MARCH/APRIL 2024 Issue No. 7/8

IN THE LOOP

with LINK

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

NUMBERS THAT COUNT

83%

A survey of 2,000 American parents with children between eight and 14 reveals that 83 percent of those parents would have liked to learn more about finances growing up. Thirteen percent said their parents didn't speak to them about money at all. Don't wait until your kids are grown-up with credit card debt to have honest conversations with them about finances! Fortunately, in Olmsted Falls, ALL students are required to take a course in financial literacy (Personal Finance) in order to graduate. Read below for info about Financial Literacy Month and access the resources to start talking about dollars and sense (cents!) with your kids TODAY! They'll thank you later! (but probably still ask for money!)

Source: OnePoll

PARENT/FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES & IMPORTANT DATES*

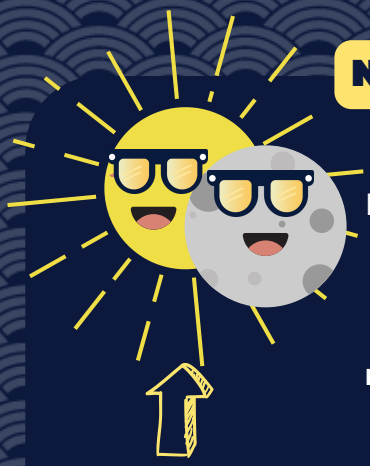
3/4-8	ECC Right to Read Week
3/4-8	OFIS Right to Read Week
3/12	OFMS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @MS Media Ctr.
3/12-13	FL/ECC PTA Breakfast Buddies @ECC- sign-up required
3/13	Humble Conversations w/Dr. Knight- Session 3- 6:00 PM @OFMS Media Ctr. See page 3!
3/14	OECPTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @FL
3/15	OFIS PTA Meeting- 8:00 AM @OFIS
3/15	OFMS PTA Annual Dodgeball Tournament -6:30 PM @MS
3/18-22	FL Right to Read Week
3/19	Election Day! Don't forget to VOTE! (School is in session)
3/21	FL Family Literacy Night 6:00 PM @FL
3/25	OFHS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @OFHS
3/26	FL/ECC PTA Meeting- 6:30 PM @ECC
3/26-28	OFMS 8th Grade Washington DC Trip
3/29-4/8	Spring Break- NO SCHOOL
4/9	School Resumes
4/11	OECPTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @FL
4/16	Olmsted Work$! Job Fair- 2:45-4:15 PM @OFHS- See pg. 3!
4/16	OFIS PTA Meeting- 6:00 PM @OFIS
4/16	OFMS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @OFMS
4/18	ECC Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences
4/18	Falls-Lenox Career Day
4/23	ECC Preschool Parent/Teacher Conferences
4/23	FL/ECC PTA Mtg. 6:30 PM @FL
4/24	5th Grade Parent Night- 7:00 PM @OFMS
4/25	ECC Family Fitness Night- 6:00 PM @ECC
4/29	OFHS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @OFHS
4/30	OFMS Career Exploration Day

*Registration for some events may be required- contact your building for details.

April is Financial Literacy Month

According to JumpStart.org, **Financial Literacy Month** is when organizations across the country conduct events and initiatives to promote the importance of financial literacy and the need for effective financial education. To help families talk to their kids about finances, the Council for Economic Education (CEE) has created a Family Financial Fun Pack. This pack for grades K-12 and contains customized activities, games, worksheets, and suggested books for children or adults. Check out the Financial Fun Pack HERE or click the pic above!

THE ECLIPSE IS COMING! APRIL 8, 2024!



*Disclaimer: Not a remotely accurate rendering of the solar eclipse

NOTHING I CAN DO...A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

by Julianne Allen
Family Engagement & Communication Specialist

By the time you see this, you will have certainly already read too many stories about the upcoming solar eclipse. I've seen a mix of excitement, hype, over-reaction and even a "who cares?" attitude in the stories I have read. This column will contain very little scientific information or even much of an opinion about the eclipse, as I am neither an astronomer or pro/anti-eclipse. This is what I know, per the National Weather Service: " A total solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the sun. The sky will darken as if it were dawn or dusk. This April 8th, a total solar eclipse will cross North America...portions of Ohio and Northwest Pennsylvania will be in "totality" meaning the moon will completely block the visible surface of the sun. Totality will last for just under 4 minutes in Cleveland!"

To recap: the eclipse is coming. It will be dark for nearly 4 minutes. This means we will have four minutes to do absolutely nothing but wait for it to end. We may want to spend a minute looking at it with our protective eyewear. But then what? As busy parents, how often are we presented with the opportunity to do absolutely nothing for even one minute and not feel guilty about it?

There will be no school that day, due to the eclipse deciding to show up during dismissal time. Your kids might be home, but for those four minutes, you have my permission to sneak in a quick power nap. Or hide in a closet somewhere and sip your coffee in peace. You could try to read a few pages of that book that's been on your nightstand for two years, or run to the pantry to eat all the good snacks you can chew in four minutes. No one will notice because they'll all be eclipse-watching. Yay, space!

