

September and October's VILLAGER VIEW

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4: 6-7)

OLMA EVENTS

SISTERHOOD CEREMONY

The OLMA community gathered together for the Sisterhood Mass on September 18, 2024. Our seniors gave their Littles Pura Vida bracelets as a symbol of the OLMA community and sisterhood. The parents of the new students joined us in celebrating the start of a new chapter in their daughter's lives. Afterward, the parents joined our Bigs and Littles for some refreshments and chatter. Everyone had a wonderful time together celebrating unity and our sisterhood!

Juliet Felicetti '28



OLMA PALOOZA

OLMA Palooza was a great day! We hope you all enjoyed the inflatables and games, despite the unexpected drizzle. Congratulations are in order to freshmen Lucca Grungo and Vienna Fries who won the cornhole tournament. The cheerleaders gave an exciting performance to rally our Villagers together in sisterhood. We also heard our students had a wonderful time scouring the fields for prize money from Mr. Bergholtz to buy rewards like candy, sunglasses, and toys. After the festivities, some of our girls decided to go all out for St. Augustine's USA-themed football game. They showed patriotism by painting their faces, arms, legs, and shirts. We were proud to see so much spirit from the Villagers. Gathering together as a school and enjoying these special activities was great. Thanks to all the administrators and staff who worked extra hard to make this day even more special!

Theresa Thomas '28

HALLOWEEN

As usual, Halloween at OLMA was a blast this year! Everyone dressed in their best costumes and participated in the teacher and senior trunk-or-treat. Congrats to the students and teachers who won the costume contest and thank you Ms. Morrell and the Leadership Council for making this day possible!



Erin McGonigle '26

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VILLAGER VIEW



Senior Captains Addison Mello (2) and Lauren Terista (12)
Hugging After Goal Against Atlantic Tech (10-3 W)

SPORTS

Despite losing five varsity starting seniors, Our Lady of Mercy Academy girl's soccer team made a start for the record books. The returning Cape Atlantic League co-champions started the year strongly, holding a 14-5-1 record, with 12 goals scored by freshman star Vienna Fries and 20 assists by Senior Captain Addi Mello. So far, the Villagers scored 82 goals in total, and maintained a lockdown defense with a combined 136 saves from the help of sophomore goalkeepers Amelia Voronov and Peyton Widecrantz. In their first non-division game, the Villagers beat their rival, Cape Atlantic League co-champions Holy Spirit High School, in a 6-1 beat down.

Heading into his third year as Head Coach of the soccer team, Sean Alford is thrilled to finish top of the National Cape Atlantic League once again. Kristen Graiff was also a critical part of the team during her first season as assistant coach. In a recent interview, Addi Mello tells us she thinks "everybody has really stepped up this year, and I especially believe the freshmen have been real game changers for us." We also spoke with freshman Vienna Fries about her first varsity goal in her freshman career. "It feels amazing to be able to accomplish that achievement so quickly, still I have more goals to achieve. Thank you to my teammates, Coach Sean, and Coach Kristen," she claimed, after a victorious 2-1 win over Absecon High School where she scored two goals.

Isabel Quinlan '27 & Amelia Voronov '27

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

This fall, our student spotlight is dedicated to Holly Salmon. Holly has done incredible things at the start of our school year and during her past years at OLMA, and we would like to recognize all of her accomplishments. Holly led the month-long Suicide Prevention initiative, starting with an assembly on September 10, focusing on breaking the silence surrounding suicide. She stressed the need to start conversations and break the stigma around mental health so that we can foster a more open and supportive community. Holly and her fellow classmate Kaylee Franklin started the Bible study iBlock, where students read and analyze different Bible verses. They learn the importance of why and what God does for us.

