

# IN THE LOOP with LINK

DECEMBER  
2023/  
JANUARY  
2024

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Issue 4/5

Updates, Observations & Anecdotes for Parents  
from Julianne Allen, Family Engagement &  
Communication Specialist

## Upcoming Parent/Family/Community Engagement Opportunities & Important Dates

- 12/5 OFMS 6th Gr. Band Concert- 1st Per. Blue Band- 6:00 PM @MS
- 12/5 OFMS 6th Gr. Band Concert- 2nd Per. Gold Band- 7:00 PM @MS
- 12/6 OFHS Holiday Choral Concert- 7:30 PM @HS
- 12/8 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS- Staff Professional Learning Day
- 12/13 ECC Family Literacy Night- 6:30 PM @ECC
- 12/13 OFHS Holiday Band Concert- 7:30 PM @HS
- 12/14 OFHS Holiday Band Concert- 7:30 PM @HS
- 12/19 OFIS 5th Grade Choir Concert- 6:30 PM @OFMS
- 12/22-1/5 Winter Break - NO SCHOOL
- 1/8 Return from Winter Break
- 1/9 OFMS PTA Meeting- 7:00 PM @MS
- 1/11 OFHS CCP (College Credit Plus) Info Night- 7:00 PM @HS Aud.
- 1/11 OECPTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @FL
- 1/12 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS- Staff Professional Learning Day
- 1/15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL
- 1/16 Celebrating Differences Week Begins
- 1/16 OFIS PTA Mtg.- 7:00 PM @OFIS
- 1/24 OFMS DC Parent & Student Mandatory Meeting- 7:00 PM @MS
- 1/25 OFHS Junior Parent Pathway Night- 7:00 PM @HS Rm. 606
- 1/26 OFMS PTA Breakfast Buddies- 7:15 AM @MS
- 1/29 OFHS PTA Mtg- 7:00 PM @HS
- 1/30 FL/ECC PTA Meeting- 6:30 PM @ECC



Please contact your building with questions or to confirm events

## RANDOM ACTS OF AWESOME!

### Introducing the Kindness Elf!

Macaroni Kid Cleveland West has a great new way to encourage acts of kindness this holiday season. Use this letter to introduce a Kindness Elf to your house! You may have an Elf on the Shelf already visiting your home, so why not put them to good use teaching the valuable lessons of treating others with kindness, not only during the holidays but all year? Check out the full article [HERE](#) for a bunch of ideas for making kindness a priority this holiday season!

## TAKE THE WINTER READING CHALLENGE!

Winter break is a great time to snuggle up with your kids and read together, or for your older kids to put down their phones and read the books grandma gave them as a gift this year! Scholastic has a fun way to get kids reading this winter. Take the Winter Reading challenge and work your way through 25 reading challenges like "Read a book about family", and "Read a book about new beginnings." There is a winter scene to print and color as your kids complete each challenge. Click [HERE](#) to download the Winter Reading Challenge and click [HERE](#) to see book suggestions from Scholastic for each challenge. Read on, Bulldogs!

**SCHOLASTIC**  
**Winter Reading Challenge**  
Embark on a magical reading adventure this season! Color your way to a winter wonderland as you complete all 25 reading challenges.

1. Read a book set in the snow.
2. Read a book about a winter holiday.
3. Reread your favorite book from this year.
4. Read a classic seasonal story.
5. Read a book about family.
6. Read a book with winter animals.
7. Read a book about gratitude.
8. Read a book about new beginnings.
9. Read a nonfiction book.
10. Read a book with a snowman on the cover.
11. Read a book that became a movie or TV series.
12. Read a book that makes you laugh.
13. Read a book about kindness.
14. Read a book about a winter activity.
15. Read an award-winning book.
16. Read a book from a new-for-you genre.
17. Read a book that was published this year.
18. Read a book while drinking hot cocoa.
19. Read the first book of a new-for-you series.
20. Read a book while snuggled up in a blanket.
21. Read a book about a friend or family member.
22. Read a book inside a homemade fort.
23. Read a book before bed.
24. Read a seasonal story featuring your favorite character.

## TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

### Tech Tips for Non-Techy Types

If you are the parent or caregiver of a child with a disability or special needs, check out this great resource from the Easter Seals Greater Houston- [BridgingApps.org](#). [BridgingApps](#) is "a community of parents, veterans, therapists, doctors, educators, and people with disabilities who share information on how apps and mobile devices can help people of all abilities reach their highest levels of physical, social and cognitive development." This site is a great resource if you are searching for apps, device types and accessories, accessibility information and more. Check it out before buying gifts this year and help make [technology more accessible](#) for your loved ones.

# Cozy Crossword

I had so much fun last year putting my puzzle-nerd brain to good use to fill up this page that I decided to make this an annual event. In this crazy season of running around, breaking up sibling arguments, overeating, overspending, and in general, not having much time to breathe, it's important to make time for yourself. In case your loved ones are too busy holiday-ing to tell you this, you are much appreciated, Bulldog parents and caregivers! Very happy holidays to you and your families! Enjoy the puzzle. I hope it makes you smile! Sincerely- Julianne








The crossword puzzle grid consists of 25 numbered starting points for words:

- 1: Down, 4 squares
- 2: Down, 4 squares
- 3: Across, 6 squares
- 4: Across, 6 squares
- 5: Down, 4 squares
- 6: Down, 4 squares
- 7: Down, 4 squares
- 8: Across, 6 squares
- 9: Down, 4 squares
- 10: Down, 4 squares
- 11: Down, 4 squares
- 12: Across, 6 squares
- 13: Across, 3 squares
- 14: Down, 4 squares
- 15: Down, 4 squares
- 16: Across, 6 squares
- 17: Across, 6 squares
- 18: Across, 6 squares
- 19: Across, 6 squares
- 20: Across, 6 squares
- 21: Across, 6 squares
- 22: Across, 6 squares
- 23: Down, 4 squares
- 24: Across, 6 squares
- 25: Across, 6 squares











**KEEP READING FOR THE CLUES! IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT YOU ARE STUMPED, THE ANSWER KEY IS ON PAGE 5!**



## ACROSS

3. The only thing you can get away with throwing at someone else in the name of holiday cheer.
4. Here's hoping you don't get stuck in one of these over the holidays. 
8. A fun movie about a little boy accidentally left behind by his family during the holidays. See also: what you want to be just once over the winter break. (2 wds)
12. Your coat-less teen has no fear of this despite your warnings.  
13. Great for keeping your face from falling off in subzero temps.
16. Float some in your cocoa for an instant upgrade!  
17. Put your PJs on this way to increase your snow day odds.
18. The holiday treat with the built-in hook for hanging on the tree or your mug of cocoa. (2 wds)
19. An adjective to describe the icy sheen in your driveway that you don't want to fall on when you go out to get the mail in your bathrobe. Wheeee! (Hint: Rhymes with LISTENING)
21. These do not result in enough precipitation to get you a snow day. Sorry, kids! 
22. Cold air + Warm Water= This northeast Ohio phenomenon. (2 wds)
24. My favorite DQ treat. Also, your best hope for getting a snow day. 
25. Odds are, you can find one but not the other. Sad!

## DOWN

1. Do this with a few ice cubes to increase your snow day odds. 
2. Tell your cat not to eat this. Also, don't eat this. You're welcome. 
4. This kind of tree doesn't smell as nice, but you won't be finding pine needles in your carpet in February.
5. Bonus points if you've roasted these on an open fire. 
6. Bears experience this in the winter. Apparently, bearded dragons do too. (We thought ours was dead?!) 
7. One of the best parts of the season. Fa la la la la! 
9. All kinds of cool things are stuffed inside this. Hint: Not a turkey.
10. The odds of you getting a snow day this year are between this and this. (3 wds)
11. If you can't surf in tropical waters, freeze your fanny off instead on one of these. 
14. When you hear it coming down your street at 4:00 AM, you know you're going to have some car windows to scrape. 
15. We don't live on or near a mountain, so I think we are safe from this threat (for now!) 
20. It is candy? Is it fruit? Is it edible? If it is, would you eat it? So many questions. 
23. Tell your cat not to eat this. Also, don't eat this. You're welcome. 



