

ODYSSEY JUNIOR



ORACLE



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Jumpstart: Infant Learning Lab students including Jenny Saffran, Desia Bacon, Haley Weaver, Ellie Breitfeld, Melina Knabe, Janine Mathee, Ashley Ruba, Emily Kassans, Dasha Yermol

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Adventurers: Qiana Holmes, Albert Watson '08, Brian Benford '07, Leigh Button (volunteer)

Intern: Summer Kleppek

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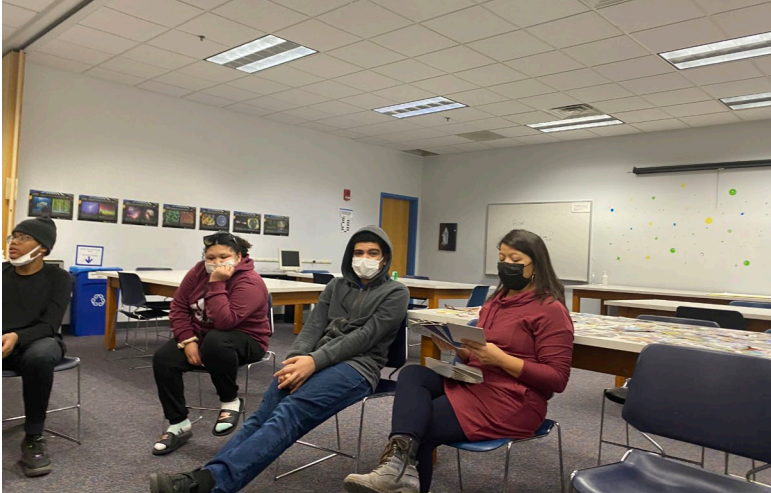
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ODYSSEY ADVENTURERS

In February, we welcomed our teen class back in person. Students shared, "I've missed this." They asked to play old favorite games and enjoyed a tour of our new space at 2238 S. Park St. Many connected with old friends while meeting new friends they had only seen online last year.

In April, we started a collaboration with Cultural Connections, an art non-profit focused on creating allies and spaces for children who have been impacted by incarceration. Students are exploring voice through poetry and spoken word with local hip hop artist, Lex Dean.





WOMEN OF COURAGE

My mom inspires me because she has done so much for me and my brother. A couple of years ago, she finished high school so that me and Henry could have a better future. She works hard even when she's tired. People have doubted her, but she's strong. She doesn't care what other people think about her, she just does what she does best. She is a person I count on. We are always there for each other. Honestly, she is a big figure in my life. I look up to her. Love you, Mom! (Jamie)



Through three houses and many ups and downs, someone special to me is my grandma. I write this because I feel a strong connection through going to the movies every week, a pandemic, a bunch of vacations, and just hanging out from time to time. She is most special to me because she goes through so much and puts up



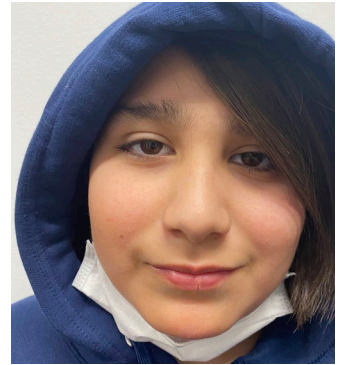
with my brother every day (when I wanna hit him every time he does something). She is also most dear because she taught my mom how to raise us through right and wrong. She taught her how to cook, be a parent, and to live for herself and others. When her time comes, yes, I will be sad, but most of all, I will cherish the memories she left behind.

