

# Odyssey Charter School



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2013

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

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

OPA / OCS Upper 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.

## School Advisory Council (SAC) Committee Parent Elections:

Odyssey Charter School is looking to build its SAC committee for SY13-14. The SAC committee is a group of school stakeholders that meet approximately once a month to ensure that our School Improvement Plan's implementation is on track. The SAC committee is made up of parents, teachers, community members, administrators, and other relevant stakeholders. The SAC team is open to all Odyssey parents on both the Upper and Lower Campus. The Lower Campus parents who are interested need not attend Thursday's Upper Campus open house – just email your information to Mr. Kuhar at [kuhard@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:kuhard@odysseycharterschool.com).

**If you are interested in being one of our Parent SAC members please complete the following:**

- Write a short biography, that will accompany your name, so people are aware of the skills you bring to the committee
- Write a short description as to why you would like to be on Odyssey's SAC committee

**Once voted in, all members of the SAC committee are required to:**

- Attend monthly meetings
- Actively participate, and assist in implementing our School Improvement Plan
- Support Odyssey's School Mission
- Volunteer on SAC committee projects, and commit hours to the school when required

Interested parents on both school campuses should send their short biographies and SAC committee motivation descriptions to Mr. Kuhar, at [kuhard@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:kuhard@odysseycharterschool.com), by no later than Friday, October 18th, 4pm. Thank you.

## CALENDAR - Oct/Nov 2013

- Oct 11 – School Photos
- Oct 16 – Early Release Day Dismissal @ 1:30pm  
First 9 weeks Ends
- Oct 22 - Elementary Report Cards
- Oct 23-31 – Red Ribbon Week
- Oct 25 – Casual Dress/Care for the Environment Day  
K-6 Harvest Masquerade Dance  
Secondary Report Cards Issued
- Oct 29 – Elementary Conference Night (Optional)
- Oct 29 – OCS Board Meeting @ 5:15pm –  
Green Apple Conference Room/Upper Campus
- Oct 30 – Early Release Day
- Oct 31 – 4th Grade Wax Museum – Day Presentation
- Nov 4 – Tutoring Begins
- Nov 5 – PasP Meeting & 4th Grade Wax Museum
- Nov 11 – Veteran's Day – Holiday for All – No School
- Nov 12 – Picture Makeup Day
- Nov 14 – K-2nd grade Harvest Lunch
- Nov 15 – Second Interim Ends
- Nov 19 – 3rd – 6th grade Harvest Lunch
- Nov 20 – Early Release Day
- Nov 21 – Elementary and Secondary Interims Issued
- Nov 22 – Casual Dress/Care for the Environment Day
- Nov 27-29 – Thanksgiving Holiday – No School

## Odyssey Teacher & Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Odyssey's Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Kathryn Archibald, 1st/2nd Grade Montessori Teacher, and Odyssey's Employee of the Year, Ms. Marilyn Seevers, Lead Custodian. Both will attend and compete in Brevard County's Teacher and Employee of the Year Recognition and Award Ceremony. When you see them, please thank them for their hard work and dedication to all of our Odyssey students, faculty, and families. They are Odyssey's Teacher and Employee extraordinaire!

## Substitutes Needed

Do you love children? Do you enjoy working with a dedicated faculty and staff? If the answer is "yes," then we need you! Substitutes are needed for a variety of departments: Teaching, Front Office, Cafeteria, and Custodial. Please fill out an application and/or submit your resume at Odyssey's lower campus or contact Barbara Marcus at 733-0442. Help us make our school the very best it can!

## Titans Sports Calendar

This year our middle school sports are participating in the inaugural season for Space Coast Christian League, which consists of Christian, Charter, and Private schools. Please check the school website under Athletics, then sports calendar. This area will have all the practice times, games days, and address to all locations.

