



# The Owletter

Orlando Gifted Academy  
Monthly Newsletter  
April 2024



## Principal's Message :

Testing season is upon us and our teachers have been working tirelessly to ensure that your students know the standards they will need to succeed. Please help us by ensuring that your child is completing, in a timely manner, all assignments/coursework. I'm looking forward to a successful demonstration of what our kids know!



## Important March Dates:

OGA Spirit Days - 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26

College Spirit Days - 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24

B.E.S.T. Writing - 4/1 (ES), 4/2 (MS)

Report Cards Go Home - 4/2

World Music Drumming Field Trip - Sea World - 4/5

OUC Energy Program (5th) - 4/8

St. Augustine Field Trip (4th) - 4/9

Orlando Family Stage Field Trip (5th) - 4/15

Transition to MS Meeting - 4/23

Drama Club Performance (ES) - 4/25

Sea World Field Trip (2nd) - 4/26

No Early Release - 5/1



# SPECTACULAR SECOND GRADE

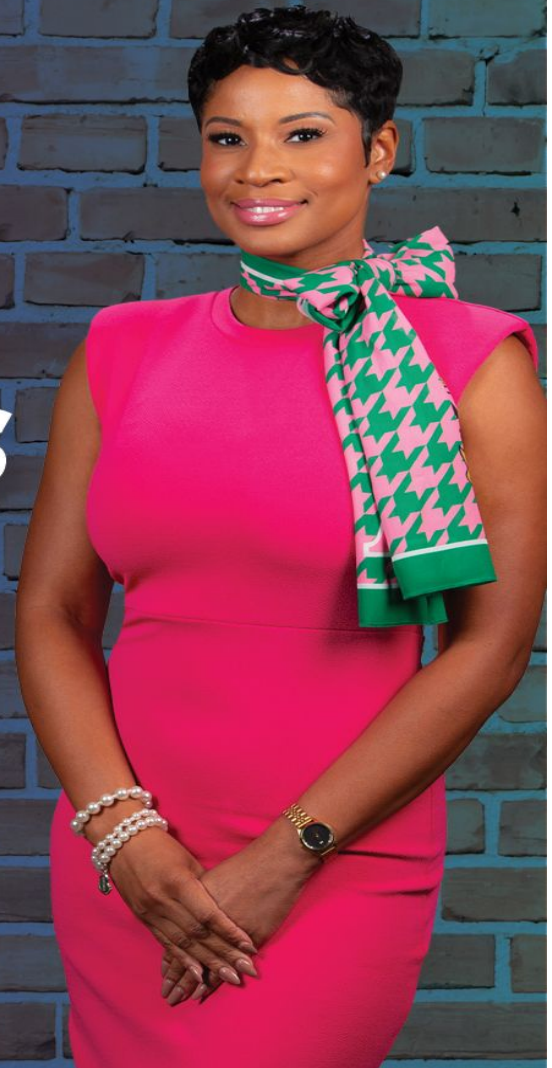


Ms. Cortes & Ms. Gutierrez

Second graders will be working on reinforcing math concepts, focusing on geometry and enriching math activities. Big Idea 16 for Science will explore heredity and reproduction of plants and animals. In ELA and Social Studies, students will be working on their Business Project. Scholars will celebrate Earth Day Monday April 22 by including STEM and Enrichment activities.

**NATIONAL  
ASSISTANT  
PRINCIPALS  
WEEK**

**APRIL 1-5**



# 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE

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

In Math, 3rd-grade students will explore the concept of data through models, hands-on exploration, and enrichment challenges. They will learn how to:

- Collect and represent numerical and categorical data with whole-number values using tables, scaled pictographs, scaled bar graphs or line plots
- Interpret data with whole-number values represented with tables, scaled pictographs, circle graphs, scaled bar graphs or line plots by solving one- and two-step problems.

In Science, students will continue their research project on the Everglades to demonstrate their understanding of the diversity of living organisms.

In ELA, students have just completed their second round of reviewing fiction and nonfiction standards. They worked really hard on our Fable/Folktale project-based learning activity. Presentations were awesome!

Students will dive into reviewing poetry and figurative language, as this is engaging for students but challenging for them at the same time.

AR goals have been set and students continue to work towards meeting them! Make sure you know your child's goal and check in with them regularly.

Permission slips and admission payment for the Kennedy Space Center field trip is due no later than April 14th... please make sure you have checked in with your homeroom teacher with any questions. Field trip is May 16th.



# 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

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

In ELA, we will begin the book *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. We will also be reviewing prose, poetry and informational text in preparation for the upcoming FAST testing in May.

To extend student knowledge in writing and prepare for the April FAST test, students will start researching and writing biographies on Veterans for social studies. This project will culminate on our trip to St. Augustine, where they will learn about Native American traditions and visit their Veteran. Students will then work on a project collaboratively to present their Veteran to the class.

