

Odyssey Charter School

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS BULLETIN

Visit our website at www.odysseycharterschool.com

Odyssey Charter School - Upper Campus
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HOME OF THE TITANS



OCTOBER 15, 2012

CALENDAR

Oct. 19	KONY 2012
Oct. 23	MS Report Cards Issued
Oct. 23	Morning Math Tutoring & Enrichment Begins
Oct. 23	OCS Board Meeting – 5:15 pm Upper Campus
Oct. 20-25	Red Ribbon Week
Oct. 26	Dress Down Day
Oct. 29	Parent/Student Conferences – 6-8 pm
Oct. 31	Early Release – 2:30 pm
Nov. 9	Veteran's Day Salute – Program
Nov. 12	Veteran's Day – Student Holiday
Nov. 14	MS Glee Club Auditions

WELCOME INVISIBLE CHILDREN

On Friday October 19th, the Invisible Children organization will visit our Upper Campus students. They will share a film that has been designed for young people, called MOVE, that is a behind-the-scenes look at the viral video KONY2012, the organization behind it, and the movement that made Joseph Kony famous. The KONY2012 movement is composed of a global community of people, young and old, who are committed to bringing a permanent end to the violence and recruitment of child soldiers in Central Africa.

Their philosophy: We believe in the equal and inherent value of all human life. We believe that a worldview bound by borders is outdated and that stopping injustice anywhere is the responsibility of humanity everywhere."

The purpose of this study is to show our students that they can care for and make a difference in the lives of others. The presentation will teach them what they can do to help people locally or around the world. Your family will also be offered the opportunity to support Invisible Children financially by purchasing merchandise, such as tee shirts and wristbands, the day of the presentation. Any student purchasing a T-shirt will be allowed to dress down in their Invisible Children shirt on Monday, October 22.

The film can be previewed at invisiblechildren.com. Parents who do not want their student attending, should contact Christine Watt at the front desk by Thursday, October 18th, and alternative arrangements will be made.

YEARBOOK PRE SALES

This year's Yearbook will be over 90 pages, full color, and for the first time will sport a custom hard cover. It will be for the entire school and will include our new Sports Teams. (Go Titans!)

We are having a pre-sale on Yearbooks! For one week only, from Monday, October 22nd through Friday, October 26th, yearbooks will only cost \$26. (The price will go up later in the year to \$32.) Please send a check made out to Odyssey Charter School to your student's homeroom. Be certain to put your child's first and last name on the check's tagline.

TITANS SPORTS NEWS

MS Girls Volleyball: On October 18th and 20th the girls' volleyball team will be playing at Rockledge Christian School. The start time for both dates is 5:30pm. Then on October 20, they will participate in a six-team double elimination tournament at Calvary Chapel in West Melbourne. Game times have not been determined as of yet. Coach Padilla has been putting in lots of time with the girls. There are fourteen girls on the roster who have been practicing very hard since the start of the season. Thank you to the school's Enrichment Program for supporting the purchase of the volleyball equipment.

MS Boys Basketball: The season will kick off on November 1, Thursday, at Florida Air Academy. The game time is 5:00 pm. The team has been practicing on Tuesdays and Thursdays under the leadership of Mr. Butler and Mr. Washington.



MS REPORT CARDS & PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

MS report cards will be issued Tuesday, October 23rd. Please be certain to ask your child for their report card. Parent/Teacher conferences for students attending the Upper Campus will be held on Monday, October 29th from 6-8 pm. Conferences can be scheduled via email with each teacher which can be found on our website at www.odysseycharterschool.com or phone the school at 321 345-4117.

ARRIVING SOON... UPPER CAMPUS SAFETY PATROL

Over the course of October the Upper Campus will form a safety patrol. Students should inform their homeroom teachers if interested. The patrol's main duties on the Middle School campus will be to increase safety by enforcing school rules and by increasing the respect of fellow students. Students must be able to arrive on the campus early, be recommended by a teacher or Safety Patrol sponsor, have good citizenship, and be responsible. Class average must be a "C" or better. For more information, please contact Coach Padilla at padillaj@odysseycharterschool.com.

