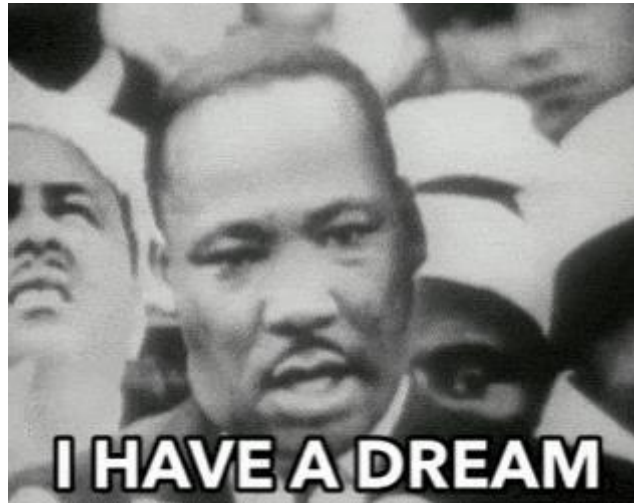


# THE OAKWOOD TIMES

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



## Martin Luther King, Constant Leader Written by The Oakwood Times



It is said that a true legend never stops inspiring. This could not be more true for Martin Luther King Jr. who still continues to inspire students all around the world. Here is what The Oakwood Times had to say about Dr. King.

“Martin Luther King Jr inspired me because of his great speeches and marches that inspired the world to do better and become better people. He helped everyone to be equal and fair with each other. Martin Luther King Jr changed the world not just for African Americans but people of all race and gender, girl or boy or black or white.”

“Martin Luther King inspires me in how much he did in his life. As a young adult he rallied others to support his cause and was truly influential to the end of segregation. Even after his death his message spread. It’s amazing that he motivated and still motivates others to what is best for their community.”

Martin Luther King is inspiring because his bravery to lead freedom marches and the intelligence to make detailed speeches affected the public, and they still do today. MLK is the symbol of black history month, a symbol of pride, bravery, leadership, and more. MLK inspires me to be all these things and to use them to affect my community.

## School Safety

Written by Chiemerie Ndubuisi

We all know that safety is important. In order to involve students and have them take responsibility for their own safety, Ms. Venable and Ms. Holmes took applications from students who wanted to be a part of a school safety team. Students received recommendations and signatures from Oakwood staff in order to be considered for this job. Safety Patrol members were interviewed and accepted based off of applications. Ms. Venable also had fourth through seventh grade votes on Student Ambassadors who would be the voices of the school. School President, Vice President, Treasurer, Mayor, etc. were a few of the positions that these students were chosen for. The School Ambassadors and the School Safety Patrol would work together with Ms. Venable, Ms. Holmes, and Mr. Gaines to improve school safety.



Before they could start their positions, these students had to go through training and prepare for getting their badges. On the first day of December, an inauguration ceremony was held for the newly elected Ambassadors

and Safety Patrol members. This ceremony had students promise to fulfill their important duties and make sure they were ready to accept their new roles of the school. Former Oakwood Students, now part of the Orange Police Force came to the ceremony. The new Safety Patrol said their pledge and afterwards got their uniform and a pen. Ambassadors are supposed to be a good example for their fellow students. They were given sashes that showed their position.

Safety Patrol ensures the safety of students walking in and out the school, walking to class and lunchroom behavior. School Ambassadors represent the school, so they have to be on good behavior.

## Winter Concert

By Chiemerie Ndubuisi

It has been awhile since schools have been able to have events in person due to Covid. On December 12, Oakwood students were able to perform live in the Winter Concert. Families filled the gym and watched a collection of acts from students from multiple grades. Parents got to see their children embracing the arts in their own way. Weeks of training went into these acts and we have to thank Mrs. Keshner, Ms. Holden, Ms. Heaslip and other school officials, for setting up this program.

The students were nervous to show off their hard work, but they excelled! The 2nd graders had the challenge of getting the crowd excited for the night. They started the night with a classic, Frosty the Snowman!

