

The Oakwood Times

21st Century Journalists • Reporting the News... VIRTUALLY! • March Edition



Women's History Month Written by Tobi Ndubisi

Women's History Month is dedicated to celebrating the contributions and achievements of women throughout history. What we now celebrate for the entire month of March, began as just a simple day over one century ago. It all began in Santa Rosa, California as a local celebration. The first International Women's Day was held in March of 1911, with more than a million people celebrating around the world. After honoring women and their contributions for almost 70 years, it was decided by President Carter that Women's History Day would now become National Women's History Week. It would be recognized the week of March 8, 1980.

It seems as though Women's History Month has been around forever; however, it has only been declared a month-long celebration since 1987. Congress declared the month of March, Women's History Month as a reminder of the accomplishments of women throughout the years and how they have impacted our society. It is a reminder that sometimes-what challenges us, only makes us stronger. These women faced adversity to accomplish their goals and we celebrate their desire to do better for society.



We pay tribute to the lives of these women as a reminder that we are still proud and still influenced by their fight over 100 years later. To honor our past, celebrate our present, and look forward to our future, The Oakwood Times Staff, have written an article about a woman who influenced them.

Rosa Parks Written by Tomiwa Abodunrin

Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913 in Tuskegee, Alabama. In 1943, she joined the NAACP in Montgomery, Alabama. Rosa Parks was an American activist who is best known for refusing to give up her seat on the bus which resulted in the Montgomery Bus Boycott. As tribute to her courage, Congress has given her the nickname, "the mother of the freedom movement."

It all began after a long day of work on a December day in 1955, Rosa was tired and sat in the middle of the bus. When she was asked to give up her seat to a white passenger, she refused. She was arrested for this and in this moment, a statement was made. Her fight for equality began. She along with influential participants organized a 381-day boycott which ended with the "U.S. Supreme Court ruling that segregation on public buses is unconstitutional." The rest is history; laws were changed, and these unfair acts were no longer allowed to take place.



She inspires me because she stood up for other people's rights. I think that she did a very powerful act by refusing to not give up her seat that day and it helped so many people. This goes to show, you always try your best and do the right thing because you never know what outcome your actions may cause.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Written By: Dr. Morrisroe

Ruth Bader Ginsburg aka the Notorious RBG is considered one of the most influential change agents in the USA and the World. Small in stature, however, her presence was larger than life. She was a champion of Women's Rights and social justice. Justice Ginsburg was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1933 during a very oppressive era for women. Justice Ginsburg credits her mother for her ability to critically think, challenge the status quo, and problem solve. Sadly, Ruth's mother passed when Ruth was in high school and that left an impressionable impact on her. Justice Ginsburg made it her mission to live up to her mother's exceeding expectations and she did.



Justice Ginsburg met her husband Marty Ginsburg at Cornell University during her undergraduate studies where she graduated first in her class. They would marry shortly after. Ruth Bader Ginsburg began her legal career at Harvard Law School and would later graduate from Columbia Law School. During these times female lawyers were few and far between, however, Justice

Ginsburg refused to settle and allow these oppressive mindsets stop her from achieving greatness.

After graduating from Law School, she was a Professor of Law at Rutgers University School of Law for 9 years, from 1963-1972. During this time, she co-founded the "Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union from 1973 - 1980."

(<https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/biographyginsburg.aspx>) Here she would trailblaze and put Women's Rights and social justice at the forefront. During her tenure at the ACLU she, "Began litigating sex-discrimination cases. Her strategy was to take on winnable cases to slowly nullify institutionalized discrimination against woman with new legal precedents."

(<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/g34111816/ruth-bader-ginsburg-accomplishments/>) (continued p. 3)

Diana Ross Written by Taiwo Abatti

Do you know about Diana Ross?



Diana Ross, originally Diane Ernestine Earle Ross, was an American pop singer and actress who is still internationally known as a superstar. She was born on March 26, 1944 in Detroit, Michigan and would eventually become one of the most successful talents to come out of "Motown".

