



# The Owletter

Orlando Gifted Academy  
Monthly Newsletter  
November 2021



## Principal's Message :

I sincerely hope you each have the opportunity to spend valuable time with your family and loved ones during this Holiday Season. I am grateful for our OGA family as we strive to make our school the best it can be. Happy Thanksgiving!



## Important November Dates:

OGA Spirit Days - 11/5, 11/12, 11/19

College Spirit Days - 11/3, 11/10, 11/17

NJHS Can Food Drive - 11/8 - 11/12

Elementary School Multicultural Night - 11/11

NJHS Honors Veterans - 11/11

NJHS Donut Sale - 11/12

Navigating the OCPS Website - 11/17

Teach-In - 11/18

SAC Meeting - 11/18

Middle School Multicultural Night - 11/18

Thanksgiving Break - 11/22 - 11/26





# SPECTACULAR SECOND GRADE



Mrs. Cybulski, & Mrs. Newry

2nd Graders will be working on their Context Clues skills by looking for the meaning of unfamiliar words using clues in the text. Students will also build off of their knowledge of context clues by engaging in projects where they will create their own unfamiliar/ nonsense words and while giving them context by providing clues within sentences for their peers to solve. Moreover, they will continue to learn 2nd grade math and science standards as well as engineering skills and science experiments. Please check clasdojo for regular updates.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE

Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Fosky, & Ms. Sunderman

3rd grade ELA students have been busy! They just finished learning about dramas, poems and stories and were able to show off their acting skills while making their dramas come to life. They are now back to nonfiction standards and really getting to know text features with great pride! The students are super excited about their second PBL coming up where they will be researching desert animals and creating a project to display their learning. Rock on 3rd grade! In Math, the students will be learning about patterns to create their own virtual board games. They will be solving and creating growing patterns, repeating patterns, and patterns on the 100s charts. They will also be extending their understanding of multiplication and patterns to multiply by multiples of 10. In Science, students will continue applying their understanding of the scientific method to hands-on STEM projects.

# 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Mrs. Bell, Ms. Hurley, Mrs. Zema

Our 4th grade scholars will be starting a new novel study of *The Tiger Rising* which is another novel by Kate DiCamillo. This literary unit will cover several themes including relationships, friendships, and dealing with emotions. We are hoping that the motion picture will be released before the end of the year so that we can compare the book to the movie. In social studies we will be exploring Florida's role in the Civil War and what happened in the years after the Civil War ended. In science students will be learning about how one type of energy can be transferred into other types of energy. Finally, students in Mrs. Bell's math class will be learning about fraction equivalency as well as adding and subtracting unit fractions. Ms. Hurley's math class will be working on operations to solving problems factors, multiples, and patterns.





