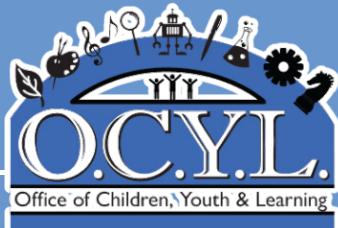


JANUARY 2026

The OCYL Newsletter



The Mayor's Office of Children, Youth & Learning



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

With each new year at OCYL, I'm honored to serve our amazing community and work alongside so many talented educators and dedicated staff. But when parents drop off their children for a preschool class or after-school program, all of us here really feel blessed- thank you for sharing them with us!

Our annual home heating program has begun, so families in need will be supported again this winter. We ask you to consider a donation, no matter the size, as every penny counts!

Best wishes to all this New Year!

~Liz White



WHAT'S NEW FOR 2026?

One of our strengths at OCYL is creativity- coming up with exciting new programs, new curriculum, and new ways of engaging students!

One new program for teens and their parents focuses on how to thrive through these transformational years. Ben Gettinger, a local substitute teacher & OCYL teacher for several years, is offering his expertise as a stepfather of teens and teen life coach. He has a passion for combining life experiences with wisdom to help parents and teens thrive during the adolescent phase. Register online now!

Other new OCYL programs include:

African Folktales and Innovators, Drawing & Painting, Electronics Autopsy, Let's Get Physics-al, Minecraft Engineering, and several new coding programs, including VEXcode VR!

Watch for more new and favorite programs when we open Spring registration in March and our Summer Camps and Class Sessions in April!

••• HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM •••

HELP KEEP OUR NEIGHBORS WARM!

Every year, our goal is to raise \$5,000 for the Annual Home Heating Assistance Program by February. This is managed by the OCYL as a service-learning opportunity with local youth via a youth council.

Every donation counts, and we need your help!



Please scan this QR code or go to Paypal to donate by copying & pasting this link:

paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=VNGVZ4U99JSZS

See page 4 for how to send a check or cash.

Applications for families in need are available to print from the OCYL website or pick up at OCYL, Town Hall, & the Library



★ EARLY CHILDHOOD HAPPENINGS ★



MUSIC & MOVEMENT & PROCESS ART



Our Early Childhood Education program offers engaging Adult-Child classes designed for young learners and the grown-ups who learn alongside them.

Families can enjoy:

- Music and Movement classes that encourage rhythm, coordination, and joyful expression
- Process Art classes that focus on creativity, exploration, and hands-on discovery.

These classes support early development while creating meaningful shared experiences between adults and children. Learn more and register for Spring on 2/25 at www.ocyl.org.



DATES TO REMEMBER



for more information:
Call 475-0929 and ask for the
Early Childhood Education Coordinator, Lori Beauregard

**Early Childhood
Education** @OCYL

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR High School Juniors & Seniors



Join us for an important Service Learning Opportunity!

The Home Heating Assistance Program has helped numerous families pay for their heating bills each winter.

Juniors and Seniors are invited to volunteer on the Home Heating Assistance Council to help with this annual program. Students will drive fundraising efforts, learn about basic home budgets, and community advocacy in a meaningful and tangible way. Register online now!



FEBRUARY VACATION

We're offering two exciting programs that run Tuesday through Friday:

Resin Creations, from 9:00–11:00 AM, where students will learn to make art with resin. Led by Miss Jillian, campers will create magic wands, fairy sticks, keychains, and more! For Grades 3-5.

African Folktales & Innovators, from 12:30 - 2:30 PM, in celebration of Black History Month. Led by Ms. Rachel, this program brings exciting folktales and fables to life. Campers will hear stories and use STEAM principles to design, and create innovative projects. For Grades 1-4

Registration is now open!



••• EXPRESSIVE ARTS CLUBS •••

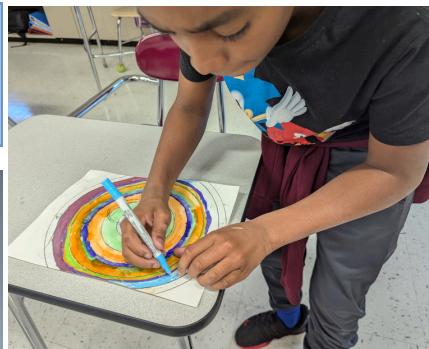
Expressive Arts Clubs at McCourt and North Cumberland Middle Schools are free again this Winter thanks to a grant from the Arts & Health Initiative of the RI State Council on the Arts.

