

QUARTERS 4

May 2023



OTTER OUTREACH!

From the Principal

Dear Ottawa River Parents and Guardians,

Thank you to all parents and students for another school year with your children. We have seen many wonderful achievements from them this year. It is so hard to believe that the 2022-2023 school year is almost over and summer break will soon begin!

On Wednesday, May 24th our 8th graders will be honored at a breakfast and Thursday, May 25th, we will have a breakfast celebration for our Kindergarten students. We wish the best of luck to our newest Otters as they head off to 1st grade, and we wish our rising Otters well as they begin to navigate the waters of High School!

On Wednesday, May 24th we will have "Move Up" day. This will be an opportunity for your child to meet their teacher for next year, see their classroom and classmates and also get a supply list for the following school year. This will only be for a short time but can really help your child feel less anxiety for the start of the following school year.

The last day that students attend is Thursday, May 25th. Grades will be completed by teachers by May 30th and grade cards will be mailed to your homes.

On an ending note and with much appreciation, I would like to thank the PTO and all of the volunteers who helped to make this a successful year. Your commitment to the student's success was evident and I know the rest of the staff feels the same.

I look forward to next year!

Tamra Griffin

Principal

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May 19th—Field Day

May 24th—8th grade Celebration and Move Up Day

May 25th —Kindergarten Celebration

May 25th—Last Day of School

OTTAWA RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

May
Newsletter

Counselor Coner



"Some of the best memories are made in flip-flops."

Summer break is an exciting time as it marks the end of another school year. It is a time to recognize and celebrate the academic and social emotional efforts and accomplishments of our students, families, and staff during this school year.

Summer is a time for family and friends to connect, to relax and slow down, and to create fun memories. DIY calming crafts and non-screen activities along with a summer reading list is included on this page to help our families' kick-start a well-deserved summer break.

Families can balance summer fun with some time for academic skill building to keep students' brains growing. Summer enrichment does not have to take a lot of time and effort. It can be as simple as picking up a good book and reading. Reading strengthens students' academic, cognitive, vocabulary, and social skills. Look over the list below for some ideas on keeping academic and social emotional learning going while having fun over summer break. Happy Summer Break! ENJOY!

Summer Reading List

100 Dogs: Playful pups to Count by Michael Whaite
The Bear's Song by Benjamin Chaud
My Toothbrush is Missing by Jan Thomas
We Are in a Book by Mo Willems
Cat Kid Comic Club by Dav Pilkey
Cat Ninja by Matthew Cody
Wallace the Brave by Will Henry
Dragon with a Chocolate Heart by Stephanie Burgis
The Land of Stories (series) by Chris Colfer
Escape from Atlantis by Kate O'Hearn
Dungeoneer Adventures by Ben Costa and James Parks
Class Act by Jerry Craft
Brave by Svetlana Chmakova



NON-Screen Activities

Get building – build with legos, cards, sticks, or something else
Start a Nature Diary
Design and make a homemade board game
Design and make an obstacle course (inside or outside)
Draw something
Write a Play
Learn a new sport
Go for a bike ride



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NURSE'S CORNER

Summer Water Safety

Summer is known as “trauma season” among public health and medical professionals because unintentional deaths and serious injuries increase dramatically among children during these months, according to Safe Kids Worldwide™. The good news is that many of these injuries may be preventable by following some simple tips and learning how to avoid accidents and injuries.

We are surrounded by opportunities to enjoy the water. Whether it be on the river, lake, beach, at a water park or in a backyard pool; summer is a great time to take advantage of fun on the water. Here are some tips for staying safe in and around the water. Give children your undivided attention when they are swimming or near any body of water.

Teach children to never swim alone or go near water without an adult present. Always have your children wear a Coast Guard approved, properly-fitted life jacket while on a boat, around an open body of water or when participating in water sports, such as skiing or tubing.

