

PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE

A look back into this year's performance

writer maddie bolton

designer avery cai

photo credits avery cai

Orangelight Production's Performance Ensemble class put on a show unlike any show they've done in recent years. Reminiscent of the classic B-movie style films from the '50s, it brought new and hilariously exciting things to the stage.

Performance Ensemble is a class for either experienced people in theater or for students who want to do theater but can't do it outside of the school day. The class is taught by Theater Teacher Cathy Swain-Abrams.

"We get the people who want to be a part of the class and whoever's in that class, and we then pick a show," senior actor Jonathan West said.

In this production, he played the announcer, a form of narrator for the show. There is no audition process for the show; the cast list is based on how these actors previously worked in the program.

This show is a condensed version of a larger show, and because of that a lot of things have been 'cut for time,' which is a running joke in the show that the announcer explains.

"My character in the show is very interesting. He is labeled as the announcer, but he is more like a narrator or a radio show host," West said.

In "ATTACK! of the Killer Man from the Sun", the show started in the Ion's dining room with four scientists, played by Catch Haney, Lyh Silve, Alyssa Alexander and Mary Lundquist.

And the star Lou Ion, played by senior Nic Franklin, tries to find the

cause of potentially deadly solar flares from the sun.

Anne Ion, Lou's wife, played by sophomore Natalie Deutchendorf, interrupts the scientists. The scientists leave and Anne's oftentimes forgetful sister Suzan shows up, played by Laynie Groves.

"We had a lot shorter of a deadline with this one. And it being a performance ensemble show, it was all student created!" Franklin said.

"We start to separate into groups relating to each tech aspect. Those groups start to focus more on that specific part of tech, as well as acting and getting memorized," West said.

Before dinner, there's another knock on the door. A park ranger, played by junior Sam Hardjono,

informs them about the danger of a creature lurking in the forest.

Then, a pair of aliens from outer space are at their door, played by senior Ben Martin and sophomore Sallie Peters. The pair is disguised as humans; the Ions don't suspect a thing.

"During this show, we definitely had a bigger time separation and had to use time management more. We had only a limited amount of time, and this show had specific sets that we need to make," West said.

The aliens have almost an exact copy of the device that Lou invented earlier, and they are also in search of The Creature.

"This was the most fun I've ever had with a show due to its over the top and campy nature," Franklin said.

"The most exciting fun part was when we read the show for the first time. Because when we did our first table read, I could not stop laughing," West said.

In the forest, the group of heroes run into The Killer Man from the Sun, played by Maddie Bolton, and he declares he is going to eradicate the human race.

"Lou has a lot of fast and very complex lines and that required a lot of memorization and delivery work," Franklin said.

Unhappy with how the story was going to end, the Announcer rewrites the story during the show and makes the heroes run into The Creature's played by Catch Haney.

In the end, the Killer Man from the Sun defeats the Creature, and he decides not to kill the humans and the story ends with the real ending being cut for time.

With the last scene being cut for time.



Junior Sam Hardjono shakes hands with sophomore Robert Franklin. Sophomore, Natalie Deutchendorf stands to the left of Hardjono.



SCHEDULING

what students need to know for next year

writer **peyton johnson**
designer **mia harrington**

With the first semester coming to an end, students begin to think about what classes they will take next school year.

While finding classes, students must decide if they want to graduate with honors or regular and plan their classes accordingly. If striving for College Prep graduation, students should assure they have four credits in English, math, science and social studies, along with two to three foreign language credits and one to two elective courses.

“There is a folder in the Student Services Schoology page that has all the graduation requirements as well as the requirements for the

academic honors diploma,” Guidance Counselor Sarah Hanna said.



When students pick their classes at the end of the school year, they must submit the form into School Links. School Links is the final form for school counselors to assign students classes for the following semester.

“Students will need to complete their schedule card and put their

requests in PowerSchool before meeting with their counselor. Their counselor will meet with them to go over the requests and answer any questions,” Hanna said.

For students, scheduling for classes on their own can give them more of a real feel for the college experience when they need to be independent in their class pickings. Beginning the scheduling process in high school is one extra process that prepares students to be successful in college.

“Scheduling your own classes can help you think through how to manage your time, learn prioritization and balance different responsibilities. These are all really important to know how to do while living independently in college,” High said.



