



The Owletter

Orlando Gifted Academy
Monthly Newsletter
December 2022



Principal's Message :

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of our OGA families a joyous and healthy holiday season and a happy new year! Please take time to enjoy this special time with your loved ones and we look forward to seeing everyone back in January.



Important December Dates:

OGA Spirit Days - 12/2, 12/9, 12/16
College Spirit Days - 12/7, 12/14
Schoolwide Spelling Bee - 12/2
Nutcracker Field Trip - 2nd grade - 12/2
FAST Testing #2 (2nd - 5th grade) - 12/5 & 12/6
NJHS Candy Cane Grams - 12/5 - 12/12
STAR Testing #2 (Algebra & Geometry) - 12/7
No Early Release Wednesday - 12/7
Secondary Science PMA #2 - 12/8
SSYRA Author Visit (3rd - 5th) - 12/8
SAC Meeting - 12/8
Winter Performance - 12/8 (5pm Auditorium)
Secondary Civics PMA #2 - 12/9
CFE's Semester 1 PE - 12/12
CFE's Semester 1 Service Learning - 12/12
Winter Celebration Begins - 12/12 - 12/16
Chillin' with my Gnomies Middle School Dance - 12/15



SPECTACULAR SECOND GRADE



Ms. Cortes and Ms. Gutierrez

This month, second grade has the amazing opportunity of attending The Orlando Ballet to see The Nutcracker. In ELA, students will identify different characters' perspectives in a literary text. They will also explore figurative language with a focus on alliteration, similes, and idioms. In Math we will be concluding our unit on money. Our students should be able to do things such as identifying coins, answer word problems involving both adding and subtracting, and knowing which coins can be combined to make different amounts. We will then be moving into our measurement unit. Here we will cover estimating and measuring lengths to the nearest foot, inch, yard, centimeter, and/or meter. We will also be measuring two items using the same units and comparing the lengths. The final piece will be using these skills to solve addition and subtraction word problems of lengths given in the same units. In Science, we are working on types of energy such as light, heat, sound, and electricity. We are also learning about how energy in moving air and water, along with light energy from the Sun, can be changed into electricity to use to power things.

3rd GRADE

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

In Math, 3rd-grade students will be exploring the connection between multiplication and division. They will:

- Restate division expressions as missing factor problems
- Determine whether multiplication and division equations are true or false
- Determine the unknown in multiplication and division equations
- Make connections between multiplication and division facts

In Science, students will investigate animals and classify them into major groups (vertebrates, invertebrates, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, arthropods, etc.) according to their characteristics.

3rd grade ELA students are just about done with their first exposure to the ELA BEST benchmarks! We are diving into comparing and contrasting both fiction and non fiction texts and will be working on our PBL involving bullying! "Tuesdays at the Castle" is already a favorite book club book and the students are super engaged in this novel! Please make sure your child is completing their weekly iready lessons and reading at home each night! Holiday celebration sign up genius is available on our class dojo story... see how you can contribute!

4th GRADE

Ms. Breutsch, Mrs. Danese, Ms. Hurley, Mr. Osman

Excellent ELA -

Students will review identifying the text structures of problem/solution, sequence, and description in informational texts. In addition, students will learn to explain an author's perspective on an informative topic, an author's claim and the reasons and evidence used to support the claim. Students will continue with essay writing, both expository as well as argumentative. Please be sure to check with your child to see how many AR points they have earned toward their quarterly 25 point goal. The deadline to meet the goal is December 16.

Stupendous Social Studies -

Students will expand their knowledge of the settlement of Florida through exploring the effects of Spanish rule in Florida, the purpose of missions, the significance of St. Augustine, and identifying the nations that controlled Florida before it became a US territory.

Marvelous Math -

Students will be working on place values up to 1 million, where they can round the numbers to different place values, as well as write out the numbers in various forms. They also will be working on decimals up to the hundredths place and solving real world problems with addition and subtraction.

Stellar Science -

Students will be working on forms of energy and energy transformations. They will review the different types of energy and when they may cause change or motion. Also, they will look at different materials and whether they are insulators or conductors.



5th Grade

Ms. Hanson, Mrs. Kuerzi, Mrs. Stoute, Mrs. Valentin

This month, 5th Grade ELA students will be working on completing their Project Based Learning activities and projects as the quarter ends. We will also be reading informational texts as well as primary and secondary sources in class to strengthen our summarizing skills. Additionally, students will be learning how to find strong pieces of evidence to support their reasonings when completing expository writing assignments.

In mathematics, 5th grade scholars will be staying busy during December by studying all operations with fractions and applying their mad decimal skills with the Holiday Project or What Is Your Dream Vacation Project. Science will focus on forces, motion, and energy by continuing to explore Amusement Park Physics as well as studying all forms of energy. That includes light, sound, magnetism, and electricity. On December 13th, we will have a visit from OUC to explore alternative energy as well.



