



# The Owletter

Orlando Gifted Academy  
Monthly Newsletter  
February 2022



## Principal's Message :

Time sure flies by and before we know it the 3rd quarter will be, as they say, "in the books"! As testing season draws I strongly encourage you to check Canvas and Skyward for up-to-date grade information. I also encourage you to take advantage of the additional learning opportunities available at OGA. Working together we can achieve success!



## Important February Dates:

OGA Spirit Days - 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25

College Spirit Days - 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23

NJHS Candy Grams - 2/7 to 2/11

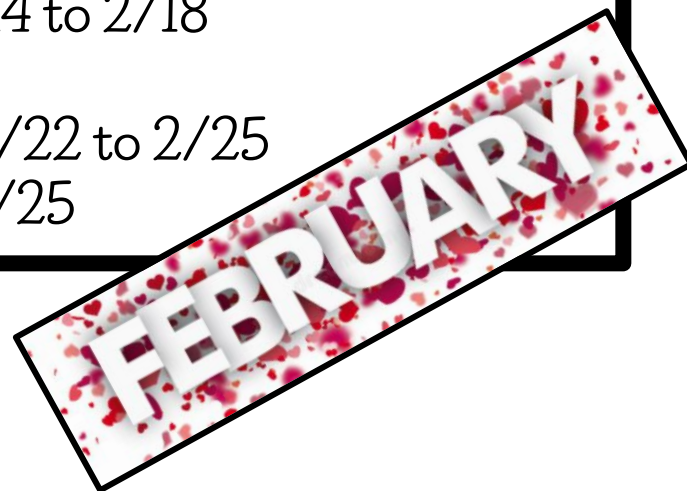
The Perfect Pairing of Primes Dance - 2/14

Random Acts of Kindness Week - 2/14 to 2/18

President's Day - 2/21 (No School)

Black History Month Spirit Week - 2/22 to 2/25

Black History Month Celebration - 2/25





# SPECTACULAR SECOND GRADE



Mrs. Cybulski & Mrs. Newry

In celebration of Black History Month, students will research and learn about different influential African Americans who contributed to society. Students will also share their research by creating presentations to teach their peers about the lives of these heroic figures and how they made an impact or created change.

2nd graders in Ms. Cybulski's class will continue learning about Customary and Metric units before moving forward to Money and Time concepts. Students have been working hard on the Project Based Learning assignment of designing the blueprint of an eco-friendly small house in math. In science, we continue our weekly STEM projects for deeper understanding of scientific knowledge. For updates and pictures, please check on classdojo.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE

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

This month in Math, the students in 3rd grade will continue to build on their understanding of fractions. They will use what they know about numerators and denominators to compare fractions and determine equivalence. Students will use linear models, number lines, and reasoning to determine these comparisons. In Science, third graders will celebrate Black History month by researching influential Black scientists. Using findings from their research they will create virtual banners to explain their contributions to science. In Reading, third graders will continue to review previous skills and strategies that were discussed throughout the year. Students will also be finishing Tuesdays at the Castle during our class book club. Third graders will also be aiming to reach their AR goals and read at least one Sunshine State Young Readers Award Book

# 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Mrs. Bell, Ms. Hurley, & Mrs. Zema

Our 4th grade scholars will be reading informational texts in order to identify key details, craft, and structure for the first half of February. For the second half of the month, we will be completing a novel study of *The Phantom Tollbooth* which is chock-full of figurative language. We will do a comparison between the novel and the film to end the unit. In Social Studies, students will be exploring World War II, the space program, as well as doing several different activities in honor of Black History Month.

Students in Mrs. Bell's math class will be assessing area and perimeter, then moving onto measurement. Ms. Hurley's math class will be assessing multiplying fractions as well as relating fractions as decimals. Mrs. Bell's scientists will be learning about weather vs. erosion while those in Ms. Hurley's class will be completing their Earth in Space and Time unit.





