



THE OLIVE CHAPEL ELEMENTARY Wave

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The Wave Interview: Apex Mayor Jacques Gilbert

by Mariella Orthober

As you may know, OCE recently hosted Apex's annual Groundhog Day celebration. The students in kindergarten through second grade got to watch Mayor Jacques Gilbert and Sylvia the Apex Armadillo predict if spring will come early this year. After the celebration, I had the honor of interviewing Mayor Gilbert.

I think the question that everyone wants to know is "WHY AN ARMADILLO?" The mayor replied, "When I got elected as mayor in 2019, I was noticing towns around us had their own Groundhog Day and Apex has never had one, so I wanted to bring something new to the town. We searched around for a groundhog and no one could help us out with that, and I even tried to borrow Garner's groundhog and they said, 'you can't borrow Snerd.' And then I was like we need to figure something out, so then someone found from Sylvia the armadillo from Animal Ed.ventures."

I was also interested in learning why Olive Chapel was chosen to host Armadillo Day. Mayor Gilbert responded, "when we hosted Groundhog Day in 2021, during the period of covid, there were a lot of kids there because they weren't in school, and the next year there were no kids. We wanted to make it so that we would be able to have kids there. So last year we did it at Apex Elementary school, and then I thought 'where could we go next?' And of course, Olive Chapel, one of my favorites!"

Apex was recently named one of the top ten small towns and I asked Mayor Gilbert what he thinks makes Apex so special. "What makes Apex so special are the people that live in Apex."



I mean Apex is a tight community. They just love spending time with each other, our festivals and our downtown just really draw people together."

Many people my age want to get more involved in our community. When I asked him how he thought we could do this, he said, "It's all about how we need to hear from young people like you because we can't make the town better without your voice. We're not only making decisions for today but for 20, 30 years from now and we always have to think about the future. Also, getting to know the mayor or the council people and learning about what they do and then find your own way to get involved."

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While at OCE, Sylvia the Armadillo Predicts a Short Winter

by Conley Tierney

Have you ever heard of Groundhog Day? Did you know that the Apex Groundhog Day event came to Olive Chapel? Read on to hear about the event.

Before the event, I talked to people about their thoughts on the event. The first person was Charlie B. who said, "I love Groundhog Day and am so excited." Then I asked Daniel F. and he said, "Groundhog Day is such a cool day and I want early spring."

The event started with Mrs. May introducing a few celebrities. They were Wake County Board of Education member Ms. Lindsay Mahaffey and Mayor Jacques Gilbert. Mrs. May then told the crowd, "Mayor Jacques Gilbert is a great partner with our school. He is also returning to our school for a few things he doesn't know about yet!"

"Hello, Olive Chapel Elementary," said Mayor Gilbert. "This is the best school on Olive Chapel Road!"

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All About Dojo Points and Clipper Cash

by Emily Killian & Mariella Orthober

Almost all classes at Olive Chapel Elementary use Dojo points or Clipper Cash as a reward for good behavior and kindness. However, have you ever wondered what other classes use as rewards?

Before covid, most of the school used Clipper Cash and treasure boxes. However, after the pandemic, teachers switched to Dojo points online to prevent sharing germs. Once a student saves up enough points, you can “buy” things from a treasure chest or you can earn prizes as you earn points. Some classes also have an auction at the end of the year that students can save up for. While most classes use similar reward methods, every teacher does something different. We talked to a few teachers about what they use for rewards and this is what they said.

5th grade: Mrs. Pittman's class uses Class Dojo and earns prizes that they cash out every Friday. At the end of every two quarters they have an auction with their saved up points.

4th grade: Mrs. Greene's class uses Dojo points and redeem them during fun Friday for candy or stationary. They also have an auction at the end of the year with the extra points that they have saved.

3rd grade: In Mrs. Dunklin's class, they use Class Dojo and cash them out on fun Friday for something in the treasure box or the Dojo point menu.

2nd grade: Mrs. Donaldson's class uses Class Dojo as well and also has a treasure box.

Kindergarten: In Mrs. Seyler's class, they use Clipper Cash and have a treasure box.

As you can see, most classes use Class Dojo, but each teacher does it a little differently. Using rewards like Dojo points and Clipper Cash is a great way to motivate students to persevere and do their very best. Clipper Cash has been around for a while and is named to fit our school's nautical theme. If you are looking to earn more points, make sure to always be on your best behavior because you never know when teachers are looking to give them out.



Sylvia continued

Mayor Gilbert then said, “This is the most fun day for me every year, it is Groundhog Day, but no it is Armadillo Day!”

