

# SHARK TANK TIMES

Student newsletter of Oceanside Collegiate Academy

## HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

**BY**

**Tatiana Sabin, Junior**

There is no one size fits all when it comes to the holiday season. Every religion, country, culture, and family has their way of enjoying this time of year. Like many others, I only know about my family's celebrations. I spoke to OCA student, Jackson Sobel, about his unconventional holiday experience:

### **What unusual tradition does your family participate in for the holidays?**

Well my mom was raised Catholic and my dad is Jewish, so we usually combine holidays. We do Christmas presents and all the decorations, but we also make a lot of Hanukkah foods and light the menorah candles.

### **How long has your family been doing this tradition?**

We've done the holidays like this my whole life.

### **What is the meaning/importance of this tradition to you?**

It's important to my family that we get to experience both sides' traditions. Understanding the background of both religions means a lot.

### **Which part of this tradition do you most look forward to?**

Definitely the Jewish food. I really like cooking all the recipes during the holidays, especially Latkes.



### **THIS ISSUE INCLUDES:**

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# FOOTBALL

BY

**Claeland Jones, Junior**

11/13 The first round of the playoffs took place on November 13th at home vs Aynor. The Landshark pulled away with a close 31-26 win advancing them to the second round of the playoffs vs Camden. However, due to Covid, the Landsharks had to forfeit this round of the playoffs and unfortunately ending their season. With an impressive 6-1 record, the Landsharks are preparing for next season in hopes to win their first state championship.



# BETWEEN THE LINES

BY

**William Crookes, Junior**

We sat down with head basketball Coach, Quinton Hollis, to discuss the season, the team, and the best dancer on the team.

**With a younger team than in years past, how do you differ in your coaching style?**

My coaching style and expectations stay the same from year to year. With a younger team, I have to teach more. Each year I want to win the region and have a chance to win the state championship.

**Also, with the team being younger, How do you handle adversity?**

With a young team, there will be bumps in the road but we take each one as a learning experience and make sure we are ready for the next obstacle.

**With the loss of a lot of senior leaders, who do you expect to step up?**

I have three seniors that have been in the program for four years but I also have vocal young guys. Each guy in our privy has to hold himself and his brother accountable.

**Who's the best dancer on the team?**

Malachi Stevens and Makhi Rivers are the best dancers hands down. They act shy but, when we play music, you can catch them dancing from time to time.

# DECEMBER COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

**BY**

**Kelsey O' Donnel, Sophomore**

**NHS:**

The National Honor Society held their ornament making after school for an hour on Monday, December 1st. They made many wonderful ornaments to donate to Merrill Gardens and made some memories along the way. Don't worry, if you couldn't attend, there will be many new ways to earn service hours in the new year!

**Outdoor Classroom:**

Construction is finished on our new outdoor classroom, located outside Mrs. Trimarco and Mrs. Smith's rooms. Next quarter teachers can start holding classes there for a nice change of pace. Look forward to being outside during class in the next couple of weeks!

**Job Opportunities:**

Are you interested in getting some work experience? Tropical Smoothie and PrimoHoagies are both looking for part-time employees! Be sure to visit their websites to see just how you can apply and grab the opportunity while it lasts. For more information and opportunities check out the Internship and Job Board section of the OCA website.



# CONSTRUCTION AROUND CAMPUS

**BY**

**Claeland Jones, Junior and Miles Stickney,  
Junior**

Since the traffic on Faison road has gotten worse due to construction, you may be curious about what's happening. Two of our reporters interviewed a landscaper to give you some insight.

**What are you constructing or building?**

We are doing power and landscaping for future buildings and apartments.

**When did you start?**

There was no exact date for us, but we have been out here for a couple of months.

**When will this be finished?**

We aren't exactly sure, but it could take extra time with the coronavirus.

**Are you having fun?**

It's starting to get cold, but yes I like to landscape.

**How do you feel about this project?**

I believe we are doing a good job.



