

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

## Upcoming Parent/Family/Community Engagement Opportunities & Important Dates

- 12/10-12 2nd Grade Silver Linings Program @FL- for grandparents
- 12/11 ECC Family Literacy Night- 6:00 PM @ECC
- 12/11 OFHS Holiday Band Concert- 7:30 PM @HS
- 12/12 OFHS Holiday Band Concert- 7:30 PM @HS
- 12/17 OFIS 5th Grade Choir Concert- 6:30 PM @OFMS
- 12/19 OFIS 4th Grade Movie Night- 2:30-4:20 PM @OFIS
- 12/23-1/3 Winter Break - NO SCHOOL
- 1/3 Return from Winter Break
- 1/6 OFHS College Credit Plus Info Night- 7:00 PM @HS Aud.
- 1/9 OECPTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @FL
- 1/9 OFMS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @MS
- 1/14 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS- Staff Prof. Learning Day
- 1/17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL
- 1/21 Celebrating Differences Week Begins
- 1/21 OFIS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @OFIS
- 1/23 Jr. Parent Pathway Planning Mtg.- 7:00 PM @HS Rm. 606
- 1/27 OFHS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @HS
- 1/29 OFMS DC Parent & Student Mandatory Mtg.- 7:00 PM @MS
- 1/29 FL/ECC PTA Meeting- 6:30 PM @ECC
- 1/29 ECC Kindergarten Info Night- 5:30 PM @ECC
- 1/31 ECC Online Kindergarten Registration Opens for 2025-26
- 1/31 OFMS PTA Breakfast Buddies- 7:15 AM @MS

Please contact your building with questions or to confirm events



Got stuff? Someone could use it!

If you're fortunate enough to have extra "stuff", why not give it a new life and help someone in need? There are plenty of places to donate your new and gently used clothing, shoes, coats, and more this holiday season. Check out page 2 for a few options in the Olmsted community. Commit a Random Act of Awesome and make someone else's holiday season brighter. Thanks, Bulldogs! #BeKind

## TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

### Tech Tips for Non-Techy Types

If someone in your home has a new device on their wish list this holiday season, be sure that you are taking steps to help keep them safe online. While there is no magic setting on a phone, computer, or gaming device that can protect your child from every potential threat on the internet, there are a few things that may help.

One of my favorite sites for parents, Common Sense Media, says that the best parental control is your involvement. Talk to your child/teen about the apps they use. Set up the parental controls and privacy settings that will help maximize your chances of blocking out the bad stuff. Model healthy use of devices and check in frequently with your kids to talk about what they are doing and seeing online.

For resources about parental controls visit the [Parents' Ultimate Guide To Parental Controls](#) from Common Sense Media. Stay involved, Bulldog parents and caregivers!

## GO ON A HOLIDAY DECORATION SCAVENGER HUNT!

Traditional holiday activities like assembling gingerbread houses, stringing popcorn, ice skating, and singing holiday songs could be difficult for families of children with special needs. Parenting Special Needs Magazine has a great idea that families with children of all abilities can enjoy! Click the links at right to download holiday decor scavenger hunt lists! Even non-verbal children can enjoy the lights and decorations in your neighborhood. Choose from holiday lights, holiday inflatables, or Hanukkah decorations. Create your own list if your child has decorations or characters they enjoy. Make a game of walking or driving around the neighborhood and spotting the items on your list. Above all, enjoy time together as a family... no matter what your age or ability.





# BULLDOGS HAVE HEART!

## Ways to share yours this holiday season

# SHOE US THE LOVE

We are collecting shoes at all the schools for OFHS POST PROM Class of 2025 until January 11th. Send them in and we'll do the rest.



**DONATE**

**YOUR GENTLY WORN, USED AND NEW SHOES TODAY! STOP BY THE OF BOOSTERS WINTER APPAREL SALE ON DECEMBER 7TH FROM 9-11**

Help us raise funds just by donating gently worn, used and new shoes! Be sure to ask, friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to donate too!

Collected shoes not only help support us, but they will be reused and given a second life by those in need through #microenterprise. It's a WIN-WIN!