We are so excited to have Holly on the Leadership Council this year! Every year students elect three juniors for a position on the OLMA Leadership Council. Holly was one of three girls elected after several other amazing students ran for the role. In Holly's speech, she stated that she can improve OLMA by collaborating with her peers to create an atmosphere of opportunity, growth, and encouragement. She said, "Ms. Morrell always says to leave a place better than you found it, and by being an avid member of the leadership council, I can work towards leaving OLMA better than I found it." Holly has also served as a Student Ambassador for two years in a row at OLMA and was elected by her classmates to be a homeroom representative as a freshman. Not only has Holly done an amazing job academically, but she is also doing an outstanding job athletically. She is on both the soccer and lacrosse varsity teams.

Holly has made an incredible impact during her years at OLMA and we are so proud of all of the accomplishments she has achieved. Thank you Holly for everything that you have done for the OLMA community!

Gianna Cook '27 & Rhiannon Stanker '28



Junior Holly Salmon (13) High-fiving After Assist to
Caity Ramsi Against Holy Spirit (6-1 W)

VILLAGER VIEW

NEW FACULTY

Mrs. Ciampo - Guidance Counselor

As Mrs. Ciampo excitedly prepares to direct OLMA's musical "Legally Blonde," she has also expressed her excitement to continue learning more about each student and building a relationship with them. When Mrs. Ciampo joined the OLMA community, her favorite part was the welcoming environment created by the students. She still feels the same way after being a part of the sisterhood for over two months now!

FUN FACT: Mrs. Ciampo was born on New Year's Day!

Senora Claudio - Spanish Teacher

When Senora Claudio was interviewed she expressed that, initially, her favorite thing about OLMA was the close-knit feel. "Everyone feels like a family," she stated. After being here for over two months, she still feels the same. Senora is most excited about leveling up to teaching high schoolers rather than younger kids.

FUN FACT: Senora Claudio has two daughters, one graduating kindergarten and the other graduating college! They are 16 years apart.

Ms. McKenna - Math Teacher

Daughter of beloved Mrs. McKenna, Ms. McKenna joins the faculty of OLMA, her favorite part so far: how welcoming and friendly everyone is towards her. Ms. McKenna is most excited to get to see all of our Villager traditions throughout the course of the year.

FUN FACT: Ms. McKenna and her twin sister adopted a cat; the said cat has 6 toes!
Grace Walls '26

TEACHER FEATURE

The month of September is National Deaf Awareness month, and in honor of this we have chosen OLMA's very own ASL teacher, Ms. Malench, as this month's teacher feature. Ms. Malench started her journey at OLMA in 2019, where she taught ASL to juniors and seniors, and it was considered an "elective". Since 2023, she has taught the class as a language open to all students at OLMA. You may wonder, did she always want to be a teacher? "Not always, but when I was young growing up in church, we had a small ASL group, and it always inspired me to want to communicate with them. They had a class in high school, and after high school my teacher told me all the new things I could do with ASL and I thought maybe I wanted to be an interpreter and I landed on what I am now." Ms. Malench values Deaf awareness and teaches about the culture to her students in class. "I think it is important to bring awareness to individuals with hearing loss and members of the deaf community because they often get ignored, overlooked, and discriminated against in everyday interactions with the hearing community. The purpose of this month is to bring the deaf and hearing community together to help foster education and understanding." Ms. Malench taught us that ways we can spread awareness is by sharing information, creating posters, attending seminars, and bringing it up in conversation. Lastly, Ms. Malench shared why she loves being a teacher. "My favorite thing about teaching is seeing the light bulbs go off in my students head and seeing them excited to learn and bringing me information when they learn something and how they ask me questions whether they're in class or not."

Harriet Riley '27 & Abigail Bryson '27

MINI-MESTERS

The Villagers are back on campus after an eventful summer on campus, traveling around South Jersey, exploring different states, and even venturing as far as Scotland and Ireland.

The "Hidden Gems" Mini-Mester made long lasting memories while traveling to the shore, Parvin State Park, Six Flags and more! On campus, "CSI" learned about processing crime scenes, our cooking Mini-Mester learned how to make homemade dumplings, and Love in Action spent time helping around the school and completing service projects for our community.

