

O'MALEY

Innovation Middle School



O'Maley Happenings – Thursday, December 7, 2017

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

Dear Parents and Guardian,

This is the half-way point of the second term. Therefore, this is a reminder to check your child's academic progress through our parent portal. We will not be sending home a printed progress report.

Should you need assistance accessing the O'Maley parent portal, please contact your child's Assistant Principal. Should you not have computer access and need a paper report, please contact the office and we will print a snap shot of your child's current grades.

O'Maley's New Recycling Program – See Flyer attached

The Scholastic Book Fair in the O'Maley Library Learning Commons until tomorrow, Friday, December 8th.

O'Maley SAILS Talent Show!

*Save the date, our annual **Talent Show** will take place on Friday, January 19th. Sign-ups will be up next week in the guidance hall. We are looking for all kinds of talent, both individual and group acts up to 6 people, and it is open to all grades. Start early to practice your act over the vacation break!! If you are interested in helping with the talent show come to SAILS crew meetings! The Talent Show is always a fantastic O'Maley event!! See Ms. White for more information.*

DECA 3 on 3 - Do you want to play basketball? Sign up for the annual DECA 3 on 3 basketball tournament. Both boys and girls can sign up so ask your friends and get a team of 3 or 4 together for some fun on **Saturday, December 16th**. Flyer registration forms are in the main office.

Principal's Coffee – come enjoy a cup of coffee with Principal Lucey in the Library, take a tour of the school and meet your child's guidance counselor. **Thursday, January 18th at 9am.**

The raffle calendar - prize winners are announced daily through December on Twitter. @ Tweets by MyStrongWisdom – on the O'Maley Webpage.

Teen Night! Join the Fun! Cape Ann YMCA – Saturday, December 9th **from 6-8pm.**

O'Maley Academy Winter Sign Up – Sign-ups for the winter session afterschool programs are open and are online via a link on the O'Maley school website. Sign up now as programs fill up quickly! Check out the new program, O'Maley SEALS! Drama students do not need a new submission but all other programs do. The winter session begins Mon., December 18th.

Skating during Health and Wellness Classes - We are pleased to announce that beginning next week and running through February vacation students in our health classes will be able to use the Talbot rink for skating. Mr. Minuz's classes will participate on Tuesdays and Mr. Epple's classes will be there on Thursdays. If members of our community have skates or helmets they would like to donate to this program, please contact one of the teachers. Thank you.

WASHINGTON DC - For students not enrolled in the automatic payment plan, trips must be paid in full before February 16, 2018. You can pay through the tour company's website or by sending in a check made payable to O'Maley. Contact Mr. Strong with any questions.

Make O'Maley Awesome pitch night with Awesome Gloucester and GEF sponsoring on December 5th was a great success! The Grand Prize was awarded to "O'Maley TV merchandise presenters" (April Smith & Malia Andrews). The shared second prizes were for "Tablets for Art" (Logan Strangman & Christian Numerosi) and "Positivity Group for Imagination Station (Kyia Karvales & Alyssa Brown). Great job by all!

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The Teenage Brain: How it Works*

By: Michelle Murphy, M.S., M.Ed.

Have you ever wondered, “Why does my teenager act like that?” Well, neurologists have been studying the anatomy and physiology of the teenage brain using new imaging techniques and have come up with some answers for you. Basically, the teenage brain is a “Work in Progress”. Adults use their Pre-Frontal Cortex for executive functioning skills which are crucial thinking processes such as problem solving, planning, organization, self-control, attention, processing speed, and working memory. Most adolescence are functioning with a more primitive part of the brain called the Limbic System which is buried deep within the brain under the Cortex. It is the Amygdala, the emotional center of the brain, that directs their actions. Therefore, they have not developed the necessary skills needed to make the correct decisions and self-regulate their actions. Hence, they are children in adult bodies, and they often describe themselves as “uncomfortable in their own skin”. You add peer-pressure and hormonal factors to the mix, and it is no wonder why they can’t make responsible decisions.

So, how can we help them? Current research points to emotion as an important memory builder. They need to make meaningful connections with the adults in their life and be presented with novel topics. New and different ways of approaching education spark their attention and create a “buy-in” for learning. When they are interested in a topic, dopamine is released which creates a feeling of pleasure and keeps the student’s attention. Because they are so social at this age, group work is important to foster collaboration. This is why as an educational staff, we are constantly challenging our students in different and creative ways to learn the curriculum and instill a sense of belonging and safety within our school environment.

- Feinstein, Sheryl. *Teaching the at-Risk teenage brain*. Rowman & Littlefield Education, 2007.