# 5th Grade

Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Kuerzi, & Ms. Switters

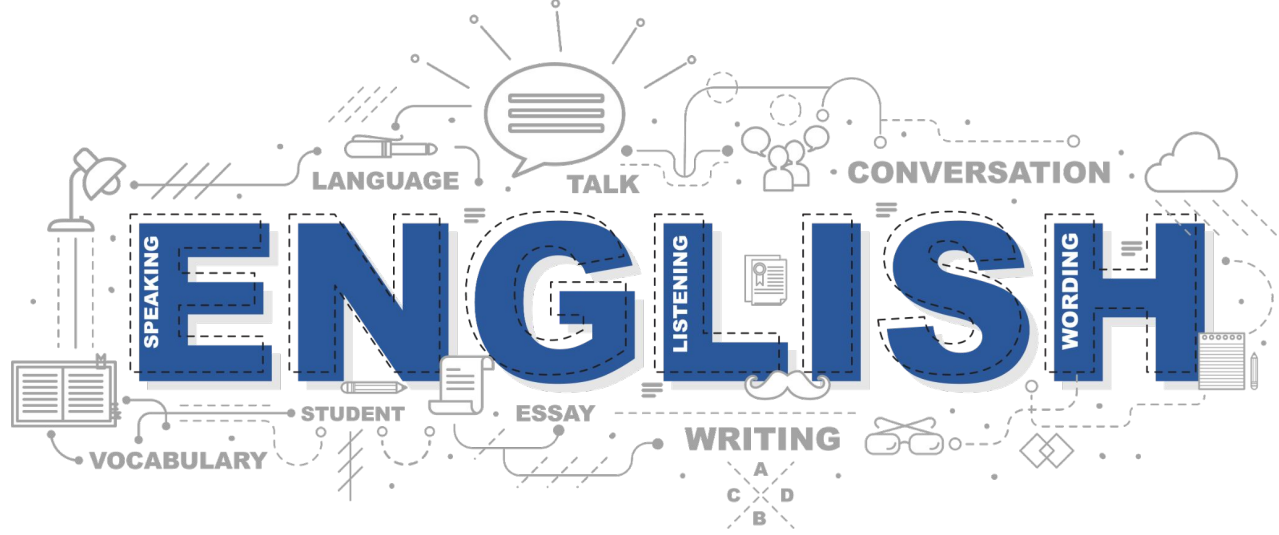
In February, 5th Graders will carry on their journey through Colonial Times and the American Revolution as they continue reading "Johnny Tremain". Reading skills include quoting accurately from a text and drawing inference, comparing and contrasting two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama; determining the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes, and explaining relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text. We will also keep working on informational and opinion essays to share evidence and elaboration skills.

In History, Fifth Grade Students will explore, read, and discuss life in the Thirteen Colonies, and the timeline that leads to the American Revolution and the Birth of the United States. They will be able to determine the cause and effect of various events and developments that are crucial to understanding the forming of our nation and basis for government. February also celebrates the accomplishments and achievements of African Americans and our scholars will enjoy a short project featuring them during Black History Month.

In Mathematics, fraction skills, measurement, and problem solving strategies will take center stage. Fifth graders should be applying logical reasoning, pattern recognition, algebraic thinking, and visual models to solve real-world problems and analyze errors. We are following the 100 Days of Math Reviews and Assessments to adequately prepare them for FSA testing and familiarizing them with the format of questions presented to them.

In Science, students will focus on three major areas: Earth's systems and patterns including the water cycle, weather, climate change, biomes, and climate zones; the human body and its organs, functions, similarities, and differences with plant structures; and the stages of life cycles of plants and animals defined by their hereditary characteristics. Research projects and experiments will allow our scholars to explore these topics in depth.

Character Education follows January's respect lessons with social awareness and relationship skills. We look forward to these character trait lessons and meetings as our students learn how to interact with appropriate compassion and caring towards others and themselves



## 6th Grade

The students are working on their first research project. And will begin writing workshops focused on informational and argumentative writing.

Students in Ms. Mullen's will have their second Write Scores writing benchmark assessment this month. These assessments helps us understand our areas of growth in essay writing as well as areas where we have a mastery of understanding. Students will also be comparing and contrasting different mediums of text, including dramas, poetry, and stories. They will compare visual and audio representations to what they see in the book or story.