I also want to mention my mom. (Jayden)



The woman I'm choosing was my first grade after-school teacher. She inspired me to travel around the world to try and help people. She was the inspiration for my passion to go to other countries and help people by building houses and teaching them. **(Jayvon)**

I am going to choose my mom and aunt. I am always at my aunt's house, so she is really important to me, and my mom because she does a lot for me and helps me. **(Carlos)**



My mom! She is really important, and she helps me and she helps me cook and clean. She lets me play my games. She is there when I need her to motivate me. She believes in me and my dreams. She is the one girl that I love along with my sis because she helps me too. My sis helps me get stuff. **(Trey)**

A woman I'd say is important to me is my mom. I'd say this because she is the one who stuck around and does everything under and above the clouds for me. She influences me to do everything and she's the one who understands me the most. Plus, I'm just like her. She's inspirational to me because she comes up with ways to get me stuff and she puts me ahead of her all the time. My mom is mostly the only person who buys me stuff. She's a strong independent woman because she takes care of me by herself. That's what I think makes her important to me.

I have people in our history that are also important to me but I can't write all that- my hands hurt! **(Reagan)**





My granny is a woman I look up to. She has always been so knowledgeable and easy to learn from. She has lots of wisdom and I admire her in many ways. She is a great chef and she is always precise and spot on with the things she does. My granny has always given me feedback and has helped me grow with new skills and things I am passionate about. She helps me with the things we share, like language learning, cooking, and decorating. **(Kahliana)**

I pick my mom because she gets me the stuff I want. And, she is lovable, nice, caring, hopeful, and I love what she is doing now to make my brother's and my future good. She wants us to go to college and wants us to succeed in general. Love you, Mom! **(Marcus)**



To: Wilhelmena Slater

I love...

I love the way you look, how you stayed on trend in your time, and made new trends as well. I love how you spoke your mind, advanced your career, and stayed fabulous while doing it.

When you said something and didn't apologize, I want to hold my head up high and make a dramatic exit without you.

I love how through us hating you, your presence would have been missed beyond life itself.

For that, we thank you. **(Janiah)**

Not to brag and all, but I have a pretty cool mom. She was on the cover of "On Wisconsin" and is an iconic UW Madison Alum. Along with being active with the Little Free Library, there is so much she does behind the scenes! The Josephine you all know is smart, caring, confident, and assertive, but the mom I know is also loving, considerate, humorous, and entertaining to watch Survivor with. Josephine has impacted a plethora of people's lives positively, and I'm lucky to call her Mom! **(Zawadi)**





My mother is the strongest person I know. No matter how many people put her down, she just bounces higher above everyone else! She has made so many accomplishments that she never thought she could do. Odyssey is one of them. No matter what I put her through or how much trouble I cause her, I can always count on her. She is my mother, idol, friend, and I will always be grateful for her as an amazing mother. She always tries her best. I am so lucky to have her as my mother. **(Neveah)**

Rosa Parks has been a big help in the Black community. She helped black people realize they can stand up. She had the guts to stand up and say, "No, I will not give my seat up so a white man can sit in my seat." **(Michael)**



INDIAN FOOD

I had not tried Indian food before.
I liked the food.
I tried the tikka masala chicken.
It reminded me of good food.
Some of the food looked good.
(Carlos)

I have had Indian food before.
I liked the food.
I liked the red chicken and the one in the sauce.
I would like to try Jerk Chicken next.
(Trey)

THINKING ABOUT COLLEGE



Jayda Woods, Odyssey Junior alum and UW-Madison Freshman, visited the Adventurers class to share her process to earn a 4-year scholarship and her first experiences in college. She answered all the questions from the group including: "What is it like living in a dorm? How's

the food? How big are your classes? Do you like it?" Jayda shared the positives as well as the challenges. She left and said, "Whatever you do, don't give up."



When I think about going to college,
I look forward to getting out of Madison and attending an HBCU.
I have no fears about going to college. **(Reagan)**