WAKE UP TO MATH - MORNING MATH TUTORING BEGINS

Odyssey teachers are very committed to educating our math students and providing necessary remediation. It is absolutely essential that we prepare your student with a strong foundation in math. Parents and caregivers, we are asking for your full support in this effort. Students will work on strengthening the specific math skills they are weak in.

Math tutoring will begin on the Upper Campus for below grade level math students on Tuesday, October 23, from 7:35 - 8:35 and will run every Tuesday and Thursday through April 4th. The math teacher will notify your student in writing if tutoring is required. If your student presently qualifies for bus ridership, they can take the first bus ride in to the Lower Campus each morning and will be dropped off on the Upper Campus for tutoring. For more information, please contact Mr. Chace at chacej@odysseycharterschool.com.

CALLING ALL MATHEMATICIANS! ALGEBRA ENRICHMENT BEGINS

Parents, Algebra Enrichment will begin concurrently with tutoring for students currently on or above grade level. If your student is presently an Algebra student or if your 6th or 7th grade student excels in math and plans to take the Algebra Entrance Exam in the Spring 2013 and Algebra during the 2013-2014 school year, this Algebra enrichment course is for them. Offered through "The Great Courses" DVD series taught by Director of Undergraduate Mathematics at Penn State, Professor Sellers, this course will be supported by Odyssey math teacher extraordinaire, Mrs. O'Dea. Algebra plays a key role in preparing students for higher education. Students preparing for college need to have mastered Algebra in order to start off on the right foot for their undergraduate careers.

We hope you will highly encourage your student to attend this class for extra math enrichment. The course begins October 23rd and will run through April 4th. Like tutoring, Algebra enrichment students who already qualify for bus ridership will be offered a bus ride to the Upper Campus to arrive 1 hour before school begins on Tuesday and Thursdays. For more information, please contact Mrs. O'Dea at odeaa@odysseycharterschool.com.

8th grade students presently not in Algebra will receive this course after FCATs in the Spring through their regular math coursework.



PE REMINDER

Beginning Monday, October 15th, all students will receive both PE and Instructional Technology every other day. Teachers will review the schedule with students to make certain they understand their schedule. Students may dress out with appropriate athletic attire in the school's locker rooms. Locks are optional.

MS GIFTED PROGRAM

The Upper Campus gifted program is underway. Middle school gifted students will be pulled out once weekly to participate in the Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI). The program "stimulates critical and creative thinking skills, encourages students to develop a vision for the future, and prepares students for leadership roles. FPSPI engages students in creative problem solving within the curriculum and provides competitive opportunities." The problem students will grapple with this year is about **Megacities**. Megacities are cities with populations over 10 million people. By 2030, it is estimated that 3 out of 5 humans on the planet will live in cities. Big cities are often also home to high levels of poverty, unemployment, and crime. Should this immense growth be a concern? Students will look at what special methods will be required to govern such highly populated places, particularly where the residents hail from a diverse range of ethnic and religious backgrounds. What other problems will challenge the urban citizens?

MS GLEE CLUB AUDITIONS

Do you love singing? Well, here's something to sing about! We are starting an Upper Campus Glee Club. Auditions will be held in Mr. Hoffman's music room on Wednesday, November 14th from 4-5 pm. If selected, students will meet on Wednesdays starting December 5th from 4-5 pm and will work toward their performance in May. Parents will need to provide transportation home for their students each week. The cost will be a one-time fee of \$20.00. The May performance will be a middle school rendition of the musical "Grease". Students who try out for Glee Club are encouraged to join the drama elective in January. This will enable them to learn not only the script in Drama but also the musical lyrics in Glee Club. If you have any questions, please email Mr. Hoffman at hoffmang@odysseycharterschool.com. Audition forms will be handed out to middle school students soon. So get out your 50's tunes and get ready for "Grease!"



FLVS – FLORIDA VIRTUAL SCHOOL UPDATE AND SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT SUCCESS - Ms. Castro

Wow! Where do I start? Sarah David, Jacob Cook, and Sabrina Tapia finished Drivers Ed in six weeks! Way to go! All three now have earned high school credit through FLVS! Imani Randall signed up for Business Keyboarding, which has four modules. She is already working in module three. Imani has good leadership skills because she has been able to assist her classmates. The interaction between the students is incredible and I really enjoy watching their leadership skills grow as they learn how to help each other. Austin Gullo, Weston Wood, Olivier St. Louis, and Xavier Thomas have been challenging each other in Computing for College & Careers class. Currently Austin and Olivier have been exempt from some of the module because they are passing a pretest, which allows them to move on. The goal is to finish by next month. Here's a high-five to all of our motivated FLVS students and to all students who are giving it their best. Great job!

