

CRESCENT CHRONICLES

JOURNALISM

• IT'S A GREAT DAY AT OLA

• APRIL 2024

You're Somebody's Type: Donate Blood

By Ema Freeman



OLA senior Alex Bujan donating blood

What is the importance of donating blood, and why should it affect you? Learn the answers to this and more, and prepare for the Our Lady Academy Blood Drive!

BAY ST. LOUIS - Have you ever wanted to be a superhero? Since 1818, the first blood transfusion, giving blood has been a vital aspect of the health industry. People around the country attend clinics and prepare to save lives by donating their blood, but what makes it so important? As of 2024, there is no substitute for blood, which means donated blood is the only way to transfuse to those in need. Giving blood helps cancer patients, trauma patients, those with sickle cell anemia, burn patients, and patients with chronic diseases. According to the American Red Cross, every two seconds,

someone in the U.S. requires blood; one donation can save more than one life.

There is an extreme blood shortage in the U.S. because red blood cells have a short shelf life of 42 days, and platelets have only five days. On April 24th, the OLA Student Council will host a blood drive for students and the public to attend. Any student who is healthy, 16 years of age or older, and has not tested positive for COVID-19 in the past ten days will be able to donate. Blood donation is highly encouraged because of the need for more donors. After a donation, donors will be provided with snacks and drinks. As scary as it may seem, it is much more frightening to be a patient or the family member of a patient in desperate need of blood. Be a hero for someone today and donate blood.

A Must-See Movie!

By Evie Boudreaux

On March 25, 2024, Our Lady Academy's tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders went on a field trip to see the movie Bay St. Louis- *Cabrini* at a local theater. This movie, created by Angel Studios, is a tribute to Mother Cabrini, one of the most influential women in history, and was released in honor of Women's History Month. The film portrays the story of Mother Cabrini, an Italian immigrant who, along with her sisters, embarked on a journey to establish orphanages for underprivileged, sick, and abandoned children in New York.

The movie begins with Mother Cabrini requesting permission from the pope to begin her mission in the United States. As the story progresses, the audience witnesses Mother Cabrini and her sisters' struggles during their time in New York and how they persevered through all the challenges.

This is inspiring and teaches us valuable lessons about bravery, determination, and living life according to God's will. Whether young or old, this film will leave a lasting impression on you. You can currently watch *Cabrini* in theaters or on Prime Video for streaming.



Volunteer at VBS This Summer!

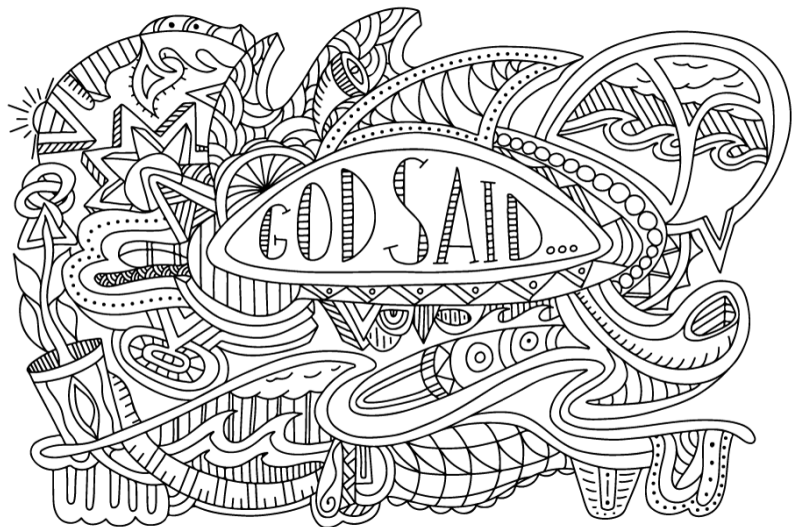
By Claire Wojtowicz

OLG's Vacation Bible School is a fun and easy way to earn up to 20 service hours. Read below for more information about the camp!



BAY ST. LOUIS—Each summer, Our Lady of the Gulf puts on a Vacation Bible School for children in grades kindergarten through sixth grade, although they just recently added preschoolers. This year's VBS is June 18th through the 21st from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Each year, the theme relates back to God. The theme for the 2024 VBS is SCUBA and all things underwater!