AN ORANGE CHRISTMAS



how OOHS celebrates the holidays

writer **lacie knick**
designer **mia harrington**

When the holiday season arrives, many traditions come to life again. Popular activities are the Elf on the Shelf, drinking hot coco, going to see Christmas lights and baking and decorating cookies.

The high school community specifically participates in fun winter activities. Specifically, girls wrestling and journalism participated in a Secret Santa gift exchange. Additionally, the choir program performed a flash mob at the Polaris Shopping Mall.

“We decorated the day after Thanksgiving, and throughout the Christmas season we watch Christmas shows and movies,” sophomore Abbey Simmons said.

At the high school, many students celebrated holidays other than Christmas. For example, other December holidays include Hanukkah, Bohdi Day and Kwanzaa, according to Time Magazine.

“We celebrate Eid- al-fitr and Eid-al-adha. I like to call them ‘little’ Eid and ‘big’ Eid, which comes after Ramadan, our 30 days of fasting,” senior Dua Rahim said.

Even though Rahim doesn’t celebrate Christmas, she participated in some of the Christmas activities that are thrust upon her.

“I still love it! The busy streets and how everyone is excited for it honestly makes it one of the best times of the year. The Christmas movies add a cherry on top!” Rahim said.

For some families, the traditions started the night before Christmas, on Christmas Eve.

“My brothers and I had a sleepover in one of our rooms, and my mom always reads the night before,” junior Camille Ramey said.

On Christmas morning, it’s common for family’ traditions to include unwrapping gifts and eating good food.

“We like to wake up in the morning and open Christmas presents first thing. Then, my mom cooked us all breakfast,” junior Lexie Riley said.

Even though students at the high school celebrated differently, each way is unique and highlights the different cultures the school represents.

TRAVELING VS. STAYING

traveling vs. staying home on the holidays

writer **grace bozic**
designer **avery cai**

Winter break and the holidays are times spent with family and friends no matter where somebody physically is. Many people choose to stay home or only travel to close relatives, but however recently there are more people wanting to travel and vacation over the longer break.

According to theVacationeer.com, 50.44 percent of people are traveling over the holidays. Over half of people use the break to take on an adventure and see new places.

“My dad is taking my sister and I on a long trip over break for our Christmas present this year. We are going to Rome, Dubai, Thailand and on the way home he’s surprising us with one more stop,” senior Isabella Boetcher said.

Many people would argue that traveling causes people to spend less time with family and is very costly. However, there are many activities to enjoy on vacation, and it’s fun to visit new places.

“Even though I’m far away from

my family, I’m still going to have so much fun with my dad and sister. I’m really excited to go to Thailand for the second time now because it’s really warm, and they have good food and places to shop,” Boetcher said.

Many people go on vacation and celebrate the holidays with their whole family. It can be nice to get a change of scenery and go somewhere warmer for the holidays.

“I really like going to the beach and getting tan over break, and I’m really excited to see my extended family,” senior Lauren Moorhead said.

Moorhead is going to Miami, Florida with her whole family to celebrate Christmas on the beach. According to Americansky.co, some top destinations to travel to in the United States over winter break include anywhere in Florida, California, Chicago and the most popular being New York City.

“I always go to Miami over winter break; it’s like a family tradition. We have our family Christmas there, and it’s just a perk that it’s on the beach and so warm,” Moorhead said.

Though traveling is fun and a different environment for the holiday season, some enjoy staying at home and doing fun activities around their community. It also saves money that could be saved for another trip in the summer or something else.

“I always visit my family for Christmas and do fun activities with my friends like a gift exchange, skiing and seeing Christmas lights,” senior Emily Zimpfer said.

There are many fun things that people can do near their homes for break. Around Central Ohio there are fun malls like Easton and Polaris to shop at or go to the zoo and visit the Zoolights.

Winter break can also be a nice way to relax after a stressful semester at school. Students can catch up on sleep and not worry about school and homework after they studied for exams and had a nerve-racking past month.

“I prefer to spend my break inside in the warm, cozy air. I like to watch Christmas movies. It’s very calming and relaxing,” Zimpfer said.

*“Stay home because I can sleep in and hang out with my friends and go sledding,”
freshman Sid Sharma said.*

“I’d rather stay home since celebrating Christmas at home is much more comfortable, and I’m able to relax more,” junior Connor Rhoden said.

“I would rather stay home because I could hang out with my friends and family and spend quality time,” sophomore Jaanvi Alluri said.

