



**ODYSSEY**  
CHARTER SCHOOL

# NEWS

JAN / FEB 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.

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – WHY IT’S SO IMPORTANT!

The facts are, students who attend school every day perform better in school, have better social skills, and are on the path to success as young adults in college and in the work force. Odyssey offers students an enhanced education through attention to details like a healthy lunch, a "green" facility, and an attendance policy, all designed to keep students performing at their personal best. It's never too late or too early to start building positive habits when it comes to being punctual! Here are some ideas that can help you stay on track this year:

- Avoid doctor's appointments or family trips while school is in session
- Stay involved – talk about the school day with your child
- Establish a regular night-time routine and a set bed time
- Support school rules and consequences for being tardy
- Be a good example – Make timeliness your personal priority
- Don't accept excuses – If your child has a problem or ailment that wouldn't keep you out of work, brainstorm together on ways to make it to school

We would like to recognize the following students who had perfect attendance for the fall semester – Awesome job!

Allison Brignol, Ashley Zavodny, Bria Madaffari, Bryce Hudgen, Caleb Madden, Carmela Burian, Chandreonna McKelton, Divad Sarrasin, Emily Smith, Frankie Pierre, Gabriel Camba, Hannah Aspinwall, Isabel Camba, Jacob Jensen, Jadell Thomas, Jennifer Alexis, Jerisbeth Vasquez, Jonathan Stephens, Joshua Rios, Joshua Butenschoen, Katelyn Galligan, Khaled Houssamy, Lexine Sibert, Lina Moaoui, Macy Ysaguirre, Maya Vazquez, Rebeca Pena, Ricardo Quinones, Ronnie Galligan, Sabrina Jacques, Sylvia Cassler, Taylor Oakes, Thomas Sereno, Torrin Gordon, Tracy Oakes, Victoria Rios, Wessam Houssamy, Zyandra Thomas

## CALENDAR

### January Calendar

- Jan 23-27 – Celebrate Literacy week
- Jan 24-26 – Extracurricular Activities Begin
- Jan 25 – OCS Spelling Bee
- Jan 26 – OCS Board Meeting @ 4pm
- Jan 27 – Dress Down Day
- Jan 27 – Early Release Day  
K-4 @1:15 & 5-8 @ 1:30  
Spelling bee

### February Calendar

- Feb 2 – Cyber Safety Meeting @ 6:00 pm
- Feb 7 – Read Aloud Parent Program (PreK-K) @ 6:30-7:30pm
- Feb 9 – PasP Family Finance Workshop @ 6:30pm
- Feb 10 – Red & White Ball 6pm-9pm
- Feb 13 – Read Aloud Parent Program (1st-2nd) @ 6:30-7:30pm
- Feb 16 – SAC Committee @ 1:30pm  
Publix Math Night (Grades 3-5) @ 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Feb 18 – 5K Walk/Run @ 9:00am
- Feb 20 – Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
- Feb 23 – Publix Math Night (Grades K-2) @ 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Feb 24 – Dress Down Day
- Feb 24 – Early Release Day  
K-4 @1:15 & 5-8 @ 1:30
- Feb 28-Mar 1 – FACT Writing Test (4th & 8th Grades Only)



## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



5th graders are looking forward to a special field trip on Feb. 7th. Each year, the 5th graders travel to the King Center to see the Brevard Symphony Orchestra perform.

REMINDER for GLEE: All glee club students have practice from 2:30 – 4:00 PM every Friday after school. On weeks with an early release day, glee practice will be held on THURSDAYS instead!

Start practicing your routines! The talent show is coming again to Odyssey. Watch out for more details and dates for auditions, coming in February.

## ODYSSEY'S ANNUAL 5K FUN RUN



Ready, set GO! It is almost time for Odyssey's annual 5K run. Once again, it will be held at Bayside High School. This year, our fun run will be held on Saturday, February 18th at 9:00 AM. Volunteers are needed and can earn DOUBLE hours for volunteering. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Kathryn Archibald at [archibaldk@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:archibaldk@odysseycharterschool.com). Please complete your registration form and return to your child's teacher ASAP to guarantee that you receive a shirt before race day. You can pick up a registration form from the office or download it at [www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com). The registration price includes admission, an original student-designed T-shirt, and a race packet. All proceeds will go toward classroom reading materials. We hope to see you there!

