



The Oberle Update

Honoring King

The idea of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a holiday was promoted by labor unions in contract negotiations. After King's death, U.S. Representative John Conyers and U.S. Senator Edward Brooke introduced a bill in Congress to make King's birthday a national holiday. The bill first came to a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1979. However, it fell five votes short of the number needed for passage. Two of the main arguments mentioned by opponents were that a paid holiday for federal employees would be too expensive, and that a holiday to honor a private citizen would be contrary to longstanding tradition (King had never held public office). Only two other figures have national holidays in the U.S. honoring them: George Washington and Christopher Columbus.

Soon after, the King Center turned to support from the corporate community and the general public. The success of this strategy was cemented when musician Stevie Wonder released the single "Happy Birthday" to popularize the campaign in 1980 and hosted the Rally for Peace Press Conference in 1981. Six million signatures were collected for a petition to Congress to pass the law, termed by a 2006 article in *The Nation* as "the largest petition in favor of an issue in U.S. history."

Senators Jesse Helms and John Porter East led opposition to the holiday and questioned whether King was important enough to receive such an honor. Helms criticized King's opposition to the Vietnam War and accused him of espousing "action-oriented Marxism". Helms led a filibuster against the bill and on October 3, 1983, submitted a 300-page document to the Senate alleging that King had associations with communists. New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan declared the document a "packet of filth", threw it on the Senate floor and stomped on it.

President Ronald Reagan originally opposed the holiday, citing cost concerns. When asked to comment on Helms' accusations that King was a communist, the President said "We'll know in thirty-five years, won't we?" in reference to the eventual release of FBI surveillance tapes that had previously been sealed. But on November 2, 1983, Reagan signed a bill, proposed by Representative Katie Hall of Indiana, to create a federal holiday honoring Dr. King. The bill had passed the House of Representatives by a count of 338 to 90, a veto-proof margin. The holiday was observed for the first time on January 20, 1986.

The bill also established the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission to oversee observance of the holiday, and Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King Jr.'s wife, was made a member of this commission for life by President George H. W. Bush in May 1989.

Counseling Corner

Independent Living Matters

January 20, 2016 from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Let the General Assembly know what matters to you. Learn what legislation could affect the lives of people with disabilities in VA during the upcoming GA session. Also, learn how you can let your State Delegate or Senator know how legislation will affect you or your loved one and what you can do to make a change. It's your future - your voice matters!

RSVP: www.independentlivingmatters.eventbrite.com

National Alliance on Mental Illness - Rappahannock Affiliate (NAMI-R)

Provides educational programs and support for family members and consumers living with mental illness.

540-899-2719 or www.nami.org

Wellness, Recovery, Action, Plan (WRAP)

Mental Health Info: Depression, Anxiety, Stress, Local Resources, National Resources

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540-373-3223

Kennedy Center Excursions

Students traveled by charter bus to attend a fabulous performance of "Matilda" at the Kennedy Center on December 18, 2015. Staff and students had an amazing time watching the musical and learning "even if you're little, you can do a lot!" Thank you Mr. Bryant, Ms. Snead, Ms. DuBois, and Ms. Dillow for chaperoning. A very special thank you goes out to Ms. Pickover for arranging the trip and chaperoning!

Students are invited to attend the musical "Bright Star" on January 8 (Friday) at 7:30 PM. Tickets are given to students who demonstrate good behavior at school and on a "first come, first served" basis!

Word of the Month: FAIRNESS

January Lunch Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Thursday	Friday
4 Cheseburg Pasta Bravo	5 Huli Huli Chix Rice Broccoli	6 Ruben Sandwich Potato Salad	7 Turkey Sub Pretzels	8 Pizza Celery Milk Shake		
11 Beef Stroganoff Grn Beans	12 Chix Curry Carrots Raita	13 Tuna Sandwich Apple Squash Soup	14 Hot Dogs Potato Chips Celery	15 Pizza Carrots Split Second Cookies	16	
18 HOLIDAY	19 Peruvian Chix Yucca Rice	20 Macaroni & Cheese Spinach Rolls	21 Ham Spiral Sandwich Popcorn	22 Pizza Salad Chocolate Pudding	23	
25 Tacos Corn Chips Salsa	26 Fried Chix Mashed Potatoes Collards	27 Egg Salad Sandwich French Fries	28 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup	29 Pizza Cucumber Spears Cake		

Important Dates:

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Reminders to Students:

1. New clubs will meet on Wednesday, February 3. If you have an idea for a new offering, please share it with staff.
2. Yoga is practiced on Thursday mornings. Interested students should see Ms. St. Clair.
3. Failure to abide by the electronics policy will result in confiscation of the device. Do not abuse this privilege!

Reminders to Parents:

1. Be sure to stop by our Open House in February to meet your child's new teachers and discuss their progress. More information to come!
2. During inclement weather students are to follow their home school schedule for delays and cancellations. To inquire about an Oberle School delay or cancellation call 540.372.6710 and listen for the message recording. You can also tune in to B101.5. Saturday school days are scheduled on our school calendar and will be applied if the Oberle School closes due to weather.
3. Gradelink grants anytime access to your child's educational and behavioral progress. Contact Mrs. Vaughn for information.

Bulldog Barks

Happy Birthday!!!

Sean- Jan. 1
Jabrell- Jan. 2
Dalton- Jan. 8
Dante- Jan. 10
Donovan- Jan. 14
Taylor- Jan. 15
Anthony- Jan. 28

***SCA and the Interact Club rang bells to collect money for the Salvation Army on Tuesday, Dec. 15. Thank you Ms. Nuzum and Ms. Blankinship for volunteering. ***

***Students visited Hughes Nursing Home and Poet's Walk Alzheimer Care Facility on Monday, Dec. 14 and Thursday, Dec. 17 to Christmas Carol! Thank you Ms. DuBois, Mr. McGowan, Ms. Blankinship, and Ms. Nuzum for volunteering! ***

***Congratulations to the following students who earned reward day to the Spotsylvania Towne Centre on Tuesday, Dec. 22: Jackson, Cameron, Sarah, Donovan, Bobby, Raegen, Cody, Libby, Lee G., Josh L., Jake D., Jeremy S., Poilar, Sean. Keep up the excellent work! ***

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