



# The Owletter

## Orlando Gifted Academy Monthly Newsletter October 2023



### Principal's Message :

Fall has arrived and the 2nd grading quarter will begin on Tuesday, October 17th. I encourage you to check our website for school updates as well as Skyward for up-to-date grade information. Have a wonderful month!



### Important October Dates:

OGA Spirit Days - 10/06, 10/13, 10/20

College Spirit Days - 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25

Young People's Concert (3rd - 5th) - 10/03

National Walk to School Day - 10/04

Picture Day - 10/05

Book Fair - 10/9 - 10/13

Family Math Night - 10/12

End of 1st Marking Period - 10/13

Student Holiday - 10/16

Unity Day - 10/18

NJHS Pink-Out - 10/20

NJHS Boo Grams Sale - 10/23 - 10/27

Red Ribbon Week - 10/23 - 10/27

Into the MovieVerse MS Dance - 10/31





# SPECTACULAR SECOND GRADE



Mrs. Cortez, Ms. Lollis, & Mrs. Valentin

Second grade will begin with Jan Harding Nutrition Educator UF/IFAS Family Nutrition Program teaching the "Youth Understanding MyPlate" (YUM) series of nutrition lessons beginning Wednesday, October 11, at 10:30 am for a weekly lesson on gardening and nutrition. The students will also plant a cool season vegetable garden with her in their own outdoor raised garden beds outside the classroom. In math, students will continue to analyze one-step and two-step word problems, including missing parts. They will also determine and explain whether equations are true or false. In science, students will be learning about changes to matter. They will be conducting various activities that demonstrate physical and chemical changes. Thanks to the Pets in Classroom grant, our freshwater fish tank is now up and running. Students will begin their aquarist classroom jobs and learn how to maintain a freshwater ecosystem.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE

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

ELA is diving into non fiction benchmarks. We are focusing on the different text structures (cause and effect, chronological order and text features). We just finished the "Lemonade War" book club book and started "The Terrible Two." Make sure you check your child's AR goals and ensure that they are reading at home nightly.

In Math, 3rd-grade students will investigate and study geometric figures. They will draw line(s) of symmetry in a two-dimensional figure and identify line symmetric two-dimensional figures, describe and draw points, lines, line segments, rays, intersecting lines, perpendicular lines and parallel lines, identify these in two-dimensional figures, and identify and draw quadrilaterals based on their defining attributes. Quadrilaterals include parallelograms, rhombi, rectangles, squares and trapezoids.

In Science, students will explore the properties of matter. They will determine different types of rocks and minerals based on observations and measurements of properties.

# 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Ms. Yount, Mrs. Hubbart, Mrs. Danese, & Ms. Breutsch

Students will be working on poetry and informational texts in reading. Those standards cover author's purpose and summarizing texts. We are all continuing with our paragraph and essay writing with a focus on expository writing. Students are working on their Create a Country project in social studies.

In math we are working on our new multiplication and division unit. We are reviewing different strategies to perform these operations reliably and interpreting the information in real world contexts.

In Science we are finishing up Big Idea 8 (properties of matter) and diving into Big idea 9 (Changes in matter). We'll go over the differences between chemical and physical changes. Also, we'll look at how the removal or application of heat can cause matter to change states.

OCTOBER IS

**NATIONAL  
PRINCIPALS  
MONTH**



October is  
**CYBERSECURITY  
AWARENESS MONTH**



# 5th Grade

Mrs. Kuerzi, Ms. Ortiz, Mrs. Moody, & Ms. Gutierrez

5th Grade ELA will continue to read *Out of My Mind* in class, as we finish up our novel studies on this wonderful book. We will be focusing on informational and argumentative texts in reading this month. In writing, we will begin our argumentative essay unit and students will be learning about the writing process and how to write an argumentative essay. Additionally, students will focus on using million dollar words in their writing to take their essays to the next level. Students should continue to read at home for 2 hours each week in order to reach their AR goals by the end of the quarter. Scholars should also complete their daily Typing Club minutes in order to prepare for typing their essays this year.

In math and science, our 5th grade scholars will be working on many exciting projects to prepare for our Math Night on Thursday, October 12th. They will be in charge of the decorations and running stations for all elementary students. Math this month will focus on fluency, problem solving strategies, place value, and decimal operations. In science, our fifth graders will be investigating Matter and Its Properties as well as Changes in Matter; studying Earth in Space and Time, and receiving an introduction to Force and Motion.



