

MARCH 2023

ODYSSEY JUNIOR

ORACLE



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Thanks to the following staff and volunteers of Odyssey Junior:

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Explorers: Mackenzie McDermit, Christina Demars, Marisol Gonzales ('17), Ron Burford ('20)
Adventurers: Angie Bazan, Leigh Button, Brian Benford ('07)
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Volunteers: Mary Wells ('07), Amy Basel, Jerome Flowers, Gloria Heiss, Ella Rogers, Tala Fawwaz Shaibi
Badger Volunteers: Junhyuk Son (Will), Trista Anderson, Jenna Wagner, Megha Brahmabhatt, Anna Ravis, Caley Wilson, Colin Hemme, Tooba Ahmed, Andy Chang, Aanika Parikh

Special thanks to the Madison Reading Project, Yorel Lashley from Drum Power, Nate Clark from the Central Library, Pat Dillon and Terrance Adeyanju from Cultural Connections, Jamie Henke and Dr. Hailey Love from Literally Arts, Carrie Backman and our wonderful music instructors from the UW Mead Witter School of Music: Kevin, Leo, Karen, and Angelos. Kay Kriewald and the UW Space Place, Sasha Debevec-McKenney, ALL Stories, and huge thank you as well to folks and pets at Go Team Therapy Dogs: Nick and Sully, Tara and Max, Kelly and Shiloh, Joan and Lizzy, Nicole and Patton, Nana and Leia, and Brian and Ace.

www.odyssey.wisc.edu

MUSIC LESSONS

WITH THE UW MEAD WITTER SCHOOL OF MUSIC!

Kicking off again in January, Odyssey Junior resumed music lessons with the UW Mead Witter School of Music on Tuesday nights! Our students were able to sign up and meet for violin, guitar, piano, tuba, and voice lessons with our wonderful instructors: Karen, Leo, Carrie, Kevin, and Angelos. Music fills the halls of the UW Partnership Space while adults and youth enjoy the drop-in tutoring hours (5pm-7:30pm) every Tuesday evening.



FAMILY GAME NIGHT!

In between semesters, we miss our Odyssey community! So, on January 11th, we got everyone together for Family Game Night. Odyssey adults and juniors enjoyed each other's company while playing games, eating pizza, and, of course, engaging in some friendly competition! Each family got to take a board game home with them at the end of the night to continue the fun, and it was the perfect start to a new year.

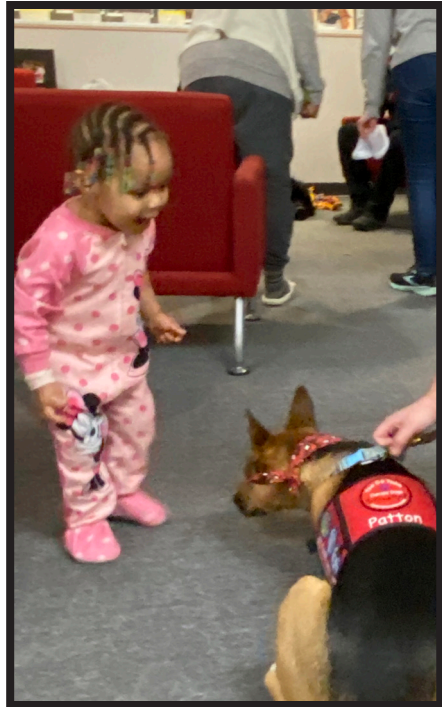




READ TO A DOG WITH GO TEAM THERAPY DOGS!

The Go Team Therapy Dogs visited Odyssey Junior once again! Kids of all ages got to meet Go Team's wonderful canine squad: Sully, Max, Patton, Lizzy, Leia, and Shiloh. Odyssey Junior students were able to sit and play with the furry, vest-wearing professionals intermittently throughout the night in the partnership Atrium!





BABY BADGERS

Baby Badgers have enjoyed exploring new classroom toys, learning about colors and animals, and tasting new foods!

I put the watermelon in my mouth like a popsicle.

You're missing something, you're missing something. Hmmm, you need brown!

My favorite is purple like grapes! I'm gonna sit right here and pet the tiger. **(Priya)**



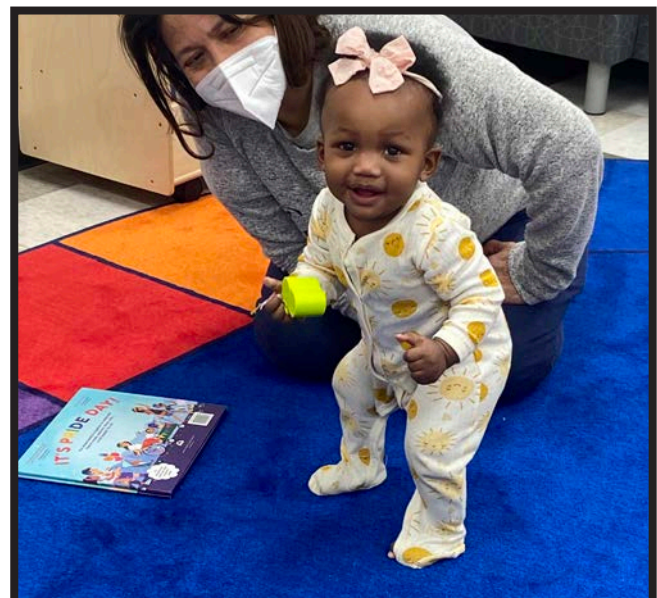
Yummy yummy yummy

Happy happy

Oh wow **(Riyah)**



That's a frog eating a fly! **(Dream)**



Baby Ocean is growing up fast! She is standing all on her own! **(Ocean)**

It's your birthday. Light it up! Make a wish!
(Dynast)

