



The Owletter

Orlando Gifted Academy Monthly Newsletter February 2024



Time sure flies by and before we know it the 3rd quarter will be, as they say, "in the books"! As testing season draws near I strongly encourage you to check Canvas and Skyward for up-to-date grade information. I also encourage you to take advantage of the additional learning opportunities available at OGA. Working together we can achieve success!



Important February Dates:

OGA Spirit Days - 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23

College Spirit Days - 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28

FLL Robotics Car Wash - 2/3

NEHS Induction - 2/6

6th Grade and Jazz Field Trip - 2/8

Valentine's Day Dance MS - 2/9

5th Grade Write Score - 2/12

You Matter Week - 2/12 - 2.16

Progress Reports - 2/16

President's Day - 2/19 (NO SCHOOL)

Speech Contest - 2/20

MS Drama Show #1 - 2/21

MS Drama Show #2 - 2/22

STARBASE - Mrs. Moody - 2/26 - 3/1

Black History Month Spirit Week - 2/26 - 2/29





SPECTACULAR SECOND GRADE



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

Second grade ELA will be working on a novel study, reading *Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom*. In math students are learning addition and subtraction within 1000 by designing their own bed and breakfast; they will also be working on time. In science students will be learning about earth science by exploring the various types of severe weather. In celebration of Black History Month students will research Black American Inventors and recreate a model of their invention to be displayed in the media center for all to appreciate.

3rd GRADE

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

In Math, 3rd-grade students will explore the concept of fractions through models, hands-on exploration, debate, and challenges. They will learn how to: represent and interpret unit fractions, fractions, and fractions greater than one, represent fractions and fractions greater than one on a number line, compare and order fractions, and identify and explain equivalent fractions.

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

3rd grade ELA students will be continuing to monitor and adjust AR goals in order to meet them for the 3rd nine weeks. Students are being pushed to read more Sunshine State books to attend the voting later this year.

As we finish up comparing and contrasting themes and topics, students will soon begin reviewing all benchmarks. Centers and more group work has been able to begin and students seem thrilled about it!

Two more field trips are approaching: *Allie Kazan and the Magic Mansion* at the Orlando Family Stage is 3/26 and Kennedy Space Center 5/16. Make sure to get with your child's HR teacher for more details and as always, continue checking Class Dojo on a daily basis.

4th GRADE

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

In ELA, students are finishing up their poems about their passion in the style of Kobe Bryant's Dear Basketball. This month students will also be preparing for our yearly speech contest.

In Math, we will continue working on decimals. Students will be able to use decimals to represent fractions with denominators of 10 or 100. We will move onto data where students will need to find mode, median, and range for a set of data as well as represent data in stem and leaf plots and line plots.

This month in science students are sending postcards to space! Students have written haikus that answer question: Why do you think Earth needs space? We will send these off to Club Future, they will be loaded up and sent to space, then the postcards will be mailed back to students with a stamp verifying that it went to space! We are finishing up our unit on Earth in Space Time and will start the next unit on Earth Structures. Students will learn about weather, erosion, the rock cycle, renewable and nonrenewable resources.



NJHS CANDY GRAMS VALENTINE'S DAY

Celebrate Valentine's Day by sending a friend a special treat!