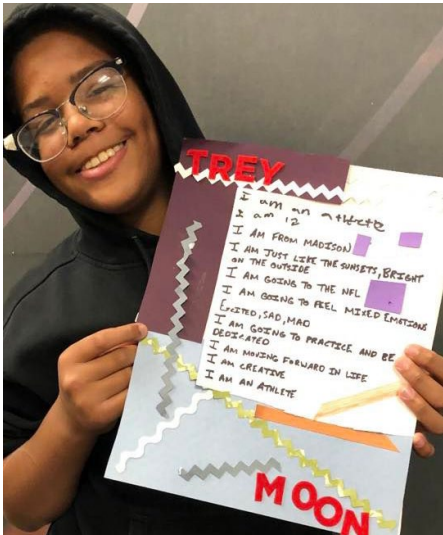
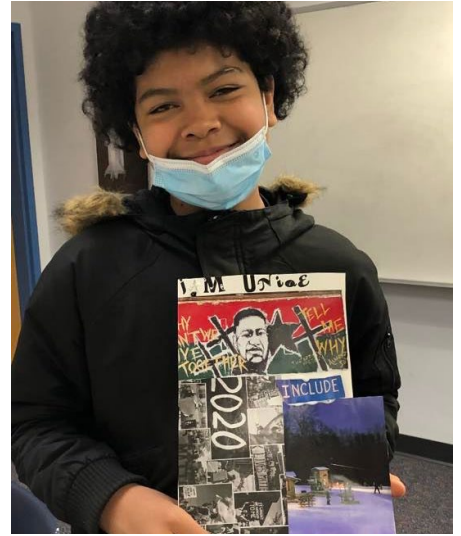
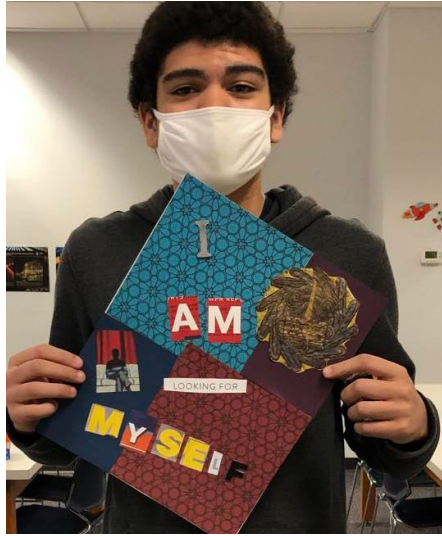
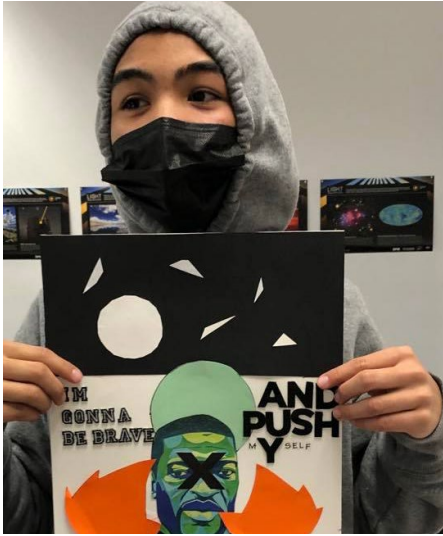
When I think about going to college,
I'm not ready
But when I do go, I look forward to staying in
the dorms and meeting new people

I would like to go to school for marine biology in California
I worry about the classes being hard and paying for college. **(Jayden)**



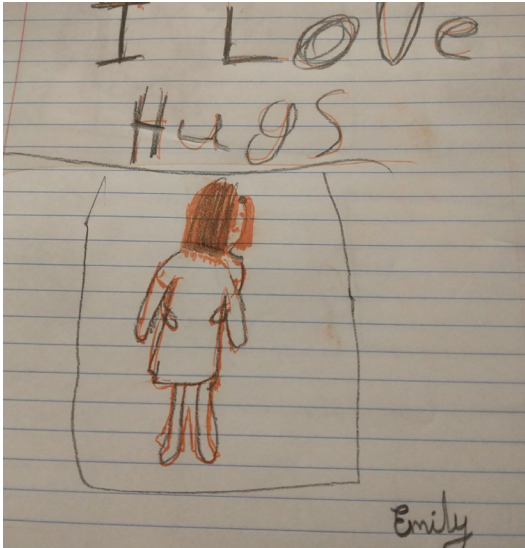
COLLAGES

Adventurers created collages visually representing who they are.



