NOVEMBER 2026
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Issue No. 3

IN THE LOOP
with LINK

Happy Thanksgiving

Created for Bulldog Parents & Caregivers
by Julianne Allen, Director of Family & Community Engagement

PARENT/FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES & IMPORTANT DATES*

11/3	Election Day - Staff PD Day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
11/4	Falls-Lenox Family Wellness Night- 6:00-7:30 PM @FL
11/5	OFHS Parent Teacher Conferences- 4:30-8:00 PM @HS
11/5-7	MS Bulldog Theatre Company Fall Musical- 7:00 PM @OFMS- Wizard of Oz
11/9	OFMS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @MS Media Center
11/10	OFIS Parent Mtg. for 5th Grade Band- 7:00 PM @IS Gym
11/11	Falls-Lenox Veterans Day Program @ FL- 8:15 AM
11/12	ECC Parent/Teacher Conferences- 3:00-7:00 PM @ECC
11/12	OFMS Student-Led Conferences- 4:00-7:30 PM @MS
11/12	OFHS Parent Teacher Conferences- 5:00-8:30 PM @HS
11/12	OECPTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @FL Cafeteria
11/14	OFMS L.E.A.D. Community Leaf Raking - 8:00 AM meet @ Falls-Lenox
11/17	Falls-Lenox/ECC PTA Meeting- 6:30 PM @FL
11/18	OFMS Fall Choir Concert: 6th @6:00; 7th @7:00; 8th & Golden Harmonies @8:00 PM
11/18	OFIS PTA Mtg. 6:30 PM @ IS Media Center
11/19	Falls-Lenox Parent Teacher Conferences- 3:00 PM -7:00 PM @FL
11/20 & 21	OFHS Fall Play- 7:30 PM @ HS Auditorium- The Importance of Being Earnest
11/23	Falls-Lenox Parent Teacher Conferences- 3:00 PM -7:00 PM @FL
11/23	OFHS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @ HS Media Center
11/24	OFMS WEB Reunion- 8:00 AM @MS
11/25-27	Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL

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

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Family

November is National Adoption Month and a great time to learn more about adoption and foster care.

According to ChildWelfare.gov, The Children's Bureau's National Adoption Month campaign "seeks to increase awareness of adoption, bring attention to the need for adoptive families for older youth experiencing the U.S. foster care system, and recognize the importance of family connections."

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption has some tips for how you can support children waiting to be adopted. In addition to a step-by-step guide for those interested in adoption, there are other ways you can help. Become a mentor for a child, advocate for adoption-friendly benefits in your workplace, and share your story if you have any experience with adoption.

Raise awareness about adoption and foster care and help children waiting to find their permanent family.

LiveSpecial.com

LINK APPROVED

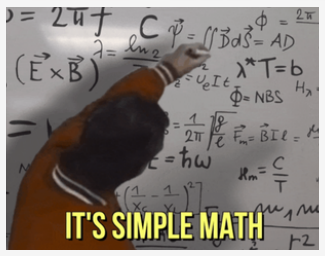
LiveSpecial.com is a free and comprehensive Northeast Ohio, online, go-to resource for all things required to support individuals with special needs and their families. The site includes an easy-to-navigate community resource guide that provides the most current medical, social and rehabilitative services and access information needed to help support any age person with special needs. The site's e-magazine is particularly useful with stories about families in the Northeast Ohio area who are navigating caring for their loved ones. Check it out here and share this LINK APPROVED link with those in your life who could use some support!



SCHOOL FUNDING: It's Complicated

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A new feature to help explain the inexplicable



Welcome back to this feature where I try to understand school funding by going to our resident expert, our Treasurer/CFO Mr. Patrick Goclano. He is still taking my calls at this point, so let's see what he has to say to in response to my burning question this month!

Q: "We already pay for schools. Why does the school district need to ask for more money?"

Mr. G responds:

A: "Our current operating levies are all continuing, which means voters approved them without an end date. That is good news for stability, because we don't have to ask for those funds again. But a continuing levy provides a mostly fixed revenue stream that does not naturally keep pace with inflation and the rising costs of doing business. Due to Ohio law, a continuing levy keeps collecting the same flat dollar amount - it does not expire, and it does not grow simply because property values or costs rise.

