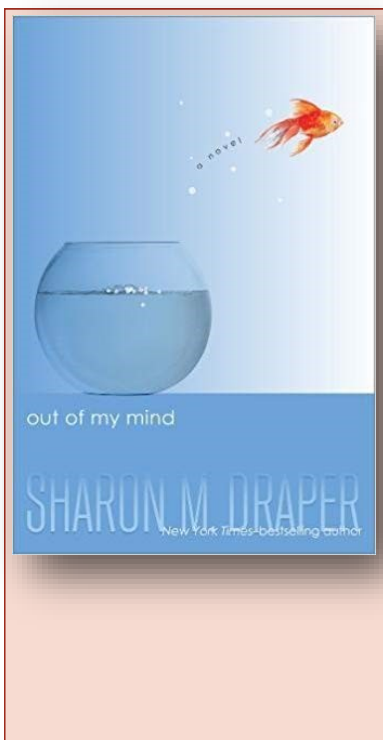


SPELLING B!

**It's a
Good Day
to Be a
Bulldog!**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Out of My Mind	2
Animal Farm.....	2
Unique Science Fair	3
CRSEF	3
Science Fair Winners	3
Stage Fright	4
Solar Cars.....	6
Teacher of the Year.....	6
Literacy Week	7



OUT OF MY MIND A BOOK REVIEW

BY SOFIA ARNOLD

Have you read *Out of My Mind*, or heard about it recently? Well, this book is very special. It's about a girl who has never been able to speak her whole life. This girl's name is Melody. She is the most unique intellectual you have ever heard of. But no one knows it. Everyone at school won't even encounter her and doctors think she's retarded. She has to spend her time in H-5, a room full of kids with disabilities, instead of going to school like normal kids. This causes Melody to be frustrated

and angry, wishing she didn't have this speaking disability. But, when a machine arrives that enables her to communicate, it turns her life around. This heartwarming story will change your life and how you look at it. You'll really get sucked into this book and feel like you're there with Melody, encountering and feeling what she is. You'll fall in love with her and how interestingly she tells her story. You should consider reading this. I have no doubt that you will enjoy it!

ANIMAL FARM A FAIRY STORY— A BOOK REVIEW

By Grace Thomforde



Animal Farm a Fairy Story by George Orwell is a classic book. The story begins as Mr. Jones is oblivious to the fact that the animals who are currently under his care begin speaking of a rebellion. Major (the eldest boar) is the leader of it all. He calls everyone to the barn to speak of an odd dream he had the night before. When everyone is gathered and settled, he tells them of a new world that he believes will come to be after he has died. In this new world man is gone and animals are the rulers. Major talks of how man is greedy and does not provide anything that helps life keep going. "He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he is lord of all the animals." Major believes that the animals will take over soon and rebel against all of man-

kind. Major soon dies, and the animals hold meetings lead by two pigs named Snowball and Napoleon about the teachings of Major. His teachings become known as Animalism. The rebellion happens much sooner than the animals of Mr. Jones' farm expected. It begins when Mr. Jones loses a lot of money in a lawsuit and takes to drinking. He stumbles home one morning and promptly falls asleep. The animals have been left unfed for days, so they break into the storeroom and help themselves. When Mr. Jones wakes up, he is furious to find the animals eating in the storeroom, so he lashes out at them. The animals go after him, and he runs off the property followed by his wife and employees. So much happens after this point in the book; laws are written by animals who can read and write, a civil rebellion occurs, traitors' throats are ripped out, and lastly one of the elder animals is sold to be boiled and turned into glue. Overall this a well written book about a hypothetical dreamland that slowly becomes overridden with internal conspiracies and leaders that shield the animals from the harsh reality of what they are really doing.

7 Rules of Animalism

- 1) Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
- 2) Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.
- 3) No animal shall wear clothes.
- 4) No animal shall sleep in a bed.
- 5) No animal shall drink alcohol.
- 6) No animal shall kill any other animal.
- 7) All animals are equal.

