

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024 IN THE LOOP

Vol. 5
Issue
No. 2/3

WITH LINK

Updates, Observations &
Anecdotes for Parents
from **Julianne Allen**,
Family Engagement &
Communication Specialist

FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES & IMPORTANT DATES*

- 10/23 Falls-Lenox Title I Parent Night- 5:30 PM @FL Media Ctr
- 10/23 FLECC PTA Meeting- 6:30 PM @ECC
- 10/24-26 OFMS BTC Musical: We Will Rock You - 7:00 PM @MS
- 10/25 OFIS Halloween Parties & Parade- 1:15 PM @OFIS
- 10/28 OFHS PTA Mtg- 7:00 PM @HS
- 10/29-30 OFHS Fall Band Concert- 7:00 PM @ OFHS
- 10/31 Falls-Lenox Halloween Parties/Parade- 1:15 PM @FL
- 10/31 ECC Fall Fest- K/AM Pre. 9:00 AM, PM Pre. - 12:45 PM
- 11/4 ECC Parent/Teacher Conferences- 3:00-7:00 PM @ECC
- 11/4 OFMS Student-Led Conferences- 4:00-7:30 PM @MS
- 11/5 NO SCHOOL- ELECTION DAY & Staff PD Day
- 11/6 ECC & FL Family Wellness Night- 5:30 PM @FL**
- 11/7 OFIS Parent/Teacher Conferences- 2:30-7:00 PM @OFIS
- 11/7 OFHS Parent/Teacher Conferences- 5:00-8:30 PM @HS
- 11/11 Falls-Lenox Veterans Day Program
- 11/11 OFIS Parent/Teacher Conferences- 2:30-7:00 PM @OFIS
- 11/11 OFMS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @MS
- 11/12 OFMS Student-Led Conferences- 4:00-7:30 PM @MS
- 11/13 OFMS Choir Fall Concert & Golden Harmonies
6th: 6:30 PM; 7th: 7:30 PM; 8th: 8:30 PM
- 11/14 ECC Parent/Teacher Conferences- 3:00-7:00 PM @ECC
- 11/14 OFHS Parent/Teacher Conferences- 5:00-8:30 PM @HS
- 11/15 OFIS PTA Mtg.- 8:00 AM @OFIS
- 11/20 FLECC PTA Mtg.- 6:30 PM @FL
- 11/20 OFMS Band Concert: 6/7/8 - 6:30 PM & 8:00 PM
- 11/21 Falls-Lenox Parent/Teacher Conf.- 3:00-7:00 PM
- 11/22-23 OFHS Fall Play-7:00 PM @HS
- 11/25 Falls-Lenox Parent/Teacher Conf.-3:00-7:00 PM
- 11/25 OFHS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @HS
- 11/26 OFMS WEB Reunion- 8:00 AM @MS
- 11/27-29 Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL

*Contact your building principal for details.

**Registration encouraged.

LINGO YOU SHOULD KNOW

*(Helping non-educators everywhere
understand what the heck stuff means!)*

Chronic Absence

Chronic absence — missing 10 percent or more of the school year due to absence for any reason—excused, unexcused, and suspensions—can translate into students having difficulty learning to read by the third-grade, achieving in middle school, and graduating from high school.*

Unlike truancy, which counts only unexcused absences and emphasizes compliance with school rules, chronic absence counts ALL absences- excused, unexcused and suspensions- and emphasizes the academic impact of missed days.

As parents and caregivers, we know the struggle some days of getting our kids to school. But the benefits of being there EVERY DAY can not be understated. See below for more info about chronic absence and resources to help you avoid missed days!

***Source: [Attendanceworks.org](https://www.attendanceworks.org)**

NUMBERS THAT COUNT

2 days a month

Missing just two days a month over the course of the school year for any reason, including excused absences like doctor's appointments, can negatively impact a student's academic performance. Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with peer issues or something else. Don't let those missed days add up! Check out the "LINK APPROVED" link at left for resources and tips about avoiding chronic absences.

