



ODYSSEY
CHARTER SCHOOL

NEWS

NOV/DEC 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.

ODYSSEY ISLAND

Odyssey students and families partnered with Anglers for Conservation to volunteer this past month at the Palm Bay Lagoon House, helping to beautify our local educational treasure. We planted native trees and vegetation, pulled tons of weeds, trimmed, mulched and officially adopted a roadside portion of the property, now heralded as Odyssey Island. As you may know, The Lagoon House serves as both a welcome center for the Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway and an environmental learning center. Through exhibits, the lagoon house describes the history and importance of North America's most diverse estuary.

Please join us in helping maintain the enviroscape of the Lagoon House and "Odyssey Island" by volunteering to help on January 21, 2012. We are also seeking sponsorship of an outdoor sign to hang below the Lagoon House name proclaiming "Odyssey Island". Please contact Jane Martin at drjanemartin@bellsouth.net if you are able to help.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND CELL PHONES

We have noticed an increase in cell phones and other electronic devices at school and would like to remind our families of our policies. Cell phones/electronic devices can be distracting/ disruptive during the school day when our students need to focus on learning. With a signed student/parent cell phone contract, students are permitted to have cell phones in their possession but they must be turned off and stowed away while on school property, including the school bus. Other electronic devices can be disruptive in the school setting and are not permitted on school property.

A person who discovers a student in possession of or using a cell phone in violation of this policy is required to report the violation to the building principal. Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of their cell phones. Odyssey assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to WCDs brought onto its property, or the unauthorized use of such devices.

Parents/Guardians are advised that the best way to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school office. Please refer to the Brevard County 2011-2012 Elementary or Secondary Code of Conduct available via link on our website - www.odysseycharterschool.com. Thank you for supporting your child's education.

Wendi Nolder
Principal

CALENDAR

- 11/11 - Veteran's Day - Holiday for all
- 11/15 - School Advisory Council 1:30 pm
- 11/17 - Middle School Parent Night 6:30 pm
- 11/18 - Early Release/Dress Down/Clean Up Day |- Interim Reports Issued - Harvest Lunch 10:55 am - 12:15 pm (3rd-5th grade)
- 11/21 - Harvest Lunch 10:25 am -11:15 pm (Kindergarten-2nd grade)
- 11/22 - Harvest Lunch 12:30 pm -1:05 pm (6th-8th grade)
- 11/23 to 11/25 - Thanksgiving - Holiday for all
- 11/28 to 12/2 - Book Fair
- 11/29 - Picture Retake Day
- 11/30 - Honor Roll Breakfast 8:15 am
- 11/30 - Taste of ESOL Cultural Night 6 pm
- 12/2 - Middle School Dance 6-8 pm
- 12/7 - Glee Club Performance at the Chamber of Commerce 12:00 pm
- 12/8 - PasP- Parent as Partners Meeting 6 pm - 7 pm
- 12/13 - Honor Society inductions 9 am
- 12/15 - Nutcracker Holiday Show 6:30 pm
- 12/16 - Early Release/Dress Down Day (K-4 @ 1:15 pm / 5-8 @1:30 pm)
- 12/17 - Holiday Parade 6:30 pm
- 12/19 - 12/20 - EarlyRelease Days (K-4 @ 1:15 pm / 5-8 @ 1:30 pm)
- 12/21 - Winter vacation begins
- 1/9 - Students return to school



PALM BAY HOLIDAY PARADE

Odyssey Charter School glee club will be participating in the Palm Bay Holiday Parade on December 17th. The parade will start at 6:30pm. The parade route will begin on Malabar Road at the Palm Bay Brevard Community College entrance and will end at Eldron Blvd. We invite our entire Odyssey family to come out and support our OCS Glee club and to enjoy the parade festivities.

HARVEST LUNCHEON

Please Join Us For Our Cafe Harvest Luncheon! Friday, November 18 is the luncheon for 3-5 grade. Monday, November 21 for K-2 and Tuesday, November 22 for 6-8. Lunch will begin at 10:15 on these days for kindergarten. Classes will eat as close to their regular time as possible. The Harvest Lunch consists of a roast chicken thigh, mashed potatoes and gravy, root veggies, bread and milk. The salad bar is included with all meals. Adult price is \$3.50 and non-Odyssey student price is \$2.50. Reservation forms will be sent home soon. We hope to see you there!

MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT NIGHT

The middle school parent night will be held on Thursday, November 16th from 6:30-8:00pm. Administration and teachers will be discussing methods to help students get the most out of their Middle School education experience. We will also emphasize the importance of communications between the school/teachers and the parents. Parents will be given a virtual tour of the Ed-Line and we will have passwords available for families who have not yet accessed the system.

Please join us with your students for this fun and informative evening.

TASTE OF ESOL CULTURAL NIGHT

You are invited to our "Taste of ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) Cultural Night" here at Odyssey Charter School on Wednesday, November 30th at 6 PM. It is our hope that you will attend the event and bring an authentic dish that is representative of your cultural background. Please remember to limit the sugar content in your dish so we can honor our school's wellness policy. We would like our school community to embrace our multi-cultural population while continuing to celebrate our differences. Please come and use this opportunity to learn about our ESOL program and help support our students in their learning.

