

The Spotlight

- HOMECOMING ● NEW YEAR, OLD COSTUMES ● BEST HALLOWEEN ATTRACTIONS ●
- NEW STAFF MEMBERS ● MORE NEW STAFF MEMBERS
- BEST FALL TREATS ● OFHS SPORTS ●

HOCO? OH NO...

By Claire Wiggernhorn

Have your friends convinced you to go to Homecoming but now it's only 8 days away? Well, worry no more. Lucky for you, there's only a few things you need before you're ready to strut your stuff at HOCO! The first thing you're going to need to do is find a dress. If Windsor doesn't have what you are looking for, check out some of the mall department stores. Surprisingly, stores like JC Penny's and Kohl's have cute Homecoming dresses for relatively low prices. If those stores don't strike your fancy, ask an older sister or a friend if you can rent out one of their old dresses for the night....



Check out our
October Song of the
Month!



READ THE FULL ARTICLE ON PAGE 2

NEW OF STAFF

By Hailey Johnston and Halle Sonson

This 2022-2023 school year, we have 8 new staff members on board. *The Spotlight* staff interviewed them in order to learn more about who they are and how they feel about joining the Olmsted Falls Bulldog team. From a new assistant principal to new teachers to a new secretary to new paraprofessionals, we are excited to welcome each and every one of them to our school.

The Spotlight are these new staff members. We hope you enjoy reading about their backgrounds, families, hobbies, and hopes.

Continue reading on page 2 of this paper to read the interviews we conducted. Be sure to give a friendly Olmsted Falls welcome to all of these new Bulldogs!

Featured in this October issue of

Cnt. on Pg. 2

SPORTS

By Dhulfiqar Mahmud

Football: The football team has come out with a bang this season, managing to destroy almost any team who got in their way. They lead with a 4-1 record. They have played tough games against tough teams, and they have emerged victorious. The team also showed that they were mentally and physically stronger than their opponents, especially after the blowout with Midview, one of the team's biggest competitors. Along with the easy win against the Midview football team, the bulldogs are nearly undefeated in the conference and they keep improving mentally and physically after every game. The team's dynamic has helped them push forward this season against the competition...

Cnt. on Pg. 7

YOUR LAST MINUTE GUIDE TO HOCO 2022

...Continued from page 1

Junior Nora Barnard remarks on the torturous journey: "I went to four different stores! I couldn't find anything that I liked and that my parents approved of. Finally, my last resort was my friend Hadley who has a sister with good style, and I borrowed her old dress." Don't worry, Nora, no one will remember if Hadley's stylish sister wore that dress six years ago!

Now that you have a dress, you're likely going to need heels. Check out Target or a resale store like Plato's Closet for basic heels at low prices. Here's a bonus tip: If you get your heels from Target, it might be a good idea to write your name on the bottom of the shoes. When you take them off and put them in the sea of shoes at the gym entrance, you won't know your Target heels from the hundreds of other Target heels.

Next, you will need a ticket. The good news is you can buy tickets up until 6:59 on the dance day!

The dance will run from 7-10 in the Aux Gym. This year, the theme is Neon. Stop at CVS and grab a pack of glow sticks for you and your friends! Finally, don't stress too much; it's just a dance!

MEET THE NEW OFHS STAFF: PART ONE

...Continued from page 1

Mr. Welker, Assistant Principal

Tell us about yourself!

"I live in Columbia Station, and I am a big soccer fan. I have coached soccer for 30 years at a couple different high schools and have a C license in soccer. I am married and have two young adult children and two rescue animals! I have one cat and one dog (a Dachshund). Outside of the school day, I enjoy doing yard work and being part of the German American Cultural Center."

What was your initial reaction when you got the news that you got hired?

"Excited because I was jumping back into the field. Beforehand, I was retired for eight years."

What are you looking forward to this school year?

"I am looking forward to getting to know the students, as well as going to all the different activities the school has in place. I am also interested in the girls soccer team that my daughter is an assistant coach for."

Where did you grow up?

"I grew up in Parma."

What high school and college did you attend?

"I attended Parma High School and got my associate's degree at Tri-C. I

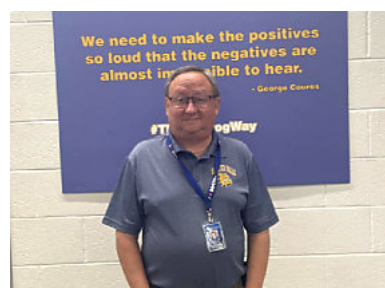
then got my bachelor's degree at Kent State University along with getting my master's degree at Cleveland State University. I then finally received my Principal Certification from Ashland University."