#### CONTACT

Mrs. Roberto  
lroberto@ofcs.net



# Charlotte's Closet

A FREE RESOURCE FOR BULLDOG STUDENTS, GRADES K-12  
CLOTHES • BULLDOG GEAR • SHOES • COATS • FORMAL ATTIRE • SCHOOL SUPPLIES



OPEN WEDNESDAYS FROM 5-7PM & SATURDAYS FROM 9-11AM

FOR AN APPOINTMENT OUTSIDE OF OPEN HOURS 440-427-1599

LOCATED INSIDE MADER REALTY AT 8026 COLUMBIA RD, OLMSTED FALLS

## FAST FACTS!

- THIS IS NOT INCOME BASED, WE ONLY NEED YOUR STUDENT ID OR HOMEROOM TEACHER/SCHOOL TO TRACK USAGE FOR OUR GRANT
- THIS IS FOR ALL STUDENTS TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO CLOTHES AND REDUCE THE FASHION WASTE IN OUR COMMUNITY
- WE LOVE TO SWAP CLOTHES, BRING IN WHAT DOESN'T FIT AND TAKE STUFF THAT DOES → ESPECIALLY BULLDOG GEAR OR BAND AND CHOIR CONCERT OUTFITS!
- WE DO STOCK PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS ON HAND FOR STUDENTS WHO MIGHT NEED THEM → WHATEVER YOU NEED OR TAKE IS CONFIDENTIAL
- WE ALSO HOST THE ANNUAL HOMECOMING AND PROM POP-UP SHOPS EVERY YEAR
- DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE OLMSTED COMMUNITY CENTER



CHARLOTTE'S CLOSET IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN



# ECC INDOOR RECESS USED TOY/GAME DRIVE



Cleaning out your closet? Having the kids get rid of old toys? Want to make a difference?

The ECC would love your gently used toys and games for indoor recess. New toys also welcome.

What's Needed: Card Games, Board Games, Legos, Magnatiles, Markers, Floor Puzzles, Hotwheel Cars, Coloring/Maze books, Trains, Magnet Dolls, Stringing Beads, Toy trucks

Please ensure all games/puzzles have all pieces.

Our Itty Bitty Bulldogs thank you in advance for making indoor recess more fun!

Please drop off to:

ECC Office: 7105 Fitch Road, Olmsted Twp  
Woodgate Farms: 9701 Maurer Drive, Olmsted Twp

Questions: FallsLenoxECC@gmail.com

# FOOD DRIVE

LET'S FEED THE HUNGRY



**WHAT WE NEED?**

UNEXPIRED & NON PERISHABLE FOOD ONLY

**the grade with the most cans wins donuts!!**

**DEC. 2 - DEC. 20**

# FALLS-LENOX COZY WINTER COLLECTION

Thank you for your Bulldog support as we donate new winter clothing items to those in need.

**SOCKS | SCARVES | GLOVES | HATS | COATS**

## The Giving Tree at the ECC

With the winter months upon us, the ECC Kinder Council is asking for your help! We are collecting hats, mittens, and scarves for children in need. Please send donations in with your children to add to the giving tree in the front lobby. What a wonderful way to show our students what the holiday season is really about!

DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025 IN THE LOOP with LINK



# PLAN ON IT!\*

\*Plan on checking this stuff out!

## College Credit Plus (CCP) Info Night

January 9th, 7:00 PM- OFHS Audit.

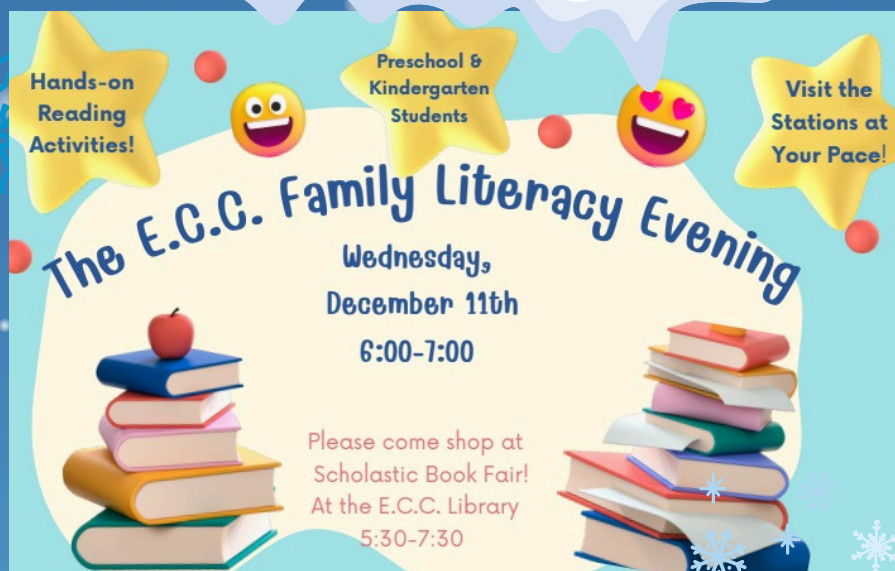
College Credit Plus (CCP) is a program that gives students in grades 7-12 the opportunity to participate in college courses during middle and high school at no cost. If you are interested in learning more about the program, please join us for this informative presentation. Representatives from OFHS and partner colleges will be presenting and answering your questions. Check out the [CCP page](#) on the Counselor's Corner for more information.

