

Olive Branch Newsletter

◆ Written 100% by Students ◆

MAY ISSUE

VOLUME I

BY OUR STUDENTS, FOR EVERYONE

◆ IN THIS ISSUE ◆

● Why We Should Get a Pet Hamster

by Reza · Level 2

● An Unfair Soccer Game

by Ayub · Level 2

● Sparkle and Sparkly

by Hafsa · Level 1

● Video Games

by Ashkan · Level 2

● Lavenders

by Sophia B. · Level 2

● The Poetry Corner

Maria, Yusof, Nada, Qasim & Hamzah · Level 3



PERSUASIVE LETTER · A NOTE TO MR. HESHAM

Why We Should Get a Pet Hamster

by Reza **Level 2**

Did you know that hamsters give you lots of love and are very active? Hamsters are very good pets because they give you lots of love, follow you, and roll around. I believe that if we get a hamster we can put it in a hamster ball and let it follow you.

First, playing with a hamster makes them love you more. Scientists learned that hamsters are related to guinea pigs. When hamsters love you, they will be around you more.

Second, hamsters help you learn more about what food they eat and what habitat they live in. When I read "Cat Ninja" I learned what hamsters do and eat. When you're bored a hamster can give you lots of attention. Being with hamsters will make you like them more.

Lastly, hamsters teach you more about rodents. In conclusion, playing with a hamster reduces stress. It makes the hamster love you more. So today play with your hamster and it'll thank you.





OPINION · GAME RECAP

An Unfair Soccer Game

by Ayub **Level 2**

When was the game? Who did we play against? Where did we play? So many questions. I will start answering them. The game took place at the Soccerplex on Saturday May 3rd. This game was against The Sharks. Next we are going to play Sharks United Blue. I think it would make more sense if their name was United Blue Sharks.

I thought this was unfair because we played in the league that is for 6-8 years olds. But their team looked like they were 7-11 years old. Still, we won the game. After the Sharks United Blue, we play The Wolverines. After that, I dunno who we play.

Their players numbered 3, 6, and 12 should have left the game because they looked like they were 9, 10, and 11 years old. It's not fair because they are older and better than our team. I think it would be better if they are kicked out of the game because they are older than the limit. If they are older than us they are better than us then they should be kicked out of the team. They should be kicked out because they are too old to play in this league. I think it matters because they are too old to play. As you can see the four reasons you can ask yourself if it makes sense. The other side might not care. You can talk to the referee about the age allowed. So the other team cares about age. IF they don't, then talk to the referee more. Then eventually they will be kicked out of the game. If we play them next year maybe we will beat them again because the good players were kicked out and the bad ones probably took over/filled in.



I think it would make more sense if their name was United Blue Sharks.



STORY · ONCE UPON A TIME

Sparkle and Sparkly

by Hafsa **Level 1**

Once upon a time there were two little shiny birds and their names were Sparkle and Sparkly. The pink was Sparkle and the purple was Sparkly. One day Sparkle and Sparkly went to a treehouse. From the treehouse they saw tiny cute turtles, colors of gold and silver. Then it was almost nighttime. They were tired and then went to bed.





FEATURE · TIPS FOR PLAYERS

Video Games

by Ashkan **Level 2** · with support from Yusof, Level 3

Video games can be a fun activity. You can play video games on different devices. These games have different prices and traits.

You can play games on PlayStation 5, Xbox, PC, laptops, smartphones, tablets, Nintendo Switch, and other devices. These devices have different prices. Xbox price is between \$400 to \$800 and Nintendo is \$180 to \$500. You also have to pay for the games. For example, Minecraft costs about \$30 and Nintendo games are between \$30 to \$80.

Video games can be scary, interesting, long, boring, and sometimes weird. Minecraft is the most popular game in the world. The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim game is one of the longest games and many people say it is fun. One of the most boring games in the world is Desert Bus!



Before you buy a console or a game, make sure to do your research.

So, you can find something really fun that you will love to play!



LOCAL NATURE · GARDEN SPOTLIGHT

Lavenders

by Sophia B. **Level 2**

If you want a pretty purple scented flower, then you should take a look at this flower. It's a perfect flower for those who want soothing dreamy purple petals and a long six to twenty inch stem. This flower is the lavender.

