

NEWS

APRIL 2012

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

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 much achieve a balance of intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual and social skills as a foundation for life.

FCAT NEWS

We have successfully completed our first round of FCAT assessments – the February FCAT Writing Assessment! Our 4th and 8th grade students were well-prepared and ready for this assessment. Thank you to our students for their hard work and concentration during the assessment. Thank you to our parents, teachers and staff for all their support of these students.

Coming up next is our FCAT Reading (3rd-8th grades), Mathematics (3rd-8th grades), and Science (5th & 8th grades) assessments, with our testing window from April 16 through 27. The children have worked hard all year on mastering the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in order to be prepared for these assessments.

NEW! This year, our 6th grade students will take the Reading FCAT online as a computer-based assessment. Students will have opportunities to practice online prior to the test date.

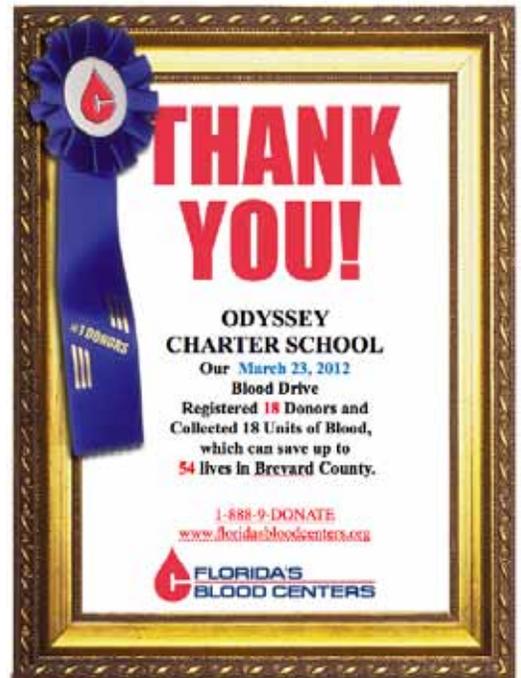
You can help ensure your child does his/her best by:

- Making sure your child attends school regularly.
- Encouraging your child.
- Ensuring your child eats a healthy, well-balanced diet.
- Making sure your child completes homework assignments.
- Staying connected with your child's teachers.
- Ensuring your child is well rested for school.
- Making sure your child arrives to school on time.
- Encourage your child to practice FCAT Explorer at <http://www.fcatexplorer.com>

"Let's work together to make this a positive, low-stress experience for our students." - Wendi Nolder, Principal

CALENDAR

- ▶ **April 4** – Spring Photos
- ▶ **April 6** – No school
- ▶ **April 7** – Egg Hunt @ Major's Golf Course 3:30
- ▶ **April 11** – Last Day of After-School Tutoring
- ▶ **April 12** – SAC meeting @ 1:30
- ▶ **April 14** – Angler's Earth Day Event
- ▶ **April 16-20** – FCAT Testing 3rd-8th Grade
- ▶ **April 20** – 1st/2nd Grade Field Trip to Oaks Theatre
- ▶ **April 22** – Earth Day
- ▶ **April 24** – Fourth Interim Ends
- ▶ **April 24** – Board Meeting @ 5:15
- ▶ **April 27** – Grant/Seppi Publix Field Trip
- ▶ **April 30** – Field Day K-2 @ Liberty Park
- ▶ **May 1** – Interim Reports Issued
- ▶ **May 2** – Field Day 3-5 @ Liberty Park
- ▶ **May 4** – Field Day 6-8 @ Liberty Park
- ▶ **May 11** – 8th grade Prom



EARTH DAY 4.22.12

This Earth Day will mark the 42nd anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Since that first earth day, we have made great strides globally and nationally that have finally brought environmental concerns to the forefront. We have come a long way from the gas guzzling cars, toxic sludge freely flowing into water systems, and smog as products that were commonly accepted in the past as signs of an industrious and prosperous nation. Thank goodness! Everyone is gradually becoming more eco-conscious, realizing the effects modern civilization has on the delicate balance of our wonderful and amazing planet.



