

IN THE LOOP

with LINK

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

MAY/JUNE

2026

Issue No.

9/10

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPORTANT DATES*

- 5/5 Election Day / Staff PD Day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
- 5/6 OFHS Spring Choir Pops Concert- 7:30 PM @HS
- 5/7 OFHS Senior Local Scholarship Night- 7:00 PM @ Grace Church
- 5/7 Falls-Lenox 3rd Grade Parent Mtg.- 6:00 PM @OFIS (for incoming 4th grade parents)
- 5/7-9 OFMS Bulldog Theatre Co. Presents Shuddersome: Tales of Poe- 8:00 PM @MS
- 5/8 ECC Kindergarten Screening- 8:00 AM- 3:00 PM by appointment
- 5/8 OFHS Annual May Art Show- 3:00 PM- 8:00 PM @HS Gym
- 5/11 OFMS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @MS Media Center
- 5/12 Falls-Lenox 3rd Grade students visit OFIS
- 5/12 OFIS 5th Grade field trip to Swings-N-Things
- 5/13 OFMS WEB Spring Play Day- 3:45 PM @ MS
- 5/13 ECC Vehicle Day
- 5/14 OECPTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @FL
- 5/14 OFIS 4th Grade field trip to Swings-N-Things
- 5/14 OFHS Spring Band Pops Concert- 7:30 PM @HS
- 5/14- 15 ECC Kindergarten Visits Falls-Lenox- (K-1 Transition Trip)
- 5/15 OFIS 5th Grade Greenfield Village Field Trip- 7:00 AM @IS
- 5/15 ECC Kindergarten Screening- 8:00 AM- 3:00 PM by appointment
- 5/15 OFIS Career Day- 4th Grade- 11:30 AM @IS
- 5/16 OFHS Prom- Columbia Ballroom (Grand March 4:30 PM @OFHS)
- 5/18 OFHS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @HS Media Center
- 5/20 1st Grade Preview Night- 5:30 PM @Falls-Lenox (for current K students/parents)
- 5/20 Falls Lenox/ECC PTA Meeting- 6:30 PM @Falls-Lenox
- 5/20 OFMS Spring 6th Choir Concert & Golden Harmonies- 6:00 PM @MS
- 5/20 OFMS Spring 7th Choir Concert & Golden Harmonies- 7:00 PM @MS
- 5/20 OFMS Spring 8th Choir Concert & Golden Harmonies- 8:00 PM @MS
- 5/20 ECC Field Day
- 5/20 OFIS PTA Meeting- 6:30 PM @IS Media Center
- 5/21 PTA Volunteer Dinner- 6:00 PM @HS Cafeteria
- 5/22 Falls-Lenox Volunteer Breakfast- 7:30 AM- Falls Gym
- 5/22 OFIS 5th Grade Luau- 1:15 PM @IS Gym & Cafeteria
- 5/22 OFMS Art Show - 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM @ MS Cafetorium
- 5/25 Memorial Day Holiday - NO SCHOOL
- 5/26 OFIS 4th Grade Field Day
- 5/27 OFIS 5th Grade Field Day
- 5/27 Falls-Lenox 3rd Grade Field Trip to Goodtime III
- 5/27 OFMS Spring Band Concert - Grades 6, 7, & 8- 6:30 & 8:00 PM @MS
- 5/28 OFHS Commencement- 7:00 PM @Vitamix Field at Harding Memorial Stadium
- 5/29 OFMS 6th Grade Honors Program- 9:30 AM @MS
- 5/29 OFMS 8th Grade Honors Program- 12:15 PM @MS
- 5/29 OFMS 7th Grade Honors Program- 1:30 PM @MS
- 5/29 ECC Kindergarten Bridge Ceremonies
- 5/29 Falls-Lenox Field Day
- 6/1 ECC Kindergarten Bridge Ceremonies
- 6/1 OFMS 8th Grade Cedar Point Trip
- 6/2 OFIS 5th Grade Honors Day- 8:30 AM @IS
- 6/2 OFMS 7th Grade Bowling Reward Trip - 9:45 AM @AMF
- 6/2 OFMS 6th Grade Swings-N-Things Reward Trip - 11:00 AM
- 6/2 OFMS 8th Grade Promotion Program- 10:15 AM @MS Gyms
- 6/2 Last Day for Students (Grades Preschool-11)

Questions? Need to confirm a date or time? Call your school!

NUMBERS THAT COUNT

988 | SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

988 offers 24/7 judgment-free support for mental health, substance use, and more. Text, call, or chat 988.