ODYSSEY EXPLORERS

DREAMS



I like expressing my dreams in love! **(Emily)**

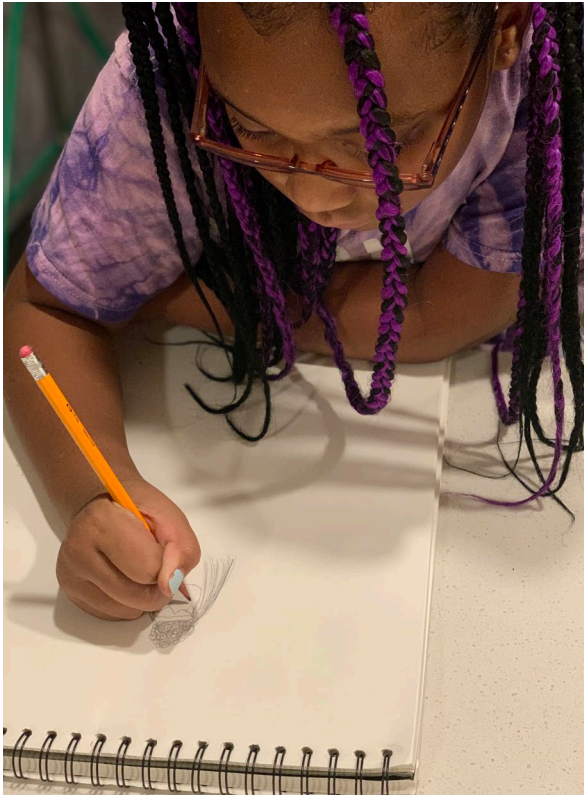
I was going to say the same thing as Emily! **(Kayden)**

Last night I dreamed that me and my mom are on top of the buildings, and there's like a voice, and when I try to hold my mom's hand she keeps letting my hand go! And somehow we respawned.

I imagine that everything was colorful and I wish that everyone was nice to me.
(Imani)



I dream about pokemon packs! **(Henry)**



I like to dream about art! **(Iylsis)**



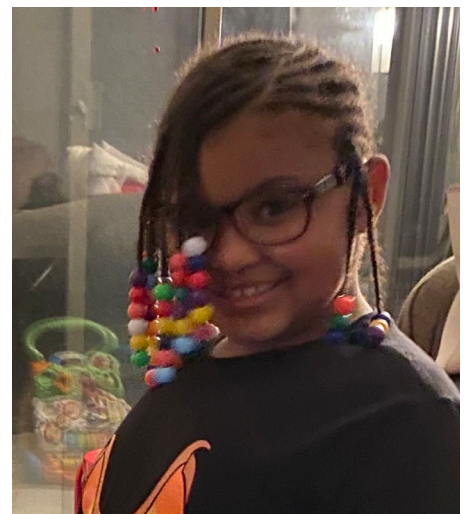
Me too! I just gotta color in my stuff. I like to dream about gymnastics! **(Iyjah)**

I always dream of falling and I hate it, and I don't like scary dreams! **(Jazaya)**



I dream of being an engineer! And engineering anything I want. Kind of like when I'm walking to some kind of area, my brain finds out dreams I think about. **(Kingston)**

I once had a dream about where everything in this world was really colorful! I like doing art. I sometimes dream about my dog, Pumpkin! I dream about sometimes sleeping next to each other. I like to draw with cool color! **(Nyah)**



WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?

Something that makes me happy is my family, and my flexibility! I like gym and showing my skills. **(Jazaya)**



Something that makes me smile is dance. I'll be ten next Monday! **(Mane)**

HOW TO BE A GOOD ACTOR

You can learn to act every day! **(Nyah)**



You can practice a lot. Like, pretending to be what they're acting. **(Emily)**

I think that maybe it's making the other people think that you're someone else, a character. **(Alex)**



WHAT ARE YOU SMART ABOUT?



