

IN THE LOOP

with LINK

Updates, Observations & Anecdotes for Parents
from Julianne Allen,
Family & Community LINK Coordinator



Parent/Family/Community Engagement Opportunities & Important Dates

Your Holiday Playlist (2020 Style)

A non-traditional year calls for a non-traditional holiday playlist. Do any of these songs sound familiar?

"Have Yourself a Merry Remote Wednesday"

"Deck the Halls with Hi-Speed Internet (ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha)"

"Angels we have Heard On Hybrid"

"What Day Is This?"

"Joy to the Wi-Fi"

"I'll Be Home For Ever"

"The Twelve Days of Quarantine"

"Baby Don't Go Outside"

"Rockin' Around the GoogleMeet"

"It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Full Remote Learning"

"We Can't Hear What You Hear"*
*you're on mute

"I Saw Mommy in Your Virtual Class"

J.A.

- 12/19 Winter Break Begins (You made it!)
- 1/3 Last Day of Winter Break (It's time!)
- 1/4-1/8 SCHOOL RESUMES IN REMOTE MODEL
- 1/11 Transition to New Instructional Models (Gr. 1-3: 3/2 Model, Gr. 4-12: Full Hybrid Model)
- 1/12 OFMS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM
- 1/14 e-Assembly for Parents: Pandemic Pressure (registration required) 6:30 PM
- 1/15 OFIS PTA Meeting- 8:00 AM
- 1/18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day- NO SCHOOL
- 1/25 OFHS College Credit Plus Info Night-6:00 PM
OFHS Junior College Info Night-7:00 PM
OFHS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM
- 1/26 Falls-Lenox/ECC PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM
- 1/28 ECC 20-21 Kindergarten Info Night
- 1/29 ECC 20-21 Kindergarten Registration Opens

QUICK QUESTION:

Q: Should I register for the January 14, 2021 e-Assembly: Pandemic Pressure?

A: If you'd like to learn how to identify the signs of stress, anxiety, & social/emotional issues in your child and find resources for support, then YES! You should! Check out page 3 for details!

PANDEMIC PARENTING

Two really smart psychologists and moms share their expertise and research in a non-judgy way. Because they didn't sign up for this either.

www.pandemic-parent.org





Virtual Hum-bugs for The Grinchiest Year Yet

by Julianne Allen, Family & Community LINK Coordinator



At the risk of sounding like a big Grinch, let me start by saying this: Can you really blame me? Should anyone of us who are basically stumbling over the finish line at this point feel guilty about having less than joyful attitudes? It's been rough. And for many, it's been downright awful. I don't want to make light of what was a very difficult year for so many. But rather than dwell too much on all of the big things that were getting us down all year, I thought it might help if we could squeeze a few smiles (or even a couple of smirks) out of the end of it. Perhaps we could do a little "virtual venting" about those things we have in common. Of course I'm talking about our love for our children. I'm also talking about the things these same angels are doing that are really getting on our last nerve. When someone is on the "naughty" list, I hear that the guy in red leaves a lump of coal in their stocking. I have no experience with this, since I cannot recall ever being on that list (or that's the way I choose to remember it.) Yes, we should be joyful this time of year, but let's allow ourselves a few moments to commiserate as only parents of school children can do. Here is our rating scale, where  represents a lump of coal. The more lumps, the worse the crime.