"Our costs do grow: salaries and benefits, transportation, utilities, insurance, textbooks, technology, and the maintenance of buildings that are decades old. The math is simple. Our expenses go up every year, while our levy revenue remains largely flat—adjusting only slightly during property revaluations or when voters approve something new. Over time, that gap between expenses and revenue is the reason we would need to look at new revenue; not to expand our programs, but to keep doing what we already do at the level our students deserve.

"Although the district is NOT on the ballot this time, we should get comfortable talking about levies all the time. The decision of whether or not to seek new revenue belongs to the Board of Education. When it comes, we want every family to already know the numbers and feel free to ask questions."

Thanks, Mr. G! And FYI- our Treasurer's Office is committed to being transparent about how school funding works and where every dollar goes. Check out the newly designed Treasurer's website with more info than you ever knew you needed! OFCS District Treasurer- Levy Information. Before any ballot decision, you'll have the facts to make it for yourself.

Next month...assuming Mr. G isn't tired of my burning questions...What resources does it take to educate a child "The Bulldog Way"? Stay tuned! (I'm learning so much! Are you?)
-Julianne

WHAT OUR CURRENT LEVIES RAISE

Continuing levies in place today. Figures from the Treasurer's Office.

LEVY	NUMBER	AMOUNT RAISED
General (continuing)	11	$33,777,283
Permanent improvements (continuing)	1	$540,571
Bond (35 years)	1	$2,702,856
Total from current levies	**13**	**$37.020.710**



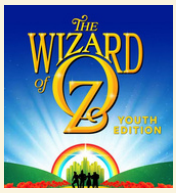
Money STILL doesn't grow on trees, guys!

PLAN ON IT!*

*Plan on checking out these events and opportunities!

CHECK IT OUT

Presenting...



On November 5, 6 and 7 at 7:00 PM, The Olmsted Falls Middle School Bulldog Theatre Company will perform *The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition*. Get your tickets at BulldogTheatreCompany.ludus.com.

Come see OFHS Masquers perform *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Oscar Wilde's comic masterpiece. Shows are Friday, November 20, and Saturday, November 21, at 7:30pm in the high school auditorium.

For ticket information, please visit ofmasquers.ludus.com or call 440.427.6070.

The Importance of Being Earnest

Don't miss these talented Bulldog performers!



The 2026 Ohio PTA Reflections contest is now OPEN and accepting submissions. This year's theme is "What my culture means to me..." There are many different definitions for culture and even more ways to experience it.

Culture encompasses all that a group of people does that makes them similar to each other, but different from other people in the world. Culture does not stay the same but changes with new influences and generations.

Entries can be submitted in the following categories:
Dance Choreography - Film Production - Literature - Music Composition - Photography - Visual Arts.

Entries are due to the Main Office of your child's school by December 4th.

See your school newsletter or contact your PTA for more information.

Are you a PARENT or caregiver who wants to be a **LEADER** for EDUCATION in your **COMMUNITY?**

Accepting Applications for 2027!

LEARN MORE + APPLY

FAMILY LEADERS for OHIO SCHOOLS Academy

The Academy is a leadership program for parents or caregivers who want to engage as leaders in their local school communities, advocating for educational opportunities and student success.

The Academy has two phases:

- **Phase I** January-May: Participants complete four online learning modules, attend two virtual meetings, and three in-person meetings in Columbus, Ohio.
- **Phase II** June-December: Participants attend two virtual meetings and complete a project to address a need within their school or district.

https://go.osu.edu/flacademy

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center

The Ohio State University
CENTER ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT



GOOD STUFF



"In The LOOP with LINK" is a publication of the LINK Family & Community Engagement Program. LINK: Learn, Inspire, Nurture, Know. Questions? Comments? Email OFCSLINK@ofcs.net. Thanks for reading! Julianne Allen, Director of Family & Community Engageement

I AM SO GRATEFUL...