# CARLEE SINGLETARY



## **BY: Caroline Bailey**

For this month's student spotlight column, the Shark Tank Times interviewed Carlee Singletary, a senior at OCA who competes in equestrian sports and dedicates her time and effort towards thriving in her academic life and contributing to her community through the National Honors Society.

### **What is your favorite thing about OCA?**

My favorite part of OCA is the opportunity to take Dual Enrollment classes for college credit. I just feel like this ensures that I can gain the experience of attending college beforehand.

### **What methods do you use to stay motivated through school and through sports?**

I constantly remind myself of the goals and standards that I set for myself. I realize that time management is everything. Splitting my time evenly lets me make sure that everything gets done and on time.

### **What is your favorite thing about riding horses?**

I would definitely have to say the feeling of competing. After working really hard to train and maintain the horses, you can see all of your hard work and dedication pay off.

### **How did Covid impact your senior year and sports season?**

Unfortunately, the majority of my shows were canceled this year. I was unable to compete at regionals nor nationals. However, it has allowed more time for me to practice and train for upcoming events.

### **Do you have any advice for new students at OCA?**

I would definitely say to prioritize studying always. I would also advise them to get involved with clubs that relate to things you are interested in.

# LEMONS VS. MANGOES

By ANONYMOUS

Lemons are superior to mangoes- and I will prove it.

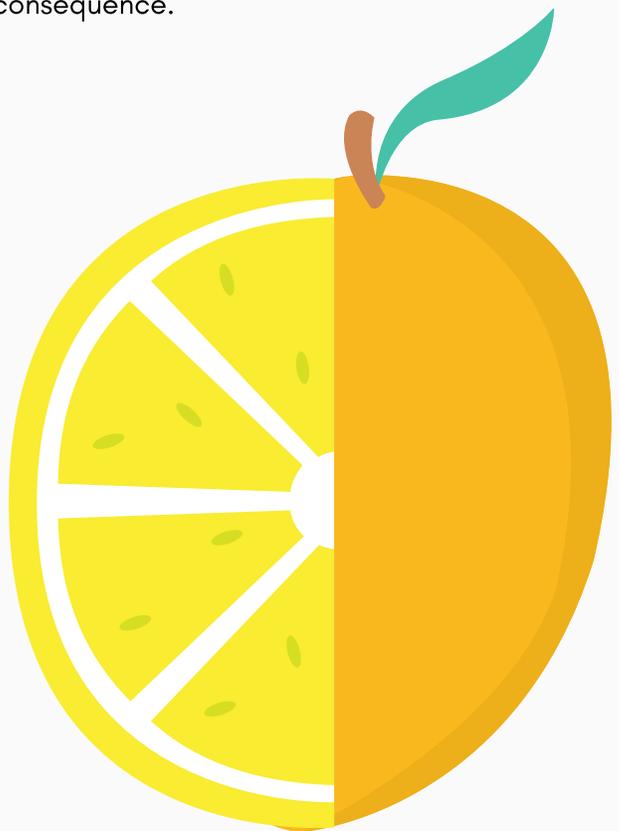
Lemons are the color of gold and nice to hold. Mangos are neither. If you look up, "Babies eating lemons," the top videos will have 99 million views. As for the mango videos...they only have around two thousand views. Further, lemons are on the top ten most popular fruits list. Mango isn't even a contender.

If you still don't believe me, then something is probably wrong with you. That's what I thought when I got into an argument with someone on the internet over the hot-button topic: lemons or mangoes? The whole fiasco started when I commented under a meme posted by @ireallylikewatermelons: Lemons >>> watermelons, to express my belief in citrus superiority. The first reply was not from a melon stan, but from a mango enthusiast. He went by the name of mangoos and had an ugly mango-centric profile picture. I immediately shot off, listing all the facts from above, and more, to take him down; although it started as a joke, and something that I was doing to entertain myself on that stale quarantine day, it became frustrating after a while, because my opponents didn't seem to take in any of my points; they simply continued to dismiss my argument and reply mangoes with a heart emoji. Eventually, I had the last word; but that was only because the others never responded. To this day, our forgotten debate is festering in the sea of comments under one of @ireallylikewatermelon's many, many posts. A few months ago or so, winning that argument felt like a very important victory. Today, however, I'm telling this story to stress a very important point: internet arguments don't matter.