“Stay home because I’m such a home body. I’d rather be somewhere to celebrate a holiday that is familiar to me with my family,” senior Isabella De La Rosa said.



WINTER SPORTS



preview into the winter sports seasons

writer kenzie carder
designer mia harrington

Winter athletes have been working hard as they progress through their rigorous seasons. To start off, boys basketball has had an incredible start to its season, winning the first three games.

"I'm looking forward to having fun with the team and making a deep tournament run this year," sophomore basketball player Grant Miller said.

Girls basketball has also had a great start with a 3-6 record to start off the season. Ice hockey started off its season record with a 4-8-2 record, with wins over Liberty and Gahanna

Lincoln.

Gymnastics has started its season off well placing second as a team at the first meet with junior Macy Medley placing first in the All Around.

Girls wrestling has competed in five competitions so far and took second place out of 70 teams at the prestigious Women of Iron Man tournament.

"My favorite part of the season so far has been the All Star meet (a preview event) because even though not everyone wrestled in it so many people on our team came to support and that was amazing to see," junior team captain girls wrestler Lexie Riley said.

Boys wrestling has had four competitions thus far, taking first at its second competition: the Cooper McCabe Invite and having three champs. Girls swim has had a successful start to its season taking second and the Ned Reeb meet with senior Lauren Moorhead leading the way. Boys swim has also done well for itself placing 15th at the Ned Reeb meet.

Boys and girls bowling both competed at the Worthington Kilbourne Baker Classic at the beginning of their season on Dec 2. Girls finished seventh with 1650 points and boys finished tenth with 2456 points.

VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT GUIDE

what to gift loved ones on feb. 14

writer emily zimpfer
designer mia harrington
photo credits emily zimpfer

February is the big month where love is in the air. Valentine's Day is an important day mostly to spend time with loved ones but another tradition on this day is gift giving. Giving gifts can be difficult to give something that encapsulates how much they appreciate one another but there are plenty of options.

One of the most impactful gifts one could give is a personalized gift. Anything that is a symbol of the relationship, anything meaningful or that is time consuming. This can be a handmade gift or card or a gift with pictures of the couple.

"A year ago, I learned how to crochet for my girlfriend. This year for Valentine's Day, I am making her a bouquet of crocheted flowers," senior

Benjamin Wisneski said.

Another meaningful gift is either a scrapbook or a photobook created online. Scrapbooks are more personalized, but it can take a lot of time and can be costly. Photobooks can range in price and are easier to make.

The prices for photo books range depending on the size, but the cheapest is \$12.99 with quick shipping and accessible promo codes, according to shutterfly.com.

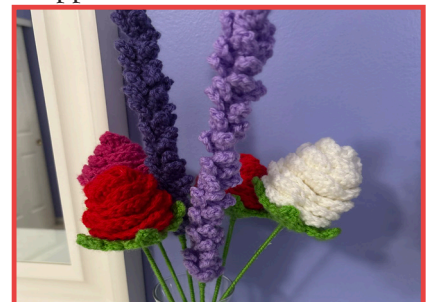
The importance of Valentine's Day isn't all about gift giving; it's also about spending time with loved ones. Planning a day that involves quality time with each other is most important like going shopping, pottery painting or cooking a meal at home and watching movies together.

"We probably just watch a bunch of movies at home and maybe go shopping. We will probably go to a

nice restaurant in the evening, too," senior Allison Estes said.

The biggest thing to take into consideration when giving and/or making a gift, is the amount of effort and time put into it. It's more special when someone receives something that the gift giver clearly put a lot of love into.

"I spend a lot of time making gifts that let her know how much I love and appreciate her," Wisneski said.



Personal Valentine's Day gift made by senior Ben W. for his girlfriend.



SENIORITIS

how to beat the infamous senioritis

writer nathan staten
designer kenzie carder
photo credits kenzie carder

Senioritis is defined as a negative condition in which many high school seniors face. This condition most often comes in the form of less care for academics but can sometimes just be worsening academic performance in general. This struggle to continue to buy into academics usually stems from already being accepted into colleges but sometimes can set in even before that.

At the high school, senioritis often takes form in senior skip-days, reduced difficulty in academic schedules and a

lack of care for their grades.

One of the best ways for seniors to prevent senioritis is to create smart goals throughout the year. Consistently setting academic standards for themselves will help them continue to succeed.