Volunteering at VBS is a great way to earn easy service hours over the summer. The week surrounds the children and volunteers with loving and supportive people and gives the group leaders/assistants and game helpers a chance to participate in a pivotal portion of a child's life. Helping young children grow in their faith is an inspiring event and often helps the volunteers grow in their faith. Evie Boudreaux, the OLA senior, has volunteered at OLG's VBS in previous years and says her favorite part of the week is getting to know the children and seeing them make



new friends throughout the week.

To sign up for this year's VBS camp, refer to the email sent out on April 12th from OLA for the link or search olgchurch.net/vbs-2024 to contact Mrs. Kellie about volunteering. Spots are limited, so be sure to act quickly!

Blessing of the Jeeps

By: Marley Kinniburgh

The annual Blessing of the Jeeps ceremony was held on April 13, 2024, from eight in the morning until three in the afternoon.

BAY ST. LOUIS- On Saturday, April 13, 2024, St. Thomas the Apostle hosted its fifth annual Blessing of the Jeeps ceremony to kick off the Jeepin' the Coast event along the Coast. The day began with volunteers cleaning and setting up the church pavilion. Gift raffles, concessions, and other tables surrounded the perimeter while a DJ played music for all the guests. Upon entering the church parking lot, Jeeps were registered for a 'parade' line, preparing to drive the beach following the sprinkling of Holy Water. Guests, no matter their age, gathered to participate in the fun. Blessing of the Jeeps brings the community together and serves as a fundraiser for many Catholic organizations and events; examples include summer Life Teen retreats and missions. Kaitlynn Claret, youth minister at St. Thomas, said, "This ceremony is not only great because it brings Southerners together, but also because it allows for young Christians to experience Christ." This year, Blessing of the Jeeps raised \$11,000 for the church's youth, which has helped tremendously with travel and participation fees. Father Satish, the parish priest, said he "expects to see twice as many Jeepers at the function next year."

For more information on the Blessing of the Jeeps event, visit the Mississippi Gulf Coast website.



Father Satish blessing the Jeeps

JEEP WORDS

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E	J	T	O	R	R	E	R	W	C	E	V	O	E
N	A	N	I	W	A	U	A	A	B	L	R	C	T
E	M	E	T	H	T	B	E	T	I	E	R	I	R
G	B	V	C	E	E	N	R	E	I	B	R	B	A
A	O	D	A	E	D	C	I	R	C	B	R	U	I
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E	E	R	T	C	I	N	O	C	I	T	D	E	E
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ARTICULATION
RUBICON
TRAIL
CHEROKEE
ROCKS
WRANGLER
GLADIATOR
JAMBOREE
TRACTION
RENEGADE
ADVENTURE
WATER
SHAHARA
ICONIC
BEACH
DRIVE
RATED
GRAND
FREEDOM
FOURWHEEL

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/814578/>

Senior Spotlight: Marlie Klein

Get to know more about OLA senior Marlie Klein!

By Alexis Barrois

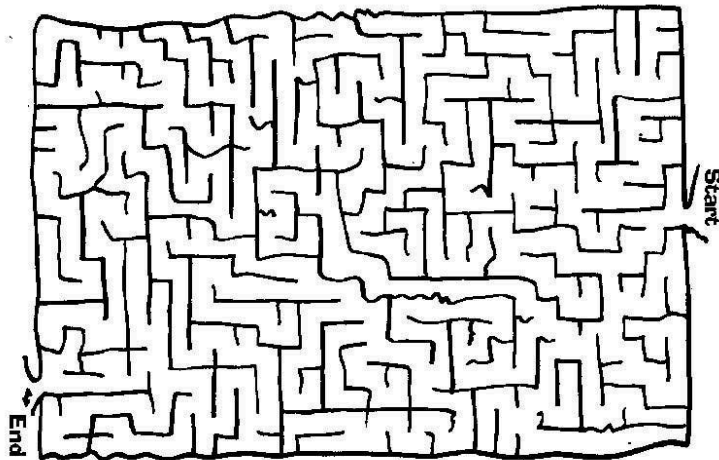
BAY ST. LOUIS- Our Lady Academy senior Marlie Klein plans to attend Mississippi State University to major in Biological Sciences with a concentration in nursing; after this degree, she plans to attend nursing school. When asked what she intends to do as a job after college, she responded, "After college, I plan to be a nurse practitioner who specializes in mental health, working in clinics." Marlie was asked how she feels about graduation, and she replied, "As I know I will miss my high school years, I am glad to be graduating and moving on to the next stage of life."

