



The Owletter

Orlando Gifted Academy
Monthly Newsletter
November 2023



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 - 11/3, 11/10, 11/17

College Spirit Days - 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/29

Orlando Museum of Art Field Trip - 6th Grade - 11/1, 11/2

Orlando Museum of Art Field Trip - Odyssey of the Mind - 11/3

6th Grade Writing Assessment - 11/6

NJHS Cards for Veterans Day - 11/7 & 11/9

Solar Bears STEM Field Trip- 2nd - 4th Grade - 11/7

Multicultural Night - 11/9 - 5- 6:30pm

PTSA Meeting - 11/9

NJHS Hasta La Pasta Food Drive - 11/13 - 11/17

PTSA Holiday Shoppe - 11/13-11/17

Teach-In - 11/15

Spelling Bee Classroom Level - 11/17

Thanksgiving Break - 11/20 - 11/24

School-Wide Spelling Bee - 12/1





SPECTACULAR SECOND GRADE



Ms. Cortes, Ms. Lollis, & Mrs. Valentin

Our second graders will start reading a new novel! *Sideways Stories* from Wayside School by Louis Sachar. The students will continue to work on identifying story elements as they complete their novel study project. In math, they will be learning about measurement and will use that knowledge to build a 2D town. In science, students will be exploring forms of energy. Second grade continues to work on their garden and has successfully planted radishes, beets, carrots, spinach, lettuce, Swiss chard, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and onions. Partnering with gardening, they began the Youth Understanding MyPlate (YUM) series of nutrition lessons with Jan Harding Nutrition Educator from UF/IFAS Family Nutrition Program. Enrichment block is filled with learning about the Florida Everglades. Second grade began their journey learning about the Florida Everglades precious ecosystem and the animals that call it home. Focus this month, scholars will research, design and build bird feeders specifically centered on the birds residing in Florida and the Everglades.

3rd GRADE

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

In Math, 3rd-grade students will investigate and study the concepts of area and perimeter. They will complete a PBL where they will create a theme park to demonstrate their understanding by: exploring area as an attribute of a two-dimensional figure by covering the figure with unit squares without gaps or overlaps, finding the area of a rectangle with whole-number side lengths using a visual model and a multiplication formula, and solving mathematical and real-world problems involving the perimeter and area of rectangles and composite figures.

In Science, students will explore the states of matter and explain the changes that occur as matter changes states. They will study the different states and participate in a WebQuest project to demonstrate their learning.

3rd grade ELA students will be learning about different types of poems, along with figurative language. They will be creating poetry notebooks with their own creative ideas. They will be participating in scoot activities and kahoots to become experts at poems!

We will be finishing "The Terrible Two" and voting on our next book club book.

Students will continue working on short response answers and punctuation when writing.

4th GRADE

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

For more information about what is happening in 4th grade for the month of November, please email the teachers at:

Nina.Danese@ocps.net

Holly.Breutsch@ocps.net

Whitney.Yount@ocps.net

Angela.Hubbart@ocps.net

ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

November 9th, 2023
5:00 - 6:30pm



Holiday Toy Drive

Organized by the KINDESS CLUB
All toys will be donated to the 'Orange County Mayor's Holiday Toy Drive'

All donations are due by 12/6 so we can deliver by 12/8

Winning Grade Level wins a popsicle party!

Any toys, bikes, games that are appropriate for ages infant - 13!

