



THE OLIVE CHAPEL ELEMENTARY

wave

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OCE Teacher of the Year: Ms. Chapman

By Alaina Kim

In this article I interviewed Mrs.Chapman, the teacher of the year and ESL teacher here at OCE. If you don't know what an ESL teacher is, it is a teacher that teaches children who do not speak English.

What does it feel like to be teacher of the year?

It feels like an honor and I am very surprised I was nominated. The thought that my other teacher colleagues wanted me to be teacher of the year is very special to me.

How long have you been working here and what do you like the most about Olive Chapel?

This is my 5th year working at Olive Chapel and I just love it because it feels like we are a big family. The students feel like my kids and the teachers are my friends. I can walk down the hallway and everyone is really friendly. We have a great administration. I really just love it here. I think I will be here for a long time.

Would you rather create a new holiday or create a new language?

I would create a new language. I think it would be similar to Spanish because that is the other language that I know. I am not fluent in Spanish but because that language is the most similar to English, it could be easier for people to learn. I think it could be spoken in the USA.

What has inspired you to do ESL?

I was an Elementary school teacher for 18 years and all of the sudden I thought that I wanted to do something a little different but still wanted to be a teacher. I had always loved working with my ESL students in my regular classroom and I had a really great friend that was an ESL teacher. She said, "Just go for it!"

Why do you like teaching ESL?

I love teaching ESL because my students are so brilliant. They are not only learning all the things they have to learn at school for academics but they also have to learn new languages.

That to me would be really difficult, especially as a child. I see them make so much progress from the beginning of the year to the end. I think it is really amazing!

What is your favorite activity to do in the winter and why?

I love to watch movies with my family. I have two daughters who are older. One is out of college and one is still in college. I really just love in the winter having them home and making hot chocolate.

What is your favorite non-English phrase you have learned being an ESL teacher?

This is not really a phrase but I learned how to count to 20 in Ukrainian. This is very special to me because I have three students that are from Ukraine. One of them, who is a fifth grader, taught me. Every time I see her she makes me count with her.

Hopefully you learned CiM new things about Mrs. Chapman. CiM is "seven" in Ukrainian and is pronounced "sim". Adios for now! (Bye in Spanish)



Chinese New Year

By Hailey Boes & Sophie Freeman

People within the Chinese culture have so many different ways to celebrate the Chinese New Year. There are many people here at Olive Chapel that celebrate this special holiday.

They make special soups for good health. They also eat dumplings, chicken, and whole fish. Many family members come to feast and they sit at a big, round table. For dessert they have eight precious puddings. Some foods have to start being cooked a day before the feast because of how much there is to make.

They buy new clothes and cut their hair to start the new year with a fresh start. They use brooms to sweep away bad luck and bring good luck to the new year. To them, the color red means good luck.

Families make altars to honor their ancestors. They have photos of them along with bowls that hold tangerines, oranges, gold and more. They also have special animals that match the year along with a legend that explains how the animals became a Zodiac animal. This year is the year of the snake.

Remembering the Apex Christmas Parade

by Adrianna Jaffe

We all know the Chorus Club had an outstanding performance in the Arts Showcase. But did you know they also got to sing in the Apex Christmas Parade on December 7th?! Ms. McConnell, the amazing music teacher, conducted the Chorus Club during the mile and a quarter route. They sang Jingle Bells, Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Santa Claus is Coming to Town.



While singing, Chorus Club members also got to ring bells as they were walking along the route.

Chorus Club members bundled up in their OCE sweatshirts and beanies because the weather was very cold! One of the coolest things about the Apex Christmas Parade is that it happens at night, when the sun goes down! No sunshine makes it colder, but that’s ok, because everyone wore layers beneath their sweatshirts!

It wasn’t just the OCE Chorus Club at the parade. There were many more, like the Mystery Science Club, Flag Football Club, Science Olympiad and more! Some of them even joined in singing with the Chorus Club!

All of Olive Chapel walked behind a truck that had a big speaker playing the music we were singing. Ms. May and Mr. Boyer were dressed as Elves and Ms. Hornbeck dressed as a Christmas Tree! It was so much fun to spread Christmas cheer throughout Apex!

Mrs. May: A Reintroduction

by Ishaan Nadakuduru

Hello mates! Have you ever wondered what the principal does in her spare time? Why does she sometimes work in your room? And most of all does she like her job!? Read on to find out.

Hi Mrs. May!
“Hi!”

So my first question is, what do you do in your spare time?

“When I don’t have meetings I like to go to classrooms to see students learning and teachers teaching.”

How long have you worked here?

“I have worked here for almost 21 years. I taught 1st and 4th grade here for 8 years. Then I went to graduate school for two years so I could become a principal. Then I came back and became an assistant principal. After 7.5 years of being an assistant principal I became principal. This is my 4th year being a principal of this amazing school!”

Sometimes you work in classrooms. Why?

“I go to classrooms to make sure students are engaged in learning. I also go to see how teachers are teaching so I can give feedback. Since our OCE teachers are AMAZING at their job, usually it’s positive feedback!”

What is your favorite track? Why?

“I can’t decide! All of them are amazing in their own way!”



Mrs. May & her family

If you were given one superpower to handle students, what would it be?

“It’s not exactly a superpower. I like to make people feel comfortable and cared for.”

What favorite snacks do you enjoy but you see students eating more?

“I like pink starbursts... A LOT! Have you seen the candy jar on my desk?! I also see students eating them a lot.”

And last but not least, DO YOU LIKE YOUR JOB!?

“I LOVE MY JOB! Every day is different and challenging. When hard days come along, students give me hugs that help me survive the day.”

That’s it folks, some questions I, and maybe even you, were wondering! I hope you learned at least one thing about our wonderful principal. Thank you for reading. Goodbye.

Don’t forget to order your yearbook by April 5!