Angel Tree Project

The Angel Tree Project team helps provide holiday gifts to students experiencing poverty or homelessness.

Text **OCPSANGEL** to **41444**
Then click on the reply link to fill out your form.

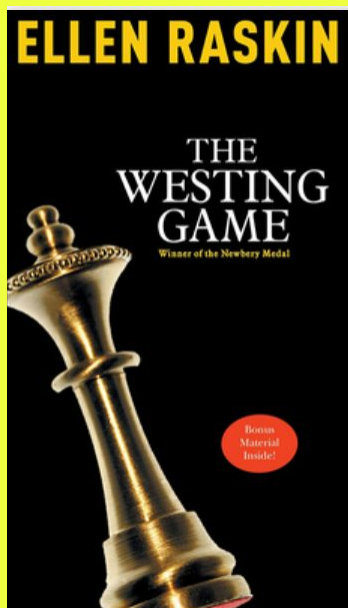
In addition to our traditional angel tags you can now give safely and securely via text, too.





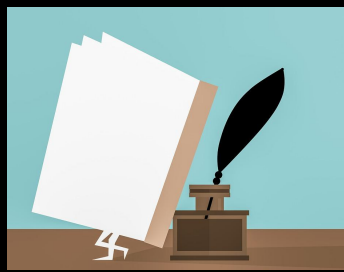
6th Grade

In 6th grade ELA, students will be working on a novel study of *The Westing Game*.



7th Grade

The students will begin exploring poetry.



8th Grade

We are continuing with our informative readings and writing standards as we explore the implications of food waste. We will be learning about rhetorical devices to drive the messages of video PSAs. When we return from winter break, we will delve deeply into informative and argumentative essay writing.



6th Grade

7th Grade

8th Grade

We wrap up our time on the banks of the Nile encountering the powerful and understudied Kingdoms of Kush, who resisted conquest by the Romans, before intermingling with the ancient civilizations of the Indian subcontinent with its vast diversity.



We continue to unpack the power of the vote and the how the suffrage amendments further expanded electoral participation in our nation. The three branches of the federal government and their respective roles spread out the rest of the 2nd marking period.



For more information about 8th Grade US History, please contact Ms. Buyo at Louise.Buyo@ocps.net



6th Grade

For the month of December, we will be covering operations with rational numbers. These cover solving mathematical problems using multi-step order of operations including grouping symbols, whole-number exponents and absolute value. We will also be learning to perform operations with integers, multiply and divide multi-digit numbers with decimals to the thousandths and compute products and quotients of positive fractions (including mixed numbers).

7th Grade

We have had a busy start to this 9 weeks in class! Most of your scholars have been working extremely hard! As we approach the ending to this marking period; we are hoping to bring in more energy and effort as I am constantly trying to get them prepared for Algebra next year! My expectations are still extremely high for them. Please have your scholars work in Khan Academy, iReady or practice problems from in class at least 10-15 minutes per day. All lessons and Google Slides are located in Launchpad in Math Nation and in their math book. Next up: Relationships in Triangles & Analyzing Proportional Relationships!

Pre-Algebra

Hello! We have finally gotten acclimated to the high level of work that is required for Pre-Algebra. Most days we are able to get through a good amount of problems during class. We are finishing up the Solving Linear Equations unit. Please have your scholars do practice problems in IXL or iReady about 10-15 minutes daily. The more practice that they put in the better they will understand math concepts. This will also help them perform better on test. All lessons and Google Slides are located in Launchpad in Math Nation and in their Pre-Algebra book. Next up: Linear Relationships!

MATHEMATICS

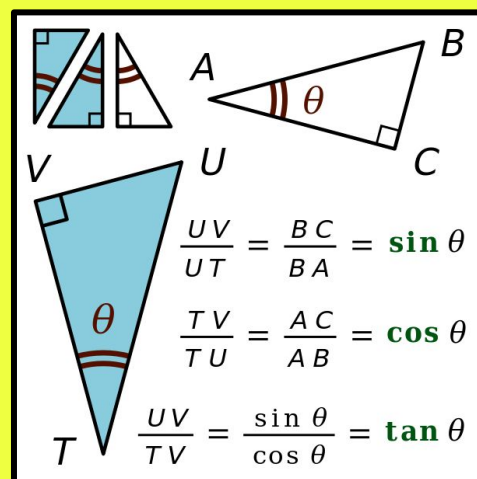
Algebra I

Greetings! We have put in some major work during the nine weeks of class! We are finishing up the Solving Equations unit. We have slowly picked up the pace. We have been doing problems daily and working in IXL to get more practice. Please have your scholars do practice problems in IXL about 10-15 minutes daily. This will help them perform better on test. The students that put forth the effort to do practice math at home usually grasp the concept much quicker. All lessons and Google Slides are located in Launchpad in Math Nation. Next up: Linear Inequalities in One Variable!