The lavenders appearance is soothing and a dreamy purple as well as its six to twenty inch stem. This flower grows in Spain, France, and Italy. It belongs to the mint family and has a wonderful scent just like the mint. Dried lavender is often placed in small pouches and put among stored clothes. This helps the clothes have a fresh smell and helps keep them months away.

Lavender plants best in dry soil and lots of sunlight. English lavenders take fourteen to twenty eight days to sprout and are ready to harvest in one hundred to one hundred ten days. Though, if the air gets too humid, the lavender can get root rot from fungus.

Lavender is native to the Mediterranean region. Lavender is used in food, and medicine. In world war 1, lavender oil was used to disinfect the walls and floors of hospitals. As for food, lavender is used in sugar,

marshmallows, cupcakes, chocolate desserts, syrup and tea. In ancient times, people used to use lavender in baths, cooking, and healing.

FUN FACTS

- Lavenders are often picked by hand.
- Lavenders are often used in soap, and scented water.
- The English word lavender first appeared in the 13th century.
- The Romans used to add lavender to their baths for fragrance.

Lavender can be used in many different ways, and is a very unique flower. It is grown in different places, it is very easy to plant, and has a very nice smell. I'm sure that your garden would love this flower.



The Poetry Corner

Original poems written by our Level 3 students



Maria

Level 3 · 3 poems

Diamonds

Shine bright like a diamond in the sky,
Don't ask why—just do your best, we'll do the rest.
Moving on, the clouds roll by,
Supper time comes drifting nigh.
It's like dancing on a line,
Everything will turn out fine.
I see the stop sign, hear the bus—time to go,
"Yes," I say, I'm ready now, I know.
Vroom, vroom goes the bus through dust,
Racing forward, strong and just.

One Day

One day I was drawing, quiet and shy,
When suddenly I heard a loud little cry.
I didn't know what it was or why—
Just a soft little sound, like a mewling nearby.
I looked all around, my heart asking why,
Then I started to smile as it caught my eye.
A tiny voice echoed, warm and spry,
As if my grandma was saying, "Hi."

Doctor

One day my brother came home in pain,
We went to the doctor the very next day.
He said, "Your muscle has a tear,"
So we listened closely with care.
I told my brother, "Think of a tissue—
Your muscle is fragile, just like it too.
It needs some rest, time to heal,
So take it slow, that's the deal."



Underground

Here I am, deep underground,
Expecting darkness, only brown around.
But then I see a sparkling light,
A tiny glow, so pure and bright.
It shines so strong, so beautiful,
A hidden gem, so wonderful.
Whoever sees it stops in awe,
As if they've never seen before.
Everyone whispers, "Oh my, how good!"
A beauty rare, not understood.
It's bright enough to make me cry,
A shining star beneath the sky.

The Best

I am the best in the game,
I won't lose, no pain, no shame.
No one can defeat me at all,
I will rise, I will stand tall.
I will be the best for eternity,
Strong with power and energy.
I will beat them all, them all,
I will never slip or fall.
No matter who it is, I stand,
Victory shining in my hand.
I will show them my laser flame,
The crowd will roar and shout my name.
Stronger than thunder, fierce as rain,
Power running through my veins.
I will beat them all, them all,
I will answer every call.

Strawberry Elephant

Strawberry elephant, the best in the game,
If someone steals it, you'll feel the pain.
Just because it's a strawberry doesn't mean it's the same,
When it's gone, your tears will fall like rain.

Identity

Ever had some money?
People hop to you like a bunny.
Ever had a penny?
Well, I have many.
I even have a Corvette,
Splashing fast, getting wet.
Through puddles I glide with pride,
Letting my confidence shine inside.
But who I am is more than things,
Not just the wealth or what it brings.
My identity is what I choose to be—
Strong, unique, and truly me.

Game of War

What's that sound beneath the ground?
The earth feels heavy, pound by pound.
Smoke rises thick, the air turns gray,
A silent danger comes our way.
The world is a game, a game of war,
Where every move can settle the score.
An evoker calls, like a player's hand,
Holding power we barely understand.
A joker appears—you never know,
It flips the fate, it steals the show.
One wrong move, and we are done,
Stunned like shadows without the sun.