To everyone involved in The Bulldog Experience! The turnout was ridiculous (in an awesome way)! All of the work leading up to the event was worth it. Our wonderful staff and students pulled together to make this the success that it was, and we were SO EXCITED to see YOU! (If you missed it...check out photos and videos on social media over the next few weeks.)

THANKS

NO BAD JOKE LIKE A DAD JOKE!

A cringeworthy feature inspired by bad dad jokes everywhere

Q. Who delivers the best Thanksgiving sides?

A. YAMazon!



STAY "IN THE LOOP" ON INSTAGRAM!

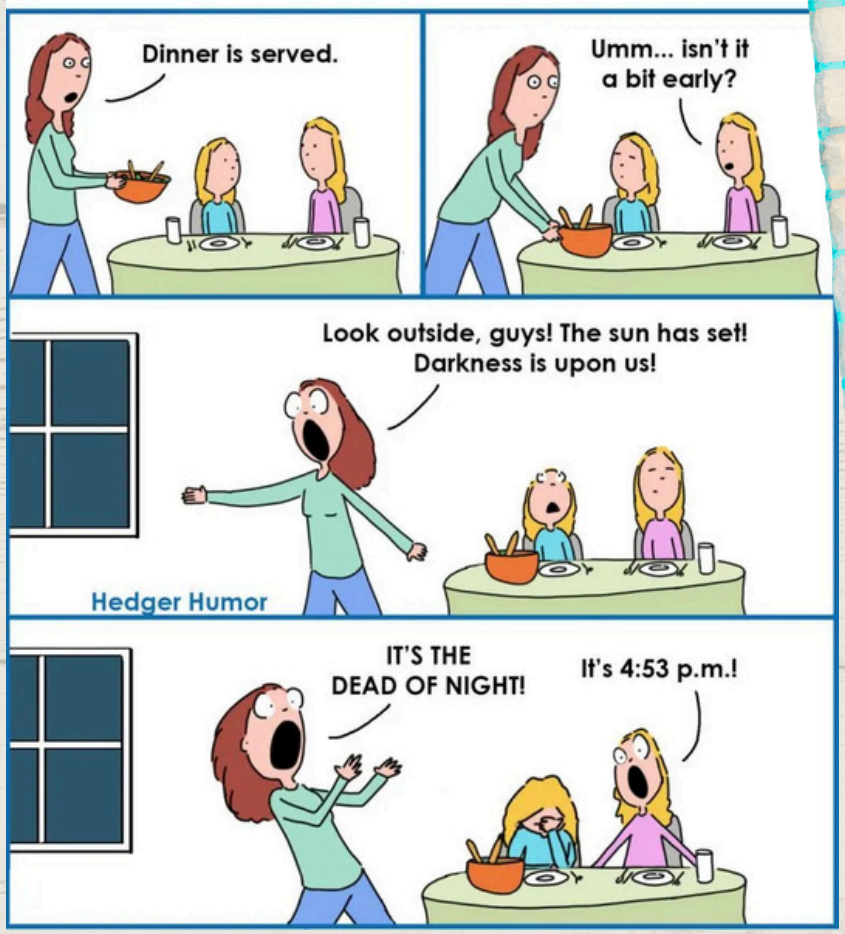
@OFCSLINK

@OFCSDistrict



SERIOUSLY COMICAL

When Daylight Saving Time Ends



www.hedgerhumor.com

ATTENTION PLEASE!

Parent-Teacher Conferences = YOU GOTTA GO!

What kind of Director of Family & Community Engagement would I be if I didn't encourage parents/caregivers to take advantage of any and all opportunities to COME TO SCHOOL! Oh look! Here's one of those opportunities now! Parent/Teacher Conferences (including student-led conferences at the Middle School) are taking place this month! See your school email for updates on times and scheduling. Can't make it these days? You're not off the hook! Contact your building principal or your child's teachers to discuss other options. Do I sound like I am bossing you around? Good! I am! Even if your child is doing "well", there is so much to be gained by establishing a relationship and ongoing communication with your school. Now schedule that conference ASAP! (pretty please!) 😇