What made you want to be an Assistant Principal at Olmsted Falls?

"I know the community, and like I said I wanted to jump back into the field."

What is your favorite thing about being part of the school district?

"My favorite thing about being part of the school district is meeting the students and seeing them smile. I like that I have a positive impact on the students here at Olmsted Falls."



Madame Murphy, French 1-5

Tell us about yourself!

"I live in North Olmsted and have a one-year-old named Adriana. I've also been in the Cleveland area for almost 15 years. Outside of school I enjoy scrapbooking, taking walks, and listening to books in French, particularly, *The Hunger Games* and *Harry Potter*."

What was your initial reaction when you received the news that you got the job?

"I was ecstatic! I heard very good things about Olmsted Falls! I was hired in February and the anticipation was long. I was very excited to be part of the the French program that Olmsted Falls has."

What are you looking forward to this year?

"I am looking forward to getting to know the staff and students, as well as the students introducing me to new activities and traditions that Olmsted Falls holds."

Where did you grow up?

"I grew up in Parkersburg, West Virginia."

What high school and college did you attend?

"I attended high school at Parkersburg, West Virginia. In high school, I took French and played soccer. I went to college at Ohio University for my undergrad in science and journalism; however, I then changed my focus to the French language and culture. So, I got my masters in French at Ohio University. I did teach English in France for a year which was amazing, and I eventually started teaching French here in Olmsted Falls."

What made you want to be a teacher/staff member, specifically here in Olmsted Falls?

"After teaching in France, I discovered that I felt at home being in front of the classroom. I feel as a teacher that I am having a positive impact on my students. Olmsted Falls was looking for a new French teacher, so I took the opportunity! I love the idea that I get to form relationships with students up until French 5 and teach how diverse the French culture is."

What is your favorite thing about being part of a school district?

"My favorite part would be the spirit that Olmsted Falls has, and that everyone is very supportive of one another and active. This community is like a family, and the pride that this community has is contagious and inspiring!"

Mrs. Albert, Student Office Secretary

Tell us about yourself!

"I am married with three daughters; two of my daughters are in college. Outside of work I enjoy boating, hiking, gardening, and watching Ohio State football. "

What was your initial reaction when you received the news that you got the job?

"I was very excited to start a new job at a much smaller school and to start a new adventure. "

What are you looking forward to for this upcoming school year?

"I am looking forward to all the new faces and learning the traditions and activities at Olmsted Falls. "

Where did you grow up?

"I grew up in Brookpark, Ohio"

What high school and college did you attend?

"I went to high school at Holy Name. I then went to college at Cleveland State."

What made you want to be a teacher/staff member, specifically here at Olmsted Falls?

"I heard about this opportunity of being a secretary at Olmsted Falls, so I took advantage of it. I enjoy being with the kids and helping families when needed. "

What is your favorite thing about being a part of the school district?

"Everyone at Olmsted Falls is very welcoming and friendly. I really enjoy the small community type feel, it's just like family."

Mrs. Yarsa, Paraprofessional

Tell us about yourself!

"I am married with a son and a daughter. I was originally an ASL teacher here at Olmsted Falls before becoming a paraprofessional. Outside of school, I enjoy art and video games."

What was your initial reaction when you received the news that you got the job?

"Although I have been here before, I was excited to be a paraprofessional rather than an ASL teacher. "

What are you looking forward to this school year?

"I'm looking forward to getting to know the students better."

Where did you grow up?

"I grew up in Elyria."

...Mrs. Yarsa, continued from previous page

What high school and college did you attend?

"I went to Open Door Christian School. Then, I went to Malone College, Tri-C, and Virginia Marti College."

What made you want to be a teacher/staff member, specifically here at Olmsted Falls?

"I really like the environment here at Olmsted Falls as well as the students and faculty members!"

What is your favorite part about being a part of the school district?

"My favorite part is being a Bulldog!"

Miss Knull, Language Arts

Tell us about yourself!

"Outside of school, I still love doing things related to ELA: reading and writing! When the weather's nice, I like to spend as much time as possible outside taking walks, riding my bike, or even just sitting outside and reading. I also enjoy spending time with my family and my dog, Daisy."

