

MARCH/APRIL 2022 Issue No. 6 IN THE LOOP

with LINK

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

NUMBERS THAT COUNT

more than **700**

The number of Bulldog students engaged in career-technical education classes through our district's partnership with Polaris Career Center! Including:

- 400 OFMS students enrolled in Project Lead the Way Gateway courses (PLTW)
- 111 OFHS Biomedical Science and 109 OFHS Engineering students participating in PLTW satellite programs at OFHS
- 153 OFHS students taking classes at the Polaris Career Center main campus in Middleburg Heights each school day.

WOW! Can't wait to see what impact these students make on the world!

LINK
APPROVED

Bedtime Math®

This site has a charitable mission to help kids love numbers so they can handle the math in real life. How? By making math part of your family routine at home. From the site: "Parents can sign up to get a fun, new math problem every day by email, on our website, and on our free app with Bedtime Math."

"Targeted for kids ages 3-9, it begins with a quick, fun set-up story, followed by three math problems at three levels of challenge." Findings from a University of Chicago study shows that Bedtime Math, already proven to boost kids' math performance, has effects that last for years. These daily math problems are really fun, and bring math to life. Check it out here: www.BedtimeMath.org

PARENT/FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES & IMPORTANT DATES*

*Registration for some events may be required- contact your building for details.

- 3/14-18 Falls-Lenox Right to Read Week & Spring Book Fair
- 3/15 OFIS PTA/OFMS PTA Joint Mtg.- 7:00 PM @OFMS
- 3/15 OFHS ACT Testing- All Juniors- 8:00 AM
- 3/17 Falls-Lenox Family Literacy Night- 6:00 PM
- 3/22 Falls-Lenox/ECC PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @ECC
- 3/22 OFHS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @OFHS
- 3/28-29 FL/ECC PTA Breakfast Buddies- @Falls-Lenox
- 3/31
- 3/28-4/1 ECC Right to Read Week
- 3/31 ECC Author's Night- 5:30 PM @ECC
- 3/30-4/1 OFMS Grade 8 Washington D.C. Trip
- 4/1 Falls-Lenox/ECC PTA Bulldog Party Rock- Gr. 1-3, 5:30 PM @FL
- 4/6-7 FL/ECC PTA Breakfast Buddies- @ECC
- 4/12 OFMS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @OFMS
- 4/12 FL 2nd Grade Music Program @ OFHS - South Comm. 5:00; East Comm. 6:15; West Comm. 7:30
- 4/12 Olmsted Works! Community Job Fair- 2:45-5:00 PM @OFHS (see pg. 3!)
- 4/14 OECPTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @ECC
- 4/15 SPRING BREAK BEGINS- NO SCHOOL
- 4/17 EASTER
- 4/25 RETURN FROM SPRING BREAK
- 4/25 OFHS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @OFHS
- 4/26 FL/ECC PTA & OFIS PTA Combined Mtg.- 6:00 PM @OFIS
- 4/27 FL 3rd Grade Music Program @ OFHS - South Comm. 5:00; East Comm. 6:15; West Comm. 7:30
- 4/28 OFMS 5th Gr. Parent Night- 7:00 PM @OFMS



Be a Good Egg

by Julianne Allen,
Family Engagement & Communication Specialist
LINK Program Coordinator

Usually I am excited to fill this space with something lighthearted and fun to help you make sense of parenting and raising kids in this crazy world. But this month I am really struggling to come up with something to say that doesn't feel completely pointless. I like to use humor to relate to my fellow Bulldog parents. And usually, that comes very easily for me. But this month, I found myself, well, STUCK. I couldn't seem to come up with even one humorous anecdote or story to share with you.

I thought about discussing the cruel joke of Daylight Saving Time beginning soon, and how none of us deserve to lose an hour of sleep that we never had in the first place. I'm a huge fan of St. Patrick's Day, and other than leprechauns, which are horrible and terrifying, it's fun to talk about rainbows and jigs and pots of gold and how raising two Irish lassies here full of sass has also at times been horrible and terrifying. Spring Break is coming up, and there are many funny stories to tell about breaks gone bad, with snow or COVID or worse dampening our hopes for relaxation and renewal. I thought about ALL of those things. Yet, I couldn't write about them.

I couldn't write about them because I can't stop thinking about the families who are fighting for their lives on the other side of the world. I thought about the children who have been harmed or killed, the young men and women who are fighting to save their country, the moms and dads and grandparents who are desperate to protect their families from harm. I don't know anyone in Ukraine, but looking at the images of the destruction and terror, I feel like I know them all. I'm a mom who would walk through fire and stand in front of tank to protect my kids. I bet you would too. My husband talks about wanting to go to Ukraine to fight. I've never heard him talk this way before. But he loves his family, and he sees the dads in Ukraine who love their families. We can't look away.

Most of us will not have a direct impact on what happens "over there". But we can make a difference "over here", in our small school community. We can treat one another with kindness. We can have empathy for others. We can view those who are different from us as people we can learn from rather than hate or fear. We can respect one another. We can co-exist. The Bulldog Way- what we teach our students- is to Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Kind. When you put it that way, it seems pretty easy. We don't have to be best friends with those we really don't like or agree with. But we can change the way we interact with them. We can "Be a Good Egg".