Growing up Diana moved around a lot, but when she was 14, she settled in at Cass Technical High School. It was at that time that Diana was studying fashion and had hopes and dreams of becoming a fashion designer. At the age of 15, she decided to join a vocal group called *The Primettes*. It was then that the group was brought to the attention of a music manager and eventually, the group was asked to audition for Motown Records. Obviously, the audition was a success! For the next decade, The Supremes, as they became known as, signed, and sold millions of records.

In a change of course, Diana Ross began releasing solo albums and became an actress in the 1970's and left Motown Records in 1981. She would continue her solo career throughout the 80's and fans adored her. Eventually in 2000, The Supremes reunited for a television show. Diana and The Supremes are still remembered as, "One of the world's best-selling girl groups of all time."

Diana Ross inspires me because it is my dream to become a famous singer. Like her I want to live a wealthy life. She has proved to me that education and working hard to reach my goals are extremely important.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Continued...

Prior to her becoming appointed to the Supreme Court, she argued 6 cases before the Supreme Court and won 5. A very impressive feat.

On August 10, 1993 Ruth Bader Ginsburg would become the second woman to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, after Sandra Day O'Connor. As a justice, she would provide an influential stance in favor of gender equality, social justice, the rights of workers, and the like. After a long battle with "metastatic cancer of the pancreas," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed on September 18, 2020. Justice Bader Ginsburg will be remembered for her tireless work and dedication to litigating for a more equitable and fair future for women and men alike.

In the words of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "The pedestal upon which women have been placed has all too often, upon closer inspection, been revealed as a cage," and "I pray that I may be all that [my mother] would have been had she lived in an age when women could aspire and achieve, and daughters are cherished as much as sons."

Madam C.J. Walker
Written by Kenny Abatti

Madam C.J. Walker, born on December 23, 1867 was from Delta, Louisiana. She was born into a large family and had five siblings: Louvenia, Alexander, James, Solomon, and Owen Jr. Her beloved parents were Owen and Minerva (Anderson) Breedlove.

Madam C.J. Walker was an African American businesswoman, advocate, and social activist. According to the Guinness World Records she is the first female "self-made millionaire in America." She established Madam C.J. Walker Laboratories to produce cosmetics and hair care products and made a fortune in doing so.

Madam C.J. Walker is important because she helped a lot of people during her time. She used her position to support the progress of African Americans and for an end to the attacks against African Americans. Madam C.J. Walker is also important because she made sure that she would help take care of people's hair. This was important to her since she struggled with alopecia, a condition that causes hair to fall out in patches in different parts of the body.



Madam C.J. Walker is inspirational to me because she worked hard to achieve her goals. She is also inspirational to me because she started her own business which features many different aspects, which include taking care of hair and selling products for hair. One day, I hope to create a business where I can help people. How is Madam C.J. Walker inspirational to you?

Read Across America Day
Written by Taiwo Abatti



The National Education Association started Read Across America Day in 1998 as a way to encourage children to read and get excited about literacy. Read Across America Day is celebrated every year on March 2nd, which just so happens to be Dr. Seuss' birthday. Each year schools celebrate Read Across America by reading books, engage in reading challenges, and sometimes, a visit from the Cat in the Hat.

Although schools might look differently this year, one thing is true, the love for reading is still alive. Educators around the country are saying, "Reading to your children during the pandemic might even be more important than ever." Schools across the nation continued to celebrate Read Across America Day, whether it was in-person, hybrid, or virtual, to confirm that the importance of reading and the joy it brings to readers is something that no pandemic can take away.

Oakwood Avenue Community School classrooms were amongst those who celebrated as well. Each classroom planned their own activities focused on literacy. Pre-K celebrated Read Across America Day by reading Dr. Seuss books and asking students questions about the stories. Third grade students listened to Dr. Seuss books throughout the week and learned about who Dr. Seuss was and how his stories impacted readers everywhere.

