

# Odyssey Charter School

## Lower Campus NEWS

Sept. 2013

"Committed to academic excellence and the education of the whole child"

OCS Lower Campus: 1755 Eldron Blvd. S.E.  
Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-733-0442

OPA / OCS Upper Campus: 1350 Wyoming Drive  
S.E. Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-345-4117

Visit our website at [www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com)

## OUR MISSION FOR EVERY CHILD

The mission of Odyssey Charter School is to work in partnership with the family and community, with the aim of helping each child reach their full potential in all areas of life. We seek to educate the whole child with the understanding that each person must achieve a balance of intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual and social skills as a foundation for life.



### Open House

Don't miss Open House evenings for your student! Your child will have the opportunity to share what they have been working on in class. Teachers are looking forward to showcasing the ways they have made learning fun and engaging with each of their students. Please keep in mind that during Open House nights, teachers won't be able to accommodate individual meetings. If you have any concerns or would just like to speak with your child's teacher regarding his/her progress, feel free to communicate by sending an email or requesting an appointment.

Sept 10 – 3rd/4th Grade Open House @ 6:30 p.m.  
Sept 11 – 1st/2nd Grade Open House @ 6:30 p.m.  
Sept 12 – 5th/6th Grade Open House @ 6:30 p.m.  
Nov 7 – KG Open House @ 6:30 p.m.

### Early Release Dates for 2013-2014

OCS has 10 Early Release Days during the school year for the purpose of professional development and teacher collaboration. Students at the lower campus are released at 1:30 p.m. on the following days:

August 28, 2013  
September 11, 2013  
September 25, 2013  
October 16, 2013  
October 30, 2013  
November 20, 2013  
January 15, 2014  
January 29, 2014  
February 12, 2014  
February 26, 2014

Note – all students must be picked up by 2:00 p.m. Bus students will arrive approximately 1.5 hours early to their bus stops.

## CALENDAR - Sept. 2013

Aug 16-Sept 6 – 1st/2nd Grade Nature's Vision Catalog Fundraiser  
Aug 30 – Dress Down/Clean-Up Day  
Sep 2-6 – MAP Testing  
Sept 4 – 4th Grade Info Night @ 5:30 p.m.  
Sept 9 – Student Holiday/ Professional Development Day  
Sept 10 – 3rd/4th Grade Open House @ 6:30 p.m.  
Sept 11 – 1st/2nd Grade Open House @ 6:30 p.m.  
Sept 12 – 5th/6th Grade Open House @ 6:30 p.m.  
Sept 13 – First Interim Ends  
Sept 16-27 – PasP Read-a-Thon Fundraiser  
Sept 19 – Secondary & Elementary Interims Issued  
Sept 21 – Florida Coastal Clean-Up  
Sept 25 – Early Release Day  
Sept 27 – Dress Down/Clean-Up Day  
Sept 28 – National Estuaries Day Festival  
Oct 4 – Student Holiday/Professional Development Day

### Dress Down Days

Odyssey Charter School will have 10 Dress Down Days during the school year. The students may dress out of uniform in regular clothes on these days. Students must follow the Brevard County Dress Code on Dress Down Days. Dress Down Days will follow a theme approach with recommended dress held on the following days:

Friday, August 30 (College Day)  
Friday, September 28 (Patriot Day)  
Friday, October 25 (You Make The Call)  
Friday, November 22 (Dress like the Principal)  
Friday, December 20 (Red, White, or Blue)  
Friday, January 31 (TBA)  
Friday, February 28 (TBA)  
Friday, March 21 (TBA)  
Friday, April 25 (TBA)  
Friday, May 23 (TBA)

### OCS Board of Directors Meetings

Parents and staff are encouraged to attend Board of Directors meetings. Board meetings begin at 5:15 p.m. The Odyssey Board of Directors meetings for the 2013-2014 school year are as follows:

August 29, 2013  
October 15, 2013  
January 14, 2014  
April 15, 2014  
June 17, 2014

## News Flash: Uniform Update

Parents, your concerns regarding a variety of affordable options for cold weather outerwear have been heard. The uniform policy has been changed to allow students to wear ANY navy/black jacket or sweatshirt. You may still purchase the OCS logo jacket at our uniform provider, All Uniform Wear. It is still also acceptable to wear a solid color black or white long-sleeved shirt under an OCS uniform shirt. Please remember that students MUST wear the OCS logo school shirt at all times.

