

The Owl Post

Written by OGA's Journalism 1 class

Week of October 5, 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Greetings OGA Families,

September was an extremely busy yet fantastic month. Students made a lot of progress with navigating their classes, adjusting to instruction using technology, dealing with technology concerns, and remembering to breathe when presented with an issue. Everyone has settled in and embraced the routines in their classes. Our teachers are providing wonderful learning experiences for all of our students and have embraced the “new way of teaching.”

It is hard to believe that it is now October. October is a time of change and anticipation. We welcome the change in seasons, starting of school clubs (stay tuned) and to delving into challenging, yet fun learning activities. We are also welcoming 35 of our LaunchED students who are switching to Face to Face on October 13. It is extremely important that we all continue to wear our masks with fidelity, practice social distancing, wash our hands, use sanitizer and stay home when feeling ill. This is a reminder that any student who exhibits two or more symptoms will have to be picked up and taken home. Our staff will continue to use signage and social distance seating in the cafeteria, during arrival and dismissal, and when in the classrooms.

To keep everyone abreast of the great things we are doing at OGA, we are embarking on a new professional development journey with the district. Teachers are learning about Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). The strategies we are learning will be incorporated into instruction and will eventually permeate throughout the school. This will have a positive impact on our school culture.

October is also Red Ribbon Month. The end of October formally became Red Ribbon Week in 1988 by a proclamation of the United States Congress. It was inspired by the tragic death in 1985 of an undercover Drug Enforcement Administration Agent at the hands of Mexican drug traffickers. Red Ribbon Week activities are organized each October by tens of thousands of schools, government agencies, and social service organizations. The main purpose of Red Ribbon Week is to celebrate and promote positive choices and healthy, drug free lifestyles for young people and adults in the United States. Orlando Gifted Academy will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week this year in late October. Ms. Brown will be forwarding details to all students as to what she has planned. Stay tuned.

Parents, we need your assistance. Math was an instructional focus for OGA last year and it is one of our main focuses this year. Our students need to practice their multiplication facts. We will start biweekly math challenges beginning next week. As you know, math concepts continue to build upon each other as students' progress to the next year. Math fluency is vital for students' continued success. Take some time throughout the week to rattle off multiplication problems, addition, and subtraction problems to your child. We like to say “students should respond in a snap.” When you ask the question, snap your finger, and your child should be able to respond. It makes a fun game.

Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in becoming a SAC member. The Orlando Gifted Academy School Advisory Council parent members for the 2020-2021 school year are as follows:

Sarah Courtney
Jenn Mandelion Chrisman
Martha McCormick-Watson
Melonie Sexton
Jeremy Siegel
Reagan Smythe
Jami Valentine Miller
Melissa Vaughan
Jennifer Vose

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is like an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty. Mahatma Ghandi

Have a great week! ~Mrs. Despenza

THE NEWSLETTER IS GOING DIGITAL!

Keep a lookout later this week for an OGA Newsletter Website that our Journalism class is in the midst of creating. We decided that having a website would allow us more flexibility and our readers would have a chance to scroll back to older articles in case they were missed the first time. Because of this transition, we do not have a full newsletter this week!

The OGA Newsletter website will still continue to provide informative articles and upcoming information about OGA as well as fun riddles and puzzles. We are looking forward to continuing our reporting digitally throughout the year.

LUNCH THIS WEEK

By: Charleigh Gonzalez

Hot Options

Monday: Beef Sliders

Tuesday: Beef nachos with cheese

Wednesday: Breakfast for lunch

Thursday: Spaghetti & meatballs

Friday: Honey BBQ wings

Cold option

Monday: No nut butter box

Tuesday: Sandwich/cold chicken fajitas

Wednesday: Sandwich, turkey and cheese

Thursday: Egg and cheese bento box

Friday: Italian Deli Wrap

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 9: End of first marking period

October 12: Teacher work day/student holiday

October 13-23 5th Grade PMAs

October 14: Vision screening for grades 3 and 6

October 14: No early release

October 21: Report cards to be distributed