Geometry

We are making great progress in our unit on Dilations and Similarity. Students are now able to discuss and articulate what it means to be similar in mathematical terms as well as being able to follow a sequence of transformations to create an image from a pre-image. Our test for this unit will take place before our winter break. Once we return to school in January, we will be focusing on right triangle and the subject of trigonometry.



Media Center - We have a lot of Books that are past due. Please take a moment to get these books turned in!

O G A R E M I N D E R



STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE COMPUTERS
FULLY CHARGED AND WITH THEM ON
TESTING DAYS!!

Our Next Book Fair is In January!
Stay tuned for more details.



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER - RESPONSIBILITY

Help teach your child the November character trait: Responsibility. We want our students to learn how to be accountable with words and actions, how to make good choices, and how to do what they say they will do

Be a good role model



Give choices and opportunities to make decisions



Break down larger tasks into smaller ones



Use the language of responsibility



Assign chores to teach responsibility



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



Our student authors will have a virtual writing workshop with National Geographic Society Explorer and MIT Knight Science Journalism Project Fellow, Jason Bittel as they learn how to write creative non-fiction.

Hopefully you are enjoying the student-led newspaper. You can find The Owl Messenger at <https://orlandogiftedacademy.ocps.net/> under the School Information tab.



Advanced Academics

Advanced Academics with Mrs. Dunn

The students are working on their next PBL project for the year. This time, they are creating their own PBL based on their passions and topics of interests. Students are now in the research stage and are using their driving questions, SMART goals, and their Action Plans as their guides. Throughout the next couple of weeks, they will be taking Cornell style notes, analyzing and synthesizing the information to make a conclusion to help solve real-world problems.

Service Learning with Mrs. Dunn

Showing kindness through our words and through our actions to one another is our focus for our first big project this year. To help model what kindness looks like, we will be continuing our book study on Wonder. After our book study, we will continue working on the investigation stage which entails, researching, and conducting observations. We will also be reviewing for the CFEs which will be during the week of December 12th.

Advanced Academics with Mrs. Bell

Student will present their final products on an endangered insect, focusing on the gifted goal of Applied Knowledge (thinking creatively and critically to solve a real-world problem). Then we will start the next gifted goal of Self-Awareness (taking responsibility of personal learning and identifying strengths and weakness). The PBL will have the driving question related to non-profit organizations.



In French class, students will be working on a World Cup 2022 unit in which they will research the competing countries and players, read about the history of the event, and follow along with the matches. *Allez les bleus!*



For the month of December, elementary PE will be reviewing learned skills, such as kicking, catching, throwing, and tossing.



In PLTW we'll continue our study of the engineering design process, with a special focus on automation through code.



In December in PE, we'll be preparing for the CFE's and celebrating the World Cup with soccer-derived games.





MAKERSPACE MATERIALS NEEDED

Please donate the following items:

- Lego
- Printer paper
- Black/Blue/Green/Red Markers
- PLA Filament for 3D printing
- Thin Basswood Sheets for laser engraving
- Cricut vinyl sheets

Please leave donations at the front office with "makerspace" marked on it. As always, we appreciate your support. Much love, Ms. Cybulski

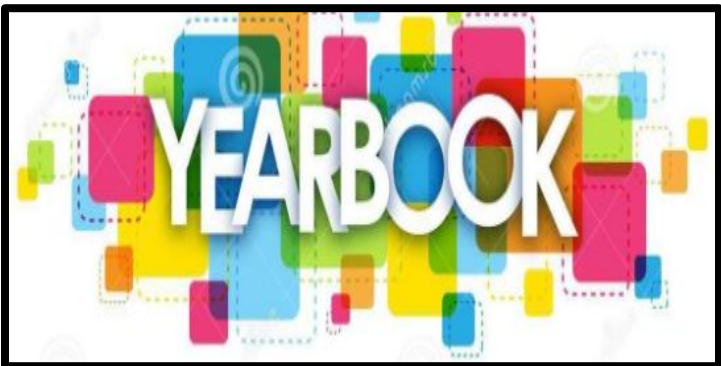


Our preliminary scripts are written and we have begun set and costume designs. We are now on Top Secret mode and cannot divulge any more details. We can, however, still accept donations of recyclable materials, tools, and art supplies. Thanks to all who supported our 1st annual garage sale!