UNIQUE SCIENCE FAIR

BY KAREN FERNANDEZ-RUA

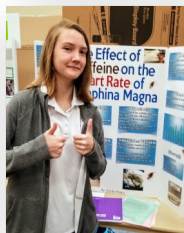
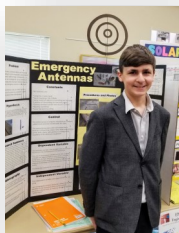


Our school Oakridge Middle School hosted the Unique Science Fair 2018 with many schools involved. Students who have special needs were connected with each other through science. Schools in Collier County showed their support. Students from Oakridge came to help Mrs. Martin, the M5 teacher, and the special needs students with

whom she works, and all happily interacted. Ms. Doucette, Oakridge Middle School's robotics teacher, took her classes as well to show the mechanisms that her class worked on. Everyone's hard work paid off. Projects that were demonstrated throughout included dissolving candy, volcanos, gravity tests, germ experimentation, and much more. Happiness was spread all around. Many amazing projects were presented. Such a wonderful time, and a great day.



COLLIER REGIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR FINALISTS!



Congratulations to the two Bulldogs in the top 33 projects for the regional science fair! Way to go Emily Plisko and David Garfield! Possible Awards for these students include: 4 FGCU Scholarships for \$2,500, 13 All expenses paid trip to the State Science Fair! Trophies & CASH prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places! Click [here](#) for more information.

Science Fair is more than just Science!

"What makes a science fair project such a great learning experience is that it involves so much more than science. If the student is in middle school, the research report will most likely be the longest paper the student has ever written. Indeed, California curriculum standards call for papers of only 1-2 pages in length through the 8th grade, and any decent research report will be at least that long. The bibliography for the report will also be the first ever for some students. And, while library research is still important, these reports are a great way to hone computer research skills, as well as to learn the ins and outs of common office programs, such as word processors and spreadsheets. Most projects also involve a good deal of math, and all students get an opportunity to enhance their presentation skills when they prepare their display boards and discuss their projects with the judges"

Quote from: [Science Buddies.org](#)

“STAGE FRIGHT” A SHORT STORY

BY SOFIA ARNOLD

Liza walked down the hallway, crowded with kids. Her friend, Kaylee, spotted her and rushed to catch up.

“Hey.” Kaylee said.

“Hi.” replied Liza. “How have you been?”

“Good.”

All of a sudden, Kaylee spotted something in the corner of her eye. “Look at this!” She rushed over to a colorful sign that said “school play” that hung on the bulletin board. “There’s going to be a school play! How exciting!” She turned to Liza. Liza already knew what was coming next. “You should go to auditions and try out!”

Liza wished she could. She had always wanted to participate in the school play. But she couldn’t. She had stage fright. Just the thought of all those eyes watching her made her shiver. Liza did not want Kaylee to watch her flee off stage, crying. She tried to find the best excuse to not go. “Ummm, I can’t because.... uh..... I have to go visit my family in New Jersey and won’t be at school that day.” Kaylee frowned. She really hoped Liza would be able to participate. She sighed. “Ok.” The bell rang. “Oops. Got to get to class. Talk later ok?”

“Ok.” Liza made a fake smile. Kaylee walked off.

Liza couldn’t sleep that night. She kept tossing and turning, thinking about the auditions. Should I really go?? I don’t know; I’m going to freeze up in front of everybody and embarrass myself. She kept trying to decide if going was the right thing to do, especially since she lied to her friend. She’s going to expect me not to be at school or the auditions. After a lot of thinking, she decided to ask her parents tomorrow what they thought.

“Well, I think you shouldn’t have lied. But, I also think it’s time to face your fears this time. You’ll just have to figure out what you’ll do about Kaylee.” Liza’s mother said as she cooked breakfast.

I’ll just have to come to school that day without Kaylee seeing me or knowing I’m there, she thought hopefully. So she decided to try out.

That day, Liza snuck around the corner, searching the hall to make sure Kaylee wasn’t in sight. Once the coast was clear, she kept moving toward the room and quietly opened the door. Right in front of her was a gigantic stage and beautiful and creative costumes and props set up everywhere. She spotted a group of kids sitting in front of a tall man who looked very pro-

fessional. He had a black suit and a brown beard. She quickly headed toward them and sat down.

