

The Oakdale Eagle

Growing Minds are in Bloom



*Oakdale Elementary School
Tuscaloosa, Ala.*

December, 2016

New Changes Coming to Oakdale

By TaNiyah Richardson, staff reporter

Dr. Daria, the superintendent of the Tuscaloosa City Schools, and I sat down and talked about the big school changes that we are getting at Oakdale Elementary. While our school is being renovated, we will be relocating temporarily to the Stillman Heights building. We will be making that transition in August, 2017.

After the renovations are made at Oakdale Elementary, we will have bigger classrooms, new furniture, and new lighting. These additions will help make Oakdale Elementary a better learning environment.



Dr. Daria being interviewed by Oakdale Eagle reporters Janasia Woods, Kelsey Batman and Ta’Niyah Richardson, as Ms. Spencer looks on.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Grants Oakdale \$10,000

By Aderrica Hair, staff reporter

On September 2, 2016, Dr. Cynthia Smith the counselor and Ms. Ava Smith, intervention teacher, were presented with a check from Blue Cross Blue Shield. The check was for Oakdale becoming a “Be Healthy School”. The amount of the check was \$10,000. The check was given to purchase equipment for a new playground. Dr. Smith said about three years ago Oakdale didn’t have enough play equipment. Some of the equipment was damaged from years of use.

“We already have the new pieces that we got during the summer. Our old play units are gone. We still need money for new play units,” said Dr. Smith.

“The grant was written in March. Ava Smith and I wrote the grant. We were notified in May. Oakdale was one of many schools awarded this grant,” said Dr. Smith.

“We showed them that we wanted to do more for our students. We also wanted our students to be healthy. We showed Blue Cross and Blue Shield that there was a need for the students at Oakdale Elementary School to be healthy and strong,” said Dr. Smith.



Dr. Daria and Dr. Smith discuss the grant as Jeff Adams of BCBS confers with Centurion Little about his playground design.



Mrs Jackson and her PreK class. Photo by Janaisa Woods

Meet Mrs. Jackson

By Janasia Woods,
staff reporter

We have a new Pre-K teacher at Oakdale Elementary School. Her name is Mrs. Ashley Carter-Jackson. She taught Pre-K at Livingston Jr. High school before coming to Oakdale Elementary.

“My first grade teacher, Mrs. Collman, inspired me to become an educator,” said Mrs. Carter-Jackson. She also said that her favorite subject in school was math.

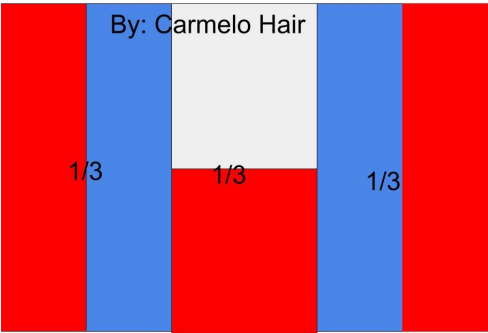
Mrs. Carter-Jackson recently got married on October 22 to Deandre Jackson. They are the parents of twin girls named Makayla and Makenzie. Welcome to Oakdale, Mrs. Carter-Jackson!

What’s Going on in 5th Grade?

By Avianna Thomas, staff reporter

This year we are very busy with our academics. In reading we are learning about main and helping verbs. We are also reviewing cause and effect. We are doing a hands-on project on inventions. We get to pick an invention and then modify it to make it better.

In math we are simplifying fractions and reviewing fractions. We do a lot of fun things in math. We play math games and do a lot of fun things in centers. In library we got to design our own flags using Google Draw to learn more about fractions.