What was your initial reaction when you received the news that you got the job?

"When I received the news that I got this job, it honestly just felt right. Of course I felt a little nervous to start in a new place, as anyone would, but the excitement I had definitely overshadowed any underlying nervousness. I was- and still am- so excited to be here!"

What are you looking forward to this school year?

"I'm really excited about all the learning that I'm going to be doing! This is my second year of teaching, so I definitely have a thing or two to learn from the other teachers and my students as well. I'm also really looking forward to getting my students to read and hopefully enjoy it! I know it's not for everyone, but when I see a student who doesn't typically enjoy reading finish a book, it's a huge success."

Where did you grow up?

"I grew up not too far from here in North Royalton."

What high school and college did you attend?

"I went to North Royalton High School. For college, I attended the University of Cincinnati."

What made you want to be a teacher/staff member, specifically here at Olmsted Falls?

"My main reason for wanting to go into teaching was, when I thought back to my own middle/high school teachers, the impressions they made on me. I wanted to do that for kids/students as well. I had teachers who made huge impacts on me, both educationally and personally. To teach people that they might really enjoy English and everything it includes is a huge goal of mine. When I see my students enjoy books when they've previously hated them, or see them excel in writing when they didn't know they were good at it, is a huge success and reminds me why I am here. From the short time I've been here, I can see the great relationships between the teachers and the students at this school, and I wanted to be a part of that from the beginning."

What is your favorite thing about being a part of the school district?

One of my favorite things about being a part of this school district is the sense of community. I've honestly never been to a school that has made me feel so welcome so quickly, by both the staff and the students! From the day I got here, teachers both inside and outside of the English department were stopping by my room to introduce themselves and let me know where they are if I ever need help. It's hard coming into a school with so many established and great teachers, but feeling as if you're a part of that is a great feeling."



Mrs. Riccio, Intervention Specialist

Tell us about yourself!

"I have been married for almost 20 years to my husband and we have 3 sons, Sabastian, Carmelo, & Santino, as well as two Yorkie dogs. I enjoy music and theater, traveling, shopping, cooking, baking, swimming, and spending time with my family!"

What was your initial reaction when you received the news that you got the job?

"I was super excited to become a Bulldog and serve the community that I live in! "

What are you looking forward to for this upcoming school year?

"Helping students to reach their goals!"

Where did you grow up?

"I grew up in Brooklyn, Ohio. I am a first generation born Italian American; my parents both immigrated from Italy! I speak Italian!"

What high school and college did you attend?

"I attended Kent State University for both my Bachelor & Master's Degree "

What made you want to be a teacher/staff member, specifically here at Olmsted Falls?

"I truly believe in the vision of Olmsted Falls City Schools and wanted to be part of the Bulldog way!"

What is your favorite thing about being a part of the school district?

"I am enjoying the fantastic school spirit, wonderful teachers and staff, and amazing students and families! "

BEST FALL TREATS NEAR YOU

By Hadley Allen and Nora Barnard

Do you ever find yourself eagerly awaiting the arrival of Starbucks' Pumpkin Spice Latte each year even though you absolutely insist that it's overrated? How about "just trying" the pumpkin bread at the local breakfast place... five times in a row? Well, it's okay, we do it too. It's only natural that for the three months that every coffee, pastry, and breakfast place releases delicious fall-themed items, we obsess over it. To embrace that painfully stereotypical side of ourselves, we have decided to compile some of the best fall drinks and desserts that you can find right now.

Starting off with Starbucks, you have the classic Pumpkin Spice Latte. It is safe to say that we have heard nothing but great things about this one. If the idea of a latte isn't your cup of tea, you are also able to get this drink as a blended Frappuccino. Starbucks also offers a drink called the Apple Crisp Oatmilk Frappuccino. We can only assume this drink is as delicious as its long name implies. Once again this drink comes in multiple forms if you would prefer macchiato over a frappe. If thinking of all of this makes you hungry,

don't worry. Starbucks currently has something called a Pumpkin Cream Cheese Muffin. The name seems pretty self-explanatory, and personally, we can't wait to try it.

Moving on to Dunkin'. If Starbucks doesn't exactly hit the spot, Dunkin' is right across the street! Right now you can get a Pumpkin Spiced Latte (hot or iced), as well as Pumpkin Spiced macchiatos and Pumpkin Spiced flavored coffee at your local Dunkin! If pumpkin spice isn't your jam, you can also get the Pumpkin Cream Cold Brew. This drink is actually flavored with brown sugar cinnamon syrup and topped with sweet pumpkin cold foam. Dunkin also offers pumpkin-flavored donuts and Munchkins if you get hungry!

