

# Odyssey Charter School

## NEWSLETTER

Dec 2013 - Jan 2014

"Committed to academic excellence and the education of the whole child"

**OCS Elementary Campus:** 1755 Eldron Blvd. S.E.  
Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-733-0442

**OCS Jr. / Sr. High Campus:** 1350 Wyoming Drive  
S.E. Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-345-4117

Visit our website at [www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com)

## 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 must achieve a balance of intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual and social skills as a foundation for life.

## All School News

### Common Core State Standards

As a public charter school, Odyssey Charter School and Odyssey Preparatory Academy implement the standards determined by the Florida Department of Education. Standards are simply a set of skills that when mastered produce a student that can reach his/her full potential (as noted in our mission). However, in addition to teaching the standards/skills we provide our students with the foundation skills, critical life skills, intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual, and social, that are needed to have a balanced, healthy, and happy life.

For learn more about the Common Core, please visit the following websites. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your school Director or Principal.

<https://sites.google.com/a/share.brevardschools.org/common-core/>  
<http://www.corestandards.org/>  
<http://pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583>

## Yearbook News

### Yearbook Ads for Sale!

This is another great way for you to advertise and generate additional business!

Cost: \$25 (check/money order only). Orders will be taken through Dec 21st. Please have a scan-able business card with a check or money order made out to Odyssey Charter School. In the tagline of the check, please indicate Yearbook Ad, and deliver it to your child's teacher. A receipt will be issued to you once the yearbook staff processes the order. Thank you for your support!

## Dec 2013 - Jan 2014 Calendar

Dec 7 – Glee Club, Holiday Parade  
Dec 9 – Classroom Spelling Bee 4-8th Grades  
Dec 9 – 13 – BOGO Book Fair @ Lower Campus  
Dec 10 – Elective Forms Due 6-9th Grade  
Dec 12 – Foosaner Art Museum Field Trip 6th - 8th grade  
Dec 16 – 20 – Original Artwork Fundraiser Delivery  
Dec 16 – Kennedy Space Center Field Trip 6th grade  
Dec 16 – OCS Lower Glee Club Holiday Show  
Dec 17 – OCS Lower Glee Club Holiday Show  
Dec 17 – 19 – No Tutoring  
Dec 18 – 20 – Early Release Days and  
6th -9th Grade Mid-terms  
Dec 20 – "Dress Down" Day  
Dec 20 – End of First Semester  
Dec 23 – Jan 6 – Winter Vacation, no school for students  
Jan 1 – Feb 15 – Siblings and New Students Apply for  
2014-2015 School Year  
Jan 6 – Teacher Workday  
Jan 7 – Students Report – Second Semester Begins  
Jan 9 – Elementary Report Cards  
Jan 10 – School Spelling Bee 9am @ Lower Campus  
Jan 10 – Science Fair 3rd – 6th  
Jan 13 – 17 – MAP Testing  
Jan 14 – Secondary Report Cards  
Jan 15 – Early Release Day  
Jan 16 – Elem Conference Night  
Jan 1 – KG Field Trip: Brevard Zoo  
Jan 20 – MLK Jr. Day- Holiday for all  
Jan 21 – 23 – MAP Makeup Days  
Jan 24 – Schoolwide Science Fair 3rd – 6th  
Jan 31 – Letter of Intent for Returning Students due  
Jan 26 – Feb 1 School Choice Week  
Jan 28 – 3rd Grade Field Trip: King Center  
Jan 29 – Early Release Day  
Jan 30 – Annual OCS Board Meeting  
Jan 30 – Student Hearing/ Vision Screenings  
Feb 15 – Lottery Drawing for New Students

### Yearbook Dedication Space for Sale!

We are offering Dedication Space in the yearbook. Space can be bought for \$7 (similar to the size of a business card) which allows for approximately 7 lines. A template is available at the front desk of each campus; please make out your check or money order to Odyssey Charter School. In the tagline of the check, please indicate "Dedication Space". A receipt will be issued to you once the yearbook staff member processes the order. Orders are taken until Feb. 14th. Thank you for your support.

