



The Secrets of the Attic

by Emily Killian & Mariella Orthober

Have you ever wondered what's in the attic at OCE? Or did you even know there was an attic at OCE? You are about to find out all about it!

You might think the attic is full of rats, spiders and bugs and that it is very dark, scary and dirty. But in reality it is surprisingly clean and bright.



The attic is mostly filled with electrical, HVAC and AC machines and is one long hallway. Each hallway in the main building has a hallway above it. Mr. Boyer calls them “the catwalks.”

No one is allowed in the attic except when someone comes to repair an AC or HVAC unit.

The ceilings in the classrooms are actually just tiles and you can see them from the attic. If anyone were to remove a tile from the attic, it would lead straight to the classroom below. This also means you can hear everything going on in the attic, so during our time up there we had to be extra quiet.

At the bottom of the stairs to go up to the attic is a closet to store cleaning supplies.

To be honest we were disappointed in what was in the attic. We were expecting a more creepy, dingy, scary space. Or maybe a place used to store fun, old things. It was actually just clean and boring. But we are very grateful that Mr. Boyer set aside time to take us up there.

How about you? Did the attic meet your expectations? There hasn't been anything interesting or out of the ordinary found in the attic... YET!

Kids Corps is Working to Stomp Out Hunger

by Serena Bandyopadhyay & Ruby Timm

From early November through December 8, Kids Corps, Olive Chapel's (OCE) community service club, is hosting a Stomp Out Hunger food drive to support Western Wake Crisis Ministry (WWCM).

Not only can Kids Corps members can donate food, YOU CAN TOO! Raid your pantry for noodles, mac 'n cheese, canned foods and more!!!!

Make sure you're doing your part, because this is also a class competition! Kids Corps will announce the leaders each week, and on Dec. 8, they'll take the donations to WWCM, which has a location right across the street from OCE.

WWCM has a moneyless grocery store. For example, if your mom is tight on money, needs to pay an electricity bill AND get groceries, she might come to WWCM and ask to see their assortment of food. That way she would only need to pay the bills. She could get groceries for free.

Megan Pohl is the Olive Chapel Elementary social worker and leader of Kids Corps. She stays in touch with some of the members of WWCM and the food drive was her idea. She decided to start a food drive to restock the shelves of the moneyless grocery store and the club was very excited to help her.

Please do your part to stomp out hunger!!!

Ms. McConnell is Making Beautiful Music at OCE

by Addie MacNaughton

Ms. McConnell is our music teacher. She just graduated from Appalachian State University last December. Music has always been her favorite class. Here are some questions and answers with her!

Addie: Why music?

Ms. McConell: I started music when I was seven years old. Music allows me to express myself in ways where words would be difficult. It also allows me to connect with people.

Why do you teach? Teaching is incredibly rewarding. I love when students get that look on their face when they understand a new concept for the first time.

What is your favorite lesson that you teach? I love teaching the difference between major and minor. It gives the students a good idea about what music is about.

Who is your favorite musician? I don't have a favorite. I have a lot of people I look up to and admire, though. I really like movie scores and their composers. These are the people who write the music in movies. Hans Zimmer in *Pirates of the Caribbean* is one of my favorites. He also did the music in *Lion King*. I also like John Powell who wrote the music in *How to Train your Dragon*. I am a trumpet player so I like Dizzy Gillespie and Winton Marsalis.

When did you decide you wanted to be a music teacher? I was a junior in high school. I got the chance to be a teaching assistant in math and realized how much I like teaching. I paired that with my favorite class, music.

What instrument(s) have you played? I have played all of the instruments at one point in time. My main instruments I play are trumpet, piano and singing. A part of teaching music is so someone can give me an instrument and I can know how to play it.

What do you do in chorus club? I teach students how to use their voices in a safe way and to sing songs that they usually wouldn't listen to.

As you can see, Ms. McConnell has lots of experience with music, which is why she is a great music teacher!



Stuffed Animals Bring Fun & More to Classrooms

by Ella May & Charlie Sandoval

Our teacher, Ms. Greene, has a stuffed animal in her classroom. She passes it around class in the morning and it helps her students get to know each other better. Then we wondered if other classes use stuffed animals, too.



Ms. Burleson has a reading corner. She calls individual kids to grab a stuffed animal and a book to go to the corner and read. The book corner has a big bear and a little carpet so the students can sit comfortably. There is a little basket of books. It's not a big corner, but it's perfect for the little kindergarteners.

Ms. Sine, another kindergarten teacher, recently got rid of her old stuffed animals and definitely wants to get new ones at some point.

Ms. Brem in third grade has a penguin that her students take home. The penguin's name is Charlotte. Students spin a wheel to see who gets to take Charlotte home on Fridays. The students take pictures with Charlotte when they have her for the weekend. The pictures go into a book so people can see what Charlotte's been doing.

Ms. Greene's stuffed animal is a Baby Yoda with a lopsided head. A parent knitted it for her a few years ago. One of last year's students threw him across the room and one of his eyes popped out. On the first day of school, Ms. Greene told us, "Baby Yoda cannot fly!"

You Asked, We Found Out: What Happened to Dodgeball?

by *Diego Vega & Landon Winslow*

Have you noticed that we don't play dodgeball in gym class anymore? Have you wondered why? We did!