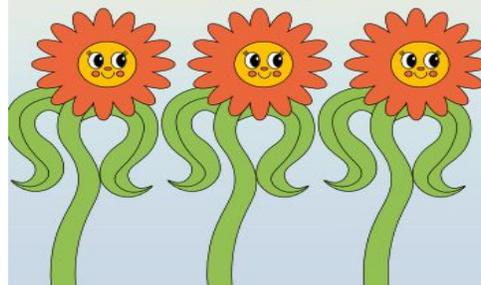
\$1.00

Available
2/12 - 2/14

Send a note to someone



February 5th thru February 8th
FRONT OFFICE COURTYARD
8:15am



FEBRUARY IS
CAREER & TECHNICAL
EDUCATION
MONTH



5th Grade

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

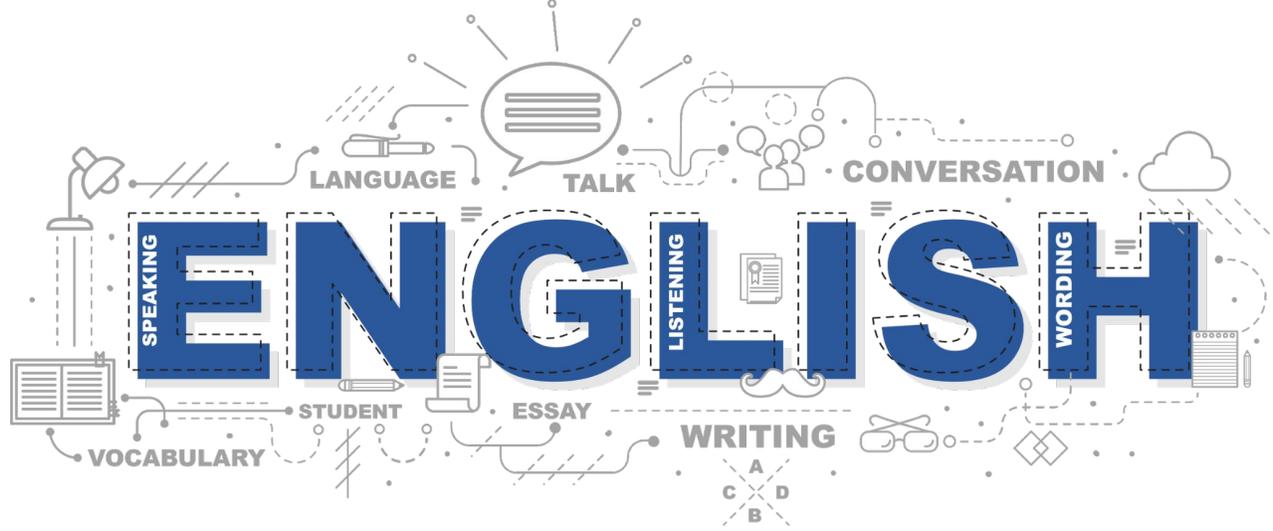
February is going to be a busy month for our 5th grade ELA scholars! We are working diligently to finalize our speeches for the 4H Public Speaking Contest which will take place from February 14th-15th. The 1st place winner from each homeroom class will advance onto the school wide competition, which will take place on February 20th. Students will be drafting, editing, revising, and memorizing their speeches this month.

In class, we will be circling back to informational texts and standards. Students will learn about Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass in honor of Black History Month. We will also be completing a DBQ and essay on Harriet Tubman, where students will argue what her greatest achievement was.

Scholars should continue to work on their speeches at home, read at least 1 hour per week, and strengthen their typing skills by going on Typing Club for 25 minutes each night.

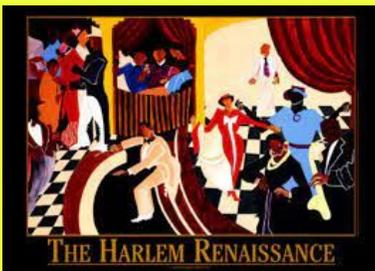
For the month of February, we will focus on solving Algebraic Equations, Measurement Conversions, and Geometry. During these units, we will utilize a number of hands-on activities to explore these concepts. We will continue utilizing weekly Spiral Reviews and focusing on problem-solving strategies as we prepare students for end of the year testing. We are also preparing for the Elementary Math Olympiad. While the team will compete, all students will be given the opportunity to participate in practice activities to increase their problem solving skills

In Science, we will finish Big Idea 13: Force and Motion and move on to Big Ideas 14 and 16, Organization and Development of Living Organisms and Heredity & Reproduction. We will explore these concepts through hands-on lab activities and critical thinking exercises. We will continue to review for the upcoming Science Progress Monitoring Assessment in March. Unlike the first two PMAs, this is comprehensive and will cover all material covered during the school year. Please make sure that your scholar is taking the time to study at home in preparation for the comprehensive PMA.



6th Grade

In 6th grade ELA, students will be finishing up a unit on Poetry and the Harlem Renaissance. They will also be reviewing informational text standards in the context of Valentine's Day.



7th Grade

During this mid-point of the year, students are reviewing reading and writing standards first introduced at the beginning of the year. They will create products to show the depth of their understanding.

8th Grade

We are finishing up our unit on argumentative writing and WriteScore testing. Gradventure tickets can be purchased on SchoolPay.com from 1/29/24-3/29/24. Don't forget to complete both sides of the permission slip, including unisex shirt size and SchoolPay confirmation number.



6th Grade

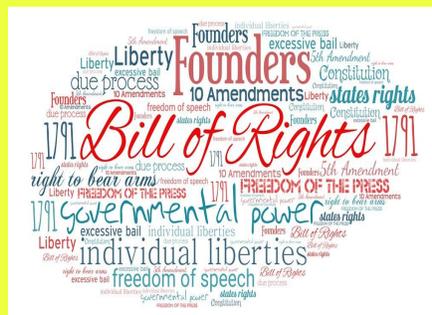
7th Grade

8th Grade

Having wrapped up our time on the Indian subcontinent, we turn to another major site of culture, religion, advancements steeped with thousands of years of history, Ancient China: the Middle Kingdom.