## Attention All Book Lovers! The BOGO Book Fair is coming!

Odyssey Charter School, Lower Campus will host their next Scholastic Book Fair from December 9-13 in the Media Center. This book fair will be a Buy One, Get One Free (BOGO) sale. For each book purchased, you get one free of equal or lesser value! The book fair will be open late on Wednesday, December 11th until 6pm. Give the gift of reading this season and visit the book fair! Be sure to choose some books that are just right for your child with the guidelines in the "Five Finger Test" article at the end of our newsletter!

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## Updates from the Art Dept.

Odyssey student art will be displayed at the Brevard District School Board building in Viera for the month of December. The art will be in the lobby and can be viewed by the public during regular business hours. List of participant names are forthcoming. Also, your trash may be our treasure! Please send in any of the following items you might normally throw away: old (kid-appropriate) magazines/newspaper, Styrofoam or plastic trays, large butter/yogurt tubs, fabric, etc. we love to re-use and up-cycle! We are also looking for parent helpers in the art room. Anyone interested should contact the volunteer coordinator.

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## The 7 Habits of Happy Kids

Habit 1—Be Proactive  
**You're in Charge**

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

HABIT 2—Begin with the End in Mind  
**Have a Plan**

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision. I look for ways to be a good citizen.

HABIT 3—Put First Things First  
**Work First, Then Play**

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

HABIT 4—Think Win-Win  
**Everyone Can Win**

I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.

HABIT 5—Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood  
**Listen Before You Talk**

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try and see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

HABIT 6—Synergize  
**Together Is Better**

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than any of us can alone. I am humble.

HABIT 7—Sharpen the Saw  
**Balance Feels Best**

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising, and getting sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I find meaningful ways to help others.

## School Spelling Bee

The week of December 9th, 4th through 8th grades will be hosting their classroom spelling bee. The classroom finalist will then participate in the school spelling bee on January 10th. Parents of finalists are invited to attend the school bee on Jan 10th. The event will include all 4th-8th grade finalists on the elementary and junior high campus. The spelling bee will be held in the Lower Campus café starting at 9am. The school winner will go on to compete in the Brevard County Spelling Bee on February 21st at the Brevard Public Schools Educational Services Facility. There, a winner and runner-up will be chosen to attend the Orlando Sentinel Spelling Bee in Orlando in March 2014.

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## News from PasP

The Parents as Partners Organization (PasP) knows family together time builds more than just memories. PasP hosts and supports many of Odyssey's events and fundraisers. Families spending time together gives kids a sense of unity and belonging. Family identity lays the foundation for strong values and is a great buffer against peer pressure. Thank you for your participation in Odyssey's family-oriented events and fundraisers – the experiences are truly rewarding for our school and our families!

Thanks to everyone on the Lower Campus who participated in our annual Read a Thon. Our Read A Thon raised \$320.00 after prizes. We couldn't have had a successful event without your support!

October 25 was our first family Harvest Dance. The event took place at the Lower Campus and was open to K-6 grades. Other Odyssey family events that took place this fall included the Harvest Lunch days on the Lower Campus in October. So many family members came to eat a delicious café lunch with their student. Parents: Thank you for supporting your child and participating in these events!

Our next school-wide fundraiser will focus on families and wellness – the Odyssey Annual 5K Walk/Run! The 5K Walk/Run is one of Odyssey's best loved fundraisers by parents, students, and staff. Getting active with family and friends is always fun and rewarding for our health. We still need lots of support for this upcoming event including donations for snacks, water. We also need some smiling faces to assist in preparing for and hosting the event on Saturday, Feb 22. Please contact our new volunteer coordinator, Margaret Capps to let her know your availability.

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## Guidance Corner

Ms. Moravecky is thrilled to be the school counselor at Odyssey Charter School! She is here every morning and is available to every student, parent and teacher for conferences and consultation.

Ms. Moravecky is a certified School Guidance Counselor K-12 with a B.A. in Special Education and a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling, and a member of the Space Coast Mental Health Counselor's Association. She is also the mother of two beautiful daughters. She looks forward to working with you and your child this school year!