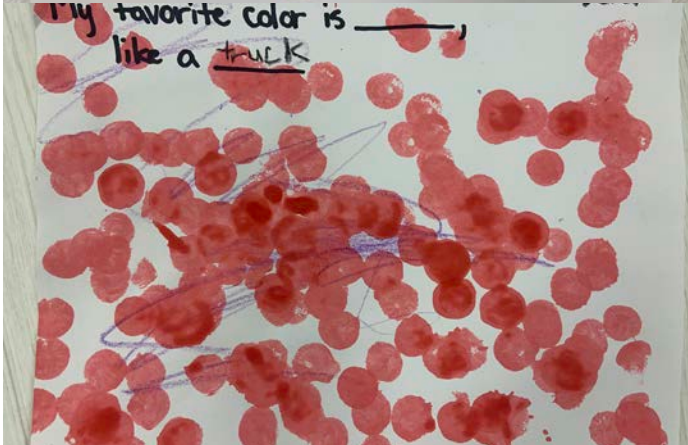
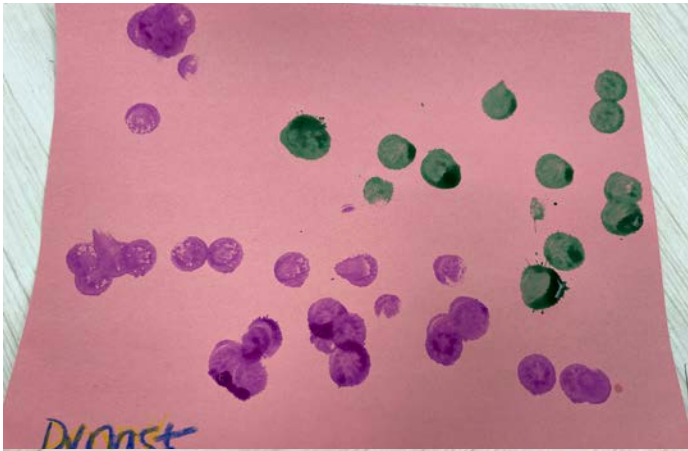
I want to go play! Oh purple. **(Keziah)**



Ball! **(Bear)**

Get the tape! My mama has tape.
(Ramzi)

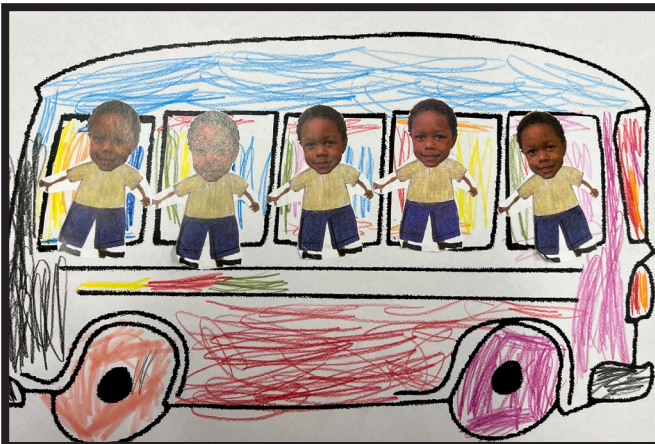
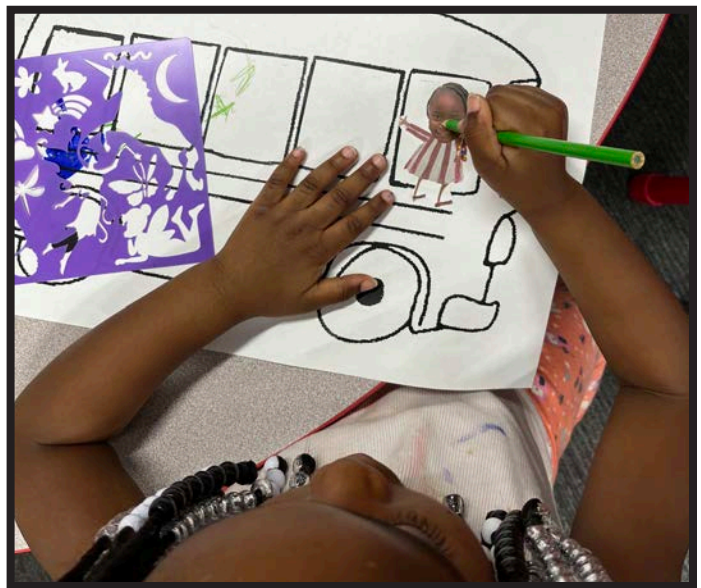




SCOUTS



Literally Arts visited last week to read “The Seals on the Bus,” which delighted kids with pictures of snakes, monkeys, and skunks with a tiger driving the bus. Kids sang and danced to the traditional “Wheels on the Bus” song while creating a new rap for “The Seals on the Bus.” Afterward, students designed their own 11 x 17 school buses with all different creatures taking a ride!





EXPLORERS

METAPHOR WRITING: WHAT ARE YOU?

I am a paint palette because I love art. The color that I make is beautiful. It would make anybody smile. **(Fabian)**

I am a candle. Even when I blow out, I can still shine. When I shine my light, I can be helpful and pick up after myself. I fill up people's buckets by showing them care. I show them they are part of the group. When someone is being mean, they can't be part of the group. **(Omarion)**



I am a cinnamon roll: Sweet, savory, and my core is hard. I may be sweet but what covers me is my icing. **(Irie)**

I think that I am a paint palette. I make a mess and love to draw. I make good drawings and love coloring. **(Kai)**





I am a superhero. Nobody can tell me what to do. I am always beside my Mom and Dad and I will always be brave. **(Emprizz)**

I am the sun because I shine so bright. I am a sun because I brighten people's day! I am a sun because I am an expression. I am a sun because I kill the haters and the rain! I am a sun because I make things grow. **(Cielo)**

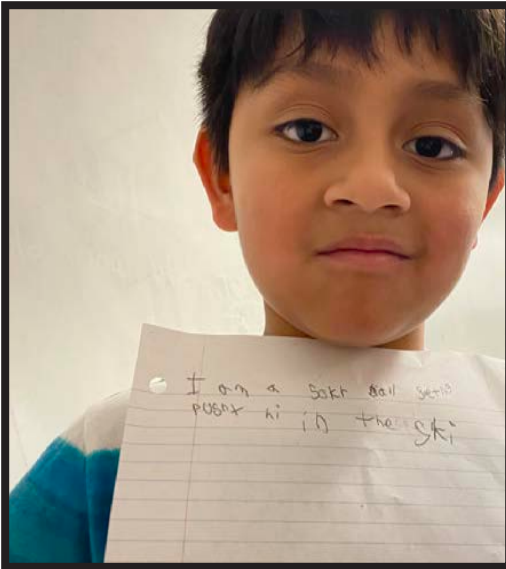


I am a basketball. I fall down but I jump back up! I am a basketball. I am fun and playful! I am a basketball. I let problems roll off my back. I am a basketball. **(Emily)**