Some of the other ways that Read Across America Day is celebrated are visiting the library, talking about books, and reading to your child, or having your child read to you. Read Across America Day is a special event in which we celebrate the joy of reading. How did you celebrate this special day?

Oakwood Services
Written by Kenny Abatti

Oakwood Avenue Community School has continued to provide services for the Oakwood families throughout the pandemic; however, the way in which these resources are distributed, may look different this school year.



In the past, Oakwood Avenue Community School has always offered meals for students. Daily students received breakfast, lunch, an afternoon snack, and dinner. Since our district is closed to in-person instruction, there needed to be a plan to ensure that families still received these meals. As a result, Oakwood Avenue Community School packs these meals in bags daily so that families can pick them up and take them home to enjoy. Each bag is safely packed by school staff and contains not only meals, but fruits, vegetables, and other healthy foods.

Another service that Oakwood Avenue Community School has always provided is the distribution of Chromebooks to all students. In the past, Oakwood students would receive devices in class and use them during class time only. When the pandemic first began, students were given scheduled times to pick up devices from the school to use them during the virtual experience. Now, students became responsible for these Chromebooks to complete their assignments and join their live class sessions.



Oakwood Avenue Community School has provided students with resources that both make virtual learning easier for families and enhance student learning. If families need help during these times, Oakwood Avenue Community School also provides information on the school website; as well as a number to reach the school counselor. Please use these resources if you need any assistance.

Riddle Me This!
The Legend of St. Patrick's Day
Written by Dr. Morrisroe

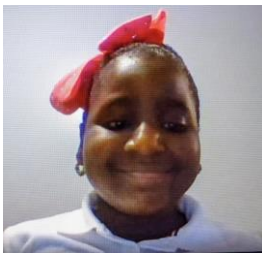
St. Patrick's Day is a global celebration of Irish culture celebrated on or near March 17, annually. A custom of St. Patrick's Day is to indulge in traditional Irish cuisine such as corned beef, cabbage, and potatoes. My stomach is growling just thinking about it! People also partake in exciting parades where it's custom to dress up in all green and hope to have the "Luck of the Irish!" Most St. Patrick's Day Parades have Irish dancers and bagpipes - the magical bagpipes stream in the air for all to appreciate. But do you know the legend of St. Patrick and how St. Patrick's Day came to be?

St. Patrick was alive during the fifth century and was regarded as the Patron Saint of Ireland in his later years. While St. Patrick was born in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 by Irish Pirates and sold into slavery. St. Patrick would spend six years in "captivity" and "Patrick came to view his enslavement as God's test of his faith. During his six years of captivity, he became deeply devoted to Christianity through constant prayer." (<https://www.biography.com/religious-figure/saint-patrick>) After convincing sailors to board their ship, he escaped to France. Once a free man he devoted his life to Christianity and "entered the Priesthood" to promote Christianity where he would find himself back in Ireland to honor his mission. Legend has it St. Patrick "explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock." Riddle Me This!



The Oakwood Times Staff

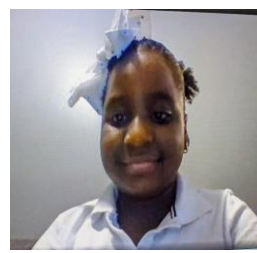
We would like to thank our journalists who are working tirelessly to report the news at Oakwood Avenue Community School. We are extremely excited to release another fabulous edition of The Oakwood Times! We look forward to providing fact-based reporting all school year on the best stories at Oakwood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



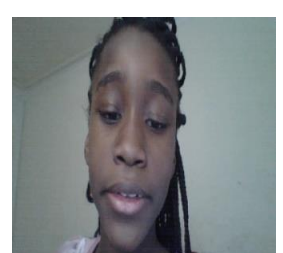
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