Students are increasingly well versed in their rights and obligations under the Constitution. We will delve further into these with a mock trial with concepts such as due process and equal protection under the law.

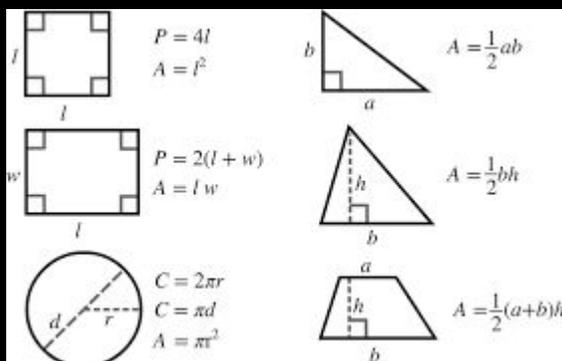
The historians will analyze the growth on industrialization in the United States and begin studying the presidency of Andrew Jackson – focusing on westward expansion and Manifest Destiny, and the acquisition of Florida and the Seminole Wars.



MATHEMATICS

6th Grade

For the month of February, we will be covering equations and inequalities. These cover writing and solving one-step equations and inequalities using the 4 operations and determining unknown variables. We will also be starting our geometry units where we will cover finding the area of triangles and rectangles and then applying that to find the area of trapezoids, parallelograms and rhombi.



7th Grade

We have had a busy start to this third marking period in class! Things are getting harder as we approach the second half 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! They will need to spend at least 15 minutes a day working on Math. Some extra time needs to be added to their daily schedule for math. 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: Systems of Linear Equations.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra I

We have put in some major work during this third nine weeks of class! We have 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 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. Remember, this class is for high school credit and their grade will be on their high school transcript. Please talk with your scholars about giving a better effort and spending time outside of the classroom practicing and studying things that they don't understand. All lessons and Google Slides are in Launchpad in Math Nation. Next up: Quadratics.

Geometry

Students will be working with 2-D and 3-D shapes and applying formulas for area, surface area, and volume to solve mathematical and real-world problems.

Name of 3-D shape:	Picture of 3-D shape:	Attributes:
Cube		Faces : 6 Edges : 12 Vertices : 8
Rectangular Prism or Cuboid		Faces : 6 Edges : 12 Vertices : 8
Sphere		Curved Face : 1 Edges : 0 Vertices : 0
Cone		Flat Face : 1 , Curved Face : 1 Edges : 1 Vertices : 1
Cylinder		Flat Face : 2 , Curved Face : 1 Edge : 2 Vertices : 0

SplashLearn



Writers will be browsing through published works as they zoom-in on a specific, chosen scene from a book to use as inspiration for their next fictional piece. That will be their starting piece as they develop their own story using literary elements.

We continue to express our ideas in our biweekly newspaper, The OGA TIMES, which can be found under the School Information tab at <https://orlandogiftedacademy.ocps.net/>.



Advanced Academics

Advanced Academics with Mrs. Dunn

The students continue developing their topic ideas based on their passions and interests. Students are developing their own PBL projects by deciding on their topic, inquiry question, SMART goal, and Action Plan, researching thought-provoking questions, and analyzing, and synthesizing the information to conclude in solving real-world problems. After the research portion of the project, the student develops some type of product to share with an authentic audience. It is exciting to see the students' hard work! Also, all Advanced Academic classes will be attending a field trip to Second Harvest Food Bank in February. We will be learning about the food center's donation process and we will also be volunteering at the center.



In French 2, students will be learning about some notable French celebrations like La Chandeleur and Le jour de Saint Valentin.



ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY CELEBRATES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Monday, February 26: Black Excellence

Dress to impress in your best business attire

Tuesday, February 27: Black Out

Black is beautiful! Wear all black!

Wednesday, February 28: Pan African Flag Day

Dress in Red, Yellow, Green, or Black to represent people of the African Diaspora and symbolize Black Liberation

Thursday, February 29: HBCU/College Day

Represent your favorite HBCU or college/university



FLL Robotics Car Wash!

DONATIONS ONLY!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

9-11AM

FRONT OF SCHOOL (OREGON ST)

RoboOWLS & BRUSH BANDITS

ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY



2nd graders will be participating in the FIT program through Advent Health. In PE we will be discussing personal wellness as well as engaging in classic PE activities such as Capture the Flag and Steal the Bacon. Also, PE will be working on hand eye coordination activities and striking skills.



