

ISSUE 4

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ODYSSEY JUNIOR

ORACLE



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Thank you to the following staff and volunteers of Odyssey Junior:

Baby Badgers: Raquel Diaz, Lulu Albarran Morales, Aida Bouzit, Cecilia Enriquez, Morgan Kelley

Scouts: Karla Holguin Espino, Yatziri Ortega, Courtney Snoberger, Milagros Urdaneta, Anna Uriostegui (Junior grad), Amy Basel, Becky Wheeler

Explorers: KaBao Thao, Latrice Johnson, Brenna Kelley, Ashley Rojas-Edge, Gabby Schreiber, Lyn Tschanz

Voyagers: Ozanne Anderson ('08), K'Shawn Gibbs (Junior grad), Zawadi Ozulamoï (Junior grad), Shantrice Solis, Riley Lynch, Prisma Ruacho, Lindsey Starrett

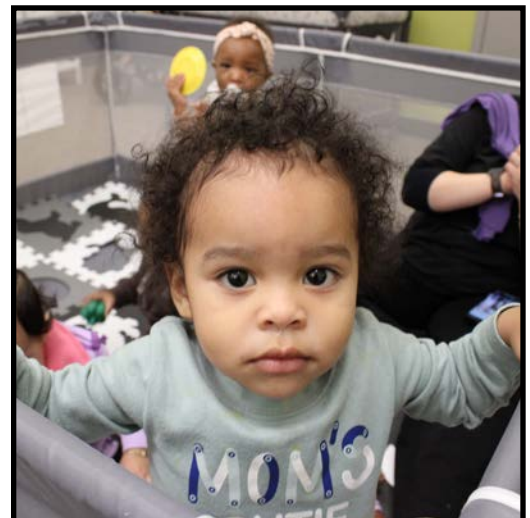
Teens: Angie Bazan, Deshawn McKinney, Lola Belchinsky

Support Staff: Marlon Anderson, Keena Atkinson ('10), Ron Buford ('20), Adelaide Rosene

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BABY BADGERS



SCOUTS



EXPLORERS



VOYAGERS



GRADUATION

As Odyssey's Class of 2026 approaches their graduation on April 29th, our Odyssey Junior students have shared messages to their parents and ideas for how they will celebrate!



I will celebrate by making food for my mom.
And I will cheer for her! **Noah, 2nd grade**

I am proud of her for stepping out of her comfort zone. **Adore, 2nd grade**



You are so strong, keep going mom. It inspires me how dedicated you are. I'm proud of you and I'm kind of scared. You know that happy feeling when you're kind of scared? When I see her graduate, I'll be excited for her and there might be tears. **Genesis, 3rd grade**

I want to tell my mom I love her very much and I would be nothing without her. She is amazing.
Jojo, 3rd grade



She is a star. You remind me of the rainbows that I see. She's going to be whatever she wants to be. She is successful.
Khaliyah, 3rd grade

I'm proud of her, but also sad because I want to keep going to Odyssey. You are a...

Gorgeous
Right
Amazing
Diva
Universal
Awesome
Terrific
Excellent
Lauren, 5th grade



Congratulations, I'm so proud of you.
Zamauri, 6th grade

SUPERHEROES

It's a bird... it's a plane... it's our Odyssey Junior superheroes!

Quiero el poder de arana como Spiderman. **Rey, 3 years old**

I want to make fire so I can roast marshmallows and have a sleepover. **LaDarris, 4k**

My dad is my superhero. He is a good listener. **Journi, 1st grade**

My mom is a superhero. She helps me with my homework and helps me be good. My superpower is I can be invisible. **Marshall, 1st grade**



My mom is my superhero because she takes care of me. Journi's superpower is she is nice! I have climbing powers and super speed. **Khaiyden, 1st grade**

My superpower is making art. **Fatima, 1st grade**

My mom is my superhero because she is always there for me. **Joshua, 1st grade**

My superpower is always telling the truth. My mama's superpower is she makes people feel better about themselves. **Adore, 2nd grade**

My superpower would be to erase people's memories when they are fighting and make them apologize. **Cindy, 2nd grade**

