



The Owletter

Orlando Gifted Academy
Monthly Newsletter
December 2023



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 - 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22

College Spirit Days - 12/6, 12/13, 12/20

Schoolwide Spelling Bee - 12/1

FAST Testing PMA 2 (2nd - 5th grade) - 12/5 (ELA), 12/7 (Math)

Elementary Field Day - 12/8

Super STEM Saturday at Apopka HS - 12/9

FAST Testing PM2 (Middle) - 12/12 (ELA), 12/14 (Math)

NJHS Holiday Cart for Teachers and Staff - 12/13

Common Final Exams Semester 1 - 12/15

Winter Celebration Spirit Week - 12/18 - 12/22

Winter Performance - 12/19

Family Art Night - 12/19

Nutcracker Field Trip (2nd grade) - 12/20

NJHS Cards and Candy Canes - 12/20

Middle School Dance - 12/22



spectacular second grade



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

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 2nd graders are finished with the unit of measurement. They are enhancing their knowledge of measurement by learning how to convert units and length. In Science students are exploring various forms of energy such as electricity and renewable energy. For ELA the students continue to enjoy doing their novel study on the book Sideways Stories from Wayside School. The students will create a book trailer upon completion.

During Enrichment second grade is continues to care for their garden and learning about the parts of the plants we can eat. Students continue to study the Florida Everglades with respect to the ecosystem and the three keystone species of sea turtles. Students are completing their research project and will present their findings with a google slides presentation.

3rd GRADE

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

In Math, 3rd-grade students will apply their understanding of multiplication and multiplication properties to understanding division, problem solve with multiplication and division, and multiply 2-digit by 1-digit numbers.

Students will select enrichment projects to complete throughout the units to demonstrate their understanding.

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

3rd grade ELA students will be finishing up comparing and contrasting both fiction and nonfiction texts. Next up.... we will be reviewing of all the 3rd grade benchmarks. Woo Hoo!

Holiday party planning has begun- be on look out for a sign up genius on how you can help! Holiday Book Exchange will be 12/19. Information will be posted on dojo. New, wrapped book that is on grade level. Your child is the expert, ask them what students are wanting to read 😊

4th GRADE

Ms. Breutsch, Mrs. Danese, Mrs. Hubbard, Mrs. Yount

Mrs. Hubbard's, and Ms. Danese's students are getting published! Don't miss out on ordering their very own class story in December. 4th grade is putting the Grinch on trial!!! This will give them practice in reaffirming claim and evidence with reasons and evidence skills. Students will be working on identifying equivalent fractions and solving operations with fractions.

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. We will also be participating in DeSTEMber to Remember! Students will engage in a variety of fun winter themed STEM activities.



2024-2025
magnet
SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS

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



SCHOOL SPIRIT
RUN

SATURDAY, FEB. 17, 2024
SeaWorld Orlando

<https://bit.ly/Fdn4OCPSschoolspiritrn>

OC FOUNDATION FOR ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Powered by DELTA DENTAL