Download: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/water-safety/water-safety-for-kids.html> for free educational videos presenting WHALE Tales: Water Habits Are Learned Early to share with your children. There are also activities included on the website for Grades K-2 and Grades 3-6 for students to enjoy.

So go outdoors, have some fun and enjoy a safe summer!

Nurse Vicki



MEDICATION

Students who must take medication during the school day must have the appropriate authorization form completed by the doctor. All medications will be dispensed from the office. According to Toledo Public School Board of Education Policy, an adult must bring the child's medicine to the office and the medication must be in the original bottle. We cannot accept medications that are brought in by the child. Please bring in a month's supply of medication at a time. All medications, **PRESCRIPTION AND OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS** (such as aspirin, antacids, cough syrup, cough drops etc.), require a doctor's form and can only be dispensed through the office!!



ABSENCES

Parents of students who are absent from school can notify the school of the student's absence by leaving a message on the Attendance phone at **419-671-6351**. This recorder is on 24 hours a day, so parents may call at any time. Please be sure to call by 9:30 A.M. on the day of the absence. If a parent does not call and notify the school of their child's absence a written note explaining the absence or tardy must be signed by the parent or guardian and sent to school when the child returns to school. Excused absences are for illness, death in the immediate family, and doctor/dental appointments. If doctor/dental appointments are made during school hours, the child should present a written request for excusal, stating the time of the appointment to the teacher. Students may be released one-half hour before the appointment. Excusals for doctor/dental appointments require written excuse from the doctor/dentist. Students who arrive late or are picked-up early, without a written doctor's excuse, are considered absent for a portion of the day. As a reminder, the state allows a total of 10 unexcused absences a year. Please be sure that you use these days sparingly.



HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have moved or changed your telephone number, we are asking that you update your records with the school office and provide proof of residency. This will ensure that we will be able to contact you in case of an emergency.



DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you ever have questions or concerns about what is going on in your child's classroom please remember to contact their teacher directly. They will BEST know what is going on as they spend the majority of time with your child. If need be, the teacher will direct your questions/concerns to the principal or other necessary personnel. Please do not use Ottawa River's Facebook page as a place to find answers to your personal questions/concerns. For the most accurate and up to date info – call or email your child's teacher directly.



VISITORS TO OUR BUILDING

Parents and other interested persons are always welcome at Ottawa River. Any visitors to the building will be required to comply with the District guidelines as pertaining to masks. Masks must be worn in the building at all times and must fit over the nose and under the chin. To maintain a disruptive free environment all visitors, parents, and guests are required to have an appointment with classroom teachers (even for phone and virtual meetings). On the day of the appointment, for safety purposes, you will be required to report to the office before proceeding to classrooms or other parts of the building. Visitors will be issued a "VISITOR PASS" with their name, destination, and date that they are required to wear. Visits to other parts of the building will require administrative approval and are generally discouraged. Volunteers will be issued a "VOLUNTEER BADGE" which they are required to wear while working in the school as a volunteer. All students, parents, and visitors to the building must enter through the Main entrance and buzz to be let into the building. **Due to increasing security concerns, parents will not be permitted to walk their children to class. If a parent needs to dismiss their child early an ID must be presented.**



Kroger Community Rewards Sign-Up

By making the Ottawa River PTO your Community rewards recipient, a percentage of every shopping trip you make to Kroger will come back to the school!

Signing up is simple:

- 1) Sign-in or create an account
- 2) Click on My Account
- 3) Scroll Down to Community Rewards
- 4) Click Edit
- 5) Find our organization (Ottawa River Elementary PTO, Organization Number 80037)

Bike Fix-It Program

Bicycle Fix-It and Safety Event



Where:
Ottawa River Elementary

When:
Thursday May 11th
Afterschool-3:30-5:30

Bring your bike to school for these **FREE** services!

- Safety Check
- Repairs
- Bike Helmet





LUNCHES

To ensure that all students are getting the best education they can we will no longer be calling classrooms to inform students of dropped off lunches. If you forgot your child's lunch we will be happy to provide them with a free school lunch. Thank you for helping us to keep our school focus on education.