Many parents have stopped by our classroom to learn how FLVS works so they can help their children from home. Parents, please know our door is always open to you. It is important for you to understand how to get around in the program, so I'm here to help. If you have any additional questions, stop by or email me at castrol@odysseycharterschool.com.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

Still Looking for a Few Good Parents (& Dads—We Need You!)

Our first meeting for the new Athletic Booster Club was held on Tuesday evening, October 9, 2012. Many ideas were talked about and the plan is to replace the funds that were used to buy equipment for the sports programs that have been started and to raise "seed" money for ongoing sports activities. We are looking for parents to be a part of the booster club and would love to bring in a few active sports dads in our club as well. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Castro at 321-345-4117 or email: Castrol@odysseycharterschool.com. I look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your partnership in helping your students become great athletes. A special "shout out" for Ms. Kennedy, mother of Dylan, for acquiring donations and sports equipment from community businesses.

LEARN, LEAD, SERVE AS A CADET IN THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

Do you want to fly? Do you want to honor and serve America? Then rise to the challenge of cadet membership in the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol. Benefits of cadet life include developing leadership skills, solidifying moral values, succeeding in school, and exploring potential careers. Students ages 12 and up can join as a cadet. Meetings are every Tuesday at the Upper Campus. For more information on the Civil Air Patrol Program and on annual dues and uniform expenses, please contact Captain Richard Bosch at boschr@odysseycharterschool.com and/or visit GoCivilAirPatrol.com.



MS EXAM DATES – WINTER BREAK

First semester exam days will be Monday – Thursday, December 18-20. Parents, we ask that you please do not schedule vacations during middle school exam time. Winter break will begin on Friday, December 21.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Learning in your sleep

By Stephen Ornes

www.sciencenewsforkids.org

Sleeping and learning go hand in hand, studies have shown for years. Even a brief nap can boost your memory and sharpen your thinking. But the relationship goes deeper than that. In a new study, scientists report that the brain can actually learn something new during sleep.

Scientists used to believe that a sleeping brain was taking a break. But it turns out it can be taught a thing or two, scientists reported in a scientific journal published in August.

"The brain is not passive while you sleep," neuroscientist Anat Arzi told Science News. "It's quite active. You can do quite a lot of things while you are asleep." Arzi researches olfaction, or the sense of smell, at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel. She worked on the new study.

Arzi and her coworkers didn't try to teach the sleeping volunteers any complex information, like new words or facts. (So sleeping on top of your study notes won't boost your grades.) Instead, the scientists taught snoozing volunteers to make new connections between smells and sounds.

When we smell something nice, like a flower, we automatically take deep breaths. When we smell something bad, like the stench of a dumpster, we automatically take short breaths. These natural reactions maximize our exposure to good smells and minimize our exposure to bad ones. Arzi and her coworkers based their experiment on these reactions and the knowledge that our senses don't turn off while we slumber.

Once the volunteers fell asleep in the lab, the scientists went to work. They gave the volunteers a whiff of something pleasant, like shampoo, and at the same time played a particular musical note. The volunteers didn't wake up, but they did hear — and sniff deeply. Then the scientists gave the volunteers a whiff of something repulsive, like rotten fish, and played a different musical note. Again, the volunteers heard and smelled — a short snort this time — but didn't wake up. The researchers repeated the experiment while the volunteers slept.

After just four repetitions, volunteers made a connection between the musical notes and their paired smells. When the scientists played the musical tone that went with good smells, the sleepers inhaled deeply — even though there was no good smell to sniff. And when the scientists played the musical tone that went with foul odors, the sleepers inhaled briefly — despite there being no bad smell.

"They learned what the tone signified," Arzi concluded.

The next day, the volunteers woke up with the sound-smell connection intact. They inhaled deeply when hearing one tone and cut their breaths short when hearing the other. Which must have been odd for them: Imagine walking down the street and taking a deep breath upon hearing a particular sound!