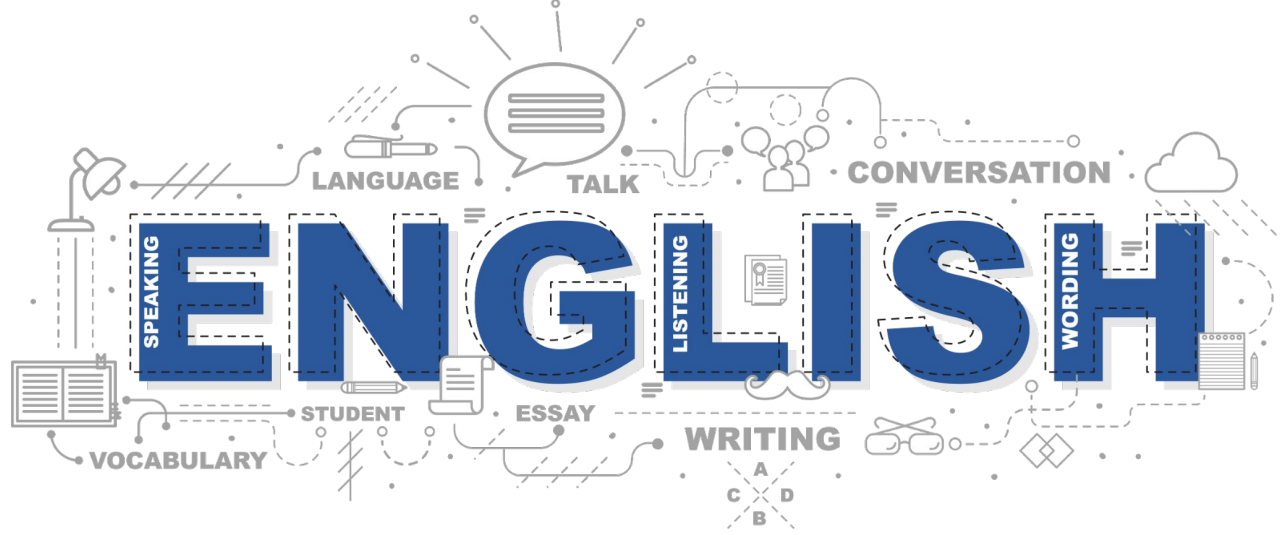
LIVING DRUG FREE

**RED  
RIBBON  
WEEK**  
OCTOBER 23-31

OCTOBER IS

**NATIONAL  
BULLYING  
PREVENTION  
MONTH**





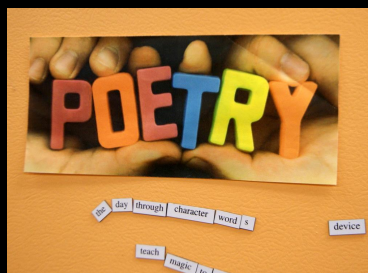
## 6th Grade

## 7th Grade

## 8th Grade

In 6th grade ELA, students will be reading two short stories featuring two fabulously "wicked" women. Then, they will complete an essay arguing which of the two characters was the bigger "villain". They will also be creating symbolic pumpkins that highlight characters from the story.

In the next Unit, ELA will head back to fiction standards but analyzing poetry, prose, and sonnets. We will look at Write Score data to see how we can improve our essay writing skills.



This month 8th graders will develop their argumentative writing skills to include ethos, pathos, logos, and kairos. Students will also get to "Choose Your Adventure" when deciding which argumentative essay they would like to write. Also, put May 11th on your calendars for Gradventure! Yep, it's a Saturday this year. More info will be coming in the 3rd quarter.



## 6th Grade

## 7th Grade

## 8th Grade

We begin unpacking civilizations, with their respective geography, religions, achievements, politics, economics and social structure, or G.R.A.P.E.S.. 1st stop Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent.



Action and reactions, from the British crown and the Parliament towards the 13 colonies building up to the Declaration of Independence & the Revolutionary War have been the topics of unit 1.3. Now we turn to the early years of the nation under the Articles of Confederation and the constitutional controversies.



