



ODYSSEY
CHARTER SCHOOL

NEWS

MARCH 2011

"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 FCAT Writes! Our 4th and 8th grade students were well-prepared and ready for this assessment. Thank you to our parents, teachers and staff for all their support of these students.

Coming up next will be our FCAT Reading (3rd – 8th grade), Mathematics (3rd – 8th grade), and Science (5th and 8th grade) assessments, with our testing window beginning in April. The children have worked hard all year on mastering the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in order to be prepared. You can help your child be successful 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

WHAT IS POSITIVE DISCIPLINE?

Positive Discipline is a program which has been designed to teach children to become responsible, respectful, and resourceful members of their communities. At Odyssey, we have refocused our efforts in this area through recent training of our entire staff. Our first goal is to ensure positive and mutually respectful relationships between staff and students in order for students to feel a sense of connection to their learning environment. This will be combined with important social and life skills: respect for self and others; communication and problem solving skills; cooperation; and contribution to the community. We want to help children discover how capable they are. Students that have been taught social skills tend to enjoy more success in school and fewer problem behaviors. We encourage you to look into positive discipline on your own and partner with us on this endeavor.

CALENDAR

- ▶ **Tues., Mar 8:** Principal's Coffee and Tea meeting 9 a.m.
- ▶ **Fri., Mar 18:** Spring Fling Dance
- ▶ **Mon., Mar 21:** Report Cards Issued
- ▶ **Fri., Mar 25:** Early Release Day / Dress Down Day
- ▶ **Mar. 28 - April 1:** Spring Break

There will be a dress down day on Friday, March 11 for anybody that purchased a 5K shirt.



Spring Break Camp: Odyssey Charter School's Enrichment program will be hosting a spring break camp from March 28- April 1. For more information about our spring break camp or to enroll please stop by our front office or contact Michelle Sutton at 321-733-0442 X 103.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT COMING TO 5TH GRADE

Beginning next week, Miss Jennifer and Miss Tara will welcome Mrs. Helen Voltz, a volunteer from the Junior Achievement program, into their classrooms. Over the course of the next two weeks, the students will participate in various lessons designed to educate them on the importance of business and real-world job skills. Specifically, "Our Nation" will provide practical information about businesses? need for individuals who can meet the demands of the job market, including high-growth, high-demand jobs. Further, it introduces the concept of globalization of business as it relates to production materials and the need for students to be entrepreneurial in their thinking to meet the requirements of high-growth, high-demand careers worldwide." We are extremely excited for this opportunity and look forward to Mrs. Voltz's visit!

DANCE

The Middle School "Spring Fling Dance" is on March 18th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Dress is casual. Tickets are \$5 and will go on sale beginning Monday, March 14th. Tickets may be purchased from Mrs. O'Dea in room 502 during homeroom only.

HEALTHY CAFE

Your Healthy Cafe would like to thank everyone who bought lunch for the month of February! We had a lot of support and ended the month with an average daily participation of 73%! This exceeded our goal of 70% and we are very happy. Ms. Keane and Ms. Maddens class won the field trip to the Loblolly Alpaca Farm, Congratulations! We had lots of new faces coming through the line. We launched our new salad bar won through the "Let's move" campaign and the lunchbox.org website, it is going great. The children are so excited each day so see what healthy choices they can choose from on the salad bar. Remember that lunch prices have gone back to the regular price of \$2.40 k-6 and \$2.80 7-8.

Your Healthy Cafe Staff

FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING

On February 18, five Odyssey students participated in Brevard County Future Problem Solving Competition with about 40 middle school teams. The team included Sergio Carlos, Cameron Juglal, Sam McCormick, and Andrew Nichols. Gabe Sutton as the alternate teamed with alternates from other schools. The students wrote their solutions and action plan to challenges of genetic testing in a scene set in 2040 during a 2-hour writing competition. After lunch they performed a skit to explain their action plan. Although disappointed not to be going on to state competition, this competent team will be even more competitive next year after this experience, a first for most of them.

CONGRATULATIONS

Great job and congratulations to Marzaleen Fazekas and Colin Moor. Colin was the runner-up in the 2011 Brevard County Spelling Bee. Marzaleen Fazekas participated in the Brevard South Regional Science and Engineering Fair and won a total of three awards for her science fair project, "The Effect of Pressure on Rocket Distance." She won the BETA Recognition Award for portraying the "Spirit of BETA", the Certificate of Science Achievement from Odyssey Charter School, and she placed fourth in the Junior Division for the Physics Category. Way to go Colin and Marzie!

SAFETY REMINDER

There is no supervision for students in the morning prior to 7:45 a.m. Students may be dropped off at school at 7:45 a.m. (or at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast). Any students dropped off before this time will be escorted to our before care program and a fee will be assessed. Please help us keep all our students safe!

REGISTRATION REMINDER

Parents, please do not forget that new incoming siblings for next school year need to be announced to the registrar and a new student application must be on file. Please contact the front office for more information.

PARENT /CHILD BOOK CLUB

We will be holding our second parent/child book club on May 18th at 5:30 PM. The book we will be discussing is, "On the Banks of Plum Creek" by Laura Ingles Wilder. Please read this book with your child and come join us for the fun! If you have any questions, please email Kathryn Archibald at archibaldk@odysseycharterschool.com . We hope to see you there!

Montessori Village Green is accepting application for our 2011-12 pre-school and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program. Please stop by the front office or contact Michelle Sutton at 321-733-0442 X103 for more information or to apply.

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Access to Resources and Services in the School Library Media Program



Your school has a wonderful room that houses information on lots of topics, with something special for everyone. That room is the library media center. In it you will find what our school board recognizes as "the center" of the educational program of the school. It provides materials and services that meet academic, technical, personal and social needs of the school community."

In meeting these needs, the media selection policy makes available a wide range of materials on varying levels of difficulty, with something to appeal to everyone. Many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups are represented in the school library, and specific criteria are used in considering items to be included. Because libraries are forums for information and ideas, books are provided for the interest and enlightenment of all students and teachers.

Many of these books are on various reading program lists, such as Sunshine State Young Readers' Awards, Accelerated Reader, Reading Counts, and Florida Teens Read. Some of these lists also include recommended reading levels. These reading levels are determined by companies that are selling the book product, and they do not necessarily reflect the appropriate chronological age, developmental age, maturity level, or family values for all students. As with all other aspects of a student's education, parents are encouraged to be involved in a student's book selections. The books in the media center, whether part of a specific reading program or not, are available for the review of all patrons, but are specifically recommended for none.

Since reading is vital to success in our world, and since we know that the best readers are those who have parents that are involved in their education, we encourage parents to read and review the books your student selects. Come in and visit. Browse the collection of your school media center. You may find just the right book to share with your child.

ART SHOWS

Two big art shows are coming up in March. The Melbourne Square Mall show (non-juried) is March 6-19 and the Art and Science Fair (juried) is March 24th from 3:00 - 6:30. There will be an awards ceremony at 6:30 at the Melbourne auditorium for winners. Good luck artists!

Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue.
- Step 2: Contact Principal if unresolved with the teacher
- Step 3: Contact identified person 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

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