In math, students will practice converting within a single system of measurement using yards, feet, inches, kilometers, meter, centimeters, millimeters, pounds, ounces, kilograms, grams, gallons, quarts, pints, cups, liter, milliliter, and hours, minutes, and seconds. Students will also be solving one and two-step word problems involving distance, intervals of time, and money.

In science, we will finish working on Big Idea 16: Heredity and Reproduction. The next unit will be Big idea 17: Interdependence. This Big Idea covers the seasonal changes in Florida plants and animals compared to other areas, how energy from the Sun is transferred along the food chain from the producers to the consumers, and ways plants and animals impact the environment.

# 5th Grade

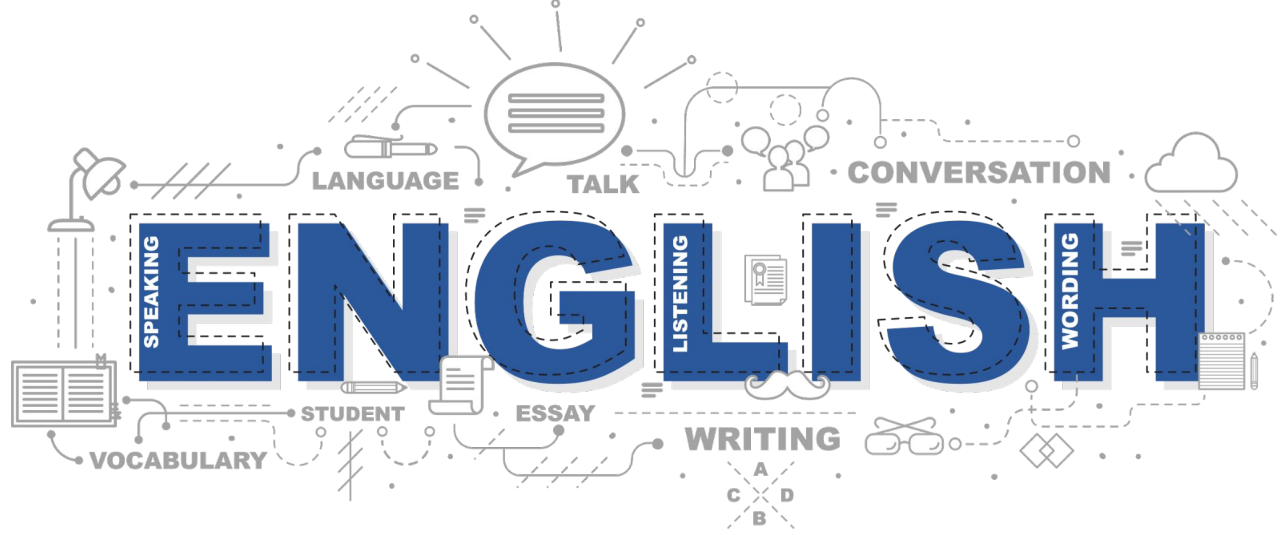
Mrs. Kuerzi, Mrs. Moody, Ms. Ortiz & Ms. Gutierrez

In the month of April, our 5th grade scholars will wrap up our math units on Expressions & Equations, and our Geometry units will focus on area, perimeter, volume, and classification of three-dimensional figures. We will continue to work on our daily spiral reviews and students will participate in a number of review activities in preparation for the upcoming FAST Math Assessment.

In Science, we will finalize our last unit on Big Idea 17: Interdependence. During this unit, our scholars will learn about animal and plant adaptations, food webs and energy pyramids, and the influence of seasonal changes on plant and animal life cycles through a series of hands-on activities and guided inquiry assignments. We will continue to review material from earlier in the year in preparation for the Statewide Science Assessment that our students will take at the end of the year.

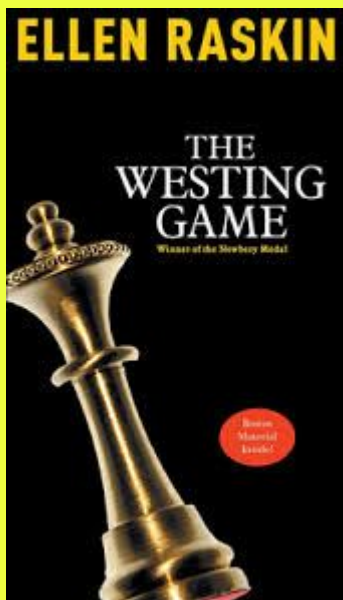
All tutoring will end the week of April 22nd. Our last day of Math tutoring will be on Monday, April 22nd.

This month, will be busy with our state writing test on April 1st, and reviewing for the upcoming state reading test. We will review all of our literature and informational standards this month in order to prepare for the Reading F.A.S.T., which will take place in early May. Students are also working on novel studies this month in class. Ms. Gutierrez' class is studying the novel *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, and Mrs. Moody's class is studying the novel *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. Our novel studies are tied to engaging lessons and standards review.



