

Olive Branch Newsletter

◆ Written 100% by Students ◆

APRIL ISSUE

VOLUME I

BY OUR STUDENTS, FOR EVERYONE

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SPORTS · GAME RECAP

My First Soccer Game

by Ayoub Dasti **Grade 2**

My name is Ayoub Dasti. I am on a soccer team for The Noor Center. In my first game, I blocked 2 shots while my team blocked like 27 shots. I am one player on a team of ten. We played against The Blackholes at The Soccerplex. We had 2 more players than them. One of our teammates was not there, his name is Mir.

My teammates are Ibrahim, Hasan, Yusuf, Muhamad, Zakaria, Mir, Amar, Musa and Adi. Muhamad had 2 shots, everyone else except Ibrahim and Zakaria had 1 shot. We had two players on the bench and seven on the field. My coaches are coach Ali and coach Jaber. I am number 63. We play in black and white, the other team played in blue and black. **We won by 4 goals, 6-2!**





NATURE · ANIMAL REPORT

About Sloths

by Reza Roomipoor **Grade 3**

What are sloths? Sloths are very furry and slow. They are mammals that live in Brazil, Puerto Rico, and the Amazon rainforest. Some sloths are three toed and some are two toed. They eat mostly leaves and some eat wood.

Most of the two toed sloths are very good swimmers. And the three toed sloths are very good climbers. There are also sloths that smile and are very cute, and those ones are three toed. And all sloths go all the way down the tree to use the bathroom. And sloths appear green because specialized, porous algae grows within the microscopic grooves of their coarse hair.



There used to be sloths the size of elephants.

It takes sloths 30 days to digest a leaf. They sleep up to 20 hours a day, and weigh from 8 to 17 pounds. They also have two extra neck vertebrae that allow them to move their head almost all the way around.



NATURE · OCEAN LIFE

About Sea Turtles

by Ashkan Hanaee **Grade 3**

Sea turtles are amazing animals that have lived in warm water for more than 100 million years. There are seven different types of sea turtles. They can live for 50 to 100 years, and they love to travel far. They live their whole lives in the ocean, but female sea turtles go back to the beaches where they hatched to lay eggs.

Sea turtles help to keep the ocean clean by eating underwater plants. They love to eat crustaceans, sea grass, seaweed and jellyfish. Sea turtles don't have teeth, and they use their strong beaks to crunch their food. Sea turtles are in danger because people pollute the water, build on the beaches and catch them in nets. We should protect sea turtles so they can live for many more years.



LOCAL NATURE · MARYLAND SPOTLIGHT

The Maryland State Flower

by Sophia Baz **Grade 3**

The Black-Eyed Susan's appearance is bright yellow petals, a brownish-blackish dome-shaped center, and long green leaves which grows up to six inches tall. Its bright yellow petals and its dome-shaped center make it look like a sunflower, but really it's the Black-Eyed Susan. The stalkings grow up to eight inches tall, while the real flower itself grows one to three feet. Sunflowers are six to ten feet tall on average, while a Black-Eyed Susan is only one to three feet tall.

After blooming, the center of the Black-Eyed Susan produces many seeds (tiny black seeds) and they spread to other places by wind, animals and so on. By doing this, more Black-Eyed Susans can grow. This flower grows from June to October. The best time to plant them is in the spring. To plant them, plants should be eight inches apart, the weeds must be removed and the soil must be loosened. Create a hole a few inches wider than the plant, and set the plant in the hole.

FUN FACTS

- The Black-Eyed Susan attracts bees and butterflies because of its nectar.
- The Black-Eyed Susan prefers the sun and often is the first to appear in newly disturbed fields.
- When cut, a Black-Eyed Susan can live in a vase for up to six to ten days.

Now that it is spring time, it is the perfect time to plant this flower in your garden, if not then your backyard. The Black-Eyed Susan, the Maryland state flower, is the perfect flower for your garden.



OPINION · SPORTS & FAITH

Women's Soccer

by **Maria Elkoshairi** **Grade 5**

The first thing about women's soccer is that it is very intense as a Muslim woman. This is for various reasons, such as trying to fit in while wearing a hijab. My sister is a soccer player and she wears the hijab.

Being a Muslim female soccer player, soccer has helped her. She learned about teamwork and leadership. Those two things are very important in my opinion. She likes to teach people soccer, and helped me love soccer. Women's soccer is tough but it's fun.



What do you think about women's soccer?





Q & A · MEET OUR TEACHERS

Interview with Ms. Madiha

Interview by **Nada Oummad** **Grade 4** · with Ms. Madiha, Level 2 Teacher

- Nada:** How many students do you teach in Level 2?
- Ms. Madiha:** I have six students in my class. I feel like a student myself!
- Nada:** How many kids do you have?
- Ms. Madiha:** I have 3 kids.
- Nada:** What is your favorite hobby?
- Ms. Madiha:** I love to paint, draw and read! But these days I'm too busy to pursue any hobbies!
- Nada:** What do you love to do with your students?
- Ms. Madiha:** I love to connect with them, and make learning fun for them!
- Nada:** What is your favorite color?
- Ms. Madiha:** I love teal, aqua blue, or just blue.
- Nada:** If someone was to get you the perfect gift, what would it be?
- Ms. Madiha:** I don't need anything expensive to make me happy — a gift can be a flower that shows respect and kindness.
- Nada:** What made you pursue teaching?
- Ms. Madiha:** I wanted to invest in our future, and I think teaching is a very rewarding job.
- Nada:** How would you like to decorate your classroom?
- Ms. Madiha:** Decorating is a passion of mine. I like to decorate my classroom in a way that is inviting and reflects learning.



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. 🌿*

