

ISSUE 1

FALL 2025

ODYSSEY JUNIOR

ORACLE

WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2026!

A SAMPLING OF IMAGES AND WRITING FROM 2015-2025



Through a journey of self-discovery in the arts and humanities, Odyssey Junior empowers youth to find their voices, envision their futures, and change their communities. The Odyssey Junior Oracle provides participants with a chance to share photos, art, and reflections with their classmates as well as with adult family members in the UW Odyssey Project.

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BABY BADGERS



SCOUTS



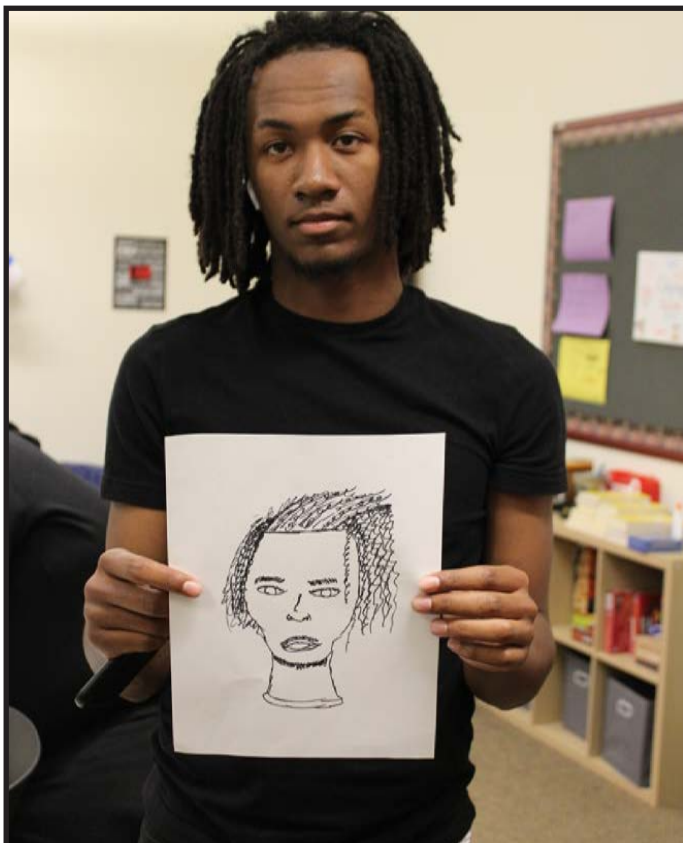
EXPLORERS



VOYAGERS



ADVENTURERS



SELF EXPRESSION



The Skin I'm In

You may say my skin
Is black
But that's incorrect
"The skin I'm in" is the skin
Of the slaves
The skin I'm in is the fighters of the country
The skin I'm in is
Everyone
(Kamoria)

Unity

In a world where nothing makes sense
It's like no one can realize that they're blessed
Can't make a comment on Facebook without making a mess
Black or white, we need to unite
People killing each other just out of spite
Why can't we be one?
(Savannah)



See Me

I want someone to see me
Not as my race
Not as just Angel
Not just someone
See me as Joy
See me as Kindness
See me as Love
See me as Hope
See me
That's all you have to do
See me as the sky
See me as God
See me
Don't judge me
See me
See me
Don't be mean to me because this and that
See me
See me
See me as the sun and moon
See me.
(Angel)

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
made spechcs and led marchers.
Inspired people, kind to people
and himself.

Ruby Bridges,
kind to herself,
broke rules
to break racism,
like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A girl
Went in a white school.
Inspired little girl.
I wish I could meet you.
And you are the same,
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
And Ruby Bridges.
(Kimari)



Empathetic
Mindful
Intelligent
Loving
Youthful
(Emily)

Awesome
Loving
Exotic
Xbox
Artist
Nice
Dangerous
Extravagant
Resilient

My name means defender of men. My name was
chosen because my grandmother was named
Alejandro. **(Alexander)**

My Fair Skin

My fair skin brings up questions
definitely if you have seen my parents.
My fair skin is one of the many reasons
why people are racist.
This racism is tearing me down,
making me feel like nothing.
My fair skin makes me me,
but this feeling of not fitting in at all is horrible.
Tell me why my skin is so fair?
Why do I have it?
My parents are black but I am mixed,
Not fully black and not fully white but half and half.
I hate when people call me a half-baked cookie.
I am human.

(Olivia)



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)**

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)



THE ARTS



ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

I want to be the first in my family to graduate from a Division 1 college or university or maybe working with kids that are living in poverty and inventing something to help the Black community. For all the goals I have in life or making the setup process of my life, I have to make not good but great CHOICES in life and surround myself with good, hardworking people. **(Jaquez)**



My dream is to be the President of the United States. Before I become the President, I will earn a law degree and be a lawyer. Hopefully, when I run for President, people will vote for me because of my extra experience. **(Anna)**

My main goal is to get a 4.0 GPA. If I get a 4.0 I

can do almost every other life goal I have. I can get into a historically Black College and become a surgeon, or OB/GYN, or anything in the medical field. Getting a 4.0 opens a lot more doors and opportunities. **(Javé)**



Well, for a long time I've been saying that I want to do something medicine-related. Maybe something like urology, or another doctoral path, but for now I think I'm still set on that. My younger brother Kingston has autism, and just growing up with him and seeing the differences in how his brain works compared to someone who's neurotypical is really interesting, and that on its own made me want to do more research about it. **(Zawadi)**

SPECIAL GUESTS

MOVEMENT WITH KEENA

All year, Keena Atkinson, Odyssey alum and founder of R'oujie Wellness, has brought movement and joy to our Odyssey Junior classes—most recently the Baby Badgers! Keena works with students to develop their confidence, self-regulation, and teamwork skills through dance, yoga, and community building exercises.



