



# OTTER LAKE NEWS



March 2022

## Important Numbers

**Ms. Cynthia Mueller Principal-**

**651-653-2843**

**Leah Sitka Dean Of Students**

**651-407-7500 ext-2100**

**Main Office- 651-653-2831**

**Attendance Line -651-653-2832**

**Health Office- 651-653-2846**

**Nurse 651-653-2845**

**Kitchen 651-653-2839**

**Extended Day- 651-653-2834**

**Fax 651-653-2833**

**Transportation 651-407-7538**

**Emergency School Closing-**

**651-407-7540**



## Upcoming Dates

### March

**3/7-3/11-** Spring Break

**3/15-** PTA MTG 630-8pm (see pg 9 )

### April

**4/12-**PTA MTG 630-8pm(see pg 9)

**4/15-** No School Good Friday

**4/25-** No School



### Is your family returning to Otter? REMINDER for Kindergarten through 4th Grade Parents

If your child will not be returning to Otter Lake for the 2022-23, please notify Molly Franta in the Otter Lake office at 651-653-2831 or through email at [molly.franta@isd624.org](mailto:molly.franta@isd624.org). Thank you!

**A friendly reminder** to please refrain from bringing peanuts/trail mixes to school. We have had some issues around the building with mice and piles of food being found (peanuts amongst other food items). This is a health hazard and potentially affect our students in the building with **nut allergies**.

Thank you!





## Hello Otter Lake Families-

This month we begin our final Social/Emotional Learning unit: Problem-Solving and Friendship Skills. In our morning announcements and classroom lessons, we'll be reminding students to use the *Second Step* Problem-Solving Steps:

- S: Say the problem (without blame)
- T: Think of solutions
- E: Explore consequences
- P: Pick the best solution

These steps help students solve problems with each other in safe and respectful ways.

*Second Step* lessons specifically teach students to use each step and reinforce the message that solutions need to be safe and respectful. You will be receiving Home Links about the steps that describe why solving problems is important and including fun activities to do with your child to help him or her learn and practice the steps. We hope the steps will be helpful for you and your child.

In partnership,

Cynthia Mueller, Principal  
Leah Sitka, Dean of Students



## Parent Input Form for Classroom Placement

Our school team will be beginning preparations for the 2022-2023 school year. If you would like to provide our school team with any information related to your child's classroom placement, please contact Molly Franta ([molly.franta@isd624.org](mailto:molly.franta@isd624.org)) to request the parent input form. Parent input forms are due April 29, 2022. The purpose of this form is to communicate to our school staff your child's needs. **Please do not request a particular teacher**, rather, be assured staff will consider your child's needs as they relate to the needs of the grade level as a whole. Requests for a specific teacher are not guaranteed.

# March PTA Corner



We are so very *Lucky* to be part of OLE!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who make so many things possible for the students at OLE! We truly appreciate you and can't make these experiences happen without your help.

## Mark Your Calendars!

There are lots of great things happening at OLE, and you won't want to miss them! Pencil in the important dates below and continue reading the newsletter for more detailed information about these events.



### OLE PTA Meeting

We hope you will join us at our next PTA meeting! You can hear first hand about all the amazing things taking place at OLE.

**Tuesday, March 15th** at 6:30 pm in the OLE Media Center or join virtually.

### Upcoming Fundraisers

#### Butterbraid & Pizza Fundraiser

April 11th - May 2nd

#### Culver's "Concretes for a Cause"

April 18th - 24th

#### Chipotle Restaurant Fundraiser

June 1st, 4:00-8:00 pm

### OLE Carnival

The OLE Carnival is a new outdoor event this year!

**Friday, May 13th**

**Early Opening 4:15-5:00 pm**

**Open to Everyone 5:00-7:30 pm**

Want to help out? Come to the Volunteer Meeting on **Tuesday, March 15th** at 7:30 pm in the OLE Media Center (the meeting will follow the PTA meeting). We need a lot of volunteers to help plan this new carnival and make it a fun event for the OLE families and also raise money for important school programs! We hope you can join the team!