I am a book because I'm full of words. I am a book because I'm intelligent. I am a book because I'm a storyteller. I am a book because people learn from me. I am a book because I'm full of ideas. I am a book. I am me. **(Lexi)**





I am a soccer ball getting pushed high in the sky. **(Alex)**

I am a pom pom!
I am a pom pom because I like to celebrate. I am a birthday cake because I am sweet. I am a pom pom because I am soft and little and squishy. I shine. **(De'Zariea)**



I am a Lamborghini because I am fast! I'm fancy because I got the drip. I got clothes on that look really nice. **(Legend)**

I'm a butterfly and I love to fly and I love it! **(Zaria)**



I am Naruto! I can run fast and eat noodles fast! **(X'Zayvion)**

I am a basketball because I can shoot! I jump like a basketball when I'm sad to cheer myself up. **(RJ)**



LOVE IS...

Love is my mom. She cares about us and buys me stuff. All my toys are from her buying it. I love my mom because she buys me clothes. She gave me her PS4 and now I can watch TV on it and stuff. I love my dad because he buys me a bunch of shoes and stuff. They show me love when they kiss me on my forehead and when they tell me, "You did the right thing, so you earned this." I love my grandma because she bought me a Fortnite toy, and she bought me a hoverboard. I love my grandma because she gave me money. She also buys me food.
(Omarion)

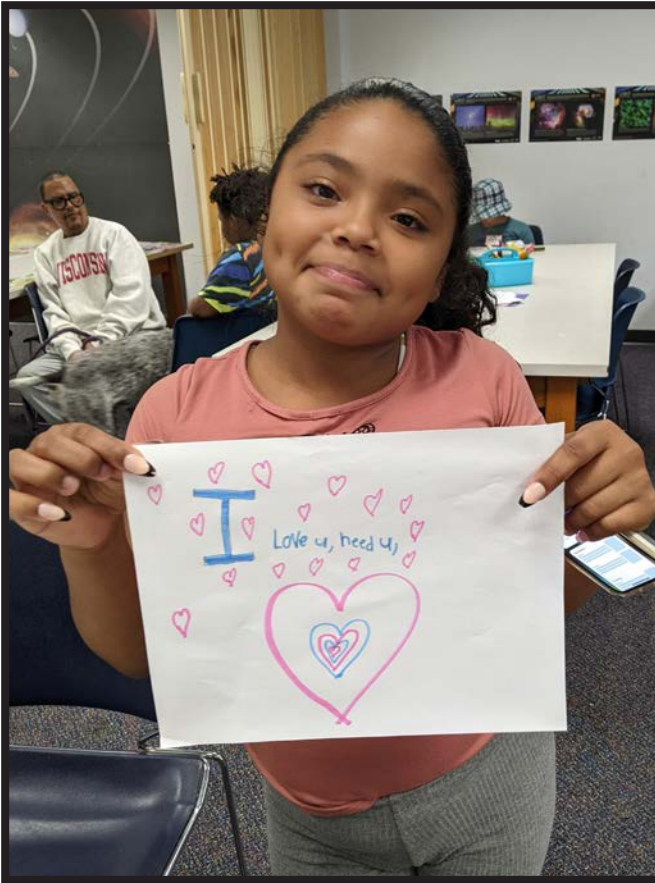


Love to me is family and your people. You need to take care of them. Love is my momma. I love my dad too because he spends time with me. **(RJ)**

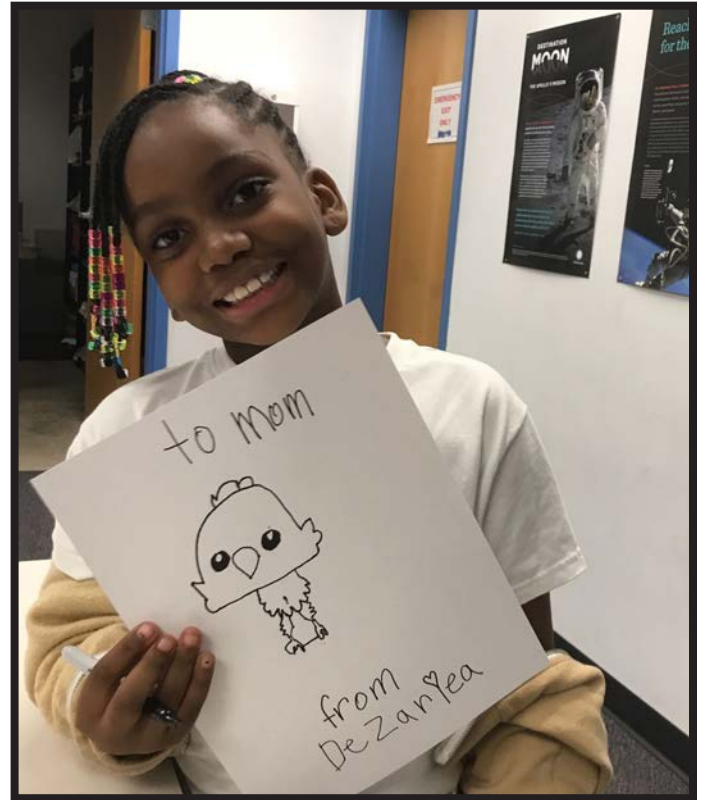
I love macaroni, especially if it's extra cheesy. I like to sing. I got my voice from the best (my mom.) **(Rylan)**



What love means to me!
When my mom tells me I am beautiful, that is love!
When my dad makes my lunch, that is love!
When my brother plays with me, that is love!
When my mom puts me to sleep, that is love!
When my dad helps me with my homework, that is love!
(Emily)