Source: [Attendanceworks.org](https://www.attendanceworks.org)



AttendanceWorks.org

While we agree that children should be in school, we can also agree that life happens. Kids get sick, have appointments, or sometimes just don't want to go. But even a few absences that are "excused" can have big impacts on learning and achievement.

AttendanceWorks.org has resources for parents to encourage attendance, tips for dealing with anxiety, guidelines for when kids are too sick to attend, and more. Stay in school, kids!

Zombie-Mode, Deactivate! by Julianne Allen, Family Engagement & Communication Specialist

If you're anything like me—and let's face it, you're probably a parent or caregiver raising a young person in Olmsted, so we're practically the same person—this is the time of year when your brain gets a little mushy. The end of summer and the rush of “back to school” has passed. The routine of bus rides, homework, and extracurricular activities is in full swing. You're trying to get your child to settle on a (third?) costume for Trick or Treat, and the rush of Thanksgiving and the winter holidays will be here before you know it.

The days are getting shorter, and you find yourself wanting to put your pajamas on much earlier. Your eyes don't want to stay open in the afternoon. If you try to read a book or even glance at your phone past 8:00 PM, you wake up a few hours later, still in your work clothes, hoping another adult made sure the kids brushed their teeth. Then you realize you didn't brush your OWN teeth. Your job is stressful, your days are packed, and yes, your kids are lovely—but they're also a lot of work. You're tired.

Hence, the mushy brain. The relentless election drama, the tragedy of natural disasters, the torrent of relatively “bad” news from all angles, and the pressure of trying to raise children in this crazy world all conspire to send our collective parenting brains into zombie-mode.

Alas, whether we like it or not, our children need us to pull ourselves together and show them the way. The world is a scary place, and even if we're afraid to get out of bed some days, it's our job to persevere, teach empathy and kindness, help our neighbors, and minimize negative interactions with our fellow zombies—I mean, humans.

This is not an easy task, which is a big hint that it's the right thing to do. We teach our students this every day in Olmsted Falls Schools—The Bulldog Way: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Kind. When you put it that way, it's pretty simple. When all else fails and you're overwhelmed with what's going on “out there,” remember that we only have control over how we behave and how we teach our children to do the same. Are we in zombie-mode, going through the motions? Or are we actively doing our best to raise good people? Perfection is not required, but we've got to try. Humanity is counting on those kids of yours to create a better world for all of us.



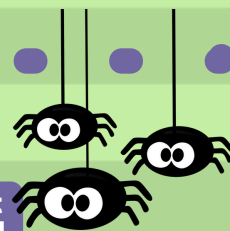
A visual representation of my current state of mind

So, if you're like me and you just want to close your eyes and pretend some of it isn't happening, that's okay. Just rest your eyes (yes, we know how that sometimes ends). Get up the next day, put your little goblins on the bus or send them off in their loud cars, and keep on trudging. Not like a mindless zombie, but like a determined parent, forcefully moving through the muck of life. It's not pretty, or remotely easy, but we can't let the zombies win. Zombie-mode, deactivate!

- Julianne

Parent-Teacher Conferences = Not Scary!

What kind of family engagement specialist would I be if I didn't encourage parents/caregivers to take advantage of any and all opportunities to COME TO SCHOOL! Oh look! Here's one of those opportunities now! Parent/Teacher Conferences! See your school email for updates on times and scheduling. Can't make it these days? You're not off the hook! Contact your building principal or your child's teachers to discuss other options. Do I sound like I am bossing you around? Good! I am! Even if your child is doing “well”, there is so much to be gained by establishing a relationship and ongoing communication with your school. Now schedule that conference ASAP! DO IT! :)



PLAN ON IT!*

*Plan on checking out these events and opportunities!

KNOW YOUR ZONE!

Learn the strategies we use at school...

...to think and talk about our feelings using the Zones of Regulation...

...and resolve conflicts using Kelo's Choices!



Grades Preschool & K-3
Family Wellness Night
NOVEMBER 6th,
5:30-6:45 PM at
Falls-Lenox

REGISTER NOW!

SCAN ME!



Are you a PARENT or caregiver who wants to be a LEADER for EDUCATION in your COMMUNITY?

