

NEWS

FEBRUARY 2010

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

OUR MISSION FOR EVERY CHILD

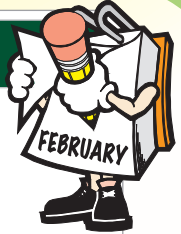
The mission of Odyssey Charter School is to work in partnership with the family and community, with the aim of helping each child reach their full potential in all areas of life.

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.

CALEN

CALENDAR

- ▶ **Feb 6:** PTO 5K Run/Walk
- ▶ **Feb 9-11:** FCAT Writes
- ▶ **Feb 11th:** PTO Meeting - Glee Club performs 6 pm
- ▶ **Feb 15:** Presidents Day - No school
- ▶ **Feb 26:** Jump Rope For Heart - Dress down day



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Odyssey Families,

I am sure by now you have heard about our 5K Run/Walk on February 6th at 8:00 a.m. Please come support our PTO which supports our children and our young people. I am also pretty sure you know that the FCAT Writing test for fourth and eighth grades is coming up the week of February 8th. Please be sure to support our children with positive, supportive talk, good food and rest at home. March holds more testing for us as well in third through eighth grades, and our children need our support. All of our faculty and staff work diligently to provide a safe, challenging environment and appreciate your help.

If you did not hear about our science fair in the past few weeks, you must have been living under a rock! From kindergarten through sixth grade, variations of science projects were explored or presented. The categories were challenging and our children really stepped up to the challenge. If you did not know, we have installed our fifth Honor Society. Our newest group of talented students is in the area of music. Mr. Hoffman led the induction of the Tri-M music honor society just last week, and I must admit I was very proud. All of the Honor Society advisers put tons of time and energy into their group and really add a positive element to our school. Please encourage your children to find their passions in school and pursue them. The happiest people you and I know are the ones who do what they love, what they are passionate about. We hope to help our children light that flame.

As always, keep in touch: revisr@odysseycharterschool.com, or 7330442 x. 107.

Love,
Dr. Revis

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



Odyssey would like to thank our business partners for recent donations of food and gift items to our school.

- Fellowship of United Methodist Church
- Tropical Fruit Trees & More
- Standard Publishing Services, LLC
- Bayside Lakes Dev. LLC
- Home Depot in Palm Bay
- Papa John's Pizza, Bayside Lakes
- Publix Supermarket
- Winn Dixie
- Major's Golf Course
- Brevard Florist
- Emma's Florist
- Beautiful Bouquets & Baskets
- Larry Cherry & Mary at Sam's Club
- Ace Hardware
- Home Depot
- Lowe's

WHO'S TEACHING OUR KIDS? YOU? OR THE MEDIA?

From Linda Baker, Odyssey's Media Specialist

I was reading from the January newsletter of "commonsensemedia.org" and wanted to share with you some excerpts from an article about who's teaching our kids-- you or the media?

The Kaiser Family Foundation has studied media use in our kids' lives. Each time, the study can be summed up in one word: MORE. All this media has an enormous impact on children. If they're spending more time watching TV, playing video games, listening to music, and going online than they are with their parents or teachers, whose messages about life are they absorbing? Yours? Or the media's?

Kids ages 8-18 spend more time with media than they do with their parents or in school. Clocking in at a whopping 7 hours and 38 minutes a day, that's more time than they spend sleeping! And kids aren't just watching TV or playing video games -- they're doing many things at once. Multitasking means they've figured out how to cram 10 hours and 45 minutes of media content into the 7 1/2 hours of actual time spent with media. And with multitasking comes issues of attention and retention of information.

One of the things the study makes clear is that parental involvement can make a huge difference in the amount of media that kids use. Children whose parents make an effort to curb media use -- either through setting up time limits or by limiting access itself -- spend less time with media.

Kids who use less media are happier and do better in school.

