



OWL NEWS

December 15,
2016

Calendar of Events	
Date	Event
12/12-12/16	ELO
12/16	Spirit Day- Pajama Day (no slippers please) PTA Movie Night, 6:00
12/19-12/22	ELO
12/20 and 12/21	Destination Imagination
12/21	Rubik's Cube Club
12/23-1/2	Schools Closed for Students

Message from Mrs. Clifford and Mrs. Hanner

How can it be possible that there are only have five days left before winter break, and just a couple of weeks remaining for the year? Our students have accomplished so much already this year and we couldn't be more proud of their progress. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and lots of quality time together as a family. Enjoy everything this time of year has to offer and what matters most to each of you!



Holiday Card Contest

Congratulations to Georgia Lynch whose artwork, entitled 'Carolers', was selected by the elementary math curriculum departments for their holiday card. Georgia will receive a set of holiday cards and envelopes as a thank you for her contribution.

Winter Concerts

Congratulations to our fifth grade instrumental music students for their performance Tuesday evening at Linganore High School and for their daytime concert they shared with our entire school. We are so proud of their performance and for putting us all in the holiday spirit!

Hour of Code

Last week was exciting as each class participated in Hour of Code in recognition of Computer Science Education Week. We are so thankful for all of the parents that joined us in the computer lab to support classes as they learned computer programming basics. Your support was appreciated by our staff and it was a great experience for our students to hear about different careers in the computer science field and to interact with you as they navigated coding courses. We also had several student ambassadors that were assigned to various classrooms to support students as they navigated Hour of Code tutorials and follow-on courses. It is always exciting providing leadership opportunities for our students and this was no exception. We want to extend a special thank you to Kim Brandenburg for her leadership initiating, organizing and implementing this school wide endeavor!

Magnet Program Information

The magnet program is designed for academically gifted students in grades 3 – 5 with superior performance in both language arts and mathematics. Nomination booklets, which will be available beginning January 31, 2017, may be obtained from the school office, the FCPS Office of Advanced Academics or online at <http://www.fcps.org/advacademics>. After January 31, 2017, the Office of Advanced Academics will be accepting nominations of present second through fourth grade students for possible placement in the magnet program for the 2017 - 2018 school year.

Students may be nominated for the magnet program by school staff, parents or jointly. Parents and teachers are encouraged to review information, including academic behaviors and characteristics of gifted students, that is posted at www.fcps.org/advacademics. Teacher nominations, parent nominations and a completed *Parent/Guardian Rating Form* are due in the school office by March 1, 2017, so that tests can be administered and information required to complete the nomination packet may be gathered by school staff.

A Magnet Program Overview for parents interested in nominating their child will be held on January 24, 2017, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Central Office (191 South East Street). Parking is available in the East All Saints Street parking deck or in the parking lot located next to the Central Office off of East All Saints Street. Accessible parking is located in the Commerce Street lot located behind the Central Office. Enter the Board Room at the front of the building. The overview will include components of the magnet program and the processes leading to placement. Please note that this meeting is designed for parents, not students. The snow date for this meeting is January 31, 2017 at the same time and location. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Advanced Academics at 301-696-6891.

Lost and Found Announcement

Our lost and found table is full! Any items remaining when we leave for winter break will be donated to a local charity. Don't forget to add labels to clothing with your child's name and the classroom teacher's name to help reunite misplaced articles of clothing.

Americanism Essay Contest

Students in grades 3-8 are invited to participate in the American Legion Gold Star Unit 191 Auxiliary Americanism Essay Contest. The 3 winners in each grade level at the local level receive a small cash prize and are then submitted to compete in the District level and possibly the National level competitions where additional prize money can be won. The essay title this year is: "How does learning about government and our America help you become a future guardian of the liberties of our country?" Rules and forms necessary to enter the contest are linked here: [Contest Rules](#)

All essays should be sent by mail postmarked by January 31, 2017 to: Janet Morris, 507 Acorn Ct, Mt. Airy, MD 21771 or e-mailed to: mrsmorris4s@aol.com

*** Remember the child's signature must be at the bottom of the actual essay. ***

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Janet Morris at the above e-mail or 301-829-5237.