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is an easy-to-remember way for people to connect with confidential urgent help and support if they or someone they know is experiencing a mental health, substance use, or suicide crisis - or any type of emotional distress.

988 is a lifesaving service with recent research concluding that the vast majority of suicidal callers thought 988 helped them and stopped them from making a suicide attempt.

Source: nami.org

Summer will FLY!
Find the '26-'27 School Year Calendar **HERE!**



(Dysfunctional) Family Reunion

By Julianne Allen, Family Engagement & Communication Specialist

Somehow, we've nearly reached the end of another school year. It's that bittersweet time when you're not quite sure if the tears in your eyes are happy, sad, or a little of both. Especially if your "baby" is moving on to a new school next year, or GASP! graduating and LEAVING YOU. (How could they?!)

School years are like that. What's the saying? The days are long, but the years are short. The older I get, the more I believe it. (Although, to be fair, the year I had a not-yet potty-trained 3-year-old and a newborn felt long. VERY long.)

Speaking of getting older, our beloved U.S. of A. turns 250 this summer. Normally, I'd be all in on the July 4th festivities. I love a good birthday- especially a big one! (I count ALL of mine as big!) But I'll admit, it feels a little harder this year. There's a lot happening in our world right now that doesn't exactly feel worthy of fireworks and parades. Some of those not-so-great things have a way of impacting our community.

The big challenges we are facing have many of the members of this super-dysfunctional American family of approximately 342 million people behaving like toddlers who dropped their ice cream cones. Basically, we've forgotten how to act. Toddlers get a pass for meltdowns. Kids and teens are still learning. But the adults? We should know better.

In our schools, we teach students from PreK through 12th grade to be safe, respectful, responsible, and kind. Imagine if we, as adults, held ourselves to those same expectations? I'm no delicate flower, but some of what I see on social media and the news is...rough. The way people talk to (and about) each other, even in our own community, can be disheartening. Mostly I find it embarrassing. (It's cringe, as I think the "youths" would say!)

So for this summer's big 250th birthday, I propose a ginormous family reunion. Just like a real family, we don't all have to love each other all the time, or even like each other all that much. But we DO have to agree to respect each other and treat each other with kindness (you know, like we teach the CHILDREN?) Perhaps all we really need is one giant barbeque where we all show up and bring our best selves (and maybe some potato salad?)

No, we don't need matching T-shirts (although I wouldn't rule it out as I love a good theme). But perhaps America's 250th Family Reunion could be the start of a new era for our community, our country, and our world. I realize that we can't actually pull this off (nobody has that many extra folding chairs or charcoal for that matter). But we could use July 4, 2026 to pause, reflect, and see where we could do better. Maybe that means reaching out to someone you haven't talked to in a while. Maybe it's choosing patience when it would be easier not to. Maybe it's simply being a little kinder—in big ways or small ones.

And if that reflection happens over a hot dog...even better.
Happy Birthday, America, and have a wonderful summer, Bulldogs.

Julianne

AMERICA250-OHIO.ORG

This LINK APPROVED link is a great resource for finding ways to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with events all over Ohio! There are festivals, historical reenactments, art exhibitions and MORE! Check out the events calendar and explore our great state this summer!

PLAN ON IT!

Plan on checking out these events and opportunities!

Camp Invention
SPARK
SUMMER FUN
AT CAMP INVENTION

Led by qualified local educators, Camp Invention® is a fun-filled summer adventure designed to ignite your child's imagination and boost their confidence! Explore this year's all-new program where campers team up with friends to tackle fun, hands-on STEM challenges and bring their big ideas to life!

SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

Grades: Rising K - 6th

Campers are grouped by grade

Location: Olmsted Falls Intermediate School
 27043 Bagley Rd, Olmsted Falls, OH 44138

Dates & Time: June 22 - 26, 2026 | 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Cost: \$285 (before discount)

Payment Plans Available up until 4/23/2026

Sibling Discounts at INVENT.ORG/CISAVE

Camp Director: Stephanie LaGruth | slagruth@ofcs.net | (440) 427-6400



Register at
Invent.org/cisave
 or 800-968-4332

REGISTER NOW

Silence sounds like...

NO ONE WOULD UNDERSTAND.
I'M FINE.
I DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN.

Community sounds like...

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

NAMI #MHAM2026

MAY is MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

The National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) has chosen the theme of "Stigma Grows in Silence; Healing Begins in Community" for 2026 Mental Health Awareness Month. This theme invites everyone to join in speaking up against mental health stigma.

From NAMI: "By sharing our lived experiences, learning from each other's experiences, and building strong community connections, we can challenge stigma and create spaces where people are supported, understood, and find healing.

