Happy Salenline's

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### FEBRUARY 2025 Vol. 5 | Issue No. 7

IN THE LOOP

with LINK

pdates, Observations & Anecdotes for Parents and Caregivers
by Julianne Allen

**Family Engagement & Communication Specialist** 



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

- 2/6 ECC Family Math Night-5:30-6:30 PM @ECC
- 2/7 OFIS Valentine's Day Celebrations- 1:45-2:15 PM 2/10 OFMS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @MS Media Center
- 2/11 OFHS/OFMS Combo Concert- 7:00 PM @HS Auditorium
- 2/11 OFMS 8th Gr. Bands, Jazz, & Percussion Ensemble- 8:00-9:00 PM @HS Auditorium
- 2/12 OFMS Band Concert Grades 6 & 7 -6:30 PM @MS Cafe.
- 2/13 Falls-Lenox Valentine's Day Celebrations- 1:15-2:15 PM
- 2/13 Falls-Lenox 3rd Grade Music Concert- 6:00 & 7:15 PM @HS Audit.
- 2/13 ECC Valentine's Day Celebrations- 9:15 -10:15 AM
- 2/13 OECPTA Meeting-7:00 PM @FL Cafeteria
- **2/14** Staff Professional Learning Day NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- 2/17 Presidents' Day NO SCHOOL
- 2/18 OFIS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @OFIS Media Center
- 2/20 PTA Battle of the Schools-7:00 PM @OFHS
- 2/24 OFHS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @HS Media Center
- 2/26 BW STEM Night- 5:30 PM @FL Cafeteria
- 2/26 Falls-Lenox/ECC PTA Meeting- 6:30 PM @FL Cafeteria
- **2/26** MS 6th Choir Concert & Golden Harmonies 6:30 PM MS Cafe.
- 2/26 MS 7th Choir Concert & Golden Harmonies- 7:30 PM- MS Cafe.
- 2/26 MS 8th Choir Concert & Golden Harmonies 8:30 PM MS Cafe.
- 2/27 ECC Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences- 3:00-7:00 PM

\*Contact your building or visit www.ofcs.net for details.

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#### **Journey Center for Safety & Healing**

Journey Center for Safety and Healing is Cuyahoga County's most comprehensive domestic violence agency. Journey Center provides services that foster safety and healing to those affected by domestic violence and child abuse and prevents abuse through education, advocacy, and systemic change.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness month. Journey Center's website contains resources and information to raise awareness about the issue of teen dating violence, and focus on advocacy and education to stop abuse before it starts.

Check out the LINK APPROVED link <u>HERE</u> to access the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month toolkit and more!

#### NUMBERS THAT COUNT



1 IN 3 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE INVOLVED IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP.\*

Teen dating violence is similar to and can be as lethal as adult relationship violence. It includes hitting, yelling, threatening, name calling and other forms of verbal, sexual, emotional and physical abuse. These facts make it very important for parents to be aware of relationship abuse.

Check out the LINK
APPROVED LINK at left
for more information
about a local
organization offering
resources and support.

\*Source: <u>The Center for</u> <u>Relationship Abuse Awareness</u>





In honor of Black History
Month, why not take a road
trip to the National
Underground Railroad
Freedom Center in
downtown Cincinnati?
Located just a few steps
from the banks of the Ohio
River, the center's mission
is to pursue inclusive
freedom by promoting
social justice for all,
building on the principles of
the Underground Railroad.

#### **Gotta Love It** By Julianne Allen Family Engagement & Communication Specialist

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We just made it through what felt like the longest, coldest, snowiest, yuckiest month we've experienced in a while. Now that we're in the month of love—or at least the month centered around the holiday that falls smack in the middle of it—we need to find a few things to be happy about. While I'm not loving most of what's happening in the world right now, it isn't the worst idea to search for a few things to appreciate on these dark, cold days.

This won't be easy, but here I go.

I love my job. Specifically, I love that I get to be the one who tries to inspire and empower Bulldog parents and caregivers. I may not always be the best at it, but I hope you know that I've been where you are and understand how challenging it can be. I try to convey that and provide ideas and resources to help you. It's still a slog some days, but at least we're slogging along together, right?

I love our big Bulldog family. The parents and caregivers in Olmsted Falls are simply incredible. They help with homework, attend parent-teacher conferences, volunteer, show up to games and concerts, join the PTA—they're engaged, and they care. I love that.

I love that my Ohio State Buckeyes were the big winners this year and that the Cleveland Cavaliers are bringing some much-needed sunshine to our gray winter. I don't love that Myles Garrett is leaving (so much for that jersey), and that Guardians baseball is still a few months away. I also love our Bulldog athletes, across all seasons. They're hardworking, dedicated, and represent our community so well. Go Bulldogs!