I'm smart at math. I'm good at art. I like making monster cards! I can show you next time I go to Odyssey. I make my own type of monsters. You can make your own HP but it can't go over 150, and you can also make your own damage but it can't go over 30. The monster cards you make always start at level 5. Can I tell the whole class a joke? How did the tree get on the internet? It LOGGED in! **(Lucci)**

I draw what I'm smart about! I'm smart about art, and doing all my schoolwork, math, science, social studies. My favorite subjects are math and science. I stayed up and watched a thingy about how the universe works and black holes! I remember how to fish too. I caught like a big one! My cousin caught a big fish. I go fishing; I go with my dad or my cousin. I'm good at frisbee too! And dodge ball. I know how to play gaga ball! You're supposed to hit somebody, and you have a ball, and you try to kick the ball to somebody's leg or like their thigh area, then they're out for the entire game until the next round. I'm smart at reading. I like Spiderman, Cat in the Hat, and Avengers. **(Kingston)**



I'm good at baseball and tennis. I'm good at doing Legos! I build houses with wheels. My sister had a bin THIS big and THIS long, and she passed it to us! And we made this big skyscraper. **(Kayd)**

I'm smart at tests! I'm best at math. And sometimes I always get A's in my class. I'm good at football, soccer... fishing. One time I caught a catfish. Yeah, probably as big as... My room is filled with water and sharks! Well, I like to sculpt stuff. **(Kayden)**





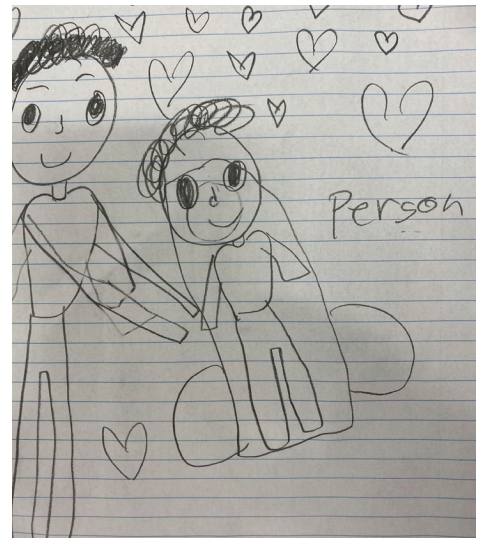
I'm smart at being helpful and kind. **(Emily)**

I'm smart at learning from my mistakes. **(Miss Marisol)**

I'm smart at taking a deep breath when I'm stressed. **(Alex)**

I'm smart at gymnastics. I am smart at backhand springs and putting my feet over my head. I am smart at math, drawing, science, and learning about rocks and minerals. **(Jazaya)**

I am smart at drawing with colored pencils, and drawing friends playing. I am smart at math and science like learning about planets and how stars are made. I am smart at playing Candyland. I'm smart at guitar. **(Iysis)**



This is me hanging upside down on a gymnastics bar! I am smart at gymnastics bars and hanging on one leg. And this is me building Legos. I am smart at building stuff with Legos, playing guitar, and playing Candyland. **(Ilyjah)**

I'm smart at Legos and math. **(Henry)**



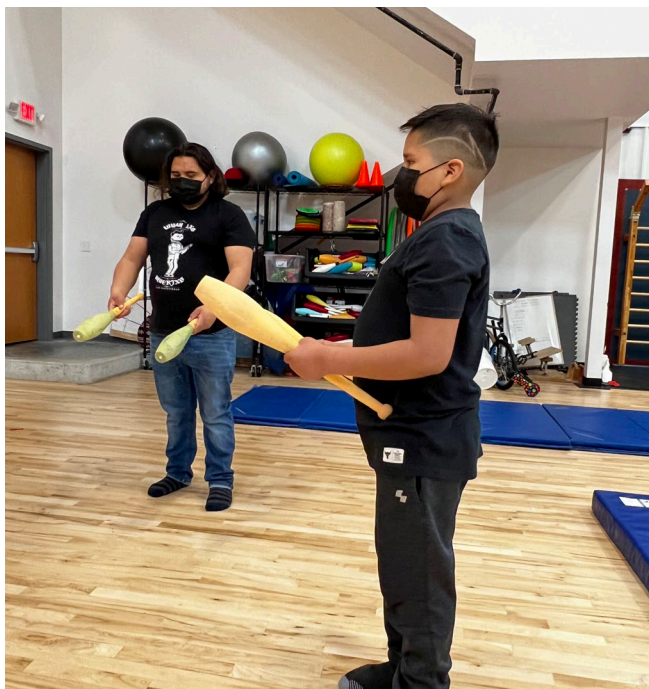
I am smart at naming trees, giving hugs, showing empathy, and kitty snuggling. **(Ms. Mackenzie)**



