As we welcome this beautiful holiday season, let’s reflect on how very fortunate we are to be able to work together to enrich the lives of our children.

Awesome Olsen Middle School is committed to academic excellence and sustaining a rich learning environment that fosters healthy social and emotional growth for each and every child.

Our students have had the opportunity to participate in several activities including Peace Week and Family Night, Multicultural Explosion, Spirit Week and our Awesome Olsen Pep Rally; a plethora of field trips including, but not limited to, our very first Awesome Olsen College Field Trip, Fall Family Awesome Olsen Dad’s Grill and 5k Festival, Thanksgiving Luncheon, and Thanksgiving Basket Giveaways.

We are thankful for the partnership with our Community Partners who provide mentoring and endless support to our staff and families.

Awesome Olsen Middle School Community Partner, Lighthouse Community Church, Pastor Greg Kritz, provided free school supplies to our teachers, were sponsors at our Fall Family Festival and church member, Brother Mack, also leads weekly mentoring and tutoring to our male students.

The Broward Sheriff’s Office supports our students through our phenomenal School Resource Officer, Deputy Dodge, and through sponsoring many benevolent events to benefit our students and families.

Many of our students were fortunate to shop with the Sheriff and also receive gifts to bring extra smiles during the holiday season. Our students were also able to be a part of a special motivational workshop by the Miami Dolphins organized by the Broward Sherriff’s Office.

We are thankful for our awesome community partners, students, staff, and parents. Best wishes during the holiday season and always!

Our awesome band director Ms. Kathryn Stark has been nominated by her peers in Broward County for the Tom Bishop Award. This award recognizes a Florida Bandmasters Association member who has gone into a band program and turned the program around, making a huge positive difference in a relatively short period of time in the position of band director!

Congratulations!
**Education is more than academics...**

**Awesome Olsen College Tour**
**November 1-3, 2017**

Students from Awesome Olsen Middle school had the opportunity to tour five college campuses in Northern Florida. Students toured University of Central Florida (UCF), Bethune-Cookman University (BCU), Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), Florida State University (FSU), and University of Florida (UF).

This three-day tour to these post secondary institutions definitely helped our students to make a connection between their career aspirations and the role of college in helping them to achieve their educational goals. Students learned about academic and extra-curricular activities, asked questions to clear up misconceptions, walked through the campuses, and had lunch on three of the campuses.

**Sophia Paulitre, 8th Grader**

“This trip was fun. I learned a lot about all the Colleges. My favorite part of the trip is when I visited FSU. The campus is large. According to the brochures and tour guides, this college has some very good programs. And best of all, you can have a pet on campus. The trip itself was really fun. I got to spend a lot of time with my friends and I loved staying at the hotels.”

**Ingrid Garcia, 8th Grader**

“I liked three of the colleges the best: UCF, FSU and FAMU. If I had to make a choice among the three, I would choose FAMU. It has an excellent music program. We weren’t invited to hear or see the band but the tour guide gave us some important information. I am also interested in the photography program because I aim to have a career in photography. This trip was very beneficial. I will recommend that all my peers go on this tour.”

**Messages of Peace**

Peace baskets were delivered to our feeder schools and partners.

**Fall Family Fitness & FUN**

**Dolphin players Visit Awesome Olsen**

What a privilege!

Thanks BSO for organizing this visit. Our students were excited to interact with the Dolphin players and learn some new drills.

**GIVING Thanks**

Student volunteers and Sarah Akiba from Angels Watching Over Me preparing Thanksgiving baskets to send home to 100 of our families.

**Attention Parents**

Title I Parent Training Academy workshop is on Thursday December 14, 2017 at Atlantic West Elementary School from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. The workshop’s theme is "Improve Your Writing With the Vibrant Use of Creativity."

Refreshments will be served, child care offered and great door prizes given away at this wonderful event. Please make every effort to attend.
**Digital 20 Homework Plan**

Students at Awesome Olsen Middle school are expected to complete homework on a daily basis. Homework counts as a weekly grade.