As a reminder we no longer have an open lunchroom policy. To keep all students safe and lunchtimes running smoothly we ask that if you are volunteering in the building you do not stop to have lunch with your child. Their classmates do not understand and feelings can get hurt.

Field Day

Field Day this year is scheduled for Friday May 19th. We will have several activities for the students to enjoy.



Kindergarten and 8th Grade Recognition and Celebration



This year, our Kindergarten and 8th Grade Celebrations will be held on separate days. The 8th Grade Celebration will be on Wednesday May 24th. The Kindergarten Celebration will be on the last day of school Thursday May 25th. More information about these events will be coming home, so please be sure to keep an eye open for news from your child's teacher.

Last Day of School is Move Up Day

Wednesday May 24th, our students get a chance to "Move Up" and visit the classroom and teacher that they will be with for the following school year. This gives the kids a brief preview of what to expect and helps calm some first day of school jitters.



Ottawa River Sprit Wear

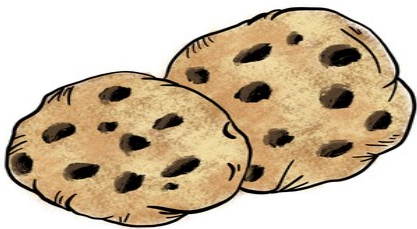
Looking for Spirit Wear to help keep you and your family cool and ready for summer?

Check out the Ottawa River Elementary School spirit wear sale. Right now there is Free Shipping on orders over \$75 @1stPlaceSpiritwear



Snack Cart

Snack Cart will be open during your child's lunch period on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MAY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!!!

Kylan Mierzwiak
Kynslee Pellizzari
Jaycee Albain
Aria Turner
Anthony Demuth
Layla Giacalone
Desiree Slinker
Evaline Zaborski
Kenslee Falknor
Bryden Mosser
Kloey Shaffer
Layla Miners
Kennedy Schwab
Ethan Strock
Jared Hooten
Krystal Kurtz

Brian Krouse
Leah Jaffe
Sydney Wamsley
David Bland-Arnold
Rylan Rickard
Ashton McCullough
Savannah Przybysz
Caden Carmona



Students OF THE MONTH



MAY BIRTHDAYS!!!

Shay Albain 5/1
Caylee Pfaff 5/2
Jocelyn Lisowski 5/3
Adelina Bush 5/4
Makynzee Fitzgerald 5/6
Amir Tucker 5/7
Audrey Bloomfield-Overton 5/10
Brayden Hamilton 5/10
Jace Richardson 5/12
Abriel Ruiz 5/12
Jaxson Clapper 5/13
Madelyn Dobson 5/13
Colton Packman 5/14
Maveric Clingo 5/16
Dominic Gullette 5/16
Henry Loomis 5/16
Steven Beach 5/17
Ava Hamrick 5/17
Elizabeth Collins– Hodge 5/20
Alayna Spitnale 5/20
Lola Gill 5/23
Lucio Martinez 5/23
Tessa Rosales 5/23
Mason Siebert 5/24
Maverick Huber 5/26



Arrival Routine

A note to parents/guardians who will be DRIVING/WALKING their student(s):

- Doors open at 8:45 AM. If you arrive early, please remain in your car. We are using multiple entrances this year for student entry, so please use the assigned entries for car riders as indicated below. For our students' and staff members' health and safety, parents may not get out of their vehicles when dropping off or picking up students.
- Students will not be permitted to wait in the front lobby before school or enter the building prior to 8:45., unless they are eating breakfast. Students eating breakfast at school will enter through the front doors at 8:40

Arrival Routine for All Students

Walkers and Car Riders

Times and Locations:

In order to minimize traffic congestion, drop-off times and locations will be as follows:

- Kindergarten, First & Second graders will enter main doors by front office
- Pre Kindergarten, Third & Fourth graders will enter the side doors off of 290th. (bus doors)
- Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, & Eighth graders will enter the Jr. High doors near the playground
- When car riders/walkers enter the building, they will proceed on their designated route directly to their classroom. Doing this will help minimize hallway traffic and lead them directly to their home-room.
- All individuals who will be dropping off students (ex: babysitters, siblings, grandparents) must be made aware of these procedures prior to drop-off.
- **Patience and Kindness:** Please remember that we are an elementary school serving young children. Your patience during school arrival is important as we anticipate an increase in car traffic this year.