AUTHOR VISIT: BAPTISTE PAUL

Baptiste Paul, author, speaker, environmentalist, and activist, joined Odyssey Junior for an inspiring evening of sharing stories, signed books, and lots of student questions! His newest book *Dear You, Dream Big!* is “a powerful, lyrical anthem of Black pride celebrating Black creativity, leadership, and innovation.”



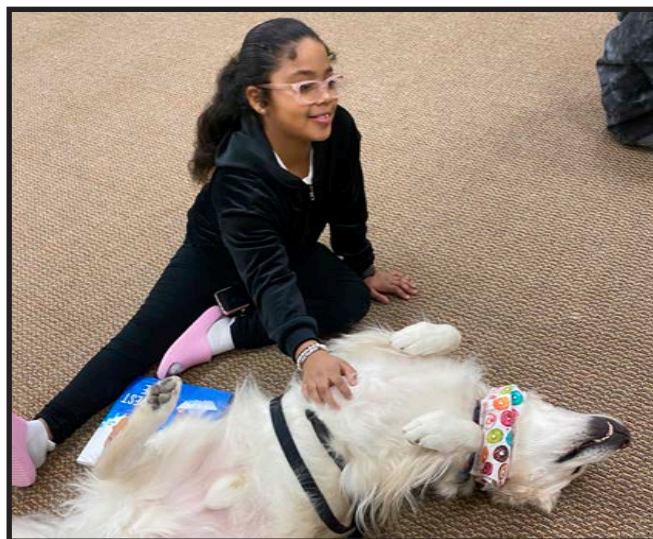
DOCTORS OUGHT TO CARE – UW MADISON MEDICAL SCHOOL

Students from UW Madison’s medical school joined us for an evening of learning about different organ systems and how we can take care of ourselves. Many brave students had the opportunity to hold real organs from people who donated their bodies to science.



READ TO A DOG WITH GO TEAM THERAPY DOGS!

Odyssey Junior kids love it when they get to read to the Go Team Therapy Dogs.



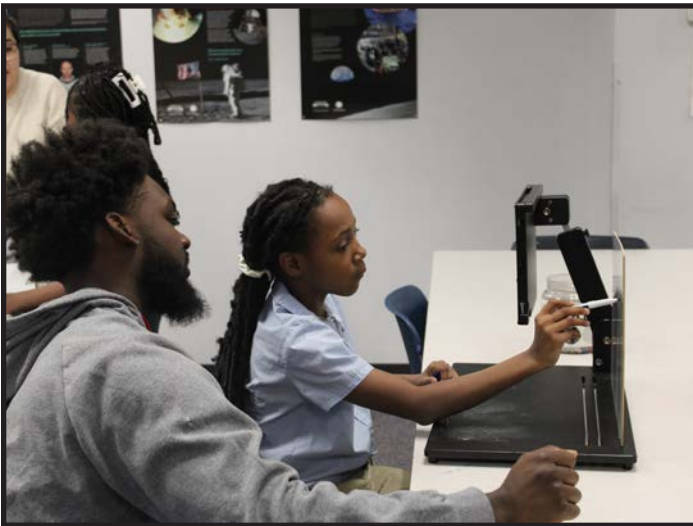


LITERALLY ARTS

Literally Arts regularly visits our scouts classroom and incorporates art, music, and movement centered around a children's book.



SPECIAL MOMENTS



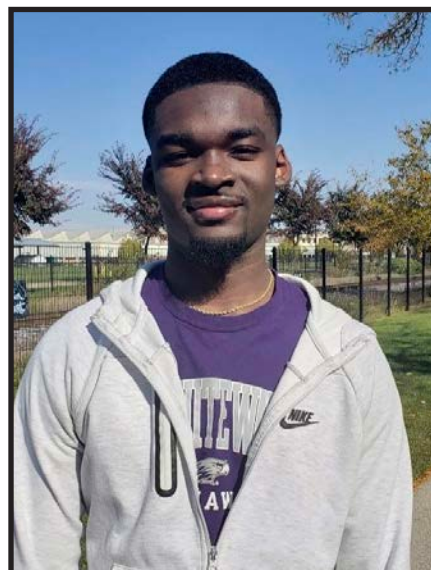
ALUMNI CORNER

Zawadi has been accepted to UW Madison as a pre-nursing student. She continued on Odyssey Junior staff with the Voyagers this year.



Anna is wrapping up her first year at UW Madison. She says, "My first year at The University of Wisconsin Madison has been demanding, but these challenges have pushed me, made me stronger, and reminded me just how much resilience I carry within me."

K'Shawn is transferring to M State in Minnesota to play football. He joined the Odyssey Junior staff for the Voyagers this year.



Jayda is graduating from UW Madison this May with her Bachelor of Science in Psychology. She currently works at The Beacon, is interested in a career in mental health, and is considering applying to grad school. When asked what she enjoyed most about UW, she said: "The people. I liked the conversations with peers. It was always eye-opening. We shared similar viewpoints on society."



Chris is graduating from high school this year and will start attending UW Madison in the fall. He returned to Odyssey Junior as a volunteer for the Voyagers this semester.