The 6th and 7th graders continued by getting the crowd into the magic of Disney. The 6th graders recreated the "One Jump" scene from Aladdin to start the show and the 7th graders followed with a page out of The Lion King Musical. After 7th graders performed the ribbon dance to the song "Chow Down", the crowd anticipated more exciting performances.



The 5th graders based their act on a song and dance to the song the Human Stuff. Continuing with the Disney theme, The 3rd grade recreated a musical number from The Little Mermaid called Under the Sea and they saw the sea as truly beautiful.

4th graders also had a play recreating a scene from The "Friend Like Me" Musical sequence where they showed they were different from other grades. How can we forget the cute and energetic performance by the 1st graders who had their own twist on "I Can't Wait to be King" from the Lion King, with them all singing in harmony.

We hope that you got to see the Winter Concert. It was one of the biggest events at Oakwood. All students who participated should be proud of their work. We hope that even an Iota of the Concert's greatness can be replicated for Oakwood's next performance.

## A Visit from Judge Verna G. Leath Chiemela Jayden Ndubuisi

Who is Verna G. Leath?

Judge Verna G. Leath is a New Jersey Vicinage 5 Superior Court Judge who serves in the criminal division. She is regularly assigned criminal cases, secondary cases by the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, and a program for defendants with a mental illness.

Ms. Leath was appointed in 2005. She came to Oakwood to encourage planning for the future. She spoke to students about her career and how she was able to work hard and get to her position. She had students share their career goals and their plans to reach those goals. Before leaving, Ms. Leath asked students to think of their futures and how to achieve what they wanted. Hopefully Ms. Leath will be able to come back and encourage students to reach for the stars!



## The Scholastic Book Fair

By: Camoora-Lee Jones and Chiemela Jayden Ndubuisi

The Scholastic Book Fair is another event that used to occur here at Oakwood that we have finally brought back. It has been quite some time since Oakwood held a Book Fair, but this winter, it happened!

Leading up to the start date of the book fair, book videos were sent to get students excited, posters were up around the building and there was even a Winter Wonderland created outside of the library to welcome Oakwood's



most exciting readers. Books were delivered and set up in the library. Students first went as a class to create wish lists of books they wanted to buy. Throughout the week, teachers helped students pick out and buy books of their choice. Students couldn't get enough of the books! They were talking to their friends about books that they bought, books they wanted to buy and books they were looking for.

The event was held as a great way to get books into students' hands and onto shelves in their home libraries. It was also used as a fundraiser to raise money for Oakwood Avenue. Students were so excited, and the book fair was so popular that we sold over \$4,000 worth of books. The book fair was originally going to occur from Monday, December 5th to Friday, December 9th. It was pushed to Tuesday, December 13. We raised \$500 for Oakwood and over \$1000 in Scholastic books!

To say this Book Fair was a success does not give our community enough credit. Thank you to all of you who contributed. We look forward to our Spring Book Fair in March. Happy reading!



**January Birthday Shout Outs**  
**Written by Camoora Lee Jones**



**January 4 -**  
Andrew Alfaro

**January 5 -**  
Kayla Carter

**January 8 -**  
Zahra Kazem

**January 9 -**  
Analay Zambrano

**January 10 -**  
Angie Perlera

**January 13 -**  
Camoora-Lee Jones

**January 14 -**  
Jayden Marcellus

**January 16 -**  
Zaria Smith

**January 17 -**  
Niamora Haye

**January 20 -**  
Samantha Tavares

**January 22 -**  
Aaron Rechea

**January 23 -**  
Laiani Luther

**January 29 -**  
Brielle Garner  
Rayanna Stewart

**January 31 -**  
Harmony Kornegay

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**The Oakwood Times Journalists**

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. In addition, our Newspaper is looking to go live for some events in our next edition. We want to make our news fun and exciting and what better way than adding live articles! Look forward to some new things coming your way from The Oakwood Times! We are excited to be revamping the way we report the news to the Orange Community!

**Publisher & Founder**  
**Claudia Hrabar**