



FEBRUARY 2026

IN THE LOOP with LINK

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*Updates, Observations & Anecdotes for Parents and Caregivers
by Julianne Allen
Family Engagement & Communication Specialist*



Upcoming Parent/Family/Community Engagement Opportunities & Important Dates

- 2/3** Falls-Lenox- 3rd Grade Concerts- 6:00 PM & 7:15 PM @HS
- 2/5** OFHS/OFMS Band Combo Concert- 7:00 PM @HS
- 2/5** OFMS 8th Gr. Bands, Jazz, & Percussion Ensemble- 8:00 PM @HS
- 2/6** OFIS Valentine's Day Celebration- 1:30 PM @IS
- 2/9** OFMS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @MS
- 2/10** OFIS PTA Breakfast Buddies- 7:00 AM @IS- sign-up required
- 2/11** OFMS 6th Gr. Choir Concert- 6:00 PM @ MS
- 2/11** OFMS 7th Gr. Choir Concert- 7:00 PM @MS
- 2/11** OFMS 8th Gr. Choir Concert & Golden Harmonies- 8:00 PM @MS
- 2/12** OFIS PTA Breakfast Buddies- 7:00 AM @IS- sign-up required
- 2/12** Falls-Lenox Valentine's Day Celebration- 1:15 PM @FL
- 2/12** ECC Preschool Valentine's Day Celebration- 9:00 AM & 12:45 PM
- 2/12** ECC Kindergarten Valentine's Day Celebration- 9:00 AM
- 2/13** Staff Professional Learning Day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- 2/16** Presidents' Day - NO SCHOOL
- 2/17** OFIS PTA Meeting- 6:30 PM @IS
- 2/20** OFMS PTA Breakfast Buddies- 7:30 AM @MS- sign-up required
- 2/21** OFHS Winter Formal- 7:00 PM @HS
- 2/23** OFHS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @HS
- 2/25** Falls Lenox/ECC PTA Meeting- 6:30 PM @FL
- 2/25** OFMS Band Concert- Grades 6 & 7- 6:00 PM @MS
- 2/26** OFHS Band Concert- 7:00 PM @HS

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



AthleteHelpline.org

The Courage First Athlete Helpline is a service provided by the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline. The helpline is a no-cost call, text, and chat service for athletes, coaches, parents, and anyone in sports communities who has questions or concerns about abuse or mental well-being in athletics.

The goal of the helpline is to empower athletes and sports communities through crisis intervention, emotional support and helpful resources.

Visit the [link](#) or call or text the number below for help.



1-888-279-1026



LINGO YOU SHOULD KNOW



AI

Obviously AI stands for Artificial Intelligence. Even I know that! But how would you explain AI to a younger child? Here's where I needed help.

National PTA's *Our Children* magazine provides a simple definition: "AI is a computer program that looks for patterns in a lot of information and makes guesses based on that information. The accuracy of its guesses is based on how good – or bad – that information was."

The article stresses that it's important for children to understand that AI can't think or feel, that it can make mistakes, and that it doesn't "know" things the way humans do.

Check out the article [HERE](#) to learn tips for teaching kids how to use (and NOT use) AI. The tips are great for adults too! (Just in case you are feeling a little lost!)

Source: National PTA-
[Our Children Magazine](#)

WORLD CANCER DAY FEBRUARY 4



World Cancer Day is an international day observed every year to raise awareness about cancer, encourage its prevention, and mobilize action to address the global cancer epidemic. Lifestyle changes, early screenings and new treatments can help reduce the incidence of cancer and cancer deaths. Knowledge is power! Learn more about risk reduction and prevention [HERE](#).



Gold-Medal Parenting

By Julianne Allen

Family Engagement & Communication Specialist



Unless you've been living under an icy pile of snow (which, now that I mention it, is pretty likely!), you're well aware that the Winter Olympics are nearly upon us. As a lifelong armchair athlete, I find the Olympics particularly fun to watch. While I usually prefer the Summer Games for the swimming, gymnastics, and track and field (shout-out to Olympic gold medalist Katie Moon, Class of OFHS 2009), I have to admit I'm especially excited for this year's Winter Games in Milan. Mostly because of Milan.