Finally, there's Roasted! Every year Roasted comes out with a couple of new fall-flavored drinks for us to try. This year, they have blessed us with the classic Pumpkin Spice Latte, White Pumpkin flavored drinks, Maple Pancake flavored drinks, and the delicious S'mores Latte. Per usual, Roasted is serving their homemade cookies decorated for fall. If you're looking for a convenient and delicious way to start your morning (and to support local businesses), stop by Roasted!

The Ghosts of Costumes Past

By Rachel
Whiteman

For many people, dressing up in costumes and going trick-or-treating is a Halloween tradition. Since it's spooky season, I figured it would be fun to invite students to share some of their favorite costumes over the years!



Ryan Beesley (Class of 2026)
Costume: Washing Machine

"It was my favorite because it was really fun to make. People gave me full-sized candy bars because they loved the creativity."



Zoey Karosy (Class of 2023)
Costume: Rubik's Cube

"My dad really liked rubik's cubes, and my mom is crafty, so they kind of worked together. And when I was little I was interested in puzzles and stuff."



L.J. Hastings (Class of 2025)
Costume: Plague Doctor

"I got to scare a lot of people in it."



Destiny Pierce (Class of 2023)
Costume: Prison Inmate

"It's my favorite because it made my parents really mad and it was kinda funny."



Tegan Linn (Class of 2025)
Costume: Olaf (wearing a LeBron jersey)

"I liked it 'cause it's... different."



Elena Strozewski (Class of 2023)
Costume: Doctor

"It was my favorite because it was during COVID and I thought it was really ironic. And I still got to trick-or-treat!"

FALL SPORTS...cnt from page 1

Football continued from page 1:

...Senior player Cody Skiba elaborates, "I love football because of the family that comes with it. I have known the guys for eight years now, and if I ever need help with anything, I have a family who will help me out and I would help them as well. I also just love playing football. Even if I don't get to play much, it is different to go out there on Friday nights with the lights on us and all of those people cheering us on. Our season is going great, but we still have challenges ahead of us, so we will still need to be prepared." The football team is looking better than ever and is number one in the conference. They are ready to keep crushing every obstacle that crosses their path. Good luck Bulldogs!

Boys Golf:

The boys golf team has done spectacularly this season. They have shown that they are just better in every way possible by crushing every team that came into their way. They led with an overall record of 6-0 and a conference record of 1-0, and they have grown by working together and improving each other as players and as teammates. That showed when they demolished Elyria on Carlisle Golf Course. Another result of their hard work and dedication is when they finished third at Green Invitational. The boys golf team has improved by supporting each other on and off the course. Senior Ben Scheef feels that, "This year from a team perspective has been record-breaking and relieving. We even managed to win the conference for the first time in 23 years." Congrats on your win!

Girls Golf:

The girls golf team has had a great season, proving that their hard work and dedication led to their success. The team led with an overall record of 6-3 and a conference record of 1-0. They have worked very hard to achieve what they have now because they have done exponentially better than last season. Everyone on the team played a part to help accomplish the progress that they have experienced this season. What also helped is the family aspect of the team because they knew they could rely on each other if they needed help. Senior player Syd Ott elaborates on the season so far: "It's definitely been quite a season with a lot of highs and lows. Before the season started, we were projected to finish last or second-to-last. However, going into the conference tournament we are tied for third. I couldn't be more proud of this team for stepping up and proving that we can beat the odds. There isn't any other group of girls I'd rather be doing this with." Congratulations to the team for stepping up this season, and good luck in the future!

Boys Soccer:

The boys soccer team has done wonderfully. With a record of 9-3

and a record of 4-0 in the conference, they are the number one team in the conference. Their teamwork and communication skills have led them to great feats and great results like their win against North Ridgeville, a team that has been undefeated until playing the bulldogs. Caden Vasquez is one of the team's senior players, and has shared some insight on the season: "The soccer season has been amazing so far. We had a rough start to the year and quickly turned it around to win seven games in a row, including our 4-0 record in the SWC. We are hoping to clinch a conference title soon!"