OES Holiday Help

Below is a link that includes wish lists for students in our community that may not otherwise receive gifts this holiday season. If you are interested in making someone's holiday a little brighter please click on the following link:



www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0E48ACAC29A4F49-holiday

Counselor's Corner from Chuck Gill

December is here and there is, as always, a lot going on around OES! Classroom lessons are in full swing for Term 2:

➤ In Kindergarten I shared a lesson about respect and how important it is to our school. We read a book called Bootsie Barker Bites and discussed the connection with being respectful to others and ourselves when we stand up to someone who isn't being so nice to us...

- Next week I will visit 3rd grade classrooms to discuss "Body Language" and the role it plays in how we communicate with each other
 - The week of December 19-22nd I will be spending time in 5th grade classes sharing the lesson "Hobbies to Careers" and how this could help in the upcoming choice of electives for 6th grade and their education for the next few years
- *Stay tuned for the next update on classroom lessons coming in January for 1st, 2nd, and 4th grades
- As I mentioned in my last newsletter, we are working hard as a community to support our families who may need a little extra help this holiday season. I'm excited to say that through the hard work of staff members here at OES and especially the generosity of our amazing OES community, we have signed up for all but 4 requested items and the gifts have been pouring in. Our goal is to have all gifts in by Friday, December 16 and distributed to all families no later than Tuesday December 20, and I have faith that we're going to make it!!! You can check out our Sign Up Genius sheet at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e48acac29a4f49-holiday>
 - We are very lucky to be a part of the local "Hope 4 Kids" weekend food program. Again, if you are interested in receiving assistance from this program, please let me know! *Volunteers and monetary contributions to the program are also gratefully accepted – contact Karen Ohlrich at karenorlich@yahoo.com or by phone 435-260-1236 for more information.
 - Mileage Club is doing its best to continue into these colder months. We already have several kids who have reached the Marathon level (completing 26.2 miles or more), and *all of those kids are in 2nd or 3rd grade!!* Mrs. Ritt's class won the award for November, completing a whopping 745 laps or more than 124 miles in one month!!! As always we are welcoming parent volunteers - the program runs much more smoothly when families help us out at recess. Everyday (weather permitting) we run Mileage Club; volunteers help out in one hour shifts - from 11-12 and then also from 12-1. If we can get enough volunteers we could even cut the shifts to a half hour each, but that depends on how many of you sign up to help! If you are interested in helping... you got it – please contact me!

If you have ANY questions, concerns, or comments, please contact me at 240-236-3309, or via email at chuck.gill@fcps.org. *Also check out our school website (education.fcps.org/oes/) for a cool new way to request help from me (click on "Parents & Students" from the black menu bar near the top of our web page, then select "School Counselor" from the drop-down menu and follow the directions from there). Take care everyone and I hope this holiday season finds you and your family happy and healthy!

Hearing and Vision Screenings Reminder

Hearing and vision screenings will take place January 11 - January 12 for all students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten (if not previously screened upon entry in FCPS Pre-K), first grade and students that enrolled this year to the Maryland public school system. Maryland state law mandates this screening. Parents/guardians who have an objection to a hearing and vision screenings, based on the tenets and/or practice of their religion, must submit a request for their child to be exempt from screening. All written requests must be submitted to the health room by January 6. If your child wears glasses, please make sure he/she wears his/her glasses or contacts on screening days. If you have any questions please contact the health room at 240-236-3360.

School Spirit Dates Reminder

December 16- PJ Day (no slippers please)

January 20- Multiples Day/Dress Like a Friend

February 17- Crazy Hair Day

March 17- Hat Day

April 28- Go Green Day

May 19- OES Spirit Day

June 9- Beach Day (no bathing suits please!)

Character + Community + Commitment = Successful Learners
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