

QUARTER 1

October 2021



# OTTER OUTREACH!



OTTAWA RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## October Newsletter

### From the Principal

Dear Parents and Families

It has certainly been an exciting and smooth start to what promises to be a fantastic school-year. No one can deny that COVID-19 poses challenges, but we feel our health and safety protocols are strong, consistent, and working well! We have had a fantastic month here...it's been incredibly busy, but the progress the students have made in just a few short weeks has been astounding! By now, everyone is settling in well to their new classrooms, their new routines and getting down to the business of learning. We anticipate a wonderful learning experience for all our students.

This year we are focusing on goal setting. Goal setting has many benefits and is an important component to success. As we work on getting better with goal setting we will advance to SMART goals. SMART goals are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely. Here are 5 benefits of goal setting.

Goals provide direction and focus

Goals give a sense of personal satisfaction

Goals provide a better understanding of expectations

Goals prevent you from feeling overwhelmed

Goals give clarity to decision making.

How can you help? Ask your child what goals they are working towards this year. Ask your child often about how they are working to accomplish their goals and praise them for the hard work you see. This can help them maintain their motivation and courage to expand those goals each month/qr.

Educationally yours,

Mrs. Griffin

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Toledo, Ohio

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### Important dates

October 1st—Picture Day

October 6th—National Walk & Bike To School Day

October 11th—15th—Red Ribbon Week

October 27th and 28th—Parent/Teacher Conferences:  
(Times Listed Inside)

October 29th—NO SCHOOL

In keeping with our Emotional Wellness theme this year, because

*I want to talk about how exercise can boost your emotional wellness!*

Exercise improves mental health by reducing anxiety, protecting against depression, and negative mood and by improving self-esteem and cognitive function. Exercise has also been found to alleviate symptoms such as low self-esteem and social withdrawal. When you look at all the benefits of exercise, it's clear that kids live a better life when they get active!

**Health benefits from regular exercise also include:**  
**you can try**

- Improved sleep
- Better endurance
- Stress relief
- Improvement in mood
- Reduced tiredness
- Increase mental alertness
- Improved cardiovascular fitness
- Heart disease prevention
- Healthy weight management
- Physical activity can help to boost the immune system
- Improved dexterity and injury prevention
- Reduced blood sugar levels

**Here are a few different exercise activities**

- Walking or Running
- Yoga
- Hiking
- Kickboxing
- Swimming
- Biking
- Playing Sports
- Dance
- Pilates
- Strength Training
- HIIT Workouts

**ARE YOU FIT ENOUGH EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY TO SURVIVE THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE?**

No matter what your zombie apocalypse might look like in your mind, favorite movie, or video game, you've no doubt, at some point, wondered: Could I survive the Zombie Apocalypse? You can! If you put a little work in, that is- and no, training for a zombie attack isn't crazy. First, it is super fun and motivating to turn your exercise into a game. And the cool thing about shaping up for the apocalypse is that it will make the millions of movements you do in a day easier and it'll also make you MENTALLY TOUGH! That is because different workouts focus on functional fitness while also improving your sense of control, boosting your self-esteem and distracting you from negative thoughts.

**Parents:** It's always a good time to talk to your kids about fitness and why it's important. This is also a good way to bring up and talk to them about mental health, self-harm, and suicide. Talking with your children about these tough topics might feel tricky. However, conversations about it can come in many forms, and showing you'd be open to those conversations means they will be more likely to come to you should they experience a problem. Remember, not knowing things about these topics is OK. Just being available and open to talk about it will almost always help.

You  
MATTER

# NURSE'S CORNER

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## COVID-19 Vaccines Frequently Asked Questions for Parents, Guardians, and Youth Ages 12-17 Eligible for the Pfizer Vaccine

Provided by the Ohio Department of Health

Q: Are there vaccines available for children or teens?

A: Yes. In the United States, one COVID-19 vaccine has been granted authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in people age 12 and older – the Pfizer vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine had one of the largest clinical trials in history, with more than 43,000 voluntary participants. The other available vaccines, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, are currently authorized for those age 18 and older.

Q: I've seen a lot of rumors on social media about vaccines. How can I tell what is true?

A: The internet is filled with dangerous misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines, and it can be difficult to know what to trust. The best thing you can do is educate yourself about the vaccines with information from trustworthy sources. Learn more about finding credible vaccine information in this article from the CDC, and separate myths from facts on this page from the Ohio Department of Health.



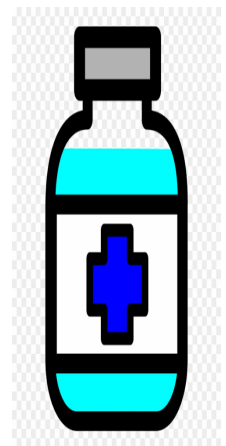
Wednesday October 6, 2021 is National Walk & Bike To School Day. Weather permitting, we'd like to encourage our students to either walk or ride their bikes to school this day.