### We Are Monsters Student Musical

You won't want to miss OLE students in We Are Monsters! Mark your calendar now for the spring performances of We Are Monsters.

**Tickets go on sale March 14th**

Performances take place in the theater at the Maplewood YMCA.

**Friday, April 8th at 7:00 pm**

**Saturday, April 9th at 1:00 pm**

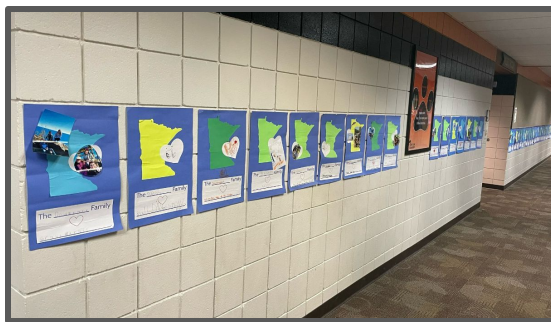
**Sunday, April 10th at 4:00 pm**

# Read-A-Thon Success!



## We are SO PROUD of OLE students for their amazing work during the Great Minnesota Read Together!

From February 14th - February 28th the school was transformed into a celebration of all things Minnesota! From reading by the campfire to finding the hidden mosquito, MN Fun was abundant during the Read-A-Thon!



Here is a short recap of where things stand:

**\$16,085 Raised**  
**506 Readers**  
**124,120 Minutes Read**  
**(That's over 86 days of reading!)**

**AMAZING JOB OLE STUDENTS!!**



# February Volunteer of the Month

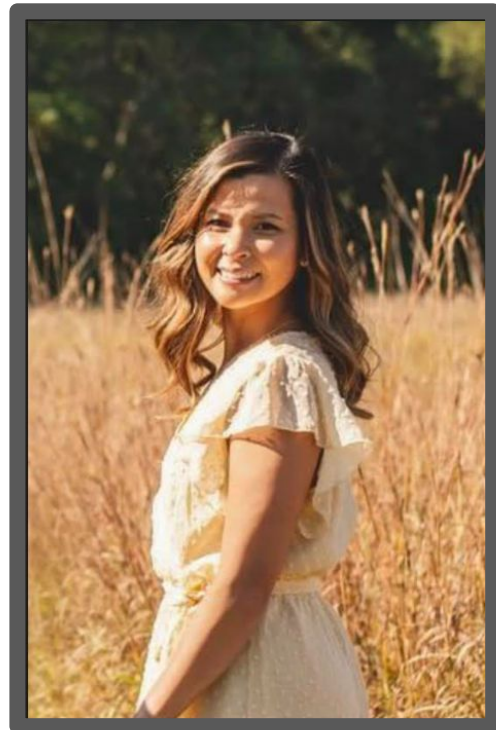
The PTA isn't possible without the tireless efforts of ALL our amazing volunteers! We will spotlight a great volunteer each month so that all of you can get to know the individuals who generously give their time and talents to the OLE community.

**The PTA January Volunteer of the Month is Vi Palmer!**

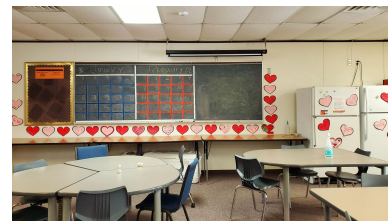
We have Vi to thank for all of the amazing things happening right now with the Read-A-Thon at OLE! She jumped right in as the new Read-A-Thon Chair this year and has done an incredible job! Want to learn a little bit more about Marija? Click the button below!

Thank you, Vi, for all you do to support the students at OLE! Your time and generosity do not go unnoticed!

[Click here](#) to get to know Vi!



## A Heartfelt Thanks to OLE Staff



Thank you to all OLE families who helped us spread the love to OLE teachers and staff! We sure hope they know how loved and appreciated they are each and every day!