Thank you for your support and remember to save the day: November 30, 2011 at 6:00 PM. Please RSVP to 321-733-0442 ext. 524 if you plan on bringing a dish so we can plan accordingly. Be sure to include the title of your dish and a list of its ingredients.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

The American Heart Association (AHA) is an organization that teaches children and adults to take care of their hearts. They also fund research to discover the causes of and find cures/treatments for many of the illnesses, defects, and diseases of the heart, as well as what we can do to prevent them. Every year, OCS participates in Jump Rope for Heart. It is a fun event for our K-5 students that help them learn about heart health, the importance of exercising and making healthy choices and at the same time raises money for the AHA. This year, Jump Rope for Heart was held on Friday, October 28th.

Congratulations to all K-5 students that participated in the event and that helped raise money for the AHA. Our students raised a total of \$1,835.00, exceeding last year's total by over one thousand dollars!! Thank you to all the parents, family members, and friends who supported our students in this endeavor. It means a lot to the school and to our students, but it means even more to the families that we help out by contributing to this important research. We would like to give a special thank you to Jonathan Raiman (Miss Jankovic's morning group) who raised \$525.00 dollars for the American Heart Association. Well done everyone!

4TH GRADE WAX MUSEUM PARENT NIGHT IS A HUGE SUCCESS!

On Thursday, November 3, our 4th grade students presented the Wax Museum, an annual event at Odyssey Charter School. Students research a person of historical importance and dress in costume while presenting a short biography for visitors as they pass through our main hallway. During our November 4 parent night, 4th graders presented the Wax Museum and collected money for their annual Saint Augustine field trip. The students raised a total of \$781.20.



We would like to extend a warm thank you to all the families who donated the students for their participation and the teachers for helping our children learn about important figures in history.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

How much do you know about our before and aftercare program, open daily before school from at 6:00am and after school until 6:00pm?

Did you know that the aftercare program offers homework assistance Monday through Friday?

Did you know that the aftercare program has weekly computer time where students play fun and challenging games?

Did you know that the aftercare program has outdoor activities including soccer, basketball and kickball?

Did you know that the aftercare program has daily arts and craft activities for students in Kindergarten – Second grade?

Did you know that the aftercare program provides a free snack prepared by our healthy café each day?

Did you know that the aftercare program offers daily morning and afternoon drop in childcare?

Learn more about our enrichment program by calling our Corporate Director, Michelle Sutton at 321-733-0442 x 103 or email her at suttonm@odysseycharter-school.com You may also visit our Enrichment webpage at www.odysseycharter-school.com

ART NEWS

The art elective field trip to the Brevard Art Museum will be on Nov 15th. Our face painting fundraiser was a success! Thank you all who stopped by to show support. Student work is now up in the conference room for the Odyssey School Board Art Show.

Congratulations to the following students for their participation: Evelyn Eurgatis, Olivia Menashe, Layla Harmon, Callista Macpherson, Devi Bell, Emma Whitson, Valerie Altima, Ashley Zavodny, Genevieve Archibald, Cabrale Dyce, Magnus Billings, Jacob Cagnon, Lauren Anderson, Allison Brignol



BOOK FAIR

We invite you to our scholastic book fair coming November 28 through December 2, 2011. This book fair is really special because it is our BOGO-- Buy One and Get One free sale. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books will motivate them to read more. And like most acquired skills, the more kids practice reading, the better they'll get. Now that we are close to the holidays, this is an excellent opportunity to buy gifts for reading. We will be open all week during school hours. We invite students and parents to come in and "check us out!"

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@academicaf.org, or 321-676-8737, ext. 2001.

MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY FUNDRAISER



Orchestra students will soon be selling more collectible guitar pick necklaces to raise money for the Music Honor Society. The price is \$2. A booth will be set up during lunch for viewing and purchasing. They sold out quickly last week, but we will be getting more soon!

HOLIDAY SHOW INFO

If you can donate a Christmas tree with lights as well as just strings of lights, please email Mr. Hoffman at hoffmang@odysseycharterschool.com

Here are the Holiday Show dates:

Wednesday, December 7 - Glee club will be performing their holiday show during the school day for the Chamber of Commerce at a nursing home in Palm Bay.

Thursday, December 8 - The glee club will be performing in the morning for pre-k - 2nd grade and 3rd - 5th grade

Friday, December 9 - The glee club will be performing in the morning for the 6th - 8th grades.

Thursday, December 15 - The glee club will be performing for parents at 6:30 pm. Admission is free. Details will be forthcoming.

Important reminder: Next week, the glee club will be meeting on Thursday, November 10th as the following day is Veterans day. Glee club will also meet on the following Thursday, November 17 as that Friday is an early release day.

Saturday, December 17 - The glee club will be performing in the Palm Bay holiday parade. Details will be forthcoming.

We need a parent driver w/ a full size pick up truck and trailer hitch to drive our sound system and pull our float in the parade. Please send an email to hoffmang@odysseycharterschool.com if you can help.

If any of your children have bought violins that are in the school, please have your children take them home any only bring them in when they have music. Also please remember to put their name clearly on the case!

Glee club students - Please practice your songs at home during the week. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- To host a wellness table during student lunch periods and Harvest Luncheon days
 - To create hands-on, interactive learning activities for the students to investigate during the Harvest Luncheon days
 - To research potential guest speakers on nutrition, health, or physical fitness
 - To expand our local farm to school program via partnerships with local growers
- Contact Jane Martin for any of the above volunteer opportunities at drjanemartin@bellsouth.net
- Science Fair "behind the scenes" help – contact Dr. Julie Sereno at serenoj@odysseycharterschool.com

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