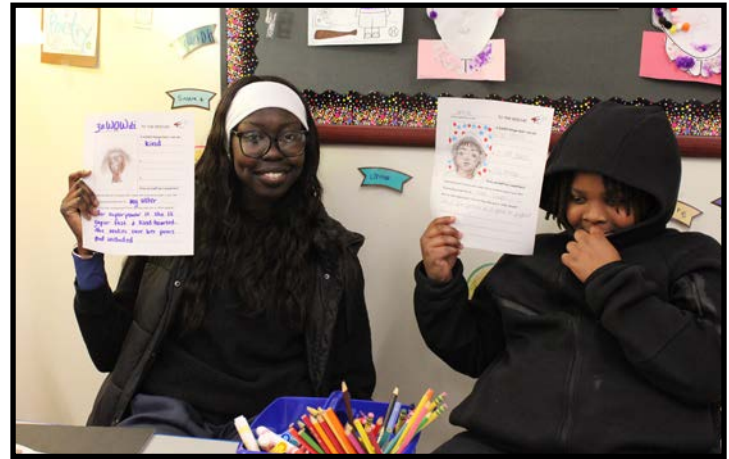
My superpower would be to hear animals and insects in English. My superheroes are my family, cat, hamster, and bird. My cat is a teleporter! **Noah, 2nd grade**

If I could have a superpower, I would fly and talk to animals. My real life power is when I'm in the shower and water comes out of my hands. And I'm really good at parkour. **Josiah, Kindergarten**



The victorious Voyagers used their superpowers to save the world! But... the scheming teachers gave all their superpowers a side effect! Oh no!

Khaliyah, 3rd grade: makes people kind / side effect: also makes people act silly



Jojo, 3rd grade: teleportation / side effect: can only teleport as far as she can see

Jaleyah, 3rd grade: stretches like Elastic Girl / side effect: unstretches reaaaaally slowly

Lauren, 5th grade: moves things with her mind / side effect: can only move things that rhyme with her name

Kaleb, 5th grade: death stare / side effect: downgraded to a slightly injurious side eye

Nyree, 6th grade: healing / side effect: must sleep for 48 hours after healing Superheroes



POETRY OPEN MIC

*After reading the poem **Change Sings** by Amanda Gorman, students found poems they liked and performed them in front of the class.*

The Rose That Grew from Concrete written by Tupac Shakur,
read by **Omarion**

Did you hear about the rose that grew
from a crack in the concrete?
Proving nature's law is wrong it
learned to walk with out having feet.
Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams,
it learned to breathe fresh air.
Long live the rose that grew from concrete
when no one else even cared.



Dreams written by Langston Hughes, read by **Khaliyah**

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.
Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

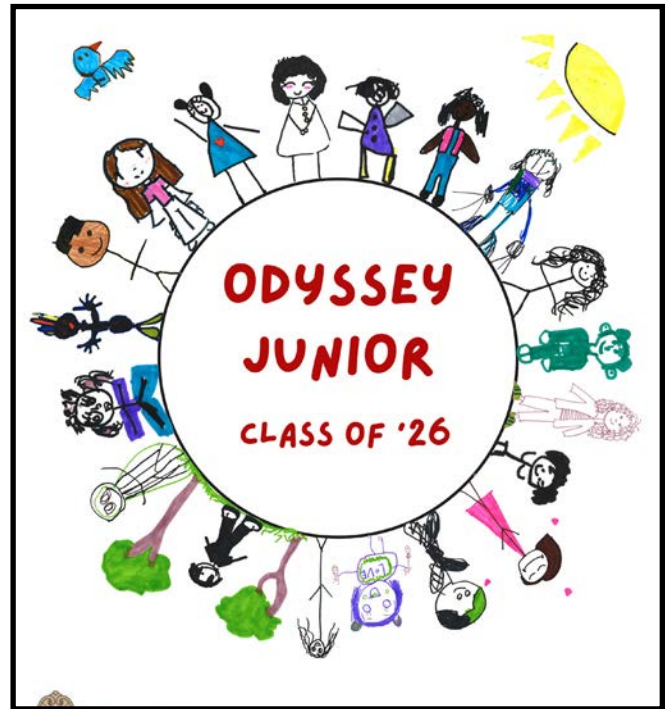
Excerpt from *Change Sings* written by Amanda Gorman,
read by **De'Zaria**

Change sings where? There! Inside me.
Because I'm the change I want to see.
As I grow, it grows like seeds.
I am just what the world needs.
I'm the voice where freedom rings.
You're the love your bright heart brings.
We are the wave starting to spring.
For we are the change we sing.
We're what the world is becoming,
And we know it won't be long.
We all hear change strumming.
Won't you sing along?