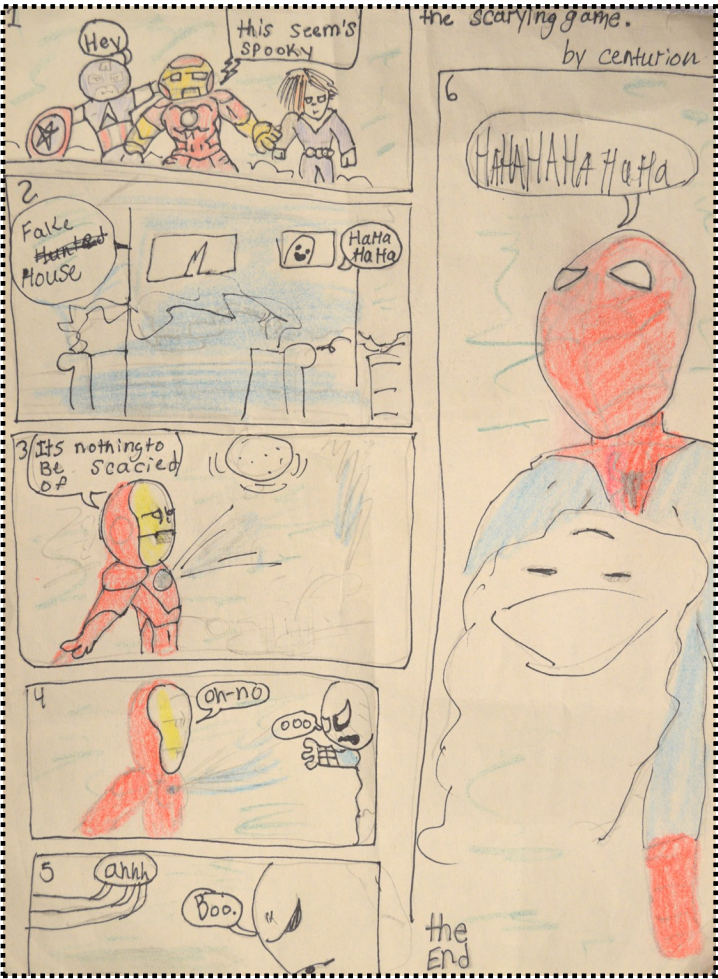
Fraction Flag designed by Carmelo Hair

In science we are doing a project on bugs and animals. We have to collect seven bottles to put the bugs and animals in.

That’s what we are doing in math, science, and reading in 5th grade.

The Continuing Adventures of EagleMan

Created, written and drawn by Centurion Little



How Well Do You Know Ms. Morrow-Tate?

By Jahmila Baker,
staff reporter

Did you know we have a new 4th grade teacher? Mrs. Morrow-Tate teaches 4th grade math and science. She was inspired to teach by her Spanish teacher, Mrs. Hazel F. Hackett. Mrs. Morrow-Tate retired from Tuscaloosa County High after teaching for 25 years.

Mrs. Morrow-Tate loves her job, kids and staff members. Mrs. Morrow-Tate has a son named Phillip. Mrs. Morrow-Tate is like a mom to her students and she is a wonderful teacher.



Ms Morrow-Tate (far right) helps out on the basketball court during Family Fun Night.



By Kelsey Batman, staff reporter

On Thursday, October 20, 2016, we had special guests at Oakdale Elementary. Mr. Joe and Mr. Steven came to teach us valuable lessons.

They showed us how to make a rhythm and a beat. Mr. Steven told us to be kind to each other and taught us about respect. We played wooden blocks, shakers, and drums.

I interviewed several students and asked them how they liked The Dancing Drum.

Janasia Woods, a fifth grader, said "I thought it was awesome, very entertaining, and it was impressive." Haven Gordon, a fourth grader, said "It was fun because they played instruments and the wooden blocks. It was kind of them to come to Oakdale."

Learning Through Music

By Haven Gordon and Jakalia Woods, staff reporters

Oakdale has a new music teacher. Her name is Ms. Lesley Vinzant. She loves teaching music. She thinks its lots of fun and she loves the children at Oakdale.

Ms. Vinzant learned about music from her voice teacher in high school. Ms. Vinzant also taught at Glyn Elementary School before coming to Oakdale.

Ms. Vinzant is a great music teacher because she is innovative. She loves to make up acting music with songs we learn. We learn a lot of things from her like dancing with the music, singing with the music, and writing the lyrics to music.

Ms. Vinzant is an awesome music teacher. She tries to help the students become the best they can be every day through music.