Every story shared turns silence into connection, and connection into healing. Together, we can strengthen communities and create opportunities for empathy, understanding, and meaningful change."

Your child's mental health and wellness are a priority to us. If you have concerns about your child's mental well-being, visit the Counselor's Corner section for your school on our district website. And visit NAMI.org for more resources and information about Mental Health Awareness Month.

Be well, Bulldogs!

JUNE 1ST GLOBAL DAY OF PARENTS

Now HERE's a day I can support! In 2012, The United Nations General Assembly established the Global Day of Parents, celebrated annually on June 1st. Per UNICEF, this day "provides an opportunity to appreciate all parents for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship."

UNICEF has chosen this year's theme as "Together for Parents". Check out the trailer for "Raising Parents", a video launching on 6/1 featuring caregivers from around the world sharing the emotional side of their parenting journeys.

Thank you, parents, on June 1st and EVERY DAY for doing the most important, challenging and rewarding job in the world!

Look **A BUNCH OF BOOKS!**

UNEARTH a Story

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE
 June 1 - July 31, 2026
CCPLSUMMERREADING.ORG



When my children were younger, one of the highlights of every summer was the Summer Reading Challenge at the Cuyahoga County Public Library! My kids loved to visit the library to pick out new books, track their progress, and earn rewards along the way. The challenge runs from June 1- July 31. Visit this [link](#) to register and keep your kids reading all summer long!

GOOD STUFF



LIKE A DAD JOKE!

A cringeworthy feature inspired by bad dad jokes everywhere

Q. Where does seaweed look for a job?
A. In the kelp-wanted section.



Happy Mother's Day

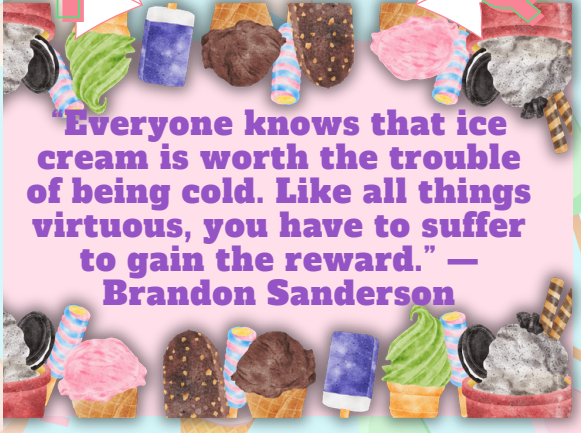


Sunday, May 10th

happy Father's Day

Sunday, June 21st

TOTALLY QUOTABLE Q



"Everyone knows that ice cream is worth the trouble of being cold. Like all things virtuous, you have to suffer to gain the reward." — Brandon Sanderson

SERIOUSLY COMICAL

4 THINGS THAT HAPPEN WHEN YOU CLEAN OUT THE TOYS

HEDGER HUMOR for babble

The sorting takes forever.

You go in the "what the heck is this" pile...



You get to "eliminate" the toys that drive you crazy.

So long, whistle!



You feel great, having found so many things to donate or toss.



Before you can sneak it all out, the children appear.

I remember these! I LOVE THEM!



OLMSTED FALLS CITY SCHOOLS
INVITES YOU TO THE
2026 ANNUAL MAY ART SHOW
FRIDAY MAY 8th
OPEN TO STUDENTS 8AM - 6PM
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 3PM - 6PM
FREE ADMISSION

AWARDS SPONSORED BY THE KIWANIS CLUB OF OLMSTED FALLS

Uncle John's
Raffle tickets will be sold for a chance to win flower pots made by Mr. S with plants provided by Uncle John's Plant Farm during the show. Tickets are \$5 each.

COOL

ART

Don't miss your chance to see some COOL art! First, the Annual May Art Show at the High School on May 8th from 3-8 PM, and then the OFMS Student Art Show at the Middle School on May 22 from 5-7 PM. FREE and FUN!

What is LINK?

LINK is an acronym for Learn, Inspire, Nurture, Know. The LINK Program is a district-wide family-community engagement resource. The goals of the program are to connect the Olmsted Falls School District with parents and families, to encourage two-way communication, and to help parents support learning at home.



JOIN US FOR THE
OLMSTED FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT ART SHOW
FRIDAY, MAY 22 | 5 - 7 PM
OFMS CAFETERIUM

www.hedgerhumor.com

STAY "IN THE LOOP" ON INSTAGRAM!

@OFCSLINK
@OFCSDistrict

