

NEWS

OCTOBER 2008

"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.

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, Literature Circles, and The Classics and our Read Aloud Program. 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.

Odyssey's Media Specialist and loving it!
Linda Baker



CONGRATULATIONS TO OCS FOR WINNING THE ENERGY STAR AWARD!

CALENDAR



- ▶ **Wed., October 8**— Walk to School Day
PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Picture Day (with uniforms)
- ▶ **Wed., October 15**— Brevard Zoo Animalia Program
- ▶ **Thurs., October 16**— 1st 9 weeks ends
- ▶ **Sat., October 18**— 5K Run 8 a.m.
- ▶ **Tues., October 21**— Extracurricular Activities begin
- ▶ **Tues., Oct. 28** — Elementary Report Cards
- ▶ **Thurs., October 30**—4 pm, OCS Board Meeting and Training
- ▶ **Fri., October 31**—Harvest Cafe, Parent Breakfast and Lunch
- ▶ **Tues., Nov. 4**—Middle School Report Cards

DISCOVERY SCIENCE LAB

Hello Odyssey Parents and Guardians!

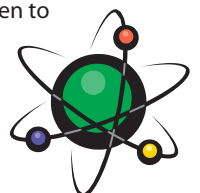
My name is J. Marie Sheppard and I am the new 8th grade science teacher. If you have the chance, please visit the [Odyssey Discovery Science Lab Website](#) and see some of the new changes this year. You may access it next to my name on the Odyssey Directory.

We are beginning some new programs and I could use help. If you are interested in volunteering in the science lab, please contact me and let me know. I would be happy to schedule you on lab days, especially when we are working with the younger students. The more adults that participate, the more the students will learn.

I am also searching for guest speakers to motivate my 7th and 8th graders. If you have a unique job or skill that is science applicable and have the time to share with us, we would love to have you. Statistics show that if we don't ignite the children's interest in math and science before they leave middle school, we lose an opportunity for their own natural awakening. So I'm open to any and all suggestions.

Please call me with your thoughts, 733-0442 #408.

J. Marie Sheppard



FUND-RAISERS

Dear Odyssey Families,

On behalf of the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and the students of Odyssey Charter School, we invite you to join us for several upcoming fund-raisers. Our mission for the 2008-2009 school year is to provide Odyssey students with opportunities that stimulate learning and enrich classroom curriculum.

One major goal for the year is to help fund the creation of edible gardens for each classroom. This will allow students to experience a multi-disciplinary curriculum from Science to Math, including Health and Nutrition Education, and Ecology, as well as teaching Life Skills such as responsibility, respect, diligence, and cooperation.

Please help us to achieve our mission by supporting the following fund-raisers:

- Entertainment Book Sales (\$25 per book, you can purchase books for other cities and states to send to relative and friends),
- A Halloween-themed 5K Run/Walk on October 8 (a \$20 individual entry fee),
- Our first annual Golf Tournament at the Majors Golf Course (Bayside Lakes, Palm Bay, Florida) Date TBA (a \$65 entry fee or Tee sponsorship),
- Raffle and Basket Promotions,
- Additional sales and activity events as the year progresses.

You can help by:

1. participating in the fund-raisers,
2. forwarding the fund-raiser flyers to friends and family (copies are available on the website or in the front office),
3. presenting fliers to co-workers and managers (the 5K Run/Walk and Golf Tourney are great team-building activities!) and,
4. volunteering your time in PTO meetings, Wise Nutrition & Healthy Lifestyles meetings, and other school events.

The students of Odyssey are at the heart of everything we do. Inspire your child today by taking action and help to make his/her education an opportunity of unparalleled excellence!

Sincerely,
The 2008-2009 PTO Board Members

WISE NUTRITION AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES POLICY NEWS



Thank you to all the volunteers who have been helping to launch our Wellness Program, more specifically known as Odyssey's Wise Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles Policy. Our goal is to implement the mission and vision of the school in educating the whole child and helping each child reach full potential in all areas of life by focusing on nutrition education and healthy lifestyle choices.

Our team of parent volunteers and teachers are currently working on applying for grants to create edible and sensory gardens in our outdoor courtyards. We hope to have a number of raised bed, organic gardens available for planting by January.

A very warm "Thank You" to our first hallway families for their donations that will allow the purchase of rain barrels to water the gardens and composters for recycling uneaten foods from our Healthy Café. Special recognition goes to Aloha Landscaping for their very generous donation to this fund. Thank you all for your support of our students!

Due to the new changes in the "No Child Left Behind" teacher certification requirements, Debra Munoz will be teaching out-of-field in Elementary Education until the subject is obtained on her teaching certificate. Brandy Brockhausen will be teaching out-of-field in ESOL until coursework is complete as an addition to her certification.

Gomer Morgan, a New York certified PE teacher, is awaiting receipt of his teaching certificate. He is currently classified on sub-status until the arrival of his teaching certificates.

5K ROAD RACE



We are in the midst of planning our annual Odyssey 5k on Saturday, October 18th. We need your help!

- Helping with an after school running club (Sept. 24th Oct. 17). The proposed meeting times are M, W, F.
- Volunteers needed for the day of the race, Saturday, Oct. 18th, to help with registration, set up, or clean up.
- Encourage and "cheerlead" the race participants.
- Ask at least 5 family and friends to register.
- Seeking donations for raffles from local businesses.
- Donate supplies for volunteer hour(s).

Please submit the survey available on the [Odyssey home page](#) to pledge your help with this event.

CHORUS PROGRAM



This year we will have an after school chorus program for students in the 3rd through 8th grade. The program will be on Thursdays from 2:50 to 4:00. Admission will be open to all students who pass the audition. Auditions will begin October 1st during your child's music period. If your child has already been in chorus he/she need not audition. The program is expected to start October 20th and run through the end of May. We expect to have bus service for all students in the program. There will be a small after school fee. This year we will be performing in the Palm Bay parade on December 6th. In addition, we expect to put on a production of PETER PAN in May 2009.

BREVARD ZOO COMES TO OCS

We are pleased to host an in-school field trip from the wonderful education department of the Brevard Zoo. Second and Third Grade students will participate in the "Animalia" program which offers an exciting look into the world of animals. Learning comes easy when children's imaginations are sparked by hands-on, interactive learning opportunities. Science will come to life via the use of live animals, animal artifacts, biofacts and enthusiastic instructors as students discover the differences among invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

Odyssey Charter School Board Members, Meetings and Grievance Procedures



Odyssey Charter School, Inc., is a non-profit educational corporation governed by a Board of Directors. The Board is made up of community members, parents and educators dedicated to the mission of O.C.S. The Board meets throughout the year to oversee the school's corporate health and development. Our current board members are:

President, Bob Williams; Vice President, Chris Glatz; Treasurer, Andy Vega; Secretary, Jessicah Nichols; Board Members, Lee Feldman, Cliff Rep-perger, and Dr. Jane Martin. Advisory Board Members are Cole Goatley, Kaye Heasley, Wendi Nolder, Mark Shantsiz, and Mary Scholtz.

Grievance Procedures: Parents having a grievance with a teacher are asked to try to work out their concerns with the teacher first. If not satisfied, please contact the school's Principal, Dr. Reggie Revis. If further help is needed, contact Ms. Constance, the Executive Director. If problems cannot be resolved at the school level, parents are welcome to present their concerns at the next monthly Board of Directors meeting. Messages for all Board members may be left at the school.