“Looks like everyone is here. As you all know, my name is Mr. Hansen. It’s so wonderful to meet all of you.” He smiled warmly. Clapping his hands together he announced, “Ok, let’s get started.” He started walking around, handing out white sheets of paper. “These are a few lines I picked out for all of you. You may practice reading them a few times and adding some actions to it as well.”

Liza took her paper and ran off to start practicing. After what seemed like forever, Mr. Hansen called them back. “Ok, let’s see...” He scanned through his list. “Sarah! You go up first.”

Sarah ran up the stairs, onto the stage. Whew, Liza thought, letting out a sigh of relief. She hoped she wouldn’t be first. Sarah had a confident look on her face, like she was ready. She didn’t even have to bring her lines with her. She immediately started saying her lines, with perfect feeling and actions to go with it. You could tell through her expressions that she was really feeling what she was saying. Sarah said her last words and bowed. Everyone clapped wildly for her. She’s good. I wish I was as confident as her, being able to perform in front of everybody without freezing up thought Liza sadly.

“That was MAGNIFICENT!” Mr. Hansen told her.

“Amazing job.” Sarah smiled. He looked back at his list. “Josh! You’re next!”

And the same thing happened over and over. Liza kept dreading her turn and held her breath after every turn, wondering if she would be next. She didn’t have to wait long. “Ok, looks like our last person is....” Mr. Hansen looked back at his clipboard. “Liza.” He smiled at her.

Oh no! Liza thought. This was the moment she had been scared of. To walk up on stage and perform in front of everyone. She was going to fail. She just knew it. Liza shakily walked up onto the stage. Just breathe. She told herself. It’s all going to be fine. She looked up. It felt like there was a room full of angry eyes staring at her. She tried to open her mouth but no sound came out. Realizing that this was going to go the way she hoped it wouldn’t, she ran off stage crying. Mr. Hansen ran off to find her. After searching for 15 minutes, he found her, backstage, with her head in her hands.

“Hey!” Mr. Hansen crouched down and touched her shoulder. “Are you ok?”

Liza looked up with tears in her eyes. “I don’t know...” she sniffed.

“What happened?” He asked.

My stupid self is what happened. Liza thought angrily. “I got too scared to perform.” Liza sighed. “I... I have stage fright whenever I try to do something in front of a crowd I freeze up and run away, just like what I just did.”

“I see.” Mr. Hansen had a knowing look in his eyes. “You know, I used to have stage fright too.”

Liza couldn’t believe it. “Really?”

He nodded. “Yes. But you know what? I eventually learned how to perform without being afraid and became a professional actor. I believe you can conquer your fear, just as





I did. Here,” Mr. Hansen handed Liza a packet of paper. “The play is in 3 weeks.” He smiled brightly.

Liza stared at him in disbelief. “You’re letting ME join the play? But what if I get afraid and do what I did today? I can’t perform.” Liza handed it back to him.

“Yes, you can. I’m having you join the play to help you overcome your fears. I believe in you.”

Liza burst through the door. “Mom!” she yelled, “I got accepted into the play!” Her mother rushed over.

“Oh, I’m so proud of you.” She picked her up in her arms and twirled Liza around.

“Wait--” Liza stopped laughing and frowned. “What will I tell Kaylee? I can’t just keep it from her.”

Her mother bent down, with a look of reassurance. “She’ll understand.”

“What? You lied to me?” Kaylee couldn’t believe it. She thought Liza was her friend!

“Wait, you don’t understand.” Liza said pleadingly.

“Oh, I think I do!” Kaylee yelled and swiftly walked away with her hands in fists.

“Wait! Come back!” Liza cried, tears streaming down her face. But it was too late. Kaylee was already gone, their friendship broken.

