



# The Owletter

Orlando Gifted Academy  
Monthly Newsletter  
March 2022



## Principal's Message :

Spring Break will soon be here and with that also comes testing season! I'd like to encourage you to check your child's progress on Skyward and take advantage of the academic support activities we have on campus. We want all of our students to excel in this year's state testing and, with your support, I'm sure we can achieve our student growth goals.



## Important March Dates:

OGA Spirit Days - 3/4, 3/25  
College Spirit Days - 3/2, 3/9, 3/23, 3/30  
Teacher Workday/No School - 3/11  
Spring Break - 3/14 through 3/18  
4th Marking Period starts - 3/21  
Report Cards Go Home - 3/29  
Picture Day - 3/29





# SPECTACULAR SECOND GRADE



Mrs. Cybulski & Mrs. Newry

In 2nd grade math and science, Ms. Cybulski's students are finishing our Money and Time unit, and beginning our geometry and fraction concepts. Students will be finishing and presenting their Project Based Learning of creating an ideal habitat for an imaginary animal. Our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math projects will continue weekly. Please check on classdojo for pictures and updates.

In celebration of Women's History Month, students in Mrs. Stoute's class will research and learn about different influential women who contributed to society like Althea Gibson, Dolores Huerta, Maria Tallchief, and more. Students will also go on a virtual field trip to learn more about these trailblazers and how they made an impact.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE

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

3rd grade ELA students are well into their reviewing of all the standards. We are getting excited and prepared for the ELA FSA test coming up April 5th and 6th! We are continuing to work on our test taking strategies and challenging ourselves with higher level texts! In Math, 3rd-grade students will continue learning about measurement and data. They will use rulers to measure to the nearest whole,  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and quarter inch. They will use data collected to create line plots. Students will also analyze line plots and other types of graphs. In Science, students will be studying rocks and minerals and observing their properties. Using their observations, they will determine the type of rock or mineral.

# 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

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

In March, all 4th grade students will be finishing the novel study for *The Phantom Tollbooth*. As a culminating project, students will be creating a visual pun project. Students will also view the film of the book and do a comparison between the book and the film once the novel is finished. In writing, we will be working on informative pieces. Students will be reviewing facts about St. Augustine before we head there on March 9th for our field trip. In Ms. Bell's math class students will be assessing two dimensional figures and completing a STEM roller coaster project. They will move into the last math benchmark of angles. Ms. Hurley's class will be assessing area, perimeter, measurement and problem solving.





# 5th Grade

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

During March 5th Graders will complete their novel study on the Revolutionary War novel "Johnny Tremain". Our scholars' reading focuses on craft and structure for both informational and literature text with short stories. We will analyze how visual elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text such as a folktale, myth, or poem. We will also compare and contrast stories in the same genre on their approaches to similar themes and topics. Our classes are still practicing informational and opinion essays to share evidence and elaboration skills as we prepare for the writing FSA assessment.

In History, Fifth Grade Students will continue analyzing how America declared its independence and made its way through revolutionary battles to gain freedom and draft the Constitution. March is Women's History Month, so we will read and research their accomplishments and achievements in STEM, history, and the arts.

In Mathematics, we will study fraction skills, metric and customary measurement, problem-solving strategies, and geometry skills with two- and three-dimensional figures. 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 take their last progress monitoring assessment the second week of March. Then, we will study life science with the unit on Interdependence. Our class will learn about life cycles; how organisms survive and adapt to their environments, and how inherited and learned behaviors have an impact in nature. Ms. Jackson and Ms. Switters class are also finishing up a month-long secondary project exploring the impact of climate change on regions around the world.

Character Education will center on perseverance and self-discipline. Our scholars must understand the value of not giving up on your dreams and focusing on your goals to make them possible through hard work.



## 6th Grade

We will focus on writing in preparation for the FSA writing exam. Students will have writing workshops focused on understanding the FSA rubrics.



## 7th Grade

We will focus on writing in preparation for the FSA writing exam. Students will have writing workshops focused on understanding the FSA rubrics.



## 8th Grade

8th grade will continue honing their essay writing skills, especially focusing on elaboration on evidence.





## 6th Grade

As we leave the Aegean Sea and Alexander of Macedon's imperial expansion out of Greece, we head west across the Mediterranean to the view the origins and beginnings of the Roman Republic, before the third quarter ends.



