



COMMITTED DISTANCE LEARNING FAMILY NEWSLETTER

February 12, 2021



WEEKLY WINS

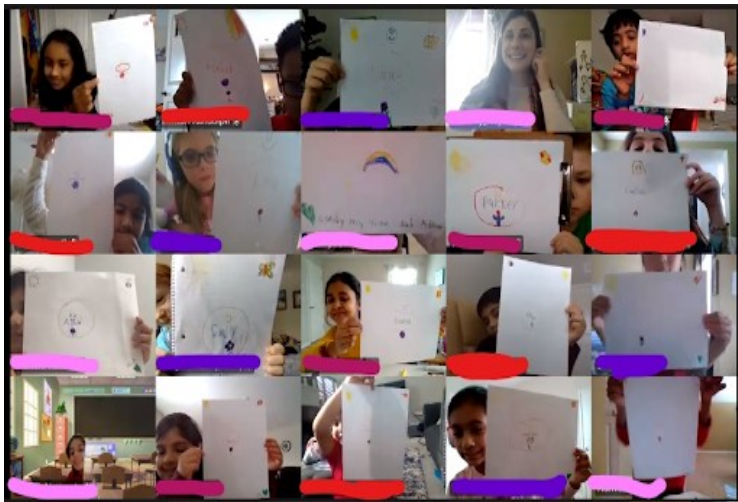




My class earned a Disney Day and a virtual field trip to Disney World! We drew a picture of our favorite Disney movie and included story elements we've been practicing, we built a home for a Disney character out of any kind of materials we had at home, went on a scavenger hunt around our house, read a book about Forky from Toy Story then crafted our very own Forky character, we

even did a science experiment to make snow for Elsa and Olaf! My student's loved being able to connect our school work activities with their favorite Disney movies! -Ms. Marinucci

Students made commercials using rhetorical devices to sell a product or bring awareness to an issue. Natalie Duff's mom shared Natalie's commercial on the importance of dogs to social media and it was picked up by an animal rescue group. Natalie's commercial is now showcased on their website to inspire people to adopt a dog! Natalie's commercial can be viewed at: [Natalie's Commercial](#) -Ms. Ebersole



This week as we celebrated love and kindness, we each made a pledge to always be kind no matter what! The pledge said: "I pledge myself on this very day, to try and be kind in every way! To every person, no matter their color, I promise to always help each other. I

promise to help whether they are big or small. You can count on me to help them all!"-Ms. Peacock

Even though we are a virtual classroom, we didn't let that stop us from having a fun Valentine's Day Celebration! In their last supply pick-up, students had an envelope that said, "Do not open until I tell you!" It was a special surprise for Valentine's Day! We all opened the envelopes together to see the Valentine's Surprise! Also, as part of our Valentine's Celebration, students were directed through a following directions activity! Not only did this activity help students practice their following direction and listening skills, but it was also so much fun and produced some great pictures! -Ms. Kleymeyer

In honor of Black History Month, students celebrated recent history with the words of Amanda Gorman's poem, The Hill We Climb. These written and spoken words were the springboard for our latest Creativity Challenge. Students were asked to use this poem as their inspiration for an art piece. Students first used a Thinking Routine to brainstorm ideas based on passages that inspired them. This Thinking Routine used is called CSI (Color, Symbol, Image). From the brainstorm, they created sketches. From sketches, they created their final pieces. Check out the student's work!-Ms. Walker [The Hill We Climb](#)

ATTENDANCE MODEL CHANGES

A note from CDL Lead Administrator, Jennifer Furey:



There have been many questions regarding the announcement by Superintendent Raiff at last evening's Board of Education meeting regarding the intention to change attendance models in Olentangy school buildings. First, we want to assure our CDL families that **this does not affect students in the CDL program**. Committed Distance Learning is a semester-long commitment, which will continue through the end of the 2020-2021 second semester.

Because of this commitment, students can not move in or out of the program mid-semester. Students currently enrolled in Committed Distance Learning will continue to learn virtually through the end of this school year.

Finally, many parents have voiced their feelings on having a virtual program available for next school year. Committed Distance Learning will not continue into the 2021-2022 school year as it exists now. The district will communicate to parents any virtual learning opportunities for next school year if they become available.

PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER

Join the Portrait of a Learner: Purposeful virtual presentation on February 17 at 6:30pm through the [Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting link](https://tinyurl.com/y68jpu84). We look forward to sharing more about Portrait of a Learner with our Olentangy community this month.




Portrait Of A Learner Parent Series:

FINDING YOUR PURPOSE

Wednesday, February 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m. View the live stream at <https://tinyurl.com/y68jpu84>

PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER: PURPOSEFUL


Learners know what matters to them. They are aware of what motivates them and have a clear sense of who they are. Their actions are intentional.



In an increasingly complex world, being purposeful is essential. Our success and well-being is enhanced when we know why we get out of bed in the morning. Knowing our purpose allows us to align our actions with our intentions, and stay motivated towards our goals. This is not a simple task, but rather one that takes time and patience. In this workshop, parents will learn strategies for helping students figure out who they are and what matters to them.




Olentangy believes that purposeful students explore their interests and passions, engage in authentic and relevant learning opportunities, develop a network to nurture their interest, and create work for a specific audience.

Speaker: Derek Burch
Parent Academy welcomes Derek Burch, who teaches English and Journalism at Olentangy Liberty High School. Burch co-created the educational non-profit Erase the Space, which seeks to engage students and teachers in authentic discourse surrounding shared social issues. His passion for engaged education stems from his experiences as an ADHD learner in Westerville City Schools.



Upcoming Portrait Of A Learner Parent Series Events

Presented by the Olentangy Parent Academy

 <p>KIND March 18 Learners bring out the best in others. They respect different points of view and demonstrate empathy.</p>	 <p>RESILIENT April 14 Learners can bounce back from adversity. They see challenges as opportunities for growth.</p>	 <p>CURIOUS May 5 Learners seek solutions to problems. They utilize critical and creative thinking to tackle challenging tasks.</p>
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AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN

Join the African American Read-In and Book Talk virtual book discussions on February 22, 2021 by RSVPing [HERE](#). Access the [Elementary Reading Calendar](#) and the [Secondary Reading Calendar](#) through the links.

OLENTANGY SCHOOLS
ONE COMMUNITY CONFERENCE 2021
HEALING THROUGH ONE COMMUNITY



AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN AND BOOK TALK FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Join Olentangy Schools, in conjunction with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), as we come together as ONE Community for the 2021 National African American Read-In.

Elementary students and families will read 8 books by African American authors throughout the month of February, including a book by award-winning author and illustrator Oge Mora. Secondary students and families will read "Ghost," by Jason Reynolds, and will have the opportunity to virtually meet Matthew Carter, the real-life inspiration behind the story.

Virtual book discussions will be held on February 22, 2021.

[RSVP HERE](#)



Elementary Book Talk with Oge Mora
6:00pm - 7:00pm [Elementary Reading Calendar](#)

Secondary Book Talk with Matthew Carter
7:00pm - 8:00pm [Secondary Reading Calendar](#)

Thank you to our sponsor:  **The Cole Group**

During the month of February, the Equity & Inclusion Team is hosting an "African American Read-In" for the entire district. In order to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month, the goal of NCTE's initiative is to have students read books by Black authors that elevate Black experiences.

Elementary Information:

This year, we have chosen eight books (2 per week) for our elementary school students. We will be providing the community with a reading calendar that includes the following:

****You can access the reading calendar [here](#).**

The main read-in event will take place on February 22 from 6:00-7:00 PM, when we host author and illustrator Oge Mora (creator of Thank You, Omu!) for a virtual book talk. Students and their families are invited to attend. Please RSVP [here](#) to save your spot.

All elementary students will have the opportunity to take place a daily trivia that will enter students into a drawing for a chance to win a copy of "Saturday" by Oge Mora and "The Oldest Student" by Rita Lorraine Hubbard.

Students can access the trivia questions and submissions form through the classroom teacher's Schoology courses.

Secondary Information:

This year, we have chosen the book "Ghost" by Jason Reynolds for our middle school and high school read. We will be providing the community with a reading calendar that includes the following:

1. Suggested weekly chapters
2. Discussion questions and/or activities to do with family members or friends

****You can access the introductory video and reading/discussion calendar [here](#).**

The main read-in event will take place on February 22 from 7:00-8:00 PM, when we host Matthew Carter (inspiration behind Ghost) for a virtual book talk. Students and their families are invited to attend. Please RSVP [here](#) to save your spot.

