

QUARTERS 3

February 2024



OTTER OUTREACH!

From the Principal



Ottawa River Families,

We hope that the new year has started off well for all of you. We are busy with learning and activities every day here at Ottawa River Elementary. Our focus remains to cultivate a positive climate and create the best learning environment possible. High quality instruction and student learning are our highest priorities. Everything that we do at Ottawa River is designed to help students learn in all areas and be successful well beyond their time in elementary school. Once again, that partnership between school and home is a key ingredient for student success. With that said, we hope that your students are feeling safe and supported. This is an interesting time in their lives and development, and can be challenging at times. If you have questions and or concerns, we want to hear from you.

It is hard to believe that we have passed the half-way point of the year. The 100th day of school will be here soon! Students are settled in routines and understand our school-wide expectations. Teachers have worked hard to create meaningful learning opportunities and teach school-wide behavior expectations. Consistency and predictability are key factors for student success, as well as a calm learning environment to better focus on learning.

The Boys & Girls club has been such a wonderful opportunity for our students and things have been going well. Remember you can sign up at any time for your child to attend. They must be 7 or 2nd semester 1st graders or older to join.

Please look for flyers for the upcoming Kindergarten event and Read -A - Thon that will take place in March. We're fortunate to work with your students every day. Thank you for allowing us to play a role in their development.

Educationally Yours,

Mrs. Tamra Griffin

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Ohio

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Important dates

Tuesday February 13th—Skating Party 4:00-8:00

Thursday February 15th—Daddy/Daughter Dance 5:30—7:00

Friday February 16th—NO SCHOOL

Monday February 19th—NO SCHOOL

OTTAWA RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

February
Newsletter

Random Acts of Kindness

Too many times, we forget the impact that simple gestures can make – a kind word, a lending ear, a comforting hug, or a warm and simple smile. We often forget that these simple things actually have the power to turn lives around and make someone's day brighter. This is exactly why National Random Acts of Kindness Day is being celebrated. To encourage everyone to spread kindness.

National Random Acts of Kindness is celebrated every February 17th. It first originated in 1995 in Denver, Colorado and in 2004, spread to New Zealand. The idea behind this celebration is to make the world a little brighter and better through little and simple kind gestures, words and actions. It isn't too much to do, really, but the way it impacts other people is what gives us the most rewarding feeling.

While National Random Acts of Kindness Day is observed on only one day of this month, sprinkling kindness around is something you do the whole year! As to how you will do it is entirely up to you.

- 1) Leave an anonymous sticky note for your co-workers**
- 2) Compliment someone**
- 3) Donate some groceries to a local food bank**
- 4) Surprise someone with some homemade meals or goodies**
- 5) Take time to thank the people you care about**
- 6) Reconnect with an old friend**
- 7) Donate dog or cat food to the animal shelter**
- 8) Run an errand for a busy family member**
- 9) Volunteer or help someone who needs it**
- 10) Be kind to yourself**

NURSE'S CORNER

Winter Layering Is the Way to Go

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends putting babies and children in one more layer of clothing than an adult would wear in the same conditions. Layering also allows kids to remove a jacket or sweater after walking to school, riding the bus, or coming in from the car into the classroom; instead of having to choose between being overheated or freezing.

Dress children in thin layers with a wicking layer beneath to help children keep dry. Start with the snuggler layers on the bottom, like long-sleeved bodysuits or long underwear. Then add pants and a warmer top, like a sweater or thermal-knit shirt. A thin fleece jacket over the top is a good option or a winter coat. Top it off with warm boots, glove or mittens, and a hat.

Keep in mind, layering your child with too much outerwear can actually make them colder. That is because excess layers can cause your child to sweat, which makes their clothes wet, allowing the cold and wind to bring their temperature down.



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 nurse's 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 nurse's 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 in Parent Portal and then provide proof to the School office and also 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. To maintain a disruptive free environment all visitors, parents, and guests are required to have an appointment with classroom teachers. 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)

Closing and Delays



It's that time of year again where occasionally it is necessary to close or delay the start of school due to inclement weather. If there is a possibility of severe weather, please tune into the local television or radio station after 6:00 A.M. If we are closed, it will be announced "Toledo Public Schools are closed." If there is a delay it will say, "Toledo Public Schools are on a two hour delay." A two-hour delay means we will start at 11:00 a.m. rather than 9:00 a.m. Morning busses will pick up two hours later than the normal times. Sometimes a two hour delay may change to a closing, so please watch and listen for an update. Please do not call the school for information on closing or delays.



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.

Coats, Hoodies and Sweatshirts

Please remember that, weather permitting, our students will be going outside for recess, so make sure that they are dressing warmly (coats, hats, gloves, etc.) Also, remember that your student may wear a hoodie (but not with the hood up) or a sweatshirt if they are cold while in the building.



Daddy/Daughter Dance

The PTO will be having a Daddy/Daughter Dance on Thursday February 15th from 5:30—7:00.



Ottawa River Sprit Wear

Looking for Spirit Wear to help keep you and your family warm?

Check out the Ottawa River Elementary School spirit wear sale. Right now you can get **FREE SHIPPING** on order over \$75



Presidents' Day

President's Day is Monday February 19th and there will be NO SCHOOL that day. There will also be no school on Friday February 16th. Everyone enjoy your 4 day weekend.





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!!!

Aarionna Sneed
Jackson Green
Gianna Pellizzari
Bella Hineline
Aaron Slater
Hellena Romanowski
Jaxon Shuman
Vivianna Dickman
Wynter Brooks
Carter Wilson
Kynslee Pellizzari
Aria Turner
Hudson Fritz
Nevaeh Hansen
Karleigh Morris
Randy Smith

Ezra Sanders
Karla Schieb
Henry Loomis
Eliana Dusseau
Connor Soto
Dalia Selvera
Lily Duquette
Ryan Evans
Maci Mack
Aaliyah Pallitta
Aiden Creswell
Jeremyah Henson
Sophia Paredes
Leah Jaffe
Kaleb Price
Aliciana Vazquez
Michael Binns



Students OF THE MONTH



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!!!

Colton Bohmer 2/3
Emma Mallory 2/4
Ezra Sanders 2/8
Jaycee Albain 2/9
Sofia Paredes 2/12
Leah Jaffe 2/14
Jaxon Manriquez 2/14
Kennedi Martin 2/14
Kylie Hill 2/16
Savannah Pegish 2/18
Jase Fifer 2/20
Angela Osley 2/20
Mila Brown 2/21
Makenna Heighland 2/21
Payton Wooley 2/24
Noe Martinez 2/25
Emma Stoner 2/25
Carter Stang 2/28



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. In order to keep the line moving, 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

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.

Pre-K will be released in the back parking lot.

K-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 curb 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.
- Students will have an assigned seat and bus drivers will keep a seating chart

February 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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|----|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 Skating Party 4:00-8:00 | 14 | 15 Daddy/ Daughter Dance 5:30-7:00 | 16 NO SCHOOL | 17 |
| 18 | 19 President's Day NO SCHOOL | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | |

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.