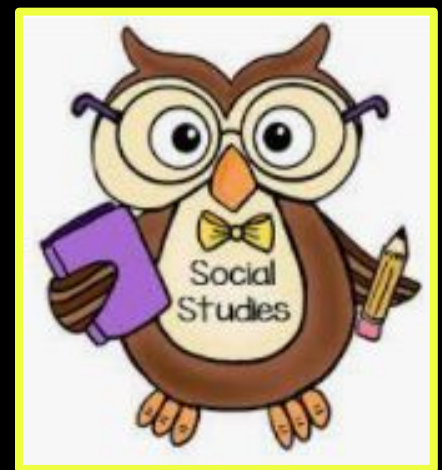
## 7th Grade

Having laid a strong foundation of constitutional protections of civil liberties and the precedent of landmark Supreme Court cases, we turn to the inner working to the U.S. court system and the trial processes; as well as reviewing for PMA 3.



## 8th Grade

We will be tackling difficult history as we chart the tension and conflicts after the Jacksonian Democracy and just before the Civil War.





## 6th Grade

In Life Science, we'll begin our study of human body systems and homeostasis.

In Project Lead the Way, we'll continue working on our ability to build and automate increasingly complex systems.

## 7th Grade

Dr. Roz can provide more information about what's happening in this course in March.

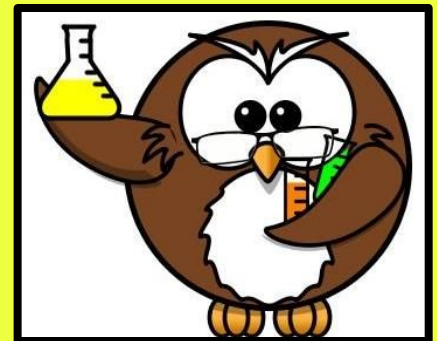
Please contact [Mark.Rozmarynowycz@ocps.net](mailto:Mark.Rozmarynowycz@ocps.net) for details.



## 8th Grade

Dr. Roz can provide more information about what's happening in this course in March.

Please contact [Mark.Rozmarynowycz@ocps.net](mailto:Mark.Rozmarynowycz@ocps.net) for details.



# MATHEMATICS

## 6th Grade

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. We are working with dot plots, histograms, and box plots. Once we wrap up this unit, we will transition to two-dimensional geometry. For that unit, we will need to find the area of right triangles, other triangles, special quadrilaterals, and polygons.

## 7th Grade

Hello! Can you believe that March is here already? First, I want to say thank you for being AWESOME AND SUPPORTIVE! Your scholars are continuing to work hard in class every day. We just finished Linear Equations and Inequalities. We went over this earlier this school year, but I felt the need to revisit it because it will be very helpful in Pre-Algebra or Algebra next school year. All three of my classes combined had an overall average of 82%. Our goal is to average at least 80%, so we were over our original goal by 2%. Currently, we are in the Statistics Unit and we just finished Box and Whisker Plots and making inferences from samples and populations. We spend at least 10 minutes every day in our FSA Countdown Booklet to ensure that we will be prepared for anything that comes our way! I am also recommending that they spend 45 minutes a week and pass two lessons in iReady with an 80% accuracy or higher to fine tune skills that have been identified as them needing extra help. Again, thanks for all that you do to make learning a success for your scholars in Math Class here at OGA!

## Pre-Algebra

Students in pre-algebra will be diving into the study of statistics. Specifically, students will learn how to use statistics to forecast events based on linear regression models.







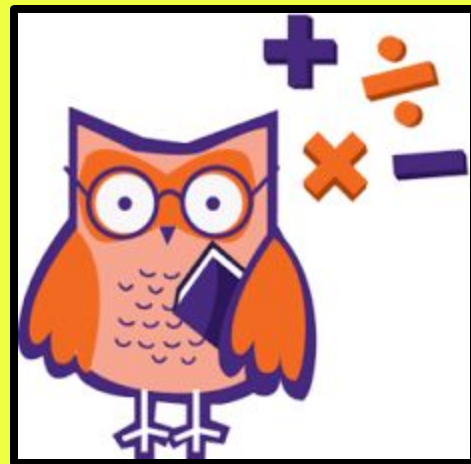
# MATHEMATICS

## Algebra I

Greetings! We have been putting in some major work! We have successfully finished our unit on Solving and Modeling Quadratic Relationships! We have been on this unit since December. We just finished Modeling Exponential Relationships and have started the unit on Comparing Linear, Quadratic, and Exponential Models. If your scholars feel that they need extra help, please let me know so that I can make arrangements to give them some extra help before or after school. 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 spend at least 10 minutes every day in our EOC Countdown Booklet to ensure that we will be prepared for anything that comes our way! I am really impressed with the caliber of work they have been putting out! Next up: One-Variable Statistics!