Here at Odyssey, we pride ourselves in our beautiful, sustainable facility that was specifically designed to be eco-conscious as well as offer your child an optimal learning environment. You may have guessed the natural day-lighting we are able to take advantage of in the classroom is a benefit in the form of savings on our electricity bill, but did you know it is also good for your child's mood and performance? And, that's just one of many features that makes our school building special. Next time you are on campus, take a look at the green and white signage we have posted around the school and you will see even more about the attention and detail that has gone into our unique facility.

In the classroom and in the lunchroom, we are also working with your child to raise awareness and concern for each other, the environment, and our health. Our café offers some tasty and nutritious meals, often with fresh produce from local farms. Teachers integrate nutrition lessons into the school week, teaching our future generation that honoring the balance in our bodies is just as important as keeping the balance of the planet.

Connections are made and have more meaning for kids when lessons learned at school are reinforced at home. So, this earth day, we challenge you to read a book, attend an earth day event, or even make a single change at home that will help your family take one step closer towards a healthier you and a healthier planet. Read on for some ideas and resources to get you started. Thanks for choosing Odyssey to be your partner in educating and helping your child reach his or her full potential! Happy Earth Day!

*Read a book! Search the internet or your library for books about the earth and environment.

*Get dirty! Beautify your yard or front door by planting native plants and flowers. Or, start a vegetable garden and research organic growing methods.



*Take a day trip! You can search www.earthday.org for Earth Day 2012 events in Florida. Or, pick up a copy of Brevard Parent or MOMS magazine for local event ideas.

*Eat well! Local farmer's markets offer the most delicious produce. Talk to the vendors and let your kids ask questions about where and how the vegetables are grown. Downtown Melbourne Sat 10:00am-3:00pm. Super Flea Fri-Sun 9:00am-4:00pm. The Avenue Viera Tues 4:00pm-8:00pm.

*Challenge your family! Try cutting out TV and video games for a day, a weekend, or a month. Save electricity and stimulate your brain cells by choosing to find other activities to relax or entertain yourself.

ANGLERS FOR CONSERVATION

The Anglers for Conservation is coordinating a nationwide Fish Earth Day event between April 14- 21, 2012 in celebration of Earth Day. In partnership with many other like-minded organizations the Anglers for Conservation intend to set a Guinness World Record for the number of kids and families participating during this week long educational event focusing on fishing fundamentals and conservation.

Kids ages 6 to 16, are welcome along with their parents. The first 80 kids registered will receive a free rod and reel. Registration is mandatory by calling the Palm Bay Community Center at (321) 952-3443. The Hook Kids on Fishing program will take place at The Lagoon House at 3275 Dixie Hwy in Palm Bay. For more information, contact info@anglersforconservation.com.

MUSIC NOTES



Volunteer Opportunity!

We are in need of parents who have sewing skills to help with costumes for our upcoming performance of Best of Broadway. Having a sewing machine is a plus. Please contact Mr. Hoffman at hoffmang@odysseycharterschool.com if you are interested in donating some time for volunteer hours.

Glee Club Extended Practice

Glee club will be meeting from 2:30 until 5:00 during the month of April and first week in May. "The Best of Broadway" performance should be during the 2nd week of May. The exact date will be forthcoming.

EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE

There will be an Easter Egg Scramble At the Majors Golf Course on Saturday April 7th 3:00 PM until 6 PM. Local merchants support this event- come out and meet your Merchants of Bayside. There will be merchant prizes, food vendors, bounce houses and train rides. Bring your basket and be ready for fun!



Age groups start scramble at the following times.
3:30 Ages 0-2 | 3:45 Pet parade | 4:15 Ages 3-5
4:30 Ages 5-7 | 4:45 Bonnet Contest | 5:00 Ages 8-13

For more information please contact us at www.merchantsofbayside.com

ECO-SUMMER CAMP AT ODYSSEY!