Toys must be unwrapped and in the original package





5th Grade

Ms. Hanson, Mrs. Kuerzi, Ms. Ortiz, Ms. Gutierrez

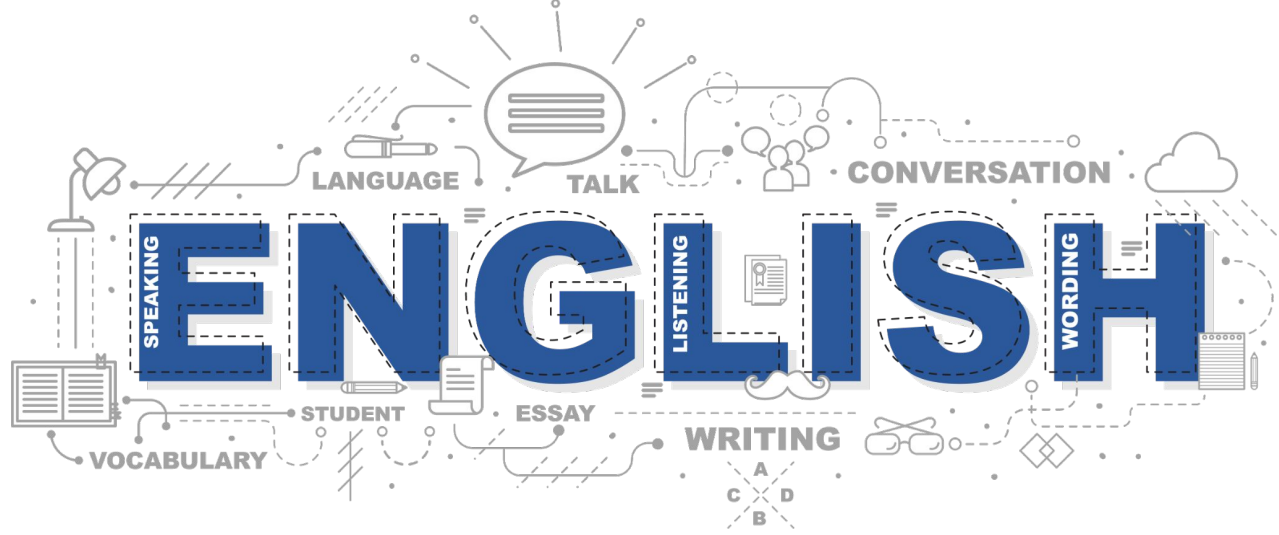
November is going to be a great month for our 5th graders! We are going to circle back to literature texts in reading, and we will be reading folktales, stories, and poems in class. We will also be writing our first argumentative essay on whether or not a highway system should be built in our county. Students will utilize evidence from the provided sources to write their essays, and include a counterclaim. In Social Studies, we are focusing in the creation of America, and the 13 colonies. We have been reading about the U.S. Constitution, the formation of our government systems, and influential leaders in U.S. government, which we will expand upon this month. We will also be practicing gratitude and thankfulness in our SEL (social emotional learning) lessons.

In Mathematics during the month of November, our scholars will be completing their weekly Spiral Reviews, practicing multiplication and division problem solving and extending that knowledge into multiplication and division of decimals. We will be incorporating problem-solving and enrichment activities to motivate our scholars to think critically.

In Science, we will cover Big Idea 7: Earth Patterns where our scholars will learn all about weather processes and instruments. Next, we will begin studying Big Ideas 10 and 11, Forms of Energy and Energy Transformation. This will include electricity, magnetism, light, heat, sound, chemical, and mechanical energy and all energy transformations. As always, we will continue to review for our District Progress Monitoring Assessment.

Important Dates in November:

- Write Score Writing Assessment on 11/14
- Our classroom Spelling Bee will take place on 11/17



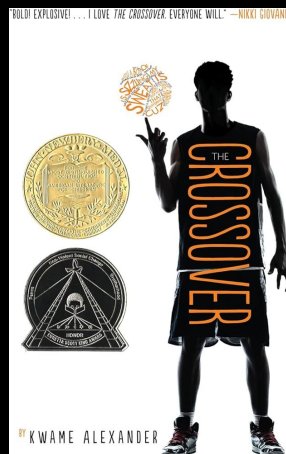
6th Grade

In 6th grade ELA, students will be working on a WriteScore Argumentative Essay. They will also be reading poetry and short stories that focus on theme and the Thanksgiving holiday.



7th Grade

ELA will be using the annotation strategy PQSCR to analyze excerpts from the book *Uprising* along with TPCASTT to analyze poetry. They will also be reading the book *The Crossover* as they continue to study poetic form and the use of figurative language.



8th Grade

It is important in an age of mass information to consider how far creative use of language, context, and bias can affect how far a text is telling the truth. This month 8th graders will continue to develop their argumentative writing skills to include ethos, pathos, logos, and kairos. Students will get to *Choose Your Adventure* when deciding which argumentative essay they would like to write. Our novel this quarter will be George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. And on Nov 27th we will be going to watch a Chamber Theatre performance of classic short stories.

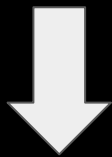


6th Grade

7th Grade

8th Grade

The Nile, the peoples & their Pharaohs, their pyramids and trade networks; before heading to Ancient India.



