



Student newsletter

OF OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE ACADEMY



THE STORY OF GROUNDHOG DAY

by Avelyn Holtkamp

Everyone loves a furry friend; here in America, we use one to determine our weather. Groundhog Day is recognized as a national holiday in America, but how did we come to leave our weather predictions up to a rodent? The tradition of Groundhog Day is rooted back to an old Christian holiday celebrated on February 2nd, where they would use Candlemas to decide how the following weeks of weather would be. Germans eventually developed a new way to do this; instead of using Candlemas like Christians, they placed the fate of the weather on badgers and other small animals. If the animal were to have a glimpse of their shadow, the day would be sunny.

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, German immigrants flooded into America, bringing their traditions with them. When some of these immigrants settled in Pennsylvania, they named the native groundhog their official forecaster. On February 2nd, 1887, the first Groundhog Day celebration occurred in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. This celebration was the brainchild of newspaper editor Clyde Freas. Clyde sold the idea to a group of businessmen and local groundhog hunters. This group later became known as the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club. The club still works hard to plan the celebration every year. Those who celebrate this holiday wait anxiously to see if the groundhog sees his shadow, meaning they are stuck with six more weeks of winter weather. To this day, about 30,000 visitors descend on Punxsutawney to celebrate the beloved groundhog, Phil.



COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

by Kelsey O'Donnel



NHS EVENTS

- On February 14th NHS will be hosting a bake sale in the cafe in between sessions. All proceeds will go towards supporting Operation Upright, a foundation dedicated to earning enough for MUSC to have their own Upright MRI machine. Come buy a baked good or bring one in the day before to earn a service hour!
- The next blood drive will be held at Oceanside on February 25th from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

SENIORS!!

- Be sure to order your cap and gown if you have not done so already! Check your email or see the Oceanside website for more details.



LITTLE KNOWN TIPS FOR APPLYING TO YOUR DREAM SCHOOL

by Claire Natale



Everyone will tell you: maintain your GPA, score well on standardized tests, and prove your dedication by committing to a sport. And yes, these are all things colleges will consider when reviewing your application, but what makes you different from everyone else with a great GPA, excellent test taking abilities, and top-scoring achievements in sports? Here are some things that people don't always tell you are important to being considered for acceptance into your dream school:



#1 - Demonstrate interest. Colleges want to know that you care and that you are keeping yourself informed and updated on them and their programs. There are a few ways you can show your dream school that you're interested. (a) Sign up for their mail list: This will add your email and address to a server which consistently sends out information about the college, keeps you updated on virtual events, and even discusses programs that college offers for high school students. (b) Take a tour: Signing up for a tour guided by a current college student is super helpful for you to get to know the environment and campus that you could be studying on in the near future. This demonstrates that you care enough to make the trip and visualize yourself at their school. (c) Keep in contact: Most colleges have admissions counselors specific to your state or local area. Contacting someone involved in the school, especially a staff member, is a really productive way to learn new things about the school you're interested and keep yourself relevant and fresh on their minds for when your application comes in.

#2 - Participate in Leadership Roles. Whether it is through your sport, school, or another extracurricular activity, it is important to colleges that you can easily use your platform as an athlete or student and be a good role model to your peers. Some examples are being president of a club, captain of your sports team, or taking on important roles in society, such as volunteering. Colleges love to see that you play a role in your community and are always willing to lend a hand when people need it.

#3 - Develop Good Writing Skills. Mrs. Smith isn't constantly presenting you with new challenges for nothing. Having an outstanding personal statement and supplementals like no other are critical to your application. Your writing offers you a chance to portray yourself in a way beyond what your resume says about you. It gives you the opportunity to display your creativity, ability to engage with a reader, and provide some information about yourself that your GPA and sports activities might not reveal.

#4 - Maintain Connections With Teachers and Coaches. Being able to have good relationships with your teachers and coaches is essential to your college application process. You want to connect with them in a way that they only ever have good things to say about you. You want them to be able to recall how hardworking you are and how you're always up for a challenge. Having your peers write excellent letters of recommendation for you is a major consideration on your college application.