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## ESOL News

The Haitian American Association of Brevard in collaboration with the ESOL department is sponsoring a parent informational night for Haitian parents. Pass the word and join us. For details, please see Haitian-Creole ESOL assistant, Sarahjane Felix. felix@odysseycharterschool.com or 321-345-4117.

## The Five Finger Test

Helping Your Child Choose that "Just Right Book"

Sometimes it is difficult to know if a book is going to be too easy or too hard just by looking at it. The Five Finger test is one way to "test" a book before you spend too much time with it and get frustrated.

1. Choose a book you would like to read.
2. Open it to a page near the middle.
3. Begin to read the page. It is best to read the page aloud while doing the test so you can hear the places where you have difficulty.
4. Each time you come to a word you don't know right away, hold one finger up.
5. If you have all five fingers up before you get to the end of the page, this is a book that mom or dad might need to read to you. Right now it is too difficult for you to read it on your own. All five fingers up is called a **Too Hard Book**.
6. If you have no fingers up when you finish the page, then the book may be an easy read for you. No fingers up is called a **Too Easy Book**.
7. If you have less than five fingers but more than one or two fingers up when you finish reading the page, the book may be just what you need to grow as a reader. Some fingers up is called a **Just Right Book**.

**Too Easy Books** - This is the kind of book that can be read independently as it will build your child's confidence. You can still have fun reading it, but next time try to choose a book that is a little more challenging.

Qualities of a "Too Easy" Book:

- You have read this book many times before
- You understand the story very well without much effort
- You know and understand almost every word
- You read it smoothly without much practice or effort?

**Just Right Books** - This is the kind of book a child can read independently and can be used for guided instruction. These are the books that will help you make the most progress in your reading.

Qualities of a "Just Right" Book:

- A book that is new to you
- You can understand most of the book
- A few words per page you aren't familiar with

**Too Hard Books** - This is a book that an adult can read to the child. Alone, the child will reach frustration.

Qualities of a "Too Hard" Book:

- More than a few words on a page that you don't recognize or know the meaning
- You are confused about what is happening in most of the book
- When you read, you struggle and it sounds choppy

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## Uniform Policy Reminders

Cold weather appropriate dress:

- Solid Black, Green, Navy, Grey, or White jacket or sweatshirt (with or without an Odyssey logo)
- Long sleeve under shirts – solid color black, green, gray, navy white (only under uniform shirts)
- Leggings or stockings under skirts for girls – solid color black, green, gray, navy white (skirts and shorts MUST be mid-thigh or below)
- Elementary Campus: Khaki pants/shorts/skirts
- Jr./Sr. High Campus: Khaki or black pants (jeans are not allowed)

DRESS DOWN DAY REMINDERS

- Please wear shorts and skirts no lower than the mid-thigh
- Please do not wear items with holes or rips
- Please do not wear flip-flops or sandals

*Note: Parents needing uniform assistance can check with our front desk on the Lower Campus where we have a spare Uniform Closet.*

## Titans Sports Update



**5th/6th Flag Football:** I am proud of our two coaches who have been working very hard with the 5th & 6th students. Their dedication to our young athletes have inspired them to play hard but also work hard in the classroom. Every Saturday that I am out there watching them play, they light up with joy to be representing as Odyssey Titans!

**5th/6th Basketball:** Will be starting soon! The plan is to have a 5th grade team, 6th grade team and 5th/6th girls' team. They will play games against other schools in the Space Coast Christian League which will be held on Saturday's and some week days. The gymnasium locations and schedules have not been determined as of yet. FYI: If there are not enough students who sign up for the individual groups your money will be refunded.

**Soccer:** Will be starting soon for the following grades; K, 1st/2nd, 3rd/4th, 5th/6th. They will play games against other schools in the Space Coast Christian League which will be held on Sunday afternoons. The field location have not been determined as of yet. FYI: If there are not enough students who sign up for the individual groups your money will be refunded.

Check out the school website under Athletics, then sports calendar. This area will have all the practice times, games days, and address to all locations. Lydia Castro, Athletic Director. [Castrol@odysseychar-terschool.com](mailto:Castrol@odysseychar-terschool.com) or 321-345-4117.