With the foundational structures & roles of the three branches established, we see how the federal government interacts with state, county and local governments.

LEGISLATIVE	EXECUTIVE	JUDICIAL
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Makes laws ★ Approves presidential appointments ★ Two senators from each state ★ The number of congressmen is based on population 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Signs laws ★ Vetoes laws ★ Pardons people ★ Appoints federal judges ★ Elected every four years 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Decides if laws are constitutional ★ Are appointed by the president ★ There are 9 justices ★ Can overturn rulings by other judges

Our US historians will focus on the founding principles and the creation of the Constitution and presidential precedents.





6th Grade

Students in 6th grade life science will understand and explain that every organism requires a set of instructions that specifies its traits, that this hereditary information (DNA) contains genes located in the chromosomes of each cell, and that heredity is the passage of these instructions from one generation to another. They will also create a mobile that represents the comparison and contrast between mitosis & meiosis.

7th Grade

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

8th Grade

This month in Physical Science, we will conclude our study of physics with activities and lectures on waves and electromagnetism. We'll also continue our review for the PMA.



MATHEMATICS

6th Grade

For the month of November, we will be covering coordinate plane as well as rates and ratios. These cover plotting points along the x and y axis as well as finding distance between ordered pairs. We will also, in a real-world context, write and interpret ratios to show the relative sizes of two quantities using appropriate notation as well as generate or complete a two- or three-column table to display equivalent part-to-part ratios and part-to-part-to-whole ratios.

7th Grade

We have had an amazing start to the second 9 weeks in class! Most of your scholars have been working extremely hard! During this marking period; we are hoping to bring in more energy and effort as I am trying to get them prepared for Algebra next year! We are testing on Ratios and Proportional Reasoning this week. Please have your scholars work in Khan Academy and practice problems from in class at least 10-15 minutes per day; also they can also work in IXL to get more practice as well. All lessons and Google Slides are located in Launchpad inside of Math Nation. Next up: Relationships in Triangles!

Pre-Algebra

I'm excited about the effort that most of the Pre-Algebra students are giving! We will be testing on Scientific Notation this week and starting on a new unit.

We have been busy pulling small groups and giving some one on one to the students. This is done at least twice a week to make sure that they are grasping all concepts. Next up: Solving Linear Equations.

Solving Linear Equations

$-8 = 5 - r$	$7x = -56$
$-8n = 48$	$5 - x = 12$
$6.3 = -2 + y$	$6 + x = 13$

MATHEMATICS

Algebra I

We are finishing up the unit on Systems of Equations and Inequalities. We have picked up the pace and our flow is steady. 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 practice math at home usually grasp the concepts much quicker. All lessons and Google Slides are located in Launchpad inside of Math Nation. Next up: Exponential and Radical Expressions!



Geometry

Students in Geometry are making excellent progress on the standards and are becoming amazing mathematicians with every passing day! In November, students will go deeper into QUADRILATERALS by focusing on specific properties that make each particular shape distinct and unique. The next unit will have students classifying shapes on the coordinate plane.

Quadrilateral	Properties	
Rectangle	4 right angles and opposite sides equal	
Square	4 right angles and 4 equal sides	
Parallelogram	Two pairs of parallel sides and opposite sides equal	
Rhombus	Parallelogram with 4 equal sides	
Trapezoid	Two sides are parallel	
Kite	Two pairs of adjacent sides of the same length	



In French, students will be working on a novel study, further expanding their input skills.



Next month in Elementary PE classes, we will be focusing on running games with flag belts. 6th grade will continue practicing basketball skills followed by a pickleball unit.



In Computer Science and Design and Modeling, we'll begin bringing together previous concepts to culminate in a large-scale, final project of the students' choosing.



Dual/Individual Sports: We'll continue improving our hand/eye coordination through a series of bat and racket games.