# 5th Grade

Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Kuerzi, Ms. Switters

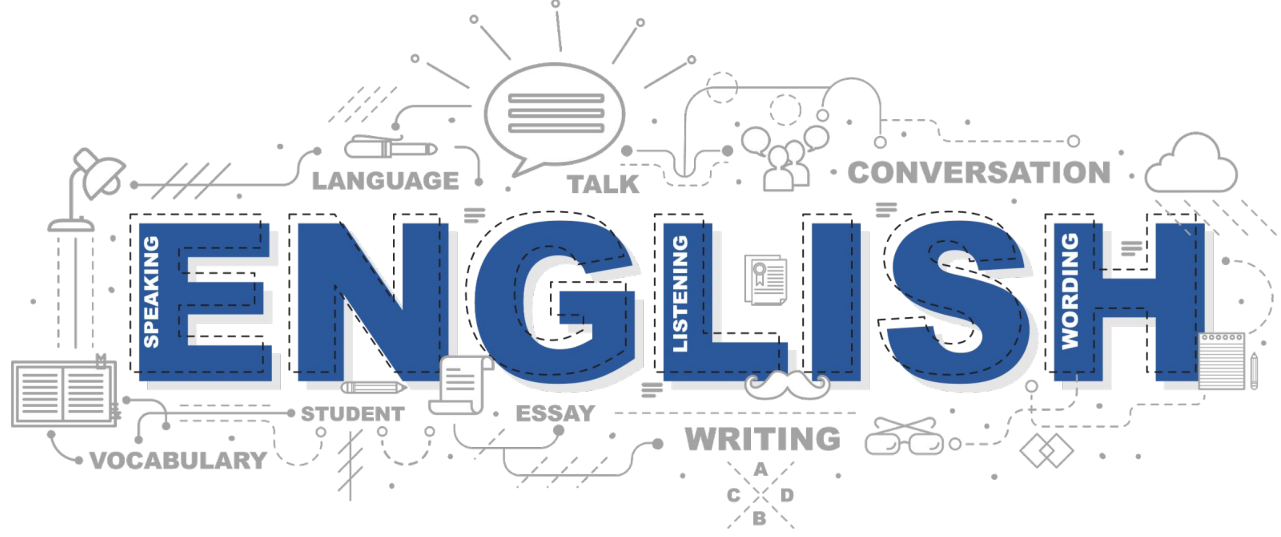
In November, 5th Graders are excited to continue reading Gary Paulsen's novel, *Hatchet* completing a culminating project based on this Newberry Honor-winning story. We will be writing informational and opinion essays to share evidence and elaboration skills, practicing for the spelling bee, and analyzing text structure with a variety of short stories/non fiction articles.

In History, Fifth Grade Students will tackle their first Document Based Question (DBQ) exploration of Jamestown, using primary and secondary sources to analyze and synthesize why the colonists struggled to survive in Jamestown Colony.

In Mathematics, we will continue showing our problem solving skills, place value number sense, and operations with decimals, and fractions. Fifth graders will compare strategies and prepare for our upcoming NOETIC Math Competition.

In Science, Amusement Park Physics will allow us to investigate multiple concepts related to force, motion and energy. We will be building circuits, demonstrating and explaining types of energy, transfers of energy, and experimenting with gravity, friction, and magnetism.

Character Education has centered on dealing with challenges, difficult situations, and compassion. We are looking forward to discussing responsible decision making and social awareness during the upcoming holiday season.



## 6th Grade

This month we are working on informational texts. November is National Native American Heritage Month and when we celebrate our nation's veterans. The students will examine texts about the Navajo Code Talkers about the contributions of other groups of veterans.

## 7th Grade

The students will have a creative writing project comparing the novel *The War of the Worlds*, with the 1938 radio broadcast, and the movie. (not sure when the newsletter will be sent out but the students are having their mock trial based on *The Tell-Tale Heart* during the first week of the month)

## 8th Grade

In our next unit, 8th graders will challenge their commitment to tradition and explore to what extent we should challenge or stay true to tradition, through evaluating and writing arguments. We will also begin our next novel, *The Boy In The Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne.



## 6th Grade

## 7th Grade

## 8th Grade

6th grade World Historians continue unpacking the dynasties of Ancient Egypt, highlighting the life and accomplishments of one of hundreds of pharaohs, the intricacies of daily life and their interactions with the neighboring civilizations, such as the Nubians to the South.

November has begun and we turn to elections and campaigns in 7th grade Civics. We will look at the campaigning process from candidate to office, the influence of media and interest groups on the political process, the impact of suffrage amendments and key landmark Supreme Court cases.

