

# THE O'NEILL TIMES

JUNE  
2025

GRADUATION  
EDITION

2024 - 2025 SCHOOL YEAR

WE CAN, WE WILL!



## GOOD BYE O'NEILL ELEMENTARY, HELLO REED MIDDLE SCHOOL!

To our 6<sup>th</sup> graders,  
We are sending you off  
and wishing you well! You got this!  
We hope you look back at your time  
here as the best place to learn and  
grow! O'Neill will miss you!



**CONGRATULATIONS**





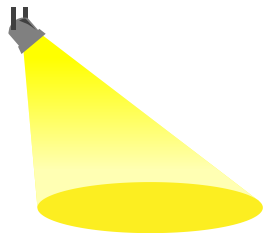
# THE 2025 O'NEILL SENIOR WALKTHROUGH

**By: The Newspaper Club**

Students and staff at O'Neill Elementary School welcomed back former students to celebrate their 2025 graduation. The seniors walked the red carpet, found their names on the "Walk of Fame", played parachute games in the gym, went through the lunch line one last time, grabbed some popcorn and took a trip down memory lane with a slideshow full of their baby pictures and O'Neill memories! Then it was out to the playground for some photos and a beach ball release! Their final walk through the school ended with a Time Machine experience, gifts from teachers and staff as well as a reminder that "Everything You Need to Know, You Learned in Kindergarten." A small reception was held outside with teachers and staff to wish them well!







# STAFF SPOTLIGHT RETIREE EDITION

## MRS. DUNNE, READING TEACHER

By: Naomi Compere, Esmeralda Farfan  
and Karla Guillen Munoz



### How long have you been teaching?

I have been teaching for 35 years.

### Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I love to learn, so I figured teaching would be a great way to instill that in other children.

### Have you always been a reading teacher?

No, I haven't actually and getting back to the first question, I have taught 35 years in total but 28 years in Central Islip. I was a middle school and high school English teacher first. Then I taught Pre-K for 2 years in the city and then kindergarten here, but then I went to reading.

### What was your favorite part about teaching?

When I saw my students' faces light up with the excitement to learn.

### Can you tell us about some of your career highlights?

Just all the years of teaching so many different children and different grades.

### What was the most difficult part about teaching?

The most difficult part of teaching was repeating myself over and over again and just making sure all the boys and girls understood what they were learning, because you teach in a lot of different ways.

### Have you taught at other schools besides O'Neill?

Yes, I have taught at the ECC Center or Early Childhood Center, which is Alfano right now. The ECC was a Kindergarten Center and I'm not really sure when it switched over. It was just Kindergarten but also six classes of first grade and I taught reading there. Then I came to O'Neill in 1998 because I started with the district in 1997.

### What will you miss most about coming to school each day?

I am going to miss the students and the teachers. I enjoy seeing their faces every year and how they have changed.

### What are you looking forward to when you retire?

Sleeping in and traveling. Also playing golf and pickle ball.

### What advice would you give a new teacher?

Have a good mentor. And also be flexible and enjoy your students and your fellow teachers. Being a team player is also huge!



**The O'Neill Newspaper Club wishes all of the 2025 Retirees the best and hopes their retirements are full of well deserved relaxation and a whole lot of fun! You will be so missed Mrs. Dunne, Mrs. Gallagher, Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. Lang, Mrs. Leopold, and Mrs. Prieto!**

# **CENTRAL ISLIP'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL VISITS DAVE & BUSTERS**

**By: Averie Johnson**

**Back in April, O'Neill's Student Advisory Council was invited to Dave & Busters for a fun day of enjoyment after all our hard work. Nine of O'Neill's students from grades K-6, including myself, took a bus to Dave & Busters along with the rest of the district's Student Advisory Councils led by Dr. Dungee.**

**When we arrived at Dave & Busters, the entire group was taken to an area to sit down with whoever we chose. The rules were explained to us before we were given our power cards. We had free reign over the arcade. We played games, took pictures, and shopped at the gift shop with our points.**

**Halfway through the fun, we were told we had to come back to the area we sat in before, to have lunch. We were called by table to go get our drinks, set them back down, and get on line for food. There were many delicious options to choose from like soft pretzel sticks, chicken nuggets and pigs in a blanket. The drink options were also totally up to you. They varied from water to Sprite to Coke.**

**We had time to eat and were able to head back to the arcade. Once my friends and I finished eating, we got to enjoy ourselves again, by playing more games and shop some more. Once the fun was over and we used up all the points on our power cards, we were given the opportunity again to get more food or refill our cups.**

**Sadly, all good things must come to an end eventually. The buses arrived and we were escorted out by school. It had to be one of the best field trips for students involved this year! We all thank Dr. Dungee and our school principals for allowing us to have such an amazing experience and an awesome time.**