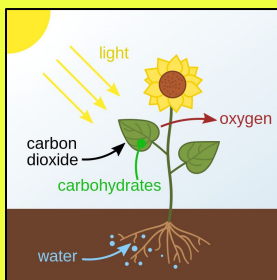
Our historians will focus on the American Revolution its causes, course, and consequences.





## 6th Grade

In October, we'll take our assessment on cells. Then move into cell processes. The goal is to explore how cells of all organisms undergo similar processes to maintain homeostasis, including extracting energy from food, getting rid of waste, and reproducing. We will conclude these lessons with a project where students will create a 3D model of photosynthesis.

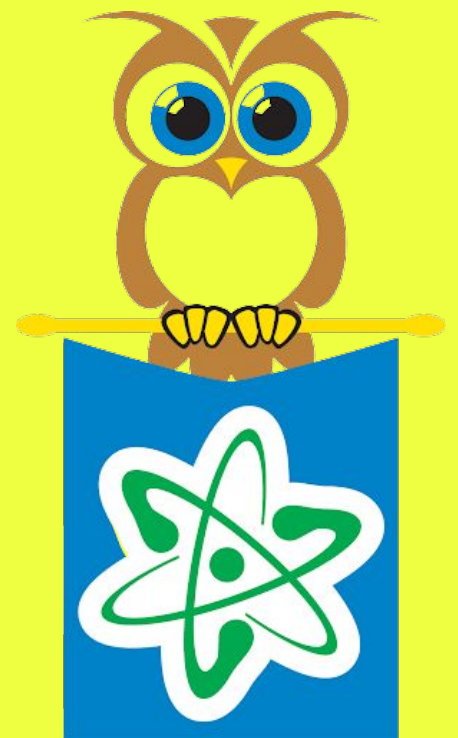


## 7th Grade

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

## 8th Grade

Mr. Menna can provide more information about what's happening in this course in October. Please contact [Kamose.Menna@ocps.net](mailto:Kamose.Menna@ocps.net) for details.





# MATHEMATICS

## 6th Grade

## 7th Grade

For the month of October, we will be spending the first couple of weeks going over operations with integers (introducing adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing negative numbers). After we finish that up, we will move on to graphing on the coordinate plane (plotting on all four quadrants). Then it's on to ratios and rates (this will spill into November).



We have had an amazing seven weeks in class! Most of your scholars have been working extremely hard! As we approach the second marking period; we are hoping to bring in more energy and effort as I am trying to get them prepared for Algebra next year! These first weeks have been a wake-up call for them and now they realize that my expectations are extremely high for them. We have just finished the Scientific Notation & Equivalent Expressions unit. Please have your scholars work in Khan Academy or IXL to practice problems from class at least 10-15 minutes per day. Also, I will be tutoring on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday every week after school. All lessons and Google Slides are located in Launchpad in Math Nation.

Next up: Equations and Inequalities!



# MATHEMATICS

## Algebra I

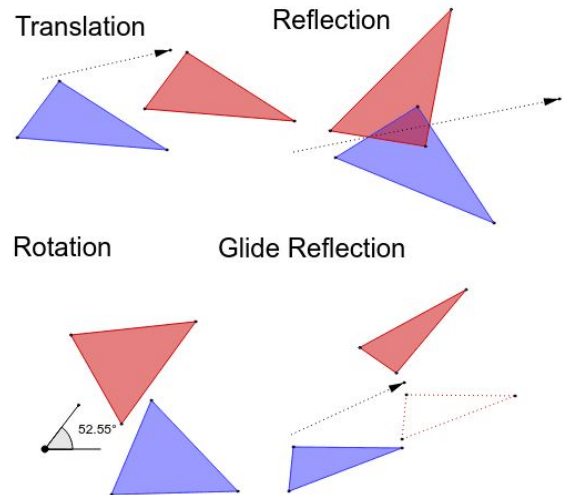
We have put in some major work during these first seven weeks of class! We have just finished the Key Features of Linear Functions unit. Our pace has slowed down a bit; but don't worry, we will eventually pick it up. We have been doing problems daily and working in IXL to get more practice. Please have 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. Also, I will be tutoring on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday every week after school. All lessons and Google Slides are located in Launchpad in Math Nation. Next up: Scatter Plots and Linear Relationships!