The Digital 20 Plan includes:
- 20 minutes of vocabulary on vocabulary.com
- 20 minutes of MyAccess Writing
- 20 minutes of Gizmos Math on explorelearning.com
- 20 minutes on Gizmos Science on explorelearning.com
- 20 minutes of independent reading

**Math**

Math teachers at Awesome Olsen Middle school are incorporating technology into their lessons on a daily basis. This year, our math department is using Gizmos math and i-Ready.

i-Ready is used to improve math skills. The online program helps assess individual needs and monitors progress throughout the year. The lessons are fun and interactive, with games and characters to keep students engaged. Students have log-in information from their homeroom teachers.

Students are also assigned Gizmos math for homework. Explorer Learning Gizmos are interactive, online simulations that drive conceptual understanding in Math. Gizmos improve understanding of key concepts and bring Math to life for today's students!

Students can access this program from anywhere with an Internet connection.

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**Winter Learning Packages**


We plan to help you stay on track.

Students at Awesome Olsen Middle School will be receiving a learning package to complete over the winter break. These packages which cover both remediation and enrichment activities will be given to students on Friday, December 9th. Students will turn in completed packages to their respective teachers on Friday, January 12, 2018. Students may start working on these packages as soon as they receive them. This way, even if you are going out of town or are too busy over the holidays, they will have enough time to complete them.

If they should misplace the packages, don’t panic! Visit our school’s website and print another copy.

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**Reading Across Broward**

In an effort to motivate Broward students to incorporate reading into their daily lives and foster a lifelong habit of reading, the Superintendent's Reading Motivation Project was instituted. This program, Reading Across Broward, is voluntary for schools and for students.

Students at Awesome Olsen Middle School are encouraged to participate in this program. Students who read and record titles of a specified number of books between April 1st of one year and March 31st of the following year will receive special recognition. Students who read 30 or more books or 20 books in 5 genres will receive the Superintendent’s Honor Roll.

Reading Across Broward forms are available from your English Language Arts teacher.

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**We aim to create an environment where students continually learn**
**Box Tops for Education**

**How Box Top works:**

Buy participating products such as cereals, paper products, frozen foods, household cleaning supplies, etc.

Clip box tops from each package.

Send box tops to Awesome Olsen Middle school. Students at our school have received a Ziploc bag from their first period teachers.

Box tops are worth 10 cents each.

Ms. Andrews, our Box Top coordinator will submit them for cash!

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**Reimagining Middle Schools**

According to research, the middle grades are a time when adolescents experience immense social, emotional, and physical changes (Rodriguez, 2016).

Our mission at Awesome Olsen Middle school is to ensure that every student excel, whether it is core courses or electives. We aim to help our students in grades 6 – 8 become who they want to be by providing innovative and meaningful learning opportunities.

This school year our students have the opportunity to take courses such as Band, Physical Education, Speech and Debate, Physical Education, Journalism, Florida Virtual courses, Creative Writing, Research, Microsoft Certification and Virtual Enterprises International (VEI). We plan to offer more electives next school year so that students can make a choice and take an active role in the learning process.

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**School Counseling Department Updates**

**Ms. Rochelle Dalley, Guidance Director**

**Naviance**

Students can access this invaluable resource through the Broward Single Sign-On. Naviance guides students through academic, career, and social planning. Under the “About Me” tab, students can set goals for their success and list tasks to complete toward their goals. They can explore colleges and universities and set a course towards their future. This tool includes a portfolio that the students access throughout middle school and into high school.

All students have had the opportunity to explore Naviance during the school day, but this is a tool that can be accessed at home or on the go! We encourage students to log in and explore!

**Magnet Schools**

Awesome Olsen hosted a High School Magnet Showcase during the first week of December 2017. Broward County Public High Schools presented information to our 8th grade students about the programs offered at their schools. Open House information on the campus of each Magnet and Technical High School was also presented. This was a great opportunity for students to get a jump start on planning for their transition to High School.

**Girls Group & Mentoring**

The AWOM (Angels Watching Over Me) Girls Group continues to meet during student lunches. Ms. Sarah Akiba mentors our young ladies and allows them a “safe space” to share experiences and work towards solutions for personal and social concerns. During the Holiday Season, Ms. Akiba has offered support that benefits many of our students experiencing both highs and lows. We’re thankful for this mentoring opportunity!