Liza sat on her bed, sadly looking at the window. Cars whooshed past and dogs barked in the distance. She couldn’t believe what just happened. I knew it. I knew I shouldn’t have lied. I knew I shouldn’t have tried to hide from her, she would still be my friend. I should’ve trusted that she wouldn’t laugh at me if I got scared on stage. I should’ve just admitted it to her, but now it’s too late. She spotted her script Mr. Hansen gave her laying on her dresser, untouched. She hadn’t practiced her lines at all for the last week and a half since he had given them to her. She felt too guilty. Practicing the play would just remind her of her fight with Kaylee. But still, the play was in three days; she needed to practice. She decided that it would be ok if she did and started going over and practicing for the play. Three days went by pretty quickly. But Liza was ready. She had all her lines memorized and had practiced them many times. I think I’ll be able to do this! She thought excitedly. But her excitement soon faded when the thought that Kaylee hadn’t texted her or even said hi to her at school for the last few weeks came to her mind. She felt really bad and wanted to try to apologize again. But Kaylee didn’t seem like she felt like talking to her.

“I’m so excited for you! I can’t believe I’m going to see my daughter on stage!” Her mom smiled. Opening night had finally come. Her mom was driving her to the school auditorium. Liza

was nervous. She had never done this and was very afraid that she was going to freeze on stage. Liza had been working on her skills of bravery when performing in front of people at home, but two people weren’t enough to solve the problem of hundreds. Her mom noticed her worried look.

“What’s wrong?”

Liza sighed. “I’m scared I’ll mess up or freeze on stage.”

“Oh honey, you’ll do great. I’ve heard you in your room many times before. You’ve practiced hard for this.” Liza smiled but wasn’t fully reassured.

“Ok. We just have to wait on a few more people. While we are waiting, please dress into your costumes.” said Mr. Hansen.

Liza got into her Dorothy costume. (The play was “The Wizard of Oz.”) Liza loved how her red, shiny shoes shimmered and how her dress looked. Once everyone was finished dressing, Mr. Hansen announced that the play was going to start. He was quickly going to go on stage and give an intro and then the play would immediately start. “Make sure you are ready and are in your places before the curtains rise.” Everyone seemed to understand.

“Welcome everyone to our “Wizard of Oz” play. These kids have been practicing diligently and are very great actors. I believe they have the potential to be as good as me one day. I hope you all like our play.”

The crowd clapped and the curtains rose. Liza could feel her whole body shaking with fear.

Mr. Hansen winked. “You’ll do amazing out there, I promise.”

Liza hoped and prayed so. The play suddenly started. Liza had the first lines. She forced them out one by one, being careful not to let herself give into her fear. As the play kept going and the dancing started coming into play, she actually started to enjoy it and totally forgot about the crowd or her fear. She couldn’t believe she was doing it! All of a sudden, she spotted someone in the crowd. Kaylee! She had come to watch her! She could not believe her eyes! She thought she was still mad at her.

Her distraction almost made her bump into the cowardly lion. “Whoops!” she said and regained focus. The audience thought it was part of the play and started to laugh. Liza felt like she was Dorothy. She was having so much fun that before she knew it, the play was over. She was disappointed, but also amazed that she never froze up. The audience clapped wildly. They loved it.

“Incredible, all of you! I told you could do it Liza!” He gave her a high five. She smiled.

“That was amazing!” said her mom, handing her flowers.

“Great job!” Kaylee suddenly came over. “You did so good!” She said.

“Thanks.”

Kaylee frowned. “I’m sorry I got so mad. I understand why you did what you did.”

“It’s ok.” They hugged and smiled.

Liza’s mom came up with an idea. “You all want to go get frozen yogurt?”

“Yes!!” Both girls shouted at the same time. Liza had finally conquered her stage fright and her friendship with Kaylee was restored.