## CELEBRATE LITERACY WEEK 2012: TAKE THE LEAD AND READ

During the week of January 17, 2012, we began our Celebrate Literacy Week with special assemblies for our Pre-K through 5th grades. Kaye Byrnes (an extraordinary storyteller and presenter) told stories and shared important writing strategies at the assemblies. During the week, we kicked off a school-wide program called D.E.A.R. Time (Drop Everything and Read) for 20 minutes each day. Even teachers dropped everything and enjoyed a good book to model for our students! We also participated in a state-wide program called the Million Minute Marathon. Students all over the state read to fulfill the goal of 20 million minutes of reading during the celebration. We encourage you at home to model good reading practices by reading to your child and just enjoying a good book along with your children. You can help our school TAKE THE LEAD AND READ.

## READING TUTORS WANTED!

If you've been looking for an opportunity to become more involved at Odyssey this year, you've found it! We are in need of volunteer parents to support our 1st-5th grade students in reading. Our Literacy Coach, Valarie Gonzalez, can help you become trained to be a Barton tutor and share the gift of reading with children. For more details, contact Valarie at 733-0442 x106 or by e-mail: [gonzalezv@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:gonzalezv@odysseycharterschool.com).

*All reading volunteers working with students must complete the volunteer application process for a registered volunteers and go through a background screening and fingerprinting prior to starting at the school.*

## NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is more than an honor roll. It is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a student. Students strive to uphold the five pillars of citizenship, service, leadership, scholarship and character. Members have service projects throughout the year, in school and outside of school. Our first service project this year included a food drive before the holidays; Thanks to all the Odyssey families who contributed food to other families in need! NJHS is hosting another service project this spring - a pet food drive will be coming up soon, so watch for more information!

Special recognition goes out to our new members for upholding the standards that have set them apart as stellar students and individuals. Our new members are: Katarina Fisher, Jacquelyn Julian, Samuel McCormick, Alexis Navarroza and Johnette Tubman

## COMING SOON - PARENT SURVEY

Who cares what you think? WE DO! Odyssey Charter School will be participating in the Brevard Public Schools parent survey. We encourage you to participate in the NEW Parent Survey! The survey is open February 6-February 29. It will be available online at <http://parentsurvey.brevardschools.org> (or paper copies will be available at the school).

## SCHOOL STORE

Odyssey's Safety Patrol will be reopening the SCHOOL STORE!! The school store will open Monday February 6th and will be located just outside of the cafeteria in the main hallway. The school store will be open each morning from 7:40 until 7:50 for students to purchase items. There will be NO SALES after 7:50 to ensure that students are arriving to class on time.

Each item sold in our School Store is priced in 25 cent increments and are typically no more than \$2 per item for convenience. To kick off the start of the school store in February we will not only be selling school supplies but we will also be selling "Send A Bit of Joy" hearts. These are quite simply a heart shaped note of encouragement or a kind thought which students can send to one another for just 25 cents throughout the ENTIRE MONTH of February (or until they are sold out).

We sold these same things last year just during the week of Valentine's Day but this year we'd like to extend the joy throughout the whole month. If you are interested in sending a bit of joy to a classmate stop by the school store in the morning to fill out a heart! You will need to know the recipient's HOMEROOM TEACHER'S NAME, recipient's GRADE, the recipient's name and you will need to have 25 cents to purchase one. You may sign it or send it anonymously but keep in mind the notes will be read by a teacher prior to delivery (typically the next school day) to ensure that kindness is the central theme of the notes. Any inappropriate or unkind hearts will not be delivered. We are hoping to spread joy and kind words throughout the school with these heart shaped notes .

**\*\*Parents- you may come to fill out a note for your child as well and have it delivered to their classroom. As always thank you for your support of our school's Safety Patrol Program!!**

## ODYSSEY'S RED & WHITE BALL

You are cordially invited... to Odyssey's Red & White Ball! All Odyssey students: You are invited! Show how much you appreciate the special people in your life by celebrating an evening of family, friends, and fun at the Red & White Ball on Friday, February 10th at 6:00. For this special event, invite your mom or dad, grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, family friend, neighbor,... to share a meal with and enjoy some music and dancing! Look for the flyer that will be sent out with all the details. See you there!