5th/6th Volleyball: has finished their regular season and are going to play in the end of the season tournament. Both teams will be playing in the tournament which has yet to be determined. Thanks to Christina Koenig and Kristi Harris for taking on two teams this year. They have done a great job! My thanks go to the parents for being very supportive and encouraging.

5th/6th Flag Football: has begun and is off to a great start! Bernie and DeAnna Bernardo are coaching our student athletes. There are two teams again this year, which is very exciting since this is our second year for sports programs. Their first game is scheduled for October 19, 2013. Location and time as yet to be determine.

MS Girls Volleyball: has had an exciting season thus far. This year our middle school sports are participating in the inaugural season for Space Coast Christian League, which consists of Christian, Charter, and Private schools.

MS Boys Basketball: Season will kick off on November 4, Monday at Bethany Christian. The tryouts have been under way by Coach Breese. We will be announcing the team by next week.

Booster Club: The Booster Clubs first meeting was held on October 9, 2012. Many ideas were talked about and the plan is to replace the funds that were used to buy equipment for the sports program that have been started. We are looking for parents to be a part of the booster club. If you are interested please contact me, Ms. Castro at 321-345-4117 or email: [Castrol@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:Castrol@odysseycharterschool.com). Look forward to hearing from you.

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## SPAR information

The School Public Accountability Report for the 2012-2013 school year is available for review on our school's website. It can be found under the "About Us" tab. Select School Reports and then select School Public Accountability Report. This report reviews the student membership statistics, student performance, national assessment of educational progress (NAEP) and the school grade and Annual Measurable Objectives.

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## ESOL News

ESOL newflash...If you are a parent of a current (or former) ESOL student and can provide your own transportation, Brevard County is now offering free after school tutoring for its struggling students. Please contact Lisa Rosati at Odyssey Charter School for further details.

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## LOWER CAMPUS NEWS



## Harvest Luncheon

The Harvest Luncheon is an Odyssey tradition where families joining their students for a wonderful Café meal. The Kindergarten -2nd grade luncheon will be held on November 14th. We will be serving oven baked chicken, roasted root veggies, café bread, a fresh apple and our wonderful salad bar. Our 3rd-6th grade Harvest Luncheon will be held on November 19th. We will be serving Hearty Vegetable Barley Soup with steamed carrots, café bread, a fresh apple and our wonderful salad bar. The cost for students is \$2.50 and for adults is \$3.50. A flyer will be sent home with your student in November with additional information.

## Book Buddies

Book buddies is a program at Odyssey Charter School where our upper grade elementary students read to students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. This program gives the older students an opportunity to help younger students increase their literacy skills. The program also promotes the Odyssey sense of community. Students build relationships across grade levels during this service learning activity that shows off the spirit of community at Odyssey!



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## SWAG: Students with Active Goals for a Positive School Culture

Mr. Gent's 6th grade Peer Counsel elective has developed their Stop Bullying Now, Stand Up and Speak Out campaign. During the month of October students will be visiting classrooms to present their active goals for a positive school culture presentation. After the presentation, the students will have a pledge they can sign that says, "They will speak up, reach out and be a friend". The students will also be spreading their positive message by hanging posters throughout the school and they will make weekly announcements encouraging students to stop bullying.

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## We Care Club

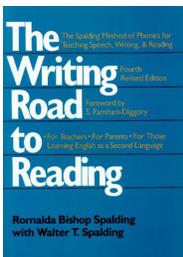
The Guidance department and the teachers have been working together to form a special group of student mentors in the 3rd through 6th grade, known as the "We Care Club". The students that were chosen for the group have been selected as a result of their leadership qualities that include strong academics, model behavior, and regular attendance. These peer mentors will have the opportunity to care for the student community. Members of the We Care Club will be able to have positive influence on students that may need a friend in class to help them out with assignments and stay on task.