DESIGNING THE ODYSSEY JUNIOR T-SHIRT

The Scouts, Explorers, and Voyagers all contributed self-portrait stick figures to this year's Odyssey Junior t-shirt! Artwork credit to Jojo, Khaiyden, Khaliyah, Noah, Shantrice, Jaleyah, Riley, Germani, Zaria, Xzayvion, Nylah, De'Zariea, Ayden, LaDarris, Zyrie, Josiah, Zamauri, and Lauren.



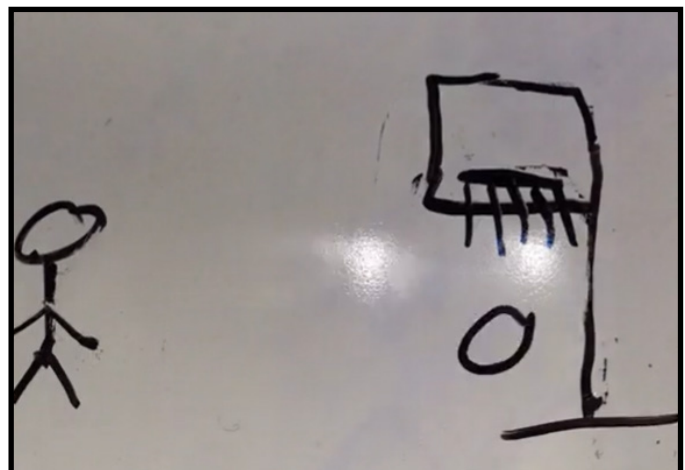
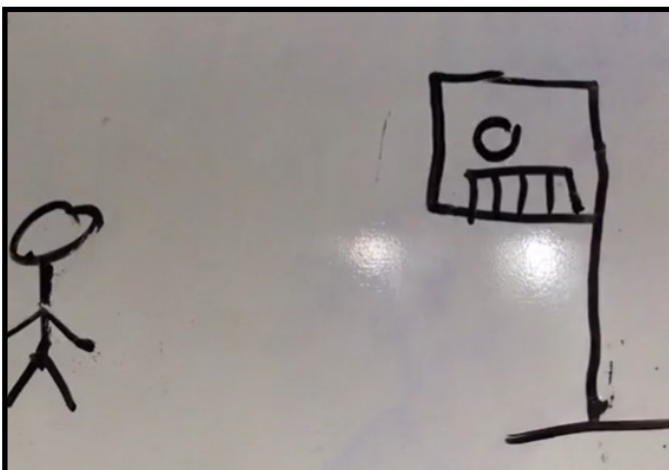
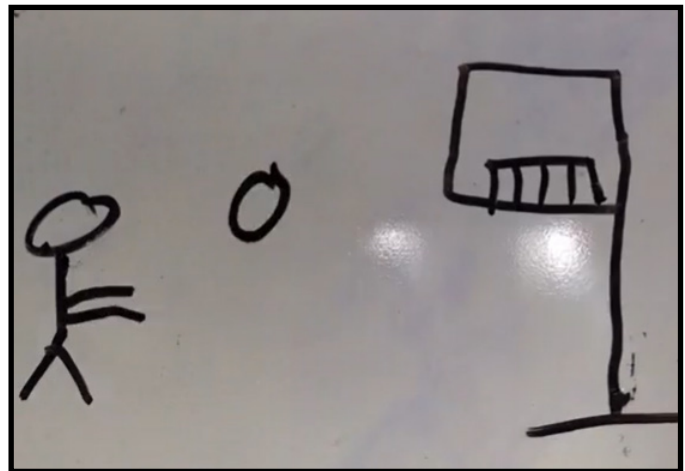
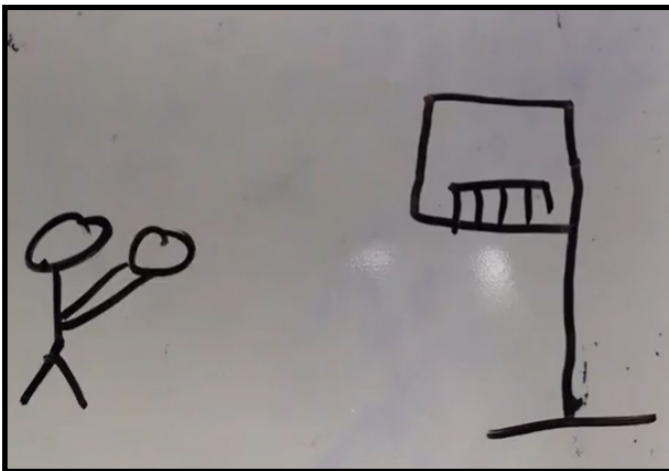
READ TO A DOG

