



NEWS

NOVEMBER 2009

"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.

CALENDAR



- ▶ **Nov 10:** 15th Annual Family Involvement Conference (The Rosen Plaza Hotel - Orlando)
- ▶ **Nov 11:** Veterans Day/Teacher & Student Holiday
- ▶ **Nov 12:** PTO meeting at 6 pm (4th grade will be performing)
- ▶ **Nov 13:** Second Interim Ends
- ▶ **Nov 25:** Teacher/Student Holiday
- ▶ **Nov 26 - 27:** Thanksgiving/Holiday
- ▶ **Dec 5:** Palm Bay Parade



The book fair is coming the first week of December!

PALM BAY PARADE

The Glee Club will be performing in the Palm Bay Parade on December 5th. We need to locate a 30 foot flatbed Class A trailer to rent for the day. We will also need a carpenter to build 4 foot walls around the flatbed to protect the children on our float. If anyone is interested in decorating the float or locating and providing the truck, they should contact Mr. Hoffman at hoffmang@odysseycharterschool.com.

We will also be performing our Holiday show at Odyssey on December 17th at 6:30 P.M. in our cafetorium.

Parents of Glee club members: Please make sure your children practice their songs and listen to the C.D.

HEALTHY FOODS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

As the holidays approach, please renew our school commitment to healthy foods and celebrations by keeping in mind that high sugar/high fat/high salt treats, including candies, cakes, cupcakes, cookies, chips and soda, should remain at home as these items are not permissible at our award winning, healthy, high performance school.

As an aide to teachers and families, a list of healthy celebration foods can be found on page 25 of our Wellness policy, posted on our website and in our front office. Other ideas for healthy celebrations are found on pages 28 and 29.

It is the goal of Odyssey Charter School to provide a holistic learning environment that promotes and protects the health of both students and staff, and, consequently which permits each person to reach his/her full potential. By satisfying hunger with nutritious choices, a person fuels their body efficiently. A well-nourished body naturally leads to a ready-to-learn brain. It's a win-win state of being!!

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

Another way to support our school:

During your United Way Campaign at work, you can designate Odyssey Charter School for your donation. Funds will then be sent for our school. We are a not for profit agency and qualify to receive these donations.

MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Looking for some gift suggestions to help your student find more joy in books? Take a look at some of these that might excite your child for reading.

- 1) Comfy Chair.** Before your child opens a book, she'll need a place for cozy reading! Look for a cushy chair to put in a well-lit corner of her bedroom. Then she'll have a place separate from her desk to read her favorite books.
- 2) Boxed Set of Beloved Books.** Does your child have a favorite series? Make sure he'll be able to read every word of the adventures by presenting him with a boxed set of books. Some sets, like Harry Potter, include every book. Others, like A Series of Unfortunate Events or Captain Underpants, come in various packs, allowing you to select the one that fits best in your child's home library.
- 3) Bookmark that Makes a Statement.** A bookmark makes an ideal stocking stuffer. Bookstores now carry elaborate, character-decorated page-keepers, so choose one that features your child's favorite themes or friends.
- 4) Mug Filled with Hugs.** What could be better than snuggling up with a good book and a mug of hot chocolate with marshmallows? Make reading an inviting experience this season with a personalized mug. Try one with an inscription such as his name, "Muggle's Mug," or "#1 Reader."
- 5) Crafty Coloring Books.** Coloring books are another form of storytelling. Your child can use crayons or markers to render what's going on in the picture, which nurtures imagination.
- 6) Word of the Day Calendar.** Keep track of the date and improve vocabulary at the same time with a Word of the Day calendar. Another, newer option is a Magnetic Poetry calendar, which comes with a magnetic board and a word bank for creating poetry. Both foster a love for words, and in turn, reading.
- 7) Lighten Up with a Lamp.** Brighten your child's holiday! Invest in a practical yet punchy reading light for his bedroom. You'll find a variety of inexpensive, fun lamps, with innovative designs or character themes, to choose from.
- 8) Magazine Subscription Surprise.** Support your child's interests by giving a gift that will last for a whole year: a subscription to a magazine. With so many publications available on everything from sports, nature, fashion, current events, and more, it'll be a snap to find one that she'll look forward to every month.
- 9) Personalized Journal or Diary.** Add a fun writing pen, and unlock your child's imagination. Journals encourage personal writing and doodling, and help develop ideas and opinions. Plus, the more your child writes, the more she'll want to read!
- 10) Boredom-Busting Activity Books.** Exercise your child's brain with crossword puzzles, word finds, and MadLibs when he's stuck indoors during the blustery winter season. He'll improve his spelling, vocabulary, and interest in exploring books!

