

# SHARK TANK TIMES



Student newsletter of Oceanside Collegiate Academy

## FAREWELL

BY

**Will Crookes, Senior**

The summer before my Junior year, my family and I were sitting around the fire and talking about high school experiences. My older brother, Tyler, recently graduated high school and was only a month away from leaving for his freshman year at Virginia Tech. My brother and I went to the same high school for two years, so naturally we talked about teachers, girls, our school lacrosse team..... normal teenage stuff. Our mom ended our conversation by praising him for his accomplishments in high school. He was president of a community service organization, a member of National Honors Society, a varsity captain for our school's lacrosse team, and an All-State player. I sat there while my mom discussed how proud she was and asked myself, "What will my legacy be?" In high school, my brother was one of the best lacrosse players and a leader in the community...and what had I done?

Immediately after that moment, I realized I wanted to try to make even a fraction of his impact on our school and community. I spent the next month brainstorming ideas to make my school a better and a more inclusive environment for all.

Then it hit me: my school always lacked a news source for the students. Of course, our school featured social media pages, but I thought a more consistent and interactive source would be welcome. So, with the help of Mrs. Trimarco, we founded the first ever school newspaper, our Shark Tank Times. I figured we would have a large group of interested writers and would be able to get off the ground quickly to start producing some great, student-driven papers. I was in for a rude awakening. We sent out a mass email to every student at my school asking if anyone was interested. Not a single response. We put out flyers the first week of school asking to contact my email if anyone wanted to join. No emails. It was at this moment I thought about quitting. What's the point? I thought to myself. I'm leaving for school in two years and nobody will remember me. Why bother? Then it came.

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# SENIOR REFLECTION

**BY**

**Tatiana Sabin, Senior**

As someone who spent a year and a half of my highschool experience online and her senior year with 1-2 in person classes a semester, I was a little blank when considering how to reflect on my highschool years. In many ways they have been quieter than average, so it felt as if I didn't have too much to offer in terms of retrospective anecdotes. Now, as I take the time to truly look back on my four years at this school. I realize that my time here was still a transformative, engaging part of my life. There is no singular way to have a "successful" highschool experience, and we as individuals can only decide for ourselves what that may look like. For me, highschool was about classes and working towards my long term goals of course. More than that, however, it has been about using the freedom that my flexible schedule allowed me to make memories and experience as many new adventures as possible. I have had the opportunity to meet incredible people and evolve dramatically as a person. My own highschool experience, while it may not suit others' goals, ended up as exactly what I needed and I'm truly grateful for that.

I was typing up my email to Mrs. Trimarco and principal Corley about the lack of interest and shutting the paper down, when I decided to just take one more look to see if anyone responded. I opened the newly made Shark Tank Times email and one email popped up. Some kid I knew from Biology class named Claeland asked me if he could join. From that moment on, Shark Tank Times was officially off and running. Georgia Herbert joined and started helping with layout, Tatiana Sabin joined and started one of our best sections with book reviews, and Kelsey O'Donnel started community happenings. Everything fell into place, and I couldn't be more proud of what we have become.

I'm extremely excited to see what our next group of writers will accomplish with Mrs. Sullivan as their guide. Thank you Tatiana, Claeland, Miles, and all those there from the beginning for turning this idea into a reality. Thank you to all those who have joined since for their fresh ideas; you turned what was supposed to be a 3 page letter about sports into a 9 page newsletter ranging with topics from album reviews to students spotlights to senior advice. Last, but certainly not least, thank you to Mrs. Trimarco. None of this would be possible without you. Thank you for helping me every step of the way. It is with a heavy heart that I write: Will Crookes signing off for the last time.



# COLLEGE DECISIONS



**BY**

**Alexa Schaaf and Mae Cave, Sophomores**

Congratulations to the class of 2022! In an effort to celebrate our graduates, here is a celebration of their future plans!