## Junior Parent Pathway Planning Meeting

January 23th, 7:00 PM- OFHS Rm 606

Spring of junior year is the time to start taking action steps to prepare for your student's post high school plans whether they are planning to enter the workforce, join the military, participate in career training or attend college.

In this presentation we will discuss each pathway, the junior/senior timeline, Naviance exploration resources and financial aid. The presentation is geared toward current junior parents/guardians, but parents/guardians from any grade level are welcome. Junior students will participate in the same presentation during their PLC session on Monday, January 13th at 8:10 AM.



Hands-on Reading Activities!

Preschool & Kindergarten Students

Visit the Stations at Your Pace!

## The E.C.C. Family Literacy Evening

Wednesday,  
December 11th  
6:00-7:00

Please come shop at  
Scholastic Book Fair!  
At the E.C.C. Library  
5:30-7:30



# 2025

## NOON YEAR'S EVE Party

SWINGS-N-THINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 10AM - 12PM

Ticket includes:  
Unlimited game play (no tickets/prizes will be won)  
Unlimited Kids Korner (10 and under w/socks)  
\$5 gameplay certificate  
PLUS a NYE count down and balloon drop at 11:45am

Early Bird pricing \$15/person by 12/15 or general admission \$20/person by noon on 12/30. All sales final. Advanced ticket sales only, no tickets will be sold at the door.

★ Tickets required for each person who will be playing games. Tickets not required for observers. Doors open at 9am for younger guests.  
Event is brought to you by Girl Scout Troop 70155.

Swings-N-Things, 8501 Stearns Rd, Olmsted Falls, OH 44138




## WINTER BREAK CAMPS FOR RESTLESS CHILDREN

Beat the boredom of winter break by checking out these fun and educational camps



Stay Curious.

'TIS THE SEASON OF STEM-FILLED FUN AT THE SCIENCE CENTER! THIS YEAR'S CAMPS EXPLORE SPACE, CHEMISTRY, ENGINEERING, AND EVEN THE SCIENCE BEHIND MAN'S BEST FRIEND! CAMPS RUN FROM DECEMBER 23-27 AND DECEMBER 30 TO JANUARY 3. CAMP DAYS ARE FROM 8:15 A.M. TO 4 P.M. CLICK HERE FOR INFO: [HTTPS://GREATSCIENCE.COM/CAMPS](https://greatscience.com/camps)

JOIN US FOR ONE OF OUR WINTER BREAK CAMPS! GET THE KIDS OUT OF THE HOUSE AND INTO NATURE DURING THEIR WINTER BREAK. FROM CRAFTS AND GAMES, TO HIKES AND WATERFALLS, WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERY CHILD. CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO: [HTTPS://WWW.CLEVELANDMETROPARKS.COM](https://www.clevelandmetroparks.com)

# Happy Holi-daze

A holiday crossword just for fun

by Julianne Allen, Family Engagement & Communication Specialist

It's year three of my holiday crossword and to say I am running out of quirky clues and silly phrases for you to guess is an understatement. It's been a long year, Bulldog parents and caregivers! But fear not! I have dug into the depths of my brain to come up with another year of word puzzle fun for you to enjoy. Will it be my best work? You be the judge! Have a wonderful, safe, and very happy holiday season! No matter how you celebrate, take time for family, friends, and yourself. You deserve it! See you in 2025! – Julianne



Keep reading for the clues! In the unlikely event that you are stumped, the answer key is on page 6!