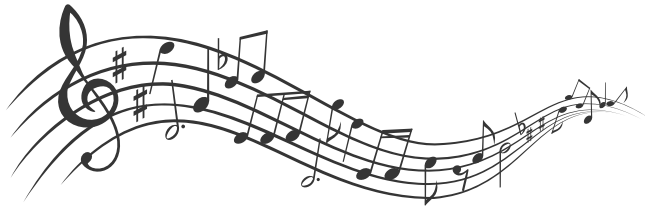


# **DAVE & BUSTER'S**



# O'NEILL'S 2025 SPRING CONCERT

By: Esmeralda Farfan



On May 28, 2025, O'Neill had their spring concert at Central Islip High School. The chorus, which was directed by Miss Scala, was up first. Their first song they performed was "Don't Stop Believin", Mrs. DeCola's favorite! In the beginning of the song, only the girls sang by themselves and then the boys sang, also by themselves. Then they sang the rest of the song together. The audience seemed to love it because everyone applauded for the chorus. Next, they sang "Give a Little Love." Everyone clapped for them. Then, they sang "Ella Sings" by Ella Fitzgerald which had three groups of some of the 6th grade chorus members. The last song they performed was a song a lot of people recognized which was called "September." This song was fun to perform because it contained many movements. The audience sang and moved along with the chorus. When they finished, they got a standing ovation from some of the parents. The chorus was loved so much, they bowed twice.

After our chorus finished their part of the spring concert, it was time for the band to play. Mr. Albani conducted the band. They performed the songs "Majestic March", "American Mountain Medley", "Midnight Madness", and a song from the popular movie Charlie and the Chocolate Factory which was "Oompa Loompa." Everyone enjoyed the concert and will always remember the concert as one of the best!!

## WHAT IT'S LIKE, BEING IN BAND

By: Gabriel Riviera

Being a student performer in the band is a mix of feelings for better or worse. It can be a hassle for sure, but I think it's worth it. I won't lie, it's a lot of work. Between the meetings, practicing, and tryouts, it can be pretty hard. I'm not saying you shouldn't do it, but be prepared. If you decide to stay in it in high school, you will go to many exciting places and have plenty of exciting opportunities. Playing in the marching bands, going to the Macy's Day Parade and being on TV, is just naming a few.

Honestly, it's a great goal that I think everyone should take on.



# AMELIA EARHART...

## WHERE IS SHE?

**By: Genesis Zavala Gonzalez**

Do you know who Amelia Earhart is? She was a girl who followed her dreams. Her dream was to be a pilot. However, her dream was cut short when her plane disappeared forever.

**But Where is she?**

Drum Roll Please...

### **Her Life**

Amelia Mary Earhart was born on July 24th, 1897, in Atcheson, Kansas. In her free time as a child, she enjoyed climbing trees and catching insects. Amelia read books every day because she wanted to be a pilot. In her 20s, she began to fly airplanes. However, pilots weren't considered a job for women. Amelia did not agree.

### **Life as a Pilot**

Eventually Amelia became the first female to fly a plane by herself. She was best known as an American airplane pioneer and became a household name. But on July 2nd, 1937, when she was the only woman on a flight, she got lost and was never found! She had disappeared while flying toward Howland Island, which is between Australia and the Hawaiian Islands. Many people tried to find her, but no one ever did.

### **Conspiracies**

Many people have different ideas of how or where Amelia went missing. But no one has truly solved the mystery. The mystery continues to this day because no one has seen her, her co-pilots or the plane ever again. At the time, some people say they heard Amelia say her name over the radio. Other people thought she was still alive, and she changed her identity. Recently, scientists have made suggestions that they found her plane. However, no one has yet solved the mystery... and who knows if we ever will!



# PIE A TEACHER

By: Gabriel Riviera



Out of all the O'Neill activities we've been a part of this year, I think the most memorable one is Pie the Teacher Day. Pie the Teacher Day was held in late March to raise money for the 6th grade student's end of the year activities. The students had an opportunity to buy raffle tickets. Each ticket bought gave a student a chance to Pie A Teacher. This event was in the cafeteria at the end of the day. Each teacher who participated wore goggles and a poncho. Pie wasn't actually used. Instead, paper plates with whipped cream were thrown by students who wanted to hit their teacher. Three students per teacher were chosen to participate in the fun. This meant that in total, twelve students were called up to join in the fun. Some of the students were part of the newspaper club: Gabriel, Karla and Esmeralda! The teachers who were pried were Mr. Smikle, Ms. Jonasson, Mrs. Portillo, and Ms. Hamel. Hopefully, they'll do it next year too. And Mrs. Portillo, If you're reading this, Pie On!



## THE SPRING FLING

By: Geovanny Mieses Marcano



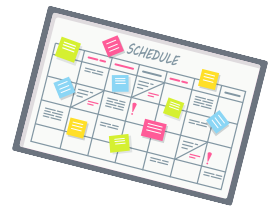
The Spring Fling was held on Thursday, May 1, 2025, in the gym. Grades K-5 were invited to attend with their parents. The Spring Fling started at 5:30 and ended at 7:30. The gym was decorated with flowers and balloons. They had music, too. My favorite part is when they played, "Follow the Leader." They had pizza for \$2 and there were chips for \$1. The pizza was delicious.