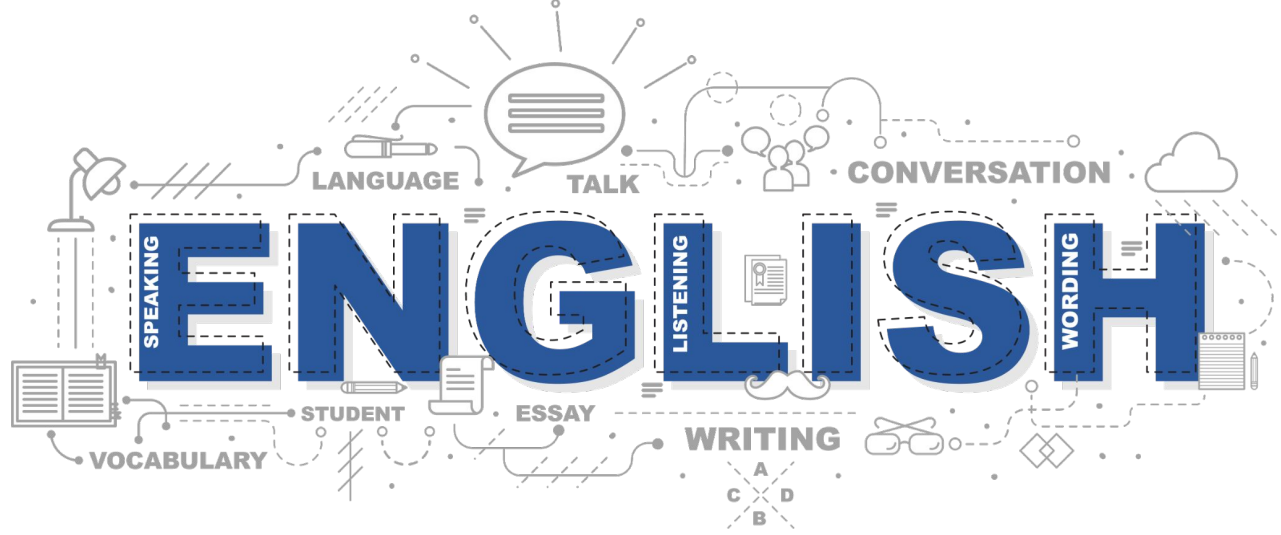
5th Grade

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

This month our scholars are continuing to practice decimal operations and operations with fractions. Fifth graders will be completing fun hands-on activities to explore adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. Our Digital Spiral Review to apply skills such as measurement, coordinate planes, fractions/decimal models, and decimal operations is ongoing. We will wrap up December with a Holiday Math Project in class.

After completing and assessing Big Idea 7: Earth's Systems and Patterns, our science scholars will be immersed in physical science, as we explore all forms of energy and energy transformations. We will be building roller coasters to demonstrate kinetic and potential energy; exploring sound, thermal, magnetic, and electric energy with a variety of experiments, non-fiction text, and interactive presentations; building teamwork to complete escape room activities, and constructing models to demonstrate and create energy transformations.

December is going to be a jolly month in ELA! In reading, we will be focusing on informational texts in our upcoming unit. Our target skills for this month are: text features, text structures, author's purpose (P.I.E.), primary and secondary sources, claim/ evidence/ reasoning, primary and secondary sources, and summarizing. Students will continue to participate in daily grammar activities, whole group reading lessons, class discussions, Kagan partner work/ collaborative learning, and additional activities in reading. In writing, we will be focusing on expository (informational) essays. Expository essays will require scholars to read a prompt, and explain the topic given. Students will explain the topic by creating a thesis, and use the provided sources as evidence to support their thesis. When writing expository essays, students should try to avoid showing expression, opinions, and using the word "I" due to the nature of the essay. Students are to explain the topic given while using the evidence from the sources as support that connect with their body paragraph ideas.



6th Grade

In 6th grade ELA, students will be comparing two sources of informational text by looking at notorious heists throughout history. We will end December with a *Jolabokafloð*, a traditional Icelandic "holiday book flood".

7th Grade

Students in ELA are reviewing their Write Score essay #1 data to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses. They will learn and practice skills to enhance their writing, and understand what is required of them based on the rubric. The FAST test #2 will also be this month.



8th Grade

Our novel this quarter will be George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. If you haven't completed it yet, please let us know which high school your student is planning on attending at <https://forms.gle/feozEcfPcV767acp8>. Don't forget to put May 11th on your calendars for Gradventure - more info will be coming next quarter.



6th Grade

After delving into one of the longest continuous civilizations throughout history, Ancient Egypt, we ventured further South along the Nile to Kush, and east to Axum before ending on the Indian subcontinent.

7th Grade

After learning about local, county, state, and federal layers of governments, their similarities and differences and the other nuances of Federalism in the U.S., we go on to learn about voting, campaigning and the election process



8th Grade







Our historians will be learning about John Adams' presidency and the Federalist era.





6th Grade

Students will explain inheritance patterns caused by various modes of inheritance, including dominant, recessive, codominant, sex-linked, polygenic, and multiple alleles. Furthermore, students will identify, analyze, and/or predict inheritance patterns caused by various modes of inheritance. Students will also create a new hybrid based off Punnett Square mating.

		 pollen ♂	
		B	b
 pistil ♀	B	 BB	 Bb
	b	 Bb	 bb

7th Grade

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

8th Grade

Mr. Menna can provide more information about what's happening in this course in December. Please contact Kamose.Menna@ocps.net for details.





MATHEMATICS

6th Grade

For the month of December, finishing up rates and ratios as well as starting solving multi-step problems with proportional relationships. This covers in a real-world context, the ability 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. It also includes discounts, markups, simple interest, tax, tips, fees and percent increase/decrease.