Girls Soccer:

The girls soccer team has had a great season so far. They have an overall record of 6-3 and a record of 3-1 in the conference, placing them third in the conference. The hard work and the trust factor of the team is what helped them get where they are. Junior Hailey Johnston and senior Leah Allman share, "Reflecting from last season, being able to trust each other on and off the field has helped our performance greatly. The hard work, dedication, and determination the whole group has put in is how we got to third in the conference right now. The effort being put in is amazing, and we are so excited to see how the rest of the season wraps up!"

Volleyball:

The volleyball team has had a spectacular season so far, with an overall record of 14-1 and a record of 4-0 in the conference. The team has always been amazing, but every season they improve on the little bits and parts that they need improvements on, and they always come out better than last season. Senior Carly Crozier speaks out on their progress this season, saying, "This season has been so fun to play. Our team chemistry is amazing and has played a big role in our successes. My teammates are great and I am so lucky to have them. I cannot wait to continue this season and fight for our goal to be conference champions." The girls are currently undefeated in the conference and one important factor that has helped them is their determination. This skill has majorly helped them with crushing games against challenging teams that they had a hard time with in prior seasons.



Girls Tennis:

The girls tennis team has had a season to remember. With an overall record of 8-0 and a conference record of 2-0, they are undefeated and untouchable. Being undefeated in both the conference and overall is not an easy feat to achieve, but by having amazing communication skills and great teamwork, the Olmsted Falls tennis team has achieved that and has outshined and outperformed themselves. Morgan Truscott comments, "The season is going very well! We just finished the Conference tournament and had some medalists. I look forward to upcoming Sectionals and cannot believe how fast the season has gone." The team has worked very hard in both the pre-season and the actual season itself to get to this point. Tough games were played, but they were put under control and easily won.

Boys Cross Country:

The boys cross country team had a great season. They placed third with a score of 104 in the Ashtabula Lakeside - War on the Shore, which is a challenging competition where 11 different schools came to compete.

Many teammates grew on and off the field, and that helped the team overall by boosting the team's mentality and work ethic, which led them to where they are now and where they will be in the future. The team's dynamic is part of what makes them able to succeed. Senior Wyatt Simon elaborates on this: "I like XC because every other boy running is always right there suffering with me, which makes for a surprisingly friendly environment."

Girls Cross Country:

The girls cross country team has worked very hard this season. They placed nineteenth with a score of 592 in the OHSAA Early Season Invitational, which is a very challenging competition with 44 different teams from all around Ohio that are competing against each other. The girls worked very hard during the preseason and the actual season itself and definitely put their sweat and tears into this, and it has improved them mentally and physically.

YOUR NEW HALLOWEEN PLANS

By Isabella
Johnson

Everyone knows that when fall starts, Halloween is right around the corner! When Halloween finally arrives, the number of things you could do -and the amount of fun you could have- is endless! If you're looking for some fun Halloween activities to take on by yourself or with your friends this fall, look no further! I've compiled for you a quick list of some of the most popular Halloween attractions near the Cleveland area!

The Spooky Ranch at Rockin' R Ranch, located at 19066 East River Rd., Columbia Station OH 44028, provides a chilling and fun atmosphere for anyone looking for a haunted house that is scary but not too terrifying. There are five different haunted houses to provide you with five different experiences that are equally as frightening as they are fun. The ticket prices vary depending on which houses you would like to see.

The Chippewa Lake Slaughterhouse, located at 5665 Chippewa Rd., Chippewa Lake OH 44215, provides a shockingly terrifying experience. This haunted house guarantees a Hollywood quality performance with its amazing sets and professional actors. The general admissions pass is

\$30.00 per person, not including the touch pass and the VIP pass, which are extra. Tickets for this haunted house should be booked in advance, because tickets are limited and sell out quite quickly.

If you are willing to drive a little further, the Haunted Schoolhouse and Laboratory, located at 1300 Triplett Blvd., Akron OH 44306, offers a creepy and disturbing performance. Walking through the haunted schoolhouse is like walking through twisted and terrifying tales with unexpected turns at every corner. Walking through the laboratory tells the tale of a scientist who went mad and made a huge mistake in his work, causing him and his fellow scientists to become terrifying creatures of the night that are out to get you. For this haunted house, ticket prices vary depending on what package you are looking for and what days and times you go. When attending, be mindful if you have not purchased tickets online beforehand, as tickets might be sold out at the box office and you will have to visit another day. Be sure to check ticket prices online before attending as they differ greatly.

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