While you may have to work, no one will expect you to accomplish anything in that four minutes. Productivity will surely plummet for the brief period of time. As everyone else pauses to look up, could you put your head down on your desk for a few minutes and "rest your eyes"? Could you use your work-owned device to watch a few funny cat videos or hit "buy" on your Amazon cart? Could you microwave something stinky in the breakroom without getting nabbed? Who will notice or care? There's a major celestial event going on that hasn't happened in Ohio since 1806! (I snuck in another fact for you so that this wasn't a complete waste of your time!)

Whether you choose to go "all-in" on the eclipse or not is certainly up to you. But I think that this is a great time to remind ourselves that it is ok for our world to stop for a few minutes. With our 24/7 attachment to technology, our phones, social media, work emails and group texts, we are rarely permitted to "turn off" anything, let alone our brains. A few moments of absolute nothingness might be really good for us. Don't believe me? Check out this article! So get ready for April 8th. Get your eclipse glasses (or not) and prepare to do nothing- not a darn thing- for four minutes. It won't be enough time to completely change your life, but it might be just what you need.

-Julianne

Happy St. Patrick's Day

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

"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, Family Engagement & Communication Specialist

PLAN ON IT!

Plan on checking out these events and opportunities! Consider this your friendly reminder that there is A TON of stuff going on. You're welcome!

SESSION 3

Humble Conversations

An interactive workshop series for parents and caregivers

with Dr. James Knight

MISSED SESSION 2? NO PROBLEM! ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join Dr. Knight and other parents and caregivers as we learn about Parental Humility and BRIDGING THE CULTURAL DIVIDE by having the COURAGE to engage in Humble Conversations

Session 3:
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024
6:00–7:30 PM
OFMS MEDIA CENTER

FREE COPY OF DR. KNIGHT'S BOOK, "HEART" FOR ALL ATTENDEES!

SPACE IS LIMITED!

REGISTER NOW!

SCAN ME

bit.ly/humbleconvo3

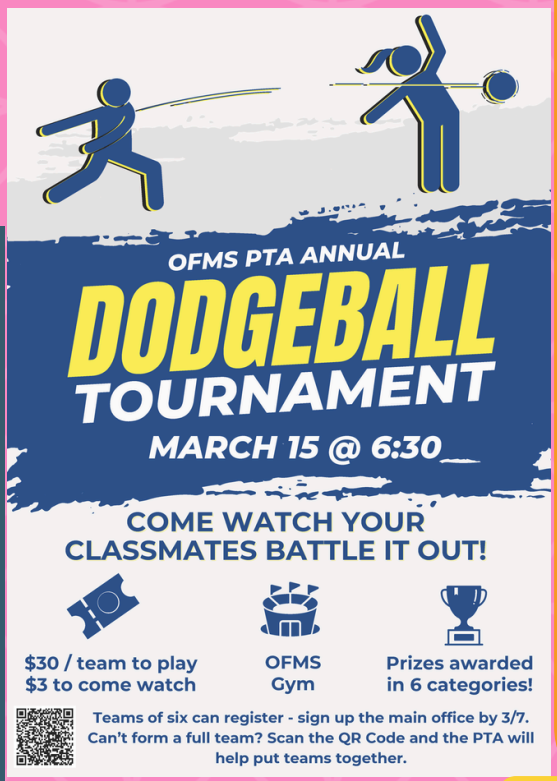
Presented in partnership with the LINK Family Engagement Program

REGISTER HERE

Camp Invention

SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY!
Register at INVENT.ORG/CAMP
or 800-968-4332
Grades: K - 6th
Location: Falls Lenox Primary School
Date: June 17 - 21, 2024
Time & Cost: 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM
$270 (before discount)
Camp Director:
Stephanie LaGruth
slagruth@ofcs.net
(440) 427-6400

Cut loose at the OFHS Spring Musical, Footloose! April 12-13 at OFHS! Go to ofmasquers.ludus.com for tickets!



SUMMER @ BW

With over 135 different camp, class, or program opportunities across the Baldwin Wallace Division of Community Learning this summer, there is certainly something for every age or interest.

Community Athletics and Recreation has prospect and youth athletic camps. Community Arts School has music camps, dance camps, classes and private lessons, plus Professional Development for Music Educators. Community STEM Initiatives has several "Choose Your Adventure" camps as well as STEAM camps created with the Community Arts School. Explore the endless possibilities using the buttons below or go to community.bw.edu

EXPLORE BY AGE EXPLORE BY INTEREST

GOOD STUFF

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 10th at 2:00 AM!

Don't forget to SPRING forward! Set your clocks one hour ahead!

HAPPY PASS OVER
April 22-April 30

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.

Happy Easter
March 31, 2024

Curious about the Muslim holidays of Ramadan and Eid? Click HERE to learn more!

NO BAD JOKE LIKE A DAD JOKE!

A cringeworthy feature inspired by bad dad jokes everywhere

SERIOUSLY COMICAL

Q: What do frogs order at a restaurant?

A: French flies!

"TOTALLY QUOTABLE" TQ

Waking Kids Up For School After Turning the Clocks Ahead

VOTE

ELECTION DAY
TUESDAY, MARCH 19th

Go to voteohio.gov for all the info you need to vote! Set an example for your kids and VOTE in every election! It's that important!