

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

Upcoming Parent/Family/Community Engagement Opportunities & Important Dates

- 12/13 OFHS Holiday Choral Concert- 7:30 PM
- 12/15 OFIS 5th Grade Choir Concert- 6:30 PM @OFMS
- 12/16 Falls-Lenox Polar Express Day
- 12/16 OFHS Holiday Assembly/District Caroling- 8:15 AM
- 12/16 ECC Preschool Winter Celebration
- 12/19-1/2 Winter Break - NO SCHOOL
- 1/3 Return from Winter Break
- 1/10 OFMS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @MS
- 1/12 OFHS CCP (College Credit Plus) Info Night- 7:00 PM @HS***
- 1/12 OECPTA Mtg. at ECC 7:00 PM
- 1/16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL
- 1/17 OFIS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @OFIS
- 1/19 OFMS Internet Safety/Social Media Parent Program- 7:00 PM***
- 1/20 OFHS Vocational & Trades Fair- 10:00 AM-12:00 PM @HS***
- 1/23 OFHS PTA Mtg- 7:00 PM @HS
- 1/23 Celebrating Differences Week Begins
- 1/24 FL/ECC PTA Meeting- 9:00 AM @ECC
- 1/25 OFMS DC Parent & Student Mandatory Meeting- 7:00 PM @MS
- 1/26 ECC Kindergarten Information Night- 5:30 PM @ECC
- 1/26 OFHS Junior Parent Pathway Planning Night- 7:00 PM @HS***
- 1/28 OFMS PTA Breakfast Buddies- 7:00 AM @MS**
- 1/27 ECC Online Kindergarten Registration 2023-24- Opens @12:00 PM

Registration required *See Page 4 for more info!



Lights4Kids.org

A childhood hospital stay over the holidays inspired Solon's Olivia Messina, now a sophomore at the University of Cincinnati, to create this non-profit. The holiday lights she strung over her bed during her stay at Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital helped to lift her spirits and make her holiday in the hospital a little brighter. Olivia gave her lights to another patient on her way out, and years later wanted to do more. Lights4Kids sends donations of lights to children's hospitals year-round. To donate or learn more go to [Lights4Kids.org](https://lights4kids.org)



DECEMBER IS PROCRASTINATION AWARENESS MONTH



For those of us who procrastinate, we don't need a month to shame us into admitting it. We celebrate procrastination year-round. For those who wait until December to start your New Year's Resolutions (from JANUARY), this month is for you. Perhaps you aren't a procrastinator, but your kids drive you nuts with their "I'll do it later" responses to your polite questions about room cleaning or homework completion. I've had many an argument about this very thing, and it was only after talking with a professional therapist that I learned chronic procrastination may have nothing to do with laziness. Sometimes kids struggle with focus, managing time, and staying organized, and that leads to procrastination. I really like this article from [Understood.org](https://understood.org) that includes some quick tips that can help, like using a visual timer and breaking tasks into smaller pieces. There is a lot of research on why we procrastinate and what we can do about it. I plan to work on that as soon as I clean out the junk drawer in my kitchen (this *may* have been on my list of "to-do's" for 2022!) OOPS!

NUMBERS THAT COUNT

1 5 2, 8 0 0

The estimated number of toy-related injuries resulting in emergency department visits in the US for kids 14 and under (2021). Non-motorized scooters were associated with the largest number of estimated toy-related injuries with 58,000(!) Yikes! In other words, if Santa brings a scooter, make sure he throws in a helmet and some knee and elbow pads too! Source: cpsc.org



Winter Break Wishes

by Julianne Allen, Family Engagement & Communication Specialist

I was feeling particularly puzzled about how to fill this space this month. Fortunately, I'm a big puzzle nerd. After many failed attempts at trying to string together a bunch of random silly ideas into a cohesive story, I took a break from writing to pull out my puzzle magazine (I told you- NERD!) Turns out, it was a great cure for my writer's block. I was inspired to try my hand at puzzle-making. I hope you enjoy this original collection of clues designed to make you smile. Why should kids get to have all of the fun this time of year? Work on this while sipping your coffee by the fireside as the children sleep quietly in their beds. Or whenever! Have a fantastic break, Bulldog Moms and Dads! You deserve it! Happy Holidays! -

JULIANNE



Keep reading for the clues! In the unlikely event that you are stumped, the answer key is on page 5!

ACROSS

2. You can wear these all day without judgment! Even outside! You're on vacation!
5. The time you pretend is midnight so that your little ones will go to bed on New Year's Eve.
7. This cold, white stuff will not fall all winter break but will instead wait until the kids are back in school and you and the school buses have to drive in it down Bagley Road. Wheeee!
8. This cannot be described as fruit or cake because it is neither. Tell me I'm wrong.
12. If they are supposed to fly, then how did they run over grandma? I'd like some answers.
13. What someone in the family probably gifted you which is great because you can wear them all day without judgment- even outside! You're on vacation!
14. The number of minutes it takes to get your child dressed to go outside in the snow including finding two mittens, a hat, scarf, boots that fit, snow pants, and a bathroom visit.
16. If it's there, it's because you're supposed to eat it.
17. If you go to do this on the hill in East River Park, check your insurance policy first. You're welcome.
19. Giant Lego sets have way too many of these, and you're bound to step on at least one of them in your bare feet in the dark on the way to the bathroom.
20. This person may or may not remember to buy you a gift. OOPS!
22. Where you'll want to stay after about 5 days of your kids forgetting they don't live in one.
24. If your tween/teen gets one of these for a gift, you won't be seeing them again for a very, very long time.