## Elementary School News

### Parent Chat

Please join our Elementary Director, Dr. Knight, on Dec 5th at 6:00PM and/or Dec 6th at 9:30AM for a "Parent Chat." Healthy snacks, childcare, and interpreters (Spanish and/or Creole) will be provided. Please RSVP by calling our front desk, returning a flyer, or emailing the Director at knightm@odysseycharterschool.com. **This month's "Parent Chat" will focus on conversation to continue the strong traditions of holistic education and academic excellence. We will also discuss parent suggestions to help strengthen our commitment to student and family needs. We look forward to meeting with you and listening to your input!**

### Dress Like a Principal Day

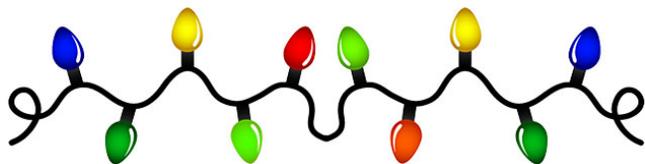


Our new Director, Dr. Monica Knight, had a wonderful time with Odyssey students who wanted to dress like a Principal. Participating students learned about the qualities of a leader including respect and kindness. Students came to school "dressed up" like a Principal, which put a little extra glitter into the customary "dress down" day. Students introduced themselves during Morning Announcements.

### Glee News

The holiday performances are almost upon us. Glee club has been working tirelessly. Their dedication is greatly appreciated. Our Holiday Show is titled "A 20th Century Christmas." Don't miss this wonderful production from the Glee club! Show dates and times are below.

- School performance Pre K -2 Dec 16th at 9:00 A.M. in our Café.
- School performance 3-6 Dec 17th at 9:00 A.M. in our Café.
- Evening performance for parents and community Dec 19th at 6:30 P.M. in our Café.



### Future Problem Solvers

#### Odyssey's 4th – 6th grade Gifted Students Participate in Future Problem Solvers

Founded by creativity pioneer, Dr. E. Paul Torrance, Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI) stimulates critical and creative thinking skills, encourages students to develop a vision for the future, and prepares students for leadership roles. FPSPI engages students in creative problem solving within the curriculum and provides competitive opportunities.

The fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students in the Gifted Student Program are participating in the FPSPI. In this program students learn six steps to solve problems with contemporary issues that impact the future. After researching the topic, students must list 16 challenges that the future scene or situation presents. Then they must choose one as the underlying problem, generate 16 solutions

### Welcome to our newest front office members!



Margaret Capps, Volunteer Coordinator  
321-733-0442 x101  
cappsm@odysseycharterschool.com



Chris Montefu, Health Tech  
321-733-0442 x119  
montefuc@odysseycharterschool.com



Karina Turgeon, Registrar  
321-733-0442 x111  
turgeonk@odysseycharterschool.com

### Holiday Toys 4 Tots Drive



The Odyssey Elementary and Middle/High Students are modeling the value of giving this month. We are collecting educational toys for students that are less fortunate to demonstrate the importance of giving back to one's community. Please drop unwrapped toys off to the toy boxes under our "Giving Tree" in the main hallway on the lower campus or in the office at the upper campus.

### Palm Bay Light Parade

The Palm Bay Light Parade is December 7th @ 6:30pm at the corner of San Filippo and Malabar and will stretch for 3 miles along Malabar Rd. in Palm Bay. All Glee members participating in the parade will have special instructions from the Glee staff regarding where to meet and at what time.

**\*Volunteer Opportunity\*** *The Glee Club is looking for someone with a truck that has a hitch to pull the float in the upcoming Holiday Parade. The Parade is Saturday December 7th and the truck and driver would be needed 2-8pm. Please contact Mr. Hoffman at HoffmanG@odysseycharterschool.com or Margaret Capps at cappsm@odysseycharterschool.com if you are able to help.*

to that problem. Last, the students develop five criteria by which to select the best solution and then write a plan of action to implement that solution.

