



NEWS

OCTOBER 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.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL NOTES

We have had a very busy and productive month during September. Our pace will quicken as we have many things happening within the school through October.

6 October is our "Walk to School" day from 7:30-7:45. We begin at Beef O'Brady's in the Publix plaza. Our bus riders will be dropped off in front of the Beef O Brady's at 7:30 and the drivers will help walk their assigned children to the school. Car rider parents are welcome to join us between 7:40-7:45 in the parking lot of Beef O'Brady's and walk with their child to the school.

Teachers will be posted between the starting point and the school. We are also asking that you volunteer with your child and walk with them. If by any means you do not want to participate or you are not able to participate please make sure that you continue your regular routine with your child. The safety patrols and teachers will be in their assigned spots to receive the car riders that do not participate. For children walkers without parents, we will also accept your child in the front of Beef O Brady's.

On 7 October, we will host a school picture day. The students will wear their uniforms. Parent order forms have been sent home with your child.

On 8 October, we will host our PTO meeting at 6 pm with our 3rd grade children performing. We will also provide information regarding the 3rd grade FCAT.

On 15 October, we will also host an informative presentation about FCAT writing. We will begin with a complementary Title 1 dinner at 6 p.m.

There is no school on 16 October, but our teachers will be diligently working at school to better themselves professionally.

Communications is an important part of our busy day. It is continuous and pervasive. As you email or call us about your children, please give us an opportunity to reasonably respond. If you have not gotten a response within 24 hours, please direct your questions or concerns to me personally.

CALENDAR



- ▶ **October 6:** Walk to School Day from Publix to OCS.
- ▶ **October 7:** Uniform Picture Day
- ▶ **October 8:** PTO meeting with 3rd grade information session and performance - 6 p.m.
- ▶ **October 15:** Parent Write Night and Dinner for 4th and 8th grade parents and their children - 6 p.m.
- ▶ **October 16:** Student Holiday
- ▶ **October 22:** PTO Family Reading Night w/ healthy snacks and warm drinks. Elementary Report Cards.
- ▶ **October 29:** Board Meeting - 4 p.m. Middle School Report Cards
- ▶ **October 30:** Dress Down/Clean Up.
- ▶ **October 31:** Merchants of Bayside Trunk O'Treat. OCS will perform "Thriller" and we will have a "trunk" of treats - 5 p.m.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



Tropical Fruit Trees & More
donated trees for our school

Standard Publishing Services, LLC
donated 3 days/2 nights for drawing

Ms. Mayo and Ms. Arribas
donated plants for her class garden

Bayside Lakes Dev. LLC
donated printers for classrooms

Home Depot in Palm Bay
donated a \$25.00 gift certificate toward enrichment's turtle garden

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.

ENRICHMENT NEWS

The after school enrichment program is finishing their turtle garden behind the third wing. This will conclude our study of the gopher tortoise. During the study the students learned about the gopher tortoise's habitat, the types of food they eat and completed a turtle garden.

Our next large scale project will be about recycling. The students will learn how recycling helps our school, community and planet. Students will construct open ended art projects and bird feeders for the school gardens using recycled and reclaimed materials.

During the month of October, the after school enrichment program will celebrate "Lights on After School 2009". This program brings community awareness to the benefits of quality after school programs.

The Afterschool Hours in America

- More than 14 million school-age children (25 percent) are on their own after school. Among them are more than 40,000 kindergartners. (Afterschool Alliance, 2004)
- The parents of more than 28 million school-age children work outside the home. (U.S. Department of Labor, 1998)
- Only 6.5 million K-12 children (11 percent) participate in afterschool programs. An additional 15 million would participate if a quality program were available in their community. (Afterschool Alliance, 2004)
- The hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex. (Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2002)
- Nine in 10 Americans want all children and teens to have some type of organized activity or safe place to go after school. (Afterschool Alliance & Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates Inc., 2004)
- Over three-quarters of Americans (76 percent) agree that members of Congress, state and local elected officials should increase funding for afterschool programs. (Afterschool Alliance & Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates, Inc., 2008)
- Currently, the federal government contributes only 11 percent of the cost of afterschool, while 29 percent of the children in afterschool meet the federal government's definition of low-income and in need of federal assistance. (Afterschool Alliance, 2009)

EXTRACURRICULAR NEWS

Our extracurricular activities are in full swing!

- Tuesdays: Glee Club, Scrapbooking & Architecture Club
- Tuesdays & Thursdays: Kid Fit Club & Martial Arts
- Wednesday: Beginning Guitar, Youth Fitness Training, Hip Hop Dance & Art
- Wednesdays & Fridays: Lego Robotics
- Thursday: Music Appreciation
- Friday: Yoga & Safe Sitter Class

Visit our extracurricular web page at

<http://www.odysseycharterschool.com/activities.html> for more information on the activities and to download a registration form.

MONTESSORI VILLAGE GREEN

We are excited to announce that an articulation agreement is in place for our Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Montessori Village Green students. Students will be eligible to move into Odyssey Charter School's elementary program after graduating from the VPK program.

In March, we will begin to accept registration for our 2010-11 school year. Students who turn 4 on or before September 1st of the 2010-11 school year are eligible to enroll in the VPK program. For more information about the program, please contact the preschool director, Michelle Sutton at 321-733-0442 ext 110.

COUNSELOR CORNER

This month at Odyssey Charter School we are excited to begin a new program in our Middle School (Grades 6th -8th) called "The Right Choices" Program which follows the SSS for Health and will be part of our Physical Education program.

