



**VOL. 6
ISSUE 1**

SEPTEMBER 2025 IN THE LOOP WITH LINK

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

FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES & IMPORTANT DATES

- 9/1 Labor Day- NO SCHOOL
- 9/8 OFMS PTA- 7:00 PM @MS Media Ctr
- 9/10 College 101-7:00 PM @HS Rm. 606
- 9/11 OECPTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @FL Cafeteria
- 9/15 ECC Wellness Week
- 9/17 OFIS PTA- 6:30 PM @IS Media Ctr
- 9/17 Common App/Essay Writing- 7:00 PM @HS Rm. 606
- 9/18 ECC Family Fitness Night- 5:30 PM @ECC
- 9/19 Falls-Lenox Picture Day
- 9/23 OFMS Picture Day
- 9/24 FLECC PTA- 6:30 PM @FL
- 9/24 Financial Aid Night- 7:00 PM @HS Rm. 606
- 9/25 OFIS Picture Day
- 9/29 OFHS PTA- 7:00 PM @HS Media Ctr
- 9/30 ECC Picture Day

Call your students' building or visit
www.ofcs.net for details.



From the Editor

Summer seemed to fly by, didn't it? If you're still dreaming of sunshine, ice cream, and pool floats, this whole "back-to-school" thing might feel a little jarring. Or maybe you're more than ready for your kids to hop on the bus and enjoy some time apart—after all, absence really can make the heart grow fonder!

No matter how you're feeling, the start of a new school year always brings fresh challenges, opportunities for growth, and memories galore. That's why I write this FOR YOU, Bulldog parents and caregivers, who do the hard work of getting your kids to school every day (hopefully on time and ready to succeed!).

The days are long, but the years go fast. So buckle up, Bulldogs—here's to another year of growth, learning, and fun! Have a wonderful year! -Julianne Allen

NUMBERS THAT COUNT



Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens ages 1–17, surpassing car crashes and cancer.

This marks the third year in a row that firearms top the list, according to the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions. The report recommends strengthening Child Access Prevention laws, which currently exist in more than half of U.S. states. Ohio, however, has no law requiring secure storage of unattended firearms or penalties for leaving guns accessible to minors. Use the "LINK APPROVED" link at right to learn how to talk to your children, friends, and neighbors about gun safety and to advocate for stronger laws in our state.

Source: [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health](https://www.jhsph.edu/news/2015/06/gun-violence-reports/)

BeSmartForKids.org

The Be SMART campaign, launched in 2015, promotes responsible gun ownership to reduce deaths, injuries, and trauma caused by children's and teens' access to firearms. It encourages community leaders and families to take simple, everyday steps to keep guns out of kids' hands.

Use the "LINK APPROVED" link above for resources to talk with your children about gun safety and to advocate for safe storage laws. By sharing the Be SMART message, you help highlight the importance of secure gun storage—because preventing kids from accessing guns protects them and strengthens the entire community.





HELP WANTED

By Julianne Allen,
Family Engagement &
Communication
Specialist

I'm currently living in the aftermath of sending my youngest off to another year of college. What's left behind? Half-empty garbage bags of unwanted clothes, boxes of decor that didn't make the cut, an unmade bed, a bathroom with damp towels on the floor, and a bearded dragon "granddaughter" still awaiting delivery to her new home at the university.

In other words, even when she's gone, my daughter's mess remains. Parents, you know what I'm talking about. Kids leave a trail wherever they go. From the time they can sit in a high chair, they can toss their cup on the floor. It never really gets better from there.

I remember when my kids learned the "clean up" song at preschool. There, they tidied up like little worker bees. At home, no such luck. I tried singing, turning clean-up time into a game, even hosting "who can clean their room the fastest?" contests. Spoiler alert: I can. They weren't fooled.

As they grew older, we added chores—unloading the dishwasher, folding laundry, taking out the garbage. You would have thought we were asking them to solve world peace or launch a rocket into space. We offered no compensation. As a Gen Xer, I grew up with a dad who would have laughed me out of the room if I'd asked for allowance in exchange for helping out at home. Honestly, he might have charged me rent if he thought he could get away with it.



Of course, the bigger the kids got, the bigger their messes. Laundry mountains. Mysterious sludge in the bathroom sink. Shoes everywhere. (So. Many. Shoes.) And don't forget the food-encrusted dishes, cups, silverware, and even the occasional big serving spoon or spatula that the kids are hoarding in their rooms. I've tossed forks and glasses that looked more like science experiments gone horribly wrong than kitchenware.