## CLUES

### ACROSS

2. This poor guy worked overtime in horrible weather conditions and all he got for his trouble was a catchy song minimizing his childhood troubles. Unfair!
6. A fun winter activity you can do on ice if you enjoy falling on your face.
8. The process of covering a gift in fancy paper and ribbon. See also: a tedious chore for which you never have the right supplies because someone took the tape and the scissors.
10. If you have a real Christmas tree, you'll be finding these in your home well into March.
11. The best ones smell great and look pretty when lit. Until you fall asleep and forget to extinguish them. #SafetyFirst
14. Most candy canes have this flavor, except the gross ones. I'm right on this one.
15. On this day in winter, the sun travels the shortest path through the sky resulting in the longest night. The only longer night is the one you spend waiting for your kids to go to sleep on New Year's Eve.
17. This celebration of African-American culture takes place from Dec 26- Jan 1, with common foods featuring collard greens, mac and cheese, and cornbread eaten during the celebration. Lucky!
18. If you're lucky, your child will sing or play an instrument in one of these this year. They will obviously be the best and most talented performer. That goes without saying.
19. This snowman came to life when the children put a magic hat on his big snowball head. Also, a delicious frozen treat from Wendy's.
21. Hang on to this if you plan to return that ugly sweater.
23. The place where you receive holiday cards and gifts, provided it does not get taken out by a Falls or Township snowplow.
24. Sure you could use a snowblower. But then your teenagers wouldn't know the joy of using one of these!
25. If only this little guy (or gal) was content with sitting on the shelf. High maintenance!
27. Repurpose this veggie and use it as a nose for your snowman. Your kids aren't eating it anyway.

### DOWN

1. If a teacher assigns this over winter break, you will never hear the end of it.
3. The best one is one that your child made by hand when they were a toddler. Trust me. You'll keep these forever. (I'm not crying. I swear.)
4. I hope that all of these come true for you and your family. Unless someone asked for a pet that you don't want. I defer to your judgement here.
5. A versatile holiday treat that can be baked into people or houses. That didn't sound right, but I think you've got this one.
7. This poor woman gets run over by a reindeer in a popular Christmas tune. Sad!
9. The season that comes after fall and before spring. In Northeast Ohio, it encompasses  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the year.
12. The thing that you keep at least a week into the new year so that you can say you tried.
13. You're supposed to share a kiss with your sweetheart when standing under this, but your children do not want to see this so please refrain.
15. Like your angelic children, each one of these is unique. Unlike your children, these do not talk back.
16. There are multiple correct spellings for this holiday known as Judaism's "Festival of Lights" that takes place Dec. 25-Jan. 2 this year. Which one did I choose?
20. This month often seems to last 35 days.
22. If you aren't careful, this dangerous accessory that forms on your gutters can potentially injure you. Watch your back!
26. The name of a popular movie starring Anna and Elsa. See also, your face when you step outside this time of year.

# GOOD STUFF

## 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.



SERIOUSLY  
COMICAL

## Winter Fails, Part 2

Forgetting to start your car early so it will warm up.

Oh my gosh, just DEFROST!  
I'm going to be late!



©Adrienne Hedger

Walking in from the cold and having your glasses fog up.

Ahhh!

I can't see!



Opening your car door super carefully, but still having a chunk of snow fall on to your seat.



Realizing too late that under the light dusting of snow, the ground is pure ice.



[www.HedgerHumor.com](http://www.HedgerHumor.com)

[www.hedgerhumor.com](http://www.hedgerhumor.com)



# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025



NO BAD JOKE

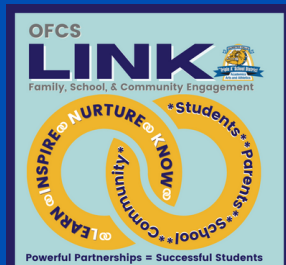
## LIKE A DAD JOKE!

A cringeworthy feature inspired by bad dad jokes everywhere

Q. What do you call a snowman who works out?  
A. An abdominal snowman.



## 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 learning at home.



December 26th-January 1st

# HAPPY KWANZAA



HOLI-DAZE CROSSWORD

ANSWER KEY