How I Got Rich

This is the story of how I got rich,
Just don't tell anyone, or you'll be a snitch.
Once I was walking alone through town,
When I saw a treasure chest on the ground.
You wouldn't believe what I found inside—
So much treasure, I could barely hide!
There was money and a golden ring,
Shining bright like a magic thing.
Before anyone came, I grabbed it and ran,
Holding it tight as fast as I can.
But something felt strange with that ring of gold,
There were tiny words carved in its mold.
It said, "Three wishes I grant to you,"
And I knew exactly what I would do.
A McLaren, a mansion, all shiny and new,
And a mini figure—number sixty-seven too!
It felt like heaven, a dream come true,
All from a ring that I never knew.



Nada

Level 3 · 4 poems

Day and Night

On a soft green hill, I sit and stay,
Watching the sky change through the day.
Blue sky in the morning, shining bright,
Blue sky in the morning, full of light.
Fluffy white clouds like cotton go by,
Floating so softly in the wide blue sky.
The wind goes whoo through the tall green grass,
The wind goes whoo as the cool breeze pass.
It tickles my cheeks and lifts my hair,
My brown hair dancing in the air.
Then comes sunset, orange and red,
Then comes sunset, day goes to bed.
Soon the sky turns dark and black,
Soon the sky turns to nighttime black.
On the soft green hill, I sit and see,
The whole sky's story over me.

Sounds of the Day

Owl watching soccer with me, sitting still,
Laughing and cheering on the hill.
The game feels fun, so cool, so real,
A happy moment I can feel.
The wind blows softly, then it rains,
Changing skies and windowpanes.
Splish, splash! goes the school bus fast,
Through puddles wide as it rolls past.
The wind howls loud outside the class,
Ring, ring! the school bell rings at last.
Time to learn, no time to wait,
We hurry in before it's late.
Splat, splat! the rain hits window glass,
While clouds above slowly pass.
Click, click! goes the chalk on board,
As teacher writes each careful word.

My Cat

My cat is so cute, I feel amazing when I see him.
My cat is so cute, I will be with him all evening.
My cat is so fluffy, I love him so much.
Wait until you see his face—you will run to your base.
Stuff your face and leave no trace.
My cat is so cute, I wish he was with me now.
When I see him, he makes me bow just from his meow.

Narrative Elephant

Once me, my old, my peach, my normal baby elephant, my newborn peach elephant, you run across the safari.
Once me, my old, my peach, my normal baby elephant, my newborn pink elephant, the weird pink elephant starts to run faster and faster and faster, and his name was Casper.
Feet start to float, the stars start to look, the sky glows, the sun is so bright, I start to see the light in the night.
It looks like he is floating on a kite.
Now he is over my height.



Qasim

Level 3 · 3 poems

Strawberry Elephant

Strawberry elephant is the best in the game.
It's so good, it's the best ever.
Nobody can get it because it's too rare.
It's so good that only Sammy has it.
I can't believe Sammy spams it, but nobody ever gets it.
Only YouTubers have it.
That's why everybody plays the game.
That's why everybody friends him, so they can have it.

Nooby

Noobiny is the worst in the game, but everybody buys it when they start the game.
Nooby is the worst in the game, Noobiny is the worst in the game.
Everybody buys it with no fame.
I know everybody hates it, even Sammy hates it.
Nooby is the worst in the game, Nooby is the worst in the game, but everybody buys it with no fame.

Ramadan

Ramadan, Ramadan, oh no, oh no, I'm cooked.

Sahur, Sahur, tongue-tongue, Sahur.

I am not sleeping tonight, or Sahur will catch me and squeeze me tight.

Then before I start to forget about Sahur, it becomes

Then I try to get in the cupboard and squeeze tight, and then it becomes Sahur.

I got scared and did not eat Sahur, so I went in the vents.

Then Sahur ended.

When I got out, tongue-tongue came and squeezed me tight until I froze, then he went out of sight.

He went out of sight.



Hamzah

Level 3 · 2 poems

A Cool Parrot

Parrots are cool, very cool parrots.

They always are.

Their skin is soft, a very cool bird.

Very tall, and very cool.

Poetry Tree

Poems are the best tree,

because poetry you can read,

and others you can't read,

because you only need one tree—

and that tree is poetry.

FROM THE NEWSROOM

Every word in this newsletter was written by an Olive Branch student.

*Thank you to our young writers for sharing their voices,
their curiosity, and their world. 🌿*