Apply by
October 25, 2024

LEARN MORE + APPLY HERE



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Ohio Statewide
Family Engagement Center
at The Ohio State University



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
CENTER ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT



JANUARY 2025 - MAY 2025

WHAT:

- Connect with other parents
- Build leadership skills
- Take action to improve family-school partnerships

WHO:

- Any parent or caregiver of a child enrolled in an Ohio public school (K-12)
- 30 spots available

HOW:

- In-person and online meetings
- Self-paced online modules and assignments
- Design and implement a project in your school community

<https://go.osu.edu/familyleadersacademy>

Maltz Museum Presents
STOP THE HATE
SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST



The Stop the Hate contest celebrates Northeast Ohio students in 6th-12th grade who are committed to creating a more accepting, inclusive society by standing up and speaking out against bias and bigotry as they compete for a chance to win \$100,000 in scholarships, and prizes.

Each year nearly 3,000 students enter, and with the help of 400 volunteer readers, 32 finalists are named. Since the contest started, over 50,000 students across Northeast Ohio have participated and \$1.5 million has been awarded to students and schools.

Learn how to participate at
maltzmuseum.org/sth



Explore the arts and express yourself!



Get involved! PTA.org/Reflections

Watch for info from your school about the PTA Reflections program! Get involved and show off your creative mind! Deadline for entries is 12/2/24!

Harvest Your Luck!
50/50 RAFFLE

TICKETS ON SALE HERE:

[HTTP://APP.GIVEBACKS.GIVES/OFPTAFALL5050](http://app.givebacks.gives/ofptaFall5050)

Now - October 25th!

PROCEEDS SUPPORT OLMSTED FALLS PTA COUNCIL & SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND!



Winner announced on Saturday, 10/26!



VETERANS DAY

November 11th

OFMS BTC PRESENTS



WE WILL ROCK YOU
OCTOBER 24, 25, 26
7:00PM
OFMS CAFETORIUM
TICKETS AT THE DOOR
\$5 ADULTS \$3 STUDENTS, CASH OR CHECK
ROCK ON!

VOTE ✓

Tuesday, November 5th

Go to VoteOhio.gov
See what races are on your ballot, find your polling place, request an absentee ballot and more!

(Remember- there is no school for students this day.) No excuses! VOTE!



NO BAD JOKE LIKE A DAD JOKE!

*A cringeworthy feature inspired
by bad dad jokes everywhere*

Q. Did you hear the one
about the rude turkey?

A. It was jerk-y.



Sweater
Weather

SERIOUSLY
COMICAL

Random Acts of **AWESOME!** OFHS Home Maintenance & Repair Class Veterans Support Program

In a super-cool Random Act of Awesome, Mr. Pellerite's new "Home Maintenance and Repair" class at OFHS is looking for active and retired veterans in Olmsted Falls and Township that may have some repairs around the house that need attention. Students in the class are learning how to fix common problems that come with being a homeowner.

Ideally, the class is looking for smaller projects that may take anywhere from 1 hour to 1 day and may involve framing, plumbing, electrical, drywall, painting, or general yard work.

Here is the way our Veteran's Support Program works:

Contact Sean Pellerite at Olmsted Falls High School at 440-427-6132 or email spellerite@ofcs.net if you have a repair need.

We will assess the scope of the repair and see if it is something that we can do.

If we can do the repair, we will contact the veteran to confirm the date and time that we will complete the repair.

The Veteran supplies any materials that are needed and we supply the **FREE** labor as our way of saying, "Thank you for your service!" Our students gain valuable experience and the veteran gets their problem fixed for **FREE**. It's a community win-win!

Things That Happen When We Turn the Clocks Back

There's at least one clock
that's a pain to change.

What about the clock over
my door?

It will be
correct again
in six months.

You just can't get over
how dark it is.

How is it so
dark this
early?!

There are arguments
about what time it is.

It's 6:00, but it's really 5:00.

So it's
5:00?

But it feels
like 6:00.

But the mornings? They're
a little bit better.

Oooh! It's
actually
light out!

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



WHAT IS LINK?

LINK is an acronym for Learn, Inspire, Nurture, Know. The LINK Program is a district-wide family 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 learning and student well-being at home.