ODYSSEY FAMILY FUN DAY AT THE MADISON CIRCUS SPACE

On March 19th, Odyssey families enjoyed an afternoon of exploration at the Madison Circus Space. Thanks to a collective of talented teaching artists, our students had the chance to move freely around the space to fly the trapeze, climb with the silks, learn to juggle, pass pins, hula hoop, and balance on the tight rope. Two current Odyssey students had young children the same age who spent the entire time tumbling on the soft mats and chasing each other. "Fast friends, who knew?" Another parent said, "I had no idea she could do that!" and others shared, "This was SO MUCH FUN. When can we come back?"





SUPERHERO SKITS

Henry and Alex are supervillains out to create mischief. Today's target: the Crown Fountain's Millennium Park Splash Pad in Chicago! They want to hack the computers so only their faces will appear on the monolith – and the water will turn into steaming hot lava! Luckily, a team of superheroes, Emily, Iysis, Iyjah, Kingston, and Kayd, are out to stop them.

Setting: Crown Fountain in Chicago – Millennium Park Splash Pad

Alex (Supervillain): I am the supervillain, Alex! I am the coolest supervillain that has ever existed!

Henry (Supervillain): I am Henry the Hacker! We're going to turn off the faces on the screen in Chicago park - and we're going to turn all the faces into me and Alex! Bwahaha!

Kingston and Kayd fly in!

Kingston (Superhero): They're never gonna get away with their evil plan! I have teleportation

Iyjah (Superhero): Donde están los Supervillains?!

Iysis (Superhero): We have to stop them before they destroy the city!

Emily (Superhero): I AM EMILY, THE SUPERHERO! I know the supervillain Alex, and I know all his weak spots because he's my brother!



Alex (Supervillain): Here's steaming hot lava! We're gonna change it with the water!

Henry (Supervillain): Here's the lava, dude! I stole your super suits!

Kingston (Superhero): I have back up titanium suits that can never be hacked!

Henry (Supervillain): But lava can go through titanium! Bwahahaha.

Kayd (Superhero): My suit is lava-proof! And it won't get in!

Kingston (Superhero): You can never break it! Even if you try to break it, the lasers that are inside the suit will laser you back inside the park and trap you in the screen!

(The lava is everywhere, in the pipes, the water is too hot!)

Emily (Superhero): The water is getting too hot! We will stop them!

Alex (Supervillain): Nobody's gonna be hotter than me!

Iylsis (Superhero): We can do it, just everyone focus!

Kingston (Superhero): We can stop them, but we have to have a plan! Maybe we can re-hack their hacking machines! For some reason, I'm a really good hacker!

Henry (Supervillain): From my super base, I can put out really strong strings that can't be destroyed and they're pulling down buildings!

Kayd (Superhero): I'm gonna use your own lava to burn them up!

Kingston (Superhero): I'm going to go inside the building and destroy everything inside! Since the building is destroyed it won't fall in the park!

Henry (Supervillain): The pieces will still fall into the park!

Iylsis (Superhero): I'll blow away the pieces with my wind powers!

Emily (Superhero): I'll help! With my nature powers, I'll go in the trees and make the branches super long so I can blow stuff away too with the leaves!

Alex (Supervillain): I'm backstage! Henry made me a supersuit and it's charging, and it's stronger than any supersuit in the world! Bwahahahahahahahahaha.