## Wax Museum

4th Grade Wax Museum will be October 31st from 9:00 -10:00am in the main hallway. Come see the students come alive as they become Famous Floridians. The parent night will be November 5th at 6:30pm. Please bring family and friends to help contribute to the students.  
*\*\*All donations will go toward the 4th grade St. Augustine Field Trip in May.*

## Educational Programs: The Spalding Method – The Writing Road to Reading

We are thrilled to reintroduce The Spalding Method – Writing Road to Reading as an integral component of our reading curriculum.



In *The Writing Road to Reading*, all elements of the language are integrated in spelling, writing, and reading lessons.

- Phonemic awareness
- High-frequency vocabulary
- Word parts
- Composition
- Text structure
- Listening
- Systematic phonics
- Word meanings and usages
- Grammar
- Literary appreciation
- Fluency
- Reading comprehension

## The Writing Workshop from Teachers College, Columbia University



This summer a group of Odyssey teachers attended the Teacher's College Writing Workshop at New York's Columbia University. This dynamic training is the springboard to launch the whole school's writing initiative. Meeting and exceeding the Common Core State Standard requirements means that students will need to increase their daily writing activities. As a school community, we want to make every learning opportunity fun, engaging and rigorous. The Writing Workshop is just the tool to make that happen!

The Writing Workshops begins with teachers and students gathering together to learn a writing mini-lesson. During the first step, the teachers share personal examples of their writing to teach the students a writing skill. The next step is for the students to collaborate and share their ideas and how they will use the skill they just learned to become stronger writers. Armed with these ideas, students are dismissed to begin writing. This is a quiet, reflective time where students write and the teachers move around the room having short conferences with the children. Next the teachers have student conferences. During the conference the teacher and student talk about their writing and ways to improve and extend on the ideas. It doesn't stop there; a good writer knows the key to excellent writing is revising. Students work with their peers and teachers to determine how they can make their story better and revise the story several times. For more information on Teacher's College Reading and Writing programs, visit: <http://front.readingand-writingproject.com/about/overview>

## 5517.01 Policy Against Bullying and Harassment

Odyssey Charter School follows the Brevard Public Schools Student Code of Conduct. In response to a new state law, the Jeffery Johnston Stand Up for all Students Act, the Brevard County School Board recently adopted a policy that prohibits bullying and harassment. The policy ensures that all students, employees, and volunteers learn and work in an environment that is safe, secure, and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. Florida is now one of 32 states with a law regarding bullying in schools.

The Policy defines Bullying as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employee and may involve but is not limited to: teasing, social exclusion, threat, intimidation, stalking, including cyber stalking, physical violence, theft, sexual, religious, or racial harassment, public humiliation, and destruction of property.

The policy defines harassment as any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or employee that: Places a student or employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

Odyssey Charter School is committed to providing a safe learning environment and will not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind. Incidents of bullying or harassment can be reported to the School Director, Mr. Dan Kuhar, [kuhard@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:kuhard@odysseycharterschool.com), 321-345-4117. Anonymous reports can be made by calling the Speak – Out Hotline at 1-800-423-8477.

To learn more about bullying and find out what adults can do to help prevent it, visit [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)

To report bullying at our charter school go to <http://www.brevard.k12.fl.us/portals/parents/pdf/Form7ParentReporting.pdf>

## Writers Workshop

Our 1st and 2nd grade students have become young authors with our new writer's workshop program. This photo shows students after receiving and designing their own personal idea notebooks. In these notebooks, they are able to write ideas that they may want to use for their narrative writing pieces. The children in Ms. Hamm's writing group were very excited about using these notebooks for the first time!



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## UPPER CAMPUS NEWS

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### Quarter One Grade Report Information:

Now that PowerSchool is fully implemented by our teachers on the Upper campus, this will function as our Quarter 1 grade report. Please access PowerSchool as often as you would like to see how well your student is progressing. If you are unable to access PowerSchool, or have questions about grades and assignments, please do the following:

- Contact the teacher, whose gradebook you have the question about, directly
- Contact your student's Advisor directly if you have questions in regards to overall performance, OCS supports, scheduling a parent/teacher meeting, how you can help support your student's learning, etc.

