

# PANTHER PRESS



Trunk or Treat 2024

## Trunk-or-Sweet

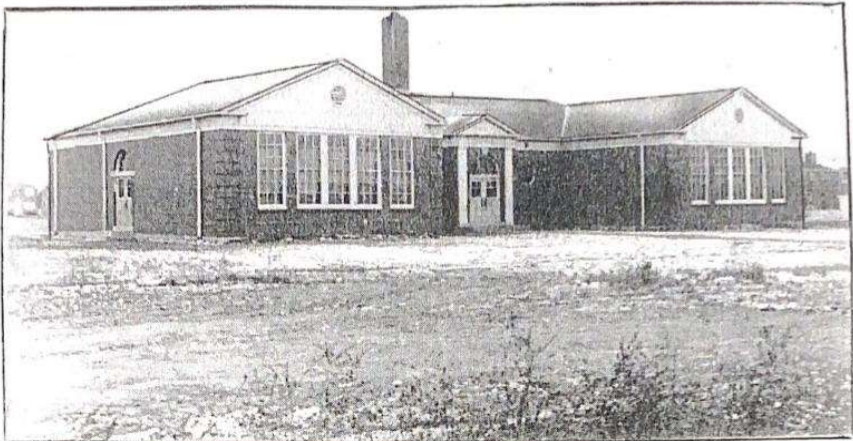
ISABELLA COSTILLA

It was a chilly day in early November. As I arrived at the event, children could be heard joyfully cheering as they collected sweets. I could not feel a bit of fear or discomfort in the mood of the people. Everyone I passed had a smile on their face. I was curious to know what was going on and what brought such joy and light to so many faces. ‘Fun Dip’ was the most popular response, next to decorated cars, dressed up teachers and parents; creative energy flowing.



Some costumes were common Halloween themes, but some were very unique. Before me stood a small girl dressed in a green and blue dress, fake snake hair on her head, resembling the mythic woman-creature, Medusa. Emma said she “loved the record car with all the records hanging from the truck. Very creative.” Her mother Pauline said “The mad scientist car is so detailed and very well put together.” A young Oriole park student said, “the costume of the boy in a plague doctor outfit was really cool “The baby dressed as Michael Meyers was funny.” according to Mr. Witek, My favorite was the minion chasing a lot of kids dressed up as bananas.”

I wanted to get more evidence on what was the source of the fragrance of happiness in the air. The more questions I asked, the more it became clear to me that the feeling of joy at Trunk or Treat came from our Oriole Park community coming together in celebration.



Little Red Schoolhouse, 1943

## Oriole Park History

ABIGAIL RAMOS

Ever wondered how Oriole Park and our school came to be? Let’s travel back in time to 1943, when the Oriole Park Community Club was created, led by its first president, Fred Sperling. Back then, there was just one sidewalk along Oriole Avenue, and kids would ice skate on a pond where Oriole Park School stands today! The neighborhood had a mix of old houses and brand-new ones being built everywhere.

Now, picture this: small farms south of Foster Avenue and horse stables near Higgins and Cumberland. Yep, you could ride horses or take a fun hayride in the Fall! And because there weren’t many cars around, hayrack wagons would cruise through the streets, kind of like a fun parade. A large swamp once covered the area where the Harlem-Foster Shopping Center now stands, including the site of the current Jewel-Osco. Picture the students of Oriole Park hanging out at that swamp after school, sipping on Starbucks (if they had it back then!) as they relax by the murky waters.

Now let’s talk about the humble beginnings of our school! In September 1943, a small, three-room red brick building called the Little Red

Schoolhouse opened its doors to students. This school stood on the very spot where the Oriole Park Branch Library is now located.

Long before Dr. Tim Riff became our principal, the first principal of the school was Miss Rose A. Clark. Soon after, a mother in the school community thought of an amazing idea—what if parents had a club to talk about school matters and activities? And just like that, the Mother’s Club was born. Over time, it turned into the Oriole Park School PTO, which is still an important part of our school today!

Fast forward to November 30, 1951, when construction started on the “old building” at Balmoral and Oketo. By February 1953, the new Oriole Park School opened! As the school grew, the gym was used for indoor sports and the community could join in on the fun. Then in the 1990s, a Local School Council was created to help run things. But the biggest change came in 2014 when the “new building” was built. It added 15 new classrooms, a shiny lunchroom, a library, science and computer labs, and even an office!