Kingston (Superhero): Don't worry, Kayd! I am going to destroy the cables! First, I go inside of one of the machine's faces, de-hook the cables from inside and reactivate and hack it and hack the drones so I can unplug both of the faces and reprogram them to be their regular form! I'm gonna hack the satellites and destroy your drones if you un-hack them!



Emily (Superhero):
Hurricaneeeeeee! So the
supervillains are blown away!

Alex (Supervillain): You can't do
that!

Emily (Superhero): I can try!

Alex (Supervillain): You can
control nature, not weather!

Emily (Superhero): I'll do it!

Henry (Supervillain): I can un-
hack the un-hacking because
there's a USB cable he forgot to
take out!

Alex (Supervillain): I'm gonna
go to the other side of the
world! For a vacation! In my
Lamborghini. I'm going to
Florida.

Iysis (Superhero): I forgot, I have wind powers! I can stop all of this! Me and Iyjah can use our powers to make this thing that can like, blow away all the drones!

Iyjah (Superhero): I'm gonna freeze the drones and the supervillain, Henry, so they can't move!

Kingston (Superhero): While Henry is frozen, now I can deactivate the DC cord so he can't hack the hack!

Kayd (Superhero): And I can de-hack everything they did!

Henry (Supervillain): I was actually in the secret base, and Iysis just froze a person that looked like me! My drones are flying back!

Kayd (Superhero): But your drones aren't fire-proof! I have fire powers, so I'll make them melt!

Emily (Superhero): With my nature powers I can grow trees, and sitting on the branches I'll try to catch up to Alex to stop him!

Alex (Supervillain): Now I've gone to Hawaii. The military base! I took a fighter jet. I sold it for money! To pay Henry for the supervillain job. And to buy new satellites!

Emily (Superhero): How did you get to Hawaii?

Henry (Supervillain): He has a flying Lamborghini!

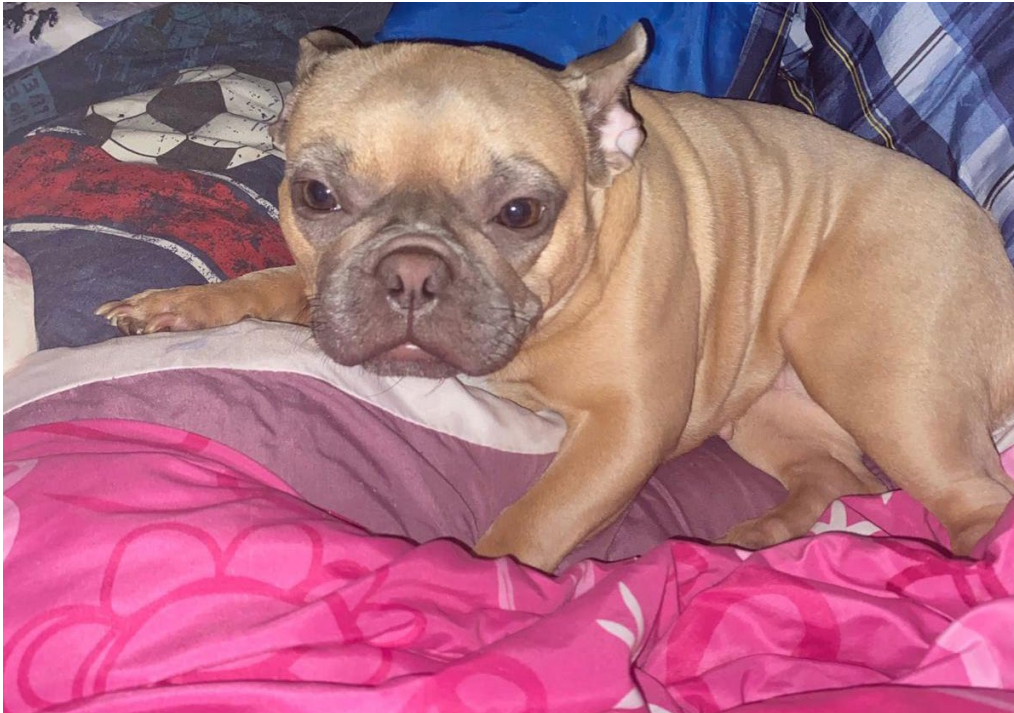
Kingston (Superhero): I deactivate everything they did! And Emily and Iysis blew them away, and Iyjah froze them! So they have to go home!