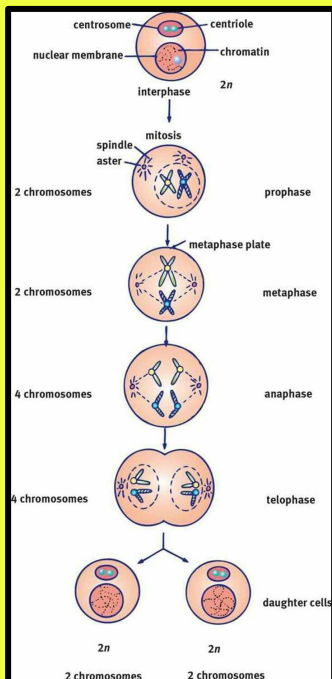
For more information, please contact Ms. Buyo at [Louise.Buyo@ocps.net](mailto:Louise.Buyo@ocps.net)





## 6th Grade

This month in Life Science, we'll be investigating cellular processes such as respiration and photosynthesis. We'll also begin our study of mitosis.



## 7th Grade

Dr. Roz can provide more information about what's happening in this course in November. Please contact [Mark.Rozmarynowycz@ocps.net](mailto:Mark.Rozmarynowycz@ocps.net) for details.

## 8th Grade

Dr. Roz can provide more information about what's happening in this course in November. Please contact [Mark.Rozmarynowycz@ocps.net](mailto:Mark.Rozmarynowycz@ocps.net) for details.

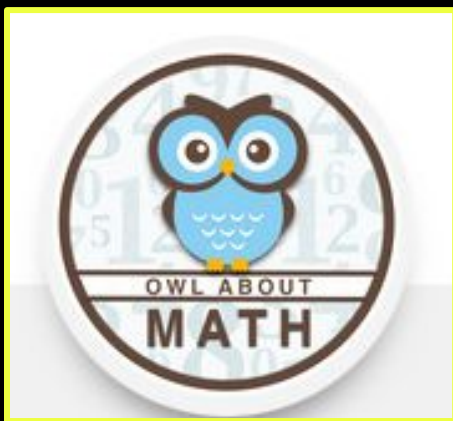




# MATHEMATICS

## 6th Grade

For more information, please contact Ms. Gutierrez at [Christina.Gutierrez@ocps.net](mailto:Christina.Gutierrez@ocps.net)

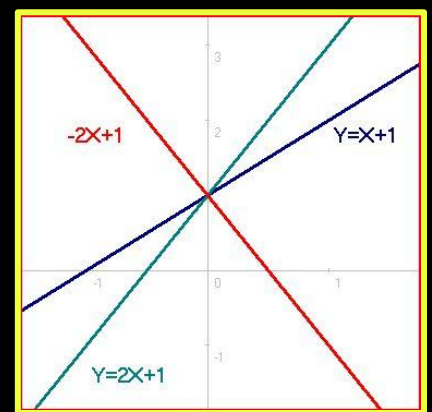


## 7th Grade

We are moving right along and are exactly where we need to be! You should be very proud of our students for coming to class daily and working really hard to learn the standards and working towards mastery. We are currently testing on Functions and we will spend the next three weeks doing two dimensional geometry. We have been doing independent practice in Khan Academy, BrainPop, MathXL, and assigned iReady lessons. Next up: Three Dimensional Geometry

## Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra students will continue to further investigate the relationships found within systems of linear equations. Furthermore, they will be focusing on both writing and solving systems graphically and algebraically.





# MATHEMATICS

## Algebra I

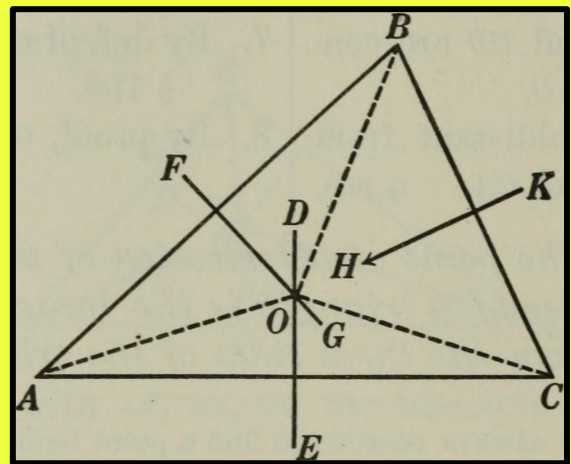
We have put in some major work during the first half of the second nine weeks! We just finished a unit on Modeling Linear Relationships. We have been doing group work and everyone has been on task and we have had 100% participation. Your scholars have been working hard and helping others who might need a little help! I am really impressed with the caliber of work they have been putting out! Next up: Modeling with Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities!