## 7th Grade

Students in Mrs. Olowu's class have completed their unit on defining beauty and will begin looking at the role senior citizens play in our lives while exploring our ELA cluster 2-3 standards as well as honing our writing skills.

In Ms. Panther's class, the students will participate in writing workshops focused on informational and argumentative writing. And will begin their first choice novel project.

## 8th Grade

We are finalizing our video PSA's on food waste and will be moving into our next unit about the positive impact on ourselves and others through acts of kindness. We will continue working on our essay writing skills as well as reviewing our ELA cluster 2 and 3 standards. We will also be reading memoirs and biographies to explore symbolism.





## 6th Grade

We have come ashore from visits to four ancient river valley civilizations, to turn our attention to the Mediterranean, with the culture, politics, city-states, art, architecture and conflicts of ancient Greece.

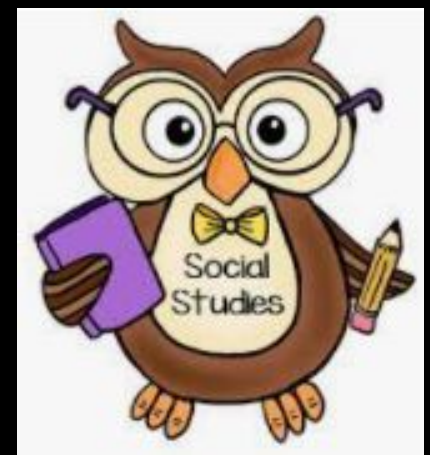


## 7th Grade

Having compared federal & state constitutions and their respective powers, we begin February exploring what each level of government provides in our "marble cake" of federalism and how certain amendments expanded suffrage to a wider variety of the U.S. electorate.

## 8th Grade

Ms. Buyo can provide more information about what's happening in this course in December. Please contact [Louise.Buyo@ocps.net](mailto:Louise.Buyo@ocps.net) for details.





## 6th Grade

This month in life science, we'll be examining the properties of heredity and genetics, and then moving into the classification of life.

In PLTW, we'll be learning how to manipulate objects on a canvas and continuing our study of gear mechanisms.

## 7th Grade

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



# MATHEMATICS

## 6th Grade

This month in our class we will be working on several units. We are currently working to wrap up our unit on two-variable equations. We have been / will continue working on using variables to represent two quantities in a real-world problem, identifying dependent and independent variables and analyzing the relationship between them. We will then move on to our unit: Extending Ratios and Proportional Relationships. Here will be computing unit rates associated with ratios of fractions, recognizing and representing proportional relationships between quantities. Lastly, for this unit, we will be using proportional relationships to solve multistep ratio problems. We will be going into March working on our Statistics unit. With this, we will be working towards being able to analyze, interpret, display, and summarize the data when answering a statistical question in various ways.

## 7th Grade

Greetings! Can you believe that January has come and gone? Your scholars have been working extremely hard with Three Dimensional Geometry! They have been putting in some major work to master these standards. Also, I am pleased with their progress since they returned from Christmas break. We will test on Three Dimensional Geometry this week and will be moving on Linear Equations and Inequalities, followed by Statistics. We have been doing more paper and pencil work so that I can correct some of the errors and misconceptions that were being made. With some standards, a calculator is required, but I don't have a class set of calculators, but they are allowed to use the one on their computer. I recommend them having the TI-30Xa by Texas Instruments. Last, but not least, we have started a Math Blast program on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday.

## Pre-Algebra

Students in pre-algebra are continuing to build a strong foundation for future math classes. This month they will begin their study of 2-variable statistics by analyzing scatter plots and determining causation versus correlation.