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, IXL 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: Analyzing Proportional Relationships and and Two-Variable Linear Relationships! This will take us until the end of the 2nd marking period.

Pre-Algebra

Mr. Michaud can provide more information about what's happening in this course in December. Please contact John.Michaud@ocps.net for details.

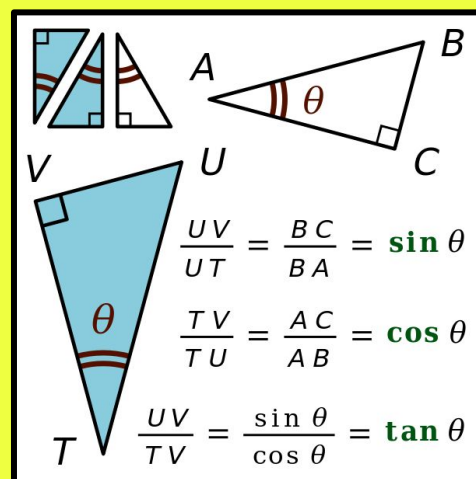
MATHEMATICS

Algebra I

Greetings! We have put in some major work during the nine weeks of class! 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 or Khan Academy 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: Operations with Polynomials and Rewriting Polynomial Expressions! This will take us until the end of the 2nd marking period.

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 triangles 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!

OGA REMINDER



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

OCPS IS
HIRING

bus drivers and
fleet mechanics

Visit
drive.ocps.net
for more info



NATIONAL JUNIOR
HONOR SOCIETY
**HOLIDAY
CART**

HOT CHOCOLATE, CANDY
CANES, DONUTS

FOR TEACHERS & STAFF

Wednesday, 12/13 8:00-8:40

**NJHS
Candy Canes
and Cards**

CELEBRATE THE SEASON!

Meet at the Front Office Courtyard
Purchase a card and candy cane for \$1

On Sale on 12/20 ONLY!!



Students in Creative Writing are learning about editing and revising their previous works with a focus of conventions. They will be collaborating with Art and Photography students to create their next stories.

We are continuing to critique and improve upon our own work. The newspaper can be found on the OGA website.



Advanced Academics

Advanced Academics with Mrs. Dunn

The students are now developing their own topic ideas based on their individual passions and interests. Students are developing their own PBL projects by deciding on their topic, inquiry question, SMART goal, Action Plan, researching thought provoking questions, analyzing, and synthesizing the information to make a conclusion to help solve real-world problems, and final developing some type of product to share with an authentic audience. I look forward to seeing what the students decide to do.

Advanced Academics with Mr. Michaud

Mr. Michaud can provide more information about what's happening in this course in December. Please contact John.Michaud@ocps.net for details.



In French, students will be starting a unit on housing. They will explore different types of houses around the world, compare French housing with their own, and read about challenges that affect housing



Coach Fitz can provide more information about what's happening in this course in December.



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



Coach Picone can provide more information about what's happening in this course in December.





MAKERSPACE MATERIALS NEEDED

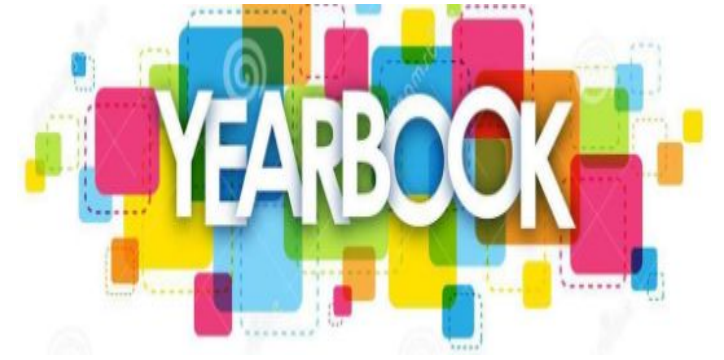
Please donate the following items:

- 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.



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



We have already sold quite a few yearbooks so be sure to pre-purchase yours 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.

Dr. Cybulski can provide more information about what's happening in this course in December. Please contact Zhen.Cybulski@ocps.net for details.





Spanish 1 students will begin learning how to describe their favorite pastimes and hobbies. We will continue to work on listening comprehension skills by listening to an audiobook in Spanish.

Our level 2 Spanish students will begin learn health and medical terms. They will also begin learning how to describe continuous past action with using the imperfect tense.