Dates: June 4th- July 27th (Closed July 4th)

Hours 8:00-4:00 (Before and After Care Provided for extra fee)

Summer Camp Tuition

\$25.00 Registration Fee

\$70.00 tuition per week

Before Care: 7:00am-8:00am- \$5.00 per week

After Care: 4:00pm-6:00pm- \$10.00 per week

Sibling Summer Camp Discount of 10%

Sibling Registration Fee \$10.00

Summer Camp Activities

*Activities subject to change based on enrollment and weather

Session One: Florida Oceans (June 4-15)

- Field trip to Canaveral National Seashore
- Field trip to the Movie Theater
- Ocean Study
- Cooking Class
- Soccer Class
- Water Play Day
- Computer Club
- Reading Club
- Art Club



Session Two: Florida Wildlife (June 18-29)

- Field Trip to Brevard Zoo
- Field Trip to the Bowling Center
- Wildlife Study
- Soccer Class
- Cooking Class
- Computer Club
- Reading Club
- Art Club



Session Three: Florida Plants and the Environment (July 2-13 *closed July 4th)

- Field Trip to the Land Fill
- Field Trip to the Skating Center
- Plant and Environment Study
- Butterfly Gardening
- Kick-Ball Class
- 4th of July Celebration
- Computer Club
- Reading Club
- Art Club



Session Four: Gopher Tortoise and Summer Celebration Week (July 16-27)

- Field Trip to Lion country Safari (Field Trip Fee of \$20.00 per student/\$5.00 for each additional sibling)
- Field Trip to Wickham Park- (Cookout, Fishing, Hiking, Relay Races and Games)
- Gopher Tortoise Study
- Cooking class
- Kick-Ball Class
- Computer Club
- Reading Club
- Art Club



POSITIVE DISCIPLINE WAY MINI-WORKSHOP

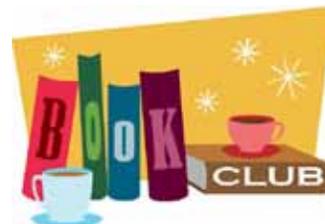
The Parenting the Positive Discipline Way Mini-Workshop will be Friday, April 27th from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Dinner and child care will be provided.

Parents, are you feeling challenged by your kid's power struggles, poor attitudes, lack of follow through, homework struggles, sibling conflicts or something else? Then we invite you to come learn some common sense solution based on Positive Discipline.

What is Positive Discipline? Positive Discipline is for parents who are looking for long-term parenting skills that will encourage their children to think for themselves, become more responsible and have a greater respect for themselves and others. The teachings of Positive Discipline are filled with non-punitive, respectful methods that will incorporate kindness and firmness into parenting, help parents get to the core of their child's misbehavior, bring more joy into the home and give parents a sense of accomplishment. This class is for parents and caregivers of kid's age 0-18.

Please invite family and friends who may benefit from the powerful message of Positive Discipline. For more information please contact the Education Specialist, Michelle Sutton at 321-733-0442x107 or email her at suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com

FRIDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB



Students, do you have a favorite book that you would love to share?

Would you like to meet

each week to talk about books with your friends? Then join us for our Friday afternoon book club. Our first meeting will be Friday, April 27th! Students will meet directly afterschool in the Café. Book Club will run from 3:00pm-4:00pm.

The book club is designed for students in upper elementary and middle school (4th-8th grade). Students will participate in focused discussion, active listening, supporting opinions with evidence and encouraging others. Beginning in May, the students will choose the book the club would like to read and will be taught how to lead a book club meeting. Each week a different student will be in charge of selecting the discussion topic and leading the meeting. The club will meet during the summer break. The day and time of the meeting will be announced in May.