## Geometry

March will find our students finishing their unit on circles. Students have grown in their skills and can now find arc lengths, area of sectors, and use chord properties in real-life situations. Our last unit of study before the FSA EOC will be Dimensional Geometry. Students will need to calculate area and volume of multiple shapes.



# COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR!



#ScholasticBookFairs

DOG EAR © 2015 P&G

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!

Save the date our Book Fair is coming April 15 -20! More details will follow soon!



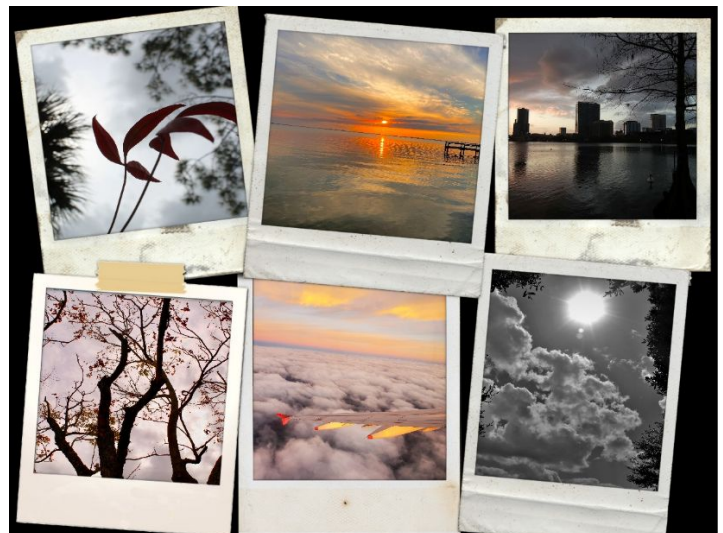
NJHS

## BOMB POP SALE

### \$1.00

Wednesdays - Car Loop

Fridays - Car Line





**Creative writing**

The students in creative writing will create short stories focused on the theme peace and love.

We are starting to wrap up the yearbook and will be moving back to our newspaper. If your student is interested in joining Journalism next year, we are promoting 5 of our team and are looking for new staff. Students should come talk to Mrs. Olowu in Room 19 if they have questions.

## JOURNALISM

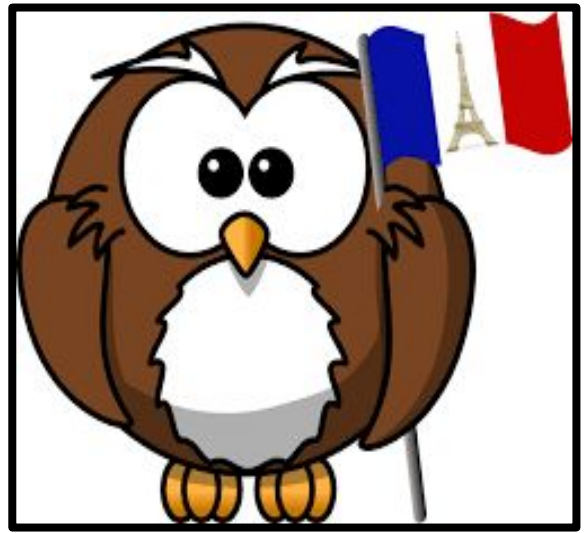
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# Advanced Academics

As we are finishing up the second half of the third quarter of the school year, most students are completing his/her third or fourth 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. Some students are even exploring and working on projects from the program, Defined Learning. It is so exciting to see what the students are creating! Please ask your student to show you his/her projects!

We are finishing up 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 5th and final Mental Health lesson of the year.



In French class, 2nd and 3rd graders will continue practicing descriptions through the use of traditional stories.

Our 4th and 5th graders will practice descriptions, food vocabulary, etc. by reading Francophone folktales.

Beginning French students will be finishing up a unit on schooling in Francophone countries.

French I students will be practicing the future tense, as well as comparing housing around the world.

Both Beginning French and French I students will also be learning about Mardi Gras and taking a field trip to a French boulangerie to eat traditional foods and order in French!



