

# THE OAKWOOD TIMES



21<sup>st</sup> Century Journalists • Small School Doing Big Things • November Edition

## **Oakwood Avenue Evacuation Drill** **Written by Chiemela Ndubuisi and Kenny Abatti**

As of November 1st, 2010, “every school is required to hold a monthly security drill within the school hours as per Chapter 4 of the New Jersey Fire Code; 408.3.1”

On Friday October 29, 2021, Oakwood Avenue Community School fulfilled these requirements by holding an evacuation drill. Students were told the expectations in advance, so they didn't panic during the drill.

Grades 4-7 walked to Saint Matthew’s Church, Oakwood’s Safe Haven. From the time students left the school, they were to follow the requirements of the New Jersey Fire Code, starting with walking at a safe distance from one another. Once they entered the Safe Haven, they were told where they were allowed to be stationed based on Covid-19 guidelines.



For precautionary measures, some students were inside, and some were outside. Once all students were in their locations, they were quickly spoken to about the purpose of this drill. Finally, students were on their way back to Oakwood Avenue Community School.

The drill was successful! Oakwood students and staff learned how to evacuate to their Safe Haven in case of an emergency.

## **Oakwood’s Spirit Team** **Written by Elle Scott**

The Spirit Team is a group of amazing 5th grade students, comprised of Brielle Boyer, Brielle Garner, Riley Gray, Ramora Haye, and Kaydence Waller. The team cheers for different school events at Oakwood Avenue Community School.

The school counselor, Ms. Venable's objective was to send out inspiring messages for students regarding important issues. For example, the team executed two cheers, one for Respect Week and the other for Red Ribbon Week. For Respect Week, the team cheered showing respectful behaviors of which they expect to be treated. Also, for Red Ribbon Week the team cheered to show the students the importance of being drug free.



### Red Ribbon Week

Written by Faith Mathis and Ola Kazeem

Red Ribbon is not a day, it's a week for spreading prevention awareness about alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Red Ribbon is acknowledged during the week of October 23. As a result of the drug health crisis, Red Ribbon Week was launched.

Red Ribbon Week is relevant to Oakwood because we want to raise awareness. As a student-centered activity, this year the school guidance counselor, Ms. Venable, asked students to sign their names on a board that had a picture of a red ribbon. After doing that, Ms. Venable gave students a sticker that said, "Pledge to be drug free."



### Halloween at OACS

Written by Tobi Ndubuisi and Daejahnay Smith

On Friday, October 29, Oakwood Avenue School did something spooky and fun. The teachers let the students trick or treat at school. The teachers called it TRUNK OR TREAT. During the day, teachers and students dressed up within Co-vid guidelines, which meant that they could wear costumes, but continued to wear their Co-vid masks.

At 1 o'clock grades Pre-K-3 started to line up and parade their costumes through the hallways. They went into the auditorium which was set up with Halloween decorations and treats, snacks, and goodies. At 1:30, students in grades 4-7 started their parade and trick-or-treat activity. The students, Pre-K-7, enjoyed the event.



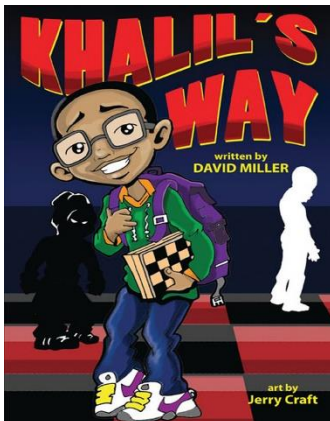
As an extension of the celebration, the 21st Century Program staff and students painted their hands on canvases for a mural that would be displayed somewhere in the school.

## David Miller Visits Oakwood Written by Samyra Butler Allen

Oakwood Avenue Community School had the honor of interviewing author David Miller. David Miller joined a Zoom call where students, from grades 3-7, asked him questions about the book. While he wrote many books, the book that the students at Oakwood Avenue Community School focused on was “Khalil’s Way”.

Khalil’s Way is about an 11-year-old boy, named Khalil Joseph, who faced many challenges with bullying both during school hours and after hours. In school, he got bullied for various reasons. For example, he was getting bullied because he had ADHD, he was the smallest in the school, he was very skinny, and he was allergic to many foods. He solved this problem by speaking at an anti-bullying assembly about a kid who committed suicide because of bullying.

According to Miss Hrabar who attended the interview, “it was great for students to be exposed to real-world topics and relate to literature and discuss this important social emotional subject matter who had first-hand knowledge and experience through his research and study.”