## 6th Grade

In 6th grade ELA, students will be doing a book study on *The Westing Game* as well as reviewing for PMA 3.



ELA students just completed their B.E.S.T. Writing test for the year. 7th graders had to remember to add that counterclaim & rebuttal this year, which was different from 6th grade writing last year. We will next take time to bring back standards that were not quite mastered throughout the year based on prior tests, first starting with logical reasoning.

## 8th Grade

We are preparing for our end of year testing, beginning with Writing. We will then delve into *The Miracle Worker* before completing a test prep unit.

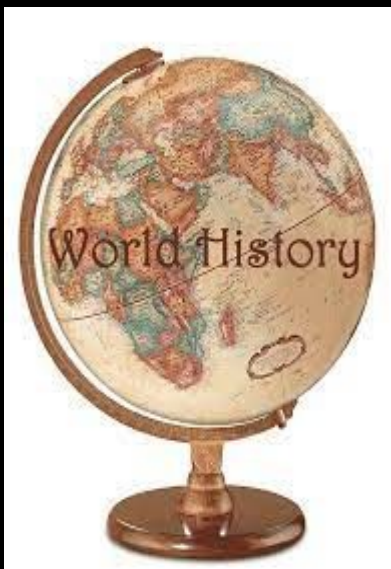






## 6th Grade

We work through the emergence of the Greek city-states, the developments of philosophy and theater, and the vast conquests of Alexander of Macedon.



## 7th Grade

U.S. foreign policies and their diplomatic toolkit, key international organizations and several historical flashpoints will be the focus of the final unit before we turn to comprehensive review of the Civics End of Course Exam.

## 8th Grade

Our historians will be learning about the Civil War and Reconstruction.









# MATHEMATICS

## 6th Grade

For the month of April, we will continue our statistics unit by determining appropriate measures of center or measure of variation to summarize numerical data. This will also include representing the data numerically or graphically while taking into consideration the context of any outliers. We will also be starting our F.A.S.T. review with data chats then using Khan academy and IXL to review material with a focus on specific standards that were challenging throughout the year.

## 7th Grade

Can you believe that we are already in the 4th nine weeks? Some of your scholars have been working extremely hard and some have not! As we approach this next month, we are hoping to bring in more energy and effort as I am constantly trying to get them prepared for their next level of math next year! We have started to review things that we previously learned. This entire month, we will be reviewing and preparing for our last FAST, which will take place on Thursday, May 9, 2023. Please have your scholars work in Khan Academy, IXL or practice problems from in class at least 10-15 minutes per day. This is very necessary to be successful. I work them extremely hard while in class; but some need additional practice. Tutoring is still available for those that still need extra help. All lessons and Google Slides are located in Launchpad in Math Nation and in their math book. Next up: Transformations, Probability and FAST Test Review!

## Pre-Algebra

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

# MATHEMATICS

## Algebra I

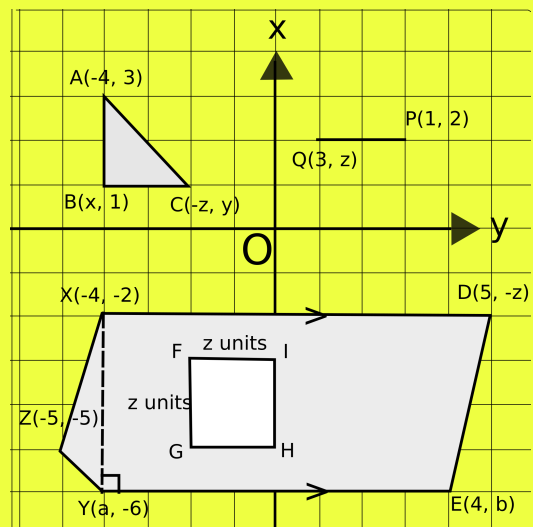
We put in some major work during the 3rd nine weeks! We finally made it to the 4th marking period! Hopefully,

Spring Break gave us the extra endurance that we need to finish strong! Extra time doing math is strongly encouraged as 47 minutes in class is just not enough time to gain full understanding! 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 tests and help them past the Algebra EOC,

which is Thursday, 9, 2023. The students that put forth the effort to practice math at home usually grasp the concept much quicker and they also perform better on tests. All lessons and Google Slides are located in Launchpad in Math Nation. Next up: Making Connections with Functions, Univariate and Bivariate Data and EOC Review!