## Geometry

Students in Honors Geometry will continue to study the relationships found between congruent and similar triangles. They will also be working on creating logical proofs that are able to, logically and sequentially, explain the evidence for a given claim.

Students will also be participating in PMA 2 in the upcoming weeks.



Thank you all for your support of our Fall Book Fair. It was a huge success and not only did students purchase a lot of books we were able to get many for our library!! A huge thank you to the volunteers who worked the Book Fair and helped make it a success!



FOR YOUR

THANK YOU

BOOK FAIR SUPPORT!

SCHOLASTIC

MEOW MEOW MEOW

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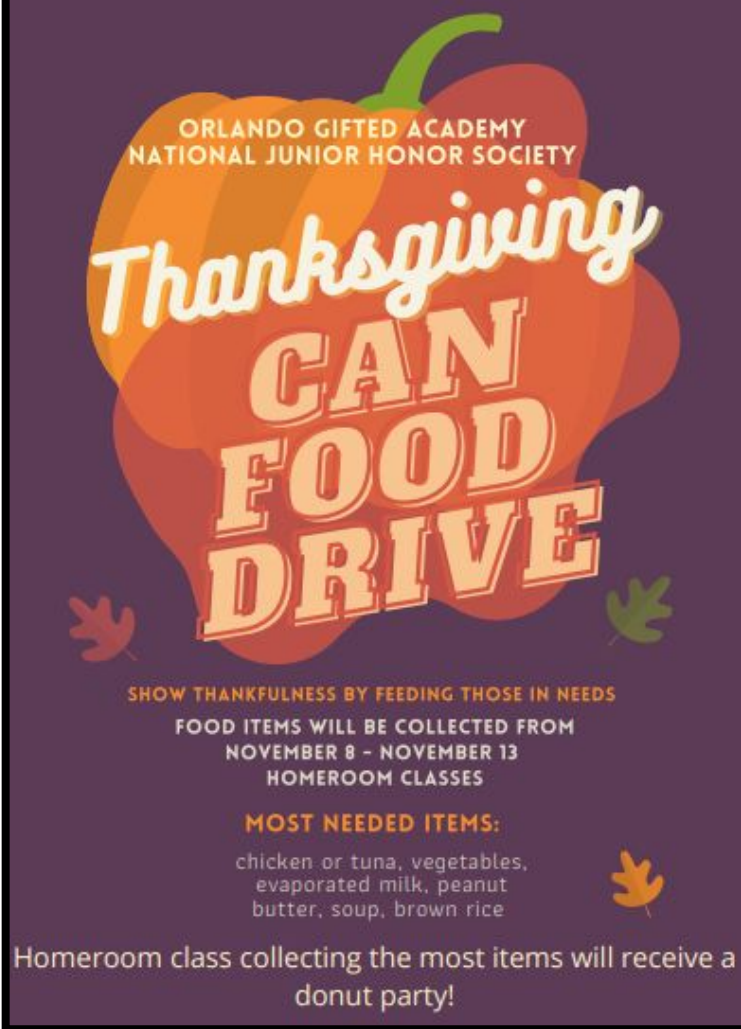
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ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY  
NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Thanksgiving  
CAN  
FOOD  
DRIVE

SHOW THANKFULNESS BY FEEDING THOSE IN NEEDS

FOOD ITEMS WILL BE COLLECTED FROM  
NOVEMBER 8 - NOVEMBER 13  
HOMEROOM CLASSES

**MOST NEEDED ITEMS:**

- chicken or tuna, vegetables,
- evaporated milk, peanut butter, soup, brown rice

Homeroom class collecting the most items will receive a donut party!



