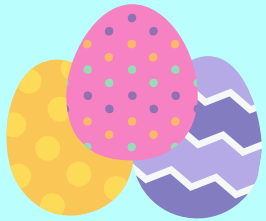


IN THE LOOP

with LINK

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



LINGO YOU SHOULD KNOW

Helping non-educators everywhere
understand what the heck stuff means

MAP: Measure of Academic Progress

Perhaps you've heard the word "MAP" assessment? Perhaps you haven't. But either way, it is a bit of LINGO YOU SHOULD KNOW. MAP stands for Measurement of Academic Progress. MAP is a computerized adaptive assessment given three times a year to students in grades K-8. There are two content areas that are assessed: English Language Arts and Math.

The test measures both achievement and growth in the content areas. It gives teachers data they can use to inform instruction and provide enrichment and intervention to students who need it. Aren't you glad you know? Check out the next episode of LINK UP (see right) to hear more about MAP from Mrs. Cogan.

PARENT/FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES & IMPORTANT DATES*

- 4/14 Premiere of Ep. 2 of LINK UP!- 7:00 PM- YouTube (see right)
- 4/20 OFIS & FL/ECC PTA Combined Meeting- 7:00 PM
- 4/21- ECC Preschool Parent Conferences- 3:30-7:00 PM (by appt.)
- 4/22 Happy Earth Day!
- 4/26 OFHS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM
- 4/28 OFMS 5th Grade Parent Night- 7:00 PM-8:30 PM @OFMS Cafe.

*Most events are now virtual. Contact your building principal or visit www.ofcs.net for details.

LINK UP

Episode 2:
**SPRING FORWARD &
BOUNCE BACK***

Featuring
Dr. Jim Lloyd,
Superintendent &

Mrs. Kelli Cogan,
Asst. Superintendent

*The OFCS plan to help students do both!



Episode Two of LINK UP! the show created with YOU in mind, is coming soon! This episode features Dr. Jim Lloyd, Superintendent and Mrs. Kelli Cogan, Assistant Superintendent.

Our focus is the OFCS plan to help students "Spring Forward and Bounce Back" as we begin to recover from a year that was anything but normal! We'll talk about what is already happening to support students and what plans for a special summer extended learning program look like so far.

The episode will premiere on Wednesday, April 14th at 7:00 PM on the NEW OFCS YouTube Channel! Be sure to subscribe [HERE](#) to watch the premiere and catch future episodes.

Premieres 4/14 @7 PM

Generation Next

by Julianne Allen, Family & Community LINK Coordinator

As I write this, Spring Break is done-zo and there are less than two months to go in this super-weird school year. I'm not sure if I should rejoice or cry. I kind of want to forget any of this ever happened. And I kind of want a do-over. I think I will settle for something in between. I never, ever want to have to go through this again, but, I wouldn't trade some of the moments I have had along the way. For better or worse, I got to experience much of my OFHS Sophomore's school year with her because she was HERE. This *hybrid-full remote-hybrid-full remote-full hybrid-five days in person* school year had its challenges. There was yelling. And crying. And feelings of despair and hopelessness. And that was just me on Monday of week one.

Fortunately, my child did much better at managing all of this than I did. She didn't love it. But she did it. And whatever her GPA looks like in the end she tried her best in a ridiculously difficult situation. I'm a Gen-X parent and therefore pre-disposed to feeling angry at the world over the pointlessness of it all. But my little Gen-Z-er plodded forward. Raised with technology, Gen-Z kids are considered "Digital Natives" who like to work independently, are good at multi-tasking and self-reliant. Perhaps there is no Generation better equipped to deal with the challenges of a remote school year than Z. The long-term impacts of the pandemic on these Z-ers will not be evident for some time, and I think it will be very interesting to see how this break in "normal" schooling and the stresses of being a kid trying to live through a global pandemic will affect them later in life. In some ways, it worries me. They've been through so much. Then I remember that I survived using a typewriter for my papers, talking on a phone attached to a wall, and Grunge...and I turned out mostly OK.

Gen Z, and the one after it (which I just found out is called Gen Alpha- boy, someone really wall-phoned that one in!) will undoubtedly be impacted by the events of the pandemic as they grow older. Maybe Gen Z should be known as Generation Pandemic? Gen P? Um, definitely not. After all, these kids deserve a name that denotes their strength and resilience and shows that they are ready for whatever comes their way next. "Generation Next" has a nice ring to it. Certainly not as dope as Gen X- I don't think Gen Z-ers really use the word "dope" anymore- but not wack either. (They definitely don't use the word "wack".) I'm counting on Gen Next to lead the way to a better world...with determination, grit, empathy, creativity, and the ingenuity to fix what is broken. Gen Next sounds like a group of young people who are focused on the future and ready to change the world. And that is awesome. Or as the young people like to say, "That's lit, fam."

SIGN UP FOR CAMP! SAVE YOUR SANITY!

My kids are too old for summer camp now, but I remember fondly the days of Zoo Camp, Camp Invention, Girl Scout Camp, Day Camp, Tech Camp, Art Camp, etc. etc. etc. If you don't want to hear about how bored your kids are, check out this listing of summer camps that will keep the kids happy, and put the kibosh on sibling battles, whining, complaining, and non-stop screen time:

<https://northeastohiofamilyfun.com/summer-camp-cleveland-ohio/>

LINK NOTES!



ICYMI

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Past issues of "*In the Loop*" and other LINK resources are available on our website [HERE](#). You know you want to read them. Go on.

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



April 22 is Earth Day!

National Geographic is hosting **Earth Day Eve** on **April 21st at 8:30 PM**. Per Nat Geo:

"The celebration will span the globe with visually stunning performances from some of the most beautiful places in the world. Through the combined power of music and storytelling, you'll leave uplifted, energized, and with a renewed commitment to living more lightly on the planet." Why not tune in with the kids? Do you have other Earth Day Eve plans? Well, do you? I didn't think so! Check it out on the Nat Geo website:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/>
or YouTube [HERE](#).

Now don't you feel good about yourself? 😊



"In The LOOP with LINK" is 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? Email your questions, comments, and suggestions to OFCSLINK@ofcs.net. Thanks for reading!
-Julianne Allen,
OFCS Family & Community LINK Coordinator

T "TOTALLY QUOTABLE" Q

"A **STUDENT** is **NOT** a **CONTAINER** you have to **Fill**, **BUT @ TORCH** you have to **LIGHT UP**"
-Albert Einstein

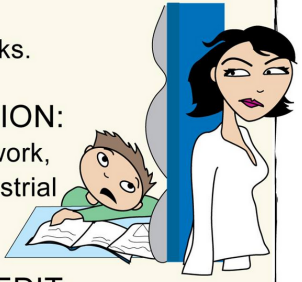
SCIENCE OF PARENTHOOD



TAX WRITE-OFFs for PARENTS

CAFFEINE SAVING ACCOUNT:
Pre-tax dollars designated for Starbucks.

HOMEWORK OFFICE DEDUCTION:
In a space used specifically for homework, sound-proofing, wall padding and industrial locks may be deducted.



ELECTRONIC CHILDCARE CREDIT:
Working parents who utilized childcare in the form of tablets, video games, television and other electronic devices can deduct the cost of the devices, internet and a percentage of electricity.

OBSESSION EXEMPTION:
50% of total dollars spent on a dependent's latest collect-'em-all toy may be deducted.



MEALS & ENTERTAINMENT DEDUCTION:
Parents may deduct all costs incurred while hosting play dates/sleepovers.



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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.