Alabama State University  
Auburn University  
Aviation Institute of Maintenance  
Bay Path University  
Belmont Abbey College  
Cardiff Metropolitan University  
Captain's License  
Catawba College  
Clemson University  
Charleston Southern University  
Coastal Carolina University  
College of Charleston  
College, travel and continue on a creative arts path  
Denison University  
East Carolina University  
Electrical Lineman Program  
Florence-Darlington Technical College -  
Gap Year  
Gap Year (Wofford 2024)  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Gustavus Adolphus College  
Iowa Wesleyan University  
Jacksonville University  
Lander University  
Lees-McRae College  
Lenoir-Rhyne University  
Limestone University  
Newberry College  
Northwestern College  
Palm Beach Atlantic University  
Presbyterian College

Pennsylvania State University  
Queens University of Charlotte  
Saint Louis University  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
Southeastern University  
Stevenson University  
Sydney Hampton College  
Travel and Tourism  
The Citadel  
Trident Technical College  
Trident Technical College (HVAC certification)  
University of Alabama  
United States Army  
University of Colorado Denver  
University of Mount Union  
United States Navy  
University of Ohio  
United States Air Force  
University of South Carolina  
Capstone Scholars Program  
-Lancaster  
- Upstate  
- Honors College  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Virginia Military Institute  
William Penn University  
Wingate University  
Winthrop University  
Wofford College  
Workforce  
Xavier University  
Young Harris College

# MOANA: CELEBRATION OR APPROPRIATION?

BY

**Kylie Clackley, Sophomore**

May is celebrated as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. However, representatives of these groups argue that what is considered as celebration of their heritage is simply appropriation of their unique cultures. Pacific Islanders argue that they received some of the worst of it. When observing films from large companies such as Disney, some began to wonder about the true authenticity of the representation. Furthermore, some wonder if iconic films such as *Mulan* and *Lilo and Stitch* are simply empty ideological chasms that have nothing to do with said culture or have been misinterpreted all together. However, in recent years, the outcries have been heard and *Moana* is the result.

The film is set between 1100 and 800 BCE during the years of early voyaging and exploration of Pacific Islands such as Samoa, Tonga, and Tahiti. However, making sure that the island itself is fictional avoids the concern of appropriating specific island cultures. Not only does it avoid the appropriation in this way, but it also made history for the Disney films. For instance, in the musical number, "We Know the Way," the Samoan language is used in addition to English. Disney sadly boasts a rocky history of appropriating other languages that they do not fully understand. For example, in *Pocahontas*, the language in the opening number was only manufactured to sound like a Native language. Unfortunately, the native language of Pocahontas' people was similar to Throat Singing, an ancient Native tradition that is drastically different from the expectations of western music. By using the exact language of ancient Polynesia in *Moana*, Disney honors the history and people of the time in a way most have not seen before.

Pacific Islander culture faced many hardships, but many praise the film for its empathy toward the culture and toward the people. More films in the media should strive for the excellence and consideration of the *Moana* animators.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

## BRIGGS SULLIVAN



**BY**

**Abby Morgan, Sophomore**

Briggs Sullivan is a dedicated athlete and student who strives for excellence in all he does. Outside of school and the baseball field, he can be found playing golf and basketball. His main motivation comes from reminding himself of how short our days are. Briggs Sullivan sets an amazing example for students and athletes around him.

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

My favorite thing about Oceanside is the flexibility it gives you in your schedule.

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

My favorite thing about playing a sport at OCA is the camaraderie I have with my teammates.

### **How do you motivate yourself for school?**

I realize that I only go to school for four hours, so I can stay motivated for that long.

### **What are your favorite hobbies to do outside of school?**

My favorite hobbies are playing golf and basketball.

### **What is your best advice for success at Oceanside?**

Make sure you do your online classes.

# MAY COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

BY

**Kelsey O'Donnel, Junior**

- **Senior Banquet:** On June 1st there will be a special banquet to honor all of our seniors and their hard work this year! It will be held at Sweetgrass Pavilion inside Wild Dunes on Isle of Palms (for seniors only). Tickets can be found on the official OCA Instagram page for just \$10!
- **Graduation:** As the year winds down we have one more special event to celebrate our seniors and all of their accomplishments. On June 4th OCA's class of 2022 will officially leave the "tank," so come support your family and friends at Seacoast Church!