While I will never be an Olympian in the traditional sense, I do think, like most parents, that I'm worthy of a few medals myself. Hear me out.

If you can consistently get your middle school child to wear a coat that isn't a hoodie, you earn a silver medal. If your high school student left the house today fully bundled up, that's pure gold. If your college student sends you a picture of herself digging out her car in a foot of snow and subzero temperatures- no boots, no gloves, in her pajama pants- you barely get a bronze. Have you taught this child nothing?

If you ran to Drug Mart after 9:00 p.m. to buy craft supplies for the school project your child never mentioned, that's an automatic silver. If you then drive them to school the next day because the project is too bulky for the bus (making yourself late for work!) you've officially reached gold medal status.

If your child eats their entire packed lunch every day, you're pushing silver. If they make it themselves and eat it, that's gold. If you discover the entire lunch you packed (with the cookie conspicuously missing) squished in their lunchbox after a long weekend, you earn a bronze- because you tried. Your child, however, gets a talking-to.

If you've ever grounded your child "for the rest of the year" or "forever" and managed to stick with it for more than two weeks, congratulations! You get a silver medal. I'd give you gold, but honestly, I'm jealous.

And if you made it through the multiple calamity days we endured in January with minimal fuss, just go ahead and give yourself a gold medal already. Because that, my friends, was an Olympic trial.

You see, it's the little things parents do every day—things that may not seem Olympic-level at first glance—that truly matter. Simply getting up each morning, dragging yourself out of bed, and motivating your kids to do the same is medal-worthy in its own right. While none of us will be standing on an Olympic podium anytime soon (unless binge-watching Netflix becomes an Olympic sport in 2028), rest assured that your efforts count. The love, care, and concern you show your children will pay off one day. So, go YOU! And go USA!

Julianne



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](https://connectsafely.org) for Smart Digital Parenting: Navigating Screens with Children & Teens, a free virtual event on 2/10 hosted in partnership with National PTA. This event will explore:

- Scams
- Sextortion
- Screen time strategies
- Talking to our kids and teens about strangers online
- How to talk to your kids about using AI in school
- Online bullying & harassment



PLAN ON IT!*

*Plan on checking out these programs and events!

Wallace Lake Winterfest

Bundle up the family and meet up with friends for this Free Event to celebrate winter in Ohio! During this event, we'll explore the season in all its beauty through engaging activities that highlight how animals and people survive the chill of winter—whether by hibernation, migration, or adaptation.

Discover how animals and humans move through snow, build shelters, and stay warm. We'll offer a variety of ways to enjoy the outdoors, depending on snow and ice conditions. There will be something for everyone: nature-based experiences, recreational fun, creative crafts, tasty snacks, and more!

CLICK HERE

February 7, 12-4 PM



WE ARE HIRING

JOIN OUR Summer CREW!

OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOLS HAS VACANCIES FOR SUMMER CASUAL LABOR INCLUDING:

- BUILDING MAINTENANCE
- GROUNDS MAINTENANCE
- COMPUTER MAINTENANCE
- CLEANING

APPLY TODAY!

GREAT INITIAL WORK EXPERIENCE FOR A FIRST TIME STUDENT WORKER

DEVELOP REAL LIFE EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE ALLOWS YOU TO WORK AROUND OTHER PERSONAL/SCHOOL COMMITMENTS

LEARN ON THE JOB IN A SUPPORTIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT

APPLY HERE



Questions? Contact Heath Krakowiak hkrakowiak@ofcs.net

CLEVELAND MONSTERS

Olmsted Falls Community Night with the Monsters!

Friday, February 27th, 2026 @ 7:00pm

Rocket Arena – Monsters vs. Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins

SPECIAL OFFER!

- Tickets for just \$25.00 in the Lower Ends (Sections 126, 101, and 102)
 - Normally \$44.00 each + FEES
- Portion of each ticket purchased will benefit Olmsted Falls Middle School students and families!



What's Going On?