Bus Riders:

- **Seating:** Each bus will have a mandatory seating chart with assigned seats. Students will be seated with siblings whenever possible.
- **Drop-Off Location:** Buses will drop off students in designated locations. The bus lane is on 290th street. Bus riders will use the side doors no matter what age group.

Dismissal Routine

Students will be dismissed wearing their mask and must keep it on until they are either in their car or have exited the bus at their final destination. Students should move to their bus or car as quickly and safely as possible, following staff directives and maintaining maximum social distance from their peers and staff.

Walkers and Car Riders

- **Walker Dismissal:** Students that will be walking home will be dismissed beginning at 3:10. **Walking means they are walking to their home. Parents should not be parked in the staff parking lot waiting to pick up their “walking” student.**

- **Pick-Up Location:** If you are here to walk with you child please meet your child at their designated location. There will be **no pickup** at the Primary entrance.

Pk-4 will be released at the side entrance - please pay attention to the posted signs

5 -8 walkers will be released from the Jr. High doors - please pay attention to the posted signs

Car Dismissal

Pre-K students will be dismissed to their parents in the parking lot located behind the building.

Car dismissal will begin at 3:15. If you are planning to pick your child up, please stay in your car and follow the curve to the marked pick up zone area. Do not park or get out of your car. Please be ready to move with the line to prevent backups. The driveway in front of the school is designated for buses only.

- **Family Names:** Parents/guardians will be given two papers with your family name on them. When you pick up you must have your family name card displayed when entering the parking lot so student(s) are ready when the car line moves. Parents/guardians wishing to meet a student to walk them to the car, must park in a parking space and walk to the waiting area on the sidewalk. Family names/numbers must be displayed while waiting.

Any family needing more than two name/number tags are asked to make their own additional tags by writing their name and number clearly on a large piece of paper.

- **Traffic-** Traffic backs up quickly as cars arrive but begins moving smoothly once we start loading students. Please always be on the lookout for individuals walking in the parking lot, including students, family members, and staff. Remember that “you are right when you turn right”... enter the parking lot by turning right and exit the parking lot by turning right. This will ensure smooth traffic flow and safety.
- **Communication:** All individuals who will be picking up students (ex: babysitters, siblings, grandparents) should be made aware of these procedures prior to picking up students. • **Patience and Kindness:** Please be patient as traffic volume may increase this year. Our goal is to get all students home safely and in a timely manner.

Bus Transportation Guidelines:

- Students who requested transportation will be placed at a bus stop. Visit the [District Map on our website](#) to find bus stop times and locations.
- School buses are confined spaces that require a particular focus on social distancing.
- Students will have an assigned seat and bus drivers will keep a seating chart

May 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Spring Play 7:00 pm	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Field Day	20
21	22	23	24 8th Grade Celebration Move Up Day	25 Kindergarten Celebration Last Day of School for students	26	27
28	29	30	31			

District Mission: Toledo Public Schools' mission is to produce competitive college and career ready graduates through a rigorous curriculum across all grade levels by implementing Ohio's New Learning Standards with fidelity.

District Vision: Toledo Public Schools strives to be an 'A-rated' school district whose graduates are college and career ready.



Ottawa River is a Title 1 funded school. Title 1 funds help us to serve our students better. We are able to support the curriculum through professional development for our staff. Our staff is dedicated to the success of each child and each of us work diligently to help each and every student.