## Oakwood Student Council Written by Samantha Tavares

The Student Council is a group of girls who have ideas to make the school better for all the students. The council members include, Samyra Butler Allen, Elle Scott, Samantha Tavares, Faith Mathis, Rayanna Stewart, Emely Rodriguez, Taiwo Abatti, and Kenny Abatti. The roles that will be filled are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Representatives.

Ms. Jones El, the coordinator of the program, meets with students from 3:20 to 4:20 on Fridays. Some of the suggestions to improve the school are to update the school breakfast/lunch menus, offer more field trips, and to update the school uniforms.



## Journalists of the Month Written by Taiwo Abatti and Kaydence Waller

There are so many talented journalists in the 21st Century, monthly we acknowledge a Journalist of the Month; however, we chose two. What does it take to be a journalist of the month? It takes giving effort, working hard, checking your facts, being observant, and acting kind and respectful in what you write. So, who are the Journalists of the Month?

Camooora-Lee Jones said, “being Journalist of the Month gives me an opportunity to be a journalist. This has made me proud, and it will allow me to grow as a journalist.” Camooora-Lee joined journalism because she would like to write articles about topics that happen, such as what happens in the 21st Century. Also, she gets to enjoy making memories with her friends.

Kayden Ndubuisi is also one of the journalists and he said, “you write down things you see, experience and explore. What is happening around the school and the world, and it is like writing a detailed essay and others will be glad to hear what a journalist has to say so it is very complex.” Kayden likes writing and he writes really fast and could not decide which other class to join. Kayden thought Journalism would be interactive and it would make a lot of people intrigued.

Camooora Lee Jones and Kayden Ndubuisi are the Journalists of the Month and are very proud of this honor.



## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program News Written by Camooora-Lee Jones and Kayden Ndubuisi

Welcome to The Oakwood Times!!! Where we write about what happens in the 21st Century Program and daily Oakwood events. We write for The Oakwood Times because we need to provide weekly updates to inform people about what happens in the school. Hopefully students and parents will read this and walk away with interesting information.

During school hours, for the Halloween Event at OACS, students dressed up as ninjas, demons, or wore other costumes. Students visited the Auditorium to collect delicious candy in a bag. As an extension, a special guest art teacher joined the 21st Century Program where students engaged in a painting project. Everybody had fun making paintings that will be showcased at OACS for all to see. It was a wonderful day for all the students!



The disseminated information was from our perspective about these events and what we saw because we were there when they happened. We need articles like this to inform people of what is happening at Oakwood Avenue Community School.



## Meet and Greet New OACS Family Members

Written by Omotola Abe and Amiya Ross

For the month of November, The Oakwood Times journalists would like to welcome new staff members to the OACS family.

Ms. Jones El is the 4th and 5th grade Math teacher. Ms. Jones El grew up in Orange and is excited to be back to Oakwood Avenue, but this time as a teacher!

In the words of Ms. Roos, 2nd grade teacher, "Teaching is one of my greatest passions and I am so excited to work with you and your child. I attended the University of Delaware where I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and a concentration in Middle School Social Studies. I spent the first three of my Orange years in First Grade at Park Avenue! I am looking forward to getting to know your child, instilling in them a passion for learning, and having fun while doing so. Please let me know if you ever have any questions or concerns. It is so important to keep communication open between us and I would love to talk to make sure your child has their best year in 2nd Grade!"

In the words of Ms. Heaslip, the art teacher, "Welcome back to school, everyone! I am Miss Heaslip, the new art teacher at Oakwood, and I am so excited to be here, back IN PERSON making artwork together. This year, we will be using a variety of art tools and media to explore and create art. Our curriculum covers Color, Painting, Sculpture, and Drawing."

Mr. Mellies is the music teacher for grades K-7. Mr. Mellies started at Oakwood two weeks ago after shadowing Ms. Toriello.

We are so excited to have them as our new teachers this year. Let's welcome them one last time!