# PLAN ON IT!\*

\*Plan on checking this stuff out!



## HOLIDAY CONCERTS

**OFMS 6th Grade Band Concert**  
(1st Period Blue Band)  
December 5, 6:00 PM @OFMS

**OFMS 6th Grade Band Concert**  
(2nd Period Gold Band)  
December 5th, 7:00 PM @OFMS

**OFHS Holiday Choral Concert**  
December 6, 7:30 PM @OFHS

**OFHS Holiday Band Concert**  
(Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds,  
Jazz Band, Wind Symphony)  
December 13, 7:30 PM @OFHS

**OFHS Holiday Band Concert**  
(Wind Band, Jazz Band, Wind Symphony)  
December 14, 7:30 PM @OFHS

**OFIS 5th Grade Choir Concert**  
December 19, 6:30 PM @OFMS

OLMSTED FALLS  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
CENTER

## FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

Preschool and  
Kindergarten  
families will  
explore  
reading standards  
using themed  
stations.

WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER  
13TH  
6:30-7:30

FALLS-LENOX AND KIWANIS TERRIFIC KIDS

## COZY COLLECTION

Donate new winter clothing  
items to those in need.

SOCKS | SCARVES | GLOVES | HATS | COATS

December 4th - 21st  
in the Falls-Lenox lobby



**College Credit Plus (CCP) Info Night**

**January 11th, 7:00 PM- OFHS Auditorium**

Learn about Ohio's dual enrollment program  
in which students in grades 7-12 take  
challenging college coursework and earn high  
school and college credit at the same time.

Olmsted Falls High School partners with  
LCCC, Tri-C, and Cleveland State University.

**Junior Parent Pathway Planning Meeting**

**January 25th, 7:00 PM- OFHS Room 606**

Information for parents of current juniors  
who are preparing for college applications,  
vocational school and military. We will  
discuss the different pathways, financial aid  
what you and your student should be doing  
between now and senior year.

BW  
BALDWIN  
WALLACE  
UNIVERSITY

Community STEM  
Initiatives  
Division of Community Learning

## BW Holiday Math Camp

Grades 1- 6

Saturday, December 16, 2023

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: \$70

Knowlton Center, 370 Front St., Berea

Drop off your kids at the Knowlton Center to get holiday errands and shopping done and they'll have a blast with holiday math-themed crafts, games, puzzles and learning activities.

<https://community.bw.edu/dclstem/programs/holiday-math-camp/>

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# GOOD STUFF

STAY "IN THE LOOP" ON TWITTER!

@OFCSLINK  
@OFCSDistrict



# ICYMI

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Past issues of "In the Loop" and other LINK resources are available on our website [HERE](#). You know you want to read them. Go on.

**HAPPY HANUKKAH**

December 7th - 15th

# Happy 2024 New Year

NO BAD JOKE

**LIKE A DAD JOKE!**

A cringeworthy feature inspired by bad dad jokes everywhere

Q. Why shouldn't you lend money to elves?

A. They're always short!

**MERRY MERRY MERRY Christmas**

December 25th

HAPPY Holidays

What is LINK?



LINK is an acronym for Learn, Inspire, Nurture, Know. The LINK Program is a district-wide family-community engagement resource. The goal of the program is to connect the Olmsted Falls School District with parents and families, to encourage two-way communication, and to help parents support learning at home.

December 26th-January 1st

**HAPPY KWANZAA**

SERIOUSLY COMICAL

HOW I ASKED MY PARENTS FOR THINGS I REALLY WANTED



HOW MY KIDS DO IT

I created a Google Slides presentation to explain why it's in everyone's best interest that you buy me this thing.



[www.hedgerhumor.com](http://www.hedgerhumor.com)

Hedger Humor

COZY CROSSWORD ANSWER KEY