Over the years, Oriole Park School has earned a reputation for consistently achieving higher test scores than other schools on the Northwest Side of Chicago. It is also a great neighborhood school where most students live within walking distance. The Oriole Park community has grown a lot, and it’s going to keep getting bigger and even more welcoming for everyone!



# Teacher’s Pet

ROSE MCLAUGHLIN

Many people around the world own pets, including Oriole Park’s 5th-8th grade Chinese teacher, Mrs. McGuffey, with her shih-tzu: Frankie!

Frankie is a 3 year old shih-tzu, about to turn 4 on November 28th. Mrs. McGuffey got him from her mother in law on January 29th, during covid. On the day he was picked up, it was snowing so hard they had to plow the driveway of the house. When they finally got him, he was only 1 ½ lbs!

Shih-tzus are hypoallergenic, which means that they don’t shed and get their hair everywhere. This means that even people allergic to dogs can own one. Frankie has to be groomed every 6-8 weeks, to prevent his fur from getting knotted. While this can be expensive, it does mean that Frankie has very nice fur, and is very happy and healthy.



Frankie also loves dressing up for Halloween. Last year, he went as a squish-mellow. He is very fashionable and even has his own scarf collection to wear whenever he feels like it, and is very good with letting people put them on him, as well as being very friendly overall. He will climb into your lap and never run away when you approach; although he doesn’t like people with hats, hoodies, or beards.

When asked, his owners have said that 3 good words to describe him are: fast, bossy, and loveable. One interesting fact about Frankie is that he LOVES snow. He was trained in a place where it was really snowy, and was even confused when he first saw grass. He eats all types of fruit, including strawberries, blackberries, etc. Something funny is that when you are late to feed him, he will sneeze a little. Then, if you keep ignoring him, he will start barking until you feed him. Then, of course, he will bulldoze his face into the ground after he eats.

So, that’s Frankie! Thank you to Mrs. McGuffey for letting me meet him in person! He is a certified good boy.

## In our next Issue:

- Van Gogh
- Laredo Taft (what happened and whats next?)

# WHO IS . . . MRS. GRAVES?

KENNETH GRAVES

Today, I had the pleasure to meet one of our Amazing PreK teachers. Mrs Graves has been working at Oriole Park for 15 years now, and was originally a student here herself. I asked about her time as a Prek teacher for so many years.

Graves: “What would you say is your favorite part about teaching preschool?”

Graves: “I love how excited kids get about being in school for the first time and I love that while we’re playing all day, they’re learning and don’t even know it.”

“Over the course of the 15 years, what would you say what strength have you developed?”

“confidence in myself and in my teaching abilities.”

“What does the average day in preschool look like for you?”

“It is crazy, it is loud, and there are a lot of moving parts. it’s everyone on the outside to anyone on the outside I think it looks super easy and that we’re not really teaching much at all but they are learning

from the moment they leave their parents to the moment they get back into their parents’ arms they are learning constantly throughout the day everything they’re learning how to be friends they’re learning how to be good humans they’re learning how to stand up for themselves.”

“Why have you wanted to teach preschool at Oriole Park?”

“I went to Oriole Park as a kid and this has always been my goal. I have always loved 4 and 5 yr-olds and their personalities and what they give to the world so this has always been my goal is to teach Pre-K at Oriole Park so I’m living the dream.”

I then asked her “How does it feel to know your teaching the next generation of preschoolers who will go on to be 8th graders?”

She told me that she “love, love, loves that she gets to watch my kids grow through the hallways. Some come back and say hello in the Halls, some stop by, and give me hugs, and some pretend that they don’t even remember me but that’s okay because I watch them grow. I watch them mature and it is such a great feeling to be able to be able to see them grow into these amazing young adults.”

Thank You Mrs. Graves for letting me Interview her and letting me learn more about the icons of Oriole Park



Abigail Ramos

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If you are (5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders) interested in Journalism, Editing, Photography, Comics, Poetry . . . The Panther Press Team meets every Tuesday from 11:10 to 12:10 in Mrs. McGuffey’s Room.

## Emmet’s Comedy Corner also known as ‘Jokes my Grandma told me’

EMMET JULIEN

Q: What job does Dracula have with the Transylvania baseball team?  
A: He’s the Bat Boy.

Q: Why don’t grasshoppers go to baseball games  
A: They prefer the game cricket.

Q: What’s an astronaut’s favorite game?  
A: Moonopoly.

Q: Why didn’t the dog want to play football?  
A: It was a boxer

Q: What do you call a train full of gum?  
A: Chew chew train.