

# MAY/JUNE 2022 Issue No. 7 IN THE LOOP

with LINK

Updates, Observations & Anecdotes for Parents  
from Julianne Allen,

OFCS Family Engagement & Communication Specialist

SUMMER  
TIME

## NUMBERS THAT COUNT

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The average number of days after which parents are **DONE** with summer vacation!\*

If you, too, want to send your kids back to school before two weeks have passed, fear not! You don't have to be the "ambassador of fun" this summer. According to [childmind.org](http://childmind.org), "Boredom can actually help (kids) develop skills, creativity, and self-esteem." This may not alleviate whining and sibling altercations, but at least you won't feel guilty when the kids say they are bored. You're doing them a favor! You're welcome, kids!

\*Survey conducted by OnePoll for Groupon of 2000 U.S. Parents in 2018

Are you a parent whose child is graduating this year? Whether they are headed to college, the military, the workforce, or still figuring out what is next, there are many emotions and questions that come along with this major life change.

Fortunately, there are more ways than ever for parents to connect with other parents going through the same thing. If you are a Facebook user, check to see if there is a parent group for your child's chosen college, or a support group for military parents.

LOOK!

It's a Book!



There may even be a group for parents of kids who haven't yet "flown the coop!" Speaking of flown, a great book (and website) for parents of teens and young adults is "**Grown and Flown**" (here is a pic of my very own copy!) I've loaned it to friends and bought it for parents of graduating seniors! There are great chapters on mental health, academics, relationships, college life, and more! It's worth a look!)

## PARENT/FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES & IMPORTANT DATES\*

- May 20 OFIS Career Day - 4th Gr. 8:00 - 11:00 AM
- May 23 First Grade Preview Night- 6:00 PM @FL
- May 23 FL/ECC PTA Meeting-7:00 PM @FL
- May 23 OFHS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @HS
- May 26 ECC Last Day of Preschool
- May 27 OECPTA/ECC Itty Bitty Bulldog Dance @OFMS 6:00 PM-7:30 PM
- May 27 Career Day - 5th Gr. 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM @OFIS
- May 27 5th Gr. Luau 1:00 PM @OFIS
- May 30 Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL
- May 31 OFIS 4th Gr. Field Day
- May 31 OFHS Community Day
- June 1 ECC Kindergarten Field Day
- June 2 OFHS Commencement 7:00 PM- Vitamix Field @Charles A. Harding Memorial Stadium
- June 2 OFIS 5th Gr. Field Day
- June 2-3 Kindergarten Bridge Crossing @ECC
- June 3 Kindergarten Last Day @ECC
- June 3 Falls-Lenox Field Day
- June 3 OFMS Grade Level Honors Programs - In Person 6th @ 9:30 AM; 7th @ 2:00 PM; 8th @ 12:30 PM
- June 6 OFMS 8th Grade to Cedar Point - 8:45 AM-8:00 PM
- June 7 3rd Grade Picnic @FL (parents welcome!) 12:30 PM
- June 7 OFIS 5th Gr. Honors Assembly 8:30 AM
- June 7 OFMS 8th Grade Promotion Program - In Person - Main Gym - 10:15 AM-12:00 PM
- June 7 OFMS 6th Gr. @Swings 'n Things- 11:00 AM-3:20 PM
- June 7 OFMS 7th Gr. Bowling -Eagle/Hawk - 8:30-11:00 AM Falcon @ 11:30 AM-2:00 PM
- June 7 Last Day for Students- HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

\*This is not an all-inclusive list, but a highlight of some of the special events remaining this school year.

# 13 DAYS OF SUMMER

BY JULIANNE ALLEN,  
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT &  
COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

If you skipped page one, you missed "Numbers that Count" featuring a stat from a survey of U.S. parents conducted for Groupon. This super-scientific poll found that parents are ready to throw in the proverbial (beach) towel and send their kids back to school after only 13 days of summer vacation. THIRTEEN DAYS. That's barely enough time to use a Groupon before it reverts to face value! What gives?

Admittedly, summer isn't all fun and games for parents. Parents must juggle work, coordinate schedules, find camps, plan trips, buy ridiculous amounts of food for ravenous teenage boys, and wash mountains of laundry for serial outfit-changing teenage girls. It's not that surprising that some parents want to give their (less than) two weeks' notice and quit summer.

Whether you view summer parenting as bliss or a miss, it is OK! My kids are mostly grown and almost flown- see page one again- but I'm here with some camp ideas for your kids that may help you stay mostly sane. Disclaimer: I may have a few "legal" issues to work out with these concepts. For now, take a sneak peek:

**CAMP "WANNA-FINDA-CHARGER":** At this STEM-tastic experience, campers will learn how to "borrow" and ultimately misplace their parents' cell phone charger rendering their frustrated parent charger-less. Campers will also practice dropping expensive devices from higher elevations to test their durability, spilling sugary beverages on keyboards, and learning the quickest way to void the warranty on the "protection plan" their parents foolishly purchased.

**Cost: More than you want to pay.**

**CAMP "REPLACE IT":** At this environmental-themed camp, campers will learn how to perform such complicated tasks as replacing an empty toilet paper roll, putting the milk back in the refrigerator rather than leaving it on the counter all day, and recycling the box that the popsicles were in instead of leaving the empty box in the freezer. Campers will also learn how to "leave a note" when they have used the last one of something in the residence (see: toilet paper roll.)