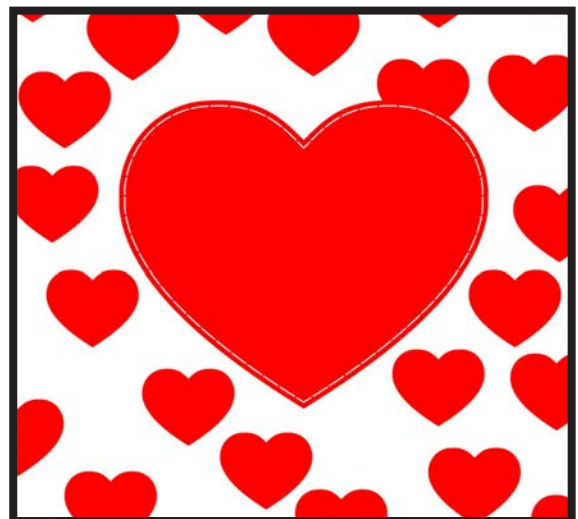
Love is when you like somebody a lot. I love someone when they are kind to me and when they comfort me. I show people I love them when I comfort them back and show my emotions, don't let them hide. Love yourself! Love is a strong word, so be careful when you use it. **(Cielo)**



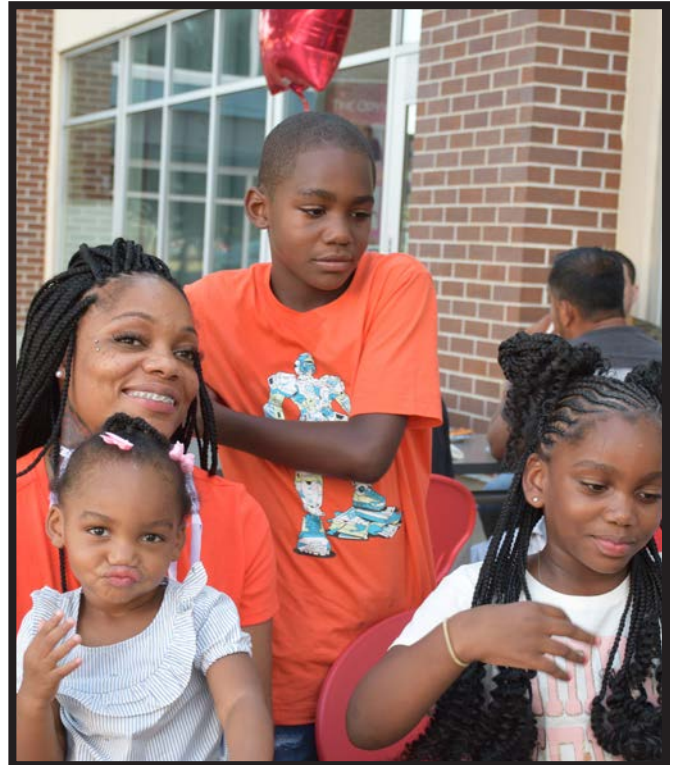
Love is when someone is caring, when you're being kind to someone. If you fall, someone will help you up. Love is a strong word, so if you mean that you love someone you have to show it! **(De'Zariea)**



Love for me is showing affection for another person and showing them you care about them. You can show you care by giving someone a gift or giving hugs. **(Irie)**



Love to me is my mom. She gives me love that I really want. She shows me love when she hugs me and tells me a story. **(X'Zayvion)**



Love to me is when you care about someone or you have big feelings about someone. It can be a really good friend, someone you hang out with a lot. You might chat with them a lot, or buy them presents, or they might invite you to their birthday. **(Kai)**



I love my sister and my mom and my brothers and everyone! I love them because they're nice and cool and they help me. **(Zaria)**

DREAMS

I dream of being in the Pokémon company! I want to create Pokémon, and do the art. I'd like to see my art in the video games!! I'm pretty sure that's what the artists do. **(Kai)**

I dream that I am successful. I want money and to become an artist! I'd probably make houses as drawings, and modern art. I want my art to be in a museum. (And I want to be in the Pokémon company with Kai! I want to do the art and create Pokémon and see it in the games. I also want to create a new Pokémon game!) **(Irie)**

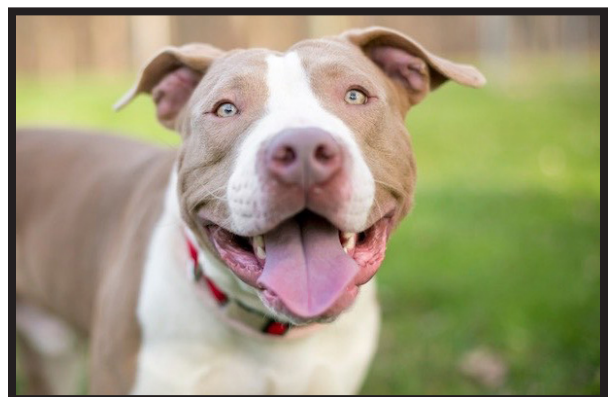
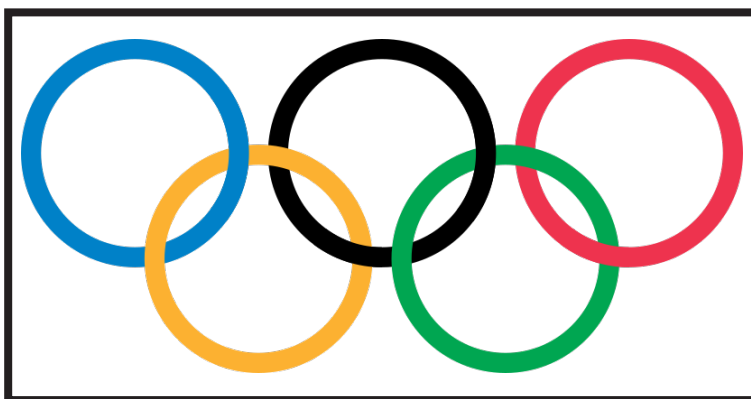


I dream I have a mansion! It's going to have a lot of Gucci and apple phones. I want butlers too! I want a maid who can clean my room every day and I want some people who know how to draw very good. I want people who know how to spell and how to do homework! So they can do homework and everything for me, and I'll give them a billion gajillion dollars. **(De'Zariea)**

I dream that I'm a billionaire. I'm going to invite my family over and they can stay the night sometimes whenever they want! And, I'm going to buy a movie theatre. But I'm not

going to watch any movies! I'm going to do something crazy. I'm going to buy a theatre for my parents, just for themselves, and they can invite as many friends as they want. And we're going to connect the x-box to the movie theatre so we can play x-box on a giant screen. **(Rylan)**

I dream of having my own house and moving to Florida, with palm trees. I want to work at a bank, I want two dogs, a pit bull, and an English Havanese pit bull. **(Omarion)**



I dream about being in the Olympics! I want to do the bars. I want to be famous!! I want to go to the store and I want to have butlers! **(Zaria)**

ADVENTURERS

WORDS OF ADVICE

If you could give your past self one piece of advice, what would it be and why?