Some of our teachers were there too, like Miss Moran, Miss Guillen, and Miss Cindy. Some teachers were dancing and some were serving snacks. The kids ate Oreos and chips. There was an area where they could take pictures. I was so grateful to attend the Spring Fling.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT O'NEILL?



- June 2, 2025 - Senior Walkthrough
- June 3, 2025 - Brain Challenge Assembly
- June 4, 2025 - Summer Reading Assembly
- June 6, 2025 - 1<sup>st</sup> grade Poetry Day
- June 11, 2025 - Attendance Lunch
- June 12, 2025 - Field Day 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- June 13, 2025 - CI History Walk Field Trip & DNA Learning Center
- June 16, 2025 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Picnic
- June 17, 2025 - 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student Awards Night
- June 18, 2025 - 6<sup>th</sup> grade Moving Up - Reed Middle School & 1<sup>st</sup> grade Fun Day
- June 19, 2025 - School Closed for Juneteenth
- June 20, 2025 - Kindergarten Celebration & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Picnic
- June 23, 2025 - 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade BBQ
- June 24, 2025 - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade BBQ & NY Aquarium Field Trip
- June 25, 2025 - Early Dismissal
- June 26, 2025 - Ice Cream Truck and Early Dismissal
- June 27, 2025 - Ice Cream Truck, Early Dismissal and Last Day of School







# RECIPE CORNER



## Frozen Banana Bites

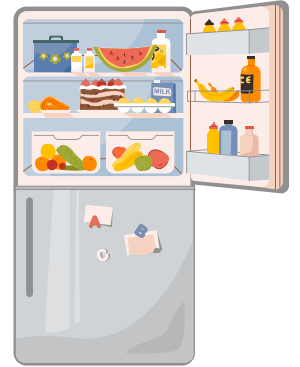
By: Naomi Thompson



**PREP TIME: 15 minutes**  
**FREEZER TIME: 1 hour**  
**TOTAL TIME: 15 minutes**

### INGREDIENTS:

**2 Ripe bananas**  
 **$\frac{1}{3}$  C. Peanut butter**  
 **$\frac{1}{3}$  C. Jelly (Optional)**  
**1 Chocolate bar**



1. **First, peel your bananas. Here's a tip... don't use bananas that are too ripe!**
2. **Cut the bananas about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick. Don't make them too thick or you'll have less banana bites.**
3. **Line a small baking sheet or a plate with parchment paper.**
4. **Put the banana slices on the baking sheeting put what you like only on top, either peanut butter or jelly or even peanut butter with jelly together.**
5. **Put another banana slice on top.**
6. **Put the baking sheet in the freezer for about 20 minutes.**
7. **While the banana bites are in the freezer, melt your favorite chocolate bar by putting it in a cup and microwaving it for 30 seconds.**
8. **Take it out of the microwave and stir. If it needs to melt more, microwave it for another 15 seconds.**
9. **Take your banana bites out of the freezer and use a spoon to drizzle the chocolate on top.**
10. **Put the banana bites back in the freezer immediately. Freeze for 40 minutes.**
11. **Enjoy your banana bites! They will stay fresh in the freezer for about a week. Yummy!**





# O'NEILL'S SUMMER BUCKET LIST

**GO CAMPING - EVEN IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD!**

**WRITE AND ILLUSTRATE A BOOK**

**BUILD A SANDCASTLE**

**CATCH FIREFLIES**

**GO STARGAZING AND LEARN ABOUT CONSTELLATIONS**

**PRACTICE THE ART OF PAPER FOLDING - ORIGAMI!**

**VISIT A LOCAL PARK TO PLAY ON THE PLAYGROUND**

**TRY A NEW FOOD**

**COLLECT SEASHELLS AT THE BEACH**

**GO TO A WATER PARK**

**LEARN A NEW WORD IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE**

**PLAY FRISBEE**

**VISIT THE LIBRARY AND GET A LIBRARY CARD**

**MAKE MUD PIES IN THE RAIN**

**GO SWIMMING - WITH ADULT SUPERVISION!**

**WRITE IN A JOURNAL**

**HAVE A MOVIE MARATHON**

**MAKE A SUMMER CRAFT**

**WATCH THE SUNRISE OR THE SUNSET**

**MAKE A SMOOTHIE**

**HAVE A PICNIC**

**ORGANIZE FAMILY GAME NIGHT - UNO IS THE BEST!**

**RIDE A BIKE - DON'T FORGET YOUR HELMET!**

**MAKE S'MORES - DELICIOUS!**

**PLAY IN THE SPRINKLERS**

**READ, READ AND READ SOME MORE!**