## FROM YOUR HEALTHY CAFE

Welcome to our new "Farm to School" partner, R & B Organic Farms located in Melbourne. They are providing us with local organic produce as it is available. We want to support our local growers! For location and more information see their website [www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org)



**Congratulations to the students advancing to the Southern Division Elementary Science Fair! Way to go!**

**4th grade:**

Biological: Darby Koob  
Physical: Ben Butenschoen  
Environmental: Raelin Synder

**5th grade:**

Biological: Sarina Felix  
Physical: Keira Platt  
Environmental: Eva Burgoon

**6th grade:**

Biological: Davohonne Rose  
Physical: Matthew Ibonnet  
Environmental: Kyle Worth



**All science fair winners – congratulations on a job well done!**

**4th grade:**

**Ms. Rotstein and Ms. Koenig:**

Biological Category:  
3rd place – William Hammett  
2nd place – Samantha Graybeal  
1st place – Lily Burke  
Physical Category:  
3rd place – TIE – Taran Etheridge and Victor Gonzales  
2nd place – Olivia Archibald  
1st place – Ben Butenschoen  
Environmental Category:  
2nd place – Katelynn Galligan  
1st place – Raelin Snyder

**Ms. LaChance:**

Biological Category:  
3rd place – Elena Velez  
2nd place – Jamie Fazekas  
1st place – Aby Aubin  
Physical Category:  
3rd place – Justin Hamilton  
2nd place – Falynn Weems  
1st place – Alayna Myers

**Ms. Kelly:**

Biological Category:  
3rd place – Desiree James  
2nd place – Carlan Ortiz  
1st place – Darby Koob  
Physical Category:  
3rd place – Kayla Philibert  
2nd place – Natalie Ivakhnenko  
1st place – TIE – Missy Rose and Delaney Pappalardo

**5th Grade:**

**Mr. Hamby: AM Class**

Biological Category:  
3rd place – Nayessa Lucien  
2nd place – Luke Whitworth  
1st place – Jesse Martin  
Physical Category:  
3rd place – Anthony Damms  
2nd place – Jack Sandberg  
1st place – TIE – Zachary Seneschal and Brenden Smith

**Mr. Hamby: PM Class**

Physical Category:  
3rd place – Jordan Bailey  
2nd place – Andrew Whitson  
1st place – Sylvia Cassler  
Environmental Category:  
3rd place – Joseph Robertson  
2nd place – Emily Cardona  
1st place – Eva Burgoon

**5th grade:**

**Ms. Jankovic:**

Biological Category:  
3rd place – Elisa Gonzalez  
2nd place – Aidan Clark  
1st place – Sarina Felix  
Physical Category:  
3rd place – Robert Hemingway  
2nd place – Isabel Camba  
1st place – Joshua Butenschoen

**Ms. Breinlinger:**

Biological Category:  
3rd place – Jalyn Hamilton  
2nd place – Cameron Ryan  
1st place – Emir Rafeek  
Physical Category:  
3rd place – Alexander Deaette  
2nd place – Samuel Gonzales  
1st place – Keira Piatt  
Environmental Category:  
1st place – Jose Calderon

**6th grade:**

**6A Class:**

Biological Category:  
3rd place – Anja Conklin  
2nd place – Ashley Jensen  
1st place – Davohanne Rose  
Physical Category:  
3rd place – Katie Hart  
2nd place – Danae Summerford  
1st place – Julian Scites

**6B Class:**

Biological Category:  
3rd place – Ashley Hamilton  
2nd place – Alexis Whitworth  
1st place – Isabella Pullen  
Physical Category:  
3rd place – TIE – Hannah Kramer and Nathaniel Galarza  
2nd place – Alexis Powell  
1st place – Matthew Ibonnet

**6C Class:**

Biological Category:  
3rd place – Adriana Gonzalez  
2nd place – Daniel Booth  
1st place – Alana Newell  
Physical Category:  
3rd place – Colin Gagnon  
2nd place – Luke Coughlin  
1st place – Lauren Anderson

**6D Class:**

Biological Category:  
3rd place – Olivia Harriage  
2nd place – Nicole Marean  
1st place – TIE – Michael Conklin and Christian Rubado  
Physical Category:  
3rd place – Rebecca Antonelli  
2nd place – Olivier Saint-Louis  
1st place – Luke Longworth  
Environmental Category:  
2nd place – Katie Pistarelli  
1st place – Kyle Worth

**7th grade:**

**7A Class:**

Biological Category:  
3rd place – TIE – Jahir Moscoso and Heather Costa  
2nd place – Kayla Beltran  
1st place – Arbreska Ortiz  
Physical Category:  
3rd place – Marc Ryan  
2nd place – Nathalie Ramirez  
1st place – TIE – Anthony Baranishyn and Gabriel Camba

**7B Class:**

Biological Category:  
3rd place – Savannah McCallister  
2nd place – Samuel McCormick  
1st place – Cameron Cheek  
Physical Category:  
3rd place – Kinley Louissaint  
2nd place – Alexandra Morales  
1st place – Kieli Mills  
Environmental Category:  
1st place – Jacquelyn Julian