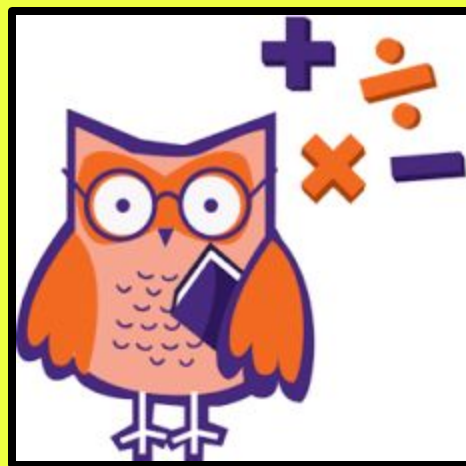
# MATHEMATICS

## Algebra I

Greetings! We have been putting in some major work! We are currently working on Solving and Modeling Quadratic Relationships. This unit will take us until mid-February and we will start a unit on Modeling Exponential Relationships. We have been doing some independent work with paper and pencil so that I can fix errors and misconceptions. 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. I am really impressed with the caliber of work they have been putting out! Next up: Modeling Exponential Relationships.

## Geometry

Students in Geometry will be finishing up their study of quadrilaterals this month and proceeding to study circle geometry. In this unit students will learn about tangent lines, chords, radians and other topics useful in future math courses.





ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY CELEBRATES

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Monday, February 21: Red, Black and Green Day  
Wear items representing the UNIA flag and flag colors

Tuesday, February 22: Kings and Queens Day  
Wear items representing your cultural heritage and pride

Wednesday, February 23: HBCU/Greek Letter Day  
Wear your favorite HBCU Spirit Shirt

Thursday, February 24: Black Excellence  
Wear your sharpest business attire

Friday, February 25: Door Decorating Contest  
2nd-3rd grade: Artists  
4th - 5th grade: Scientists  
6th - 8th grade: Trailblazers

**PARTICIPATION PRIZES!**



As we go into the halfway point of the school year it is important for students to get caught up on their library books that are overdue. Please have your student return them ASAP to the library. This is also a great time to check-out a book or two for winter break!!



**Don't forget to return your library books!**

ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY  
NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

Winning Homeroom will receive a donut party!!

### Door Judging on 2/25

**Grade level themes:**

2nd - 3rd grade: Artists

4th - 5th grade: Scientists

6th - 8th grade: Trailblazers




NJHS  
**BOMB POP SALE**  
**\$1.00**  
Wednesdays - Car Loop  
Fridays - Car Line



Creative writing students are working on a project to create their own dystopias.

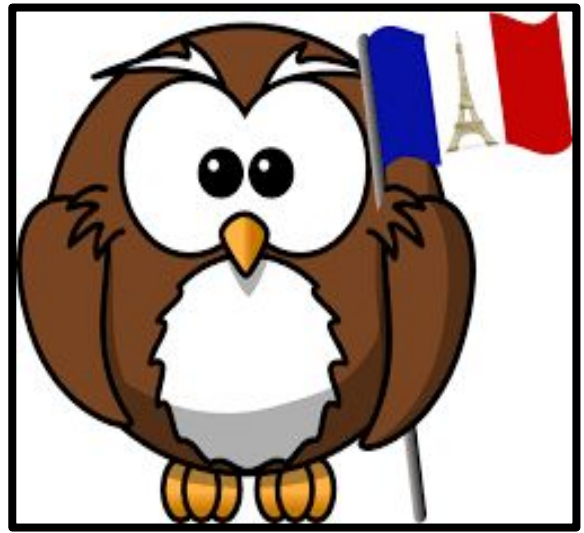
In February we will take a brief break from the newspaper to focus on the yearbook. If you have photos of campus events, field trips, or even classroom activities that you would like to possibly have included, please contact Mrs. Olowu at [Falisha.olowu@ocps.net](mailto:Falisha.olowu@ocps.net).



## Advanced Academics

As we are finishing up the first half of the third quarter of the school year, most students are completing his/her second or third individual Advanced Academic project for the year. These projects are based on their passions. Students are having to complete extensive research to solve these real-world problems. Students are at different stages in their projects. Some students are researching and taking notes, some are currently working on his/her product and some have already presented his/her product to the class and are deciding on a new topic. It is so exciting to see what the students are creating!

We are also still discussing the book, *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey. These habits, if implemented into the students daily lives, can help them be successful. The students also completed the 4th Mental Health lesson of the year.



In French class, 2nd and 3rd graders are learning how to describe animals (physical descriptions, habitats, etc.) through the use of stories and texts.