Odyssey's problem solving team is getting busy with three practice problems. So far our problem solvers have completed steps 1-3 for the first practice problem: social isolation. The situation is communicating on-line – even through avatars – but not face to face with real people. The second practice problem concerns desertification – particularly in the Sahel. The third topic for district competition will be on surveillance society. The sixth graders are already researching about all the cameras watching you around town, the monitoring of emails, texts, and phone calls just to mention a few. Our goal is for a team of four sixth graders to compete at the Brevard County District Competition in February.

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## Middle/High School News

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### Special Recognition

#### Brianna Smith

Ms. Florida Pre-Teen: 8th Grade Odyssey student Brianna Smith

Congratulations, Brianna! The Odyssey Titans wish you the best of luck as you go on to compete at the next level!



#### Anthony Damms

For the second time, 12-year-old A.J. (Anthony Damms) has been named a state champion in his craft. In July, A.J. won the Florida State Championship Title in "creative weapons" in Martial Arts, two years after he won the title for the first time. "He loves winning and competing," said Mary Haskins, senior master instructor of Haskins ATA Martial Arts in Palm Bay.

A.J., who has been training since he was 4, is a third-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and is a student at Haskins ATA Martial Arts, under the supervision of Master Haskins, who is a nine-time world champion and multiple Florida State Champion. A.J. was also ranked in the top 10 in the state of Florida for three events: Traditional Weapons, Creative Forms and Creative Weapons. By ranking in the top 10, he was eligible to compete for the District Championship Title, which is composed of six states. At the District Championship Tournament in June, A.J. placed second in Creative Weapons and third in Creative Forms.

#### Brendia Givens

Twelve year-old Brendia Givens has made the first cut for tryouts for America's Got Talent! She and her family went to Miami, in October where the preliminary auditions were held, she performed by singing solo in front of a lone judge without accompaniment. She has qualified to audition again in Los Angeles for the next part of the competition. We will all be watching and cheering her on, since the next part of her challenge will be televised on NBC.

*(taken from Hometown News by Chris Fish, Aug. 16 <http://www.myhometownnews.net/index.php?id=108390>)*

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### 8th Grade Graduation Venture Fundraiser

We would all like to celebrate with our 8th grade classes this year their worthy accomplishment – graduation from Middle School. The 8th graders will be attending Universal Studios/Island of Adventures for their field trip on May 9, 2014. We need your support to help defray the cost of their celebration. We are currently having a drawing for baskets with great gifts in them. For a donation of dollar a ticket you could win one of the following Baskets; #1 (iPad Mini, iPad Case, \$50 iTunes Card), #2 (iPad Mini, \$25 iTunes Card), #3 (Beats Solo HD by Dr. Dre, 2 Movie Tickets), #4 (Gift Cards). The drawing for all the gift baskets will be held December 19. Anyone interested in buying tickets can call the upper campus and we will give you the details on how you may purchase them. Please support our 8th graders in their fundraiser. For more information, you can contact Lydia Castro on the upper campus at 321-345-4117 or visit the front desk to purchase your ticket from Christine Watt.

### Semester Electives

Attention all 6-9th graders on both campuses: If you have chosen a semester-long elective, make sure you complete and return the elective selection form for the Spring Semester. Forms will be sent home with you in December. They will be due back to your advisory teacher by no later than Friday, Dec 13th.

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### OCS Students Experience Hands-On Science Fun With Forensics

The Upper Campus forensics class has been busy with some exciting and interesting experiences with each lesson that will ultimately prepare them for their final project to solve a mock crime. So far, they have had an introduction to the evaluation of firearm evidence, including analyzing spent shells, fired bullets, and the chemical detection of gunshot residue. They have also learned about examining questioned documents, including the deciphering of handwriting forgeries. Students also experienced some hands-on chemistry with a chromatography lab that included the chemical analysis of various inks used in a kidnapping ransom note to figure out who the bad guy was!

Recently, the class was also treated to a guest speaker, Ms. Danielle McCoy, a Crime Scene Investigator from the Palm Bay Police Department. She spoke about her career, her education, and some of her most interesting cases! There is still much more this semester before the class gets into their capstone project. Topics of interest still left to cover include tool mark analysis, the properties of glass, and soils analysis.