- Olmsted Falls Middle School PTA will receive proceeds from the 50/50 Raffle – Get your tickets at the game!



To Order Tickets: [CLICK HERE](#) or Scan the QR Code Below



Questions? Contact Jennifer Daubner at jenniegem99@aol.com

PLEASE NOTE: Tickets will be distributed electronically via SeatGeek.
 - Tickets will be transferred electronically via SeatGeek using the email address provided during ordering process prior to game day.
 - All orders are subject to availability. No ticket required for children under the age of two.
 - This offer and discounts are not available at arena box office. **No refunds or exchanges.**

Jessica Fisher W: 216-420-2143 E: jfisher@clevelandmonsters.com

@MONSTERSHOCKEY

CLEVELANDMONSTERS.COM

Need a job?

OLMSTED WORK\$!

MARCH 31

Community Job Fair

Hosted by Olmsted Falls High School

26937 Bagley Road

From teens to retirees—and everyone in between—this fair is for YOU!

Many area employers represented

Full-time, Part-time, & Seasonal opportunities

OFHS Main Gym open to job-seekers:

2:45-4:00 PM

OFHS Students, Students & Adults from Olmsted & nearby communities

Parent

CAMP SCHOOL & SUMMER FUN FAIR

Registration is now open for Northeast Ohio Parent's 2026 Camp, School & Summer Fun Fair. The event is 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, FEBRUARY 28,
 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

→ LEARN MORE

GOOD STUFF

NO BAD JOKE

LIKE A DAD JOKE!

A cringeworthy feature inspired by bad dad jokes everywhere

Q. Why did the notebook marry the pencil?

A. Because she finally found Mr. Write!

SERIOUSLY COMICAL

Cutest Valentine Gifts From Kids

HEDGER HUMOR FOR **MUSIC & ARTS**

A handmade card



A gift made at school



A card they picked out



A serenade



A heartfelt note, full of misspellings



A handful of candy, possibly compromised



"TOTALLY QUOTABLE"

"DO YOUR LITTLE BIT OF GOOD WHERE YOU ARE; IT'S THOSE LITTLE BITS OF GOOD PUT TOGETHER THAT OVERWHELM THE WORLD."

— ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU

STAY "IN THE LOOP" ON INSTAGRAM!



@OFCSLINK
@OFCSDistrict

RANDOM ACTS OF AWESOME!

Random Acts of Kindness Week is February 15-21. Looking for ways to encourage kindness in your kids? The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation has so many fun activities, including their new Kindness Challenge Booklets! Your challenge (if you choose to accept it) is to complete 10 kindness activities during the next 10 days. There are three booklets for three different age groups. Download them all and share with your family and friends and help make kindness the norm while having fun.

KINDNESS CHALLENGE

Your kindness challenge (if you choose to accept it) is to complete 10 acts of kindness during the next 10 days. Sounds simple at first, but you are probably already super busy with school, chores, sports and hanging out with friends, so doing an extra something on top of all that for 10 straight days is a good challenge we think—but one you know you can do.

On the next page and throughout this book, you'll see some fun acts of kindness you can do for others and yourself. You can choose to do the suggested ones each day or think up your own.

Use this section to keep track of your progress—for each act of kindness you do, color in a heart and make a note of which act you did and how you felt or how the other person reacted.

At the end of your 10 days, be sure to send a photo of this page to us so we can give you a shout-out to help inspire others to be kind.

"HAVE COURAGE AND BE KIND. WHERE THERE IS KINDNESS THERE IS GOODNESS, AND WHERE THERE IS GOODNESS THERE IS MAGIC."

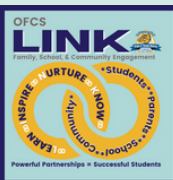
DISNEY'S CINDERELLA

Date _____ What did you do and how did it go?

Heart icon	_____
Heart icon	_____
Heart icon	_____
Heart icon	_____
Heart icon	_____
Heart icon	_____
Heart icon	_____
Heart icon	_____
Heart icon	_____
Heart icon	_____

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.



www.HedgerHumor.com