**8th grade:**

**8A Class:**

Biological Category:  
3rd place – Justine deGrasse  
2nd place – Kayla Smiroldo  
1st place – Samantha Gilmore  
Physical Category:  
3rd place – Sergio Carlos  
2nd place – TIE – Gabriel Sutton and Maya Vazquez  
1st place – Alexis Navarroza

**8B Class:**

Biological Category:  
3rd place – Mario Bernardo  
2nd place – Rayne Rubado  
1st place – Tyler Ottalagano  
Physical Category:  
3rd place – Isaiah Gonzales  
2nd place – Taylor Lawless  
1st place – Tylor Comella

## MATH FUN NIGHT AT PUBLIX

Come to our local Bayside Lakes Publix for Math Fun Night to apply your child's math skills in a real life situation. Each child will receive a set of questions to answer while walking through the store. Please remember a parent must be present with each child. When your child finishes the Math Night question sheet Publix will be providing a healthy snack for each child to enjoy!

Time: Questions may be answered any time between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Date: 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade- Thursday February 16th

Date: K, 1st, and 2nd grade- Thursday February 23rd

*If you have an intermediate and a primary child, you may choose either night to attend.*

## PARENT AWARENESS PRESENTATION CYBER-SAFETY/CYBER-BULLYING

On Thursday, Feb 2nd at 6:00 p.m., Lt. Tod Goodyear with the Brevard County Sheriff's Department is coming to Odyssey Charter School to speak to our parents from Kindergarten through 8th grade about Cyber-Safety/Cyber-Bullying and the necessary steps to ensure internet safety for our children.

## ECO-ESCAPE VOLUNTEER DAY THE ODYSSEY

NEHS students participated in Eco-Escape Volunteer Day on Saturday, January 21st. The students and parents learned about how to live more ecologically and economically with Indian River Lagoon landscapes. Learning centers provided information on a wide range of topics, including, Lagoon House fishing opportunities, money saving landscaping tips, water and habitat restoration, and using rain barrels. After students finished the centers, they volunteered at the Lagoon House by landscaping "Odyssey Island" and picking up garbage around the Lagoon House. It was a wonderful day, enjoyed by all!

## READ ALOUD CLUB

Hello wonderful Odyssey Volunteers! I know we are all busy, and cannot always come to the school to volunteer. Here at Odyssey we have a wonderful program called the Read Aloud Club, which gives you the chance to spend quality time reading to your child, as well as earning volunteer hours, all from your own home.

You can earn up to four hours a month reading to your child, and logging on the Read Aloud form the amount of time that you are reading to your child, and the book. These forms are available to download on the Odyssey Charter School website, and in the front office. The forms should be turned in to your child's teacher, or to Donna Marcinik at the front desk at the end of every month to earn your volunteer hours. If you have any questions, you can contact Donna Marcinik at [marcinikd@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:marcinikd@odysseycharterschool.com) or 733-0442 xt 101

KEEP UP TO SPEED AND  
CHECK OUR SCHOOL  
WEBSITE WEEKLY!

[www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com)



## PARENT EDUCATION LITERACY EVENING

- Prekindergarten and Kindergarten-  
Tuesday, February 7th 6:30-7:30
- 1st and 2nd Grade-  
Monday, February 13th 6:30-7:30

Please join us for a family meal followed by our Parent Education Literacy Evening. Children are encouraged to attend. Reading to your child is one of the greatest gifts you can give to them. This special evening is an opportunity to learn and practice techniques for reading to your children that will help them develop a life long love of literacy.

"The best SAT preparation course in the world is to read to children in bed when they're little. Eventually, if that's a wonderful experience for them, they'll start to read themselves. An ACT or SAT prep course can't package that passion, but parents like "...you can" -Jim Trelease, "The Read Aloud Handbook"

Invitations will be sent out to students in the Prekindergarten through 2nd grade classrooms a week before the Parent Education Literacy Evening. When you receive your invitation, please return the RSVP to let us know that you will be attending. This evening will be a wonderful way for you to connect with other families and our wonderful OCS staff and teachers. We are looking forward to sharing with you and your children the gift of reading.

## FIRST LEGO LEAGUE COMPETITION

Congratulations to our OCS Lego team who competed at the Gardendale tournament on January 14th. The following students competed in the tournament:

Anthony Damms, Cedrik Dunlap, Jesse Martin, Zachary Seneschal, Gabriel Sutton, Lee Weldon, Jordan Wiggins, Andrew Whitson

### 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, Academica 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](mailto:cortiz@academicacfl.org), or 321-676-8737, ext. 2001.

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