# MAKERSPACE MATERIALS NEEDED

Please donate the following items:

Double A batteries

Triple A batteries

9v batteries

Lego

Printer paper

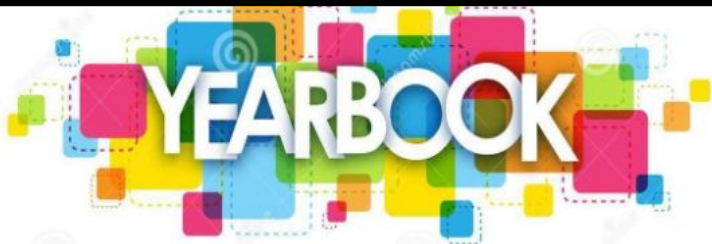
Black/Blue/Gree/Red Markers

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

We did it! Our first-year team came in 2nd place in the Regional OOTM Tournament and is advancing to the state level on March 12th. Wish us luck.

Next year, we hope to have 2 teams - a technical team and a dramatic one. If you are going to be in middle school at OGA next year and are interested or have questions about joining us, please see Mrs. Olowu in Room 19.

Families with incoming 2nd graders can also create their own OGA teams. If you'd like more info about starting a Primary team (grades K-2) under the school membership, please contact Mrs. Olowu at [Falisha.Olowu@ocps.net](mailto:Falisha.Olowu@ocps.net).



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).



## CHARACTER TRAIT FOR MARCH IS SELF-DISCIPLINE

Learning self-discipline is essential for gifted students to achieve success. Self-discipline allows students to withstand peer pressure, become independent learners, and make better decisions. They are also better able to manage emotions, words, actions, impulses, and desires.

How can you help your child develop self-discipline?

- Help them to see roadblocks as lessons
- Help them create a daily/weekly schedule
- Teach them to use goal charts to track progress toward personal goals
- Build & communicate trust by providing opportunities for students to make good decisions





This month we will continue to expand our writing by putting our verb conjugation skills to work. We will continue to learn more vocabulary and will begin to have weekly Spelling Tests of 10-15 words. We will also introduce some music and dances from various Spanish speaking countries.

We're going to REGIONALS!! The Pathfinders and Autonomous Amoebas will represent the O.G.A. at the FLL Regional Competition on Saturday, March 5th in Port Orange, FL. The teams have been working hard and are excited to showcase their talents for the judges!



In Speech & Debate we will be tackling the Lincoln-Douglas debates, doing more mini-speeches and hat debates.



Honor Society students will be putting together a small teacher appreciation gift in March. Also, we will be holding a fundraiser in support of UNICEF. More details to follow!

**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)



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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.*





ICT working on using presentation software based on their interests or school related issues for the news.

DIT is creating presentations using Word and PowerPoint based on content they are reviewing for the COMP-TIA exam.

A/V is working on projects of their choosing for the film festival and curating the daily news



Creative Photography students will be working on taking pictures of a large variety of themes and selecting their best photos to present to the class.



For more information about Physical Education, please contact Ms. Sharpe or Ms. Mullen.



March is Arts in Our Schools Month. In honor of this special month, six students will have their artwork on display in the Arts in Our Schools Month Exhibition at the RBELC. In addition, we are also participating in the OCPS Banner Project. OCPS in partnership with the City of Orlando will be celebrating the outstanding arts in our school by displaying banners throughout downtown. The banners will be hung on the light posts downtown to highlight the high quality arts education programs throughout our district.

A very special thank you to the students who came to school early and stayed late to paint our beautiful banner inspired by the artist Chris Uphues. More information will be shared about the OCPS Banner Project on our school Facebook page in March.

### Elementary Art

Second grade students will be creating mixed-media cityscapes in Art class. Third grade students will be working on peace inspired artworks that will be on display during the Spring Music Concert on March 31st. Fourth graders will be finishing up their artwork inspired by Jean-Michel Basquiat. Fifth graders will complete their Florida Highwaymen inspired art and begin learning about artist Jean-Michel Basquiat.

### Art 2

Art 2 students will be fine tuning their observation and drawing skills. They will be working on portraits of their classmates in addition to self-portraits.



# Mindful March 2022

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness

2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world

3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive

4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words

5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them

6 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels

7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day

8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food

9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others

10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face

11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee

12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying

13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today

14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do

15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly

16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity

17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant

18 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down

19 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are

20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today  
dayofhappiness.net

21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else

22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult

23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them

24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do

25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted

26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today

27 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today

28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible

29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice

30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling

31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