A book club registration form will be sent home to all 4th-8th grade students in early April. To sign your child up for the book club, please complete the form and return it to Michelle Sutton. If you have questions about the book club, please contact Michelle at 321-733-0442 x 107 or email her at suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Our 8th Grade Ceremony will be held on Friday, May 25 at 8:30 AM. The ceremony will honor our 8th grade students for all their hard work and celebrate the beginning of their high school years – a new and exciting point in their lives! All students will be recognized on stage for the completion of the academic program at Odyssey and special awards will be given to some of our outstanding achievers. Families are invited, of course, to share the success of their student's hard work and join us in reminiscing of days gone by. We have watched the 8th graders learn and grow with us – some since Kindergarten – and we are looking forward to sharing this special day with our families.



Students in the ceremony should dress appropriately to present themselves at their best. Ladies should wear a conservative "Sunday" dress or pants outfit. No bare shoulders or hemlines above mid-thigh, please. Gentleman should wear pants/slacks with a dress shirt/polo or a suit. Congratulations to our middle school "graduates" as they move closer to young adulthood!

VPK OPEN HOUSE

Odyssey's Montessori Village Green preschool is accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year. The VPK program is a Montessori program that guides children in discovering language, math, science, geography and nutrition education. To learn more about our program, please join us for an open house on Friday, May 18th from 6:30-7:30.

The open house is designed for parents who may have questions about the Montessori Method or the VPK program and are in the process of deciding what VPK program is right for their child.

The open house will begin at 6:30 with light snacks and an opportunity to meet the teachers and corporate director. At 7:00 there will be a brief presentation on the Montessori Method and the VPK program. Children are welcome to attend the open house.

**KEEP UP TO SPEED AND
CHECK OUR SCHOOL
WEBSITE WEEKLY!**

www.odysseycharterschool.com



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 Academia Central Florida 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, Academia 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@academicacfl.org, or 321-676-8737, ext. 2001.

ART & SCIENCE FAIR

The Art & Science Fair was hosted again this year at Melbourne Auditorium on March 22nd. Odyssey is so very proud to have some winners! Kudos to our fabulous art teacher, Ms. Karina, for your hard work and thoughtful projects that bring out the inner artist in all of our students. Special thanks to the science teachers for their dedication and for all the behind the scenes effort that goes into organizing the science projects each year.

Congratulations to the following students who won an award for their special projects:

Science Awards:

Raelin Snyder (4th grade) - 4th Place,
Environmental Division

Art Awards:

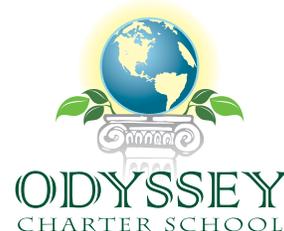
Ashley Hamilton (6th grade) – 1st Place
Jacob Smith (5th grade) – 3rd Place
Michaela Creighton (2nd grade) – Merit Award
Naia Macpherson (1st grade) – Merit Award
Gian Sepulveda (3rd grade) – Merit Award
Violet Sibol (1st grade) – Merit Award



FIELD DAYS

It's already April and the annual Odyssey Charter School Field Days are quickly approaching! They will be held at Liberty Park on the week of April 30th-May 4th. All K-2nd grade classes will participate on Monday, all 3rd-5th grade classes on Wednesday, and all 6th-8th grade classes on Friday.

The theme this year will be "Fun Through Fitness." We look forward to these events all year long, and PARENT VOLUNTEERS are absolutely necessary to having a successful and very enjoyable three days for our students. We also need ALOT OF WATER to stay hydrated during the day and PING PONG BALLS for certain activities. Please contact Coach Steven Crouchley (crouchleys@odysseycharterschool.com) if you would like to volunteer for Monday (K-2nd) or Wednesday (3rd-5th); and Coach Padilla (padillaj@odysseycharterschool.com) if you would like to volunteer for Friday (6th-8th). Also, if you are able to donate bottles of water and/or ping pong balls, please let Coach Crouchley know as soon as possible. Thanks!



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