A bit further away, students jumped out of their comfort zones in California and Arizona, hiking through Sedona and attending baseball games at four different stadiums. Students in Georgia enjoyed a relaxing getaway on the Gold Coast participating in activities like beach yoga and beach horseback riding. Key Largo was an immersive experience for students who spent their time at the dolphin care center, and snorkeling with the sea life!

Grace Walls '26



Ms. Coppinger and Mrs. Steiger's Georgia
Mini-Mester: yoga on St. Simon Island

VILLAGER VIEW

MONTHLY SPECIALS

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH: RAISING AWARENESS AND EDUCATING TO SAVE LIVES

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the realities of suicide and providing education about the fight against mental health. Every year, thousands of people in the United States and around the world tragically take their own lives. Suicide is a public health crisis that affects millions, but it is also preventable with the right support, education, and outreach.

Understanding the underlying issues and statistics related to suicide can help clarify misconceptions and open the door to important conversations about mental health. Suicide has an extreme Global Impact. According to the World Health Organization, over 700,000 people die by suicide worldwide. This makes suicide a leading cause of death, particularly among people under 35. Referring to Nationwide suicide, in 2021 more than 48,000 Americans died by suicide. This made suicide the 12th leading cause of death in the U.S.

Suicide also does not have one single cause. It is often a combination of factors, including mental health conditions (examples could be anxiety or depression), substance abuse, bullying, trauma, loss of a loved one, or chronic illness. It is extremely important to recognize that suicide is often linked to untreated and/or undiagnosed mental health struggles.

There are many warning signs when someone is experiencing suicidal thoughts or feelings. Some of the most common warning signs of suicidal ideation include:

- Talking about feelings of hopelessness, helplessness, or feeling like a burden to others
- Expressing intense feelings of depression or sadness
- Withdrawing from family, friends, and other fun activities

Research shows that people who attempt suicide are often in deep emotional pain and need immediate help. Offering support, actively listening, and connecting them to professional care can save their life.

Suicide prevention requires a community effort. Every individual can make a difference by checking in with loved ones, spreading awareness, and reducing the stigma. If you or someone you know is struggling, it's important to know that help is available, and that **you are not alone**.

Natalie D'Ottavio '27

PHILADELPHIA SPORTS

As the crisp autumn air settles, fans are buzzing with excitement while the Philadelphia Eagles and Flyers kick off their seasons. As the Eagles navigate the early part of the season, they have seemed to struggle to find their rhythm on the field. After a rocky start, fans are concerned about inconsistencies in offense, defense, and coaching, which have hindered their performance. Despite the challenges, there's a sense of optimism surrounding the team.

Meanwhile, the Flyers are embarking on a new chapter, with fresh talent aiming to bring a spark back to the ice. Early games have already shown promising flashes of potential, as young players step up and veterans lead by example. With passionate fans in the stands, both teams are set to make this season one to remember in the City of Brotherly Love.

Katie Capalbo '26



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Hey Villagers! October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month! Your pink looked great on Wednesday, October 2nd. We raised over \$380 for Unite for her. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is all about supporting, honoring, and coming together to help as a community. Our soccer, volleyball, and field hockey teams each supported by rocking pink during their games!