I love the focus on the arts in our school district. Maybe it's because I didn't play any sports in high school, but I played three instruments and marched in the band. I still love watching The Pride of Olmsted Falls on Friday nights in the fall. They make it look easy. (Hint: It's not.) I also love the art teachers here who helped my daughter find her passion. She's majoring in art and loving college because of it. I'm grateful, and I hope they know how they've impacted her in the best ways. Perhaps a special teacher has impacted your child? Let them know!

I love New York. Not their sports teams, but the city itself. I love it because my oldest child moved there this fall for a new job and a cool new life. I'm living vicariously through her adventures. How can I not love a place that's making her so happy? It's really hard when our children grow up and move on, but we do get to experience things through them that we may not otherwise get to see or do. Gotta love that.

Lastly, I love that I've nearly made it to the end of my space here. Writer's block is real, and I spent a long time staring at this page. Sometimes you just have to start writing (or typing). Eventually, the words find their way onto the page. I'll rearrange things quite a few times before you read this. Hopefully, it'll be coherent. I love that even if it isn't my best work, it came from my heart. Which is pretty cool in the month of love.

Happy Valentine's Day!

#### KINDNESS BINGO FOR THE WIN!

Random Acts of Kindness Week is February 10-14. Looking for ways to encourage kindness in your kids? Why not play KINDNESS BINGO? Click HERE to download cards. Keep track of random acts of kindness and feel great about making the world a better place!



Online privacy and personal identifiable information Gaming and live streaming Online enticement and Sexting/Sextortion parental control apps Rules and boundaries





Registration encouraged Childcare available Adults only, please

Presented by Olmsted Falls Middle School in partnership with the LINK Family & Community Engagement Program



**WE ARE** 

OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOLS HAS • **VACANCIES FOR** SUMMER **CASUAL LABOR INCLUDING:** 

> BUILDING MAINTENANCE

COMPUTER

MAINTENANCE CLEANING

APPLY TODAY



**GREAT INITIAL WORK** EXPERIENCE FOR A FIRST TIME STUDENT WORKER

DEVELOP REAL LIFE SEMPLOYABILITY SKILLS FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE ALLOWS YOU TO WORK AROUND OTHER PERSONAL/SCHOOL COMMITMENTS

LEARN ON THE JOB IN A SUPPORTIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT

APPLY



Need a job?

From teens to retirees-and everyonein between-this fairis for YOUI

Manyarea employers represented

Full-time, Part-time, & Seasonal opportunities **OFHS Students** 

OFHS Main Gym open

Students & Adults from Olmsted & nearby communities 2:45 PM-4:00 PM

Community Job Fair Hosted by Olmsted Falls High School 26937 Bagley Road



Registration is now open for Northeast Ohio Parent's 2025 Camp, School & Fun Programs Fairs. All events are FREE to attend. Register today!

Meet with representatives from a variety of camps and summer program options for your kids to help get the planning started!

**WEST EVENT SOUTHPARK MALL 500 SOUTHPARK CENTER** STRONGSVILLE **SATURDAY, MARCH 1,** 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM





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#### LIKE A DAD JOKE!

A cringeworthy feature inspired by bad dad jokes everywhere

Q. Why do melons have to get married in churches?

> A. Because they cantaloupe.

> > SERIOUSLY COMICAL

OUR PRIME PURPOSE IN THIS LIFE IS TO HELP OTHERS. AND IF YOU CAN'T HELP THEM, AT LEAST DON'T HURT THEM. ~DALAI LAMA

TOTALLY QUOTABLE

STAY "IN THE LOOP" ON X!





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Safer Internet Day aims to not only create a safer internet but also a better internet, where everyone is empowered to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. Join

**ConnectSafely.org for a free** virtual event on 2/11 hosted in partnership with National **PTA. This event will explore:** 

- generative AI and what it means for your family
- impact of influencers and celebrities
- when kids feel left out
- talking to kids and teens about difficult topics
- pressure to be perfect
- online bullying & harassment

Visit

https://saferinternetday.us <u>/family-program/</u>

for more info and to register for this event.



#### 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.



When Kids Make Valentines

How do you spell "Emma"? How do you spell "friend"?

How do you spell "Balentine"?

I tried again,

but it's STILL not a heart!

These scissors . don't work!

Enough glue!!

Sweetie, that's not the

right way to hold sciss...



Stop licking the candy!





You've I'm exhausted! only Can you finish done these? ONE!



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