Ms. Vinzant discusses buying recorders with Janasia Woods. (photo by Haven Gordon)

Let's Go Falcons

By Ayannia Smith, staff reporter

Have you ever participated in cheerleading before? Cheerleading is a sport, hobby, and activity. Anyone can do cheerleading.

In cheerleading, you will learn many dances and cheers. There are many students who are cheerleaders at Oakdale. Jahlazsheyah Peoples, Ane Lee, and Ayannia Smith cheer for the Central Falcons.

"Every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, we have practice at 3:45. Just like

football players, cheerleaders have to practice to become better," said Jahlazsheyah Peoples, a 4th grader.

On Friday's they cheer at football games. They do this to support their football team and get the fans energized.



Two cheerleaders (and Oakdale Eagle reporters) Ayannia Smith and her sister, Christalyne McNeil (photo courtesy of their mom)

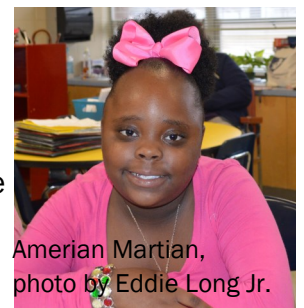
Introducing New Students

By Eddie Long, Jr., staff reporter

There are a lot of new students at Oakdale. Do you know any?

I know Amerian Martian. She is eight years old and in the third grade. Her old school was Martin Luther King, Jr.

Amerian likes Oakdale. She said "I like the library." Amerian does math in Mrs. Sanders class.



Amerian Martian, photo by Eddie Long Jr.

Having Fun at the Book Fair

By Jayden Patton and Tristan Williams, staff reporters

Oakdale Elementary had its annual fall book fair. The book fair was held September 22 through September 28.

The book fair had lots of fun books and activity books. If you spent over 10 dollars, you could get a free poster, book mark, eraser and a pencil. You also got to write your name on the library window.

"The book fair has fun books like *Batman vs Superman*. I like those types of books because I love comic and action books," said 5th grader, Centurion Little.



Te'Anna Tinker and Jermeria McCalpine are enjoying their books. (photo courtesy of Lesley Bruinton)

Enjoying a Day With Nick Saban

By Aaliyah Golston, staff reporter

During the summer Nick Saban, the head coach of The University of Alabama's football team, held a special event. He invited students from many schools to come and meet him and the football team. This event is part of the Nick's Kids Foundation. I was invited to this annual summer event because the Druid City Garden Project sponsors our school garden.

While at the university, I was able to watch the team practice. They did a lot of drills. When they finished practicing, the players gave us their autographs. We also received goodies such as T-shirts and fans.

We also had lunch with the coach and team. Full Moon BBQ provided the food for us. It was delicious.



Aaliyah shows off one of her goodies.

What Are You Reading?

By Ta'Kymra Merriweather, staff reporter

I like the book series *From Start to Finish*. Two books in this series are *From Milk to Ice Cream* and *From Cocoa Beans to Chocolate*.



Book reviewer with some of her favorites. Photo by Aaliyah Golston

I love this series because it is amazing to me. These books show how different things are made and what they are made from. They have special words in bold letters that are important. They have other things too, like glossaries and illustrations. You can also take AR quizzes on these books.

I have read the whole series!

The Oakdale Eagle staff

Devyon Holley, 2nd
Eddie Long, Jr, 3rd
Christalyne McNeil, 3rd
Zharia Simmons, 3rd
Jamila Baker, 4th
Haven Gordon, 4th
JahLazsheyah Peoples, 4th
Ayannia Smith, 4th
Laila Tennort, 4th
Vajalya Turner, 4th
Jakaila Woods, 4th
Kelsey Batman, 5th

Aaliyah Golston, 5th
Aderrica Hair, 5th
T'Juana Leatherwood, 5th
Centurion Little, 5th
T'Kymra Merriweather, 5th
Jayden Patton, 5th
Ta'Niyah Richardson, 5th
Carliyah Ruffin, 5th
Avianna Thomas, 5th
Tristan Williams, 5th
Janaisa Woods, 5th

Miss Latrina Spencer and Mrs. Melissa Kent
Oakdale Eagle Advisers

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