We went to Coach Roberts for the answers. Coach Roberts said that the Wake County Public School System banned dodgeball because some students were getting hurt by the balls. No students at Olive Chapel got hurt.

The injuries were not major. There were nose bleeds and other minor things. But Wake County wants to keep everyone safe.

We're not sure when Wake County stopped allowing dodgeball. Coach Roberts only got informed of the decision at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.

We are all disappointed that dodgeball got banned at OCE. But there are still a lot of cool and fun games to play in the gym.

Meet the Male Teachers of OCE: Mr. Falcone & Hermanson

by *Emily Wasserman & Shreya Yadav*

Mr. Hermanson is one of the fifth grade teachers here at Olive Chapel Elementary. He is also one of the funniest and kindest teachers. So we decided to interview him and ask him why he likes teaching!

Do you like teaching 5th grade?

Mr. Hermanson said, "yes, I love teaching fifth grade."

How long have you been teaching?

Mr. Hermanson said, "it's my 7th year at Olive Chapel and before I came here, I taught for 16 years in Texas."

How do you feel about being one of only the male teachers?

Mr. Hermanson said, "I never really thought about it because I love to teach in front of wonderful people."

You're a really popular teacher, what makes you different from other teachers?

Mr. Hermanson said, "I never thought of myself as popular, I just really enjoy what I'm doing."

Why did you want to become a teacher?

Mr. Hermanson said, "I didn't want to become a teacher in the beginning, but then I wanted to make a difference in what I really loved to do."

What is your favorite subject to teach?

Mr. Hermanson said, "my favorite subject to teach is math."

What's the best advice you have ever been given?

Mr. Hermanson said, "to look both ways before crossing the street."

What do you like to do when you're not teaching?

Mr. Hermanson said, "I enjoy spending time with my family and watching Michigan teams."

Have you always taught 5th grade?

Mr. Hermanson said, "no, most of the time I was a 6th grade teacher."



Mr. Falcone is one of the second grade teachers here at Olive Chapel Elementary School. He is also one of the coolest teachers. So we decided to interview him and learn more about him!

Do you like teaching second grade?

Mr. Falcone said, "yes, it's my favorite grade I have ever taught."

Why did you become a teacher?

Mr. Falcone said, "At first I wanted to be a scientist or a baseball player. But I was not really good at math. So then I became a camp counselor and I loved kids so much that I started teaching 2nd grade."

Did you always teach second grade?

Mr. Falcone said, "no, I have also taught second, third and fourth."

How long have you been teaching?

Mr. Falcone said, "I have been teaching for three years."

How do you feel being one of only the male teachers?

Mr. Falcone said, "I think it is very cool."

The Origin's of OCE's New Carpool System

by Lena Hyder & Dhvani Raghavendran

We got the inside scoop about the new carpool system!

First up, an interview with Mrs. Broaddus who works in the front office.

Q: Why did you want to change the carpool system?

A: We were asked to reduce the traffic on Kelly Road by the Apex police.

Q: What gave you the idea to base it on the Chick-fil-A drive-through?

A: Someone made a joke at a staff meeting; everyone agreed with it and thought it was a good idea.

Q: Why did you want to call up numbers individually instead of asking students to find their numbers themselves?

A: There are two pieces to improving carpooling (the inside and the outside). We had to double-stack the cones outside. This removed almost 40 cars from sitting on Kelly Road! To make it faster on the inside, we made carpool just in the cafeteria so students would save time walking from their classrooms.

Q: Why did you ask all grades to come down to the cafeteria?

A: Everybody can come down to one central location to save time walking from their classrooms to the gym. Everybody also sits at a table that begins with the letter in your carpool number.

Q: Is this more convenient for teachers and kids alike?

A: Yes, this is more convenient for teachers because they only have to watch the bus riders instead of carpool riders, too.

Q: Why did you want to move the carpool into the cafeteria?

A: We wanted students to sit at tables instead of on the floor.

Another change we did on the outside was we took out the black and white cones because it took kids too long to walk to them.

Wow! We appreciate that amazing interview with Mrs. Broaddus!

Addalyn Turner from Ms.Cowell's class said to us: "I like carpooling in the cafeteria because we have to wait less in the carpool line and we stand up less."

She also said to us: "One thing I would do to improve it is be able to sit with our friends, not based on our numbers."

Another student, Greta Hockett from Ms.Orton's class, also told us: "I don't really know, but it would be nice if we could talk a little bit. It's hard not to talk with my sisters during carpool!"

Falcone & Hermanson cont.

What do you do in your classroom that is different from other teachers?

Mr. Falcone said, "I have a lot of stuffed animals in my classroom and I think I'm the only teacher who has sports jerseys in my classroom."

What do you like to do when you're not teaching?

Mr. Falcone said, "when I am not teaching I do a lot of things. I go to concerts, I go to the gym and I also hang out with my friends. I also go to a lot of NC State sporting events."

What is your favorite subject to teach?

Mr. Falcone said, "my favorite subject to teach is social studies."

If you could teach another grade, would you, if so what grade would you teach?

Mr. Falcone said, "I would teach 4th grade."

What is the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

Mr. Falcone said, "it's okay to make mistakes, they help you grow."