Another way to avoid a senior slump is to build a large focus on one's future. For example, seniors could spend time researching career and collegiate life paths for after high school. For students pursuing colleges, there are lots of scholarship and other college opportunities for next year that they can begin applying for and showing interest in now.

Also, for future college students,

it's important to remember senior year grades aren't completely irrelevant like many students mistake them to be. Final transcripts will be sent to colleges, as well as mid-year reports for specific schools and scenarios.

At the end of the day, seniors have been putting in the work for over three years now and deserve some slack during their final year of high school. As long as their senioritis doesn't go too far, it's OK for students who've been accepted to colleges to relieve some stress as they enter the next chapter of their lives.

THE LENGTH OF WINTER BREAK

it's beneficial to have a longer break

writer grace bozic
designer kenzie carder
photo credits kenzie carder

Students' alarms are blaring. It's 6:30 a.m. on Jan. 8, and it's the first regular day back from winter break. It's cold, and everyone has to get up early again after sleeping in for over two weeks. This day has been dreaded since winter break started.

Many students complain about coming back to school so early after New Year's. Winter break can be packed with activities and traveling, and students need some time to relax after New Year's is over.

According to Michigan Daily, "Since winter break falls during the holiday season, it is often filled with social commitments that are time-consuming and can sometimes be more taxing than relaxing."

On winter break, families and

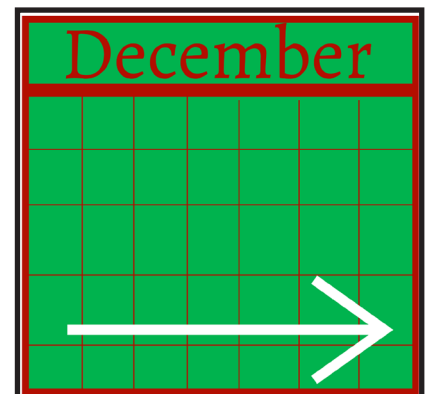
relatives are in town and multiple family and social activities can happen in one day making people exhausted and having time to recuperate is lost. After many months of being academically drained at school, students need a break to recharge.

According to Trojaneer.com, "Coming off of finals, many students tend to use their winter break as a time to wind down and relax after their stressful week of school. The students may not be able to fully relax, especially with the New Year's Day activities that concluded just two days before their return."

There are more beneficial ways to come back from winter break than coming back so close to the holidays and so abruptly. An extra week of winter break would allow students to have an adequate amount of time to reset so they could continue to produce work that they are proud of

without continuing to feel the stress of their previous semester.

A survey conducted by PrincetonReview said, "More than 50 percent of students reported feeling stressed, and 25 percent reported that homework was their biggest source of stress and on average teens are spending one-third of their study time feeling stressed, anxious or stuck."





WINTER ACTIVITIES



students' opinions on chilly pastimes

writer **ava mejia**
designer **ava mejia**

According to a poll conducted with all OOHS journalism students

Skiing & snowboarding

“My favorite part about snowboarding is that I am always improving, and I get to spend a lot of time with my friends who also snowboard. I love finding a way to enjoy the winter weather,” junior Mya Maher said.



Snowball fights & building snowman

“My favorite part about building snowmen and having snowball fights is that you can be with friends and family celebrating fun times outdoors,” freshman Griffin Takacs said.



Watching movies with cookies and hot chocolate

“Watching a movie is a great way to spend quality time with my friends and family without spending energy. Drinking hot chocolate makes me feel homey,” senior Izzy Wilson said.



Pioneer Pride Bars:

Emme Hendon
Andrew Stein
Kaiden Hilbrand
Dylan Williams
Jaquel Napier
Christopher Hunter
Noah McAdow
Nathan Tomeik
John McClary

Michael Hiatt
Corey Levy
Tania Carrillos Morales
Pedro Andrade
Samarah Nazzal
Julieta Colina Dominguez
Avni Barve
Cruz Sanchez
Khalil Thompson

Kablet Nutter
Will Abbott
Dominic LaRosa
Yassin Jalloh
Gabirel Rivera Silva
Jarred Hickman
Norah Watts
Erja Sparkuhl
Savanna Smith
Sophia Robinson

Students of the Month:

Leena Glass
Devin Ward Strakowski
Rubi Marinov
Nicholas Liberti
William Gleckler
Annabell Chan
Adolf Njonjo
Bella Ndinga Mbappe
Ava Mejia