## Geometry

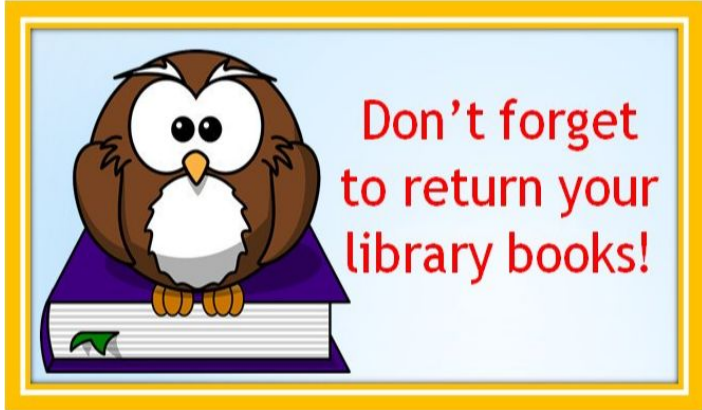
The Geometry EOC is only a few weeks away and it is imperative that all students are prepared to do their best. Students and parents are encouraged to check Canvas for their assignments. We will be finishing the year with Unit 14: Shapes on the Coordinate Plane on April 10th. This will allow us two weeks to review previously covered material in preparation for the BEST EOC.







As we go into the last quarter 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.



### Theater (MS)

The student-driven play, *The Box*, will be on Friday April 19, 2024 at 1:30 in the auditorium. Parents of the students performing are invited to watch the performance. We will be inviting 4th, 5th and 6th grade students to also attend.













We are continuing to improve our creative thinking skills while also preparing to welcome members to our 3(!) teams for next year. We will post the names of kids who were invited to join the teams after auditions. Don't forget to drop off any unwanted spray and acrylic paints, fabrics, crafting items, large appliance boxes, or large pieces of flat cardboard, plywood, and/or Styrofoam.



We are in the last moments of finishing the yearbook. Go to [treering.com](http://treering.com) to purchase your 2023-2024 yearbook.



Thank you to PTA for purchasing backpacks for our 8th grade students. We're looking forward to a great time on May 11th.







Spanish 1 - Students are learning how to describe their vacation plans in Spanish and are continuing to work on their listening comprehension skills.

Spanish 2- Our level 2 students are learning how to talk about technology.



For April, we are working on finishing up the Innovation Spotlight projects for the competition later this month. Not only is that event on the horizon, but the teams will also be preparing for the Robot Games competition in May as well.

Students completed Duo/Dramatic/Humorous speeches where they performed a condensed version of a story or movie in an overly dramatized way. We will go back to the world of debate and explore Lincoln-Douglas.



Newly selected members will be announce on April 19th! Current officers will be visiting classrooms and inviting qualifying students about membership. Our official induction ceremony will be taking place in May.



During April, we will continue the projects for the Energy Whiz Competition on the 20th. Students have created the models and websites and will be submitting at the beginning of the month to get feedback for the in person event later.

**PLEASE RETURN  
YOUR BOOKS**

**BEFORE SUMMER**



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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](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.*





## Elementary Art

Elementary Art students are continuing their study of artist Georgia O'Keeffe. After a virtual field trip to the Orlando Museum of Art, students will take inspiration from O'Keeffe's large-scale flower paintings. Students will use artificial flowers and work from observation to create their own large-scale watercolor painting of their selected flower. We can't wait to see their paintings of beautiful blooms!

## Art 1 and Art 2

Art 1 and Art 2 students will be learning about the history of mandalas, radial balance, and repetition. Students will be creating mandala inspired drawings as well as cardboard relief sculptures.



Creative Photography students will continue fine tuning their compositional skills and understanding of manual camera settings. They will be incorporating the rule of thirds and leading lines as well.



2nd grade will be working on improving their jump roping skills. 3-5 will resume (flag) team games.

Middle PE, we'll be continuing our study of European sports, including association football and union rugby.





# ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY TESTING DATES

Date	Test
4/1/2024	B.E.S.T. Writing 4th and 5th
4/2/2024	B.E.S.T. Writing 6th-8th
5/1/2024	Spring FAST PM3 ELA 2nd-5th
5/2/2024	Spring FAST PM3 Math 2nd-5th
5/6/2024	Statewide Science Assessment 5th Grade
5/7/2024	NGSSS Civics EOC Statewide Science Assessment 8th
5/8/2024	Spring FAST PMA 3 ELA 6th-8th
5/9/2024	Spring FAST PM3 Math Middle B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 and Geometry EOC
5/13/2024-5/17/2024	Common Final Exams 5th-8th

APRIL IS

# SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA MONTH

**NO  
BACKPACKS**

STUDENTS NEED TO LEAVE  
THEIR BACKPACKS AT HOME  
ON MAY 23RD AND 24TH.  
THANK YOU!!!



Orange County Public Schools invites you to a

## TRANSITION FAIR

Transition Services invites all families of students with disabilities that have an IEP or a Section 504 Plan to attend.

Saturday, April 20, 2024 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

*[Click here for more information!](#)*