Recently I read an article that said kids often resist chores because parents unintentionally discourage them when they're little. Toddlers love to "help," but their efforts are clumsy, and maybe a bit messy, so parents shoo them away—or over-explain and micromanage. The takeaway? If kids don't build the habit early, it's harder later. And apparently the best strategy isn't bribes or allowance, but turning chores into a social activity.

Like most of my parenting fails, it probably is my fault. By demanding perfection, avoiding bigger messes, or stepping in to "save time," I may have sabotaged my kids' willingness to pitch in. And since studies show that chores help integrate a child into the family and give them a purpose, I sure wish I'd known this years ago.

It's too late for me, but maybe not for you. If you've cracked the code on chores, I'd love to hear about it. In the meantime, I'll be cleaning up after my lizard grandchild until further notice. At least she doesn't have any laundry.

-Julianne



An obviously AI-generated image of children gleefully helping with chores

STAY
"IN THE LOOP"
ON INSTA!

@OFCSLINK
@OFCSDistrict



PLAN ON IT!

Plan on checking out these events and opportunities!

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

All sessions take place in OFHS Room 606 at 7:00 PM

College 101- Wednesday, September 10, 2025

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.



Common Application & College/Scholarship Essay Writing - Wednesday, September 17, 2025

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.

Financial Aid- Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Learn about the financial aid process (FAFSA) and scholarships from the financial aid experts at LEAF. Parents and students in all grades are welcome, but most ideal for juniors/seniors and parents.

News flash! Our school lunches are DELISH!

Take advantage of the healthy and delicious school lunches prepared daily for your kids by the OFCS Food Services team!

MENU
Lunch
Duty

- Students new to the cafeteria line should know their student ID# to speed up the process and give them more time to eat. Here's a [template](#) for little ones to practice!
- Add funds to your students' payment account using our easy, online PaySchoolsCentral system, or pay with cash or check (payable to Olmsted Falls Schools Food Services).

- Visit the food services website to find menus and more information. Take a break from lunch duty TODAY!

P.S. Food Services is HIRING! Join our team! See page 4!



SCAN ME

Support
Your
School!

JOIN
PTA®

everychild.one voice.®

Becoming a PTA member is one of the easiest ways to support our schools. By joining, you help promote the health, well-being, and education of every student. Our five Olmsted Falls PTAs are active, valuable resources for students, teachers, and the community. Be part of the nation's oldest and largest child advocacy organization—join today! Scan the QR code or click [HERE](#) to visit the PTA website. Tell them LINK sent you! :)



PICTURE DAY!

Easy as 1-2-3

1 Picture Day Dates

OFHS (9th-11th) - 10/1

OFMS - 9/23

OFIS - 9/25

Falls-Lenox - 9/19

ECC - 9/30



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.



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

GOOD STUFF

Earn incentives, win prizes, and have FUN by attending school! Stay tuned!



STAY IN THE GAME!

KEEP LEARNING, EVERY DAY

NO BAD JOKE

LIKE A DAD JOKE!

A cringeworthy feature inspired by bad dad jokes everywhere

Q. What did the custodian say when he jumped out of the janitor's closet?

A. SUPPLIES!



WE'RE HIRING!

OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES

- ✓ WORK WHILE YOUR KIDS ARE IN SCHOOL
- ✓ SERVE OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY
- ✓ FRIENDLY, SUPPORTIVE TEAM

OPEN POSITIONS

- 6 HOUR FOOD PREPARER
- 3.75 HOUR FOOD SERVER

JOIN US AND HELP FEED OUR FUTURE!

APPLY AT [OFCS.SCHOOLSPRING.COM](https://ofcs.schoolspring.com) OR TO LEARN MORE, CALL 440-427-6440



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 LINK 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.

SERIOUSLY COMICAL



NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
September 15 to October 15

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

According to the Smithsonian Institution, "Hispanic Heritage Month is a month-long celebration of Hispanic and Latino history and culture. While we celebrate these communities beyond this month, we give extra recognition to the many contributions made to the history and culture of the United States, including important advocacy work, vibrant art, popular and traditional foods, and much more."

Visit the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino website [HERE](#) for resources, virtual exhibits, hands-on projects, and more!

Preparing for School



9:30 a.m.

Good morning, sunshine!

Groan

School is starting soon. Do you want to start waking up a little earlier each day to get yourself adjusted to school time?

Or do you want to keep sleeping late until the last possible day, then be shocked and upset to wake up early on the first day of school?

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HedgerHumor.com

Yeah, THAT one.

Ugggh.

This should go well.

Thump

www.hedgerhumor.com