During Go Team Therapy Dogs' monthly visits, Odyssey Junior students read aloud to the non-judgmental (and furry) audience of Gary, Zinnia, and Riverbelle.



ANIMATION WORKSHOP

The Voyagers had the opportunity to learn about stop motion animation from Nate Clark, a senior animator on the film Project Hail Mary, and draw their own short stories.



ODYSSEY TEEN

America's Black Holocaust Museum

Over spring break, the teens took a field trip to Milwaukee to visit America's Black Holocaust Museum. ABHM builds public awareness of the harmful legacies of slavery and Jim Crow in America and promotes racial repair, reconciliation, and healing.

I learned where I come from and where my Black culture comes from. Lots of this stuff we don't learn in school and I am really grateful. **Trinity, 9th grade**

To me this field trip meant looking at where my ancestors came from and where my roots are. Thank you for letting us experience this. **Miguel, 9th grade**



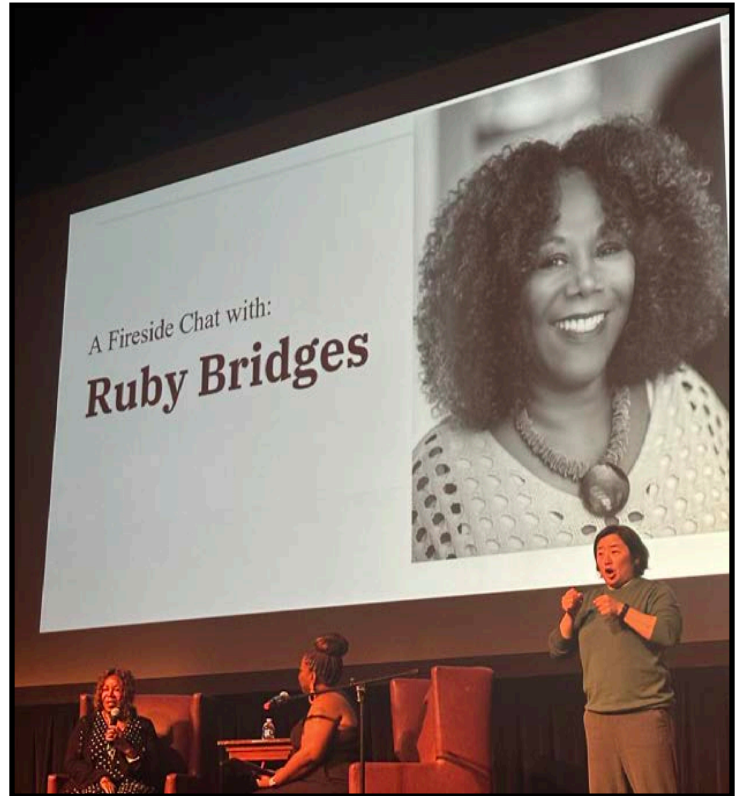
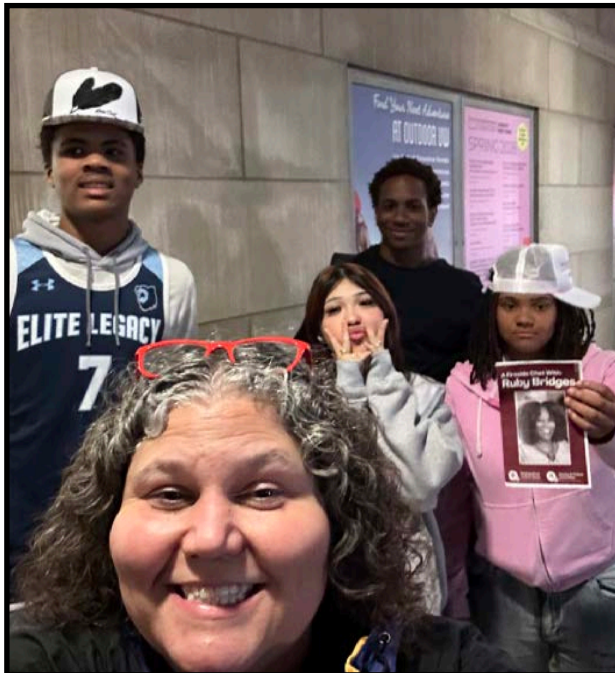
It meant a lot seeing images of what happened even if it was graphic. I like that they were showing me the real thing. I'm going to tell my mom and teachers about what I learned because I've never really heard these things and I want to know why. **Jasmin, 10th grade**