Remember that our BOGO Book Fair is coming the first week of December. It is Buy One, Get One free that we have arranged for the holiday shopping time. We will be set up for December 3-11.

Odyssey's Media Specialist and loving it!
Mrs. Baker

CHRIS CIMAGLIA MEMORIAL FUND

Greg Cimaglia, father of Chris, an Odyssey 4th grade student who passed two years ago, recently visited our school board and presented the school with a \$65,000 donation. Another family presented the school with \$2,000 for the Chris Cimaglia fund. Chris loved Odyssey and Greg wanted to honor that love. Proceeds will go toward covering the basketball court, violins, nutrition education and science equipment, PE equipment and many items that our students will benefit from and enjoy for many years to come. Thank you to all.

MISC. NEWS

Bus Reminders: Students are not allowed to switch buses. If a student needs to go with another student on a different bus, then the parents need to take them to that person's house after the bus stop.

ESOL: Parents need to sign and return papers that go home. Ms. Ramos will be calling each parent to set up a meeting about the children that are placed in ESOL. Please be flexible because our numbers have grown.

PE: Kids are to bring water bottles to PE. Please wear sneakers and appropriate clothing on their PE day.

2nd Hallway News: The 3rd & 4th Grade classes will be presenting a "Rain Barrel Workshop," to be held on Tuesday November 17th @ 4:30PM. Check for additional information to be sent home later this week.

The Spanish Honor Society ceremony was last Friday in our cafeteria. We are now working on some community projects to help people and animals in need.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

This week, the kindergartens had our field trip to Happy Hooves Equestrian Farm. Our day started out with a soft rain, but quickly became a pleasant, overcast day. We enjoyed seeing/petting chickens, a pot-bellied pig, a goat, a duck, guinea hens, turkeys, a donkey, horses, ponies, and miniature horses. We had fun riding the big horse, having our hands painted, and going on a hay ride. We were able to feed some of the animals, too! We learned how to care for a horse, and that horses live in a stall in a barn, and eat horse food and hay. We also got to visit the tack room, where the horse supplies are kept. A picnic in the top of the barn was fun for all. Of course, for many children, the bus ride was also a fun, new experience!

3RD GRADE NEWS

Both of the third grades have been conducting a science experiment to determine how much water plants need, if any. We have been writing in our Daily Log using our powers of observation. The students are working together to put together a Science Fair Project so that next year they can compete in the District Science Fair.

There is going to be a math competition. Ms. Munoz has challenged Ms. Apple and both of us think our own class is the best. Ms. Munoz threw down the glove and Ms. Apple and her class are picking it up. The children will compete on Thursday this week.

Ms. Gonzalez and Ms. Everington are collaborating on a Literacy Circle involving students from both classes.

Calling all third grade parents, get ready to wear your togas. The third grade classes are completing a study during November and December of Ancient Rome. Our unit will culminate in a celebration of the Roman culture and history on Thursday December 10th called "The Roman Holiday." We hope to see you all there.

Team work makes the Dream work!