This comprehensive and exciting program provides adolescents and young teens with the confidence and skills necessary to successfully handle challenging situations.

In the News: What to Look for, What to do, & How you can Help. Bullying is defined as constantly saying or doing nasty or unpleasant things or teasing in a way someone doesn't like. The 125-year-old children's charity Kids Peace offers some tips on dealing with bullying. Link: <http://www.kidspeace.org/resources.aspx?id=124&terms=childhood+bullying>

Sincerely,

Janine Frahm LMHC

Student Services Director

MISC. NEWS

The 3rd Grade has been working on a medley of Spanish songs, which we will present on Thur. evening, Oct. 8th at the PTO meeting, 6PM. In addition Julia Apple will be presenting an informational FCAT session for all 3rd grade parents. We hope to see all of our parents there.

On Your Mark, Get Set, GO! The second hallway teachers are off to a great start raising funds for our courtyard gardens. Our first grant application has been submitted to Florida Agriculture in the Classroom just this past week. We're working hard to get our gardens up and running. Keep your fingers crossed.

Kathryn & Nate Archibald will be hosting a make and take rain barrel workshop at Odyssey on Tuesday October 20th at 4:30PM. Details will follow shortly.

FROM THE MUSIC STAND OF MR. HOFFMAN



Mr. Hoffman needs parent volunteers to help with his Glee Club that meets every Tuesday from 2:30 to 4:00. You don't need to have any musical experience.

Are there any parents who have dance experience?

We need parents who can teach either Michael Jackson type dancing or ballroom dancing (lindy etc...) or both.

Please contact Mr. Hoffman at hoffmang@odysseycharterschool.com

INTERNET SAFETY

Cyber Safety Parent Meetings Announced
Submitted by Sharon Reynolds, Media Resource Teacher

Studies show that 29 percent of children using the Internet freely give out their home address if asked.¹ According to the Federal Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, one in seven children between the ages of ten and 17 has been sexually solicited online. Additionally, Florida ranks fourth in the nation in the volume of child pornography. Internet predators are a serious threat to the safety of our citizens, particularly our youth.

Find out how to protect your child in cyberspace by attending one of the upcoming regional meetings devoted to this topic. You will be given some information to assist you in keeping both young students and teens safe. Supervised computer use stressing Internet safety will be offered to a limited number of secondary school students during the meeting. For information about obtaining child care for students ages 4-11 contact Beth Windover at 633-1000 ext. 336.

All meetings will contain the same content and will be held in the school auditorium from 6:30-8:00 p.m.. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to keep your children safe in today's online world.

See below for meeting dates and locations.

Monday, October 19th, 2009 at Heritage High School in Palm Bay • Tuesday, October 20th, 2009 at Astronaut High School in Titusville • Thursday, October 22nd, 2009 at Satellite High School in Satellite Beach • Thursday, November 5th, 2009 at Viera High School in Viera

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Odyssey Families,

Recently, we completed much testing. We did this so that we could better address the academic element of the whole child. Please remember that we serve our community with a holistic educational program, and even though that means that we include more than just basic academics we certainly do not ignore them!

Let me tell you about the tests: In third through eighth grade, students took the Measures of Academic Progress. These tests are pretty reliable and valid predictors of how our children are doing based on Florida Sunshine State Standards. You should ask your child's teacher about those results very soon. In all grades, students took the Florida Assessments of Instruction in Reading (FAIR). This test is from the Florida Center for Reading Research, and should also be pretty valid and reliable. You should ask your child's teacher about those results very soon also.

You should know that our school has been nominated to receive the Governor's Serve to Preserve Green School Award. This is a big deal, and you are all a part of it!

We are really having fun with Palm Bay Community Charter, Patriot Campus. They have a great staff and leadership over there, and we are collaborating on many things. We are learning from each other more than we could learn alone!

Please continue to support us as our new building goes up, our programs strengthen, and more excitement is likely just around the corner!

KEEP UP TO SPEED AND
CHECK OUR SCHOOL
WEBSITE WEEKLY!

www.odysseycharterschool.com



TOUGH QUESTIONS

What things should my child be doing on the internet? There are many questions that parents ask about appropriateness and warnings of websites and games that kids are using. We have found a wonderful website called Common Sense Media that will talk to you about whether you should be watching what your child texts or games or even movies and TV programs they are involved with. There is even an article about when you are watching sports with your kids, there are some things to be aware of. You can register and get monthly newsletters that will keep you posted and help you think through some tough issues using technology. We all want what is best for our kids. They have this technology available to them and need to learn to use it responsibly. Go to <http://www.commonsensemedia.org> and check it out. You might be able to use this to help you.

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

P.S. Scholastic BOGO Book Fair comes Dec. 4-11. This is a special book fair just in time for the holidays: Buy One, Get One Free (of equal or lesser value).

WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

Walk to school day is on the 6th of October. We start at Publix at 7:30 and walk to the school. Even the bus riders will be dropped off at Publix. We need volunteers for that day. Please contact Ms. Ramos at ramosd@odysseycharterschool.com

4TH GRADE NEWS

Students are working hard to prepare for this year's Fourth Grade Wax Museum. Fourth graders are researching famous Floridians, creating a timeline, and writing a 2-3 minute speech. All students will dress up on October 30, 2009 to perform for the school. The final performance will be the night of November 12, 2009 for parents. If you have any questions regarding these events please speak to your child's teacher.

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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