Spanish 1- The students will learn how to talk about their hobbies in Spanish

Spanish 2- Our scholars will be working on their reading skills by completing their first novel study in Spanish.

This month the main focus is on getting two teams ready for the Innovation Project Spotlight. They are hard at work preparing for a new competition for this year.



Students will be focusing on the upcoming Florida 4-H Public Speaking contest. They will first gather and write on a topic of their choice, compete in the classroom, then compete school-wide mid-February in hopes of winners heading to a county competition.

THEATER

Students will be memorizing lines and creating props for the middle school play "BOX".

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Thank you so much!

For a great
Literacy Week
and Read-A-Thon

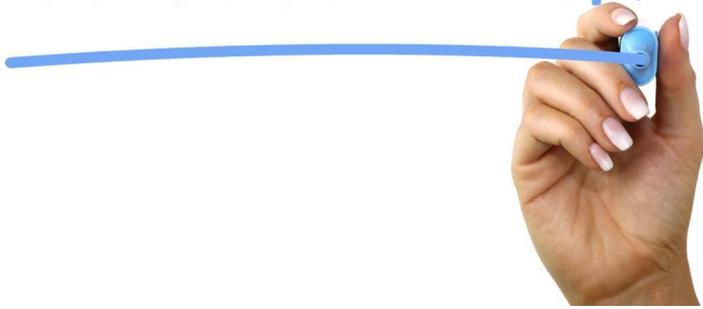


BOOK FAIRS
October 9 - 13
March 4-8

READ-A-THON
January 22-26

All support purchasing more books for the Media Center

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



ICT 1

Students will be learning how to enhance presentations by learning the features of PowerPoint.

ICT 2

Students will be learning about Microsoft Access and how to create and maintain a database.

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.

BE SEEN!

THE OGA YEARBOOK CREW IS CURRENTLY SEEKING PICTURES OF STUDENTS SHOWING OFF THEIR PETS, TALENTS, AND OGA SIBLINGS

SUBMIT 1 PHOTO PER STUDENT/FAMILY AT

PET PICS: [TINYURL.COM/OGAPETS24](https://tinyurl.com/OGAPETS24)

TALENT SHOW: [TINYURL.COM/OGATALENTSHOW24](https://tinyurl.com/OGATALENTSHOW24)

SIBLINGS: [TINYURL.COM/OGASIBLINGS24](https://tinyurl.com/OGASIBLINGS24)

*DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS, NOT ALL PHOTOS MAY BE SELECTED.
PLEASE SEND ONLY ONE PHOTO PER LINK*



MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

*Love Ya to
Pizzas.*

February 9th

2PM - 3PM

*Pizza, Snacks & Sodas
for \$1*

*Games, Photo Booth,
Valentines, Music, Fun!*



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

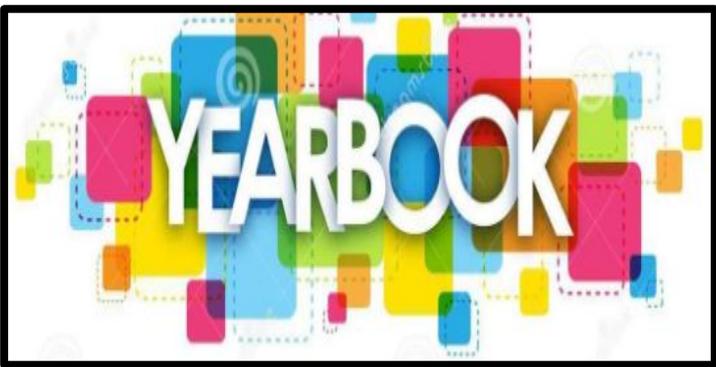
Please leave donations at the front office with "makerspace" marked on it. As always, we appreciate your support. Much love, Ms. Cybulski



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.



In Makerspace, we began our learning of coding and 3D design by getting familiar with TinkerCAD and Lego Spike. Students are learning block coding as well as how the AutoCAD programs work. We will end the 3D design unit with a 3d design challenge and continue onto our 2d design challenge and more computer programming during the 2nd cycle of makerspace.



In Automation/Robotics, we'll be learning about different mechanisms & experimenting with their uses. In App Creators, we'll examine the basic principles of game design & sprite animation and implement them in the creation of our own games.

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.