Finally, for the Forensic Science semester capstone project, students will be solving a mock crime, using all the tools they learned during the semester to find two buried objects. To solve the crime students will review aerial photographs of the forest to find likely areas to investigate, survey the area, map the locations found using compass and GPS, and then proceed to excavate. Forensics teacher Mr. Giacobbe believes that they will find something old, and something new, both of which will be studied by the team.

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### Students Get Inspired Exploring Careers

This semester in Ms. Sabokrouh's career explorations class, students have researched professions that they are interested in and even discovered some exciting new careers in the process. Students have learned some practical life skills such as professional etiquette and how to calculate our future cost of living. Because some career paths require a college education in order to become a professional, students have also been able to research colleges of interest. This quarter also brought a variety of guest speakers into the classroom to share real life experiences from all kinds of professions. So far, students got a first-hand point of view from a pharmacist, a systems engineer, a GIS analyst, a food chain franchisee, and a merchant marine! Each guest the students have met has opened their minds to opportunities they weren't aware of, cleared up misconceptions, or even given them a new ambition. Sometimes the most interesting careers are ones they haven't ever heard of. Hopefully each student will realize no matter what profession they choose as adults, each one of them has the potential to make a valuable contribution to the world we live in.

## Science Research Highlights

Two students are learning about different techniques for recovering fingerprints; one student is exploring several techniques to extract DNA from plant and animal tissues; and another student is researching decomposition rates and entomology.

Two of our researcher students are exploring forensic anthropology, which is the analysis of human skeletal remains (bones) to determine information about them, including the sex, age, height of the person, as well as evidence of injury and disease. Right now they are working with model skeletons, but arrangements are being made by Mr. Giacobbe for these students to hopefully get an opportunity to examine some actual human skeletal remains from his university science program.

Another student is engaged in some behavioral and biological studies of Blue Crabs (he has been working on these observational studies

for years now). He has made some significant observations that have even baffled the researchers at FIT that he is consulting with! We expect great things to emerge from his project, both interesting to science, and important for our environment and our local economy!

These projects will be entered in the Brevard County Regional Science Fair in February at the Melbourne Square Mall, so please stay tuned and come out and support our students!

Parents are encouraged to get involved! You can keep up with OCS's outstanding student researchers and stay tuned to follow the crime scene investigations in the forensics class- just check out Mr. Giacobbe's web page at [www.nakedscience.org/mrg](http://www.nakedscience.org/mrg) for information, pictures, videos, and more!

## Past Educational Events and News

### Florida Fish and Wildlife Officers visit Odyssey Kindergarteners

On Tuesday Nov 19th, Odyssey kindergarten classes had two very special guests. Officers from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission visited our school. They shared their experiences with Florida wildlife and even brought some very interesting friends! The children loved meeting the hawk, alligator, skink, and even the snakes! We continued this learning experience by writing about our favorite animals using facts that the officers shared. We also began our study of the animals native to our state.



### Math News

In the third grade, one of the ways we are creating competent math students is by working with "The Secrets of Mental Math" through "The Great Courses." This is just another way we are helping our students develop their number sense and their minds. We have been enjoying watching our kids explain different strategies to get to the answer to more and more complex math problems. We also want to add, that the second grade classes are coming to third grade to work together and they are having lots of fun.



### Elementary Historical Presentations

The fourth grade Wax Museum had a wonderful turn out and was very successful! Many families came out to watch the students come alive! Famous Floridians such as Wallace Amos, Osceola, Walt Disney and many more came out that night to give their speech and collect donations. Thanks to the support of the families, the fourth grade raised a total of \$1079.21! The money raised will go towards the annual St. Augustine field trip. A huge thank you to all that helped contribute to the success of the Wax Museum.



## Jump Rope for Heart

On October 18th Odyssey's elementary students participated in the American Heart Association's Jump-Rope-for Heart event. We do it annually. This year as a school we raised \$897.66. Wow!!! What an effort. Ryder Cookson from Ms. Brancaccio and Ms. Schultz raised the most money for the cause with \$125.00. Thank you Ryder and your family for the great effort. Ms. Archibald and Ms. Greathouse class raised the most as a class with \$133.00. Thank you for all your efforts. We would like to thank all the students, parents, families, and staff from the Odyssey community who contributed and helped in making this such a successful event. Some of the prizes have been awarded to students already but the bigger prizes that students have earned come from the American Heart Association and I expect them to be sent to me in the next two weeks. Thanks again for your generosity and help in making this an event that Odyssey Charter School can be very proud of.  
Coach Morgan

## Positive Discipline in the Classroom

Positive Discipline- One of Odyssey Charter School's essential elements.

