

SEPTEMBER 2024 IN THE LOOP WITH LINK

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

FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES & IMPORTANT DATES

- 9/2 Labor Day- NO SCHOOL
- 9/11 College & Coffee-7:00 PM @HS- Rm. 606
- 9/12 OECPTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @FL Cafeteria
- 9/17 OFIS PTA- 6:00 PM @IS Media Ctr
- 9/17 OFMS PTA- 7:00 PM @MS Media Ctr
- 9/18 Common App/Essay Writing- 7:00 PM @HS Rm. 606
- 9/20 Falls-Lenox Picture Day
- 9/23 OFHS PTA- 7:00 PM @HS Media Ctr
- 9/24 OFMS Picture Day
- 9/25 FLECC PTA- 6:30 PM @FL
- 9/25 Financial Aid Night- 7:00 PM @HS Rm. 606
- 9/27 OFIS Picture Day

Contact your building principal or visit www.ofcs.net for details.

From the Editor

It's only been a week or two, but I'm guessing you're already feeling the fatigue that a new school year can bring. The alarm clock goes off earlier, and when the kids "don't hear it" you serve as the back-up alarm clock, risking your own well-being attempting to wake them up. There may be struggles over homework, friends, screentime, and bedtime. Maybe they've already forgotten their lunch, missed the bus, or blamed the dog for eating their homework. No matter what pitfalls you face this school year, I hope you'll find comfort knowing that you are not alone. Make it a point to read "In The Loop", a newsletter for all ages and stages of parenting, featuring parent-approved resources, activities, and ideas to support the learning and development of your favorite Bulldogs. There's a long way to go this school year, but lots of fun (if not much sleep) yet to come! Let's go! -Julianne Allen

MAKE IT MATH



FamilyMath.org

The Center for Family Math identifies, creates, and shares effective resources that families can use to deepen their understanding of math and their engagement in their children's math learning. The "Make it Math: Family Math Activity Toolkit" is full of activities to help parents and caregivers instill a love of math in their children. These activities were created by parents and caregivers. They are educational, creative, fun and **FREE!** Why not Make it Math?



NUMBERS THAT COUNT



46%

Forty-six percent of Americans report engaging with their local schools in the past school year in at least one of four ways: attending a school event (41%); donating money or supplies (24%); attending a PTA meeting (13%); or attending a school board meeting (9%).* While I wish that 100% of families chose to engage, by reading this newsletter, you are doing just that! Other easy ways to engage include checking all emails and mailings that come from school, attending conferences and parent programs, helping with homework, reading with your child, learning about college and career options, and more. You are doing a great service to your child by choosing to engage. Keep up the great work, you!

Source: PDKPoll

Born in the 1900's

by Julianne Allen

Family Engagement & Communication Specialist



A school bus AKA a “kid hack” (really the name) circa 1892 . No, this was not my bus, you smart alecks.

Last week, our Early Childhood Center welcomed the Class of 2037 to the start of their education in Olmsted Falls. You read that right. The kindergarten students who joined the ranks of the Itty-Bitty Bulldogs will walk the stage at their commencement in the year 2037. I'm not sure how to feel about that, other than to say that it makes me feel older than dirt.

You see, I was born in the 1900s, something I am reminded of quite frequently these days.

I find myself having stereotypical “older person” gripes about technology being too confusing, teenagers blaring music too loudly and driving too fast, wondering who was on my lawn when I find a piece of trash, and having to allot extra time to scroll for my age when filling out online forms (others born in the 1900s know how demoralizing this is).

While so many things have changed since the 1900s, it is comforting that some remain the same. I enjoy hearing the rumble of the school buses in the morning and the laughter of the kids waiting at the bus stop, although I pray each day that I don't get stuck behind their bus. I like the smell of the cafeteria and the kids carrying their plastic trays with the little milk cartons. It's fun to see the school supplies stocked way too early in Target and remember the excitement of having new crayons and special folders. It's nice to hear from my younger friends that their kids still love their teachers and that their favorite class is recess.

I do wonder what school will look like in 2037 when today's kindergarten students graduate. Will they walk across the stage, or will they hover over it wearing their jet packs? Will they receive a paper diploma or a digital image they can access with a scannable code to show off to their family and friends? Will they need to show up at all, or will everyone be represented by an artificial intelligence (AI) hologram of themselves? How much can really change in 13 years?

While I can't say for certain how much school will change, I can attest that your children certainly will. As parents of this year's seniors in the Class of 2025 will tell you, they can still remember the first time their Itty Bitty Bulldog boarded the bus for kindergarten, with their “bus tag” around their neck and their new crayons in their new backpack. They remember the tears (if not their child's, then their own). They remember thinking about how far away the year 2025 seemed. Yet, in the blink of an eye, those same parents have but one more year to share in their child's education in Olmsted Falls. For some of those parents, the tears they had when their child began kindergarten return throughout the milestones of senior year.

How I feel when I have to scroll down to the year I was born:



An actual photo of me scrolling for my birth year

No matter what grade your child is in this year, I hope you will take a moment to appreciate the school traditions that stay the same while admiring how much your child will change, learn, and grow. I also hope that if everyone is a hologram by 2037, someone not born in the 1900s will help me figure out how to watch graduation.

Have an AWESOME year!

Julianne


PLAN ON IT!

Plan on checking out these events and opportunities!

The College Application Workshop Series is back to answer your burning questions! Mark your calendar now. Visit [Counselors' Corner](#) for more info. Thanks, OFHS Guidance!