Get into drill rappers. I feel like I would be cooler if I listened to drill rappers around 2 or 3 years ago. **(Yahmor)**

To try harder. I feel like I could have done better. Also, not to stress about making mistakes because we all do. **(Asia)**



To not be so shy. **(Symone)**



Save your money! **(Miguel)**



I would say to try not to get angry on the basketball court, and just play my game without having to worry about the referee's calls. **(Zion)**



Build a time machine. **(Talaya)**

Buy high, sell low. **(Chris)**

Don't be afraid to fail because if I could go back, I would have taken more risks. **(Juan)**

Always buy the dip because once you're at rock bottom, the only way is up. **(Andy)**

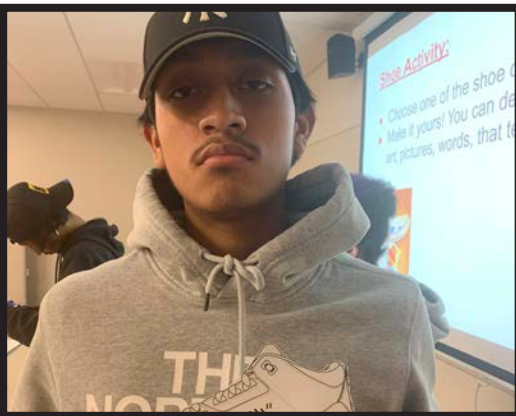


What is the best piece of advice you have ever received? What made it so good?

Don't give up. This is a good piece of advice because you should always try your best. **(Alex)**



Don't listen to what others think of you. If I'm worried about what others are thinking about me, I won't have any fun living my life. **(Yahmor)**



Buy real estate, that's passive income. **(Chris)**

Watch who you make friends with. Real stuff. **(Cheyenne)**



LET'S TALK ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE

What are some things you learned about your social justice figure that were interesting?

What are some things this person did to make change?

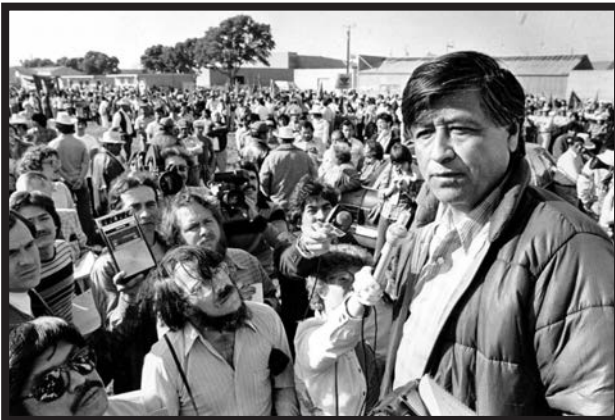
What is one thing about this person that you think makes them a social justice warrior? What is one thing about them that you admire?

On Gloria Steinem:

She was born March 25, 1934, in Toledo, Ohio. She's a writer, lecturer, political activist, and feminist. She became nationally recognized as a leader.

She fought for women and equal rights.

She worked hard for equality for women and played a big role in history. **(Asia)**



On Cesar Chavez:

He was in the US Navy for two years. He started a newspaper for farm workers.

He started a labor union for farm workers, and he fought for better working conditions and pay for farm workers.

He fights against the companies for the farm workers. **(Alex)**

He fought for field workers' rights and went on food strikes. He was born on March 31, 1927, and died on April 23, 1993.

He founded the National Farm Workers Association, went on marches, and made the grape boycott.

He fought for the rights of field workers and was a field worker himself. **(Chris)**

On Harriet Tubman:

She made 13 missions to get slaves, rescued 70 slaves, and got married.

She spent her life rescuing slaves and gave them hope.

She was the first black hero I learnt about, and I admire the fact that she made 13 trips and never got caught. **(Talaya)**



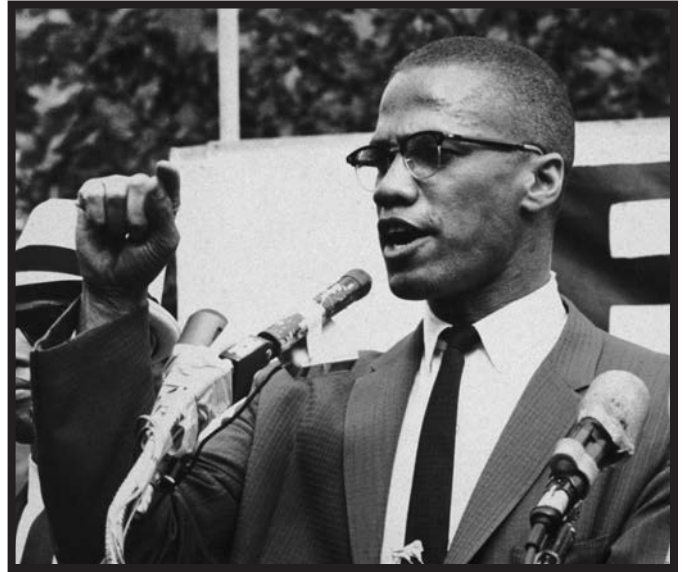
On Malcolm X:

He was born in 1925. He was a Muslim minister and was the spokesman of Islam until 1964.

He was a vocal activist for the Black empowerment movement and founded the Afro-American Unity.

I admire that he stood up for what's right. **(Zion)**

He fought for civil rights and was part of the nation of Islam. **(Juan)**

**On Martin Luther King Jr.:**

He is a big reason why blacks have freedom. He marched with over a thousand people. He had a dream that whites and blacks could coexist together equally.