To me it was an eye opener for my own racial history. There's a lot of things I knew already, but what I did learn was very impactful to me. **Dae'vion, 12th grade**



Ruby Bridges, Author & Civil Rights Activist

On April 8th, the teens had the opportunity to attend a “Fireside Chat with Ruby Bridges” on the UW campus. Ruby Bridges shared her experience of being the first child, at the age of six, to attend an all-white school after desegregation laws were federally enforced. After the event, the teens reflected on their own experiences of racism in education and how important it is for people to share their stories.



Music Lessons

All year, Mane has been participating in guitar lessons leading up to the UW Summer Music Clinic that will happen this summer. This is an opportunity that will continue to be available to all Odyssey Teen participants in the future!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT (ANNA)



Where are you in your educational journey? What steps did you take to get there?

Currently, I am a sophomore at UW Madison in the School of Human Ecology majoring in Human Development and Family Sciences. To get to university, I started applying to different colleges in January of my senior year. I got accepted into colleges and my top choice was UW Madison! In May, I graduated from high school and the following fall started my next chapter as a Badger. I came into college as a biology major on a path to become a physician's assistant. While being in university, I had the opportunity to further explore my interests and other majors I had never heard of, which pivoted me to the major I'm in now, HDFs. HDFs is all about learning how families function, how children develop, and how individuals grow throughout life.

When were you in Odyssey Junior? What do you remember about your family's time with Odyssey?

I was 8 years old when I first attended Odyssey Junior. Our class was actually held across the street at the Madison Public Library. The classroom was a mix of kids of all ages; nonetheless, it was a family I came to love and look forward to meeting with every Wednesday. My two older brothers and



cousin shared this space with me as well. It was very fun! I came to Odyssey Junior years later as a high school senior. Both times Odyssey Junior created a welcoming and safe classroom for me to retreat to during the week, a place where I could share ideas, have meaningful discussions, and just have fun. At the end of my senior year, Odyssey granted me a scholarship to start my next journey in life. I am now a classroom assistant in the Scouts classroom. I love being able to come back to Odyssey every Wednesday and create similar experiences for others that I had.

What advice would you share with kids who are in Odyssey Junior now?

I believe that we have dreams placed in our hearts, and we should further explore and pursue them. With that being said, never ever let anyone or anything stop you from chasing those dreams. I often feel that at times we can let our own doubts or feelings stop us from pursuing what we want. Because we are nervous, fearful things may go wrong. Sometimes, even people may try to tell you what you can or cannot accomplish, but don't listen to them either! Know that you are capable of all the dreams placed in your heart. There are people who want to help and see you succeed, and everyone who is part of this family at Odyssey has that support. Odyssey is a family that champions one another, helps us grow, and reminds us that we are never alone chasing our dreams.



If you have any questions about university, applying, majors, or higher education, please don't hesitate to stop by the Scouts room or find me in the Odyssey space. I would love to talk more and help you with any questions!



ODYSSEY JUNIOR GOES TO THE CIRCUS

Odyssey Junior's annual spring event with Madison Circus Space was so much fun! Thank you to everyone who came to tumble, fly, and brave the wheel.