There's nothing wrong with spreading social activism online. Having formal debates and polite disagreements are bound to happen on platforms where half of the human population have flocked.

And what else is bound to happen in this mess of different opinions and keyboard warriors? Petty arguments. Petty both in the sense that they are sparked purposely to upset the other side over an overall trivial matter, and in the fact that in the grand scheme of things, it doesn't help. It may even hurt. In internet arguments, where we are cosily hidden by our screens and privacy laws, we aren't afraid to introduce childish behavior into the argument. Factors such as name-calling and petty insults only strengthen enmity between opposite sides. Over the internet, our words can be twisted from well-meaning to condescending, sarcastic to serious, constructive to cruel.

In short, if lemons matter that much to you, debate about it in person. Not in a public cesspool where anyone can respond with anything without any consequence.



# MEETING AT THE ALTAR

BY

**Tatiana Smith, Junior**

The western portrayal of arranged marriages, particularly in entertainment, paints the practice as an outdated form of oppression on an independence-craving youth. Disney's Aladdin is a perfect example. In the movie, Princess Jasmine's father, the Sultan of Agrabah, is adamant about her finding a formal engagement to an equally royal family. Jasmine fiercely resists this expectation, questioning if she wants to be married at all. While that situation is the reality for some, it is far from the norm. I had a conversation with my grandparents, whose marriage was arranged, to view their situation from another perspective. They immigrated from India, a country where this tradition was, and is, common. Their story before is far from straightforward. Their fathers were close friends as young adults, but became disconnected as they started their own families. My maternal great grandfather, Ebenezer Chellappa, moved away to his hometown Madurai, while Wesley Thammadi, my paternal great grandfather, remained in Hyderabad. They miraculously reconnected 2 decades later, now with grown children, and decided they could find a possible match between their families. I asked my grandfather what he thought about this arrangement: "I wanted her to be a Christian, a doctor, and a girl," he said. "After that it didn't matter." Ebenezer traveled the 800 miles to Hyderabad and my grandfather, David, introduced himself to his future father in law. He was fresh out of medical school and on track to a very respectable career. The first impression went perfectly. Ebenezer returned to Madurai to discuss the possible engagement with my

grandmother, Sathi. She agreed and shortly after a formal proposal letter was sent to my grandfather's family on June 1st, 1965. Eight days later, Wesley unexpectedly passed away, leaving my grandfather to take care of his family and the engagement up in the air. The proposal fell apart as quickly as it had come together. Sathi moved on into her career, having had no explanation for the sudden radio silence. It was not until spring of 1966, when David spotted Ebenezer at a courthouse, that he was able to explain himself. The arrangement was reconsidered and the couple met for the first time at a family party. It was, despite the cliché, love at first sight. After two days, they were officially engaged for the second time. After just two months, they were married in my grandmother's hometown, surrounded by a modest two thousand of their closest family and friends. I asked them both if they ever had any hesitations about the marriage. Both immediately denied. Their respect towards their parents, their families, and each other allowed them to wholeheartedly trust the relationship, despite only meeting twice prior. My grandfather did admit that while their success was not the outcome for every arranged couple, he believes in the tradition of their culture, and is grateful for what it brought to him. They have been happily married for nearly fifty-five years. In his words, "There were no doubts, and there has been no regrets."



# THE ART-CHIVE



*Quarantining for the Holidays* by Caroline Bailey

## We're looking for art for our January Issue!

OCA students are invited to submit artwork and creative writing essays to be featured under the OCA Arts Column. The artistic talents and abilities of students deserve to be recognized just as much as their skills on the basketball court or football field. Creative writing essays and artwork can be turned into Mrs. Trimarco's classroom, and the artist can choose to share their name or remain anonymous, suiting whatever makes them feel comfortable. The deadline for submitted work is January 8th.

Sincerely,  
The Newsletter Club

### Shark Tank Times Staff

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