I hope to thrive in college and have a great time at Mississippi State." Her favorite memory from OLA is winning Mercy Day for the first time in junior year. Some advice Marlie would give to underclassmen would be, "Advice I would share with the underclassmen would be to enjoy your high school years, but there is greater ahead to come."

Stay tuned for the next senior spotlight as we get other perspectives of the Senior Class of 2024.



Marlie Klein at Mercy Day tea 2023



This maze is hard! Can you make it to the end?

Senior Spotlight: Lainie Lawhead

By Lily Fontenette

BAY ST. LOUIS- Get to Know Lainie Lawhead!

Lainie was born in Florida but grew up in Bay St. Louis due to Hurricane Katrina. Her favorite things are hanging out with friends and going on walks. She has two older sisters who graduated from OLA and a brother who graduated from Stanislaus. Lainie is excited to graduate, attend college, and pursue her career to help others. Lainie plans to attend Ole Miss in the fall. She also plans on majoring in Public Health and Health Sciences. Her advice for younger classmen is to “Slow down and enjoy the time you have at OLA with your class.”



Lainie on Mercy Day 2023.

Army Day!

By Caley Taylor-Henson

BAY ST. LOUIS-Army Day is celebrated on April 6th.

Army Day was first celebrated on May 1st, 1928; this date was chosen because they had high hopes it would dampen the Communist celebration of Worker’s Day, also held on May 1st. Army Day was changed to April 6th, 1929, the anniversary of the United States entering World War 1. Army Day was established worldwide to draw attention to national offenses and inform the public about Army activities. The day also stressed the need for military awareness, which the nation lacked when it entered significant conflicts. On April 4th, 1936, President Roosevelt proclaimed that Army Day would be recognized by Congress on April 6th and observed worldwide. March 1st, 1937, Congress passed Resolution numbers 5-75, officially recognizing Army Day.

Guidance

Get to know Ms. Gelpi and the advice she has to offer.

By Kirynn Necaize

BAY ST LOUIS- Mrs. Gelpi, OLA's guidance counselor, has shared her journey and fun facts. Mrs. Gelpi wanted to be a guidance counselor because she had faced a large amount of adversity throughout her life; due to the adversity she faced, she learned many things and wanted to share the things she learned with students. She was inspired to come to OLA because of an ad in the announcement. Once she saw the ad, she felt like she should come to OLA. We proudly say Mrs.

Gelpi is a part of our OLA family.

Mrs. Gelpi was asked about her favorite memories and traditions at OLA. She fondly recalled every graduation ceremony, which she considers a testament to the student's hard work and achievements. She also mentioned a fun flash mob with the teachers, which was a memorable and enjoyable experience. Her favorite tradition at OLA is the 'big sister/ little sister,' which fosters community and student support.

Mrs. Gelpi was asked what advice she would give to seventh graders and graduating seniors. Her response was insightful and encouraging. She advised the seventh graders to embrace diversity and make new friends. She also encouraged them to explore different interests and sit with other people at lunch. She urged the seniors to keep their options open and not let their high school experiences define them.

She reminded them that a whole world is waiting for them beyond high school, and they have the power to shape their futures.

Some fun facts about Mrs. Gelpi are that she has been skydiving, she loves to dance, she and her husband have been going to jazz fest every year to celebrate their anniversary, and she loves horses. Some of her favorite songs include songs from the Foo Fighters! She has two chihuahuas, one named Tortilla and the other named Chimichanga. Mrs. Gelpi also loves the beach and anything to do with the water. Her most proud accomplishments are marrying her husband for 27 years and raising her four children. She plans to retire when she wins the Powerball and would love to travel. Thank you to Mrs. Gelpi for all she does; you are very much appreciated.



Mrs. Gelpi and her dog Tortilla

Stress Awareness Month

**Stress should be brought to
people's attention.**

By Madelyn Johnston

BAY ST. LOUIS—In honor of April, we are acknowledging the awareness of stress. Stress can affect the body positively or negatively. By bringing attention to this, people can learn all of its causes, positive effects, and negative effects.

This month of stress awareness is a severe thing. Many things or people can cause stress. Stress can come from school, homework, studying or projects, home situations, moving, parental situations, a family member passing, or pure pressure, choosing bad decisions. All of these ways of stress can change a person's life forever or just temporarily. These effects can also positively affect people's lives.