He marched and made speeches.

He fought for people's rights. **(Quone)**

**On Malala Yousafzai:**

She was shot in the head for wanting women to go to school, and she won the Nobel Peace Prize.

She protested, wrote a book, and was the world's youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Her protests. **(Andy)**

She survived a shot to the head, was the youngest person to receive a Nobel Peace Prize, and now goes to the University of Oxford.

She protested for women's rights and gave speeches.

She fought for women's rights in education. **(Symone)**



On Nelson Mandela:

He was South Africa's first black president. He was in jail on Robben Island for 24 years. His wife was elected president right after his death.

He improved the standard of living for blacks. He brought equality to all races in South Africa.

He directed campaigns of peaceful, nonviolent defiance against the South African government and its racist policies. **(Shadavien)**

**On Dolores Huerta:**

She was the co-founder of the National Farm Workers Association, and her partner was Cesar Chavez. She directed the National Grape Boycott to protest the dangers of pesticides for grape pickers.

She advocated for peace and immigrant rights.

She fought for her people, not just the people in the area. **(Zinedine)**

On Melanie Campbell:

She was a leader of empowering women, changing and impacting Black America, and was part of the Black Women's Round Table.

She was a Black Youth Vote civic leader. **(Alejandra)**



What does Social Justice look like to you?

Social justice looks like people standing up to inequality through protests, poems, speeches, and petitions. Social justice sounds like people coming together and finding a way to solve or speak about a problem. Lastly, it feels like a community coming together to solve a problem. **(Shadavien)**

It looks like equality across all social classes. **(Juan)**

I feel like social justice is protesting or going on the internet and sharing a message about people fighting for equal rights. **(Quone)**

It looks like people who fight for their rights and advocate for themselves to make themselves heard. **(Alex)**

It looks like wealth, opportunities, and privileges within society. Fairness and equity, too. **(Alejandra)**

Social justice looks like the equal treatment among all people within a society. **(Zion)**

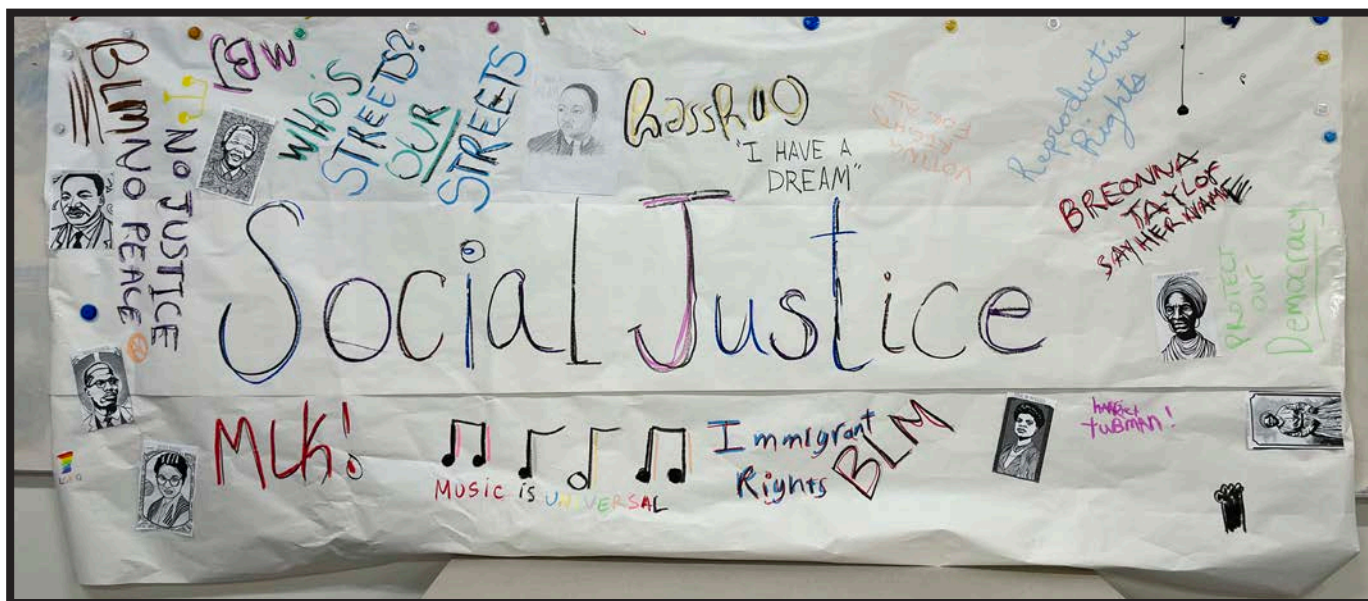
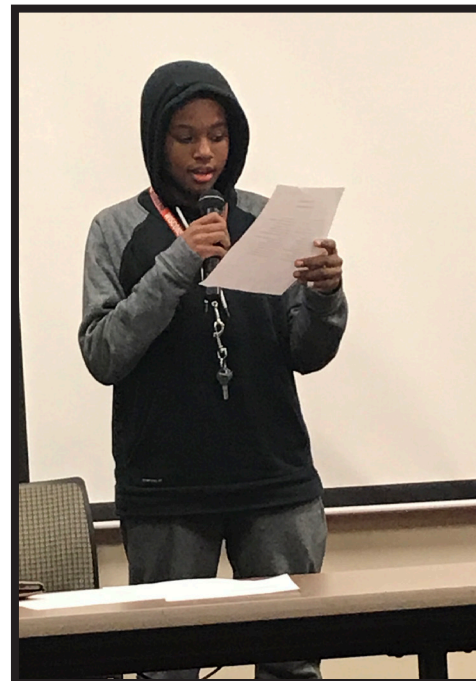
Words that come to mind: Equality, racism, prejudice, privilege, sexism, ally, poverty, civil rights, gender. **(Symone)**

It feels like equality. It looks like everybody belonging. It sounds like peace. **(Chris)**

Social justice is lack of discrimination. It looks like equality no matter the ethnicity. It sounds like all accents put together. **(Andy)**

Freedom. **(Israel)**

It sounds like a protest. **(Zinedine)**



ODYSSEY ADVENTURERS' BOOK OF DELIGHTS

*Based on our reading of Ross Gay's **The Book of Delights**, write your own **Little Delight** for the **All Stories Book**.*