Henry (Supervillain): The villains go home for the day, but they're still on the loose! Until next time!

Alex: Bwahahahaha!



Nyah's dog, Pumpkin, has kidnapped Ms. Mackenzie's cat, Pharaoh. Pharaoh is trapped in Pumpkin's evil lair, but the superhero team is making a plan to rescue him in this first installment. Jazaya, Rayne, Kayden, and Luci will use their super powers to beat the villain!



Pumpkin (dog/Nyah):
"You will never be able to escape!"

Pharaoh (cat/Ms. Mackenzie):
"You will never get away with this! I have super friends. Just wait and see!"

Pumpkin (dog/Nyah):
"Ha! Where I'm taking you, they'll never find you!"

Narrator: "Pumpkin grabs Pharaoh and takes him to his secret lair at the local vet's office."

[Flyee is spying in the grass.]

Flyee (Kayden/superbird):
To his friends, he says, "Hey guys, you won't believe what just happened to Pharaoh! He got kidnapped by Pumpkin!"

Super team: "What?!"

Flyee (Kayden/superbird):
"Yeah, it's true! I just saw it with my own two eyes! I think I know where he's taking him! We need to make a plan."

Flyee (Kayden/superbird):
"I can fly us there and use my eyes to see where they went."



Ray Ray (Rayne/superhero): "Someone can fly on my back, and someone can fly on Flyee's back."

Jay Jay (Jazaya/superhero): "I'll use my smelling sense to help find him. If he tries to sneak up behind me, I'll use my back handsprings to kick him!"

Simba (Luci/supercat): "I'll use my invisibility powers to sneak up on him. I can make you all invisible too. I think we should bring dog treats to lure him into a cage."



Ray Ray (Rayne/superhero): "If we need a Plan B, Flyee and I can knock him over if he tries to capture Jay Jay Junior or Simba."

Team Super Friends: "Go Team Super Friends!"

Narrator: "The team of super friends flew across the city to the vet's office where Pumpkin had his secret lair."

Flyee (Kayden/superbird): "Get away from my friend or I will use my laser eyes on you!"

Pharaoh (cat/Ms. Mackenzie): "My friends!"

Pumpkin (dog/Nyah): "I've been expecting you, Team Super Friends..."

[To be continued...]

ODYSSEY JUMPSTART

Jumpstart families answered, "What makes you/your child special?"



Kayden is always willing to help people. She is able to play alone and still have fun. She is also very confident and shares the biggest smile even with her missing teeth.

(Kayden and mom, Kayanna)



Sick, sad, hungry, hot, or whatever, Summer smiles and laughs at everything. She's the happiest baby you will ever meet. She learns and catches onto things fast at just 7 months old.

(Summer and mom, Kayanna)



Taleyah is special because she goes above and beyond to play the big sister role to her brother. She teaches him, redirects him, and more. She has lots of love for her brother. **(Taleyah and mom, Talaisha)**

Kahleel is special because he has a personality that makes everyone laugh. He loves us unconditionally and never fails to show it. **(Kahleel and mom, Talaisha)**



TJ is special because he's such a gentle, kind, and loving spirit. He cares about others and connects deeply with those that he cares about. TJ is bright and full of surprises. He continues to wow me with the things he says and does.

(TJ and mom, Michelle)



I like birds. **(Kha'lani)**



Me on my bike. **(Camarrion)**



I drew a pancake. I like to eat them and I can make them.
(Marquis)



I love to sing No More Monkeys Jumping on the Bed and the "goodbye" song. I'm a lion.
(Cinderria)



All the things make me special!
(Zaria says on Zoom while riding her bike home)