He then introduced Apex town council members Terry Mahaffey and Arno Zegerman, town of Apex communications director, Stacy Galloway, Wake County Board of Education member, Tyler Swanson, vice chair of the school board and water conservation district, Scott Lasseter, and several others.



Then he said, “Let's talk about this tradition, in 1887 locals in a town called Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania made a trip to Gobblers Knob, a wooded area about two miles out of town filled with burrowing rodents to make the winter, and with that, the legend of Punxsutawney Phil was born.” Later he continued with “In the Peak we don't trust groundhogs! No! We trust Silva the armadillo!” Then, he said a special thank you to the Animal Edventures sanctuary in coastal Carolina. Next, he compared the weather to the lottery - it's “unpredictable.”

Then, he asked the crowd who wanted an early spring and who wanted six more weeks of winter. Most people cheered for six more weeks of winter. Finally, Mayor Gilbert gave the official report, “On this Groundhog Day in Apex, Sylvia the Apex Armadillo rises and emerges from her burrow, a tranquil scene. As the sun shines bright, shadow in retreat, a decree of joy, a moment sweet. By the power vested in the queen's nod and cheer, Sylvia's proclamation fills the air. No shadows cast upon the ground, a sign that spring is soon around!”

If you would like to visit Sylvia, she is located at 1489 Live Oak Road in Coats, NC. If you'd like to watch a recording of the event, you can go to YouTube and search “Apex Armadillo Day Event 2024.”

The Wave Interview *continued*

Mayor Gilbert was on the Apex Police force for 29 years and has been mayor since 2019. When I asked him what made him want to run for mayor, this is what he said. "When I retired, I was trying to figure out what my next step was going to be. And what I enjoyed about being a police officer is that it allowed me to help people. Now let me look for another way to help people, so I ran for mayor. And by the way when I was your age there were two things I said that I would never do in life, one) become a police officer and two) become a politician."

As we all know, being the mayor is a demanding job. I asked what the most challenging part of it was, to which he answered: "The most challenging job about being mayor is that you really want to say yes to everyone. They have their desires but sometimes it doesn't work out that way because there are so many moving parts in a decision, and that's frustrating because you want everyone to be happy."

While on the topic of his job, I asked Mayor Gilbert what the most exciting thing about his job is, "The most exciting thing about my job is GROUNDHOG DAY!!!!!!!!!!!"

Next I asked Mayor Gilbert what he thought his biggest accomplishment was, and this is what he said, "being from a community that wasn't well received, and there was a lot of bad things going on, and being able to move out of that environment, and people now see that young Jacques who is now the mayor of the town, it really inspired people and I'm really proud of that and to be able to represent my own community, the place I was born and raised. Becoming mayor has been a huge accomplishment for me."

Obviously, being mayor is a huge job, so I asked Mayor Gilbert what he does in his free time, and he replied, "Well I love working out. I love being in the gym. That's just my way of relaxing and getting away from it all and really being able to refocus. Some people say that working out isn't really a hobby but to me it is."

I also asked the mayor what his favorite subject in school was when he was younger and he said, "My favorite subject is math, I love math"

Mayor Gilbert went to Apex High School and is a big fan, but other than that, his favorite teams are, "for professional football, I like the Carolina Panthers. For professional basketball, the LA Lakers, and overall I, of course, love the UNC Tarheels."

If you don't already know, the 5th graders at our school are doing a 40 book challenge. I wanted to know what the mayor's favorite genre or author was, and this is what he said: "I just love reading about people, I love being inspired by what other people have accomplished."

Apex has some amazing locally owned restaurants and when asked what his favorite is, he answered, "Oh that's a tough one. We have some amazing restaurants here, but I would have to say Salem Street Pub." Salem Street Pub, or SSP, is a locally owned restaurant located in downtown Apex.

I asked the mayor, when he looked out into the future of Apex, what he thought would be the most exciting change and he replied, "well we have a lot of history here, and so many people want to move here, which will make us grow more. So I want to still have that historic and small town feel but also usher in new and modern things, and hopefully we will just have a really good blend of that. Our hope is just to have a better place for you to enjoy and better sustainability, so that everyone has a good quality of life."

So I've saved the best question for last. I know everyone wants to know: IS HE A SWIFTIE? And of course he said, "Oh yes! I mean who isn't? Like, is anyone not?!"

Thank you again Mayor Gilbert for taking the time to talk to me and visit our school! We look forward to seeing how our mayor's vision for the future will continue to shape our community.