NOVEMBER - 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



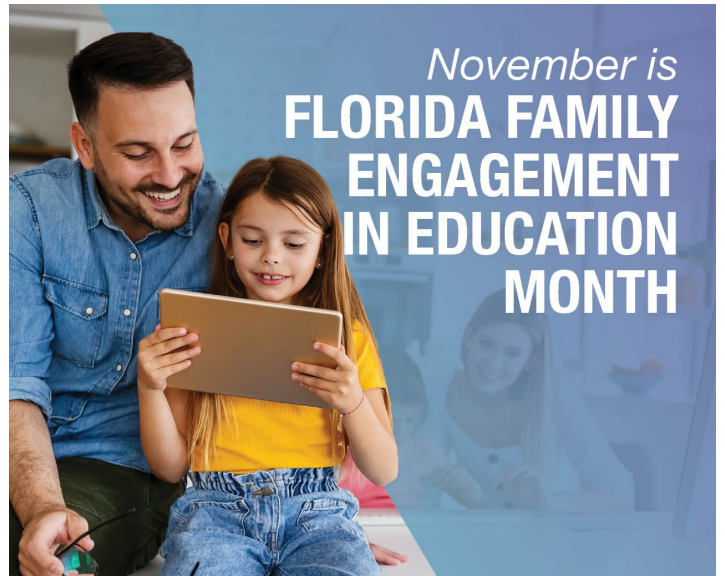
Assign chores to teach responsibility



November is

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

November is
FLORIDA FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION MONTH



NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

**ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY
NJHS FOOD DRIVE**

**HASTA
LA PASTA**
Challenge

November 13-17

THE HOMEROOM CLASS THAT BRINGS THE MOST PASTA ITEMS FOR THE FOOD DRIVE WILL WIN A PIZZA PARTY!!

Spaghetti, Angel Hair, Rigatoni, Fettuccini, etc



We are in the throes of building and creating as we aim for another chance to compete at World Finals in Ames, Iowa. Don't forget to drop off any unwanted spray and acrylic paints.



Spanish 1- First year Spanish learners will learn families and family relationships in Spanish-speaking cultures and how people identify themselves in relationship to other family members

Spanish 2- Students will learn about traditional celebrations and holidays in the Spanish-speaking world.

Our qualifying competition is this Month!!! We got great feedback from our practice competition and the kids are ready to sweep the competition at the qualifier on Saturday, November 11th.



Students in Speech & Debate are continuing their study on Public Forums. They are learning about unreliable sources, organization, delivery, voice, and the difference between arguing and debating.



National Junior Honor Society will be sponsoring events in the month of November. First, we will be providing students with an opportunity to make thank you cards for Veteran's Day. Also, they will be sponsoring a pasta food drive in support of Second Harvest Food Pantry. For more information, contact Dr. Carr via email at Alexander.Carr@ocps.net



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 wooden towers, wheeled vehicles, aircrafts, rollercoaster and air trajectory. We will also be doing more practice for the National Science Bowl competition.

COMPUTER EDUCATION

ICT1

Students will be working on Word Processing. They will be learning the features of Microsoft Word and how to apply those skills when creating documents.

ICT2

ICT2 students will continue learning about spreadsheets. They will develop and apply fundamental spreadsheet skills.

DIT

Students in DIT will be working towards obtaining their Social Media Strategist Certification.

Video Production

Along with filming the Daily Newscast, the Video Production class will be learning about shots and angles. They will be creating various short films.



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- Increase Self-Discipline
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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!




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 went! —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 \$10 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 -

Art students will be busy creating during the month of November. Second graders will be learning about artist Joan Miro and creating expressive self-portraits inspired by his work. Third graders will be incorporating many Elements of Art as they work on monochromatic cityscape collages. Fourth graders will be practicing blind contour line drawing and using a variety of media to create one of kind works of art. Observational drawing and watercolor techniques will be the main focus for fifth graders.

Middle School Art -

Art 1 students will continue working on their weaving lessons and start delving deeper into more fiber art lessons.

Art 2 students will be continuing their study of fiber arts and will soon begin working on observation-based artwork.

Creative Photography students will be learning about the Principles of Design and how they relate to composition. In addition, they will start working on photography assignments based on a variety of themes.



2024-2025
magnet
SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED
11/1/23 THROUGH 2/15/24

YEARBOOK

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. 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.



ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY HONORS

VETERANS

★ ★ ★ DAY ★ ★ ★



11.11.2023

FILL OUT A THANK YOU CARD FOR A VETERAN
11/7 & 11/9 @ 8:15

FRONT OFFICE COURTYARD

CARDS WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE
VFW POST 2093 ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

THANK YOU

FOR A SUCCESSFUL BOOK FAIR