One of the study's most sobering findings was that kids who spent more time with media reported lower grades and lower levels of personal contentment. Nearly half of all heavy media users said that their grades were most Cs or lower, compared to fewer than 25 percent of lighter media users. Similarly, the kids who reported the heaviest media use also reported that they were more likely to get into trouble frequently and that they were often sadder or more bored than those who were less immersed in media. The study goes to pains to point out that it couldn't establish whether or not there was a cause-and-effect relationship between media use and grades and personal contentment, but the statistics clearly showed a pattern.

Common Sense Media recommends spending some time looking at the study -- it's really eye-opening. But the bottom line is that there's some good news for parents here: Our involvement can actually have a very profound and positive effect. If we set rules and limit media access -- at all ages -- then we have a shot at having our kids have better grades, feel more personal contentment, and have better powers of concentration. Much of this is common sense: Limit multitasking, limit hours spent with media, make sure your kids get sleep and lead a balanced life, and be sure to spend time talking with your kids about the messages that they're surrounded by. Parenting in the 21st century means paying attention to everything our children are doing online, on their phones, and with their entertainment.

SPRING BREAK CAMP

The Odyssey Charter School Enrichment program will hold a Spring Break Camp from March 29-April 1. Camp will run from 7:30am until 2:30 pm. The tuition will be \$90.00. Students may enroll in extended after care which will run from 2:30 until 6:00 for an additional \$30.00.

Campers will learn about and participate in team sports activities, arts and crafts, and hands on science experiments. Please watch for more information about camp activities and registration paperwork which will be sent home at the end of the month.

Your may direct questions to Michelle Sutton at 733-0442 ext 103 or email your questions to suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com

ART HONOR SOCIETY AND MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY



- The Art Honor Society and Music Honor Society had their induction ceremonies together on Jan 29th.

- The Melbourne Square Mall Art Show will feature art from Odyssey students (various grades) Feb. 7 - 20.

- Art students are making Valentine's Day cards for local nursing home residents.

2ND HALLWAY NEWS:

The teachers of the 2nd hallway are working diligently toward bringing our garden boxes to fruition. With the arrival of our curriculum, we've ordered the supporting materials, are expecting the arrival of the garden soil shortly, and our storage shed is on it's way.

On Saturday February 20th we will be having a garden work day. We're looking for parents to help us fill our garden boxes. Your time spent helping out will go toward your volunteer hours. Please sign up with your child's teacher.

Beginning this month we will begin our garden fund raiser. We're working in conjunction with Flower Power, to provide premium bulbs and flowers for your home gardens. The proceeds from our efforts will provide seating for an outdoor classroom for our students.

NOTE: The second hallway needs to get wheelbarrows to move dirt into the planting beds in the courtyard.

AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT

Odyssey Charter School offers a fun, safe and affordable place for your children each day before and after school. The enrichment program runs from 6am until 8:00am each morning and from 2:30pm until 6pm each day after school. In the afternoon, younger students in grade Pre-K through 3rd have developmentally appropriate activities planned which includes arts and crafts, science activities, group sports, game days and much more. Students also enjoy socialization and free choice play in our outdoor environment.

Students in 4th through 8th grade have time to complete their home work each day from 2:30-3:30. Activities are planned especially for this age group that focus on open ended projects which encourage student collaboration and team building skills.

Please contact Michelle Sutton at 321-733-0442 ext 103 or email her at suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com for more information or to enroll.

NEW EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Odyssey Charter School Enrichment program will offer two new extracurricular activities in February.

• **All-Star Sports** is a program that offers noncompetitive fun for children of all skill levels in grades kindergarten through sixth. The program emphasizes good sportsmanship and teamwork. The classes help improve balance, strength, flexibility, eye-hand coordination and motor skills. This program is offered by "Stretch-n-Grow" each Tuesday from 3:00-4:00 for a monthly tuition of \$35.00. A free demo will be held on February 2, 2010. Please contact Michelle Sutton at 321-733-0442 ext 103 or email her at suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com to reserve your spot.