The first nine weeks is a great time to intervene if you have concerns, as our Semester 1 grades are calculated by averaging Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 together. If your student is having difficulty, now is when we want to get them back on track so we can ensure a positive Semester 1 grade. We appreciate your support in using PowerSchool, and helping us to be proactive in supporting your students.

*Note: If you do not have internet access, and would like a hard copy Q1 grade report, please contact your student's Advisor and they will send one home.*

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### Teacher Websites / Class Lesson Blogs

In addition to PowerSchool, which communicates to students and parents how a student is doing, we also have a Weebly Website that shows what students are doing in their classes. Teachers work hard to maintain class websites to communicate to students and parents what is happening in our classes. Please use this resource to help us support your children. Thank you. Please access this resource at: <http://odysseyupper.weebly.com/>.

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### Odyssey Charter School Sports Update:

MS Soccer: Has been very exciting to watch! They will be finish up there regular season this Saturday against Viera Charter School. We are in the works of hosting the tournament on October 18 at the upper campus. Please stay posted for more details.

MS Girls Volleyball: Has had an exciting season thus far. The regular season is complete. They will play on October 18 & 19, 2013 in the Space Coast Christian Tournament which will be held at Calvary Christian School. Come out and support them.

MS Boys Basketball: Season will kick off on November 4, Monday at Bethany Christian. Tryouts have been completed and the team has been announced. This year the team will be coach by Mr. Breese. He coached the 6th grade team last year and lead them to a 2nd place finish. He will be assisted by Mr. Graham.

This year our middle school sports are participating in the inaugural season for Space Coast Christian League which consists of Christian, Charter, and Private schools. Please check the school website under Athletics, then sports calendar. This area will have all the practice times, games days, and address to all locations.

### PowerSchool – Student Information System:

PowerSchool, our new online grading and attendance system is fully online. Students and parents will have access to the system using the following URL: <http://ocs.sjtpnoc.net:8081/public/>

Your student will need their Username, and Password, to log into the system. This will be the same Username and Password that you will use to access this system as a parent. Students have been using this system for over a month, and should be well versed in its use.

Please use this tremendous communication tool, as it functions as a real time, 24 hour a day, grade report for your student. It shows your student's performance in every class, their attendance, their schedule, their teachers, and teacher comments. If you have a question about a grades, assignments, or attendance, please contact the relevant teacher directly, or your student's Advisor. All staff emails are posted on our Odyssey Charter School website: <http://odysseycharterschool.com/>. If your home address, contact numbers, or guardianship status changes please notify the school immediately so we can update our demographics in PowerSchool. Thank you.

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### Learning Opportunity Announcement:

#### Duke University's Talent Identification Program (TIP) Search Begins

All Odyssey Charter School 7th graders who scored at or above a 95th percentile on at least one portion of last year's FCAT are invited to participate in the Duke University 7th Grade Talent Identification Program. Students who would like to participate will take either the SAT1 or the ACT assessment college entrance exam. For further information or to enroll, please visit the Duke University website at [www.tip.duke.edu/enroll](http://www.tip.duke.edu/enroll). Informational brochures are also available at the front office. Students who have qualifying high scores may qualify for a recognition ceremony in the State of Florida or Duke University. Students may also qualify for TIP's Summer Studies Program.

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### Exciting Classroom Information:

#### Forensic Science Enrichment

Our Forensic Science elective is on a roll, and students are learning the tricks of the trade in the field of catching bad guys. Recently this semester, we've completed experiments in simulated blood typing, blood detection, and blood spatter analysis (like Dexter!). In earlier units we studied fingerprints, hair, analyzing human bones, testing our personalities, and forensic psychology (like Criminal Minds). We have an ongoing experiment where we're checking out the critters that visit our "buried bodies" out in the forest (like The Body Farm, or Grissom from CSI). This field is called forensic entomology, and we get to know flies, ants, and beetles much better than many would like to (but they're cute, once you get to know them). Later in the semester we'll investigate fibers, inks and chromatography, tool mark analysis, forensic chemistry, field survey and excavation, odontology (teeth), the properties of glass, soils analysis, and much more! Parents are encouraged to come in and visit, or check out Mr. Giacobbe's web page at [www.nakedscience.org/mrg](http://www.nakedscience.org/mrg) for more information!