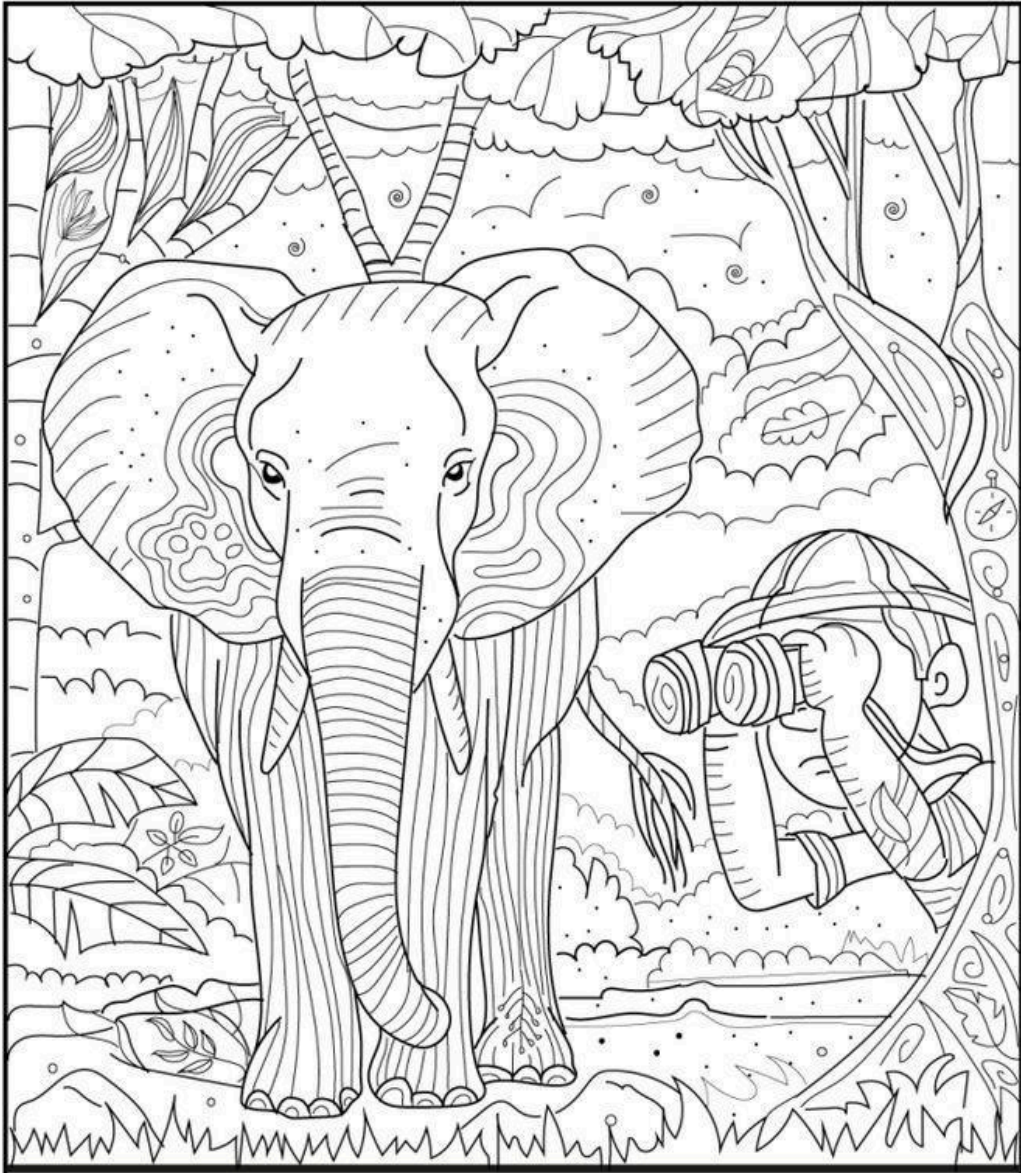
Stress positively affects the body by having a small amount possible. The positive effects can boost job performance while increasing alertness, which is vital for our memory, or help build relationship essentials. Having little stress on the body allows the body to recall the consequences of our actions and avoid them in the future. It can also help us learn from all of our mistakes and to help us make them again. All of these sound effects come with adverse effects, too.