NJHS  
BOMB POP SALE  
\$1.00

Wednesdays - Car Loop  
Fridays - Car Line



November 18, 2021

Teach-In at OGA

Join us and share about your profession with our OWLmazing students!

For more information contact our school counselor, Ms. Niccarra Brown

\*All presenters must be ADDitions approved.



**Creative writing**

Students will work together to create a 9 part story anthology. Each student will write about an occurrence in their fictive town from different perspectives.

We continue to explore objective writing and rotating through different newspaper jobs, from Editor, Graphic Designer, Staff Assistant, and various Writers. Please check out our bi-weekly newspaper on the school site at [https://orlandogiftedacademy.ocps.net/school\\_information](https://orlandogiftedacademy.ocps.net/school_information).



## Advanced Academics

At the beginning of October, the students began creating their individual Advanced Academic projects based on their individual passions. They began creating a SMART Goal and an Action Plan that outlines what they will be researching, the problem that they will be solving, developing a timeline, along with creating a product to share their new knowledge and ideas to an authentic audience.

We are also reading the book, 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens and learning effective habits and how to implement them into our everyday lives. Next up, the middle schoolers will be writing their own mission statements.



Elementary- Students in 2nd and 3rd grade are learning about Paris, La Ville-Lumière! Students in 4th and 5th grade are learning how to describe themselves, and others, using descriptive adjectives.

Middle School-French I students are learning how to talk about past events using communicative strategies, and Beginning French students are working on a Food unit in which they discuss preferences, examine authentic realia, and learn how to order in a restaurant.

All students are working on learning grade-level poems for the Poetry Show, as well as trying hard to stay in the target language during French class time! Très bien!



It's Veterans Day.

We thank you for your service.

Join NJHS for Coffee and Donuts  
Orlando Gifted Academy  
(Oregon Street)

Thursday, November 11th  
8:15 - 8:45m

Your bravery will never be forgotten, soldier.





# MAKERSPACE MATERIALS NEEDED

Please donate the following items:

Double A batteries

Triple A batteries

9v batteries

Lego

Printer paper

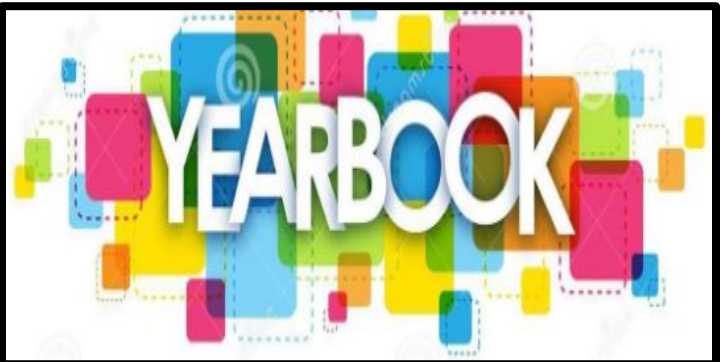
Black/Blue/Gree/Red Markers

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

We are writing! That means that we are now in top secret mode and can't give out many details. Sorry



We are, however, proud to announce that OGA will be hosting the regional Spontaneous Workshop, bringing together students from all over Central Florida to visit OGA. If you have a student who needs volunteer hours and has an OGA shirt, please contact Mrs. Olowu at [Falisha.olowu@ocps.net](mailto:Falisha.olowu@ocps.net) to see how they can help. You may also support our team through a direct donation on SchoolPay, buying Smencils and other novelties, or purchasing items on our Amazon wish list ([tinyurl.com/AmazonOlowu21](https://tinyurl.com/AmazonOlowu21)). We will also accept any donations of art supplies and tools, fabrics, etc...



We are beginning to put together our Yearbook spread. If you have any ideas or events you would like to see included, contact Mrs. Olowu at [Falisha.Olowu@ocps.net](mailto:Falisha.Olowu@ocps.net).