The Brush Bandits, The Blockbusters, and Roboowls will all be participating in this year's regional competition. We're still waiting for confirmation on our other team, The Black Hole In Ones. The competition will take place on Saturday, January 13th at Edgewater High School.

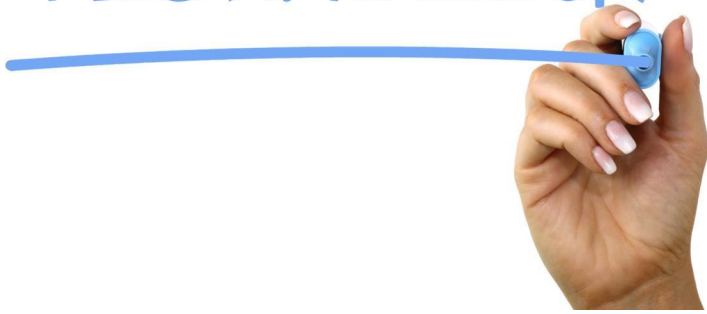


Students in Speech & Debate are continuing their study on Public Forums. They will be strengthening their writing skills with a focus on good conventions and practice timing and delivery. Some students will have the opportunity to compete in the next Florida Civics and Debate Initiative tournament this month.



NJHS will be selling greeting cards and candy canes on 12/20 for \$1! NJHS members will be set-up in the front office courtyard. This is your chance to send a little bit of holiday joy to a friend, teacher, family member.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



ICT 1

Students will be wrapping up our Word Processing Unit. They will be studying to take the Microsoft Word Certification Exam.

ICT 2

ICT 2 students will be wrapping up our Excel unit. They will be studying to take the Microsoft Excel Certification Exam.

DIT

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

Video Production

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

5 Martial Arts World FITNESS

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
FOR AUDUBON PARK SCHOOL

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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 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 \$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.

We are the featured school in the RBELC lobby! Twenty pieces of artwork from OGA students will be on display during the month of December. Fantastic work artists!

Please join us for Family Art Night on December 19th. There will be hands on stations and artwork on display from Art 1, Art 2, and Creative Photography students. We look forward to seeing you there!

Elementary Art-During the month of December students will continue working on lessons that they started in November. Second graders will continue learning about Joan Miro and adding details to their mixed-media self-portraits. Third graders will be putting the finishing touches on their monochromatic cityscapes. Fourth graders will be using a variety of media including collage, sharpies, and oil pastels to turn their blind contour line drawings into miraculous masterpieces. Fifth graders will be fine tuning their observational drawings of our campus and painting their work with watercolors.



Middle School Art -Art 1 students will be illustrating urban legends created by Ms. Ronquillo's Creative Writing students. We can't wait to see the results of this fun collaboration of talented writers and artists.

Art 2 students will be learning about altered books. Each student will create their own altered book based on their chosen theme and suggested prompts. They will use a variety of supplies to alter their books and give them a new creative life.

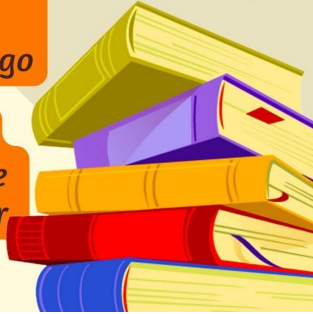


Creative Photography will be focusing on shadows, portraits, emphasis in photography, and how to create pleasing compositions.

Read-a-Thon

Coming
January 22-26

All proceeds go
directly to
buying new
books for the
Media Center



Exploring the World of Science

This month we are finishing up the build events for the Olympiad competition. We will also be participating in our invitational competition for the study events!



**PLEASE
RETURN
LATE
BOOKS**

Thank you for always encouraging your students to read. However, we have a lot of overdue books and students waiting to read them.



#OCPSALUMNIWEEK2023



OCPS ALUMNI NETWORK



Spirit Week



December 4 - 8

Join the fun on social media!



FOUNDATION
FOR ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Investing in Success

Angel Tree Project

Providing holiday gifts to students experiencing poverty or homelessness.

Text OCPSANGEL to 41444 to donate

We appreciate your generosity!

WE'RE HIRING

Certified Teachers

Dec. 9
Edgewater High
3100 Edgewater Dr.
Orlando, FL 32804
8:00am - 11:00am

Interested?
Scan the QR code or click here to apply!