

IN THE LOOP

with LINK

Updates, Observations & Anecdotes for Parents
from Julianne Allen,
OFCS Family & Community LINK Coordinator



THIS JUST IN... LINK UP IS HERE!

The new show for parents and caregivers of OFCS made its debut last week. "LINK UP", hosted by Yours Truly, is a show designed with YOU in mind! The first episode featured two awesome teachers from OFMS, Mr. Bartkowksi and Miss Kenney. We talked about the "Bulldog Buddies" group at the Middle School, but more importantly, both teachers gave invaluable insight into what our Middle School kids need from us right now. In my humble opinion, it is worth a watch! Stay tuned for more episodes of LINK UP coming soon! Check out the episode [HERE](#) and be sure to subscribe to the OFCS YouTube channel [HERE](#) to catch future episodes.



LINK UP!



PARENT/FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES & IMPORTANT DATES*

- 3/9 OFIS/OFMS PTA Combined Meeting- 7:00 PM
- 3/12 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS- Staff Records Day/Vaccination Day #2
- 3/15-19 FL- Right to Read Week
- 3/22 OFHS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM
- 3/23 FL/ECC PTA Meeting-7:00PM
- 3/29-4/1 ECC Right to Read Week
- 3/31 ECC Meet the Author/Book Reading 6:30 PM ([register](#))

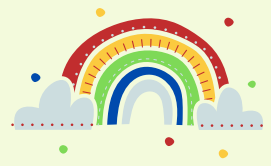
*Most events are now virtual. Contact your building principal or visit www.ofcs.net for details.

The Kinda Guide is a new online resource designed to help working parents and caregivers navigate family life and remote learning in the era of COVID-19. Check out the website for weekly, one-stop, ad-free guidance and information. <https://kindaguide.org/>



Looking for a Reason to Jig? Look No Further!

by Julianne Allen, Family & Community LINK Coordinator



None of us need reminding that almost a year ago to this day we were still going about our lives, blissfully unaware of the hardships and losses to come in the next 365 days. Rather than dwell on the year that was, I want to focus on the elusive pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. I think we may have a real chance at finding it if we look really hard and avoid leprechauns at all costs! (More on that later!)

First of all, if you are reading this, CONGRATULATIONS! You made it! It wasn't pretty, but somehow you managed to make it this far, and drag your kids, spouse, household pets, and random family members in your quarantine bubble with you. I'm guessing there were times when you wanted the bubble to burst so you could kick a few people out (bored teenagers, I'm talking to you!) but you persevered. I hope that you and your families were able to stay relatively healthy and that you did not experience the loss of loved ones. If there is one thing this has taught us, it is to cherish the times we have together with those we love. It's a cliché that is actually true this time- we really don't know what we've got until it's gone. There I go again- putting a damper on the jiggy mood I was trying to convey. Give me another chance, will you?

How about this for a reason to jig...while we aren't "out of the woods" completely, we can now at least envision a time when normalcy seems attainable. The kids are back in school, 5 days a week, with most attending in-person and some learning from home. Yes, they are masked, and distanced, and sitting too far away at lunch to talk without yelling, but it is a big improvement over where we were just a few weeks ago. Will this be the year that your kid actually eats his/her lunch, if for no other reason than they've got nothing better to do? Will the same apple you keep sending in their lunch finally come home with a bite taken out of it? Or better yet, not come home at all, because they - GASP - ate it and threw the core away? More importantly, did you read that first part about the kids going back to school, 5 days a week? JIG-WORTHY, don't you think?

Here's another one...maybe if everything works out and we all do what we're supposed to do with masks, and vaccines keep coming, and we can figure out the logistics and abide by the regulations and maybe get a little bit lucky we have a chance- yes, I'm saying there's a chance- that some of the traditional end-of-year activities could maybe, possibly, in a modified form, return in perhaps non-traditional but better-than-nothing ways. How is that for vague? But imagine even a few rights of passage that were lost last year returning to Olmsted Falls. Could Field Day return for the young ones? Swings-N-Things for the middle grades? Prom and Graduation for our high schoolers? I DON'T KNOW. Really. I am not in charge of any of these things. But I am putting it out into the universe with the hope that these things can occur in some form or fashion. And that if they do occur parents will be happy to volunteer and help out to make it work. I probably shouldn't have typed any of that stuff, but it's my story and I'll jig if I want to.

Another reason to do a happy dance...this may be the year we get to go somewhere that isn't here. Now, I love Olmsted Falls/Township with all of my heart, I really do, and Ohio is wonderful (Ohio girl here, born and raised) but I have not been to another state in almost two years. What about you? If this is the summer that my family and I get to see out-of-state relatives and friends, return to the beach, or even visit a sandbox across state lines I will happily jig my way through the hot, hot sand, flip-flop free and away from my home at last!

So I mentioned the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, and how for so long it has seemed elusive. To be clear, the pot of gold is a metaphor for the good-old-days pre-pandemic, the rainbow represents the mix of good (sun)/bad (rain) that we experienced this past year, both of which are necessary to produce said rainbow. I forgot where I was going with this, and I'm not sure now if this is a metaphor or an allegory (OFHS English Language Arts teachers- call me!) but simply put, I think we can almost see it now. The reasons to jig I just gave you are only a few. I'm sure you've got plenty more to jig about. I'm so excited to see what is next for all of us. But, the leprechauns, in this case, represent the bad stuff, like COVID and risky or insensitive behavior. I really despise leprechauns when they represent leprechauns (it's a fear I have that is not the least bit overblown) let alone leprechauns when they represent COVID. So let's keep up the good stuff that got us here- take care of ourselves and each other, look for the sun but prepare for a little rain, and follow the rainbow. I'll jig to that.



LINK NOTES!



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.

STAY
"IN THE LOOP"
ON TWITTER!


@OFCSLINK

@OFCSDistrict



QUICK QUESTION:

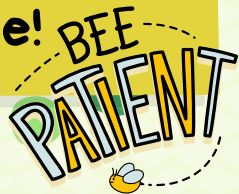
Q: How can I involve my kids in the kitchen, pack healthy lunches, save money at the grocery store, and make my own frozen yogurt?

A: You're in luck! Check out "Bulldog Bites" from OFCS Food Services for ideas on all of the above! Here you go! (and you're welcome!) 

Bulldog Bites March 2021

TAKE NOTE!

Coming this spring: another eAssembly, more episodes of "LINK UP" and a new issue of "In The Loop"! LINK is busy as a bee!



"In The LOOP with LINK" is published periodically throughout the year for parents and caregivers in the Olmsted Falls School District. Have an idea for something you'd like to read about in future issues? Email your questions, comments, and suggestions to OFCSLINK@ofcs.net. Thanks for reading!
-Julianne Allen,
OFCS Family & Community
LINK Coordinator

T "TOTALLY QUOTABLE" Q

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

William Butler Yeats

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.



St. Patrick driving the snakes out of Ireland.