## Geometry

Students in Geometry are working on their fourth unit on Rigid Motions and Congruence. We will be going deeper with topics such as translations, reflections, rotations, and dilations.

Dr. Carr offers tutoring on every morning from 8:00 to 8:45.

### Rigid Motions



# Orlando Gifted Academy

## MATH MANIA

OGA's 2023 Math Night  
5-6:30pm

Thursday,  
October 12th

at OGA Cafeteria &  
Outdoor Classroom

You are Invited to Come &  
Explore Science, Technology,  
Engineering & Math in  
Interactive & Engaging  
Environment

ESTIMATION  
MEASUREMENT  
GEOMETRY  
LOGIC PUZZLES  
SPATIAL REASONING

Activities for kids and  
adults of all ages.

Refreshments sold by FLL Robotics Teams & NJHS



Second grade students are spending most of October playing fall-themed singing games to help students get accustomed to using their head voice.

Third through fifth grade students are engaging in fall-themed activities that focus on singing, instrument playing, rhythmic reading, and listening skills.

Middle school chorus and world music drumming are continuing to build their skill in reading music while also rehearsing their multicultural night repertoire.

## Into the MovieVerse



## MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

*Costume Contest, Snacks/Drinks for Sale, Games*





Creative writers will be collaborating with Theatre students developing scripts for them to act and see their interpretation of their work.



Our first issue was a great beginning and we are working to critique and improve upon our own work. The newspaper can be found on the OGA website. We have already sold quite a few yearbooks so be sure to pre-purchase the yearbook by 10/31 for 10% off at [tinyurl.com/OGAyearbook24](http://tinyurl.com/OGAyearbook24). Remember, all students get two free pages to customize with their own pics and messages. 8th grade parents may also purchase quarter- and half-page recognition ads for their high school-bound students.

## Advanced Academics with Mrs. Dunn

In Mrs. Dunn's Advanced Academics class, the students are continuing to work on their first team PBL project of the year on Communication and the Brain. Mrs. Dunn will continue to model the process. From the end of September and into October, Mrs. Dunn's students will create an Inquiry Question (this is the driving question that guides the students through the research process), a SMART Goal, and an Action Plan based on their team's topic. The students will research, take notes from reliable sources, and create a product for an authentic audience. As of now, these projects will be due on Tuesday, October 24th. After all of the presentations, the students will begin creating their own individual projects based on their interests and passions. We will also continue reading and discussing the book, 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. By the end of the month, we will have read through Habit #6.



In French, students will be learning and celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by reading texts about famous Hispanics (in French, of course). They will also be completing a research project on one of these people.



# māo tóu yīng 猫头鹰

## Owl

In Mandarin, students are continuing their dialogue practice as well as beginning their Mandarin writing and calligraphy cycle. Students will continue to develop their mandarin vocabulary along with their writing skills.



We have got the first stages of our problems written and we can start building! We are aiming for another chance to compete at World Finals in Ames, Iowa. Don't forget to drop off any unwanted spray and acrylic paints



In October, elementary PE students will be discussing pedestrian safety. They will be able to use their knowledge on Walk to School Day, October 4th (Wednesday).

During the month of October, we will dive deeper into various strategies for winning a chess game. Students will work on various problem solving skills by solving chess problems. Students will also work to expand their First Quarter Research Project. Students are also expected to know something about the history of Chess and have mastered the art of Algebraic Chess Notation.



# WE WEAR PINK! DAY

WEAR PINK ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20TH



## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Breast Cancer Awareness Bracelets

\$1.00

Sold at Drop-Off and Middle School Lunch

Join our  
**Walk to School Day!**

**Orlando Gifted Academy**  
invites you and your children to join us for Walk to School Day this year.

Walk to School Day is a great way to try a fun, aerobic approach to the daily school commute and learn about crosswalk safety and street smarts. Join us this year by walking to school with your children - either from your house or part of the way - and participating in our Walk to School Day festivities.

This year's Walk to School Day event will take place on: **Wednesday, October 4th, 2023**  
**Event time: 7:45AM**  
**Starting location:** Lake Highland Park. (Off Lake Highland Drive).

**See you there!**

The WalkSafe Program is brought to you by the University of Miami KIDZ Neuroscience Center at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. Walk Safe. Walk More.