# VERITY BOOK REVIEW

BY

**Montana Rhodes, Sophomore**

Colleen Hoover's *Verity*, a New York Times bestseller, is one of the many Colleen Hoover books I have ventured to read. Books in the young adult fiction genre are often the books I tend to gravitate to because, most commonly, they involve love; however, this is one of the few young adult fiction books that does not center around the picture-perfect version of love. Instead, it focuses on the darker side. *Verity* follows a struggling writer named Lowlen Ashleigh, and her journey of finishing a book series originally written by Verity Crawford. After being invited to the Crawford home to sort through Verity's office, Lowlen finds herself learning information about Verity and Jermy's, (Verity's husband) life together. While learning copious amounts of information about the people she currently lives with, she struggles to come to terms with the security Jermy often assures her. Hoover describes it as one of her most mature novels, and I agree. Although many of her other books delve into copious other mature topics, I would venture to say that *Verity* is the most advanced of Hoover's books that I have read yet. Topics including murder, child violence, cheating, etc., often had me questioning if I should continue reading the book; however, the story's mystery had me reading for hours on end. Overall, the book, like all Colleen Hoover books, kept me enthralled the entire time. Although the book is a darker, thriller-like version of young adult fiction, I enjoyed finding a book of this kind that immediately snatched my interest.





# ALBUM REVIEW: HARRY STYLES' HARRY'S HOUSE

BY

**Sutton Bates, Sophomore**

Before we met Harry Styles as an individual artist, we met him as a member of the incredibly popular boy-band One Direction which seemingly took the world by storm in the early 2010s. However, they struggled with going in "One Direction" together and split in 2015. Although many of the bandmates had their standout moments, none quite compare to that of Harry Styles. This is mainly due to the fact that Harry boasts a relatable personality and has stayed true to himself throughout the years. On his own, Harry released his self-titled solo debut album, *Harry Styles*, in 2017 and its follow up album, *Fine Line*, in 2020. Together, these albums helped to differentiate him among his former band-members and created an open environment where he is free to

grow and express himself through music while also creating a loyal fanbase. After these two smash successes, Harry is back to do it all again with his new album, *Harry's House*, released on May 20, 2022. Already there is so much hype surrounding the album's lead single, "As It Was," and his Coachella performance (Check out last issue for a more in-depth view on the festival ;)). Harry originally announced the album on March 23, 2022; however, before doing so, many fans had begun to speculate that he was behind an ominous website called YouAreHome.co, which alluded to the singer's upcoming album for a little while before being officially announced. This website is still being consistently used to bring fans and fellow listeners alike to the latest video or update on the album. Alongside the announcement came the first single from the album, "As It Was," which reached critical acclaim. The song itself has a very nostalgic feel and is about going through a metamorphosis and embracing life's challenges and changes. The majority of the song's success came from TikTok, in which the song features over 1 million videos with the song's popular chorus. Following this release and announcement, Harry Styles appeared at Coachella and debuted two other new songs there: "Boyfriends" and "Late Night Talking." The song "Boyfriends" is about, well, boyfriends and how they sometimes do not treat their significant others equally. The song, "Late Night Talking," refers to the strong bond formed before a relationship occurs. These previous few factors garnered massive anticipation for Harry Styles' new album. It is definitely worth inviting yourself over to *Harry's House* (pun-Intended) to dive into some great music.

# SUMMER CHECKLIST

**BY**

**William Warren, Junior**

Summer is around the corner and that does not mean that it has to be boring and uninteresting. There are many fun activities to enjoy over the course of the summer. For example, there are camps for many interests such as sports and arts. These camps could last either weeks or months or less depending on the camp. There are also many job opportunities for teenagers, especially over the summer, whether it be a neighborhood summer occupation such as yard work or pet sitting. The summer is also a great time to develop some new hobbies; for example, gardening and biking are great outdoor experiences to practice in spare time. The pool and beach are also both great places to spend time during summer vacation as they provide a cool escape from the heat. For those who love nature, camping and hiking may be fitting options, along with fishing either in freshwater or saltwater. Many volunteer opportunities like organizing a clean up at the park, beach or even in a neighborhood can help you feel closer to your community and help you gain responsibility. Despite being summer, learning is still very important, so SAT classes and other educational classes can be very beneficial at preparing students for their next school year. These activities all provide a fun and productive way to spend summer vacation! Have fun, Landsharks!





## Shark Tank Times Staff

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