Today I was delighted when I went to an orchestra concert. I had a ticket from my friend Mya. Going to the concert was fun because I got benefits from it—I got to skip class and sit with some of my friends while I watched my other friends perform. **(Symone)**



When I go to a tournament, ready to face anyone, I get the butterflies. Not from being nervous, but happy. Ready to win and get on the mat a champ and leave a champ. The end. **(Zinedine)**

My family makes me happy, and they are always there for me. My family comforts me, they make me feel loved. Without them, I wouldn't be who I am or where I am. They are always there for me, and I don't know what I'd do without them. **(Israel)**



I don't know why or...how? But I can walk up to random black people (Maybe other people of color too) and say "Yo!" or "Wassup slimmee" and we'll be cool. I can also talk in a descriptive way (like I do in my stories) and make people laugh. I also like scaring people by randomly screaming at them. I find it...Interesting, or what I mean is, fascinating. Yelling at people brings me delight. I also like writing and playing volleyball. **(Asia)**

Today while I was eating, there was a crowd of people that walked in. I felt mad and bothered because I was working. Then they left, and I was delighted. **(Michael)**

I love winning basketball games because it's fun
Watching TV makes me want to run.
Being on my phone, hanging out with friends,
doing stuff with family, basketball never ends.



Eating, music, playing video games,
Get an A on test, yah. **(Zion)**

I adore it when it's complete
silence because I don't have to
listen to people and respond or
direct my attention to something.
Silence is peaceful and relaxing,
and it makes me feel tired, which

is something I also adore. Silence is something that also makes me
feel great and relaxed. **(Talaya)**



Today I was delighted by the
sun in the sky. When I stepped
outside and saw the big orange
ball, it felt like happiness
entering my body through the sun rays. The sun in the sky smells like
nature since you can't smell it. The sun tastes like warmth entering
the body. The sun makes me happy because it reminds me that
warmer months are coming. **(Chris)**

This morning I was delighted by the fact that my car started. It
smelled like Black Ice, sounded like an explosion. Felt like relief but
great joy. It was like a shot of adrenaline, and I was very happy I
could take a ride around the neighborhood. **(Juan)**



After a long day of school, I came
home to a whole lotta food. My
mother had cooked up a pizza. It
smelled delicious. I slowly walked
into the kitchen ready to take a
nice, yummy slice of the pizza. I
can't wait... **(Andy)**

CROSSING THE BORDER TO MEET MY FAMILIA

BY ALEXANDER ROJAS GONZALEZ

It was a rainy day. The plane landed in Benito Juárez International Airport. My sister and I walked through the main floor with the rest of the 13+ children of different ages that traveled by themselves. At that time, I was 10 and my sister 8 years old. When we got to the main floor my grandparents greeted us with open arms and tears of joy. They had never met my sister because they went back to Mexico when I was only 6 months old. They went back to take care of my great-grandparents since this is what we do in the Mexican culture: we take care of our elderly. I felt a mix of feelings. I never thought I was really going to travel without my parents. I was happy and scared, excited and anxious, joyful and sad because I wished my parents were coming with me.



When we got into the minivan, to leave the airport, to my surprise it was crowded with extended family that I had only heard of. I smiled and pretended I was very happy to see them the same way they were. My grandma told us to take the two seats behind the driver and passenger and to buckle up. At that moment I thought, is there another car? Or, where are all of these people going to sit? But it wasn't another car, and I didn't have to worry

about it because they figured it out. We all fit in the minivan like all Mexicans do. To be honest that was the only time we had our own seat with seat belts throughout our visit. It was not the best day to see the city, but it was sort of clean. The air was a mix of smells, like a nice wet misty morning. You could barely smell the pollution that most cities have. Especially one of the biggest cities on earth as it is Mexico City.

When we got to the house, it was not the house that you imagine. In fact, it is like the house in the movie Encanto. Not as fancy or pretty but the same shape. My great grandfather built it with his own hands. It is a two-story house. We went up the stairs and it looks like an apartment because downstairs my extended family lives, because in Mexico the families live together.



When I opened the door, there was more extended family. And all celebrating my arrival with food! And I had a zoom meeting with my parents. I didn't understand at first why my mom was crying and asked me to hug everybody until I heard her say hug my children and take the hug I wish to give you for so long.

Everyone asks me questions like how is life in the US, teach me something in English or what do you think of Mexico? I felt very joyful. It was like diving into a pool of happiness like a birthday party or a special celebration. Even though I just know that they were family members. Why was I feeling so special? Maybe because me and my family have wanted to do this for so long. And finally our dream came true.



The table was served with churros, atole, and authentic Mexican food homemade. With all of that food on the table, it was like taking a breath of all your favorite foods and smells combined to make the best smell! We gathered around the table and started to enjoy the food. Everyone was surprised that we know how to eat Mexican food and about our perfect Spanish.

After we ate, I felt very Mexican, and I wanted to prove my Mexican-ness to everyone there. My mom sent a SUPER HOT jellybean game challenge. It consisted of a spin wheel that showed levels of spiciness with jellybeans made of California Reaper, Habanero, Cayenne,

Jalapeno, and Sriracha. She told me this game was only for my family in Mexico, the real Mexicans that love peppers. She told me to NOT PLAY THE GAME NO MATTER WHAT!!! But the family there encouraged me to play. And they started cheering ALEX! ALEX! ALEX!... I wanted to prove to myself in front of them that I was Mexican enough. So, what do you do when your mom is not present? You do the opposite of what she told you. At least that's what I did. I spun the wheel and I got the California Reaper. I hear my mom's voice from the computer. Alexander! NO! Alex! NO! But sadly I put the California Reaper jellybean in my mouth. THAT WAS ONE OF THE WORST DECISIONS I MADE!!!

The only thing I remember was that I threw up and nothing stopped the pain in my mouth, like as if my tongue was on fire. NOT WATER! NOT MILK! NOT ATOLE! NOT ICE! NOT EVEN ICE CREAM!!! As a Mexican saying goes, "Only time heals wounds" and that's how it was. After a few hours of plenty of fluids and love from my family I was fine, and the pain mostly stopped.