GreenSchools
Orange County Public Schools

GREEN SCHOOLS EXPO

FREE

**2178 PACKING DISTRICT WAY
ORLANDO, FL 32804**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH
9 AM - 1 PM**

CLICK FOR MORE INFO

SCHOOL SPIRIT RUN

SATURDAY, FEB. 17, 2024
SeaWorld Orlando

<https://bit.ly/Fdn4OCPSschoolspiritrn>

OCPS FOUNDATION FOR ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Powered by DELTA DENTAL

NEW YEAR, NEW RESOLUTIONS. JOIN THE OCPS ALUMNI NETWORK

Text **OCPSALUM** to **41444**
Then click on the link to join.

OCPS FOUNDATION FOR ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TOP TALENT
A Foundation for Orange County Public Schools Event

LIVE 20²⁴

Casting Call: Student Stars

Singers, Dancers, Musicians and More!

Accepting Applications Jan 22 - Feb 23 | Complete Top Talent Application at: [FoundationforOCPS.org](https://www.foundationforocps.org)

Follow us on: [@foundationforocps.org](https://www.facebook.com/foundationforocps.org) [@f46-ocps](https://www.instagram.com/f46-ocps)

FLORIDA REGIONAL REALTOR ASSOCIATION



Creative Photography students will be continuing to fine tune their skills in relation to composition. They will also be learning about photographer Carrie Mae Weems and taking inspiration from her project The Kitchen Table Series.



National Junior Honor Society will be sponsoring a Valentine's Day gram sale from 2/6 through 2/10. Heart Grams will include a candy & card. Delivery will take place on 2/13! They will be sold in the morning and during MS lunch. Order yours now for \$1!



This is our big competition month. The Olympiad competition is on Feb. 10th and a group of students will also be competing at the National Science bowl on Feb 24th. We are working on testing our build events and making any last minute modifications to the projects as well as starting to cram for the study events.

OGA REMINDER

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

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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1630 EAST COLONIAL DRIVE
ORLANDO, FL 32803

WWW.MAWOrlando.COM

ARTnews

One of our students had their artwork selected for the student exhibition at the Peggy Crosby Student Gallery at the Orlando Museum of Art! In addition, we have student artwork on display in the Black History Month Exhibit at the Ronald Blocker Educational Leadership Center. Outstanding work Owls!!

Elementary Art -Second 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.

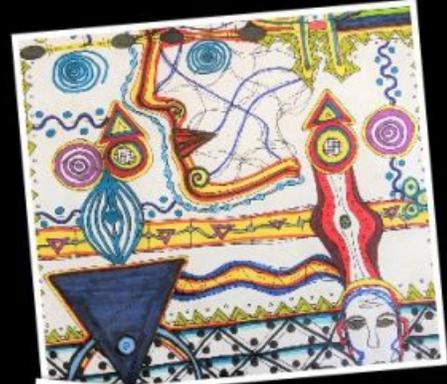
Third graders will be learning about artist Nina Chanel Abney and her colorful, almost cubism style paintings. Next, they will create their own artwork inspired by her bold choice of colors and narrative style.

Fourth graders will be taking inspiration from folk artist Yvonne Wells. They will be creating artwork that incorporates symbolism to tell a story.

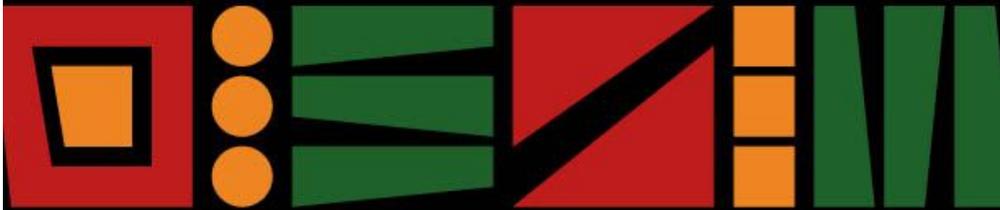
Fifth graders will be learning about artist and graphic designer Andrea Pippins. After viewing her work, they will create portrait paintings with positive messages and a bold color palette.

Art 1 and Art 2

Middle school Art students will be learning about a variety of artists including Yvonne Wells, Andrea Pippins, and Jessi Raulet. Then they will take inspiration from these exemplary artists to create their own works of art. In addition, Art 1 and Art 2 students will have the opportunity to create handmade Valentine cards for their friends and families.



CELEBRATING
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH



 **GREEN SCHOOLS EXPO**

FREE

2178 PACKING DISTRICT WAY
ORLANDO, FL 32804

CLICK FOR MORE INFO

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH
9 AM - 1 PM




TDAP IMMUNIZATION EVENTS
AT ALL MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND K8
Beginning March 4