• **TGA Premier Junior Golf** of the Space Coast will offer golf classes beginning on Friday February 5. The TGA offers 5 levels of golf instruction. Instructors are professional golfers and students will receive lessons on Odyssey Charter School property. The tuition is \$100.00 for 6 classes that run until March 12. Please contact Michelle Sutton at 321-733-0442 ext 103 for more information or email her at suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com

VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION WEBSITE

Students have the opportunity to access online education through the Brevard Virtual Instruction Program. For more info call 321-633-1000 x382 or visit online at <http://virtualinstruction.brevard.k12.fl.us/>

VOLUNTARY PRE-K PROGRAM

Odyssey Charter School will again offer the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program (VPK) during the 2010-11 school year. The program provides 3 hours of pre-kindergarten at no cost. Students may participate in the program if they will turn 4 years old on or before September 1st and they are a resident of the state of Florida. All students who enroll in the VPK program will have the option to articulate into the Kindergarten program for the 2011-12 school year.

The VPK program is a wonderful way to introduce your child to a child centered Montessori learning environment. The Montessori curriculum meets and exceeds the state recommended VPK standards. In our VPK program, the children learn phonemic based language, concrete hands on mathematics, science, geography, grace and courtesy and practical life skills. Children have daily access to our outdoor play environment which includes gardening.

Families who need extended care may enroll in our Full Day Montessori program.

Please stop by the office and fill out a pre-registration form if you are interested in enrolling in the VPK program. You may also contact the Preschool Director, Michelle Sutton at 733-0442 ext 103 or email your questions to suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Jump rope for heart is the Fri, Feb 26th. The envelopes will be handed out two weeks before on a Monday. The envelopes are due the day of the event. If anybody wants to volunteer for the event, it would be greatly appreciated. The children will set up an online account with the American Heart Association to receive online donations, cash is accepted, checks need to be written out to AHA.

PRESCHOOL OPENINGS

Montessori Village Preschool has a few openings left in our 3-5 Montessori and VPK program. Please contact Michelle Sutton at 321-733-0442 ext 103 or email her at suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com for more information.

PERFORMING ARTS

PTO Performance: The Glee Club has been asked to perform during the next PTO meeting on Feb. 11th and 6 pm. Boys should wear black pants and white dress shirts. Girls should wear black dress or skirt and white blouse. Parents should go to the cafeteria and glee club should meet in Mr. Hoffman's classroom.

Annie: The Odyssey performing arts department will be pre-selling tickets for Annie in order to purchase props for the performance. We will be performing Annie on May 11th and 13th at 7:00 P.M. in our cafetorium. Tickets are \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for Odyssey students who are not in the show and children under 5 are free. This cost entitles you to attend both shows. All members of the glee club, middle school orchestra and all 2nd graders will be performing. The D.V.D. of the show will be \$10.00. Our own computer teacher, Danny, will be producing the D.V.D. Forms for tickets will be available at the P.T.O. conference on February 11th at 6:00 P.M. Please attend!

5K RUN/WALK

Odyssey Charter School's 1st Annual Run for the Heart is Feb 6th at 8 am. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children and includes a t-shirt for the first 200 registrants. Profits will benefit the students and teachers.

The PTO and volunteers have visited classes to encourage our children to come out and run. The most a family will pay is \$50.00, and all proceeds come to our school to pay for extra things for our children. We want families to come out and have a good time. You don't have to run or walk; you can certainly spectate. So, come for a little fellowship and exercise. Support our healthy school!

Grievance Procedures

Parents having a grievance with a teacher are asked to try to work out the problem with the teacher first. If this is not possible, please contact Dr. Reggie Revis, Principal, at 733-0442. If problems cannot be resolved at the school level, parents are welcome to present their problems at the next monthly board meeting by following the presentation procedures mentioned above.

KEEP UP TO SPEED
AND CHECK OUR
SCHOOL WEBSITE
WEEKLY!

www.odysseycharterschool.com



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