Francesca LaGuarina '28

VILLAGER VIEW

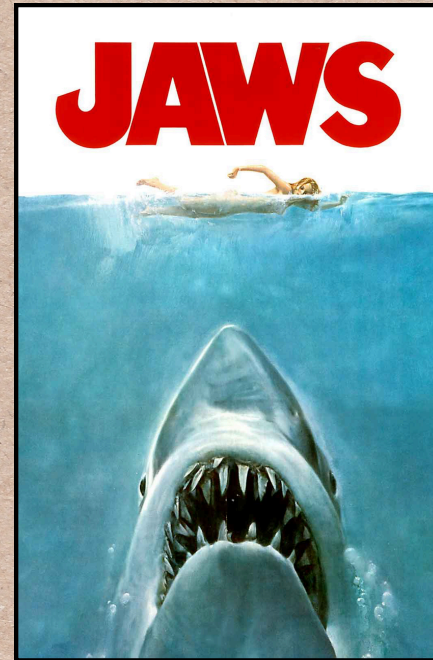
ART THROUGH FILM: JAWS

Steven Spielberg's *Jaws* (1975), remains one of the most influential films in cinematic history. The terrifying portrayal of a great white shark revolutionized the blockbuster film and the thriller genre. Based on Peter Benchley's best-selling novel, *Jaws* tells the story of the town of Amity Island, which is thrown into panic when a series of gruesome shark attacks occur. With the help of a local police chief, a marine biologist, and a grizzled fisherman, the town attempts to capture and kill the shark before more lives are lost.

The film's production history was fraught with challenges, including the malfunctioning mechanical shark, which forced Spielberg to limit its screen time. This led to one of the film's most effective choices: building suspense by keeping the shark hidden and only revealing it in short, terrifying bursts. While the technical challenge was inconvenient, the limited screen presence of the shark worked in the film's favor, amplifying the sense of fear and uncertainty. In the time leading up to an attack, the audience sees the surrounding people from a more narrative perspective, and then a view of the scene from the shark's perspective. The film's slow reveal of the monster, often seen only through its shadow or fin, allows for maximum suspense, tapping into primal fears of the ocean and the unknown. Spielberg's direction, combined with the iconic, tension-filled score by John Williams, creates an atmosphere of relentless fear that still holds up half a century later. The iconic music Williams composed, symbolizing the shark's approach, has become one of the most recognizable scores in film history.

Released in the summer of 1975, *Jaws* became the first-ever true "summer blockbuster," setting the stage for future event films and forever changing the way Hollywood approached marketing and distribution. Millions of dollars were poured into the film despite going over budget multiple times. Filming at an inconvenient location, where equipment could get damaged, was a thought not truly thought of before the production of the film. Its legacy is undeniable, influencing not only other horror and thriller films but also the entire industry, making it a blueprint for future blockbusters.

For the Film iBlock, having watched *Jaws* was a great place to start the year. Students from the class noted it was "iconic and visually pleasing even though it is such an old movie." The students from the iBlock also pointed out that it changed how they pay attention to the music, camera direction, and characters. The 97% rating on Rotten Tomatoes accurately represents how enjoyable the film is. The Art Through Film iBlock's average rating for the movie was 8/10.



Jenna Callan '26 and Lauren King '26

HOT TOPIC

With school back in session and social media always blowing up in a frenzy, we are going to be giving you all the insight as to what has been happening in the news lately. To start, on September 11, 2024, we watched many incredible performances by some of your favorite artists and many of them won a Moonman. Katy Perry won the Video Vanguard Award along with Taylor Swift, who won her third consecutive Video of the Year Award for her song "Fortnight," featuring Post Malone.

The Music Billboard for the week of September 28 had some amazing hits! Number 10 was "Not Like Us" by Kendrick Lamar. Number 9: "Please Please Please" by Sabrina Carpenter, Number 8: "Taste" by Sabrina Carpenter, Number 7: "Lose Control" by Teddy Swims, Number 6: "Birds of a Feather" by Billie Eilish, Number 5: "Die With A Smile" by Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars, Number 4: "Good Luck, Babe!" by Chapell Roan, Number 3: "Espresso" by Sabrina Carpenter, Number 2: "I Had Some Help" by Post Malone (Ft. Morgan Wallen), and finally Number 1: "A Bar Song (Tipsy)" by Shaboozey.

With the new Netflix series, *Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story*, being released there has been worldwide talk about the Menendez brothers and their case. The majority of people are saying that the brothers should have been released from prison and that their emotional case should have resulted in them being freed. A recent documentary has also been released, which goes more into depth about the truth of the brothers' lives. It has also been said that the Netflix series is inaccurate. Regardless, after both the documentary and the Netflix series were released, the brothers are scheduled to have a trial on November 26, 2024. Now we all must wait to here the outcome.