The tools and concepts of Positive Discipline include:

- Mutual respect. Adults model firmness by respecting themselves and the needs of the situation, and kindness by respecting the needs of the child.
- Identifying the belief behind the behavior. Effective discipline recognizes the reasons kids do what they do and works to change those beliefs, rather than merely attempting to change behavior.
- Effective communication and problem solving skills.
- Discipline that teaches (and is neither permissive nor punitive).
- Focusing on solutions instead of punishment.
- Encouragement (instead of praise). Encouragement notices effort and improvement, not just success, and builds long-term self-esteem and empowerment.

If you would like to learn more about the Positive Discipline method, we have parent resources available for check out at the lower campus media center. If you would like speak to school representative about Positive Discipline, you may contact Michelle Sutton who is certified in Positive Discipline training. Ms. Sutton can be reached at 733-0442 ext. 107 or you can email her at [suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com)

## Spread the Word!

Do you love your experience at our school? Do you and your kids love the healthy school lunches? Tell your friends and family in the community about Odyssey and encourage them to apply for the upcoming year. The Lower Campus hosts tours most Thursdays at 10am – invite a family you know to come see our healthy, green Lower Campus facility and see our school in action. Also, please share your positive experiences on the web! There are many school rating sites that will give you the chance to tell others about the exciting things your students are doing and better understand what our school is like from an insider.

If you are unsatisfied in any way with the Odyssey experience, consider joining a school improvement committee or volunteering more in an area of need. There are many ways to be an active parent and get involved – your thoughts matter and your contributions are necessary for your child's success as a student! If you need help addressing your concerns, make sure you follow our grievance policy so we can assist in resolving your issue with the right person. The grievance policy is in each newsletter and posted on our website.

## Project Wet and Healthy Water



Recently our teachers collaborated in the Project Wet and Healthy Water, Healthy People seminars presented by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. They joined forces to build boats out of only natural materials and competed against each other in the H Olympics. The teachers became the students as they got to experience first-hand sample lesson plans on macro invertebrates and testing of water sources. Teachers were then given the challenge of monitoring a nearby water supply to track the quality of the water right in this area!

## News for New & Returning Students for August 2014

The time of year is approaching when families must secure their student's spot at Odyssey by returning the Letter of Intent form. The Letters of Intent will tell us your plan to return to Odyssey next school year and reserve your student's seat. The Letters of Intent will also help us plan for any additional children in your household you plan on sending to Odyssey next year so we can reserve their spot too. Siblings get priority placement so don't forget to include them! These are very important forms that will be sent to you in January. All forms will be due Friday, Jan 31. \*If you have a sibling who will be new to Odyssey next school year, a paper application must be submitted indicating the student is a sibling in order to ensure sibling priority\* The 2014-2015 applications will only be available after Jan 1, 2014.\*

The annual lottery drawing is held on February 15th to accept new students from the community who apply. All applicants interested in having a student attend for the August 2014 school year must submit an application. Applications for the 14-15 school year will be available AFTER Jan 1, 2014. Applicants who wish to have the chance to participate in the lottery drawing must apply prior to the end of the day on Fri Feb 14th.

KEEP UP TO SPEED AND  
CHECK OUR SCHOOL  
WEBSITE WEEKLY!

[www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://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 Board Designated Parent Representative
- Step 4: Contact the President of the Governing Board
- Step 5: Present issue at the next monthly Board Meeting if unresolved
- Step 6: Seek mediation with the Sponsor

\*\*Mrs. Wendi Nolder 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. Mrs. Nolder can be reached at [nolderw@odysseypreacademy.com](mailto:nolderw@odysseypreacademy.com) or 321-345-4117, ext. 129.