## MEDICATION

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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

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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?

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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?

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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

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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

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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)

## Mask Protocols

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Just a reminder that masks are to be worn at all times while in the building, other than when the students are eating and drinking at lunch. Masks should fit under the chin and be worn up over the nose. If a student forgets their mask, we have extra ones at school that will be given to the student to keep.





# 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

## Parent—Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held:

Wednesday 10/27/21 from 4:00—7:30

Thursday 10/28/21 from 8:30—7:00

(Lunch Break from 12:00—1:00 & Dinner Break from 4:30—5:00)

Friday 10/29/21 NO SCHOOL

## Red Ribbon Week

October 11th –15th in Red Ribbon Week and each day will have a theme:

Monday 10/11—Be Brave, Be Bold, Be You...wear Red

Tuesday 10/12– Team up against Bullying...wear your favorite team gear.

Wednesday 10/13-Give Drugs/Bad Habits the boot....wear your boots to school.

Thursday 10/14-You have the POWER to make good decisions...wear a superhero shirt

Friday 10/15-Peace Out to Drugs....wear neon or a tie-dyed shirt to school.

## Halloween Events

Please stay tuned ...we will update you as information becomes available.





# Ottawa River Sprit Wear

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We have a brand new and exciting offer for you this month! See below for your image, message and link:

Need new Spiritwear for Spring? Now is the time to stock up! Save up to 30% with code SPRUCE21! Order now, this is a limited time offer!

P.S. Don't forget to like us on Facebook and Instagram! If you see a shirt from your school featured and you share it, we'll send you a FREE t-shirt of your choice!

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/1stplacespiritwear/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1st-Place-Spiritwear-104793921257678>

Use Code: FALL60-FS to get FREE SHIPPING on orders over \$60





## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!!!

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Kennedy Ankney  
Brodrick Butler  
Brayden Hamilton  
Aaliyah Sledge  
Camden St. Aubin  
Camila Ornelas  
Joliah Hardin  
Cesar Vasquez  
Randy Smith  
Karla Schieb  
Emily King  
Jackson Arthur  
Sylvia Hickam  
Noah Gonzalez  
Noe Martinez  
Harper Zapadka

Jocelyn Lisowski  
Caleb Knackiewicz  
Jaelyn Monk  
Delaney Howe  
Aiden Creswell  
Eva Dowdrick  
Riley Yeager  
Landyn Salyer  
Jalen Schwab  
Rosalie Murphy  
Madeyln Dobson  
Cheynne Jackson  
Gage Cramer  
Isis Sanders  
Hayden Bland  
Molly Gilbertson  
Addissyn Budd



**Students**  
**OF THE**  
**MONTH**





# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!!!

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Josiah Mahone 10/1

Sienna Pegish 10/1

Jaelyn Monk 10/3

Randy Smith 10/03

Connor Kruthaup 10/6

Khloe Schnatterly 10/7

Samuel Dowdrick 10/11

Forrest Ruetz 10/11

Elijah Zaborski 10/13

William Hull 10/15

Weston Conley 10/16

Eva Dowdrick 10/16

Caleb Hooton 10/16

Riley Yeager 10/16

Riley McElwain 10/17

Mia Lemons 10/18

Zoey Salyer 10/19

Andrew McGinnis 10/20

Eliana Dusseau 10/21

Cesar Vazquez 10/22

Dylan Ferrari 10/24

Ryker Allen 10/26

Emma Doster 10/27

Oliver Buck 10/28

Bentley Gullette 10/28

Sylvia Hickam 10/28

Emma Leu 10/28

Jayce Salyer 10/28

Logan Rainey 10/29

Devin Jones 10/31



## **Arrival Routine**

**A note to parents/guardians who will be DRIVING/WALKING their student(s):** • Doors open at 8:45 AM. Breakfast will be provided for home consumption. ***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.

### **Arrival Routine for All Students**

#### **Walkers and Car Riders**

- Masks must be worn by both students and adults during drop-off.

#### **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

As students enter the building they will need to have a mask on and will be given hand sanitizer.

- 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.
- While the building is not open to visitors (outside of needing to speak to someone in the office which will require a face covering), families are permitted to park in a designated parking space and walk their child to the door as long as all individuals are wearing a mask and practicing appropriate social distancing between families.
- 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 3:00. **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
- For the health and safety of our students and bus drivers, we are reducing the number of student riders per

# October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Picture Day	2
3	4	5	6 National Walk & Bike To	7	8	9
10	11 Red Ribbon Week Wear Red	12 Red Ribbon Week Wear Sport Team Gear	13 Red Ribbon Week Wear Boots	14 Red Ribbon Week Wear Superhero Shirt	15 Red Ribbon Week Wear Neon Or Tie-Dyed Shirt	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Parent/ Teacher Conferences	28 Parent/ Teacher Conferences	29 No School	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.**