COLLEGE APPLICATION WORKSHOP SERIES 2024

Workshops held at 7 PM in OFHS Room 606

Workshop	Date
College & Coffee Information Session <i>An informative session for parents on the college application process including how to apply, order transcripts and test scores, letters of recommendation and Naviance. Parents of all grades are welcome, but most ideal for senior parents. *Seniors have a comparable lesson during school</i>	Wednesday, 9/11/2024 
Common Application & College/Scholarship Essay Writing Tips <i>Get guidance on how to complete the Common Application and write a winning college/scholarship essay. This workshop will be interactive and students should bring their Chromebooks. All grades are welcome, but the workshop is most applicable to current seniors.</i>	Wednesday, 9/18/2024
Financial Aid Night Presented by College Now of Greater Cleveland <i>Learn about the financial aid process (FAFSA) and scholarships from the financial aid experts at College Now of Greater Cleveland. Parents and students in all grades are welcome, but most ideal for juniors/seniors and parents.</i>	Wednesday, 9/25/2024



PICTURE DAY!

Easy as 1-2-3

1 Picture Day Dates

OFHS (9th-11th) - 10/2
 OFMS - 9/24 Falls-Lenox - 9/20
 OFIS - 9/27 ECC - 10/1

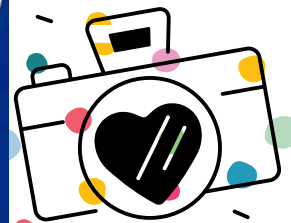
2 Online Ordering

cavanaughphoto.com/order

Store is open now & will remain open for 48 hours after picture day.

Cash or Check Ordering

Print out the flyer that the school emailed you. Place the flyer, EXACT cash or check (made out to Cavanaugh Photography) in an envelope & send it in with your student on picture day.



STAY "IN THE LOOP" ON X/TWITTER!

@OFCSLINK
 @OFCSDistrict



3 Picture Day!

Pick out your favorite clothes that make you want to SMILE! And if you're buying pictures, make sure you ordered online or bring in your downloaded form & payment!



CAVANAUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

Classic, contemporary, creative.
 Questions? Call 440.973.4390

LUNCH DUTY

Are you already tired of packing lunches? Why not take advantage of the healthy and delicious school lunches prepared daily for your kids by the OFCS Food Service team! Parents, make sure your student knows their ID# to use in the cafeteria to speed up the line and give them more time to eat. Those new to the cafeteria may benefit from practicing with this [template](#). Don't forget to keep your students' payment account up to date by using our easy, online [PaySchoolsCentral](#) system, or pay with cash or check (written out to Olmsted Falls School Food Service). Visit the [food service website](#) to find menus and more information. Take a break from lunch duty TODAY!

PTA
 everychild.onevoice.



SCAN ME TO JOIN PTA!

One of the easiest ways to support your child's school is to become a member of PTA! Simply by joining, you are supporting PTA's mission to promote the health, well-being, and education of every student! The five PTAs in Olmsted Falls are highly engaged and an important resource for our students, teachers, and community. If you want to be part of the oldest and largest child advocacy organization in the country, do your part and join PTA today!

Scan the QR code or click this [link](#) to access the PTA website. Tell them LINK sent you!:)

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 the education, growth, and well-being of their children at home.

GOOD STUFF

TOTALLY QUOTABLE

“Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace.”

—CONFUCIUS



NO BAD JOKE

LIKE A DAD JOKE!

A cringeworthy feature inspired by bad dad jokes everywhere

Q. Why did the egg get sent to the principal?
A. Because he kept telling yolks!



Charlotte's Closet
A FREE RESOURCE FOR BULLDOG STUDENTS, GRADES K-12
LOCATED INSIDE MADER REALTY AT 8026 COLUMBIA RD., OLMSTED FALLS, OH 44128

We're OPEN

WEDNESDAYS 5-7PM
&
SATURDAYS 9-11AM

FOR AN APPOINTMENT OUTSIDE THE OPEN TIMES
CALL 440-427-599

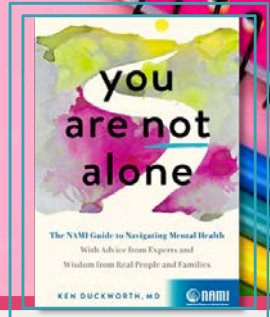
If any of our OFCS families are in need of clothes, shoes, Bulldog gear, toiletries and/or school supplies, you are welcome to shop Charlotte's Closet! All that is required is the OFCS student ID for confidentiality purposes and data tracking (no volunteers are from OFCS). Charlotte's Closet is located in the Mader Realty Building at 8026 Columbia Rd.

For those who would like to donate, the closet needs new or gently used school-age kid's clothing, Bulldog Gear, and black and white clothing for band/choir concerts. Donations can be dropped off at the Olmsted Community Center M-F from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. There is also an Amazon Wishlist → <https://buff.ly/3YBNJXF> for anyone who would like to send a donation directly, to help keep the shelves stocked with essential items!

SERIOUSLY COMICAL

Signs Schoolwork Might Take a While

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www.hedgerhumor.com



LOOK!

A BOOK! SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has a first-ever book to help!

“You Are Not Alone,” by Dr. Ken Duckworth, is full of stories from not only those dealing with their own mental illness but their caregivers too. The personal stories help the reader by providing real-life examples from others who have “been there”.

The book also contains information about how to get help and support. Whether you read the book or not, be sure to check out NAMI's [website](http://www.nami.org) for resources to support you and your loved ones.

Need help? Call the NAMI HelpLine at 800-950-6264, text “helpline” to 62640, or chat online. In a crisis, call or text 988.