## Exciting Classroom Information: (continued)

### Science Fair 7th/8th Grade Enrichment –

We've recently started our Science Research class for 7th and 8th graders. This class will focus on exploring any area of science, technology, engineering, and math that the student is interested in. Besides having fun, we're preparing to enter the Brevard County Regional Science Fair, in February, with student's work being displayed at the Melbourne Square Mall! We're working with local scientists from the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) and the Eastern Florida State College, but could always use some help from our own parents. If there are any scientists, doctors or nurses, engineers, or computer specialists out there, please contact Mr. Giacobbe to volunteer. When the science fair is over, students will be exploring their own specialties and learning about new ones, through field trips, guest speakers, cool experiments, and more. For example, we're working with some FIT scientists who are traveling to the Antarctic this year, and we'll be emailing, blogging, and maybe even "Skyping" with them, as we follow their explorations and adventures! Again, parents are encouraged to get involved, and check out Mr. Giacobbe's web page at [www.naked-science.org/mrg](http://www.naked-science.org/mrg) for information, pictures, videos, and more!

### Guidance Corner -

#### How to stay motivated in school!

How do we motivate our middle school students and keep them engaged in learning?

#### Middle school students are motivated by the feeling of having choices, of belonging, and of success.

As students strive to be viewed as "mature," they welcome the opportunity to make their own choices. Running a dictatorship will get you nowhere fast. They need to know their voice is heard.

#### Celebrate their achievements and give them choice and voice.

All people, regardless of their age, appreciate praise and acknowledgment for their efforts.

#### Positive reinforcement goes a long way because the more successful students feel, the more effort they will put into succeeding!

### Odyssey Gardens -

We have been busy building new raised bed gardens around our campus, and see great value in having our students participate in such experiences. Building gardens not only helps student connect with the subtle Florida seasons and their environment, but it helps to build a positive sense of Ownership here on campus. We want our students to take pride in their efforts and their campus. Activities such as garden creation and other Service Learning type activities builds a foundation of community and pride.

Please notify Dr. Grimaldi, at [grimaldir@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:grimaldir@odysseycharterschool.com), if you would like to volunteer some time to help with our gardens. We also are always in need of garden supply donations. We will happily accept lumber, soil, gardening tools, monetary donations, etc. Please contact Dr. Grimaldi for supply donations, and Mr. Kuhar at [kuhard@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:kuhard@odysseycharterschool.com), if you would like to make a monetary donation in support of our garden. Thank you for your support.

## PAST EVENTS

### Green Apple Day of Service

Green Apple is a global movement to put all children in schools where they have clean and healthy air to breathe, where energy and resources are conserved, and where they can be inspired to dream. The Green Apple Day of Service was celebrated by Odyssey on Friday, September 27th. Classes participated in service-learning projects that they felt would help transform the school into a healthier, safer and more productive learning environment. An example of how our students participated is shown by the Third grade campus clean up and the Sixth grade hydroponic tower project.

Third grade chose to participate by picking up the litter and debris found on the playground. Working in teams, numerous bags of garbage were collected. They felt good about both accomplishing a service to keep our earth healthy and staying for quality recess time with lots of refreshing fresh air.