VILLAGER VIEW

ADVICE

Q: What are some tips for freshmen who have concerns about studying?

A: Spread out your time. If you do not wait until the day before your test or quiz, you will have more time to comprehend the material. Also, keep in mind repetition- the more you go over the information the more likely you will remember it.

Q: How would you suggest managing school work with after-school activities?

A: Do your work the day it is assigned. If you wait to begin or finish assignments until right before the due date, then it will build up. But, if you do it when it is assigned, the workload does not seem as daunting.

Q: What's the best way to leave your comfort zone?

A: The best way to leave your comfort zone is to do things you know make you uncomfortable. If you are uncomfortable with public speaking, the best way to become comfortable is to practice and face your fears.

Audrey Loughlin '26

GOSSIP GIRL

Freshman - This freshman was 7 years old when she met Shawn Mendes at Target and sang "Stitches" with him!

Sophomore - This sophomore played 8 years of basketball before she ever played volleyball!

Junior - This junior has read over 50 books this year!

Senior - This senior was a cheerleader for 4 years!

Sophia Corridori '28 & Francesca LaGuarina '28

REMINDERS

UPCOMING DATES / EVENTS

November 20th - Instant decision day for seniors!

November 22nd - Thanksgiving School Mass

November 26th - OLMA Semi-Formal

November 27th - December 2nd - Thanksgiving Break!

December 3rd - Classes resume

December 13th - School Mass

December 17th - No school

December 19th - OLMA Christmas and Celebration of the Arts

December 20th - January 5th - Christmas Break!