“SERVE TO PRESERVE” GREEN SCHOOLS AWARD



On October 7, Odyssey received special recognition from Governor Charlie Christ and won the school category of the “Serve to Preserve” Green Schools Award. The \$1500 award will go toward further greening of the school! The Department of Environmental Protection website further details the award: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/news/2009/10/1007_03.htm

SEAT BELTS IN BUSES

Odyssey Charter School will begin to require our bus riders to wear seat belts. FL statutes (FS 1006.10 and 1012.45) and the State Department of Education Rule (FAC 6A-3.0171) direct that children and adult bus riders shall be required to use lap belts on buses so equipped. For the safety of our children, we want to help them gain the habit of wearing a lap belt when riding in vehicles. We will begin this practice over the next several weeks and ask for your support as we help our children.

CULTIVATING SEEDS OF COMPASSION

Representatives from Odyssey Charter School attended the Mind and Life conference “Educating World Citizens for the 21st Century” in Washington D.C. during the month of October to learn about cultivating the seeds of compassion. The topic was cultivating social responsibility, self-control, empathy and compassion in our children.

During the conference, hosted by the Dalai Lama, world-renown educators and scientists discussed the connection between mind and body, emotional intelligence, regulation of emotions and learning, and concrete ways of teaching compassion.

As parents we teach compassion first by modeling. At the conference Linda Darling-Hammond stated “we model compassion by starting each relationship with a student by finding something positive to say and reach out to the family in the same way.” The connection between our body, mind and spirit is the essence of Odyssey Charter School’s mission which is to help each child develop full potential in all areas of life.

The social-emotional learning connection to academic performance and lifelong learning is evident in neuroscience. Richard Davidson, Ph.D. a speaker at the conference stated “As neuroscience probes the brain’s executive functions that control attention and emotion, we are beginning to understand how malleable these mechanisms are. Self-regulation is a learnable skill as well as a prerequisite for other forms of learning.”

This year Odyssey continues the journey towards the education of the whole child. Odyssey is developing a template where programs that focus on the social and emotional lives of our children are chosen and implemented.

JOIN US ON OUR JOURNEY: Some of these programs are evident in our school. Our Montessori programs teach children how to resolve conflicts with one another peacefully. This can also be seen in our Montessori classrooms where children work to resolve conflicts peacefully through community meetings and circle time. Our Positive Discipline in the Classroom programs work on developing mutual respect through a class meeting format. In our middle school this year, OCS is participating in a grant brought to us by Circles of Care. This program provides students with the knowledge and skills that they need to develop positive self-images, cope with peer pressure, refusal skills, communication skills and helps build healthy relationships. With these skills our children can model empathy and compassion to those around them.

During the Mind and Life conference “Educating World Citizens for the 21st Century” the Dalai Lama stated “Teaching compassion is not just a word. It is through your actions that you develop compassion.” Let these words resonate as we continue to work together in educating the whole child at Odyssey Charter School.

Janine Frahm LMHC - Student Services Director

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

The time has come for our annual Kindergarten Holiday Food Drive! Once again, we will be collecting non perishable food items to donate to a local food pantry. Please drop off your contributions to one of the kindergarten classrooms (room 207 or room 209) anytime between now and Nov 20th. The kindergartners will organize and prepare the items for delivery. The children are already excited to see how much we can collect to help our neighbors in need!

Thank you so much for your support :) Together we make a difference!!

WELLNESS COMMITTEE

We welcome and appreciate efforts by students, parents and teachers to support our school’s healthy mission and vision. To join in the wellness committee, please contact Jane Martin, Wellness Committee Chairperson, at drjanemartin@bellsouth.net or martinj@odysseycharterschool.com.

During the month of October, our students enjoyed locally grown, farm fresh, delicious organic lettuce mix as part of the school lunch program. A warm thank you to the Gundy, Martin and Nichols families for their harvest efforts! More fresh organic veggies will become available as the growing season continues. We hope you have a chance to stop by and enjoy the wonderful lunches prepared by our Healthy Café staff.

Student and family participation in these fresh produce harvests, committee meetings and future events are encouraged and appreciated. To participate, please indicate your interest by emailing Jane Martin or calling the school to leave a message with our volunteer coordinator, Ms. Donna Marcinik.

KEEP UP TO SPEED AND
CHECK OUR SCHOOL
WEBSITE WEEKLY!

www.odysseycharterschool.com



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.

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