The 6th grades choose to participate by building a Hydroponic tower garden. Mr. Wouters, the 6th grade science teachers shares his experiences:

"Friday September 27th was a super fun day filled with service learning, team building and a nature scavenger hunt. 6th grade was able to build a Hydroponic tower garden powered by a photovoltaic unit that powers a pump to circulate the water. It is a fully self-sustaining system and will create and supply its own power. Rain water will replenish the evaporated water and the reservoir will be naturally aerated with a tube system. The students used science, engineering, technology and mathematics (STEM) to help build the hydroponic system. A power point presentation was delivered before we started that contained the rich history of hydroponics and information about different kinds of hydroponic systems. Each 6th grader will be given their own seed to place in the unit and take care of in upcoming weeks."



6th graders construct a hydroponic garden with solar!

## 4th Grade Fossil Fred

Fossil Fred came to visit the fourth grade at Odyssey Lower Campus! He brought amazing fossils and we even got to dig for our own sharks teeth and ancient pieces of bone. The best part was when Fossil Fred put our heads in the jaws of an extinct American Lion! Wow, that lion sure had a big mouth!



## Green Meadows Field trip

The 1st and 2nd grade classes went to Green Meadows petting farm in Kissimmee on October 9th. The children interacted with lots of animals, including turkeys, goats, and baby chicks. They also got to milk a cow, go on a hayride, and pick their very own pumpkin out of the pumpkin patch! The students raised some of the funds for this trip through the Nature's Vision fundraiser and had a lovely time. Thank you to all the parent chaperones who helped us and to all of our parents who showed so much patience in the car loop when they came to pick up their children.



*Callie Macpherson – 2nd grader in Mrs. Archibald's Class enjoys a baby goat!*

## 9-11 Tribute/ Proud to Be an American Month

This past September, Odyssey students and staff completed their fifth annual school-wide tribute to the victims of the September 11th, 2001, attacks in the Main Hallway of our Lower Campus. Every one of our students from VPK to our Administration traced their handprint, cut it out and signed their name on a piece of red, white, blue, or yellow construction paper. A special thank you goes out to our fifth-grade parent volunteer, Mrs. Amanda Wise, and our very own Ms. Stephanie Pogue for taking time out of their day to help put our handprints together in the shapes of the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and the quote, "The Titans remember 9/11/01". In addition, in memory of the Flight 93 victims, a sign reading, "We can't undo it, but we can rebuild" was placed on the wall with the remaining student handprints surrounding it. We would like to thank every student and adult that helped contribute to meaningful tribute to the memory of this important event in our history. It has received many compliments and thank-you's.



*We Remember the Twin Towers with our loving hands...*

## Book Fair Update

### Scholastic Book Fair a Wonderful Success

The fall Scholastic Book Fair ran from September 20-27 and had great success. The book fair exceeded all expectations in sales. With the support from generous parents, students, volunteers, teachers and staff, the book fair sales reached \$8,268.09! This total almost doubled sales from previous years.

Odyssey Charter School (OCS), Lower Campus received a percentage of the sales in both cash and Scholastic dollars. Scholastic dollars is used for materials, including books that can be purchased on the Scholastic website. Odyssey Charter School, Lower Campus received \$1,300.02 in cash and \$1,300 in Scholastic dollars. That is over \$2,600 raised for our school from the book fair!

During this book fair, \$674.92 of Scholastic dollars was used to purchase new books for the Media Center. Also, \$534.15 of Scholastic dollars was used for teacher gifts, including books for their classrooms. There was approximately 105 volunteer hours during the fall book fair. Many OCS parents were available to help during the book fair. Special thanks go out Mr. and Mrs. Baker, and Mrs. Fry for all the help and hard work.

\*Our next book fair will take place in December. It will be a buy one, get one free (BOGO) book fair.

## Walk to School Day

Thank you to students, families, bus drivers, faculty, staff, and our own, Coach Morgan, for a very successful annual Walk to School Day on October 9th. A special big thank you goes to Odyssey's Safety Patrol who helped out along the route. Over 360 students, staff, and parents participated with full Odyssey spirit. Walk to school day promotes student health and wellness. Each year the buses drop students off at Beef O' Brady's and the students are escorted to the campus in grand parade.



### 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.