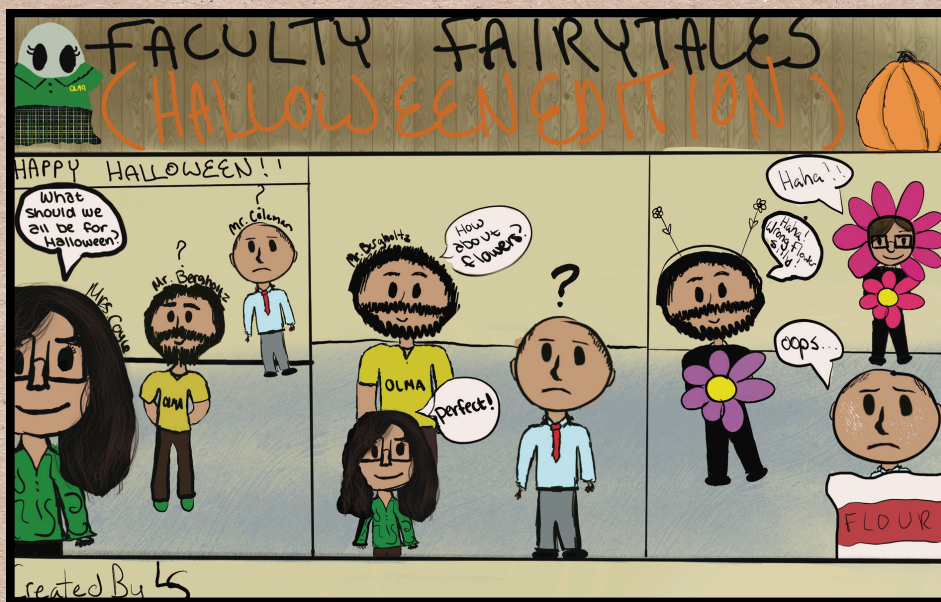
January 6th - Classes resume

January 17th - 12:15 pm dismissal

January 20th - MLK Day - No School



VILLAGER VIEW



Sadie Seabrook '27 & Laney Yates '27

CROSSWORD

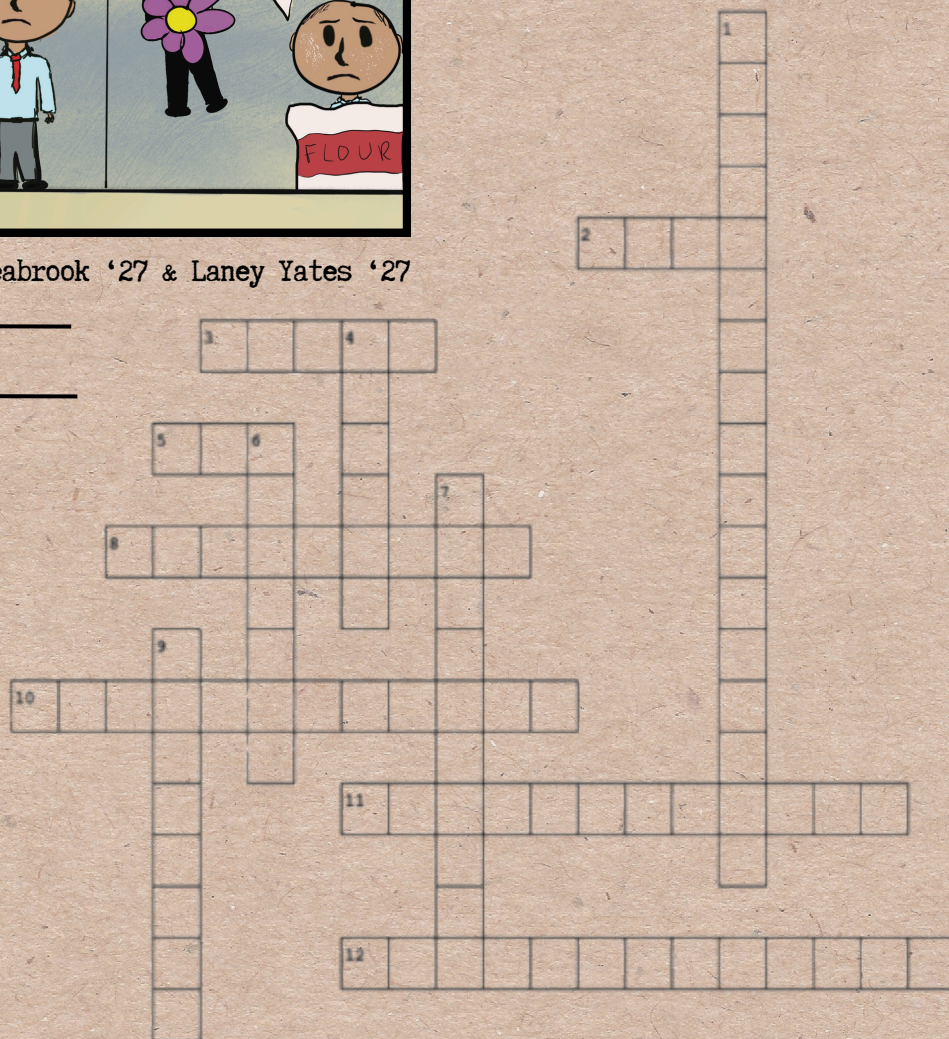
DOWN

1. What is the most popular Starbucks drink this fall?
4. What is another word for fall?
6. Halloween is on the 31st of...
7. What is the most popular Halloween candy?
9. What is the worst Halloween candy?

ACROSS

2. What is the color representing Breast Cancer Awareness Month?
3. Trick or ...
5. What does a ghost say?
8. When does Hispanic Heritage Month start?
10. The doctor who created a monster
11. What do pumpkins become after you carve and put lights in them?
12. Who is the face of Friday the 13th?

Ella Cummins '27 & Samantha Juarez '27



1. Pumpkin Spice Latte 2. Pink 3. Treat 4. Autumn 5. Boo 6. October 7. Reese's Cups 8. September 9. Snickers 10. Frankenstein 11. Jack O Lantern 12. Jason Voorhees