• VIRTUAL COAL CONVERSION CHART & LIST OF OFFENSES •

| | | |
|---|------------------|----------------------------------|
|  | 1 lump of coal= | Annoying but Tolerable |
|  | 2 lumps of coal= | Now I'm Frustrated |
|  | 3 lumps of coal= | You're Really Pushing It |
|  | 4 lumps of coal= | I'm Going to Lose My Mind |
|  | 5 lumps of coal= | NO. Just NO. |

- **Complaining about Remote/Hybrid/Virtual/e-learning=** 
- **Doing the homework but not submitting it in Google Classroom=** 
- **"Forgetting" that at-home days are not "no school" days=** 
- **Not charging the Chromebook. Again.=** 
- **Dropping/Spilling Something On/Misplacing the Chromebook=** 
- **Insisting it is too hard to look at a screen for school while staring zombie-like at Tik-Tok, YouTube, or various gaming systems for hours and hours on end without complaint=** 
- **Claiming it is pajama day. For the third day in a row. Really.=** 
- **Goofing around/not listening/turning the camera off/leaving yourself on mute/in general embarrassing your parent who is doing the best that they can and now the teacher is going to think that I don't care and why are you behaving like this when all of the other kids are doing what they are supposed to be doing?=** 
- **Forgetting your mask=** 
- **Forgetting your mask again=** 
- **Forgetting your mask again, again= please just pull your sweatshirt over your face** 
- **Whose mask is that? That's not your mask=** 
- **Saying you are the ONLY kid not allowed to go anywhere and that "NO ONE" else's parents care if they get COVID=** 
- **Telling everyone that your "home school" teacher is mean and the WORST EVER=** 

I feel better now. Don't you? Sending virtual hum-bugs is not only harmless, but therapeutic, and, dare I say, FUN? Now we can go back to being the worst home school teachers EVER (and loving our kids anyway.) I hope you find reasons to celebrate this year. You have earned your spot on the nice list. No matter what your children say. J.A.

LINK NOTES!

January e-Assembly for Parents Pandemic Pressure

Information and resources to help parents and caregivers:

- Recognize the signs of stress, anxiety, and social/emotional issues in their children
- Support their children with day-to-day challenges, the impacts of the pandemic, and what comes next

Thursday, January 14, 2021

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM



presented by
OFCS LINK and Student Services
in partnership with



OhioGuidestone
WHERE NEW PATHS BEGIN

PTA
everychild.onevoiceSM

Space is limited. Please register only if you are able to attend.



REGISTER

TAKE NOTE!
"IN THE LOOP" VIDEO SERIES TO LAUNCH IN 2021!
 Coming soon...a more in-depth look at the most important (and interesting) information, stories, and people that make Olmsted Falls City Schools "Different on Purpose". It's News that parents and caregivers can use!
 Stay "tuned!"



WHAT IS LINK?

LINK is an acronym for Learn, Inspire, Nurture, Know. The LINK Program is a district-wide family-community engagement resource. The goal of the program is to connect the Olmsted Falls School District with parents and families, to encourage two-way communication, and to help parents support their children's learning at home.

Hi Bulldog Parents & Caregivers,
 Just a quick note from me to you to say THANK YOU. Parenting is tough, but you are tougher. There is simply no way to measure the hours you have put in this year supporting your kids in their schooling. You didn't sign up for this...none of us did. But thank you for hanging in there. This newsletter is written FOR YOU. I hope it brought you a smile or two. We aren't out of the woods yet, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel (and I don't think it is an oncoming train this time!) From this Bulldog Mom to all of my fellow Bulldog parents...no matter how you celebrate over the next few weeks... don't forget to take care of yourselves.
 Sincerely,
 Julianne Allen, Family & Community LINK Coordinator,
 Olmsted Falls City Schools (and Bulldog Mom of Two!)

SCIENCE OF PARENTHOOD

If you kids don't stop fighting, so help me, I will **TOUCH THIS ELF!**



HOLIDAY THREAT LEVEL: RED

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STAY "IN THE LOOP" ON TWITTER!
 @OFCSLINK
 @OFCSDistrict



"In The LOOP with LINK" will be published periodically throughout the year for parents and caregivers in the Olmsted Falls School District. Have an idea for something you'd like to read about in future issues? E-mail your questions, comments, and suggestions to OFCSLINK@ofcs.net. Thanks for reading! -Julianne Allen, OFCS Family & Community LINK Coordinator