## 4th Grade Info Night

Attention all 4th graders and their families! Don't miss 4th Grade Info Night! The 4th grade team has exciting and important news to share with you. Topics will include the 4th Grade Wax Museum Project, Writing Curriculum, and the St. Augustine annual field trip! Families will meet on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at 5:30pm in the OCS Lower Campus Healthy Café.

## Tardy Policy

After safety, student learning is our top priority. Students are expected to be in their seats by 7:55 a.m. ready to learn. Students arriving to school after 8 a.m. will need to be walked into the office by a parent and signed-in to obtain a tardy slip and enter the classroom. If your student is consistently late, or if your student is not being signed in by a parent or a guardian, please expect a courtesy call from the school. We are your partners in expressing the importance of punctuality and responsibility to your child. We thank you for making the effort to get your child to class each day and on time.

## Parents – Have you started earning your volunteer hours yet?

All of our parents are valued members of our volunteer team and are key stakeholders in their children's success at school. Make sure you are planning how to fulfill your volunteer requirement of 18-25 hours for the school year. Opportunities for volunteering are sent out in our newsletters and through the Odyssey parent e-mail list from Donna Marcinik, our volunteer coordinator. Ms. Donna can help you find volunteer opportunities that best align with your availability. If your classroom teacher has a volunteer opportunity for you, please make sure you make arrangements to check in with Ms. Donna. As the volunteer coordinator, she will track your hours and ensure all safety/screening requirements have been met if you will be chaperoning or helping on campus. Stop in and say hello – you can find Ms. Donna at the front desk on our Lower Campus. She can also be reached by phone at 321-733-0442 x101 or email: marcinikd@odysseycharterschool.com

## Birthday Policy

Odyssey has adopted a Birthday Celebration Policy, which solely focuses on the essence and uniqueness of each child. Birthdays and holidays are not celebrated with food. Snacks, sweets, or other prepared foods of any type will not be served to students. Birthday recognition and any related activities are at the discretion of each teacher. Social and personal growth is encouraged via the sharing of student life histories/timelines, favorite books and/or hobbies. For more information on the school's Wellness Policy or Birthday Policy, please visit our website at [www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com).

## Safety First at Arrival & Dismissal

Remember to follow these tips to keep traffic flowing and students safe. If you are using the car loop....



- Be sure to honor the 5mph posted speed limit
- Refrain from using cell phones
- Do not use Pineapple Cove's parking area
- Always display your carloop pick-up sign in your window
- Remember, when turning onto Eldron, RIGHT turns ONLY during arrival and dismissal times
- Reserve disabled parking for vehicles with disabled parking permits
- Always drop off children at the designated orange cones – no where else in the carloop area

## Student Check Out

Students may be checked out of school by their parent/legal guardian, or a designee specified in writing by the parent/legal guardian. When checking a student out of school, photo identification must be presented to our front office staff. Students may not be checked out after 2:00 p.m.

In order to maintain the order and focus in our classrooms, we ask that you not bring forgotten items to your student during the school day.

We are your partners in expressing the importance of regular attendance to your child. We thank you for making the effort to get your child to school each day and finishing each school day at the set dismissal time.

## Student Medication

Any students requiring medication during the school day must have a parent check the medication into the front office and fill out the appropriate medication form. Students may not bring medication to school at any time. If a student requires an asthma inhaler on his/her person, the inhaler must be checked in through the office and must be accompanied by a doctor prescription stating that the child must carry the inhaler with them at all times.

## Student Insurance

Brevard County Schools are not responsible for paying medical expenses due to accidents or injuries that occur during school, sports, or other activities. If your child is not covered under a healthcare policy, you may be interested in the low cost Student Accident Insurance Plan. The plan can provide supplemental coverage if you already have a plan, or provide basic coverage if you have no insurance. Plan options are also available if you choose to add other benefits such as extended 24 hour coverage and dental coverage. Rates are designed to be affordable and start at \$10 for elementary students for coverage at school for a 9 month term. Forms are available in the front office and should be returned to the insurance agency office. You can also enroll or find out more at [www.schoolinsuranceofflorida.com](http://www.schoolinsuranceofflorida.com).

## Coming Soon!

OCS Offers lots of ways to have fun and get involved. Look out this fall for more information regarding the following clubs and activities.