A really cool way to discover how your dream college considers and weighs the information above is through a **Common Data Set (CDS)**. For example, if you search "University of South Carolina common data set", their website will come up with the common data set for every class from 2000-2022. Once you view the CDS, there are many pages with information about how they consider their applicants. It tells you the recommended amount of credits per subject, preferred standardized test scores, the importance of academic and non academic factors which I described above, and so much more. And you can do this for any school!!

Good luck to everyone hoping to apply to and get into their dream school soon! I hope you will consider this information and continue to work hard to achieve your goals.



SITTING DOWN WITH ASHLYN KEY, SOPHOMORE CLASS PRESIDENT

by Jenny Karamus

What activities do you participate in?

- I play lacrosse (Oceanside and club), I'm in Girls Athletic Association, and Student Council.

Why did you want to become class president?

- I wanted to be a voice for all of the students, both AM and PM.

What have you done as president so far? What else do you hope to do?

- I helped plan homecoming, provided donations, planned and ran cafe events. I am going to help plan prom as well.

Did you have any previous leadership experience?

- I was a Robotics Team captain and the district representative for all 3 years in middle school.

Any college plans?

- I want to play lacrosse and major in engineering.

Fun Facts

- Ashlyn has a chocolate lab named Dallas.
- Her favorite sport is lacrosse and her favorite team is the Dallas Cowboys (Ashlyn's middle name is Dallas)
- Outside of school, Ashlyn works at Playa Bowls and Red Drum.
- Ashlyn's favorite subject is math

And finally, we posed the toughest question: If you were stuck on a large deserted island with everyone from OCA, what would you bring? Who (from the school) would you trust to be in charge on said island?

- I would bring a boat and put Jenny Karamus in charge.



PET OF THE MONTH: SALTY

by Mae Cave

The Pet of the Month is Salty, a seven year old yellow lab! This loveable lab enjoys affection from everyone and wiggles with happiness from attention. Though very obedient, he loves to greet dogs and let loose to play. The neighborhood sees Salty as the therapy dog for dogs as he loves to play and care for the puppies and dogs around him. He never wants anyone to know that he isn't happy, as Mrs. Beckham describes him through only being happy and ready to play! Mrs. Beckham loves his "honest desire to do the right thing," along with knowing his place and role in the family—he believes himself to be "just below the cat, but above the chickens" in the Beckham family. Salty is loved in his home and by his neighbors and is always excited to meet new friends!

Want your pet featured next month?
Fill out our Form!



BOYS AND GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL UPDATE

by William Warren

The season of basketball is well underway for the boys and girls Oceanside Varsity basketball teams. Beginning with the Boy's varsity squad, the season has been off to a great start and has brought with it excitement all year. The Landsharks currently have a record of 16-3 with an 84% winning percentage and a 4-0 regional record sitting atop the AA Region 7 rankings in first place. The Landsharks began their season with a disappointing 68-57 loss to Lancaster back in November but did not let the loss get to them as they rebounded to go on a 12-2 run winning each of these games by a large margin, with the most recent being an 88-14 home win versus Timberland. The Landsharks have had many standout performances this year from a number of players, notably two captains. At the end of January, Senior Point Guard Makhi Rivers is leading the way averaging 10.6 points, 5.4 assists and 4.0 steals per game. Senior Malachi Stevens has also shined this season with an average of 14.8 points per game along with 3.8 rebounds per game. The Landsharks have expanded on this momentum as they faced Academic Magnet, Lake Marion, and Bishop England.



The Girl's Varsity basketball team has also had a successful season as they are ranked second in the AA Region 7 standings and currently have a record of 10-7 and a regional record of 3-1. They faced the Academic Magnet Raptors on January 27 attempted to recreate the 71-26 win against them that they had earlier this season, while also bouncing back from the 43-39 home loss to Timberland on January 20. By the end of the game against the Raptors, your Lady Landsharks won with an impressive final score of 59 - 16.

Both of the Landshark's basketball teams look to be heading for exciting playoff runs as they will attempt to further their legacies.



♥ happy ♥
Valentines
Day



INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR STAFF?

EMAIL MS. SULLIVAN AT ASULLIVAN@LANDSHARKS.ORG