The amount of negative stress you put on yourself can affect all kinds of things in a person's mind and body. It can put so much pressure on your mind and body that you can suffer from anxiety, depression, high blood pressure, heart

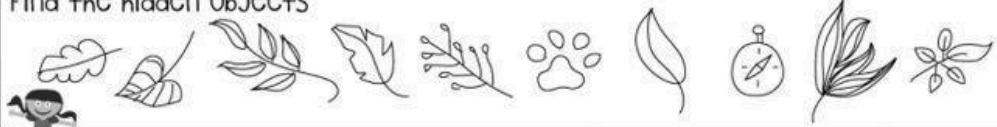
attacks and diseases, sleep problems, memory loss, and so much more. Stress is the primary source of all of the issues, mentally and physically, in our lives. If we let stress take us over, it could lead us into bad situations and even worse health conditions. No one should have to go through this amount of stress in their daily lives.

By acknowledging people's stress, they can do something about their stress before it can take over and ruin them. People shouldn't have to go through enormous amounts of stress to where it can affect the mind and body. People are in control of the amount of stress they add to their lives, but controlling your stress can make your life better.





Find the hidden OBJECTS



A Warm Welcome Into The Catholic Church

By Caroline Dufrene



Tilley Newman with Pastor Father Mike Austin

BAY ST. LOUIS- On March 30th, sophomore Tilley Newman was brought into the Roman Catholic Church. She started a program called OCIA, Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, about a year ago at Holy Family Parish. OCIA prepares candidates to receive the sacraments through classes. The program concludes at the Easter Vigil mass when the candidates receive the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Tilley Newman says that she is glad she committed to the program and she enjoyed the process. She also says she decided to go through with this program because “ I wanted to become Catholic since I was little. Always going to a Catholic school made me want to do it.” OLA is so proud of Tilley for making this leap in her faith journey and we cannot wait to see what amazing things she does.

“Where Art Thou Romeo?”

By Isabella Kerner

Celebrate National Shakespeare Day in remembrance of one of the most famous poets in the world!

BAY ST. LOUIS- April 23rd not only marks the birthday of William Shakespeare, but also his unfortunate death. Shakespeare was born in England in the year 1564, and is thought to have passed away around the year 1616 at 52. He was and remains famous for his dramatic tragedy plays and poems. William has written 38 plays and 154 sonnets mainly in verse. He is most well known for *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, and *Hamlet*.

Shakespeare became increasingly wealthy due to his great success in theater. His life of hardship is thought to inspire so many of his famous tragedies. Throughout his life, Shakespeare lost his siblings, his parents, and his son. He also lived throughout the time of the bubonic plague, killing many around him and shutting down theaters.

People all over the world dedicate April 23rd to William Shakespeare as National Shakespeare Day. He is one of the most influential people in English literature and should be recognized for his outstanding poetic scripts. If you are interested in learning more about Shakespeare, visit Mrs. Colbert or Mrs. Fucich!!



Portrait drawing of William Shakespeare

Saint Vincent Ferrer

By Ava Schmitt

BAY ST. LOUIS-Saint Vincent was born on January 23, 1350, in Valencia Spain. His father says that he was told in a dream by a Dominican friar that his son would be famous throughout the world. Also, his mother never experienced pain when she gave birth to Vincent. He was named after Vincent Martyr, the patron saint of Valencia. Vincent was educated at Valencia and completed his philosophy at the age of fourteen. He entered the Dominican Order in 1367 and was then sent to study in Barcelona. Soon after he had entered the novitiate of the Order, he experienced temptations urging him to leave. His parents pleaded with him to leave and become a secular priest. Vincent prayed and practiced penance to overcome these trials. He succeeded in completing the year of probation and advancing to his profession.

Vincent was dedicated to his faith and service to God. He spent three years only reading Sacred Scripture and eventually committed it to memory. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1379 in Barcelona. For twenty-one years he traveled to England, Scotland, Ireland, Aragon, Castile, France, Switzerland, and Italy, preaching the Gospel and converting many. Kings and nobles sought him out to come to their lands because of Vincent's reputation for healing. He generously responded, over and over again. His love for the poor was great, and he inspired many powerful and wealthy people to practice generosity. He preached to Colette of Corbie and her nuns, and it was she who told him that he would die in France. He became too ill to return to Spain and died in Brittany in 1419. Vincent was canonized by Pope Callixtus III on June 3, 1455. Vincent is the patron saint of builders. His feast day is celebrated on April 5.