Our 4th and 5th graders continue to learn how to talk about food (preferences, meal times, etc.) and compare American cuisine to that of Francophone countries.

Beginning French students are deep into a unit on comparing schooling in America and Francophone countries.

French I students are finishing a novel study in which they learned about Quebec.

Both Beginning French and French I students will also be learning about the French holiday "La Chandeleur" (February 2), discuss Valentine's Day vocabulary, and talk about notable Black figures in the Francophone world for Black History Month.





# 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

The team is pushing through and looking forward to our first ever Regional Tournament in Kissimmee on February 12<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to attending the State Tournament in March. Thanks to all who have donated art supplies, building materials, and made financial contributions to the team.



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).

## NJHS Candy Grams Sale

ON SALE \$1 AT LUNCH

February  
7-11

Candy Grams to be delivered  
2/13 during 7th period.





This month we will be extending our Hispanic heritage projects on individuals by focusing on those with diverse backgrounds for Black History month. We will talk about different famous / influential people. We will also be continuing to read books and take AR quizzes. As a class we have also begun creating short stories as a writing around the room activity, and will continue to do so. We may even work our way up to creating our own telenovela plots /skits.

Our robotics teams participated in the FLL Qualifying Tournament in January during which they received an alternate bid to participate in the Central Florida Regional Championship taking place on February 26th! They're now making improvements and learning from their experience to become a more competitive and complete team!



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



Honor society is proud to announce that it will be hosting several service events in the month of February. Members will be selling candy grams as well as volunteering during the Valentine's Day dance. Also, members will be working together to create a fence message for Random Acts of Kindness Week. They also have a nice treat planned for their teachers. We can't say more because it's a secret!

**ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY  
ODYSSEY OF THE MIND  
NEEDS YOU!**

**We are in need of large boxes  
and insulation foam board,  
crafting supplies, spray paints,  
fabrics, packing materials, and  
all of your other odds and ends.  
Please drop off at 1121 N Fern  
Creek Ave in care of Mrs. O.**

You may also donate  
through  
[tinyurl.com/OOTM2122](http://tinyurl.com/OOTM2122)



**5 Martial Arts World  
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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.*

**OGA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
THE PERFECT PAIRING**

 **DANCE**



**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH 2-3PM**





ICT is coding a web page to teach others about computers.

DIT is wrapping up a cybersecurity unit on how businesses handle data.

A/V class is working on various video projects for the news, such as creating PSAs and five shot sequences to use as b-roll footage.



Creative Photography students will be learning about a variety of photographers and artists including Lorna Simpson, Carrie Mae Weems, and Kehinde Wiley. They will be working with photographs they take and a variety of art supplies to create beautiful mixed-media works of art!



Middle School PE wrapped up our football unit before the approach of the exciting NFL playoffs. Looking ahead at February, we will continue our racquet sports unit with one of the fastest growing sports in the country, pickleball, as well as starting tennis.



## Art 2

Middle school Art 2 students will be learning about textile artist Ed Johnetta Miller and taking inspiration from her improvisational quilts. They will learn basic hand sewing techniques and use fabric with a variety of colors, textures, and patterns to create their own one of a kind work of art.

Art 2 students will also be working on the OCPS Banner Project. In recognition of Arts in Our School Month, banners created by OCPS students will be hung downtown on the city's light posts to highlight quality arts education programs throughout the district. More information will be shared in our March newsletter about this upcoming display.

## Elementary Art

Second and third grade classes will be completing their study of artist Faith Ringgold. They will be adding finishing touches to their artwork inspired by Faith Ringgold's story quilts. Fourth grade students will be wrapping up their study of Romare Bearden and completing their mixed-media collages inspired by Bearden's artwork. Fifth grade students will continue working on their landscape paintings inspired by the Florida Highwaymen.

All 2nd-5th grade and Art 2 students will be learning about Jean-Michel Basquiat as well. I encourage all students to visit the Orlando Museum of Art and view the upcoming Jean-Michel Basquiat exhibit in February. I can't wait to see the exhibit myself!

In honor of Black History Month, ten Orlando Gifted Academy students will have their artwork on display in the RBELC Black History Month Celebration Exhibition during the month of February.