Dictionary.com says that "a good egg" is someone who is good, kind-hearted, pleasant, agreeable, and trustworthy. At this time of year, when we talk a lot about eggs- decorating them, hiding them, and eating them (I prefer the chocolate peanut-butter kind)- it should be easy to remember to be a good egg.

One of the few things that I knew about the Ukrainian people before now was that they have an incredible tradition of decorating Easter eggs. Known as *pysanky*, this is an important art form that dates back centuries. Ukrainian Easter eggs are decorated using the wax-resist (batik) method. They are works of art that are given as gifts to family and important community members. Their importance to the culture of Ukraine is evidenced by the PREHISTORIC decorated ceramic eggs discovered by archaeologists! (I do not recommend eating those, friends.)

According to folklore, **pysanky can help ward off evil from overtaking the world.** Really. That's what I found in my research which you can read more about [HERE](#). I don't know if there are enough pysanky in the world to ward off the evil trying to overtake it. But talk about "a good egg". I can't think of anything I'd rather be.



Julianne

"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,
Family Engagement & Communication Specialist

PLAN ON IT!*

*(Put these in your planner, please!)

Plan on checking out these events and opportunities! Consider this your friendly reminder that there is A TON of stuff going on. You're welcome!

SAFETY TOWN

JUNE 2022

Safety Town is a child accident prevention program for incoming kindergarteners.

THREE SESSIONS ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

June 13-17 @ 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

June 20 - 24 @ 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM

June 20 - 24 @ 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM



SPONSORED BY THE OECPTA
REGISTRATION OPEN
THRU APRIL 30, 2022

Safety Town, sponsored by the AWESOME OECPTA, is returning this summer. Registration is underway. Do not wait! Click [HERE](#) to register. Cost is \$40.00. **Teen volunteers are needed**- check the link for more info coming soon.

JOIN OUR Summer CREW!

GREAT INITIAL WORK EXPERIENCE FOR A FIRST TIME STUDENT WORKER

DEVELOP REAL LIFE EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE ALLOWS YOU TO WORK AROUND OTHER PERSONAL/SCHOOL COMMITMENTS

LEARN ON THE JOB IN A SUPPORTIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT

APPLY HERE



WE ARE HIRING

OLMSTED FALLS SCHOOLS HAS VACANCIES FOR SUMMER CASUAL LABOR INCLUDING:

- BUILDING MAINTENANCE
- GROUNDS MAINTENANCE
- COMPUTER MAINTENANCE
- SECRETARIAL SUPPORT
- FOOD SERVICE

JMA 3-2022

Questions? Contact Lanie Welker, mwelker@ofcs.net

Olmsted Falls is hiring for the summer! This is a great opportunity for a first-time student worker. Deadline to apply is **April 1st!** Click [HERE](#) to submit an application.

STAY "IN THE LOOP" ON TWITTER!

@OFCSLINK

@OFCSDistrict



Need a job? OLMSTED WORK\$! COMMUNITY JOB FAIR

Hosted by Olmsted Falls High School
Olmsted Falls High School
26937 Bagley Road



Many area employers represented

Full-time, Part-time, & Seasonal opportunities

From teens to retirees - and everyone in between - this fair is for YOU!

April 12, 2022

2:45-3:30 PM

for Olmsted Falls High School Students

3:30-5:00 PM

for all High School and Adult Job Seekers from Olmsted and Surrounding Communities

The OLMSTED WORK\$ Community Job Fair is 4-12-22 after school at OFHS! There's no excuse for your teen (or YOU, if you're a job-seeker!) not to stop by!

LINK NOTES!

ICYMI

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Supporting Student Wellness & Behavior at Home: 3 Part Series with Dr. Meghan Barlow

Recordings of all three sessions of this series are now available on our YouTube channel [HERE](#). If you missed these presentations for Preschool-Grade 5 parents, take the opportunity to check out the great tips and resources shared.



SnackScience!

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

PEEPS PLAYDOUGH!

YOU WILL NEED

6 Bunny Peeps (plus extra peeps for stuffing in your cheeks while you make the dough)

6-8 Tablespoons of Flour

1 Tablespoon Crisco

STEP 1. In a microwave-safe bowl, add 6 peeps, 6 tablespoons flour, and 1 tablespoon of Crisco.

STEP 2. Place in microwave for 30 seconds. Remove and stir together.

STEP 3. Once you cannot stir anymore, take out and start to knead in your hands. If it's too sticky, then add more flour and keep kneading until it's no longer sticky. Don't add too much.

That's it! Please note- don't eat the dough. Just don't. Eat the extra Peeps instead. Make sure it has cooled completely before you and the kids try it out. Ask the kids: How does heating the Peeps change their properties? What happens if you cook them too long or too little?

Source: littlebinsforlittlehands.com



NO BAD JOKE



LIKE A DAD JOKE!

A cringeworthy new feature inspired by bad dad jokes everywhere

Air used to be free at the gas station, now it's \$1.50. You know why?

Inflation.

(Sorry:)

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.

When Daylight Saving Time Starts



Go to hedgerhumor.com for more like this!!