Image of St. Ferrer



Notre Dame Comeback

By Anna Kate Ivey

BAY ST. LOUIS- Notre Dame is a grand cathedral located in Paris, France. Famous for its size and architecture, the construction of this cathedral started in 1163 and was completed in 1345. The project initiated by the bishop of Paris, Maurice de Sully, began on the ruins of two older churches. Pope Alexander III laid the foundation stone in 1163. Unexpectedly, on April 15, 2019, the cathedral caught fire from either a cigarette or a short circuit in the electrical system, which destroyed the wooden ceiling. Recently in 2023, American builders, architects, and professionals have stepped in to rebuild Notre Dame after five years. The reopening date is set for December 8, 2024, and is planned to be even more beautiful than before!



Notre Dame on Fire.

Senior Spotlight- Casey Hanrahan

By Blakelee Geil

Casey at Homecoming



BAY ST. LOUIS-

In the beginning of her Junior year, Casey Hanrahan moved to Pass Christian Mississippi and enrolled in Our Lady Academy. Unlike her past schools, OLA was very different to Casey. Casey. "This was the first time I have ever attended a catholic all girls" school". This is Casey's second year at OLA and she has made many accomplishments. She was a part of the OLA soccer and volleyball team." Her favorite thing at OLA is the great support and friendships

Her favorite memory is Mercy Day. Many teachers have made the last year memorable. The teacher that stood out to her the most was Mrs Patton. "Mrs Patton has definitely inspired me through all the stories she has told and advice she has given. Although Casey is going to miss OLA dearly, she is excited to move forward and have a change. She will attend the University of Alabama in the fall and major in Sports Management and minoring in Spanish.

Senior Spotlight- Leighton Hursey

By Laney Fletcher

Meet Leighton Hursey, an upcoming graduate, Class of 2024, at Our Lady Academy!

BAY ST. LOUIS-

Leighton Hursey has been a member of Our Lady Academy since seventh grade. Some fun facts about Leighton is that she has 2 dogs and a fish. Her favorite color is blue. Leighton loves spending time with her family and friends in her free time. Her favorite memory at OLA is when her 8th grade class had adoration and did not know they were supposed to be in the church. Half of the class sat in the chapel for 15 minutes, and Mrs. Patton could not find them. Her best friend is Laney Fletcher, and she will miss having her by her side next year.

In the fall, Leighton plans to attend MGCCC and major in criminal justice. When asked how she feels about graduation approaching, she said, "I'm excited for graduation, but I'm sad that all my friends, who I've grown up with, and I are all going our separate ways." If she could give one piece of advice to an incoming seventh grader, she would say, "Enjoy your time with your sisters. I know you hear it all the time, but you will blink, and suddenly, you will only have 2 more weeks left with the people you have been with your whole life."

Stayed tuned for our next Class of 2024, Senior spotlight!



Leighton Hursey at Prom





African Dwarf Frog

You Have What as a Pet?

By Faith Ponte

Ever heard of a frog as a pet? Well now you have! BAY SAINT LOUIS - Claire Wojotowicz, an OLA senior, has two very unusual pets. Claire has two African Dwarf Frogs, which are not named. African Dwarf Frogs are small, aquatic frogs that go up to the surface for air. Her frogs make a lot of noise while swimming around in their tank. Sometimes, they like to fight each other even though neither can cause much harm to the other. It is fun to watch them eat because they are very clumsy, and they go crazy for their pebbles. African Dwarf Frogs have a life expectancy of 5 - 7 years in captivity. Claire got her frogs at a gift shop in Jackson, Mississippi. Claire loves her frogs and is so glad they will live for a long time. Claire says "I recommend getting frogs as pets because they are very fun to watch when they eat."

Senior Spotlight

By Anne Pierson Kane

This issue is spotlighting OLA senior Ellen Gibson.

BAY ST. LOUIS-

Ellen Gibson is attending the University of Mississippi in the fall and majoring in Kinesiology. She wants to become a nurse. During her time at OLA she was a member of the cheer and track team. She was also in CAC, Youth Leg, and Student Council. In her free time, she likes to hang out with friends and paint. Some fun facts about her are that she loves Justin Bieber, she had a dog named girl, and her worst fear is snakes. Her favorite memory at OLA is when she set off the fire alarm in Mrs. Cranford's class.

Follow along for more senior spotlights!



Senior Ellen Gibson