Students continue to amaze us with their insight and self-awareness! In this afterschool program, they have time to socialize, relax, have snacks, and improve their well-being through creative and effective arts and wellness strategies learned and practiced in community together.

Students explore decreasing stress, mindfulness techniques, music and more along with the visual art activities each week in a safe, welcoming, non-judgemental space. The snacks are free too!

All are welcome! No "art" skills needed!

This year's teachers are Ben Gettinger and Greta Kroessler. Reminder: pick up is at school @ 4 pm.



WINTER 2026 Teachers & Instructors

Early Childhood Program:

Literacy/Number Sense (Level A):

Lead Teacher: Marcy Sanford, Teacher Assistant: Isabel Neves



Literacy/Number Sense (Level B):

Lead Teacher: Lori Beauregard, Teacher Assistant: Stacey Galego

Movement & Music (preschool and adult/child): Ashli Gilles

Preschool Science: Isabel Neves

Process Art (preschool and adult/child): Amber Morrison

Lunch Assistants: Mrs. Sanford, Mrs. Tammy Leso

K- 12 Programs:

African Folktales & Innovators: Rachel Briggs



Art Workshop: Cindy Dixon

Blast Off Into Coding: Kayla Pontbriant

Drive, Spin & Solve with VEXcode VR!: Kayla Pontbriant

Electronics Autopsy: Rachel Briggs

Chess: Bob Salvas & Ed Paguagua

Code: The Challenge: Kayla Pontbriant

Coding Beginner/Intermediate: Alix Milone

Creation Labs: Deb Cohen

Drawing & Painting: Greta Kroessler

Expressive Arts:

 @ Middle Schools: Greta Kroessler & Ben Gettinger

 @ OCYL Thursdays: Greta Kroessler

Home Heating Assistance Council: Ben Gettinger

Minecraft Engineering: Deb Cohen

Music Lessons- Guitar/Keyboard/Voice: Lon Plynton

Open STEAMshop: Deb Cohen & Greta Kroessler

Parent/Teen Workshops: Ben Gettinger



Thank You to
Our Amazing

Teachers!
We are so
grateful for the
time, talent,
and passion
you continue to
share with our
youth. Your
dedication
makes all the
difference!



TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES:

-Afterschool: Circuitry, Robotics, send resume to:

mmania@cumberlandri.gov

-Early Childhood Substitutes, send resume to:

lbeauregard@cumberlandri.gov

OCYL: Creating Lifelong Learners

We believe that the out-of-schooltime hours and preschool years provide an invaluable opportunity for each child to engage and explore in their own learning through unique, enriching educational programs.

OCYL is committed to supporting the development of life-long skills necessary to succeed: collaboration, communication, creativity, critical thinking, social-emotional awareness, and a sense of community through Early Childhood, our STEAMshop and Youth Development Programs.

Administrative Staff:

Director: Liz White

K-12 Programs Coordinator, Meghan Mania

Early Childhood Education Coordinator, Lori Beauregard

Finance/Human Resources Assistant, Christine Domen

Marketing Assistant, Corey Anne Abreau

Registrar, Tammy Ducharme

OCYL is a municipal department established in 2007

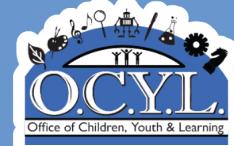


DONATIONS

Donations can be made to the Home Heating Assistance Program, Expressive Arts and General programs via PAYPAL via the code or this link:

[https://www.paypal.com/donate?
hosted_button_id=VNGVZ4U99JSZS](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=VNGVZ4U99JSZS)

Donations by check, payable to "TOWN OF CUMBERLAND-OCYL" can be mailed or dropped off at 1464 Diamond Hill Road, Suite 2 Cumberland, RI 02864.



The Mayor's Office of Children, Youth & Learning

1464 Diamond Hill Road
Suite 2 @ the Cumberland Monastery
Cumberland, RI 02864

Phone: (401) 475-0929 X 1
Email: ocyl@cumberlandri.gov