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## November Birthday Shout Outs

Written by Rayonna Stewart and Emely Rodriguez



**November 6-**  
Jahmir Wesley  
Zakia Scott  
Yeisi Ramirez

**November 7-**  
Kyore Watson

**November 9-**  
Giselle King

**November 11-**  
Grace Melgar

**November 12-**  
Lorena Morocho

**November 18-**  
Cristian Sanon

**November 21-**  
Oscar Gonzalez

**November 24-**  
Jasmin Duarte  
Kimberly Gonzalez

**November 25-**  
Oluwadarasimi Bashorun

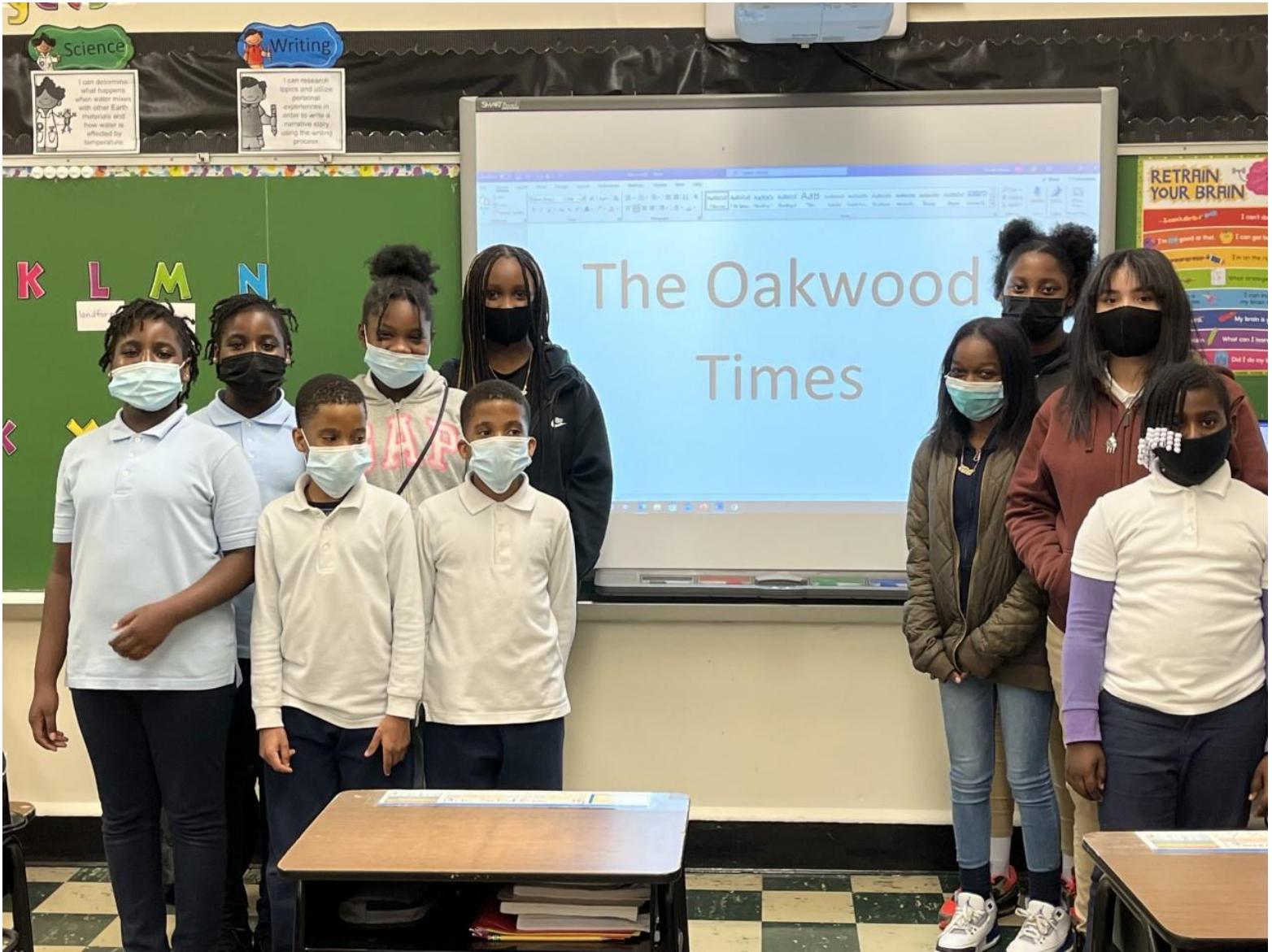
**November 26-**  
Jasia Knight

**November 27-**  
Oumar Traore  
Lauren Braxton

**November 28-**  
Mia Chapman  
Bryan Mendoza

## **The Oakwood Times Journalists**

We are excited to welcome so many new journalists this school year. We would like to thank our journalists who are working tirelessly to report the news at Oakwood Avenue Community School. We are extremely excited to release another fabulous edition of The Oakwood Times! We look forward to providing fact-based reporting all school year on the best stories at Oakwood Avenue Community School.



**Publisher**  
**Claudia Hrabar**

**Founder**  
**Dr. Rose Morrisroe**