DOWN

1. You will have the wrong size or not enough of these, thereby rendering the new toy useless. Cue tears!
3. The Elf has left the Shelf so the kids can now resume doing this amongst themselves.
4. The amount of homework assignments completed prior to the night before school starts up again.
6. The total number of days this winter break. I'm serious. It's that many.
7. You're not doing this; you're just resting your eyes.
9. A warm brown drink that isn't coffee but is better than nothing when you're out of coffee.
10. The time you fall asleep on the couch waiting for it to be midnight on New Year's Eve.
11. The best part of winter break is more time spent with these people. They may be a little crazy, but they're yours!
15. One of the many items you will not be able to find when it is time to wrap gifts. The kid version of these do not cut it! (Ha!)
16. You can bake them, frost them, decorate them...or just eat the dough when no one's looking.
18. The number of minutes your child will want to stay outside before they are cold and/or have to use the bathroom* (*Just an educated guess.)
21. This does not contain egg or nog. Discuss.
23. The time of afternoon when you should probably check on your teenager because apparently they are still asleep.



CHECK IT OUT

PLAN ON IT!*

*Plan on checking this out!

OPEN TO ALL PARENTS!

Internet Safety & Social Media Parent Program - Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)



Thursday, January 19, 2023

7:00-8:00 PM
OFMS Cafetorium

- Apps to avoid
- Friends & followers on social media
- Privacy settings
- Gaming and internet safety
- Live streaming
- Sexting
- Parental control apps
- Rules and boundaries
- Resources

Presented by Olmsted Falls Middle School



HOLIDAY HANDS-ON MATH MINI-CAMP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
10:00AM - 4:00PM
KINDERGARTEN - 6TH GRADE

Brought to you by the Baldwin Wallace Division of Community Learning



Kick off winter break with holiday math-themed crafts, games, puzzles, and learning activities with brilliant and talented BW faculty and student mathematicians!



Drop off your kids at the Knowlton Center to get holiday errands and shopping done and we'll have a blast with bungee-jumping elves, origami ornaments, snowflake symmetry, and more!

In addition, kids will have math takeaways sure to snowball into many more hours of math engagement over holiday break!



TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER:
SCAN OR CONTACT DCL@BW.EDU



College Credit Plus (CCP) Information Night at OFHS January 12th, 7:00 PM- Auditorium

Learn about Ohio's dual enrollment program in which students in grades 7-12 take challenging college coursework and earn high school and college credit at the same time. Olmsted Falls High School partners with LCCC, Tri-C, and Cleveland State University.

Junior Parent Pathway Planning Meeting at OFHS January 26th, 7:00 PM- Room 606

Information for parents of current juniors who are preparing for college applications, vocational school and military. We will discuss the different pathways, financial aid what you and your student should be doing between now and senior year.

What's Next?
OPERATION:
VOCATION

VOCATIONAL & TRADES FAIR

FOR CURRENT JUNIORS & SENIORS
(parents & community also WELCOME!)

Featuring representatives from the trades and vocational schools, local community colleges, local unions, military and MORE!

January 20, 2023
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
OFHS Aux Gym

Presented by Olmsted Falls High School

Questions? Contact Christen Brabenec cbrabenec@ofcs.net

GOOD STUFF

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



ICYMI IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Past issues of "In the Loop" and other LINK resources are available on our website [HERE](#). You know you want to read them. Go on.

HAPPY HANUKKAH

December 19th - 26th

Grab some hot cocoa and check out the latest issue of Bulldog Bites, the newsletter for Parents & Caregivers from OFCS Director of Food Services, Sam Chin! In this issue, get some tips for reducing your holiday stress, understanding nutrition labels, a recipe for a holiday smoothie, and more! Don't miss this quick and worthwhile read!

NO BAD JOKE

LIKE A DAD JOKE!
A cringeworthy feature inspired by bad dad jokes everywhere

Q. What New Year's resolution should a basketball player never make?

A. To travel more! (GO CAVS!)

HAPPY New Year 2023

SERIOUSLY COMICAL

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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

December 25th

December 26th-January 1st

HAPPY KWANZAA

TYPES OF PERFORMERS IN THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY CONCERT

© Adrienne Hedger www.HedgerHumor.com

Super-loud singer

The one who really knows the choreography

Fancy dresser

Unenthused lip syncher

Thrower-upper

Not-fancy dresser

Statue

WINTER BREAK WISHES

ANSWER KEY