**UHealth** UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
MILLER SCHOOL of MEDICINE

**KIDZ Center**

Contact WalkSafe:  
305-243-8115 / info@walksafe.us  
<http://www.walksafe.us>  
<http://kidzneurosciencecenter.com>

NATIONAL  
**Hispanic**  
HERITAGE MONTH  
SEPT. 15 - OCT. 15

October is  
**Breast Cancer**  
AWARENESS MONTH

**DISABILITY**  
HISTORY AND AWARENESS WEEKS  
OCT. 1-14



Spanish 1 - Students will work on a collaborative project about Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish 2 - Students will begin learning how to express themselves in the past using the preterit tense.

Our teams are hard at work designing, testing and modifying their robots for the robot games. They have also been taking the information gathered from their field trips to come up with some amazing solutions to problems involving the arts. The first competition is at the end of the month and official qualifier is right at the beginning of November!



Students in Speech & Debate are continuing their study on Congressional Debate, developing and debating bills, rebuttals, and fallacies. They will learn about Public Forums next.



NJHS students will be participating and sponsoring many activities in the month of October. Students will be selling pink bracelets in support of the Breast Cancer Foundation of Central Florida. They will also be co-sponsors of the Into the MovieVerse Dance.

# Media Center



Our Fall Book Fair is October 17th - 21st with a Family Night October 17th from 4:30pm - 6:00pm. All proceeds go directly to our Media Center to purchase new books! It is once again cashless, and students will need a gift card to shop. Get yours at [efairs.literati.com](http://efairs.literati.com)

## Scholastic Book Fair



# 5 Martial Arts World 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

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**407 897-6000**

1630 EAST COLONIAL DRIVE  
ORLANDO, FL 32803

[WWW.MAWOrlando.COM](http://WWW.MAWOrlando.COM)

## 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.*

# October COOPERATION



## Social Awareness

Teach your child social awareness by:

- Having empathy conversations
- Name & talk about feelings
- Modeling empathy, kindness, and respect

## Relationship Skills

Teach your child how to:

- Focus on friendships
- Build conflict resolution skills
- Identify unhealthy relationships

## Self-Awareness

Teach your child to:

- Identify emotions
- See themselves honestly
- Recognize strengths & weaknesses
- Work toward growth





# ART

Please join us in congratulating the middle school students who will have their art on display at the Hispanic Heritage Month Exhibition at the Ronald Blocker Educational Leadership Center. Great job artists!

Art 1 students will be learning about the history of weaving. They will be working on a variety of weaving lessons during the month of October.

Art 2 students will be starting a unit on fiber arts. Students will learn basic hand sewing concepts and incorporate a variety of techniques to create one of kind works of art.



## Elementary Art -

Students have been busy learning and creating in the Art room! During the month of October, second graders will be learning about artist Mercedes Lagunas. After viewing her Boho Garden series, students will create their own flower garden paintings. Second graders will be learning about primary colors, secondary colors, tints, and experiment with color mixing throughout the lesson. Third graders will also learn about artist Mercedes Lagunas with a focus on her pop art inspired work. They will be taking inspiration from her pop art compositions and creating their own masterpieces. Fourth graders will be learning about the life and art of Rufino Tamayo. They will be incorporating elements of cubism, Mexican folk art, and use mostly primary colors to create their own artwork inspired by Rufino Tamayo. Fifth graders will be learning about artist Hannah Hoch and her creative photomontages. Then they will create their own collages inspired by her avant-garde style.

Creative Photography students will be continuing their study of the Elements of Art and how they relate to composition. Students will be sharing their favorite picture weekly during our Photo of the Week session each Friday.



As we move into October, it is time to get serious! We have our official competition rules and guidelines. Supplies are in to get started our engineering component of the class on the build events and there will be an increase in focus on the study events.



# Popsicle Sale



# \$1.00

# FRIDAY

UNLOCK MORE BOOKS WITH  
★ **Book Fair** ★  
**GIFT CARDS**



*NGHS & Robotics*

## BOO GRAMS

SEND YOUR FRIENDS A BOO GRAM THIS HALLOWEEN!

BOO GRAMS INCLUDE CARD AND LOLLIPOP

Sold at Morning Car Line & MS Lunch  
October 23- October 27

**COST IS \$1.00!**