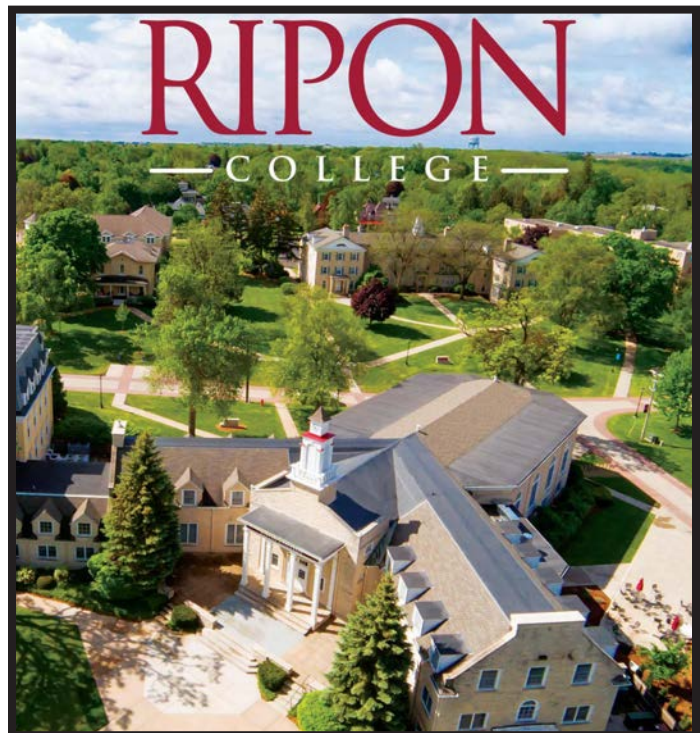
When everybody left around 1 am, I showered, and my grandma kissed me good night as I slowly blacked out. I wonder if this was just a beautiful dream, or if it was true and I was finally in Mexico. I had the desire to go but never got the chance until now. This is the story of crossing the borders to meet my family.

COLLEGE CORNER

MY FIRST YEAR IN COLLEGE

BY JUAN MORALES, ODYSSEY JUNIOR ALUM

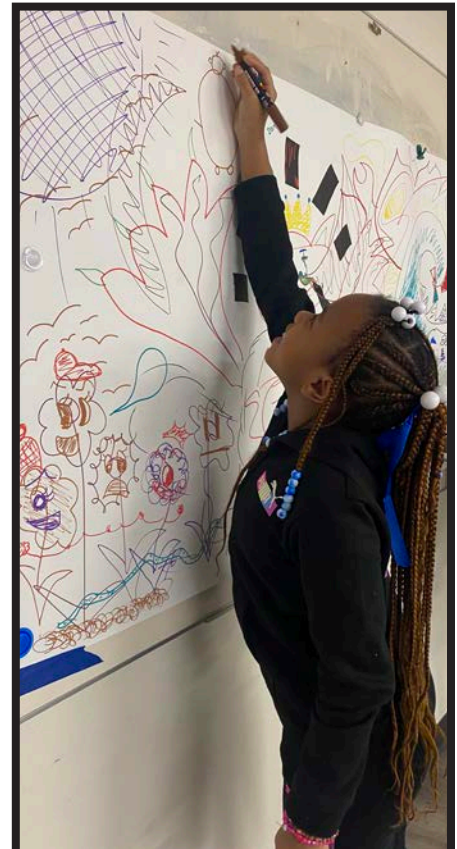
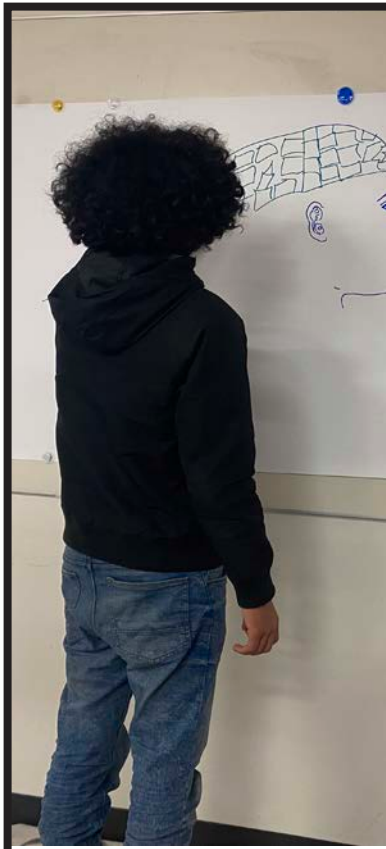
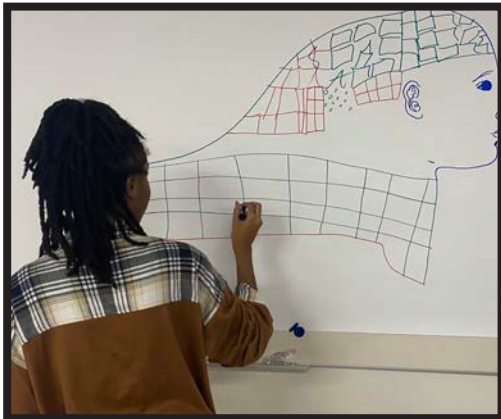
My first-year experience has been great, the campus along with the professors have really made this place feel like a second home, and I couldn't be happier to attend Ripon College. Some advice that I would give would be: Don't be afraid to ask professors or teaching assistants for help because what they're there for is to help and they want you to succeed. You could also always ask other students if they want to make a study group. Another thing is to get into extra curriculums. It's a great way to get out and meet new people, as well as find new interests. For example, I'm a pledge for the Sigma Chi Fraternity here on campus. Overall, school comes first, but it is very important to still go out and get involved around campus.



ART COLLAB

WITH TERRENCE ADEYANJU AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

On Feb. 28, Odyssey Junior started our new art club for children with Cultural Connections during drop-in tutoring every Tuesday evening through April. Our guest artist, Terrence Adeyanju, is an artist impacted by incarceration (and brother of an Odyssey graduate) who is passionate about working with kids and believes in using art to become the best version of ourselves.



ANONYMOUS HEART CRAFTS FROM STUDENTS AND TEACHERS