Family Reading Night Brings Fun and Excitement

by Charlie Sandoval

Reading Night was an event recently held at Olive Chapel. All grades participated. Each grade level had a different theme. For example, fourth grade did a movie theme. There was popcorn, goodie bags and a red carpet. The fourth grade teachers were dressed as characters from different books.

Kindergarten had easier books for little kids. Their theme was winter. The front door to some classrooms looked like the arctic!

Third and 5th grades did Starbooks instead of Starbucks!

The purpose of Reading Night was to get kids interested in reading different book genres. To make things more exciting, kids filled out raffle tickets during the event. Winners were announced after the event, during the morning news. The prizes were bookmarks and books.

After the event, each student received a book challenge log. They read up to six books and kept track of what they liked and what they didn't like. To get \$10 in Clipper Cash, they turned the finished log into the front office.

It was an amazing night!

OCE Can Go Green II

by Dhvani Raghavendran

Ahoy Clippers! Welcome back to part two of: *OCE Can Go Green!* In this article I will be talking about the ways we can reduce our carbon footprint on the environment as well as reducing the overall plastic and electricity usage that we humans generate. Let's get started!

Okay, first thing first: We humans LOVE cars. And it's not just cars. We also like motorbikes, buses, auto-rickshaws, and many more. I mean, it's not bad, just a way for us to get around since we aren't that fast. But it does impact the world around us. For example, for short distances such as to school, a nearby friend's house, or anything else close enough, you could use bikes or walk. For long distances, you could carpool with friends or family. Doing this, you could help reduce carbon emissions into the atmosphere and also help reduce toxic waste.

Another way to help the environment is to reduce our usage of single-use plastics. As I said in part one, schools in the USA alone produce about 14,500 pounds of trash each day! To reduce this gargantuan amount, you can get lunches from home, buy and use reusable metal or plastic water bottles, or even ask teachers to have recycle bins at lunch so that you can throw away your used plastic containers from lunch.

Schools can also have a compost bin for eggshells, banana peels, apple cores, etc. This helps by giving rich nutrients to the soil as well as reducing the amount of trash the school produces.

Now, let's talk about a major aspect: electricity usage. As I mentioned in part one, school's electricity bills can be pretty high, and will continue to cost more as we use more and more of it. One way we can reduce the use of electricity is to switch off and unplug Promethean boards when classes are out for recess, lunch, or specials when the teachers aren't using it. Another way to save electricity is by installing motion sensor lights for nights in hallways so the school can also be secure at night in case of robberies.

The last and final way we are going to cover today to save electricity is by having eco friendly space heaters and coolers. These space heaters and coolers take in air from outside and convert it into hot or cold air for us to use. Schools can raise money for these options by having fundraisers, raffles, carnivals, etc.

Thank you all for joining me on this eco-friendly journey on preserving the globe! Until next time Clippers, bon voyage!

Ms. Ferreira, our Awesome STEM Teacher

by Addison MacNaughton

Ms. Ferreira is our amazing STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) teacher who is originally from Brazil! I got to ask her some questions!

Why do you like STEM?

I like STEM because it challenges me to learn new things and improve my problem-solving skills by doing hands-on experiments.

Do you do anything connected to NASA?

Yes, I am a space ambassador for North Carolina. (It means that she works as a volunteer for STEM curriculums in public schools.)

What is your favorite lesson you teach?

That is a hard one, but I think all the engineering lessons: roller coasters, rockets, remote vehicles, and robots.

Who inspires you professionally? Why?

I am inspired by my 5th-grade science teacher who got me interested in science, and physics specifically.

Why and when did you decide to be a STEM teacher?

I always loved science and math. About 12 years ago I got to learn about engineering design process in a conference and that resonated with me. I think learning should be fun and innovative: STEM is all of it!

Why did you want to create a podcast club?

I wanted students to express themselves, and inform the community about STEM.



What do you do in Girls Who Code?

We do hands-on experiments where we can discuss new concepts and challenge ourselves to learn and grow.

Why isn't there a Boys Who Code?

In 2012, only a few girls went into engineering, but when New York started a nonprofit organization to encourage girls to code, more girls went into engineering.

Fun facts

She loves teaching | She was born in Brazil | She loves skydiving | "I'm clumsy" | She played basketball in college

As you can see, Ms. Ferreira is a hard-working staff member at OCE! She is in charge of many clubs and special school events. She has been teaching for a long time, so she has a bunch of experience which makes her a great STEM teacher!