The End

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Sofia Arnold

Camille Cranford

Catie Colledge

Cate DeRosa

Carli Dewrell

Karen Fernandez-Rua

David Garfield

Scott Jarman

Daniella Gutierrez-Minotti

Chloe Klumpp

Juan Martinez

Elizabeth Mehler

Mel Miles

Isabelle Orta

Nina Scarboro

Lindsay Solakian

Grace Thomforde

Dylan Weinrich

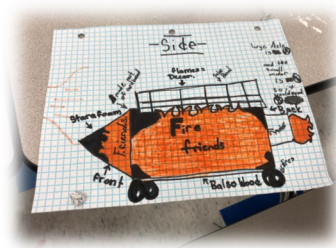
SIXTH GRADE SOLAR CAR RACES

BY KATIE COLLEDGE, NINA SCARBORO, AND
ALICIA EICHELBAUM



On January 23, 2019, our OMS 6th graders and their parents were building solar cars all day in the cafeteria. Under the guidance of Mrs. Diemert, Mrs. Kamen, and Mrs. Hill, they were building relentlessly. When they found problems, they would solve them and keep on building. Each group had the same materials: a solar panel, wheels, and, if needed, a motor. The Oakridge race will be held on January 29th,

and the district race will be held on April 13th. Aramis Rivera, the winner of the 2018 school and district last year, says, "To keep calm and no matter what place you end up in, you still did great for getting that far. Also, if you have complications with your build, don't stress and try to solve the problem. Don't freak out and stay calm." Have a great time racers and good luck!



NOMINEE FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR!



Please join us in Congratulating Mr. Mearsheimer for being named the Collier County Nominee for the *Florida Teacher of the Year*! We are so proud.

Gooooo Bulldogs!

An OMS Tribute To
Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!
January 22-26, 2018

Book Swap: Bring a Book, Take a Book!



Book Talks: Promote your favorite book; hook someone else into wanting to read it!

Monday, January 22	<p>Book Swap throughout the day in the Literacy Center (5-106) w/Reading Coach</p> <p>Book Talks (w/Media Specialist/ESE Dept) on the Morning News</p> <p>"Find Yourself in a Book!" Create a book mark contest through Art classes this week. (Winner's book mark will be mass produced and available for students to pick up for free in the Media Center at conclusion of contest)</p> <p>Author Study Day (ELA teachers will choose an author to study and create standards-based lessons for the day centered around that author.)</p>
Tuesday, January 23	<p>Book Swap throughout the day in the Literacy Center (5-106) w/Reading Coach</p> <p>Book Talks (w/Ms. Lonergan and students) on the Morning News</p> <p><u>Drop Everything And Read</u> during homeroom block</p> <p>Poetry Café in the Media Center during both lunch blocks</p> <p>Fairy Tale Day (Students will read fairy tales in their ELA classes and complete activities to reinforce reading/writing skills.)</p>
Wednesday, January 24	<p>Book Swap throughout the day in the Literacy Center (5-106) w/Reading Coach</p> <p>Book Talks (w//Guidance and students) on the Morning News</p> <p>Book Tasting Event in the Media Center throughout the day (Teachers will sign ELA classes up for event rotations with Media Specialist and Reading Coach)</p> <p>Poem in My Pocket (Students write poems and carry them in their pockets. At any given time, administration, faculty, or staff can stop a student and ask them to read their poem. Students will collect signatures every time they read their poems. Prizes will be given based on the amount of signatures collected.)</p>
Thursday, January 25	<p>Book Swap throughout the day in the Literacy Center (5-106) w/Reading Coach</p> <p>Book Talks (/Reading Coach/Math Teacher/Student) on the Morning News</p> <p>Read Aloud Event (Every homeroom teacher will introduce a book, and read an excerpt from the book, to his/her homeroom class. The goal is to hook the students into wanting to read the book.)</p> <p>Book Hook in the Media Center throughout the day (Students will record Flipgrids of their favorite books and share them with peers, giving just enough information to hook them into wanting to read the books.)</p>
Friday, January 26	<p>Book Swap throughout the day in the Literacy Center (5-106) w/Reading Coach</p> <p>Book Talks (w/Teachers) on the Morning News</p> <p>Library Card Drive w/Collier County Public Librarian, Susan Petr, in the Media Center throughout the day to share info on what CC public libraries have to offer</p> <p>Book Themed Door Contest (Classrooms choose their favorite book and decorate doors to showcase the book. Winners chosen by grade level!)</p>