

# O'MALEY

## Innovation Middle School



### O'Maley Happenings – Thursday, November 2, 2017

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What's happening at O'Maley this week???

**PTO meeting** – tonight at 6:30 pm in the Library Learning Commons.

**NO SCHOOL** – for students Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> for Staff Professional Development.

**NO SCHOOL** – Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> for Veteran's Day.

**Early Release** – Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> for Parent/Teacher Conferences.

**WASHINGTON DC INFO**- Last spring when it was pointed out that the dates for the trip led into Easter weekend, it made sense to shift to the week after. The correct dates for this year's trip are April 4 thru April 7, 2018. Sorry for any confusion.

**Many thanks** to those who provided or purchased baked goods last Saturday. It was a very successful day.

**Our annual Calendar Raffle** is now underway. Any student traveling is welcome to participate in this fundraiser. The money each student raises by selling the tickets at \$5 each can go directly to that individual student's account. Gloucester businesses were especially generous this year and there are many nice prizes. Tickets are sold through the month of November and the winning begins on December 1st.

**Term 1** – ends on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Report Cards** – go home with students on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Does your child have an idea to make O'Maley – and Gloucester – even more**

**AWESOME?** - The O'Maley community has been invited to submit proposals to make O'Maley even more awesome. The top 2 proposals will be awarded \$1,000.00 to see their idea through. All proposals are due Wednesday, November 22. Come see and hear ideas on "Pitch Night" Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm in the O'Maley Library.

**O'Maley Academy Invites you .....**  
**Please join us at Jalapenos on Monday, November 6th!!!!**

**10% of all food purchases go DIRECTLY to O'Maley Academy!!!!**  
**If you can't join us grab some take out!**

We hope to see you all there!!! It's a fun way to support a fantastic program!

### **CAREER NIGHT**

November 15<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30 at O'Maley  
We have some special folks coming in who have quite interesting diverse careers and encourage all students to attend this very important event. O'Maley students will choose 3 professions that interest them to hear what it's like be in the field and what training/schooling is required. This O'Maley Academy event is open to the whole school and is part of our 21st Century grant that allows our after school programs to be free of charge. Parents are welcome to join.

### **ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE for Open**

#### **Door Food Pantry**

Food collection boxes will be in all homerooms from Nov. 7 - Nov. 21. Please send in non-perishable items such as peanut butter, canned meats, mixes, healthy snack items, cereals, pasta and sauces.

### **Attention All Students and**

**Parents** – The Lost and found will be out until next Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, all clothes left will be given to Charity!

**PAGE 2** - Please scroll down to page two of O'Maley Happenings to see an article that has been written by volunteer members of the O'Maley School community.

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### Project Based Learning at O'Maley

By: LaRae Davis and Adrienne Marden, 7th Grade Teachers, Phoenix House

From book reports to science fairs to posters and dioramas, we all have memories of school projects... and not all of those memories are positive! So when your child comes home with a “project” assigned, you might have fears of hair loss and tears over what that might entail. But rest assured, what O'Maley Innovation Middle School is doing with Project Based Learning (PBL) is an entirely different kind of work, designed with a deeper set of goals than producing a simple poster or report. This chart (from [studentsatthecenterhub.org](http://studentsatthecenterhub.org)) explains that PBL helps students learn not only the content they are studying but also 21st Century skills such as collaboration, initiative, problem solving, critical thinking and public presentation to authentic audiences. These skills were put front and center in the Innovation Plan that O'Maley adopted five years ago, and PBL is an important method used by teachers across all grade levels and in all subject areas, in fact, in many interdisciplinary projects.

### IS IT A PROJECT OR IS IT PROJECT-BASED LEARNING?

PROJECTS	VS	PROJECT-BASED LEARNING
Can be done alone		Requires collaboration & teacher guidance
About the product		About the process
Teacher-directed		Student-directed
Lack real-world context		Based on real world experiences/problems
Occur after the “real” learning		Real learning occurs through the project
All projects have the same goal		Student choices to determine the outcome

For example, students in 7th grade Phoenix House recently completed a PBL study of careers with the support of both their Math/Science teacher and their ELA/Social Studies teacher, with input from community adults that work in the careers being studied. They presented their projects to parents, school administrators and other visitors in the O'Maley media center last Friday. These may look like just a poster, but each student's work represents a whole new approach to learning.