Safety Patrol, Sports, Glee Club, Extracurricular Activities



## Bully-Free Zone

Odyssey Charter School is committed to providing a safe learning environment and will not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind. In August we hosted guest speakers from the Palm Bay Police Department. They had the opportunity to share an anti-bullying presentation with all of our 4th, 5th and 6th graders. Throughout the school year, our instructional staff teach tolerance and respect through lessons and activities that increase cultural awareness and celebrate our differences. Our school-wide theme for this year is also "respect and responsibility".



Encourage your children to report incidents of bullying so we can stop it in its tracks! Incidents of bullying or harassment can be reported to the principal, Dr. Ryan, at [ryanr@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:ryanr@odysseycharterschool.com) or 321-733-0442 ext. 110. Anonymous reports can also be made by calling the Speak - Out Hotline at 1-800-423-8477.

To learn more about bullying and find out what adults can do to help prevent it, visit the Stop Bullying Now website at [www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov).

## Parents as Partners PasP Event Update: Bingo for Books!

Bingo for Books was the first of many events the PasP team is planning to host for the 2013-2014 school year. PasP is Odyssey's parent involvement team. The PasP team works hard to plan school-wide fundraisers and family events to keep the important home-to-school connection alive. Dr. Ryan thanks all the participants who came to out to support this event:

"Bingo for Books was a very worthwhile event with many parents and students participating in the food, entertainment, and the engagement of families for the kids. I want to thank Mrs. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Archibald, Mrs. Rotstein (our servers), Ms. Koenig, and all other teachers and staff who helped to make this night enjoyable for all. If this was an indication of parental support for kids we are moving in the right direction."

The PasP team needs your help! Whether you can volunteer your time/ talents for an hour or to devote your energy to a full project, please contact Kristi Harris at [Kristi.harris.1@gmail.com](mailto:Kristi.harris.1@gmail.com). Here's a quick peek at some of the upcoming events PasP is looking forward to in October:

Original Artwork Fundraiser  
School Harvest Masquerade/Dance



## Tutoring

Parents who are curious about Odyssey's tutoring program – stay tuned for more information. OCS offers a free tutoring program to all 3rd-6th graders at the Lower Campus. The Upper Campus will also offer free tutoring as well. Tutoring is intended for any students who received Level 1 or 2 FCAT scores the past school year.

## Healthy Café

Odyssey has a full service cafeteria ready to feed healthy, fresh meals made daily for all of our school community and their families. Parents and siblings are welcome to sign into the front office and join their student for lunch.

Payment for breakfast and lunch can be made by check (made out to Odyssey Charter School) or cash. Payment may be brought to the classroom where the teacher will record the payment information. Families may make out one check for multiple children – please note on the check the amount per student. Prepayments are always welcome.

A la carte items range from \$0.50 to \$1.50 and are strictly optional to purchase. If families do not want their children to have the option of purchasing a la carte items, please inform the Café Manager or Cashier.

If your child has allergies to any foods, please send in a doctor's note. If your child has a milk allergy and would like juice served to them at lunch, the doctor's prescription must state that juice should be substituted for milk.

Healthy Café Prices:

Breakfast - \$1.00 (full pay); \$0.30 (reduced price\*)  
Lunch - \$2.50 (K-6th full pay); \$0.40 (reduced price\*)

Free and \*Reduced prices are for students who qualify for either a free or a reduced price meal according to the Federal School Lunch Program. All families are strongly encouraged to fill out free and reduced lunch forms during our registration. If you would like a form, please contact the front office or the café.

## Give Back to OCS With Target

Simply go to <http://givewith.target.com/> and select Odyssey Charter School in Palm Bay, FL and vote for it weekly until September 21 or until \$5 million has been awarded, whichever occurs first. It takes just 25 votes to start. After that, Target will donate \$25 to your selected school. Upon receiving 25 votes, each additional vote equals \$1 more for up to \$10,000 per school.



### Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
  - Step 2: Contact Principal if unresolved with the teacher
  - Step 3: \*\*Contact Constance Ortiz at Green Apple School Management Company
  - Step 4: Contact the President of the Governing Board
  - Step 5: Present issue at the next monthly Board of Directors Meeting if unresolved
  - Step 6: Seek mediation with the Sponsor
- \*\*Constance Ortiz, Odyssey Founder and Green Apple School Management Central Florida Director, has been designated by the OCS Board of Directors as the Representative to Facilitate Parental Involvement, provide access to information, assist parents and others with questions and concerns, and resolve disputes according to charter requirements. Ms. Ortiz can be reached at [cortiz@greenapplesm.org](mailto:cortiz@greenapplesm.org), or 321-216-7525.