We are gearing up for makerspace after winter break. Please help support our makerspace by visiting our Wishlist on amazon: <https://amzn.to/3VEDdLf>

MANDARIN CHINESE

In Mandarin, our 4th and 5th grade students are finishing up their 2nd cycle of Mandarin with learning about family members in Mandarin and practicing our traditional Chinese Calligraphy. Our 2nd and 3rd grade students are learning about Chinese Geography, culture, and holidays as well as practicing their Chinese Calligraphy.



You may connect to your student and pre-order the yearbook at treering.com. The school code is 1015471484454363. 8th grade parents may also purchase ads for their students.



Our culture unit will focus on La Copa Mundial 2022 (The World Cup), students will practice their reading and listening skills as we learn about the cultural impact of soccer in Latin America.

Our teams are in the middle of their qualifying competitions and I'm happy to announce that the Celestial SuperNovas have already qualified for the regional competition in the spring. A huge thank you to Matt Broffman for sharing his expertise with our robotics teams. His feedback was incredibly helpful!



For more information regarding debate class, please contact Ms. Buyo at Louise.Buyo@ocps.net



National Junior Honor Society will be sponsoring a holiday candy cane gram sale from 12/5 through 12/9. Candy Cane Grams will include a candy cane & card. Delivery will take place on 12/15! They will be sold in the morning and during MS lunch. Order yours now for \$1!

Congratulations!

Way to Go, Celestial Scintillating SuperNovas! All-Star Rising Award, Innovation Project Award Winners at the FLL Panther Power-Up Qualifying Tournament. (Roman P., Katie K., Khang T., Kaiden L., and Alex P.)



Author of the Year
Jane Austen

Complete a mini book report about Jane Austen to be eligible for prizes.

See Ms. Lineberry for more details.



Martial Arts World
5 FITNESS
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
FOR AUDUBON PARK SCHOOL

- **Build Confidence**
- **Improve Grades**
- **Learn Self-Defense**
- **Increase Self-Discipline**
- **Develop the "Yes I Can!" Winning Attitude!**

MAKE THE BEST INVESTMENT IN YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE WITH MARTIAL ARTS WORLD'S AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

- **Free Transportation**
- **Free Uniform**
- **Enroll now space is limited**

CALL US NOW!
ORLANDO, FL
407 897-6000
 1630 EAST COLONIAL DRIVE
 ORLANDO, FL 32803

WWW.MAWOrlando.COM

THE ATHENIAN SOCIETY

An after-school mentoring club for middle school girls
Wednesdays from 2:00pm-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!

Image by Laurel K.

WHAT GIRLS AND PARENTS ARE SAYING:

The 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
 Web: 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.

Elementary Art-

Second graders will be completing their mixed-media self-portraits during the month of December. They will be working with Sharpies, crayons, paper, scissors, and a variety of collage supplies to finish their lovely masterpieces.

Third graders will be learning about the artist Romare Bearden and taking inspiration from his mixed-media collages.

Fourth graders will be learning about Gee's Bend quilts and the women who created them. Then they will be creating their own art based on the beautiful quilts created by the quiltmakers in Gee's Bend, Alabama.

Fifth graders will participate in a virtual field trip from the Orlando Museum of Art. They will learn about the Florida Highwaymen and create Florida landscape paintings.



Art I

Art I students will continue learning about artist Romero Britto. Students will be creating gratitude themed paintings that incorporate a variety of colors, lines, shapes, and patterns. Students will also be working on the OUC Watercolor Project. They will be learning about water conservation and working collaboratively to paint two Florida themed rain barrels. The rain barrels will be sold at auction in April 2023 and the proceeds will benefit our Art program!



Creative Photography students will continue learning about the Principles of Design and how they relate to composition in photography. They will also be learning about portrait photography during the month of December.

THANK
you

Partners in Education

Kristen Tame
Grilled Cheezus
Martial Arts World
Mathnasium of Winter Park
Girl Scouts of Citrus Council
Orange County Library System
Orlando Math Circle



Exploring the World of Science

This month there is going to be a big push to have all of the engineering events built so we can focus on running trials and making necessary modifications to the bridges, vehicles, aircrafts, rollercoaster and trebuchet.

Now Accepting
MAGNET
Program Applications

Deadline to Apply
Feb. 15, 2023



December Kindness 2022

MONDAY



5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely

12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today

19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated

26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature

TUESDAY



6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

13 See how many different people you can smile at today

20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need

27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat

WEDNESDAY



7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy

THURSDAY

1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others

8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member

15 Contact an elderly neighbour and brighten up their day

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

FRIDAY

2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are

9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead

16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

SATURDAY

3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment

10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them

17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh

31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2023

SUNDAY

4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about

11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank

18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving

25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!