Families are encouraged to have a copy of the text: they can purchase the book. It is currently available for \$5.99 on Amazon or the Central Library Consortium has titles available for check out.

Students at the secondary level are encouraged to attend the read-in even and will have an opportunity to share their experience for a chance to win the books "Ghost," "Sunny,"

and “Patina” by Jason Reynolds. More information about accessing the submission form will be shared with families leading up to the read-in event.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT NEXT WEEK’S FAMILY UPDATE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Join the Parent Information Series: Mental Health in Olentangy Schools on February 23 at 6:30pm through the [Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting link](#).



PARENT INFORMATION SERIES: MENTAL HEALTH IN OLENTANGY SCHOOLS

**Tuesday, February 23, 2021
6:30 PM**

**Please use this [link](#) to join the Microsoft
Teams Virtual Meeting.**

Join your Olentangy Schools Parent Mentors, Fran Gardner and Shelly Frederick for the February Parent Information Series presented by Kristin Armbrust, OSU Lead Mental Health Specialist and Ethan Briggs, Syntero School Services Coordinator on Mental Health in Olentangy Schools. Learn about the importance of mental health, the support available, and how to collaborate with the school.

[Directions on how to join a Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

This presentation will be available on our website under Departments-
Pupil Services- Parent Mentor Program- Parent Information Series.

**An introduction to mental
health services available
in Olentangy Schools**

**An overview of mental
health systems and
levels of care**

**What to do if you have
concerns about your
student's mental health**

**There will be time for
questions after the
presentation.**

**Fran Gardner
Parent Mentor, Middle & High
School Families
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**Shelly Frederick
Parent Mentor, Preschool &
Elementary School Families
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Panorama Student Well-Being Questionnaires

Communication from the district will be sent next week regarding the Spring administration of the Panorama Student Well-Being Questionnaires. This information does not apply to CDL students. CDL students will not be participating in the questionnaire as the majority of the questionnaire content applies to students in the hybrid model. Parents/guardians will therefore not need to opt-out their students as no CDL students will be taking the survey.

ONE COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

Olentangy Schools invites you to participate in our 7th Annual ONE Community Conference. The conference theme is "Healing Through ONE Community" and will be a [six-part virtual series](#) with events from January through May. Events will include our first annual MLK Day of Service, speakers, virtual author visits, a community-wide book study, student keynotes, service-learning projects, and wellness components throughout. We look forward to learning, growing, and healing together. Information about the first two events is located below.

Be sure to check out the upcoming events for the [ONE Community Conference](#) on the district's webpage.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Attention all Middle School Students: Join a club! Here are the following online club meeting dates this semester:

Diversity Club: 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/18, 4/8, 4/22, 5/6, and
5/20

Kaleidoscope: 1/28, 2/11, 2/25, 3/11, 3/25,
4/15, 4/29, 5/13

Women's Rights

Club: 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/7, 4/21, 5/5, 5/19

Students can join at any time! To join, please message Mr. Barkhurst on Teams or by e-mail: brian_barkhurst@olsd.us

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT IN APEX LEARNING COURSES

Students in second semester Apex Learning classes (Physical Education and/or Informational Technology Applications) should have logged in and completed the first unit at this time. There are many students who have not begun this work yet. We will be messaging these students individually via Schoology with reminders to begin working. Parents, please remind your student(s) they must complete this work in a timely manner. These classes do count for a grade, affect a student's grade point average, and could prevent a student from earning an academic roll recognition if they receive a D or F in the course(s). If you have any questions about these courses or wish to drop them from your student's schedule, please contact Tim Beard (tim_beard@olsd.us) or Jeremy Chirpas (jeremy_chirpas@olsd.us).

CDL FEBRUARY MEAL ORDER FORMS

Olentangy Schools is happy to continue offering meals to all students in the Committed Distance Learning program at no charge for the month of February. Please use the Committed Distance Learning February [Pre-Order Form](#) to learn more and to receive food service for students learning remotely during the month of February.

ACT JUNIOR TESTING

In person ACT testing for juniors ONLY will be held on **February 24th**. Please direct any questions to your home building.