For more information, please contact Ms. Gutierrez at [Christina.Gutierrez@ocps.net](mailto:Christina.Gutierrez@ocps.net)

Our three robotics teams are looking forward to presenting their robots, programs, innovative project, and participating in the robot game at the Pre-Qualifying competition in late November/early December. Students have been designing and building attachments that will help them complete different missions on the Cargo Connect missions board.



For more information regarding debate class, please contact Ms. Buyo at [Louise.Buyo@ocps.net](mailto:Louise.Buyo@ocps.net)



NJHS students will be participating and sponsoring many activities in the month of November. Students will be offering coffee and donuts to veterans on Veteran's Day. They will also be sponsoring a can food drive to benefit Second Harvest. The can food drive will run from 11/8 - 11/12. Students will also be participating in "Light-Up" Orlando to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Association.

# Congratulations!





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## THE ATHENIAN SOCIETY

*An after-school mentoring club for middle school girls*

**Wednesdays from 1:00pm-3:00pm**


**WISDOM • COURAGE • STRENGTH**

Want a weekly club to get together with trusted friends and have fun discussing topics such as

- friendship
- peer pressure
- making the right decisions
- managing stress
- conflict resolution

Then this is the club for you!

Middle school can be a tough time socially. The Athenian Society gives you a fun, relaxing group where you can feel safe to laugh, share, create, and receive insights. Each week you will also learn a vital life skill that will help you move through middle school and beyond with more wisdom, courage, and strength. Please join us!



**WHAT GIRLS AND PARENTS ARE SAYING:**

*Athenian Society with Ms. Tame has been a great experience this past year. I'm allowed the freedom to be me without judgement. I would recommend the program to anyone at OGA in need of a space to talk and enjoy yourself. —Natalie, age 12*


*The Athenian Society was a safe place to talk to Ms. Tame and other girls about how I felt and to have great conversations! It was very fun to meet up with everyone and share about how our week was! —Katherine, age 12*

*My daughter loved the club and connecting with her peers especially during the COVID months. Creating a safe place for young girls to share ideas and experiences is extremely important and Athenian Society was instrumental in my daughter's development this year. She is excited to be a part of it again. —Rose, parent*


Hosted by

**MS. KRISTEN TAME**

*Certified Life Coach*  
*Florida Certified Educator*  
*Former OGA Teacher*



**Would you like more information or are you ready to sign up? Contact me!**

 **Kristen Tame**  
Educational Mentor & Consultant  
Email: [KristenTame@gmail.com](mailto:KristenTame@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.KristenTame.com](http://www.KristenTame.com)

**Classes are for middle school girls and are only \$50 per week or \$35 per month!**

**Interested in joining? Please have your parents email me to reserve your spot!**

*KristenTame@gmail.com. Please sign up quickly as the class is limited to 12 girls.*



In Art class students have been learning about working together to create a collaborative art installation. Second through fifth graders and Art 2 students have transformed plastic water bottles into beautiful flowers. Each flower will be hung on the fence near the office to create a colorful art installation.

Art 2 students have been experimenting with a variety of printmaking styles. They have enjoyed focusing on the artistic process of printmaking and letting go of the expectation of what their finished piece will look like.

Video Production will continue curating the school news on our school YouTube channel. There is a tentative walking field trip to the local fire department planned to create an informative news segment.

DIT 8 will use presentation and business-related software to explain computer networks and operating systems. There is a tentative plan to present this information on the school news YouTube channel through a Tech Tip segment.

Creative Photography students are learning about the Principles of Design and how they relate to photography. Each week students submit their favorite photo of the week to share with their class. We have some amazing student photographers!





Students in Ms. Panther's Creative Writing class and Ms. Buyo's Art class collaborating on their narrative storytelling projects. Art students will be illustrating the fractured fairy tales written by students in creative writing class.