**Cost: Only your dashed hopes when your campers fail miserably.**

**CAMP "FIGHT CLUB":** The first rule of this high-energy fitness camp is that we don't talk about it. However, between us, Camp Fight Club will teach campers how to interact peacefully with their siblings, or to at least "KEEP THE NOISE DOWN! MOM'S ON A WORK CALL!" Campers may also learn how to avoid "that neighbor kid" who likes to overstay their welcome, break their toys, and in general, ruin summer.

**Cost: What is your insurance deductible?**

**CAMP "SUMMER IS OVER AND YOU DIDN'T READ IT":** In this educational camp for Middle and High School students, campers will celebrate their ability to go the whole summer without cracking a book. They will then learn the art of speed-reading as they cram 3 required books into the last two days of summer. Other campers will discover that the health class they were going to do online "so I can free up my schedule, mom!" required them to log in and actually complete the work.

**Cost: We may not know until much, much later in life.**

Summers are precious, and we only get so many of them with our children. Of course we love our kids! But whether they are tiny, tween-ish, or driving, there may be days this summer when we really wish the school bus would come by and pick them up. It will be here soon enough. Let's set the bar low, and aim for 14 days of summer bliss. Have a great one!

Julianne

# CHECK THIS OUT!

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

## TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

### Tech Tips for Non-Techy Types

This month we feature an app for parents of children who think and learn differently. With the Wunder App, parents/caregivers can connect with other parents/caregivers, receive support from experts, join support groups, find resources, and more...in a SAFE environment. The best part? This is all FREE! To sign up, visit the link below.

# Wunder

## MAY is MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Mental Health Awareness Month is well underway. In Olmsted Falls Schools, we know that student wellness and mental health are important year-round. Each of our school buildings has staff dedicated to counseling and supporting students. If you are concerned about your child's mental health and wellness, and you don't know where to begin, visit our district website [HERE](#) to find all of the contact information for your school counselors, school psychologists, the district behavioral specialist, and district home liaison (social worker.)

## JUNE is LGBTQ PRIDE Month

A recent study by The Trevor Project concluded that 45% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year. Rates of suicide contemplation and attempt were considerably lower in areas where students felt that their school was a supportive environment. This is just one of the reasons that Olmsted Falls Schools must be a safe and welcoming place for ALL students. If you are the parent of an LGBTQ student looking for resources for you or your child, [The Trevor Project](#) is a great place to start.

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

## 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 their children's learning at home.

## PoolSafely.gov

To improve pool and spa safety, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) launched [Pool Safely: Simple Steps to Save Lives](#), a national public education campaign to reduce childhood drownings, submersion injuries and entrapments.

The Pool Safely website includes Safety Tips for parents, fun activity pages, games, songs, a Pool Safely app for kids, and the opportunity to sign a family pledge to Pool Safely! Check out the website and download the Pool Safely App today!

# Summer Fun



NO BAD JOKE

## LIKE A DAD JOKE!

A cringeworthy new feature inspired by bad dad jokes everywhere

Q. What do you do if you get rejected for a job at the sunscreen company?

A. Reapply!



Thank you for reading "In The LOOP with LINK"! Have an idea for something you'd like to read about in future issues? Email your questions, comments, and suggestions to [OFCSLINK@ofcs.net](mailto:OFCSLINK@ofcs.net).

See you next year!

-Julianne Allen,

OFCS Family Engagement & Communication Specialist

## "TOTALLY QUOTABLE"

"It's summertime and you gotta find your kids something to do, because an energetic kid with too much free time can land you in small claims court." -

Tiffany Haddish

## SnackScience!

When you need an excuse to snack, turn it into a learning opportunity and congratulate yourself for being so smart!

### Rock Candy Edible Geodes

#### WHAT ARE GEODES?

Geodes are formed when a liquid mineral solution enters a hollow space inside a rock. Over many years the water evaporates, leaving a crystalized mineral inside the rock. When the rock is cut open, you can see the crystals inside the rock shell.

Adult supervision is highly recommended!

#### YOU WILL NEED:

- Silicone muffin cups
- Cookie sheet
- Hard candies (like Jolly Ranchers)
- Rolling pin
- Plastic baggies
- Cocoa powder

#### HOW TO MAKE GEODE CANDY

STEP 1. Preheat the oven to 300 degrees.

STEP 2. Start by unwrapping your hard candies and place them inside a bag.

STEP 3. Then use a rolling pin to crush the candy into tiny pieces. The kids will love using a rolling pin to crush the candies!

STEP 4. Grab your muffin cups and place them on a baking tray.

STEP 5. Sprinkle a layer of crushed candy on the bottom of your muffin cup. You can use two or three colors to make your candy look more like a real geode.

STEP 6. Heat the candy in the oven for about 5 minutes. You want the candy to be just melted when you take it out. Then take your rock candy geodes out of the oven and let them cool.

STEP 7. Once the candies are hard again, you can pop them out of the muffin cups and coat the edges with cocoa powder. This represents the rock coating surrounding real geodes.

## Feelings About Summer Camp

Written by So-So Mom

Illustrated by Hedger Humor

### Three Months Before

Do you want to do basketball camp in the summer?



You sure?

Totally!



OK, I'm signing you up! I'm paying!

Yay!



### The Day of Camp

I DON'T WANT TO PLAY BASKETBALL! IT'S SO STUPID! WHY DID YOU SIGN ME UP FOR THIS!



FB: So-So Mom  
FB: Hedger Humor

Source: [www.littlebinsforlittlehands.com](http://www.littlebinsforlittlehands.com)