## Teacher Appreciation

### February Teacher Appreciation



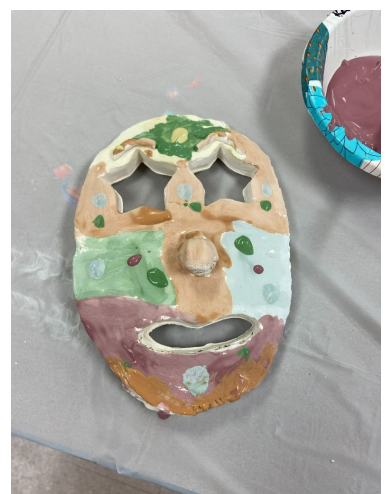
To celebrate "I love to read month," OLE teachers were able to pick out a book or two for their classroom. We appreciate everything the OLE Staff does each and every day for our students!



# OLE Art Update

Here is a peek at what OLE students have been working on!

- **Kindergarten** is doing their shape project, starry night, patterned after Vincent van Gogh.
- **1st grade** is working on their shape project called peaceable kingdom, patterned after Edward Hicks.
- **2nd grade** is creating their color project, concentric circles, patterned after Wassily Kandinsky.
- **3rd grade** has completed the clay formation of their coiled pots. They will be glazing in a couple of weeks.
- **4th grade** is making their shape project patterned after Henri Matisse
- **5th grade** is learning about 1-point perspective, patterned after a street artist Julian Beever, with their shape project.



# Box Tops for Education



Did you know that all Box Tops for Education are now collected digitally? The Otter Lake Elementary Student Council encourages you to continue collecting Box Tops using the app. It's easy, quick, and rewards OLE!



## BUY

### BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

**Look for the logo!** Be sure to check the full list of **participating products**, as some are not labeled.



## SCAN

### YOUR RECEIPT

Tap the scan button to snap a photo of your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



## EARN

### CASH FOR YOUR SCHOOL

Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated online.

The Student Council has seen their budget significantly decline since Box Tops went to digital only. We would love to help build that back up again! Downloading the app and scanning your receipts will make an impact! Thank you for helping!

### Student Council uses the funds for a variety of things such as:

- Providing mints to students for MCAs
- Donating money to the PTA for the carnival
- Adding donation funds or providing materials (t-shirts, color for color run, etc) for some of the fundraisers at OLE
- And many more!

[Click here](#) to get the app  
from Google Play

[Click here](#) to get the app  
from the App Store



**Support the OLE PTA when you Shop on Amazon!**



**You shop. Amazon gives.**

Supporting the OLE PTA when you shop on Amazon is easy, and it makes a huge impact! All you have to do is click the button below and sign in to your Amazon account. From there, select Otter Lake PTA as your charity. When you shop, make sure you are shopping on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon will donate a percentage of the price of your purchase to the OLE PTA each and every time! It's a win-win!

[Click here](#) to get started with  
Amazon Smile

**Have an Idea or talent to share? Join the PTA!**

**Become a PTA volunteer!**

The purpose of our PTA is to enrich the experiences of all students and the Otter Lake Community by sharing our time, talents, and treasure. You help make all this possible! If you are interested in joining the PTA, would like to volunteer, or have an exciting idea to share with us, please fill out the [volunteer form](#). We look forward to connecting with you!





# Meeting Dates for 2022

## **Meet with us in person or virtually!**

Meetings will take place in the OLE Media Center from 6:30-8:00pm. Child care is provided. Please remember that masks are required in the building at this time.

In addition to attending in person, we welcome you to attend the meeting virtually via Google Meet if that is a better option for you. Just click on the meeting date below to access the Google Meet. We hope to see you there!

Have a question for Principal Mueller to answer live at the meeting?  
[here](#) to add your question to the agenda.

[Click](#)

[March 15th, 2022](#)

[April 12th, 2022](#)

[May 3rd, 2022](#)

[May 17th, 2022](#)

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OLE PTA](#)

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